



LIPService

Volume 27, Issue 5 May 2022

The Long Island Parrot Society of NY, Inc.



Happy (belated) Mother's Day—hope it was enjoyable for all the moms.

May 31 is World Parrot Day! "World Parrot Day is celebrated annually on May 31st. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate these attractive birds. There are many threats to the population and well-being of parrots. Habitat loss, climate change, and wildlife trade are some of the main threats. Many parrot species are in decline. World Parrot Day presents an opportunity to highlight the threats faced by these stunning birds. You can celebrate this day in many ways. Since habitat loss is a huge threat to the parrot populations, you can plant trees. On this day you can also donate to the conservation projects."



"Meet the Member" column is back! See inside the newsletter to see who is featured for this month. You get to vote on the new name of the newsletter! Thank you to those who submitted their suggestions. See inside the newsletter for further

instructions.

The avian flu (HPAI) is spreading farther and farther across North America (and the world). Unfortunately some parrots in Michigan have succumbed. Reports of songbirds succumbing are starting to surface. It's so important to follow a bio-security plan to protect your parrots (also chickens/barnyard flock if you have them). At a minimum, LEAVE YOUR SHOES OUTSIDE - the biggest risk is shoes for most. There's a page on Facebook called Avian Influenza aka "Bird Flu": <https://www.facebook.com/groups/332559346934887> This Facebook page shows maps of where the flu has been detected and what has been affected.

Because of the risk we are keeping our parrots indoors, meaning no parrots at outreaches or in-person meetings.

Mark your calendars, we're having a Cage and Toy Sale/ Fundraiser: May 21-22 from 11-3 p.m.—Life Storage in Amityville (24 Sterling Place). The sale/fundraiser will be held on both Saturday and Sunday. Payment can be made via cash,

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check, or credit card. Please call 631 957 1100 when you arrive at Life Storage. Many cages, carriers and toys!

Congrats to Cabrini for winning the \$25 GC to chewy.com from our April 20 Zoom meeting. She was the first to correctly answer the trivia question. Shellie Hochstetler from Cockatoo Ranch was our guest speaker.

PARROT EXPO 2022 CANCELLED—Alternate Event Planned (please see more info in the newsletter)

(Continued to page 14)

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING starts 7:00 p.m. following speaker. PLEASE MUTE YOUR AUDIO during speaker. SPEAKERS: Begin at 7:30 p.m. +/-20 minutes.
Please be respectful. Mute!

LONG ISLAND PARROT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.
A NONPROFIT 501c3 ORGANIZATION AND
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Vice President: Shawn Florman
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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website: www.liparrots.org
E-mail: info@liparrots.org
Feather Flash (sign-up): <https://www.liparrots.org/featherflash>
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/liparrots>
Parrot Phone: 631-957-1100; Diane Hyde

GET INVOLVED—TEAMS & SERVICES—JOIN A TEAM:

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Publicity and Public Relations Coordinator: Susan Chamberlain

Raffles Coordinators:
Special Events: Susan Chamberlain
Vendor and Venue Liaison: TBD
Volunteer Coordinator: Robert Gross

HELP WANTED!

Monthly Meetings:
Help with set-up before meeting and break down afterward
Coffee/Refreshments
Volunteers for Parrot University and Outreach Events
during the year

UPCOMING MEETINGS/OUTREACHES

- **Tuesday, August 9 2022** Jimmy Buffett Concert at Jones Beach. Tickets for the concert are on sale now. Join the Long Island Parrot Society's Tailgate Party all day! Watch for details
- **Note:** In person quarterly meetings remaining for 2022 - June 15th, September 21st, and December 21st.

OUT OF TOWN & VIRTUAL EVENTS

Organizations: list your upcoming events here. Email information to:
editor@liparrots.org

- Join The Leather Elves Facebook page every Friday evening at 7PM EST! Robin Shewokis-Sullivan hosts an informative and entertaining presentation on different avian topics each week!
- **Saturday May 14** - NJ - 39th Annual World Series of Birding
- **May 19 (thurs) - 22 (sun)** - Cape May, NJ - Cape May Spring Festival - rates go up May 1st
- **July 10 - Sunday** - Monroeville, PA - OHPA Bird Fair
- **Thursday - Sunday, August 4-7, 2022:** American Federation of Aviculture 48th Annual Educational Conference & Avian Expo, "Go BIG for Aviculture". Hyatt Regency, Dulles; Herndon, VA. Hotel \$99.00 per night for attendees. Visit afabirds.org
- **September 26-29, 2022-**"Wild Parrots Up Close' International Parrot Convention of Tenerife, Spain Loro Parque. Visit <https://www.wildparrotssupclose.com/>
- **Thursday - Sunday, November 3-13, 2022:** Parrot Lovers Cruise, Panama Canal Transit through New Locks aboard the Caribbean Princess. For further information, visit their website: <https://parrotloversruise.com/>

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Society of NY, Inc. Exchange bird clubs may reproduce original articles provided the source and author are noted, **except when copyrighted or otherwise noted.** (c)2016

FINANCIAL REPORT - April 2022

Deposits as of April 2022	
Deposits	\$1101.38
Total Deposits	\$1101.38

Expenses as of April 2022	
Phone:	\$120.00
Island Digital:	\$84.00
Life Storage:	\$362.00
CRM (SalesNow)	\$45.45
Donation to Cockatoo Ranch	\$200.00
Misc:	\$439.80
Total Expenses:	\$1251.25

TFCU Account Balances as of April 30, 2022	
Operating Fund:	\$7071.77
EXPO Fund:	\$10,595.65
Parrot Care:	\$2,644.70
MM (Shelter):	\$138,277.06
CD (Shelter):	\$9,309.63
Total:	\$167,918.81

Board Meeting Minutes - April 2022

April 13, 2022 7PM via ZOOM ATTENDING: David Abrahams, Donna Barbaro, Susan Chamberlain, Robert Dietrich, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Diane Hyde, Candy Little

NEWSLETTER: Suggestions for new name; many suggestions; Title must have Long or LI in title. Long Island Squawk, Squawk, Long Island Bird Talk, Long Island Parrot Post, Long Island Bird Beat, Long Island Feathered Friends, Long Island Parrot Beacon; members will vote on new title via online poll and printed newsletter.

