



Hope everyone had a good summer (despite the heat, humidity and drought)! Looking forward to less humidity, cooler weather, rain and wearing sweaters . . . and might I add just one pumpkin spice latte to kick-off the season!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Please let us know if you can take part in one or more of the following events: Call 631-957-1100 or email [candyl@liparrots.org](mailto:candyl@liparrots.org)

\* CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND DISCOVERY (CEED Autumnal Equinox Festival on Saturday, September 17 from 11-3 p.m.

Where: CEED, Washington Lodge, 287 South Country Road, Brookhaven, NY 11719  
Set Up: Saturday, September 17 at 10 a.m.

We'll be setting up our tent with literature to pass out to the attendees and we will be answering questions, talking about LIPS, conservation of parrots in the wild, etc. Our tent will be decorated in everything parrot and we will have giveaways for the kids. Our friend, Ranger Eric Powers, runs the education program for CEED.

\* LI PET EXPO IN THE PARK on September 18, 2022, from 11-6 pm at Tanner Park in Copiague. Set up will be at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday.

<https://www.familypetshows.com/long-island-pet-expo-in-the-park>

This is a great event (so much to do and see)!

\* 35TH BELLMORE FAMILY STREET FESTIVAL & CRAFT FAIR, Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25 from 10-6 p.m. each day. Set up on Saturday will be at 8:30 AM Bellmore Train Station at Sunrise Highway. There are beverage/food vendors—just bring a chair for yourself.

PLEASE NOTE:

Out of an abundance of caution, we will continue to leave our birds home, safe from HPAI (highly pathogenic avian influenza-H5N1). Like COVID, it is better to be safe than sorry. We will all miss bringing our feathered friends to the outreaches. Hopefully HPAI will start to recede, and our outreach friends will be at our sides again.

Although our fids will not be there, we want to fulfill the club's mission..."The Long Island Parrot Society is all about the birds...we are dedicated to responsible bird ownership through education and example." Please help us to educate people about our club, avian adoptions, and parrot ownership.

Thanks to Cassie Malina from Awesome Animal Solutions for presenting at our August 17 Zoom meeting. Cassie is a behavior consultant with many years of training under her belt. Here is Cassie's website and email address (join our other members who are following her):

Inside this issue:

Financial Report / Board Meeting Minutes	2 / 3
Gimme Shelter	7
Meet The Speaker	11
News from The Flock	12
Is there a Killer in your Kitchen?	13
Meet the Member	14
Our Club Cannot Continue as It Is Without Volunteers	16
Miss Molly	18
Whats Wrong With the Step Up Command?	20
Conservation Notes	21

<https://www.awesomeanimalsolutions-cassiemalina.com/cma924@gmail.com>

Saturday, September 17, is Pet Bird Day! Celebrate the joys and benefits of bird ownership! <https://nationaltoday.com/national-pet-bird-day/>

To take the guessing game out of when your LIPS membership is due, you will be receiving a reminder email to renew your LIPS membership. Renewal fees are accepted via PayPal, credit card, or you can submit a check to our PO Box.

Looking forward to seeing you and your feathered companion at our next in-person meeting at Greenwood Hall on Wednesday, September 21. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Diane P Hyde, President

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.**  
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Vendor and Venue Liaison: TBD  
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**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

## FINANCIAL REPORT - August 2022

Deposits as of August 2022	
Deposits	\$685.59
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$685.59</b>

TFCU Account Balances as of August 2022	
Operating Fund:	\$7011.80
EXPO Fund:	\$10,596.97
Parrot Care:	\$2,665.36
MM (Shelter):	\$139,423.75
CD (Shelter):	\$9,364.56
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$169,062.44</b>

Expenses as of August 2022	
Phone:	\$120.00
Best Value Printing:	\$208.91
Life Storage:	\$442.00
CRM (SalesNow)	\$45.45
USPS	\$6.29
Misc:	\$1009.44
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$1917.09</b>

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## Board Meeting Minutes - August 2022

August 10, 2022 7PM via ZOOM ATTENDING: David Abrahams, Donna Barbaro, Susan Chamberlain, Bob Dietrich, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Diane Hyde, Candy Little

**PRINTING COSTS HAVE INCREASED;** price is 'per impression'. Current NL is too thick to fold properly to save postage.

May charge a few extra dollars on membership for paper copies.

**LIBRARY PARROT U IN SAYVILLE:** Small audience, but we got a new member as a result; doing indoor event is safer than outdoors due to avian flu. Donna B suggested having kids read to the parrots.

POP-Up stores or locations for future meetings or events? Experiment to see if it would work.

**Sept outreaches:** New bird items are available to decorate tent & to hand out.

Coloring pages: Donna priced at Staples—Shawn will get price also; B&W logo sent to Donna

**SEPT IN PERSON MEETING:** K&M to be invited to groom; allow birds with caution? Rules to abide by (only handle your bird, don't let others handle your bird, clean up, wipe down area where birds are located).

**CPS:** Asked about store in NJ; no references available

Bird for birthday party request in Bayshore: Possibilities discussed

There have been mentions on Facebook that bird clubs are failing...luckily LIPS is thriving! Major adjustments have been made due to COVID, moving meeting location and avian flu. Board members and volunteers are busier than ever.

(Continued to page 6)

### UPCOMING MEETINGS/OUTREACHES

Saturday, September 17 CEED Autumnal Equinox Festival

Sat & Sun September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Bellmore Street Fair

Sat & Sun - September 17 - 18 - Copiague, NY - Long Island Pet Expo in the Park -

Wednesday, September 21 6:30PM Long Island Parrot Society IN-PERSON meeting with Ranger Eric Powers of CEED (Center for Environmental Education and Discovery)

Wednesday, October 19 7PM via ZOOM Debbie Foster certified trainer and behavior consultant.

