



April certainly did bring showers at the end of the month; however, that can only mean one thing—MAY FLOWERS!

Speaking of May flowers, our Spring Bulb Fundraiser was a success—thanks to the fundraiser participants, we reached 130.25% of our goal! Participants will be receiving their bulbs in May (and flowers will be blooming in a couple of months after that—ready for summer).

**BIG NEWS!** We have a new location for our June 21 in-person meeting! Board member, Susan Seddo, was scoping out some locations and happened upon the American Legion Hall in Sayville. The price was right—no charge for a non-profit! The address is: 23 Foster Avenue in Sayville (631) 750-2572 Directions and a map are located in the newsletter. Plenty of parking.

The presenter for the in-person June 21 meeting is LIPS member, Frank Huwer. Frank will be demonstrating toy making and will have kits for you to join along. We will also have toy parts, books and t-shirts for sale and great raffle prizes. There will also be *Bird Talk* magazines that will be given away. Coffee/tea/water will be available. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Debbie Goodrich from the Flight Club Foundation in Seattle presented to us via Zoom on April 19. She spoke about “Successful Strategies for Recovering Lost Parrots”. Debbie’s presentation was eye-opening. Debbie agreed

to having her presentation recorded as she loves sharing—definitely worth [viewing](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=xPOX2xpOYhE)—you’re going to learn a lot. Debbie’s bio is in the April newsletter to learn more about her.

Our May 17 Zoom meeting presenter is South Florida Wildlife Photographer, Jon-Mark Davey. What a presentation this will be! Read Jon-Mark’s bio in the newsletter.

Kaitlin Saxton, Bird Girl Pet Services, LLC, is always educating herself for the betterment of the animals under her care in her boarding/sitting/grooming business. Kaitlin just successfully completed Pet Sitters International’s course on Rabbit and Pocket Pet First Aid and Care for Pet-Care Professionals. Kaitlin has also completed the Bird First Aid and Care for Pet-Care Professionals. Congratulations and thank you Kaitlin for always going that extra step.

Kudos to board members and volunteers extraordinaire, Susan C and Susan S, for continuing the

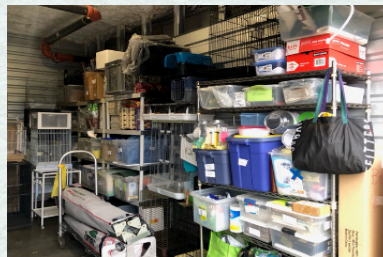


Photo Credit: Susan Chamberlain

reorganization of the new storage unit. Still more to be accomplished; however, there is a light at the end of the tunnel!

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Stay tuned for more news regarding our mini EXPO to be held in October at the VFW in Sayville. The reorganization of the new storage unit is playing a big role in this event.

You asked for more LIPS reusable shopping bags—we heard you. Order date is pending.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of our events; want to be added to our volunteer email list; want to donate unwanted items; and/or would like to suggest speakers/topics you would like to see/hear about, please either leave a message at 631-957-1100 or email us at [info@liparrots.org](mailto:info@liparrots.org).

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!

# Financial Report

## Deposits as of April 2023

Deposits	\$1213.62
Total Deposits	\$1213.62

## TFCU Account Balances as of April 2023

Operating Fund:	\$4071.31
EXPO Fund:	\$10,600.96
Parrot Care:	\$2958.36
MM (Shelter):	\$142,516.33
CD (Shelter):	\$9,504.79
Total:	\$169,651.75

## Expenses as of April 2023

T-Mobile:	\$120.00
Best Value Copy:	\$228.56
StorQuest Self Storage:	\$2443.00
CRM (SalesNow)	\$45.45
USPS	\$109.62
Speaker Fee (Debbie Goodrich)	\$200.00
Misc:	\$266.15
Total Expenses:	\$3412.78



# Board Meeting Minutes - April 2023

April 12, 2023 7PM via ZOOM ATTENDING: David Abrahams, Donna Barbaro, Susan Chamberlain, Bob Dietrich, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Diane Hyde, Candy Little, Susan Seddo

**Spring Bulb Fundraiser**—posted on LIPS FB page and FF (so far one order received) We have until April 24<sup>th</sup> to order. The organization running the fundraiser has quality plants.

**On April 12**, a visit to the PO Box resulted in a check for \$1100.00 from a FB fundraiser!

**Two AFA delegates from LIPS** (we renewed our annual membership with the AFA). We renewed our membership. Diane is a delegate; we need one more from the club. Delegates vote on AFA bylaws. Susan C to be the second delegate.

**NY State Charities Board**...we must submit a CHR-500 form each year; then must file form 990EZ. Now must be done electronically and done at one time. Bob Dietrich to complete 990EZ

**CAGE SALES:** We do not have enough cages to mount a successful sale at this writing. Have several cages pending pick-up.

**Process of the NL**— Review and Comments by Board Members: Susan S. suggested doing an interview with Eric Powers highlighting CEED.

**Letter seeking raffle donations** to be updated by Susan C. Susan S. seeking certain raffle donations.

**Elderly former LIPS member** (Steve Grossman from Great Neck) needed help and Susan S and member Marla Greene stepped up to the plate! Susan S is currently fostering his Meyers parrot —will be put up for adoption. Vet check for bird approved.

**Continued organizing of new storage shed** in Ronkonkoma—must complete building two shelving units to accommodate more boxes. Susan C to purchase more plastic boxes. Meeting at the shed on Friday April 14 for further organization.

**June 21 in-person meeting.** Thanks to Susan S, American Legion Hall in Sayville can accommodate us for free. Hall has WIFI. Susan S is waiting to hear from her contact to see when we (a couple of board members) can do a quick walk through. Need to confirm that they will do set-up and break down of tables/chairs. Susan S indicated they there will be a moderator on site. If this is the same person who does set up/breakdown and since we are not paying rent, a tip to this person would be the right thing to do (\$100?). Frank agreed to demonstrate toy making. The club will sell toy parts at the June meeting.

**Order more reusable shopping bags?** Stick to green color for branding purposes. Passed; order date pending.

**Mini EXPO** at VFW in Sayville in October (we have enough raffle items and toys/toy parts to be self-sufficient). 2200 square feet; can accommodate a mini-EXPO.

**Avian Flu:** Condors in Arizona died of avian flu, as well as some birds on Long Island including loons, gulls, bald eagles, snow goose and even a lorikeet. Most dangerous time is during migration. Avian flu has spread to other species: skunks, foxes, cats, marine mammals. We will follow strict sanitary protocols at outreach events.

• **SC 1777-2022** (local law to restrict use of exotic animals in traveling performances in Suffolk County)— The resolution was tabled in January 2023. Diane emailed Legislators Robert Trotta and Leslie Kennedy to find out when the resolution will be back on agenda and if the meeting will be open to the public.