We can use Vertical Response to remind people to renew their memberships. Members who get electronic NL do not get reminder. Can do this through merge fields. Can easily be plugged into Feather Flash. Reminder e-mails would have to be set up separately. VR can pull a list. Shawn Florman has tested the process and it works. CRM can create a member number==8 digits long; preferred to continue present procedure re membership numbers.

AVIAN FLU: We must continue to be vigilant; no end in sight; SC will include link to presentation about the virus. Flu lives in host birds and they do shed the virus. Best practice is not to bring parrots out to events like library, Sweetbriar and CEED especially where wild birds will be present. **OUTREACH:** What program can we develop for outreaches where we don't bring birds? Avian flu will be around for some time. We cannot bring birds to outreaches or meetings out of an abundance of caution.

MEETINGS: Proposed arts & crafts evening for fellowship.

EVENTS: GREENWOOD CEMETERY TRIP TO SEE NATURALIZED QUAKER PARAKEETS: Postponed due to bird flu.

CAGE SALE: Planned for a Saturday or Sunday in May. May 21 & 22

PARROT EXPO: Polled vendors for intent to participate, with no response. PA bird event went poorly.

Alternate events suggested: workshops, paid events. Poll people about their interests. Discussed suggestions for smaller event.

(Continued to page 6)



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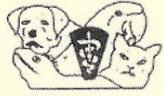
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\$75/6 months
Business card \$50/year.

Volunteers are very much needed.



We need help with Administrative work, answering phone call, emails, data entry, committee specific help, just to name a few. Get more involved with the Long Island Parrot Society. Let's build a team that helps grow our organization. Email volunteers@liparrots.org to join us!



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VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE NEWSLETTER NAME

The board has narrowed it down to the top 6 suggested names for the newsletter.

Choose your favorite and **VOTE!**

Send your vote to info@liparrots.org

(Continued from page 3)

TECH: Deferred until next board meeting.

WINGSPAN CHALLENGE: Karrie Noterman of Natural Inspirations Cages is polling pet shops for minimum cage size for different species. Can LIPS be included in quotes on Natural Inspirations page?

Molly, the Moluccan sent to Karrie Noterman is doing extremely well! Had surgery on foot and is flying freely in aviary.

PARROT EXPO 2022 CANCELLED—Alternate Event Planned

The Long Island Parrot Society has made the difficult decision to cancel Parrot EXPO on October 1, 2022. We queried vendors on numerous occasions to inquire if they planned participate in the 2022 EXPO. Due to the pandemic, many are no longer in business or are now exclusively mail order—we received positive responses from only three vendors. The lack of vendors, which is the #1 reason people attend EXPO, the possibility that the existence of bird flu may prevent allowing birds at EXPO, and the rising costs of the venue, we have decided to forego the 2022 EXPO.

The good news is that the club has remained vital and active throughout the pandemic, even increasing in membership! The adoption team has continued their vital role by doing virtual home visits. Several successful cage sales were held at our storage facility. We have navigated the new normal by holding twice-monthly ZOOM meetings for members and have scheduled quarterly in-person meetings (which will be live-streamed via ZOOM) at our new meeting hall in East Islip. (Greenwood Hall, 58 Greenwood Avenue, E. Islip) The next meeting is June 15th. Because of the presence of bird flu on Long Island, we ask that members refrain from bringing birds to meetings for now.

We are exploring the possibility of holding a smaller event at a different location during the month of October and are actively researching venues and potential program presenters. Stay tuned for announcements!



By: Susan Chamberlain

Thinking of donating to a charity? Check it out! What are your own interests and passions? What do

you care most about? Natural disasters, man-made calamities like the war in Ukraine, urgently needed funds to care for shelter animals and birds all tug on our heartstrings.

You can investigate possible recipients at charitynavigator.org to check for misconduct, such as failure to file tax forms on time or financial mismanagement. Go to Guidestar.org for charity profiles. Be aware that there is often a lag in current information on these sites.

Ignore the drama! Avian and animal shelters, sanctuaries and 'rescues' are often at odds with each other, waging online battles that benefit no one. Jealousy is rampant, as are accusations of people being in it 'for the money.' Truthfully, no one gets rich in animal rescue. Whether considering donating or placing your beloved pet, visit facilities on your own or get references from a trusted source, ideally someone who has been there in person.

If you want your donation to be tax deductible, check to be sure that the organization is a non-profit, 501c3. "Not-for-profit" is not the same thing. The Long Island Parrot Society is a 501c3 organization and a NY State

registered charity. Do keep donation receipts, as the IRS requires documentation for donations of \$250.00 or more. Did you know that online shopping can garner donations for the Long Island Parrot Society at no out-of-pocket cost to you? Amazon shoppers can shop at smile.amazon.com and indicate Long Island Parrot Society of New York as the chosen charity. Alternatively, shopping at igive.com/liparrots gives you the choice of more than 2,000 retailers and results in donations to LIPS!

The Cockatoo Rescue and Sanctuary in Stanwood,

Washington is no more. The owner, who ran the facility single-handedly and never permitted visitors inside died, allegedly leaving 50 to 200 cockatoos dead of starvation or exposure to cold. There have been conflicting reports as to the number of birds and the exact circumstances of this tragedy, but the bottom line is that **no one can do it alone**. It takes a team of employees or volunteers, a board of directors, a plan for succession and transparency.