Wednesday, November 16 7PM via ZOOM Pamela Clark, Parrot Behavior Consultant

\*Mini-ZOOM meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7PM. In-person meetings will be live-streamed via ZOOM. Meeting invitations are sent via email

### OUT OF TOWN & VIRTUAL EVENTS

Organizations: list your upcoming events here. Email information to: [editor@liparrots.org](mailto: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 - September 17 - [Seatuck Long Island Birding Challenge](#) Long Island, NY

September 26-29, 2022- "Wild Parrots Up Close" International Parrot Convention of Tenerife, Spain Loro Parque. Visit <https://www.wildparrotsupclose.com/>

Sunday - October 9 - [OHPA Bird Fair](#) - Monroeville, PA

Thursday - Sunday, October 13 - 16 - Cape May Fall Festival - Cape May, NJ



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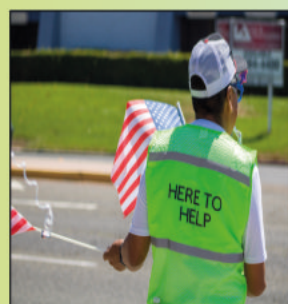
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**Volunteers are very much needed.**



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](mailto:volunteers@liparrots.org) to join us!

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(Continued from page 3)

Contact school/libraries for Parrot Universities—have students/library attendees read to the parrots (like the Greyhound Rescue Org who would bring the greyhounds into the schools to have kids read to them)

**Outreaches:** Asking children to answer questions about parrots to receive a "prize" (rather than just handing out parrot-related goodies). Encourage learning in a fun way.

**September 21 in-person meeting:** Allow parrots with caution? Rules to abide by (only handle your bird, don't let others handle your bird, clean up, wipe down area where birds are located). Ask K&M to groom or Nicole? Try to get another toy vendor? Lisa (8Beaks) on Long Island; however, she's pricey (although her toys are great).

Folks have been asking about progress of shelter. Board meeting on August 31 to brainstorm for business plan.

Volunteers and reliable income stream are vital to the project.

A local parrot shelter may be stressed due to illness; discussed how to offer help. Perhaps offer to refer adoption candidates?



By: Susan Chamberlain

### The Long Island Parrot Society's Parrot Shelter---Are you ready?

When is A long-awaited Long Island Parrot Society Shelter going to be ready? We have been raising money, albeit slowly, for years, correctly predicting the growing need for such a facility here on the Island. Our vision includes a meeting room, quarantine area, bird room, sales area for bird supplies, a front office/reception area, and of course, a utility and storage area. That is almost the easy part—the most crucial and difficult part will staffing the eventual brick and mortar venue with dependable volunteers.

Our volunteers will be the first point of contact for people wishing to adopt or relinquish a parrot. Telephone and in-person meetings will take place. Sensitivity and a non-judgmental attitude are of utmost importance. If people feel criticized for giving up a pet, the one to suffer will likely be the bird because the person may feel shamed into keeping it in sub-par conditions or placing it wherever they can.

There are myriad reasons people give up their birds: death or infirmity of the primary caretaker, divorce, changes in living situations, allergies, behavior (noise, biting) and "can't give him the attention A A needs." It is tempting to judge the bird owner who says, "I'm moving next week and can't take my parrot." "Was it a surprise you are moving? Did you look for a place that allows pets?" No, we cannot be asking those questions because the person may find them confrontational. Instead, we will need to stick to the facts and see if the bird can be placed, fostered, or taken into the shelter. If not, we will have to refer them to other facilities.

Sometimes we will have to say "No." The person who recently left a message on the Parrot Phone asking about placing 50 budgies would have been a "no" unless we had someone in the pipeline with a parakeet aviary. Long Island Budgie Rescue would have also been hard-pressed to find an immediate solution to this dilemma.

We are developing a business plan, which includes criteria for accepting birds into the shelter. Is the bird adoptable? We do not plan to warehouse birds, but to place them in vetted, suitable homes. Vet checked? We will ask for birds to be checked by an avian veterinarian prior to intake, but there will be situations where it is not possible. A relinquishment fee to cover the expense will be assessed in most cases, but we will inevitably have situations where the owner hasn't the money to pay. We will then have to deal with the cost of the exam and required quarantine.

Volunteers will be involved in cleaning, feeding and socializing birds. Managing the phone, sales of bird food and supplies, and visits by the public and potential adoptive pet parents are important facets of any business, shelter, or pet shop. We will need people to help with maintenance—repairs, painting, carpentry, power washing cages and more.

Volunteers will be the backbone of our endeavor. They are more important than paid employees because each volunteer depends on the others to show up. The birds don't understand excuses. Are you ready?

There is incredibly sad news from Noah's Ark Sanctuary in Georgia: Approximately 100 sanctuary birds, including peacocks, emus, chickens, turkeys, geese, and an owl were euthanized after hundreds of dead vultures were found on the property. The cause was avian influenza.

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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](http://www.centralvets.com) — for LIPS members
- Fine Feather, LLC** (The Pet Store Next Door), [www.finefeather.us](http://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.



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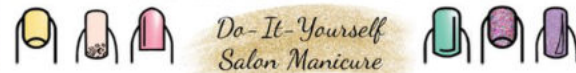
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Please observe the following rules for the safety of your parrots and others!

- 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.

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## Snack Sweethearts



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

## 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.



“Ranger Eric” is a biologist, naturalist, photographer, outdoorsman, and overall nature-lover. He started leading nature hikes in 1987 as a Park Ranger in Colorado until he served two years in the US Peace Corps as an Environmental Education Officer in the Kingdom of Tonga. Since then, he has been running nature centers in Colorado, Alabama and New York.

In 2005 he started a mobile nature company, “Your Connection To Nature” (YC2N), connecting people to nature through mobile environmental education programs, live animal shows, field trips and eco-tours. In 2013, he started as Adjunct Professor at Molloy College and developed a summer course for their Teaching Green Sustainability Institute for High School Teachers, and it continues as a highly successful, well-attended course.