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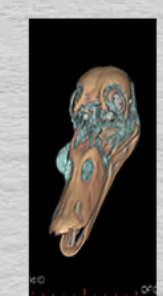
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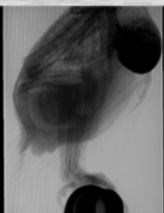

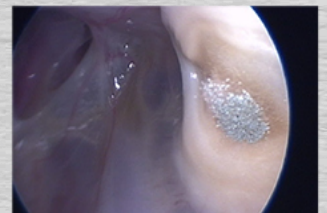
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- Rodent/Lagomorph dentistry and maxillofacial surgery
- Avian and reptilian reproductive tract emergencies

Several years ago, I was telling a friend about a project I was working on for the Long Island Parrot Society. "That's a lot of work," she said. "What do you get out of it?" I really had not thought about that. I was doing something I felt was meaningful and that was its own reward...but it was so much more:

Volunteering provides a sense of purpose. You become a part of something meaningful. The experience you gain while volunteering can help you learn new skills and build upon ones you already have. The Long Island Parrot Society relies heavily on Shawn Florman's technical and editorial skills, Bob Dietrich's accounting ability, Diane Hyde's managerial skills and the special talents of many others. The Parrot Placement team works constantly to help match birds for adoption with new families. When volunteers advocate and raise awareness or funding for LIPS, they gain valuable communication, public speaking, marketing, and other skills. We get so excited when our efforts are productive!

Volunteering, or simply joining LIPS is a wonderful way to meet new friends as well as strengthen existing connections with friends, family, or coworkers, and can also help you feel connected to those you are helping in the community. Club members have been instrumental in helping Long Island bird owners who have been in a crisis with their pets.

When you are active in the club, many of the people you will meet have similar goals and interests: the welfare of parrots. Sharing a common interest will help you build closer relationships with those around you. Perhaps you will even find a great bird sitter!

Volunteering, especially at outreach events, gives you a chance to talk to new people and sharpen your social



By: Susan Chamberlain



skills. It is very satisfying to help educate the public about proper bird care. By spending time working with others, you will have the opportunity to develop your future personal and business relationships.

Volunteering may boost your self-esteem and self-confidence. When you participate in activities you feel are worthwhile and valuable for the avian community, it gives you a sense of accomplishment that may help you feel more fulfilled about your life and future goals.

Studies have shown that volunteering feels good. Contributing to projects and organizations that are important to you promotes well-being. Building friendships with people you volunteer with help counteract social isolation, which we all experienced during the darkest days of COVID. Some volunteer opportunities involve physical work which helps keep you active and reduces stress.

The fun, knowledge, and networking opportunities you will get by volunteering, attending meetings and outreaches, and staying up-to-date with the Long Island Parrot Beacon, Feather Flash, LIPS Facebook page and twice-monthly ZOOM meetings are invaluable! Please join fellow club members at meetings and events. You will be glad you did!

## Avian Flu Update

By Diane Hyde

Unfortunately the avian flu is still causing havoc; as of April 4, in Arizona, a total of three deceased California Condors have been retrieved and confirmed as HPAI positive. Test results are not yet final for five additional deceased birds. Others have been collected and are pending necropsy and testing; information will be provided once test results are available. As a reminder, potential exposure of HPAI is expected to rise during the spring migration of birds north to their breeding grounds. HPAI has been detected in all U.S.

states, except Hawaii, in wild and domestic animals. HPAI is considered low risk as a human health concern, according to the Centers for Disease Control; however, infections in humans have been reported. HPAI is highly contagious in wildlife and can spread quickly by several routes, including bird-to-bird contact, environmental contamination with fecal material, and via exposed clothing, shoes and vehicles. To protect people and birds, it is important to take precautions to prevent spread of the virus. Please continue to follow your biosecurity plans.

## The Introduction of a New Parrot

by Pamela Clark

My best Christmas gift this year is Chuckie. Chuckie is the sixth African Grey to join my flock for good, although a few others have come and gone. He is approximately 11 years old and has been cared for well by a friend of mine.

She didn't used to be a friend. She was a client who brought Chuckie in annually to the vet clinic at which I worked. I was always her technician and we grew fond of each other over the years.

At one point, she began asking me if I would adopt Chuckie when she died. I said "No." She continued to make the request each year when I saw her, and I finally agreed to foster Chuckie while I tried to find him a home. At some point, she must have caught me in a weak moment, and I did agree finally to adopt him myself. That was several years ago.

This December, age, health and other concerns forced a move for her to be closer to family and it wasn't possible to take Chuckie. The decision was an agonizing one, as it so often is when anyone surrenders a beloved parrot. But, there really was not a choice when it came right down to it. And, now Chuckie is mine.

This change is a big adjustment for Chuckie. He is used to living with his best friend in their home – just the two of them. Now he lives with me, whom he knows just a little, and five goofball African Greys and assorted other parrots.

Now he must not only navigate a new friendship with me, but learn to live alongside other birds as well – something he has never done. A parrot who has always lived with humans can find this to be a considerable challenge. Chuckie speaks English very well, but doesn't know anything about speaking African Grey.

### Behavior is a Study of One

Many people ask about the best way to introduce a parrot into your home, expecting a set of simple instructions. Years ago, the oft-repeated advice was to leave a new parrot in his cage for three days to allow him to "acclimate" to your home before you allowed him out to interact. That might be appropriate for some parrots, for others it could be punishing.

Behavior is a study of one. I don't know who first said that. I am repeating it here because this is one of the most important things you will ever learn. Generalizations, such as the advice to leave a new bird in the cage for three days, will never serve you well.

Every parrot brings with him a different learning history, in addition to differences dictated by genetics. Further, his behavior in your home will differ from the behavior he displayed in his previous home, especially if that was a rescue organization.

Even small environment changes can have a significant impact upon a parrot's behavior. When it comes to changing homes, a total environment change, the impact on a bird can be huge in the short term. Therefore, the

behavior you may have observed in his last living situation may not be the behavior that you see once you get him home.

### Before You Bring Him Home

Prior to bringing a new adult parrot home, it's important to collect as much information as possible about his past. Does he choose to fly? What are his favorite treats? What diet has he been eating? What are his favorite toys? Does he show fear of anything? Ask as many questions as you can that are pertinent to your home and family.

When it comes to information about diet and environment, you can use this to make your new parrot feel as comfortable as possible. You can use his favorite foods for motivation and teaching. You can provide his favorite toys to ensure some level of continuity. You will certainly offer the diet he is used to eating.

Try to keep as many things the same in this regard during your early weeks with him. You can always improve his diet and get him a better cage once he's more comfortable.

When it comes to information told to you about his behavior, you will not be able to rely upon this to be true. It offers you a starting point only, and the information that you collect by observing the parrot yourself will be much more important.

For one thing, when people relinquish a parrot, they often lie. We are all human, and if you want to get rid of an animal, you are not going to highlight their problem behaviors when speaking to a potential adopter.

Additionally, the previous owner may not know how to interpret body language and, therefore, may not really know or understand the parrot with whom they have lived. In these cases, the information they provide may not be helpful. So, when you finally get your new bird home, you may be in for some surprises.

### Have in Mind Some Future Goals

As I anticipate the addition of any parrot into my home, I always have in the back of my mind a set of goals. These goals represent all of the activities that I believe are vital to good emotional, mental, and physical health:

- Eating a varied, nutritionally complete diet
- Time spent foraging
- Chewing wood and other materials
- Bathing
- Learning new things
- Acceptance of a variety of alternate perching sites
- Enjoying an outdoor aviary
- Compliance with my requests for handling
- The development of better flight skills (if possible post clip)
- Peaceful co-existence with the other birds
- A minimum of noise
- A lack of aggression

### The Early Days of Introduction

When a new parrot joins our home, we must suspend whatever arbitrary agenda we might have previously entertained and instead support the parrot's process for integration into the family. A parrot's

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innately social nature will move him to incorporate himself into whatever social structure exists. All we have to do is to provide support and guidance.