In stark contrast, but also due to illness, the founder of Under My Wing parrot rescue (Wantage, NJ), Paula Ashfield, has arranged for Birds of Paradise Sanctuary and Rescue (Debbie Huckaby) in Bradenton, Florida to be their successor organization. Ashfield will join the Board of Directors of BOPS, helping to guide the growth and future of the organization from her home in New Jersey. Seventy-three birds in her care will

be transported to BOPS as soon as logistics and legalities have been finalized. Visit both organizations for updates. <https://www.undermywing.org/what-is-new/> and <https://birdsofparadise.org>

On April 28th, Suffolk County District Attorney, Ray Tierney announced that his office has formed a new unit to prosecute animal abuse and environmental crimes. Assistant DA, Jed Painter will lead the new Biological, Environmental and Animal Safety Team, known as BEAST. A team of nine prosecutors will be required to meet with animal victims and contribute to environmental projects pro bono. The prosecutors have received specialized training with the NY State Animal Protection Federation and the ASPCA at the NY State Police Academy in Albany. Animal abuse is often a gateway crime to other things, and animals often fall victim to environmental crimes. Suffolk residents can contact BEAST at BEAST@suffolkcountyny.gov to report suspected crimes.

WPT recently teamed up with Arise News and WildAid Africa to produce a 10-minute film about the conservation plight of Grey Parrots in Nigeria and the impacts of the pet trade. The film, which has been broadcast multiple times on national TV in Nigeria and other African countries, explores the threats Grey Parrots are facing in the wild and what is being done to protect them.

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LIPS MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The following businesses give the discounts noted for LIPS members. You must show your current membership card. Discounts are subject to change; we suggest you ask before you make your purchase. If you have a problem with a store or service not honoring it, let us know. (631-957-1100):

Bird Paradise, Burlington, NJ, 10% off (doesn't apply to purchased birds or Harrison's products) - in store only. 15% discount for on-line purchases—code: LIPS15.

B.T.J.'s Jungle, West Islip (631-587-8191) 10% off

Central Veterinary Associates, 24/7, Valley Stream + 5 other locations, 10% off all services, call (888-4CVA-PET), www.centralvets.com — for LIPS members

Fine Feather, LLC (The Pet Store Next Door), www.finefeather.us (516-801-6400) discount code liparrot10

First Flight, 514 Middle Country Road, Coram (631-732-1494) 10% birds and related

Paumanok Veterinary Hospital, Patchogue (631-475-1312) 10% off exam

Total Pet Care/Lawrence Labs, Holbrook (800-TOTL-PET) 10% LIPS.

Via Zoom

Lauren Schmaltz completed a dual Bachelor degree in Biology and Spanish and a Master of Environmental Studies. In the midst of her studies, Lauren also spent several years living overseas in the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador), Costa Rica, and Bonaire.

Lauren first became involved with the World Parrot Trust while serving as the Director of Echo, a small non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot and its fragile dry forest habitat on the Dutch Caribbean island of Bonaire. She returned to the US from Bonaire in 2017, having stepped down from that role to dedicate herself to working full-time with the World Parrot Trust. She has a keen interest in environmental management, community outreach and education, and sustainable development that harmonizes well with WPT's growing initiatives in parrot conservation, habitat restoration, and community engagement.

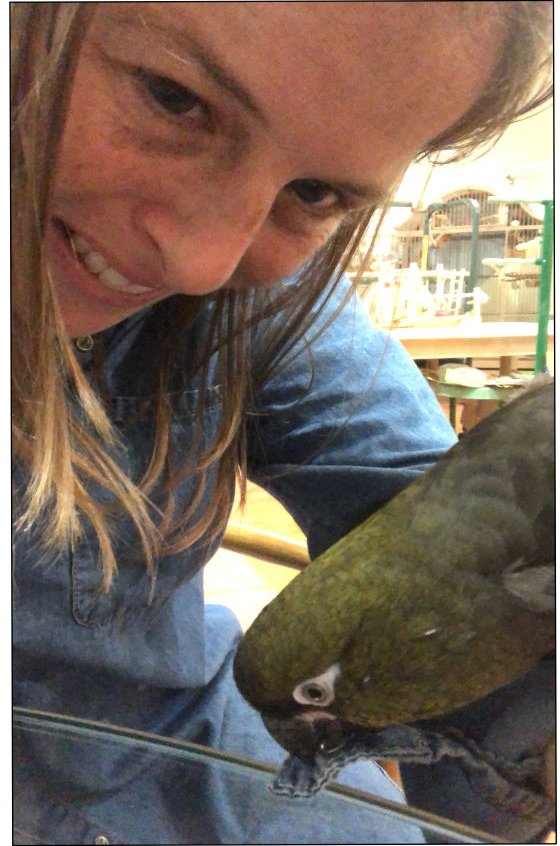
Description of the talk: "Why Save Parrots?"

The World Parrot Trust (WPT) is an international leader in science-based, results-oriented parrot conservation and welfare efforts. It is a dynamic organization with a clear mandate for the protection of parrots -- one of the most threatened groups of birds on earth.

Since 1989, WPT has led conservation and welfare projects in 43 countries for 80 species of parrots, focusing its efforts on the deployment of immediate and long-term conservation strategies built on established scientific principles, encouraging bird welfare advocacy, and facilitating conservation education initiatives.

The activities of the WPT include but are not limited to: conducting field research on little known species; supporting the rehabilitation, release, and reintroduction of threatened and endangered species; working to end the trade in wild caught parrots; encouraging the protection and restoration of critical habitat areas; promoting community education and engagement through sustainable livelihoods; and advocating for better welfare and care of captive parrots. To achieve optimal results in these areas, the WPT offers funding, technical support, and advice from afar, while recruiting in-country residents and local area partners to lead efforts on-the-ground. This approach overcomes cultural and language barriers that are often impediments to success. It also empowers local communities to take ownership of the solutions, so that the progress we achieve on behalf of parrots is lasting. The collaboration between WPT staff, local NGOs, and communities is a hallmark of our success.

This talk will be a review of our history and work to date.



Meet the
Speaker

Cal-Cage (nice and sturdy cage for a Quaker-sized bird):

Cage dimensions: 24" wide; 20" deep, 37 high with play top, total height with stand: 63".
Storage shelf on stand.