In 2016, another dream came true...he co-founded The Center for Environmental Education & Discovery ([www.CEEDLI.org](http://www.CEEDLI.org)) in Brookhaven Hamlet, NY as Long Island’s newest nature center. YC2N folded into CEED in order to better serve the community as a non-profit. He now holds the title of Site & Program Director.

His on-going conservation projects include “Save Our Box Turtles,” “Quail vs. Ticks,” “1000 Bat Boxes” and “Owl Nesting Projects.” Please view his TV Series, “Off the trail...with Ranger Powers” on YouTube.

# Eric Powers

# Meet the Speaker



## News from the Flock

Get well wishes to Marcia Abrahams who suffered several arm fractures during a recent birdwatching trip.

Best wishes to Linda LaFleur as she starts a new job!

Did you adopt an orange winged Amazon sometime between 1998-2004, from Selmer's Pet Shop or through a shelter or sanctuary? Staff at Selmer's said they gave the bird to a sanctuary because it had an import (open) band. and they could not keep it in the store. The bird barked and said 'unh-uh.' The daughter of the original owner has been wondering and just wants to know that 'Charlie' is happy and okay. If you think Charlie may be your bird, please call the Parrot Phone at 631=957-1100 or email [susanc@liparrots.org](mailto:susanc@liparrots.org) The daughter contacted LIPS after seeing a photo of Susan Chamberlain's orange-winged Amazon in a newspaper clipping referencing the club.

Make your bird a Long Island Newsday celebrity! Send your pet's photo to [petphotos@newsday.com](mailto:petphotos@newsday.com) along with your contact info. Include your bird's name and species and your name and phone number. Your feathered friend may show up on the Tuesday pet page!

Wishing Candy Little a quick recovery following a traffic accident.

It is rumored that a group of African grey parrots were removed from a display in Lincolnshire Park (UK) for swearing and laughing amongst themselves.

Many thanks to Candy Little and Linda LaFleur for taking part in a couple of birthday party events with their parrots, garnering donations for the Long Island Parrot Society!

We just got word that K&M Mobile Grooming is now a Long Island Hagen representative! This is great news, as many of our birds love Hagen products!

Thank you to Gloria Jackson for volunteering to staff the raffle table at September's in-person LIPS meeting!

Member Patricia LoRusso of Ronkonkoma has just been added to our pet sitting list. Visit [Pet Sitters \(liparrots.org\)](http://PetSitters(liparrots.org))

Former guest of the Long Island Parrot Society, Mark Bittner (Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill) reported hearing high-pitched parrot squawking from his San Francisco home. He wondered if it might be an escaped pet, but quickly realized that it was the first of this year's fledglings. The youngster was in a group of parrots flying into trees at the top of Telegraph Hill.

Many thanks to Candida Lopez who sent a donation to help defray printing costs for our full color L.I. Parrot Beacon!

Longtime members will remember Gloria Zucker, who moved with her birds to Florida some years ago. Sadly, Gloria passed away recently.

Kudos to Kaitlin Saxton for finding another presenter for our October 19 ZOOM meeting after Jason Crean was forced to cancel. Debbie Foster is certified as a trainer and behavior consultant. She combines those two disciplines to help people with their parrots and to help give birds the skills they need to succeed in their homes. She is also an instructor at Companion Animal Sciences Institute, a teaching assistant for Living and Learning with Animals, and the owner of Parrot Ps and Qs.

Are you a 'stage' mom or dad? Would you like to see your bird in a print ad, commercial, movie or TV show? The club often gets calls for parrots for various shoots. Birds must be in good feather and preferably model/actor friendly. These are PAID gigs, usually shooting in NYC or Brooklyn. The deal is, you get paid, then donate 10% to the club. If interested, please send a photo of your bird and your contact info to [susanc@liparrots.org](mailto:susanc@liparrots.org) Members' birds have appeared on Saturday Night Live, in a stage production of Treasure Island, in a Macy's brochure and other media.

## Is There a Killer in Your Kitchen?

by

Susan Chamberlain  
(Revised 2022 © Susan Chamberlain)

It's a jungle in here! Sharing your home with a pet bird is more than a hobby. It is a lifestyle. Because our birds have such sensitive respiratory systems, we must be extremely careful when choosing cookware and kitchen appliances. Last month's Mini-ZOOM meeting evolved into a discussion about indoor air quality, and non-stick cookware. Here is more information and updates from accredited sources.

Conventional nonstick coatings contain polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), a polymer that deteriorates when overheated. The resulting fumes (gas and minute particulate matter) can kill pet birds quickly. Humans sometimes report flu-like symptoms after exposure to these fumes. Some also contain perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFO) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). They are part of a class of compounds called perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). They are resistant to water and lipids and due to that capacity, they have been used since the 1950s in a variety of products (see below) including cookware.

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- Paint
- Waxes
- Protective sprays
- Cleaning products
- Coatings for carpets and upholstery
- Carpets
- Waterproof clothing
- Cosmetics
- Grease-proof food packaging
- Heat resistant tape
- Non-stick pans

*In May 2016, the EPA issued a lifetime health advisory for PFOA after multiple studies showed it could harm humans.*

A recent article in *Newsday* reported that the Environmental Protection Agency has proposed designating PFOA and PFOS as 'hazardous' due to human health hazards. Aside from the dangers to our birds from heating cookware and appliances containing this class of polymers, PFOA and PFOS have been found in Long Island wells since 2016.

Teflon™ is a brand name. Nonstick surfaces containing PTFE are marketed under many different brand names, such as Silverstone™, Anolon™, Calphalon™, Farberware™, George Foreman™ and more. Just because a product does not say Teflon™, it does not mean that it is free of PTFE.

In 1982, *The American Journal of Veterinary Research* published a report describing a controlled study in which budgies died from such

exposure. "PTFE pyrolysis product inhalation produces a syndrome indicative of irritant inhalation toxicosis, with a resulting severe necrotizing and hemorrhagic pneumonitis." There are 'green' pans on the market now that feature ceramic, non-stick coatings. Look for 'PTFE and PFOA Free' labels on any non-stick products you are considering for use in your home. Read manufacturers' instructions and cautions carefully, and if necessary, call them with your questions and concerns. Because *any* smoke can be harmful, do not house your bird in the kitchen.