How do we do that? We observe body language and respond appropriately. Parrots are great communicators. All we have to do is to be good listeners and to take our cues from the new parrot.

### Generating Specific Goals

When a new parrot arrives in my house, my approach is two-fold: (1) I begin to slowly introduce activities consistent with my overarching goals, and (2) I begin to build a trusting social relationship.

Since I know that I can't necessarily rely upon the information I have gathered about my parrot's previous behavior, I proceed slowly when I begin to introduce each of these things. I then watch his reaction, which provides me with better data about what types of teaching will be necessary as we go forward.

For example, I will present him with the diet I feed all of my birds and see what he does. If he eats it, I continue to offer it and observe. If he only picks at it, I will supplement with other foods his owner might have provided. If he has been on a seed mix, I will continue to provide that and use the method I have developed to convert him from eating seed mix to pellets and fresh foods.

If I provide a basic foraging toy and he ignores it, I assume that I will need to teach him to forage. I will provide an easily destroyed wood toy. If he ignores it, I know that I may have to use positive reinforcement to capture and shape the behavior of chewing on wood. If I spritz him with water and he runs away, I know that I will need to teach him to bathe.

When it comes to Chuckie, I am very lucky. He already eats a great diet and loves to bathe. He chews on wood when it is provided. He's a wonderful talker but makes no sounds I don't like and he hasn't shown the least inclination to bite. He already enjoys one playstand, having explored this on his own by climbing over onto it from his cage. Luckily, Chuckie is partially flighted as he recovers from a wing clip.

Chuckie in foreground stretching comfortably. He is already exploring away from his cage on his own and has even made it out to the living room. Since he can move around on his own, I see no reason to try to force this issue by carrying him out there. He'll make the trip when he's ready.

He is also already making friends. Bongo Marie and Navidad are now hanging out near his cage, where Chuckie still prefers to stay most of the time. They have become steady companions. It will be fun to see what materializes in the future. Greys do enjoy those other grey birds.

Chuckie does not, however, step up from inside his cage and only part of the time from on top. He also still prefers to remain in or on his cage a lot more than I would like. And, he's relatively new to an aviary environment, having been out there just once previously when he boarded with me. And, I don't think he yet understands the concept of hidden food.

So, my list of things to work on for him include:

Better compliance when it comes to stepping up  
Learning new cued behaviors (targeting to start)  
Learning to forage  
Learning to enjoy the aviary  
Building Trust

When it comes to establishing a social/handling relationship, I prefer to let the parrot take the lead in the early stages as I make observations. If I don't know the parrot well, I simply put the carrier with the door open inside the cage when I first get him home. I recommend this approach. It allows him to come out on his own when he's ready. The door to the cage can be open as well.

At this point, you can begin your data collection in regards to his "social temperament." Hopefully, you have a list of his favorite foods and objects that you can use as reinforcers. A new parrot will look for ways to be successful (gain access to the things he wants) in this new environment.

If the parrot remains in the carrier for longer than 10 minutes, you have an indication that he may be fearful, at least for now. That will tell you that you may need to proceed slowly. This is the benefit of allowing him to make the moves early on.

When he does emerge from the carrier, watch what he does. Does he stay in the cage at the back? Or does he come out on top and begin exploring. These are critical observations to make. It will be the best evidence you have about whether his behavior lies on the side of bolder or shyer. This information can then inform your other training for your future goals.

During his first week, you will be able to make a list of things that you need to work on and adjustments that you may need to make to the environment.

Does he startle when the dog or cat walks by? Or, does he show too much fondness for your husband? Does he sound an alarm every time someone walks by the window? In order to make him comfortable, or to avoid long-term problems, you can begin to make adjustments to the environment that will help.

### Handling Your New Parrot

Once he shows some interest in interacting, you can respond by making some social overtures. I begin by offering a treat from my fingers, at times when I see no signs of heightened arousal. Once I see that he takes treats easily, then I ask him to walk a step or two toward me to take a treat.

Once he will walk several steps toward me, I will see if he will walk toward and then step onto my hand for a reinforcer. If he does that easily, I will ask him to step up using my typical cue.

If course, you may be able to skip some or even all of these steps. On the other hand, you might need to work through them all. If so, working through them might take two days or two months.

### The Gifts of the Older Parrot

Incorporating a new, older bird into my home is one of my favorite joys. I encourage you to consider it also. (Eight of my eleven parrots were older when they came to me.)

I will never criticize anyone for purchasing a well-reared baby parrot. They can be hard to resist

(Continued to page 12)

# Conservation Notes

**From the World Parrot Trust:** This March, World Parrot Trust partners, [Proyecto Conservación Cotorra Puertorriqueña de Río Abajo](#) reported an incredible 160 eggs being laid between their captive and wild populations of Puerto Rican Amazon parrots! The Rio Abajo researchers are monitoring wild nests and performing regular inspections to ensure the survival of as many chicks as possible.

Puerto Rican Amazon Parrots are critically endangered and in the 1970's they were nearly extinct in the wild with less than 20 individuals remaining. Thanks to the continued captive breeding and release efforts on the island, there are now over two hundred parrots in the Rio Abajo forests!

Watch for more updates and learn how your support of the WPT aids Puerto Rican Amazons: <https://www.parrots.org/projects/puerto-rican-amazon>

**The Major Mitchell's cockatoo** has been listed as threatened in Australia due to loss of habitat and illegal trapping for the pet trade. Clearing for agriculture has ended in all states except Queensland, but the species is slow to recover.

**From WPT's Dr. Rowan Martin:** "Following long investigations by the EAGLE Network, two law enforcement operations recently took place, leading to the seizure of more than 100 African grey parrots in Ivory Coast and 11 Timneh parrots in Senegal. The World Parrot Trust has been collaborating with local partners to prepare for the seizures and ensure that the parrots receive emergency treatment and the care they need so that where feasible they can be returned to the wild.

**From theconversation.com** The orange-bellied parrot is one of the most endangered birds in the world. In 2016, just four females returned to Tasmania from migration, and only one of them produced a surviving chick. The species migrates from its summer breeding ground in southwestern Tasmania to the coasts of southeastern mainland Australia, but these movements take a toll on the population.

Fortunately, despite ongoing uncertainty about reducing threats, intensive conservation efforts have grown the population. More than thirty females have returned from migration annually over the past two years. Despite this success, many juvenile parrots (both captive-bred and wild-born) that leave Tasmania on their northward migration die.

Until a solution is found for high migration and winter mortality rates, orange-bellied parrots will remain dependent on captive breeding and release to prevent extinction and grow the population.

**Noted author and parrot expert, Tony Silva** says on his Facebook page that African grey parrots display sexual dimorphism. The under-tail coverts in the female are bordered in grey while in the male this feature is absent.