Brand new Kings Cage: [View on website](#) Needs hardware to be attached (door locks). All hardware and instructions are included with the cage. If you're interested, please call us or email: 631 957 1100 or cages@liparrots.org



Cage Sale

May 21st and 22nd

11am to 3pm

Location

Life Storage: 24 Sterling Place
Amityville NY 11701

Noise Abatement 101

By Susan Chamberlain

Birds are sophisticated communicators, and their calls are quite distinctive and specific to the situation. Vocalizing is essential to their survival. They sound off to signal danger, to greet one another, to indicate a food source, to communicate with their flock or mate; and especially when young, to indicate hunger or discomfort. Studies have shown that different avian species appear to have their own languages, and some, like the yellow-naped Amazon, even have regional dialects!

Part of the joy of owning a pet bird is the appreciation of its song or vocalizations. There is no other pet that can sing, whistle, call us by name or imitate the beeping of a microwave! Although the sounds of the Amazon jungle and the Indonesian rainforest are appealing in theory, the reality does not always fit comfortably into suburban homes or city apartments. Excessive noise is one of the top three reasons people become *former* bird owners. Biting and mess are the other two. In order to peacefully co-exist with your bird and your neighbors, develop your very own noise abatement program!

Know your tolerance level. While the background noise of

chortling budgies may be music to your ears, the constant chattering may set another person's teeth on edge. Senegal parrots, a relatively quiet African species are quite pleasant and playful, but their high-pitched whistles may be painful to some. Conures are cute, but some species, particularly of the genus *aratinga* may be relentlessly yappy at times. Macaws, Amazons, and cockatoos are in the upper decibel range and can cause quite a racket.

Choose the right bird for your living arrangements. Do you live in a house, apartment, or condo? Is your house in close proximity to others? Are there homeowner's association rules regarding pets and noise? Do you have a baby or young children who nap during the day? Do you or a house mate work at night? If even moderate noise will be an issue for you or others, opt for one of the quieter parrot species. Even though some of the noisier birds often sound off at widely spaced intervals, twenty minutes of a screeching umbrella cockatoo may be too much for neighbors, a baby or spouse to bear.

Thinking of adding an additional bird? Two birds of the same species will often be noisier than two of differing species. Birds of

a feather speak the same 'language' and will call back and forth to each other. Place cages closer together rather than across the room to reduce 'calling out'.

Recognize that vocalizing is an integral part of being a bird. They naturally sound off in the morning and again at dusk. Pet birds learn to call out in protest when they know you are leaving the house, and again in greeting when you come home. They will often compete for your attention when you are on the phone, eating dinner or paying attention to another family member.

When the noise becomes excessive or bothersome, try some of the following:

- **Lower the volume.** Turn down the music. Switch to a soft rock or classical station. Many birds appropriately enjoy Jimmy Buffet tunes. Classical music and relaxation CDs intended for humans may also sooth a noisy bird. If you live in a loud city or building, a 'white noise' machine may help. Football games and NASCAR seem to incite parrots to riot. Move your birds to a different room when watching televised sports or let them cheer along with you!

(Continued to page 20)

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If your last name begins with the letters
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please bring a snack to the next meeting.
Thank you!

Please observe the following rules for the safety of your parrots and others!

- You must be a LIPS member for at least 60 days prior to bringing birds to meetings or events.
- Non-members and guests are not permitted to bring birds to meetings or events.
- Flighted birds must be confined to carriers or cages.
- All birds must remain under supervision of their pet human or a caretaker designated by said human.
- Please clean up after your birds (poop, food, etc.).

The following birds must have been quarantined for 60 days prior to attending meetings or events:

- Newly acquired birds, baby birds and geriatric birds.
- Sick birds; any bird exposed to sick birds within the past 60 days.
- Birds that have been boarded in pet shops.
- Pin-feathered baby birds are not permitted at meetings or events unless contained in appropriate, solid sided containers or incubators. Owner assumes any risks associated with bringing such birds to meetings or events.

Directions to Our Meeting Hall, 58 Greenwood Avenue East Islip, NY 11730



From the East:

Sunrise Hwy to exit 46. Left on Connetquot Avenue. Stay straight. Turn right at Hawthorne Ave. (Just after Railroad tracks.) Stay straight until the end of the street, note the Greenwood Hall Sign. Follow into the long drive way.

From the West:

Sunrise Hwy to exit 46 toward County Rd 17/Carleton Ave/East Islip/Central Islip. Merge onto Sunrise Hwy South Service Rd. Turn right onto Garfield Ave. Turn left onto Jackson St. Turn right onto Carleton Ave. Turn left onto Union Blvd. Turn left at the 2nd cross street onto Greenwood Ave Street.

We have brought back “Meet the Member”! Read about John and Patee Hecht in this issue and let us know if you would like to be featured in a future column!

Congratulations to lovebirds, Susan & Bill Webb, celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary!

We are so excited! For the third year in a row, the bald eagles of Centerport have hatched three eaglets! (3/24/2022)

LIPS member and musician, Roberta Fabiano has done more than 115 Monday afternoon concerts under the auspices of the ADRC (Alzheimer’s Disease Resource Center) since the beginning of the pandemic. Tune in to Facebook’s Frog Hollow Music page on Mondays at 2PM and keep the soiree going! [Frog Hollow Music | Facebook](#)

Connecticut’s Parrot Club is going ahead with their annual Birdie Bash on November 5th this year, the first time since 2019!