Manufacturers disagree about the temperature levels that nonstick surfaces must reach to emit harmful fumes. Some place it at 560 degrees Fahrenheit while others somewhere above or below that figure. Research by metallurgist, Frank Longo showed that products begin releasing such fumes at the beginning of the heating process, and there have been numerous reports that pet birds died when nonstick products were heated to temperatures below 560 degrees Fahrenheit. DuPont claims that its coating remains intact indefinitely at 500°F [12]. Experiences of people whose birds have died from fumes generated at lower temperatures show that this is not the case. In one case researchers at the University of Missouri documented the death of about 1,000 broiler chicks exposed to off gas products from coated heat lamps at 396°F. (Boucher M, Ehmler TJ, Bermudez AJ. 2000. Polytetrafluoroethylene gas intoxication in broiler chickens. *Avian Dis* 44:449-53)

*(Continued to page 17)*



# Meet the Member



CAROL & MIKE CHRISTENSEN

Carol and Mike Christensen were often the first people you would see at club meetings, sitting alongside Bob Dietrich at the hospitality table. They joined the Long Island Parrot Society in 2002, at Vickie Gaffney's suggestion after purchasing their white bellied caique, Zazu, at Mega Pets. "We wanted to learn as much as possible, so we joined right away," said Carol.

Two more caiques eventually joined the family, black capped caique, Topanga, and Buddy. Both birds were adopted from the same person, several years apart. The 'gang of three' are all between 18 and 20 years old. The Christensen's red bellied parrot, also from Mega-Pets, is around 19 or 20. "She's a sweetie; she says, "I love you", I'm a good girl."

The most recent addition is African grey parrot, Gracie, who formerly belonged to Carol's brother. "We watched her while my brother had surgery 8 years ago; and we still have her," Carol said. She is not a big talker, but whistles, makes the sound of a truck backing, up, door knocking, and whistles the songs the caiques sing."

The most popular tune the birds whistle is 'Tequila.' Our first-ever bird, a cockatiel; whistled 'Tequila.' The caiques picked it up and so did Gracie. They are in separate rooms but whistle back and forth to each other."

"What surprised us the most about parrot ownership is how individual each one is," said Mike. Each caique has its own personality; they're very individual. With parakeets I never had any idea what a parrot was like. A cockatiel was our first parrot-like bird. He had never been allowed out in his first home and was often kept covered. We brought him home and never locked him up again. He was an amazing bird. He would lead the other cockatiels around and Zazu would follow."

Carol finds that the biggest challenge with caiques is not getting bitten. "I don't recommend caiques for children because they can really deliver a nasty bite. The best way to avoid it is to learn how to read their body language."

Mike even gets to enjoy parrots at work. He works for a woman in Roslyn. 35 years ago, an Amazon parrot landed on her shoulder, and she still has it. She called her vet for advice on finding the owner and was advised to carefully watch the bird and see what its habits were before putting the word out. No one ever came forward. Mike said that 'Pippin' watches cartoons and laughs. If you change the channel, he says, "I'm gonna squirt you!"

Both Carol and Mike said that the Parrot Society has taught them a lot. They enjoy outreaches and participate in many of them. Parrot EXPO is a favorite, and they volunteer for all three days: set-up on Friday, the actual event on Saturday, and unloading at the storage unit on Sunday. They look forward to EXPO making a return, hopefully next year. Both enjoy meeting and EXPO speakers, going places with members, helping at Parrot University presentations, and are particularly fond of outdoor events, especially at Sweetbriar. They enjoyed the club's former weekly TV program, but mostly, they are happy to have made good friends—lifelong friends! Carol and Mike have not been to the new meeting hall yet, but plan to attend the September 21 meeting, so come down and meet them in person!

# Long Island Parrot Society

## Reminder

Have you received the email reminder regarding your membership expiring? Don't let your membership expire. You can visit the website to renew your membership easily. Log on to [www.liparrots.org/membership](http://www.liparrots.org/membership)

## Candy Little and Maverick: Big Hit at Parrot Themed Party

By Diane Hyde

All I can say is that Candy and Maverick Little are rock stars! We received a call from a mom who wanted to surprise her nine-year old daughter with a parrot at her birthday party. Maverick stepped forward saying he would be able to accommodate the request.

The party was decorated in everything PARROT! It was wonderful. The guest of honor was dressed in a parrot dress and even had parrots on her swimsuit (it was a pool party).

The look on the birthday girl's face when Candy and Maverick walked in was priceless! We got there a few minutes before the rest of the guests arrived so mom could take photos of the birthday girl and Maverick. Lots of photos taken with all the guests and Maverick even did some Parrot Kindergarten training (picked colors).

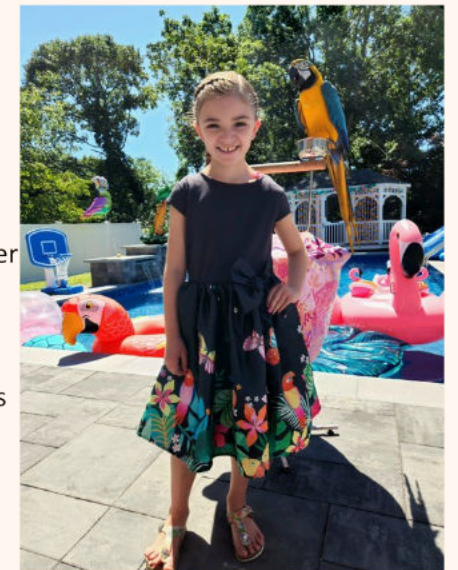
Everyone was so curious about Mav and we were able to speak to some in detail about parrots in general.

The little girl is a BIG parrot fan and wants to be a vet. Candy was kind enough to bring some of Mav's molted tail feathers. I got her a stuffie parrot and Candy also gave a carved parrot from Honduras. I also left some LIPS magnets to hand out to the guests.