**From the American Bird Conservancy:** UPDATE: Gray-breasted Parakeets, found only in Brazil, were on the brink of extinction when conservationists stepped in to save the species just over a decade ago. Now, the species is doing so well in its last stronghold in the Baturité Mountains that conservationists have hatched an ambitious plan to reintroduce it across its historic range. With support from ABC, the first phase of that plan hit an incredible milestone earlier this year, when a group of Gray-breasted Parakeets released at a reintroduction site with ideal habitat successfully raised chicks.

**Of the seventeen bird species extinctions** considered to have been averted since 1994 in the Americas, the American Bird Conservancy and partners have helped to prevent five. Although surviving, they require ongoing conservation efforts. The Lear's macaw and yellow-eared parrot are included in the list.

**...And in the USA:**

**Avian Flu is still out there!** The endangered California condor has been severely affected. A lorikeet died on Long Island. Please keep observing biosecurity protocols, especially if you are near waterfowl.

**The Centerport eagles** continue to incubate eggs, while eaglets have hatched elsewhere on Long Island. The widowed male eagle in North Ft. Myers, Florida, continues to shepherd his two offspring through life. Both birds have successfully fledged and are learning to hunt. One disappeared for several days after fledging, but eventually returned to the nest tree to the great relief of nest-watchers!

**Suffolk County leads NY State in pesticide use!** In 2021 the DEC reported that the county used 6.52 million pounds of pesticide products, while Nassau used 1.65 million pounds. The use of these pesticides imperil fish, birds (especially nestlings when they are fed poisoned bugs), pollinators and drinking water. Much of the responsibility lies with homeowners who prize lush green lawns and often use pesticides and herbicides improperly.

(Continued to page 13)

(Continued from page 10)

and rearing a young parrot well is a learning process also. We must have tolerance for each other's choices.

However, adopting an older parrot brings rewards that might not be apparent at first glance. We tend to focus upon what we are doing for them. Yet what they do for us is far more valuable in the scheme of things.

They come with baggage, as do we all. If we work well with them, the level of wisdom, patience, and focus required for this elevates us. It is nothing less than a spiritual pursuit. And, therein is the gift.

Do you remember Siljan and Dorris? I have now worked with Siljan for a year as her consultant and coach and a strong friendship has developed. She wrote this to me right before Christmas:

"The meaning of life never comes for free. You have to work for it and it is only yourself who's able to find it. I was looking for the meaning of life everywhere, but with age I finally figured out how to create it myself. I often lose this meaning of life thing I've created, but the traces and pieces are still in me, so I often find the way back."

Siljan describes well the struggle we all face during our lifetimes. I'm lucky that parrots and my love for them has allowed me to create a meaning for my life.

\*Used with permission - [www.pamelaclarkonline.com](http://www.pamelaclarkonline.com) - <https://blogpamelaclarkonline.com/2020/01/02/the-introduction-of-a-new-parrot/>

## Do Animals Have Emotions?

By Lara Joseph

Imagine, what would life be without emotions? Emotions are a state of consciousness that coincide with physiological changes. Our emotions affect mood and how we interact with our environment. They both reinforce and punish behavior. They can be deciding factors in our decisions to perform a behavior again or prevent us engaging in a situation.

It has been a long-term debate on whether animals have emotions. Anyone loving an animal will usually quickly tell you that yes, they do. Do they feel love, joy, excitement, anger, fear, anxiety, sadness, depression, etc? Recent studies in science have shown that yes, they do.

The key question is "Are we able to accurately read the animal's body language to know which emotion it is feeling?" Many times we begin understanding an emotion by relating the body language to our own. This can work in our favor or not. For example, overstimulation can quickly result in a bite. That bite could be interpreted as an act of aggression. We can see overstimulation in play. If the play results in a bite, and excitement is read as anger, we get confused in how a happy animal gets upset during play which could likely result in the engagement of play being punished. They key is to better understand in reading our animal's body language and we can do that through training. Training is teaching. Teaching is learning. Learning is a form of communication and better communication results in building a better relationship with that animal and that animal with us.

If we can better understand the emotions of animals, we would be able to better treat behavior issues or

concerns. I love to see empowered animals. I want to see animals having choices and a sense of control over their environment. We do this through enrichment. Enrichment empowers the animal both physically and mentally. Enrichment can have an effect on emotions such as excitement and joy while redirecting sadness, loneliness, and depression. This is why I train animals using positive reinforcement and Applied Behavior Analysis. Studies show that if using positive reinforcement training, it is the animal's preferred form of enrichment.

There are many emotions that can be prevented within our animal's emotional experiences. There are many psychological problems that are induced when animals are taken away from their parents at a young age. We see this in dogs, primates, parrots, pigs, and many more. With most animals, their parents teach them crucial, life-surviving skills at a young age. Parents of different species can communicate with their young better than we can. They teach them behaviors for a successful future. A future potentially with us.

Socialization can be one of the most complex forms of enrichment we can provide an animal, whether that is socialization with humans or other animals of the same species. Often times we see highly social animals kept or housed individually. What emotional states and behavior concerns does this induce? I have several social species housed individually for several different reasons, with safety is at the top of the list. This is where enrichment and training plays an important role in the animal's quality of life. I encourage vocal and visual enrichment between the animals in close proximity and in distances. I reinforce this with my attention and approval while slowly fading myself out of the equation. This causes them to begin interacting with each other, especially when I am not around. This also helps prevent separation anxiety.

Separation anxiety is one of the toughest situations to live with. It doesn't have to be hard to modify but the behavior consequences of separation anxiety can be extreme such as excessive barking, screaming, abnormal repetitive behaviors, and self mutilation. The longer the history separation anxiety is knowingly or unknowingly reinforced, the more likely it will have to remain on a maintenance plan. Many people unknowingly reinforce separation anxiety by not letting the animal spend time without them. People thinking their animals cannot be happy without them. This doesn't have to be and is not fair for the animal when our lives happen.

The late neuroscientist and psychobiologist Jaak Panksepp, aka "the rat tickler" discovered laughter in rats. His research in interaction and laughter in rats helped design medication to help treat human depression. As he states, when we take the time to better understand emotions in animals, we are one step closer in understanding our own behavior.

**Watch:** The science of emotions: Jaak Panksepp at TEDxRainier

\*Used with permission - Lara Joseph - [www.theanimalbehaviorcenter.com](http://www.theanimalbehaviorcenter.com) - <https://www.theanimalbehaviorcenter.com/do-animals-have-emotions/>

(Continued from page 11)

According to the American Bird Conservancy, pesticides and other toxins account for seventy-two million avian deaths per year in the United States.

**They mind very much if you smoke!** Secondhand smoke is particularly harmful to pet birds! Eye problems and respiratory issues are likely to result, and when a bird is handled by a smoker, contact dermatitis may be caused by the nicotine on the smoker's hands. Some feather plucking has been attributed to secondhand smoke and nicotine. The smoke contains many of the chemicals that cause cancer in humans. The chemicals contained in the clouds from vaping can also be harmful. When a bird gets ahold of cigarettes or butts, it may get nicotine poisoning. Please smoke or vape outdoors and wash your hands before handling your birds. [Smoking and Tobacco Use | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/quitting_help/)

**Want to donate your bird's molted feathers?** Visit <https://www.feathersfornativeamericans.com>. The Club got a nice thank you note for feathers donated last month.