Join member Linda LaFleur for Friday Night Live on her Blue Feather Style Facebook page for lots of fun and amazingly well-priced jewelry! Every Friday at 8PM! Wednesdays at 8:30PM.
<https://www.facebook.com/BlueFeatherStyleJewels/>

Many thanks to LIPS members, Daniel & Felice Giedt for their generous donation to the Club. They noted: “We donate this money and dedicate it to all the birds that are not adopted because of their behavior or their special needs; hoping for every one of them to find a loving place to call home, and where they may heal and find joy! Also, in loving memory of Klara Giedt (1927-2022), my mother, the daughter of a horse whisperer, and a great lover of all animals herself.” -Dan and Felice Giedt

Have you taken advantage of your bird’s talents? Hannah, an African grey parrot in Houston has been making her owner rich. Artist Joseph Havel has been casting the bird’s chewed up wood and cardboard boxes in bronze or coating them in resin. The ‘art’ has sold for \$35,000.00 to \$120,000.00. One of the pieces, “Birdhouse 1” is a bronze cast of a pedestal of chewed balsa wood that Havel topped with two chewed shoeboxes! See some of the sculptures at Spring 22 Havel — DALLAS CONTEMPORARY dallascontemporary.org/spring-2022-joseph-havel (Thanks to Roberta Fabiano for this amazing discovery.)

You may have heard about the parrots that died of bird flu in Michigan. A report in George Sommers’ *From the Parrot’s Beak* reveals that they were indoor birds, all from the same home. The likely source of their infections is likely because their owner also operates a waterfowl sanctuary.

(Continued from page 1)

Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering, want to be added to our volunteer email list, want to donate unwanted items, or would like to suggest speakers/topics you would like to see, please either leave a message at 631-957-1100 or email us at info@liparrots.org.

Diane P Hyde, President

PAREE & JOHN HECHT

By Susan Chamberlain



Lifetime members, Paree and John Hecht joined the Long Island Parrot Society at the suggestion of Dennis Borghese, who sold them their Senegal parrot, Baci at Pet Den in 2001. “Baci was ‘on sale,’” said Paree, “Probably because she was not very colorful as a youngster. She was very calm and endearing, and Dennis assured us, ‘That’s a good one.’”

Prior to purchasing Baci, they bought a book about Senegal parrots and read it cover-to-cover. “We wanted to learn all we could, and after doing our homework, we were extremely excited,” related Paree. “We joined the Parrot Society because we wanted to learn more and wanted to be with like-minded people to share experiences. We found the guest speakers highly informative. I learned how important a varied diet is, and Baci was so intelligent, affectionate, and playful. It was especially interesting for John who had never been exposed to pets. We often attended Parrot EXPO and always got a lot of bird toys there.”



Although John was not raised with pets, Paree had grown up with cats, dogs, canaries, budgies, finches and more. When she graduated from college, she got a horse. Paree obtained a peach-faced lovebird, ‘Kwee’ at the Sunrise Mall in Massapequa, and when she and John married, Kwee came long with her. After Kwee passed away at 21, Mario, a cockatiel joined the family, followed years later by Baci.

In 2014, after Paree retired from a career as a microbiologist and in the pharmaceutical industry, the demands of being a full-time parrot parent to a very demanding Baci became overwhelming, and Baci came to live at my house where she immediately became part of the family. She recognizes and happily interacts with the Hechts when they come to visit, and we humans are all happy that the little bird (she doesn’t know she’s small) brought us together in friendship.

Lest you think the Hechts are birdless, they moved in 2019 from Commack to Connecticut with three chickens that they’d had since 2013. In May 2021, they got nine one-day-old chicks which arrived via US Postal Service! Today the flock resides in a state-of-the-art, bear-proof chicken coop. Because of predators, and now the bird flu, there is no free ranging allowed. One hen ran out when John was feeding them unassisted...he chased her around the outside of the coop until he caught her—the other chickens froze in place to watch the antics. All the chickens are tame, as they have been held, interacted with, and raised from babies.

Paree’s background in microbiology has given her a good understanding of the importance of cleanliness. Bird flu precautions include designated “chicken shoes” to go from the back door to the coop without walking around the property. They have hung up CDs on trees and outside the coop to deter wild birds, including birds of prey. Shoe covers go on outside the coop. Recently, Paree chased a pair of Canada geese off the property with a broom...and they have not returned. The coop is cleaned three times a day—and we thought parrots were a lot of work! There have been no reported cases of bird flu nearby and the coop has a full roof and overhang so no wild bird droppings can come in from overhead.



Even though the Hechts moved out of state, they are still able to participate in meetings via Zoom like many of our other far-flung members do. They have been great supporters of the club through the years and their greatest hope for the future of the Long Island Parrot Society is that the shelter project comes to fruition.

Bird Seeds Versus Pellets: What's The Difference?

September 21, 2020 by [Stephanie Lamb, DVM, DABVP \(Avian Practice\)](#)



When pet bird owners go to their veterinarian or bird-savvy pet store, they are often informed that pellets or [Nutri-Berries](#) are better than seeds as the major portion of the diet. But what is the difference really?

Pellets, and other [formulated diets](#) like Nutri-Berries, are created to have a balanced ratio of nutrients packed into a single unit. These formulations are based off research done in granivorous birds, including chickens, budgerigars, and cockatiels. We still need to learn a lot about pet parrot nutritional requirements, but pellets provide a much better balance of nutrients than seeds.

Seed mixes that are typically found in pet bird diets are unbalanced in various nutrients. Both deficiencies and excesses occur when a bird is fed these as the main part or only component of their diet. Seeds can and do lead to many health problems if they are fed in inappropriate quantities and ratios in the diet.

When comparing pellets and seeds on a nutrient level, researchers and avian veterinarians have identified several key differences. Following is a list of the unbalanced nutrients that occur in seed-based diets, how these nutrients are important for life, and the effects for a bird not having these nutrients adequately provided.

Deficiencies Of A Seed-Only Diet

Calcium & Phosphorus

Nutri-Berries, pellets, and other formulated diets are created with the goal of offering balanced nutrition in every bite.



Seeds are insufficient in [calcium](#) and often have an imbalance in their calcium to phosphorus ratio. Calcium is one of the most commonly discussed minerals in birds, particularly because of its vital role in reproduction and egg laying. Calcium is required to form the shell of an egg; however, it is also required in the body for normal bone health, nervous system functioning, and muscle health. Deficiencies can result in egg binding, impaired bone development, thin eggshells, poor uterine contractions and neurologic signs like seizures.