When the young girl does any type of reports for school, it's always on parrots—she is the future of aviculture.

It was a fun time for us—the backyard was a tropical oasis (we kinda didn't want to leave—LOL).

Very proud of our representation of the club.



Kaylee, the future of aviculture







Volunteers. They are the engine that makes our Club function. We need them. We need them so very much. They are our advocates and educators. The ones who set up and break down at events. The ones who work a little extra after working their day jobs.

Things I hear about being a volunteer:

- Being a volunteer is hard work.
- Being a volunteer takes too much time.
- Being a volunteer is not fun.
- I need to have my parrot with me to be a volunteer.
- I need to know a lot about parrots to be a volunteer.
- I need to be able to drive all over to be a volunteer.

All these things are FALSE!

You do not need to be an expert in all things 'parrot' or a professional public speaker to be a volunteer. You do NOT need to have a parrot with you at outreaches, either. You do not need to drive (Parrot Placement does everything by phone and Zoom). In fact, 90% of volunteering is just being present, listening, helping, and acknowledging. We even have a simple set of guidelines about responding to questions you might not know the answer to. You do not have to spend a lot of time volunteering to make a big difference. And you are never alone.

Volunteering is not all hard work. In fact, it's LOTS of fun. At Outreaches, we connect with so many people doing the thing we like the most – sharing and talking about our birds. We educate. We advocate. We demonstrate. We listen. We help.

Unfortunately, we have but a small group of the same amazing volunteers who continue to give and give. And that group continues to get smaller as people leave NY or as lives change. We need more of our current local members to volunteer and help or This Club we love so much; that we get support, fellowship, and share our passion for our birds with, could go away as we currently know it.

As our society has changed, we have grown. And, as more people discover the joy and sometimes frustration of being parrot owners, the need for parrot placement and education has also grown. Without new volunteers, our Club may be relegated to Zoom-only meetings.

This year, we have already had to decline to participate in several Outreaches we have traditionally attended because we do not have enough volunteers to staff the events. We have also had to close our Parrot Placement Service to catch up due to a drastic increase in surrenders. We just do not have enough volunteers to help. If we can no longer facilitate parrot placements or do outreaches because there are no volunteers to set up and staff events, we will not be able to continue our core mission of improving the lives of parrots through Education, Research, Advocacy, and Conservation.

Ways you can volunteer:

- Arrive 30 minutes before in-person events to help set up.
- Stay 30 minutes after in-person events to help clean up and break down.
- Staff an in-person or Virtual Outreach Event – an hour, two hours, half day, or even a full day is welcomed: set up, taking email addresses, giving out cards and, answering questions.
- Help at a Cage Sale.
- Help with Parrot Placement.
- Help with phone calls.
- Help transport a cage from a donor to the Storage Facility.
- Help with shopping for events (like our Picnic or Christmas Party).
- Write an article for the Newsletter.
- Be a speaker for one of our meetings or help find speakers for our meetings.
- Become an Outreach Captain.

(Continued to page 17)

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- Become a Board Member.

Volunteering is a wonderful activity for individuals, couples, and families! I beg every member to find some time to dedicate to volunteering with The Long Island Parrot Society. Send us an email ([info@liparrots.org](mailto:info@liparrots.org)) and let us know that you would be interested to help. Volunteering is fun. Connecting with people, laughing, sharing experiences, and sharing your love of parrots, are but a few of the benefits of being a volunteer. Remember, even a small amount of time makes a HUGE difference! We need YOU!

(Continued from page 13)

This is *really* bad stuff:

"Overheating of PTFE generates fumes of toxic perfluoroisobutene (PFIB) and poses serious health risks to the human respiratory tract. PFIB is approximately ten times as toxic as phosgene [4]. Inhalation of this gas can cause pulmonary edema, which can lead to death. PFIB is included in Schedule 2 of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), prompted by one delegation to the Conference on Disarmament. The aim of the inclusion of chemicals, such as PFIB was to cover those chemicals, which would pose a substantial risk to the CWC. Subsequently PFIB, specifically, was included in the final text of the CWC." (2) Perfluoroisobutene (PFIB) is the perfluorocarbon counterpart of the hydrocarbon isobutene and has the formula  $(CF_3)_2C=CF_2$ . An alkene, it is a colorless gas that is notable as a highly toxic perfluoroalkene.

A few manufacturers, like Corning Revere, print warnings in product instructions against using nonstick cookware around pet birds, but you must read the fine print to find it.

Instead of conventional nonstick cookware, try:

- Stainless steel
- Copper-clad stainless steel
- Copper
- Corningware, the classic, white oven-to-table ware
- Glass
- Aluminum
- Cast iron
- Ceramic coated, certified PTFE and PFOA-free non-stick cookware, such as Moneta™ brand.

A stove, heated the first few times, might emit fumes from components treated with chemicals intended to inhibit rust and deterioration. A self-cleaning oven might also give off toxic fumes, likely from parts treated with nonstick coatings. Be aware that smoke from burned on food or grease can also be harmful and even deadly to birds.

Are you in the market for an *Instant Pot*? ! According to the manufacturer, it contains no components harmful to pet birds. Check out their communication with Phoenix Landing:

<https://blog.phoenixlanding.org/2018/02/10/instant-pots-safe-parrots/>

Emissions are often strongest when appliances and cookware are new. (This does not mean that older nonstick products are safe for use around birds.) When moving into a new home, run the stove/oven at a high heat level for several hours in the days prior to moving, before you and the birds are in residence. Open the windows for ventilation during this process. Use a range hood that vents to outdoors, as opposed to ventless hoods that blow pollutants back into the room. It is difficult to say which stove is safe, as models change often. When considering the purchase of a new stove or appliance, contact the manufacturer prior to buying. You will usually find an address or telephone number on the label or packaging. Ask if the products include polymers containing PTFE or other potentially harmful chemicals.