## EMOTIONAL SUPPORT?

Can your pet bird be your emotional support animal? Pet parrots can often calm people who suffer from anxiety and other issues. And, as anyone who shares their home with certain species knows, some can give a person stress! That aside, do you know the difference between an emotional support animal and a service animal?

An emotional support animal provides relief to individuals with "psychiatric disability through companionship." Almost any animal can be an ESA, but only dogs and sometimes mini-horses are recognized as true service animals. A service animal is trained to perform a task related to a person's disability and is given the same latitude as medical equipment in public places if they are well behaved and actively providing a task for the owner.

Mental health professionals can prescribe a patient emotional support animals under the law, but registration is amazingly easy and may possibly be done online. Almost any animal can be declared an ESA, but they have no public privileges. Remember the story about the guy who tried to bring his emotional support peacock on a plane? The bottom line: Airlines and other businesses are not required to accommodate emotional support animals, so you will not be able to take your emotional support parrot everywhere.

## Rhode Island Parrot Rescue

Meet Rhode Island Parrot Rescue! This passionate staff is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing these exotic beauties Watch the video and see how you can help the mission!

<https://m.facebook.com/simply.ssne/videos/rhode-island-parrot-rescue/184844067606258/>

### IN-PERSON MEETING JUNE 21

### NEW VENUE, NEW PARROTPHERNALIA!

We are bringing toy parts and tee shirts for purchase and FREE back issues of Bird Talk! Frank Huwer will do a toy making presentation and workshop, and you will have the opportunity to buy toy parts at fantastic prices! Add to your summer tee shirt wardrobe with a selection of Club shirts and one-of-a-kind airbrushed tees! The raffle table will be full of some surprising and wonderful goodies! We are so excited!

Board member Susan Seddo procured a very cost-effective meeting hall for us! We are grateful to her and to the Sayville American Legion! The location is 23 Foster Avenue, Sayville. There is a dedicated parking lot with plenty of space! As usual, the meeting will be live via ZOOM for those who are unable to attend in person. Stay tuned for more updates!



## BEWARE OF ONLINE BIRD SCAMS!

Have you seen adorable baby birds for sale on Facebook or other online sites and groups? While there are many legitimate breeders in the US, there are just as many scammers.

Some telltale signs are:

- The page or site is new.
- The seller will only communicate via email, messenger, or text.
- There may be some mutual friends shown, but there are few overall.
- Command of the English language is bad, with poor spelling or grammar.
- They have 'many' babies, and sometimes even eggs for sale.
- All comments from 'customers' are glowing.
- There are numerous photos of baby birds. Many appear to be shot at various locations, indicating photos may have been stolen from other sites.
- They make stupid mistakes. On 'Parrot for Sale United States' on Facebook, they illustrate a post about African grey parrots with black cockatoos!
- Prices are too good to be true.
- The seller insists on shipping the bird rather than letting you pick it up. They often set up fake shipping company sites to further swindle buyers. The shipment is then held up by demands that you wire more money for insurance, food, vet bills or a shipping crate.
- Beware of people who say they only want to find a loving home for their bird and ask you to just pay shipping costs. They often have a sob story to go with it. Ignore threats that the bird will suffer, or that you will face criminal charges if you do not continue sending money.
- The seller demands payment by money transfers, like Western Union or MoneyGram, gift card or prepaid debit card. They may also ask for Zelle or Venmo. Credit card payments provide more protection in case of fraud or dispute.

- Do a reverse-image search for pictures of a specific bird you are considering buying. Copy and paste text from sales sites and ads into a search engine. If you find matching images or text on multiple sites, you are dealing with a scammer. Check the seller's name against watchdog lists of suspected scammers.
- Bottom line: Get references from people you trust—people who have met the breeder and their birds. Never buy or adopt any pet unless you meet it in person!

## The Importance of Socialization For The Future of Our Animals

By Lara Joseph



Target training, teaching an animal to touch a body part to an object on cue, can be a great place to begin introducing new people to an animal that needs additional socialization. Target training helps create that interaction and training without having physical contact.

This photo means so much to me. As many of you know, this bird means the world to me and I almost lost him in an accident. This is Rico, our eleven year old Umbrella cockatoo. The bond him and myself was strong before his accident in August of 2014, but what we went through together for his survival has boosted that bond beyond anything I could put into words. I'd do it all over again for his recovery but it comes with its behavioral consequences. He'll attack anyone that gets near me or near both of us when we are together. When I am in his cage I have to be very careful if someone gets near us or walks by, he'll bite the living bajebers out of me. If the cage didn't separate the person walking by, the attack would be on the person.

Anxiety has developed in both of us since his accident. If new people came in the room, he would get very stressed and almost every time he started flying at and attacking the side of the cage closest to the people. I am bound and determined to change all of this for his future. If something were to happen to me, his future could be rough and probably not favorable for him.

Several months ago I put a behavior modification plan into place. I started reinforcing with attention when new people came in the room. This would redirect his attention to me before the lunge would occur. After that behavior modification was taking effect, then all of us would reinforce with attention when new people came in. I then began going in his cage and snuggling with him when familiar people were in close proximity, slowly changing that behavior. Then I would do this shortly after new people came into the room. A process called 'shaping' we covered as the topic in last month's on-line membership program offered through The Animal

(Continued to page 15)

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Behavior Center. Then I taught him to station on the rock perch you see in this photo. Every time he said "Hi" I would reinforce with an almond sliver when he was on this perch. Then I started generalizing that behavior to when anyone other than me that was standing there when he said "Hi" on that perch. Now he does this all the time and from several different perches within his enclosure. We have new volunteers in the center and do you know what I see? I seen him intentionally seeking out the new people, stationing next to them and saying "Hi". The cooler thing is he's stationing and saying "Hi" for the opportunity to be near the new people! We've shaped new people as highly valued enrichment for him!!! His body language is calm and I can tell he's looking for the attention and interaction from the newbies. I LOVE this for him!!!

This month's topic in our membership program is "Targeting, target training and it's importance with all animals." About a month ago I started target training Rico again. (this particular target is him touching his beak to a stick/this needed to be taught) Target training is a great way to get new people involved and engaged with an animal labeled as 'Off Contact', which Rico is labeled...for now. I WILL change this because his future depends on it. I'm not one that wants the thrill of being the only one to be able to interact with an animal and being the preferred person. This is not good for the health and future of the animals or for anyone living with the animal. Believe me, I love that close interaction with the animal but when an animal is extremely bonded to one person, I guarantee you behavior issues will follow along with stress and anxiety of the animal and the people involved in the life of that animal. Seeing and hearing stress and anxiety in an animal greatly increases my stress level. It is my mission to make all environments as stress free as possible for the animal.

In this photo you will see our new volunteer, Katy Masters target training and reinforcing Rico with an almond sliver. Katy has been here two weeks. That's great work and great training and very desirable behavior change we've seen in Rico. This photo makes me smile very big for Rico and very big for someone who wants to know more about birds. Happy Holidays & Happy Training!