Phosphorus is a mineral that functions closely with calcium. The ratio of calcium to phosphorus is important and should be about 2 parts calcium to 1 part phosphorus. Seeds are often unbalanced with this ratio and have calcium in lower amounts and phosphorus in higher amounts. Deficiencies in phosphorus or imbalances in the calcium-to-phosphorus ratio can result in weakness, rickets, and thin-shelled eggs. Excessive amounts of phosphorus can interfere with the absorption of calcium from the intestinal tract and induce a condition known as nutritional secondary hyperparathyroidism. Although any pet bird can experience imbalances in these nutrients when fed a seed-based diet, [African Grey](#) parrots are well-known for deficiencies in calcium, which can cause seizure activity and poor bone development in young individuals.

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Sodium

Sodium is an important element for cell signaling and electrical conductance. Seeds do not supply ample amounts of this, which can result in deficiencies that cause poor egg production and poor growth.

Zinc

Zinc functions as a cofactor for many different enzymes and is important for growth, reproduction, and tissue healing. Low levels of zinc found in seeds can result in poor growth, thicker and shorter long bones, scaling of the feet and skin, and poor feathering.

Iron

Iron's importance lies in the fact that it is involved in cellular respiration. It is complexed with the protein known as heme, and it helps transport oxygen around the body to tissues. Diets that are exclusively seeds are low in this element, and deficiencies can lead to anemia.

Lysine/Methionine



Birds might enjoy eating seeds, but a seed-only diet can cause health problems.

These are both proteins and are just two of the approximately 20 amino acids that are necessary for life. Proteins have a wide variety of functions within the body. They act as enzymes to catalyze reactions. Both lysine and methionine have structural properties and make up portions of muscles and collagen. They act as transports of compounds both within and outside of cells. Both function in the bloodstream, both to help with the immune system and with clotting blood. Their list of functions can go on and on.

Deficiencies in lysine and methionine are common with seed-based diets and have been associated with liver disease in birds.

Vitamin A

Vitamin A is a fat-soluble vitamin that is important in vision, immune system health, and in cells that line the skin, respiratory tract, reproductive tract, kidneys, and glandular tissues. Deficiencies in this nutrient are very common for seed diets and can result in a change in the superficial epithelial cells of the previously mentioned tissue. This can then result in various problems, such as sinus infections, kidney disorders, and reduced fertility and hatchability of eggs.

Vitamin B

There are several B vitamins, but there are just a few that seeds are often lacking.

- **Vitamin B2** is also known as riboflavin. It is also important for carbohydrate metabolism. In cockatiels that are growing, a deficiency in this vitamin will cause achromatosis, which is a loss of normal pigmentation to the feathers. It can also cause a reduction of eggs in a clutch and reduced hatching of eggs.
- **Vitamin B9** is folic acid. This works as a cofactor in the synthesis of purines, which is a component of DNA. Low levels will result in slow growth, poor feathering, anemia, reduced egg production and hatchability, and bony abnormalities in embryos and growing birds.

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- **Vitamin B12** is cobalamin. It functions as a coenzyme and is involved in fat and protein metabolism and the synthesis of DNA. Deficiencies will result in anemia. They can also result in a fatty liver, heart, and kidneys.
- **Choline** is often grouped with B vitamins due to similarities that they have. It is important for normal nervous system and liver health. Birds with deficiencies in this nutrient have been found to suffer from fatty liver disease.

Notable Excesses Of A Seed-Only Diet

Fats

Seeds are undoubtedly high in fat. Take, for example, the sunflower seed. For this delicious food item that many pet birds relish, 74% of the dry matter is fat! That is a very high volume. With sunflower seeds being a common item found in seed mixes, you can see how it could easily become an excessive amount of fat if the bird were to consume it frequently. Too much fat in the diet can lead to various problems, including liver disorders, heart problems, reproductive disorders, and obesity.

Be In The Know

Exploring and understanding the difference between the nutrients in seeds and pellets helps you see just how important it is that birds receive more balanced nutrition. If birds continue to eat seeds for the greater part of their meals, nutritional imbalances can eventually catch up and cause major health concerns. However, providing pellets or Nutri-Berries as a portion of the diet ensures a more adequate nutrient profile. This goes a long way to prevent certain disorders and allow for a much healthier life.

Source link: <https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/bird-seeds-versus-pellets-whats-the-difference>. | Used with Lafeber's permission

DEC: Owls found dead in Peconic tested positive for avian influenza

By Brianne Ledda and Grant Parpan

[Read the article](#)



Read Article

Dr. Kristin Sinclair on Avian Influenza for the Parrot Owner presented by The Parrot Club. Watch the presentation on their YouTube Channel. This presentation has some very useful and informative information.

[Watch the Presentation](#)



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detected in Washtenaw County

April 18, 2022

[MDARD State Vet says now is the time to act to protect your birds](#)

[Read the article](#)



Conservation Notes

In 1833 Charles Darwin chronicled Quaker (monk) parakeets in Argentina. They were first observed on the south shore of Long Island in the 1970s. There was even a colony of the birds on Riker's Island in 1973 and efforts to get rid of them failed. The Fish & Wildlife Service came to eradicate them, but the guards demanded proper paperwork. The birds had mysteriously disappeared when the authorities returned with the paperwork! The Quaker parakeet population has declined in the Northeast due to a 2006 eradication effort. There are four unprotected bird species in NY State: house sparrow, starlings, rock pigeons and Quaker parakeets.

If you enjoy birding, want to report sightings, or just want to learn more about wild birds, join ebird, a free service of Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Click on the link [eBird - Discover a new world of birding...](#) or visit [ebird.org](#)

The ivory-billed woodpecker may not be extinct after all! The first credible sightings since 1944! According to [ecowatch.com](#) a team from the National Aviary and Project Principalis went on a years-long search for the woodpecker, and using trail cameras and drone videos, accumulated evidence that at least three of the birds are living in the bottomland forests in Louisiana. The research still needs to be peer-reviewed.