Follow the same procedure for any cooking appliance or tool. If you are told they do not contain PTFE, insist on written assurance of that fact. Of course, companies cannot

(Continued to page 19)



# Miss Molly

by Robert Gross

Hello everyone and happy September. This is a story of mixed emotions. The main theme is to tell everyone how our great society steps up to a challenge during special situations. We would first like to honor two fantastic ladies—Karrie and Missy in Pennsylvania. Both Karrie and Missy have big hearts and so much knowledge when it comes to parrots, especially cockatoos.

Molly's caregiver did her best (Molly was her brother's bird and he passed away) and she knew Molly needed to be re-homed. Our friend Karrie was asked if she would be interested in Molly. Karrie was aware of Molly's age (41 years old). Karrie agreed if Molly was DNA tested as a female—and she was (Karrie's existing flock are females). Molly's caregiver was able to take Molly to the vet to be all checked out and tested before her journey. A pet transport company would charge \$1,450 to transport from NYC to PA.

The story started for me on a Sunday in September 2021 at the Bellmore Street Fair. Our president, Diane, was telling me about a Moluccan cockatoo named Molly. How a new home has been found; however, the cost of transport was too much for the owner. Realizing the odds of a 41-year-old Moluccan getting a home were pretty tough, so I personally volunteered to drive Molly to PA. Karrie lives in far western PA so we agreed to drive Molly to Lancaster, PA. This was going to be a three-hour drive one way. On Monday, I picked up Molly in NYC and we were on our way.

The day was beautiful and was indeed very special. At first Molly hissed at me, but we ended up being life-long friends. I talked about everything and she listened closely. She was a great travel partner. We arrived in Lancaster and so began the next journey of her life. I missed my travel companion on the long drive back to Long Island.

Karrie picked up Molly and brought her home and her home is indeed a parrot paradise. Molly had freedom in a huge cage; however, Karrie noticed that Molly was having problems in getting around. Molly had some hip and foot problems which gave her a lot of discomfort and pain. Karrie was Molly's advocate and worked with a vet who offered to operate on Molly to relieve some of her pain. Molly's former owner stepped up and paid for Molly's procedure. After the surgery, Molly was able to get around better, was flying, enjoying the other flock members and was much more active.

I met Missy in February of 2022, but it was not related to Molly. I was pet sitting two umbrella cockatoos for five weeks (they lost their owner on Christmas Day 2021) and I saw the girls twice a day and we grew very close. We tried to get them a home but had no results (they had to be placed together and one had a reoccurring medical condition that required a hefty vet bill every six months). I contacted Karrie and she immediately said she would take the girls back to

PA for adoption, in fact, she would send Missy to pick them up. I spent the last night with the girls talking and saying thank you for the joy they brought to my life. Life in PA grew very interesting—Missy loved Tovah and Mush and adopted those two, but she also fell in love with Miss Molly and the three were now a flock. As I said, mixed emotions surfaced on August 21, Missy woke up she found Miss Molly at the bottom of the cage. Molly had passed peacefully in the night and in glory crossed the Rainbow Bridge to the land of forever. Karrie always sent me great videos of Miss Molly after surgery and the bird was truly happy. I feel like I knew this bird for a lifetime and am not ashamed to admit I have a few tears falling as I write this. One day we will all meet our beloved friends and I will give Miss Molly a big hug and a kiss.

Thank you once again to our amazing PA connection—Karrie and Missy—for opening up your hearts. Thank you, LI Parrot Society for giving me a chance to tell this story.



(Continued from page 17)

guarantee that any product is safe for use around birds because most products are not routinely tested on birds, and manufacturers do not have control over how you use the product.

Some space heaters have components that have been coated with polymers containing polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), the same element in non-stick cookware that when heated, emits fumes that are deadly to birds.

Contact manufacturers for information about specific heaters. Most display a toll-free telephone number on packaging or instruction/warranty literature.

Even when you are convinced there is no PTFE present, pre-heat space heaters outdoors, in the garage, or any well-ventilated area far away from your birds. Toxic emissions are strongest when appliances are new.

Protect yourself and your birds. Fill out and mail the registration cards that come with newly purchased appliances. Keep and read instruction booklets and warranty certificates. Contact the manufacturer if you have questions about the advisability of using their products around birds. Ask about the presence of PTFE and other potentially harmful polymers used in the manufacture of appliances. Scan the business and consumer pages of your local newspaper for product recall notices.

WEBMD published some suggestions for protecting yourself:

- Do not get stain or water-repellent treatments for new carpet and furniture.
- Eat less fast food and carryout food. It often comes wrapped in paper made with PFCs.
- Do not wear stain- or water-repellent outerwear.
- Check labels and avoid products with "PTFE" or "fluoro" on the ingredients list.

## SIDEBAR

In May 1998, poultry researchers at the University of Missouri recorded 52 percent mortality in 2400 chicks within three days of the birds being placed into floor pens with new PTFE-coated heat lamp bulbs

In 1968, DuPont scientists Waritz and Kwon showed that rats exposed to a 20-gram sample of PTFE heated to 842°F (450°C) produced death within four hours. In a 1975 study by Waritz, Teflon breakdown products generated at lower temperatures were determined to cause death. Within four hours of exposure to a Teflon-coated pan heated to 536°F (280°C) parakeets died, and quail were killed when the pan was heated to 626°F or 330°C.

**Source:** ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP "Canaries in the Kitchen" <https://www.ewg.org/research/canaries-kitchen/teflon-offgas-studies>

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3. CD/CW/WP.239. Verification of the Nonproduction of Chemical Weapons: An Illustrative Example of the Problem of Novel Toxic Chemicals. 12 April 1989.

4. The Toxicology of Perfluoroisobutene by Jiri Patocka and Jiri Bajgar.

## SLIMY WATER DISH?

Have you ever felt slime inside your bird's water bowl? 'Biofilm,' a slippery substance, is an assortment of bacteria and other organisms that can cause harm to your bird. Don't just 'change' the water—scrub that dish every day!