\*Used with permission - Lara Joseph - [www.theanimalbehaviorcenter.com](http://www.theanimalbehaviorcenter.com) - <https://www.theanimalbehaviorcenter.com/the-importance-of-socialization>

## The Real Deal in Macaw Meals: Bird Food by Lafeber

By Lafebercares



[for-the-future-of-our-animals/](#)

Macaws are a force to be reckoned with. Everything about them is big — from their voices to their attitudes! These beautiful creatures are so colorful that they call attention to themselves even when

they are quiet. Macaws may seem formidable to the uninitiated novice, but those who share their lives with these magnificent friends know that they have surprisingly soft, loving hearts and sensitive natures. Macaw people adore their great friends to the very core of their being, and for good reason. It only takes one gentle kiss from their giant beak to open the stoniest of hearts.

Lafeber bird foods are ideal for your lively macaw — a bird that needs good nutrition and appreciates the

opportunity to tear food apart!

Lafeber Company is dedicated to making the best bird food possible for your macaw and can offer you the [benefit of our years of research](#). Our non-GMO foods incorporate pellets, seeds, fruits and vegetables, balanced Omega 3 & 6 fatty acids and chelated minerals. We believe that bird food should be nutritious and exciting at the same time, so you will find that our diets are designed to promote healthy foraging and enrichment.

Our balanced bird foods for your Macaw include [Classic Nutri-Berries](#) and [Gourmet Nutri-Berries](#). [Avi-Cakes](#), [Pellet-Berries](#), and [Premium Daily Diet Pellets](#) round out the list.

A long, happy, healthy life starts with good nutrition, and we invite you to check out our diets.

\*Used with permission - Lafeber - [www.lafeber.com](http://www.lafeber.com) - <https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/pet-bird-food-macaw-food-the-real-deal-in-macaw-meals-bird-food-by-lafeber/>

## Links worth Checking Out!

[15 Common Backyard Birds You Should Know](#)

[Is your parrot hormonal? How to know and what to do](#)

[Inside the Unique Rehab Center Saving NJ Birds](#)

### OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

August 20-24, Boston, MA Exotics Con, The researchers who taught parrots to make video calls to chat with other parrots are doing 3 presentations! Visit [www.exoticscon.org](http://www.exoticscon.org)





# Tanglewood Preserve April 15, 2023

Photo Credit to  
Shawn &  
Karie-Ann  
Florman



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The official, online news service of The Long Island Parrot Society

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Portion of the sale donated to LIPS

## LIPS MEMBER DISCOUNTS

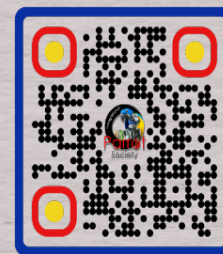
The following businesses give the discounts noted for LIPS members. You must show your current membership card. Discounts are subject to change; we suggest you ask before you make your purchase. If you have a problem with a store or service not honoring it, let us know. (631-957-1100):

- 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.



Support the Long Island Parrot Society when you shop on [GoodShop.com](http://GoodShop.com).

- Simply click on Choose a Cause at the top of the page.
- In the search box type in Long Island Parrot Society.
- On the right of the page, a link for Long Island Parrot Society will appear. Click the link.
- Goodshop.com will display information on LIPS, on the right, click the SHOP NOW button.
- At the top of your page, it will now display, Supporting the Long Island Parrot Society. You can now shop and donate!



Vet list

To view our list of Avian Veterinarian, just scan the code or [click here](#).

### Dietrich Services

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- Mobile Notary Services

One Call Does it All!

631-563-0838

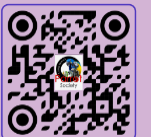
[DietrichSVC@gmail.com](mailto:DietrichSVC@gmail.com)

### Check Out Our Meeting Vendors!

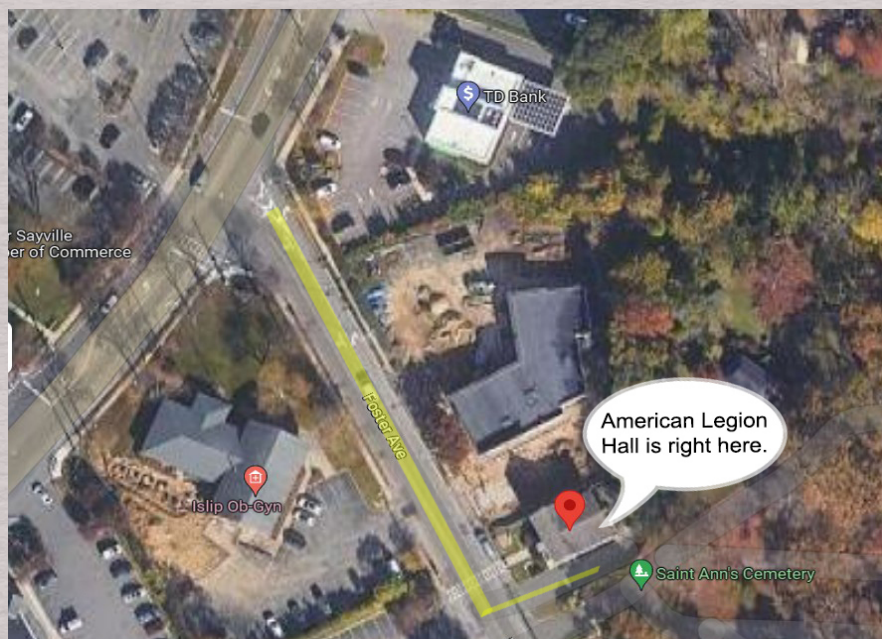
- 14 Karat Parrot—Great "Parrotphernalia"! Fine Gifts and Accessories for the Exotic Bird Lover!
- K&M Mobile Grooming & Bird Food

### Become a LIPS Volunteer!

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. Scan the QR code to take our Skills Survey. Once we received your information, we will contact you.



### Directions to Our Meeting Hall, American Legion Hall Sayville, NY 11782



#### Directions from the East:

Sunrise Highway (Route 27) to Exit 50 (Lincoln Avenue) south. Turn left onto Main Street/Montauk Highway (Route 27A). Turn right onto Foster Avenue—American Legion Hall located at 23 Foster Avenue. Parking across the street.

#### Directions from the West:

Sunrise Highway (Route 27) to Exit 49 (Lakeland Avenue—turns into Railroad Avenue) south. Turn left onto Main Street/Montauk Highway (Route 27A). Turn right onto Foster Avenue—American Legion Hall located at 23 Foster Avenue. Parking across the street.

### 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.



### We Welcome Our New Members with Open Wings:

**April 2023:** Diana Capobianco; Stacey McKenna; Grace King; Sharora Khamdamova; Briana Cassano; Anthony Grimaldi

Lifetime member, Ray Young had a wonderful time visiting Sarasota Jungle Gardens on a recent visit to Florida. He got quite a bit of attention and a behind-the-scenes tour because he wore his Long Island Parrot Society tee shirt!

## News from the Flock

Member Holly Lupo sent some of her sun conure's feathers to Feathers for Native Americans and got a nice thank you note.

Congratulations to Michele Benners and Ken Lisi on their recent marriage!

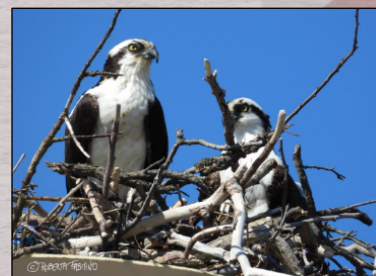
The conures featured in Mark Bittner's The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill (book and movie) have been voted the unofficial animal of San Francisco pending a change to the city's administrative code. The birds beat out sea lions in the poll sponsored by the San Francisco Chronicle.