According to the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Puerto Rican parrot is again flying high! Scientists estimate that there are now 250 wild Puerto Rican parrots living in the areas of the Maricao State Forest, El Yunque National Forest, and the Rio Abajo State Forest. The parrot's population was decimated after Hurricane Maria in 2017, and the recent release of dozens of captive bred birds will help establish new populations.

Beware of hawks! A red-tailed hawk in Northport Village has been protecting its nest by attacking encroaching humans, sometimes causing them to seek medical attention. Because it is a federally protected species, the Village police chief reached out to the Department of Agriculture for help. A hawk was trapped and relocated last August, but in December 2021, the attacks began again. On March 31, a drone revealed a nest, possibly containing eggs. Eventually the USDA or the DEC will attempt to trap this hawk. Meanwhile, if you will be walking near Main Street and Church Street in the Village, wear a hard hat!

Several owls succumbed to bird flu in Peconic, Long Island in early April. This makes it even more critical that we take precautions with our pet birds...keep them indoors! Observe biosecurity measures after being outside where wild birds may have been present. Avoid waterfowl and poultry farms.

<https://suffolktimes.timesreview.com/2022/04/dec-owls-found-dead-in-peconic-test-positive-for-avian-influenza/?fbclid=IwAR0iavJZfHJee4G7f10d3kL033eBbCG2pWKdEVdHcgnzdSHQ3f9yC7mmRr8>

The DEC said the public should report dead ducks, geese, swans, waterbirds (including gulls), raptors, pheasants, turkey and grouse, or any group of five or more dead birds in one area to the regional DEC Wildlife office at wildlife.r1@dec.ny.gov or the DEC Wildlife Health Unit 518-478-2203. For more information visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6957.html>

From The World Parrot Trust: On the evening of April 14, 2022, the Uganda Wildlife Authority in collaboration with Conserv Congo, World Parrot Trust, the Wildlife Trust of India, and the IFAW arrested a trafficker who had in his possession 122 African grey parrots from the Democratic Republic of Congo. He was trying to sell them in Uganda.

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(Continued from page 19)

The suspect crossed the Congo-Uganda border using fake CITES documents and payments to corrupt officials. He has been placed in custody, awaiting trial and the parrots have been transferred to the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre where they are receiving emergency care after their long ordeal.

According to an article at Forbes.com, parrots evolved larger brain sizes so they could solve problems that might otherwise have killed them, and their braininess ended up promoting their long-term survival. The hyacinth macaw has the largest absolute brain size, while the palm cockatoo has the largest brain size relative to its body.

And in England... Rodent glue traps will be banned for public use in England! Once the ban becomes law, anyone found setting a glue trap will be liable for a fine or up to 51 weeks in prison. Retailers are urged to stop selling these inhumane traps and the Humane Society/UK is working to get the ban instituted throughout the United Kingdom.

(Continued from page 11)

- **Dim the lights.** Bright lighting stimulates activity and noise. Lower the wattage in the evening.

Use room darkening window shades and cover your pet's cage with a black or dark colored cover at bedtime. In most cases, your pet will not begin vocalizing until you uncover it in the morning. Be sure your bird is getting enough rest. 10-12 hours each night is ideal.

- **Modulate your voice.** Loud arguments and noisy children can incite an avian screaming match. Pipe down a bit and your bird will too.

- **Sing!** Interrupt your bird's tantrum with song (Amazons especially, like operatic scales!) and chances are, your bird will join in. It may take a few tries but try it. It works.

- **Whisper.** It may pique your bird's interest and distract it from screaming. Cockatoos in

particular seem to respond to whispering, and many of them learn to whisper too.

- **Develop a contact call with your bird.** **Example:** You wolf whistle, it wolf whistles back. It can be any sound that you both repeat to each other in greeting or from a distance. Use this contact call to distract your pet from a scream fest. With some practice, it will often stop and call back to you. (A contact call is also useful for locating your bird should it escape from your home.)

- **Distraction.** Never use water as punishment but try making 'scream time' bath time instead! Use a spray bottle to gently mist your bird or offer a bath dish if that is your preference. Damp feathers will often induce preening and the bird will temporarily forget about vocalizing. Change cage tray paper while you're at it so your bird can observe the activity.

- **Bribery.** Behavior consultants advise against rewarding bad behavior, but when you simply *must* have some

quite time, hand your bird a two-inch piece of millet spray. Even big birds often enjoy eating the small seeds, one at a time and will be quietly occupied for at least the length of a phone call. Alternatively, a few pine nuts in the shell, a small, destructible 'hand' toy or a foraging toy will often do the trick.

- **Wait it out.** Without interfering, allow your birds ten minutes to scream to their hearts' content. Chances are, they will quiet down after they have gone through their repertoire.

- **No petting below the neck!** Hormonal or seasonal vocalizing can often be difficult to deal with. Extended hours of daylight stimulate a bird's breeding instincts, and part of the process is calling out to attract or communicate with a mate. Refrain from encouraging mating behavior. Do not pet or stroke your bird on its back or near the vent or tail. Unless there is a medical necessity, do not feed soft, mushy foods when hormones are raging.

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- Limit daylight hours by covering the cage and drawing the shades a little earlier in the evening. Consult your avian veterinarian for further advice on hormonal behavior. It is important that pet birds learn to occupy themselves independently when they are not the center of attention or when they are home alone. Boredom is a human concept, but it seems to apply to pet birds too. Without some ‘work’, i.e., ‘play’, birds may be too demanding or become lethargic ‘perch potatoes’. Foraging toys, sufficient exercise, a room with a view and social time and companionship with its human family make for a happy and well-adjusted pet. Develop a routine and feed your bird at approximately the same time each day. Do not expect to silence your bird completely. It will not happen. Tailor some of the hints here to your own needs and learn to enjoy the joyful noise!