# What's Wrong with the Step Up Command?

By Barbara Heidenreich  
Good Bird Inc [www.GoodBirdInc.com](http://www.GoodBirdInc.com)

It has been reiterated for years in the companion parrot literature...your parrot must obey the step up command! Obey and command. For me these words carry strong implications. I visualize a parrot with no desire to step up onto the hand being forced to comply. This usually involves maneuvers such as a hand pushing into a bird's chest, quickly scooping a bird onto the hand, or peeling toes off of a perch. For a positive reinforcement trainer such as myself this is very unpleasant to picture. Why one might ask? Certainly the mentioned strategies can create the desired resulting behavior of a bird on the hand. However the process of training through force involves strategies that rely on aversive experiences. Pushing a hand into a bird's chest, scooping or peeling toes are uncomfortable experiences for a parrot, no matter how minimal the aversive is.

## Fallout from Force

There can be serious repercussions with lasting effects from using aversives to gain cooperation. One of the most common results is a parrot that learns to bite in response to the presence of a hand. The important word in that sentence is "learns". Parrots are not hatched with an inherent aggressive response to hands. This behavior is learned through repeated exposure to unpleasant interactions involving hands. Often as a last resort, a parrot bites in an effort to deter the persistent pushy hand. Should the bite produce the desired results; the bird can learn in that one encounter that biting works! And it will be likely to use it next time a hand invades its space.

This is not to say one should ignore a bite to dissuade the aggressive behavior. A more trust building approach is to heed the parrot's body language prior to biting. Typically a parrot will present other body language that indicates discomfort well before a bite is landed. By carefully observing body language and making adjustments so that the bird appears as comfortable as possible, a sensitive avian caregiver is more likely to gain cooperation without aggressive behavior.

The same can be said for fear responses. Many likely have met a parrot who will step onto an arm, or shoulder, but will do everything in its power to avoid a hand. Again it would be an odd adaptation for a parrot to come into this world with an innate fear of hands. More realistic is the explanation that the bird's experience with hands taught it to display fear responses.

## Side Bar

Fallout that has occurred from forcing parrots to step up

- How many birds now bite due to forced step up behavior?
- How many birds are given up due to biting problems?
- How many birds are afraid of hands and flee to the back of their cages?
- How many birds are relegated to cages with little attention or enrichment because they learned to bite or are afraid?
- How many birds suffer fates worse than this because they responded to force with understandable aggressive behavior and/or fear responses?

## Positive Reinforcement Offers Hopes

Unfortunately it can be challenging to retrain a parrot to step up onto a hand for positive reinforcement after it has learned aggressive behavior (and/or fear responses) towards hands. But the good news is it can be done. This is particularly important to note as so many birds are often given up, left with little or no attention, or suffer fates worse than that due to being labeled a biter or no fun, through no fault of their own. It is always a sad moment for me to encounter a parrot that has learned aggressive behavior. It is sad mainly because it never had to be if the people in its life had been given the opportunity to learn about positive reinforcement.

(Continued to page 22)

# Conservation Notes

63 Grey parrots rescued from traffickers have been released in Kahuzi-Biéga National Park in eastern DRC. Among this group were parrots seized last September on a runway in Sankuru province. Fortunately, local NGO ConservCongo acted quickly to intervene, and the "cargo" was seized by law enforcement officers. Instead of being loaded on to a plane headed for Kinshasa and onwards to Asia, the parrots embarked on a remarkably different journey back to freedom. With support and guidance from WPT they travelled by motorbike, plane, and boat to Lwiro Primate Rehabilitation Centre where they received expert veterinary care and rehabilitation in purpose-built aviaries. This is the second release in Kahuzi-Biéga National Park following a group of thirty-nine released in late 2020.

Want to see wild African grey parrots in Uganda in February? Visit Shades of Grey Parrot Excursions <https://www.shadesofgreyparrots.com/uganda-parrot-excursions/>

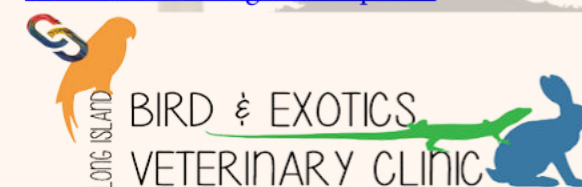
Collisions with buildings kill between 300 million to a billion birds each year. Please urge your members of Congress to co-sponsor and support the Bird-Safe Building Act, which promotes bird-friendly materials and design features on federal buildings that would help birds avoid such collisions.

When volcano eruptions on the island of St. Vincent occurred in 2021, it was feared that the population of the federally endangered St. Vincent Amazon would decline. Fortunately, predictions were wrong, and the numbers of the Island native increased to 1,000. A census taken in 2010 projected that today's population would be 850 birds.

Nearly ten years ago, the hyacinth macaw's status was upgraded from 'endangered' to 'vulnerable.' Habitat loss has made it likely that the bird will again be listed as endangered. Climate change, deforestation in the Amazon and fires in the Pantanal are all factors in the probable decline of the largest flighted parrot species. More than half of the fires have been attributed to farming activity.

Indonesian authorities recently seized 4,228 wild birds from a home in East Java. Included were 900 protected wild birds, including 110 endangered Java sparrows. Four suspects were arrested.

Close to home, at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon center 21,000 native plants have been installed and local birds have taken notice. Because food and nesting materials are there, sightings of hummingbirds, goldfinches and wood thrushes have become more common. The area is also one of the biggest stopovers for migrating birds. You can search for the best native plants to put in your garden at [Native Plants | Audubon](https://www.audubon.org/native-plants) Just input your ZIP code!