Our Facebook page, Friends of Long Island Parrot Society has 3,849 members!

Many thanks to Board member, Susan Seddo for providing lunch for the storage shed crew on April 14<sup>th</sup>!

Our Spring Bulb Fundraiser exceeded our goal by more than 30%, and again, we have Susan Seddo to thank, as she is the one who suggested it!

Want your Bird TV? Pet bird owners will soon have a streaming channel just for them –if they have Smart TV Roku sticks. Programming will include companion bird/owner communication, music, artwork, past broadcasts of international radio shows and knowledgeable guests in the bird community. It will also feature avian therapy music created in-house to create a calming effect for both humans and birds.



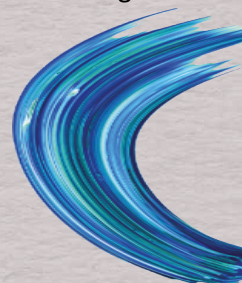
Kudos to the Animatronic Club students at William Floyd High school who designed and constructed animatronic singing birds.

Lifetime member, Roberta Fabiano reports that the osprey couple at Old Field Farm near West Meadow Beach has settled into the specially constructed nesting platform built for them by PSEG at the behest of local ranger, Nicole Pocchiare. Roberta and fiancé Frank Fountain were instrumental in calling the osprey pair's plight to her attention after PSEG had to remove several of their nests from utility poles.

Photo Credit: Roberta Fabiano

Those crazy kids, Pat and Neal Rudikoff recently had an adventure, ziplining over the Arizona desert!

Who let the birds out? An unbelievable number of budgies have been reported missing, found, or sighted on Long Island this spring! Remind yourself to keep exterior doors and unscreened windows closed when your bird is out of its cage. Check flight feathers and have them trimmed if necessary



### SAVE THE DATE!

LI Parrot Society Annual Member Appreciation Picnic, **Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10 to 5pm Pine Pavilion**, Belmont Lake State Park



### June meeting tee shirt preview

Photo: Susan C.



Jon-Mark began photographing birds and other wildlife during his school years in the '60's in the mountains of Arkansas. After High school he decided to relocate to Central Florida and began working in the Radio and TV profession. He worked for

almost 20 years with some of the best professional cameras in the market. Plus he had access to all the film he could possibly use and a film processing system to enlarge pictures.

After arriving in Florida, at the age of 19, he purchased his first real camera and telephoto lens and set out to document the wonderful wildlife in Florida. His first real encounter with exotic birds happened during a trip to Bush Gardens in Tampa where you can see birds from around the world at the end of your lens. It was love at first click.

The family moved to South Florida later on where his son decided he wanted a cockatiel so off to the Burt Reynolds ranch they went to acquire one. That was the beginning of his love affair with parrots. Christmas 1993, Max, an Eastern Rosella joined the family. In January of 1994 Stanley, the Quaker Parrot, chose him as a companion when he was at a bird store looking for an Amazon Parrot. Stanley was his "best bud" for 16 years. In that time he practiced photographing Stanley and Max and learned as much about their species as possible. He began a web site called QuakerVille.com which lived for over a decade and was once recognized as the largest single species bird website. He and his wife Jo were special species editors for "Bird Talk" magazine and they have traveled to speak at conferences and bird meetings, including the American Federation of Aviculture. They also co-authored the book "Parrots in the City" telling the story of the extinction of the Carolina Parakeet and the rescue of Quaker babies and eggs during scheduled nest tear downs by the local power company.

In 1999 Jon-Mark attended a bird group meeting in Houston, Texas where he met a group of other birders and co-founded two 501 c3 non-profit organizations, Quaker Parrot Society and Parrot Festival. Twenty-three years later both organizations still help preserve parrots with rescue and preservation services.

Over the years Jon and Jo have had a dozen quakers, 2 Eastern Rosellas, a Double Yellow Headed Amazon and a wonderful Cameroon African Gray parrot as avian companions. They have facilitated many rescued of parrots, a hawk and an eagle. They still have 3 Quakers, Rocky, Bugsy and SillieGoose.

Jon Mark Davey

Meet  
Speak

# Meet the Member



Lifetime member, Ray Young grew up in Bethpage, on Long Island, with his parents, two sisters, and two parakeets. His Father was a pioneer in the television industry and worked for one of the Inventors of television, Allan B. Dumont. Ray worked with his dad in broadcast television, and at 19 was nominated for an EMMY for video tape editing! He went to school for computers, and later in life worked in the computer field. He retired after 25 years as a Chief Information Officer in the healthcare field, finishing his career with the NYC Department of Health as a HIPAA expert and an IT officer.

Ray initially heard about the Long Island Parrot Society when he visited Parrots of the World in Rockville Center. He attended his first meeting in April of 2013 and joined immediately. "I found the club to be active, warm & inviting," he said. "It was at one of the meetings where I met Charles Gonder and got my greenwinged macaw from him." Ray had owned two caiques and a Illigers macaw, and a canary by that time, and felt that LIPS was a good place to learn about larger birds before he made a purchase.

Ray found the members of the club to be kindred spirits. "I found that the people of LIPS loved their parrots as I did, and they had many outings, activities, and great speakers. I thought this was a wonderful place to learn about larger parrots from people who owned them!"



Presently, Ray and wife Rhea have two large macaws. Trixie is an 8-year-old greenwing macaw purchased as a baby from Charles Gonder. They also own Sydney, a 28-year-old scarlet macaw adopted through LIPS. Sydney is unable to fly due to a damaged left wing, so no harness is needed when she goes out with Ray. He said, "Scarlets can be nippy birds, and when I first adopted Sydney, she was extremely aggressive and biting all the time. After a few months she became a big mush! She is adorable as she sits on her perch during the day, and when she has had enough, she climbs down from her vantage point, waddles through the living room and hallway and right into her cage where she hides behind her toys to sleep.

"She is a bird that demands attention and throws a temper tantrum when we are eating, and she wants something. We give in. Trixie, our greenwing, is a handful! She is a young bird, full of energy and can play rough. Rhea, is afraid of her because of how Trixie plays. I have trained her to poop only in the kitchen where we have tile floors. Because she is flighted, I must put her in a harness to take her out. Trixie has chewed through four harnesses so far!"

Ray continued, "I take both my birds out all the time, but never at the same time! Sydney LOVES to be out and loves to have her picture taken by people. She is so gentle that I can place her on a stranger's arm, and she sits right there. If you offer her a pine nut, she will even kiss a person. Rhea and I will sit outside at restaurants and coffee shops to have a bite to eat, and Sydney gets so much attention! When we go into Dunkin Donuts the store owner always gives Sydney a Munchkin. Sydney gets extremely excited when we go there. She is on a pellet diet along with chop mix, but occasionally, I give her a piece of a Munchkin."

Rhea loves Sydney who is extremely gentle, but she is not so sure about Trixie and is afraid of her beak and her flying ability, according to Ray. "Trixie needs to be watched every second. She has learned to drink directly from a water bottle, and it does not matter if you cap it or not as she will rip off the cap, place her big beak inside and tilt the bottle back very gently until water flows. Then she places the bottle right back standing straight up, never spilling it! Trixie tend to be much more vocal than Sydney and that bothers Rhea a lot, so Rhea tends to shy away from Trixie, I can do anything with her, and we are bonded."