Sidebar

Noise Triggers

- Loud music
- Televised sports or action movies
- Household noise: arguments, noisy children,
- Outdoor noise— construction, sports, crows, and other birds
- Tension or hurrying to go out: birds can feel it!

- Telephone—they are quiet all day, but once you get on the phone, they want to ‘talk’ too!
- New bird or other pet
- Scary new furniture, seasonal decorations, balloons
- It is dinnertime!

Sidebar

When the Noise Just Won’t Stop

Punishment won’t produce silence. Neither will banging on your bird’s cage, screaming, or throwing things. Check to see if something is amiss in the area. If there is nothing obviously wrong in the cage, stoop down to perch level and look around. Perhaps there is a hawk in a tree outside or a kite hung up in power lines on the next street. Lower the window shades to block out the offending object. *Ignore* the noise, dim the lights, leave the room, and close the door. Often, birds quiet down after you have left the house. Open and close an exterior door to fool your pet into thinking you have left. *Do* leave for a while if the noise has you feeling especially stressed.

Sidebar

Birds by the Decibel

- **Loud:**
- Large cockatoos,
- Macaws
- Conures (*aratinga*),
- Amazon parrots
- Derbyan parakeets

Moderate:

- African greys: Although they generally speak softly and emit pleasant whistles, including wolf whistles, a frightened grey can let out loud, guttural screams.
- Eclectus
- Quakers (monk parakeets)
- Caiques,
- Small cockatoos: Bare-eyed, Goffin’s
- Alexandrine and moustached parakeets
- Indian ringnecked parakeets

Quieter species:

- Pionus parrots
- Cockatiels
- *Pyurrrha* conures
- *Poicephalus* parrots: Senegals, Meyers, red-bellied, brown-headed
- Budgies: often chirp all day, but volume isn’t loud
- Lovebirds,
- Parrotlets
- *Brotogeris*: canary winged, bee bee parakeets
- Kakarikis
- Rosellas
- Red-rumped and other Australian parakeets

Each bird is an individual and there are exceptions to every generalization. Macaws and some Amazons are often quieter than conures because of less incessant vocalizing. Have unexplained, sudden changes in noise level evaluated by an avian veterinarian.

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Know your LIPS Members

1. EOTBRR SGSOR _____
2. NUSSA MECALIRABHN _____
3. OHSRNA ISCLNOL _____
4. OSHMTA IKOWAWLKA _____
5. NASUS OSDDE _____
6. NNODA OARRBBA _____
7. ENNA EREIDTPI _____
8. RCBNIIA BLEOTAILAB _____
9. ARCOL EICHSNTNRES _____
10. DNEILA IGDET _____
11. EEERN DBYOO _____
12. BRADE TRANDEEDHG _____
13. INDEA UCALOLRDI _____
14. IEAJCN EPNEES _____
15. TANILIK OXANST _____
16. ADINL FRULAEL _____
17. RERNLOAI TOTO _____

Above are 17 LIPS Member's full name (first and last). Each name has been scrambled. How many LIPS members do you know? Write your answers on the blank line to the right of the name. Submit your entry to editor@liparrots.org (or you can mail in your entry) and win a gift card valued at \$25. Submissions must be received by May 31st, 2022. A single random selection of all 100% correct puzzles will be drawn.



Scan the QR Code to view the answers from last month's crossword puzzle or click [here](#).



- Name of Parrot : Sadie

- Species : Cockatoo

- Age of Parrot : 10

- Sex : Female

- Bird Color : White

- Size : Medium

- Wings Clipped : Unknown

- Parrots Usual Diet : Pellet and seeds

- Talking Ability : Says about 10 words

- Last Vet Check Date : Unknown • Good With Children : Unknown • Good With Dogs : Unknown • Good With Cats : Unknown • Good With Other Pets : Unknown • Is Bird Hand Tame : Unknown

- Have Any Feather Issues : Plucks

- AnyBehaviorIssues : Occasionally bites, screams and has a small patch near chest where she plucks. This was told to me by the owner of the bird who surrendered the bird to me.

- Reason : Rescued from an owner who wasn't caring for her and I'm honestly not bird savvy enough to handle her.



Sadie is looking for his forever home. If you are interested in adopting **Sadie** please contact us at 631-957-1100 or send an email to: info@liparrots.org for further information. You can find our adoption application at: liparrots.org/Adopt

The Long Island Parrot Society

A 501c3 non-profit organization.
Your donation may be tax deductible.

Phone: 631-957-1100
website: www.liparrots.org
email: info@liparrots.org



Visit the Long Island Parrot Society on the web. Scan the QR Code

Did you know that non-stick surfaces can kill your bird? Check with manufacturers to be sure products are PTFE & PFOA free!



Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I (single)/We (Family) hereby apply for membership in the Long Island Parrot Society of NY, Inc

- Select: NEW MEMBER RENEWAL SENIOR (10% off)
 Single (\$35) Family/Commercial (\$45) Lifetime Membership (\$500)
 Gift (if gift, list your name as sponsor)

Mail check or money order payable to Long Island Parrot Society of NY, Inc to PO Box 2754, North Babylon NY 11703 OR pay online via PayPal at liparrots.org/membership OR call 631-957-1100 to pay via credit card.

Newsletter Preference: Paper Electronic
 LIPS meets the third Wednesday of the month, 10 months a year (no meetings in February or July)(Check schedule for dates: liparrots.org/monthly-meetings. Meeting Place: Greenwood Hall, 58 Greenwood Ave, East Islip, NY 11730

General Phone: 631 957 1100 Adoption Line: 631 456 1813 email: info@liparrots.org

The Long Island Parrot Society is a non-profit, 501c3 organization and NY State registered charity #43-65-18. Our purpose is to educate and instruct on the proper care and maintenance of psittacines and to encourage avian research, future conservation, and the management and maintenance of an avian museum/ educational center / shelter.

MEMBERS! PLEASE CHECK THE DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL. THAT IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE! PLEASE RENEW ON TIME. THANK YOU!

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