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Long Island Bird & Exotics Veterinary Clinic (LIBEVC) is a state of the art veterinary hospital dedicated entirely to the care of bird and exotic pet species. We specialize in surgical procedures, endoscopy and minimally invasive surgery and advanced imaging of these unique species. **We are open seven (7) days a week and our overnight staff can be reached by calling our emergency line: (516) 441-2726**

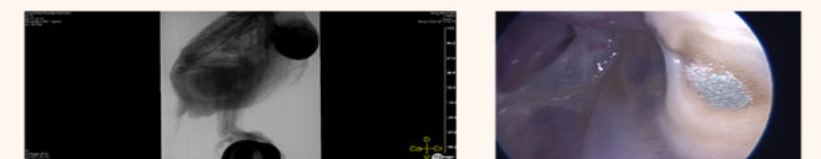
- ENDOSCOPY** Dr. Malka is one of the leading avian and exotics endoscopists in the field
- Gastrointestinal endoscopy, bronchoscopy, endoscopy assisted surgery and ceolioscopy
  - Internal biopsies, bladder stone removals in small mammals (rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs)
  - Endoscopy assisted dentistry in all small mammal procedures

## CT, FLUOROSCOPY AND ULTRASOUND

LIBEVC is one of four hospitals in the country that utilize CATscan designated exclusively for birds and exotic pets. 3-D reformatting enables us to perform surgeries or endoscopic surgeries with greater precision and success.

## SURGERY

- Orthopedics
- Soft tissue surgery
- Rodent/Lagomorph dentistry and maxillofacial surgery
- Avian and reptilian reproductive tract emergencies





(Continued from page 20)

Having worked in free flighted educational bird programs for years it was quite a shock when I first discovered the thousands of parrots that had fear responses or showed aggressive behavior towards hands in the companion parrot community. This observation lead me to conclude that the difference is information. The community training flighted parrots for shows has been raised on a positive reinforcement approach to training. Flighted parrots can easily choose to leave should a trainer resort to negative reinforcement to force a bird to step up onto the hand. Therefore negative reinforcement and its drawbacks are usually not a part of the training strategy.

The companion parrot community, on the other hand, has traditionally been fed advice that heavily promotes the use of negative reinforcement. This in turn has lead to a plethora of troubled birds. This means an important opportunity lays waiting for companion parrot caregivers. With positive reinforcement training finally making its way to many avian caregivers, parrots and their owners now have hope. No longer do parrots have to obey, instead they can learn stepping up results in desired consequences. They can learn to look forward to stepping up!

#### Positive Reinforcement Vs Negative Reinforcement

Change can be difficult. And those accustomed to using negative reinforcement to create behavior often present solid evidence as to why there is no need to consider other strategies. These arguments include the statement that negative reinforcement works! This is true. Negative reinforcement does work. However effectiveness is not always the measure one needs to consider as a conscientious caregiver. The reason is that the process of learning through negative reinforcement is not a pleasant one. Negative reinforcement is also sometimes called escape or harassment training. The animal complies to avoid the aversive experience. Not exactly a trust building process. In addition negative reinforcement training strategies create a bare minimum required response. Animals only do what is necessary to avoid the aversive experience.

There is also the misconception that negative reinforcement will create faster more reliable responses. While results can be immediate, it should be noted that quick, efficient, reliable, repeatable responses can also be attained with positive reinforcement.

Some argue that in an emergency the bird must step up quickly. In a true emergency, such as the house is on fire, it is understood that one may do whatever is required to ensure his or her parrot is safe. However sometimes the lines get fuzzy on what constitutes an emergency. Being late for work is not an emergency enough for this trainer to abandon her positive reinforcement training strategies. In the long run I will get more reliable performance of the behavior if I take the time to commit to using positive reinforcement even when it is slightly inconvenient to me. In my experience there is no real justification for the use of negative reinforcement for the behavior of step up in most cases.

#### Tips on Training Step Up with Positive Reinforcement

A key component of training with positive reinforcement is giving the bird choice. Rather than forcing oneself on the parrot, the goal is to teach the parrot choosing to come to the caregiver results in desired consequences. These consequences can be food treats, head scratches, toys, attention, etc. Identify what the bird likes and use this to reinforce approximations towards the desired goal behavior of stepping up onto the hand.

An easy way to teach a parrot to move in a desired direction is to train the bird to orient its beak towards a target. The target can be any chosen object. The target can then be gradually positioned closer and closer to the hand identified for the step up behavior. The identified hand should remain stationary and in a position that facilitates an easy step onto the hand for the bird. The goal is not to move the hand towards the bird, but for the bird to voluntarily move to the hand by following the target.

A bird that has had an unpleasant history with hands may show signs of apprehension or aggressive behavior as it ventures closer to the hand. Reinforce generously the frightened bird that dares to move in closer. If the parrot shows aggressive behavior, gently remove the hand as well as any positive reinforcers being made available to the bird for just a few seconds. This not only demonstrates to the bird that its body language was understood and acknowledged, but it also removes the opportunity to gain positive reinforcers. When this strategy is paired with reinforcement of the desired behavior, the bird can quickly learn to increase calm behavior and decrease aggressive behavior without the use of training strategies that rely on aversives.

(Continued to page 23)

(Continued from page 22)

Eventually the parrot can learn to voluntarily step up onto the hand to earn positive reinforcers. While the bird is learning to step up, the targeting behavior can be used to help direct the parrot where to go if needed for basic husbandry duties. This helps avoid caregivers resorting back to negative reinforcement training strategies to move birds during the re-training process.

#### Conclusion

A positive reinforcement approach embraces giving animals choices to participate. Caregivers can try to make it easy for parrots to choose to present the desired behavior, such as step up, followed by ample rewards. The result is a companion parrot that eagerly anticipates interacting with its caregivers. One of the joys of sharing ones life with a companion parrot is the relationship that can be forged between the caregiver and the bird. Positive reinforcement fosters trust and that incredibly rewarding relationship. If there is one thing you change in your handling strategy, make it this. Move over step up command..... here comes the step up request.

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She shares her home with Blu Lu a Blue Throated Macaw, Joe Cockertiel and his girlfriend Banana Puddin' a lutino cockatiel, Delbert the chatty Yellow Named Amazon Parrot and Tarah, a Blue Fronted Amazon Parrot who has been a part of Barbara's life for over 25 years.



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