Ray found Trixie, the greenwing to be most challenging as she is strong and very playful and tends to get into mischief. "If Trixie is quiet, look out, she is ripping something apart! Trixie is more demanding than Sydney and if she does not want to do something, she will just fly away. They both love to be in the shower and get bathed every other day. If I turn off the water before the Trixie is soaked to the core, she will scream, demanding the water be left on longer. I made a perch for the shower for the birds, but when they have had enough, they climb to the curtain and flap. The entire bathroom gets wet! if Rhea takes her shower without taking Sydney with her, Sydney will climb down from her perch in living room and waddle to the door, push it open and stand by the shower making a racket until Rhea takes her in!"

When asked what he likes most about the club, Ray expounded, "We all know that bird people are slightly crazy! and it is nice to be in a group that understands this. I love that LIPS has so many meetings with such great speakers, I find that if I need advice from someone who owns a particular bird, I know who to contact. For example, if I need advice about a Cockatoo, Robert Gross would be my first contact! Lee Lambertson has a wealth of knowledge about Macaws. I love the outings, the events, the outreaches. LIPS puts a lot of effort into each meeting, and it shows, from obtaining speakers, to LIPS members. It is a wonderful place to socialize with crazy people that have one focus: love for these birds. I know if I ever need help, I know where to go!"

"The in-person meetings are so important, especially because people bring their birds. This gives the club members that may be thinking of obtaining a different species the opportunity to interact with these birds in a safe manner. Pet stores do not always impart that in-depth knowledge that people need. I want information, and LIPS is the go-to place! The zoom meeting is good, but in-person is the best!"

Ray loves to volunteer at outreach events and Parrot Expo. Because he is multi-talented, he has worn quite a few hats in the process. He is enthusiastic. "I am out of state, only 3 hours away. I would gladly get there to help the club if needed. Being in Rhode Island I tend to

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be a one-man outreach person! I have been to elementary schools as a speaker, I have been to malls, even churches! people seem interested in parrots and enjoy the straight scoop when talking about them. I moved out of NY for several personal reasons, and since I could not be there in person, I chose to get a lifetime membership, so it never expires, and I am updated on all the events LIPS is doing. I enjoy the club immensely, and there is nothing like it in Rhode Island." Because Ray and Rhea were unable to attend December's Holiday party, they decided to participate by donating the cost of all the food! We thank them for their generosity!

Ray had heard there was once a parrot club in Rhode Island, but it disbanded because of lack of interest. He would like to get involved with the Connecticut parrot clubs and is looking into it. He is currently involved with Rhode Island Parrot Rescue.

"As soon as I moved to Rhode Island I searched for a parrot club and found the Rhode Island Parrot Rescue (RIPR) right in my town! I walked in, introduced myself (of course wearing my LIPS t shirt proudly) and asked about their organization. I met the Director, Corrie Butler, and we became instant friends. I offered my services to her and got together on how I could help. It was so sad to see birds that have plucked and have been neglected by their owners. Some birds became aggressive, simply because of lack of attention. When a parrot gets relinquished by their owner and I see the bird is screaming, I ask 'What did you do to the bird?' The reply is 'Nothing,' then I say 'that's why it's screaming! It is screaming for attention!'

"The volunteers at RIPR, clean seventy cages each day, prepare food and fresh water and any other special dietary needs, then socialize with the birds, while noting their progress each day. the relinquished birds stay in quarantine until they get a complete check up by an avian vet who comes in once a month. Someone had relinquished a hyacinth macaw who was blind, deaf, and had many feathers off his body, The previous owner just fed it M&Ms and trail mix and kept this beautiful bird locked in a cage! The bird has had a sad life, yet everyone at the rescue loves this bird! I do volunteer work as an educator to the public about parrots. I also am involved in building out the new rescue facility that will house many more birds, feature an education area, a veterinary office, and event area, and a store dedicated to parrot needs."

Ray's hopes for LIPS are that it will continue to thrive and grow its membership. "As we get older, it would be nice to have younger generations join the club and continue what we have created. I would love to see big outreach events that are well advertised and inspire a lot of participation. Whenever I take my birds out, I talk about the importance of good, responsible parrot ownership and of course having a well-behaved parrot with me helps a lot! Maybe LIPS can spin off an out of state club!"



# Adoption Spotlight

**Parrot's Name** Blanco  
**Species** Umbrella Cockatoo  
**Age of Parrot** unknown  
**Sex** Unknown  
**Birthday / Hatchday** unsure  
**Are the Wings Clipped?** No - Fully flighted  
**Bird Color** White/yellow  
**Does your bird talk?** Hello, I love you, and etc  
**What do you currently feed your bird to eat?** he wasn't on the best diet; I've been trying to convert him to a healthier diet but it's been a battle. so far is taking good to the sprouts, tops pellets, and dry mix. he will eat freeze dried chop a bit, but will refuse to eat fresh chop (still trying although it's been a battle). Loves almonds and other safe nuts.  
**Is your bird hand tame?** Yes  
**Does your bird have any feather issues?** Plucks  
**When was the bird last Vet checked?** 2022  
**Which of the following is your bird good with.** Other Pets  
What other pets does your bird get along with? for the prior question- I don't allow any dog/cats and etc to interact with him, as it could end up horrible. Not sure if he interacted with others at prior home  
**Tell us if your bird has any behavior issues?** Plucking, nothing other than that.  
**Why are you needing to rehome your bird?** My aunt passed away and no other family member was able to take him in.  
**Provide us with any additional information.** For approved adopters, I will require a few visits to make sure it's a good fit (as the bird chooses their owner). He is very friendly but picky on his people.

Blanco is looking for his forever home. If you are interested in adopting Blanco please contact us at 631-957-1100 or send an email to: [parrotplacement@liparrots.org](mailto:parrotplacement@liparrots.org) for further information. You can find our adoption application at: [liparrots.org/Adopt](https://liparrots.org/Adopt)

**LONG ISLAND PARROT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.  
A NONPROFIT 501c3 ORGANIZATION AND  
NYS REGISTERED CHARITY**

**OFFICERS:**

**President:** Diane Hyde  
**Vice President:** Shawn Florman  
**Treasurer:** Diane Hyde  
**Recording Secretary:** Susan Chamberlain  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Susan Chamberlain

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Diane Hyde, Donna Barbaro, Candy Little, Susan Chamberlain,  
David Abrahams, Bob Dietrich, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross,  
Susan Seddo

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Website:** [www.liparrots.org](http://www.liparrots.org)  
**E-mail:** [info@liparrots.org](mailto: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:**

**Accountant:** Adam Seyam, CPA

**Bookkeeper:** Sharon Millard

**Cage Donation Committee:** Bob  
Dietrich, Robert Gross, Susan Seddo

**Fundraising Coordinator:** Susan Chamberlain

**Grooming:** Nicole Pica, LVT

**Holiday Party Coordinator:** Diane Hyde

**Hospitality:** Carol and Mike Christenson

**Membership Coordinator:** Bob Dietrich

**Media Coordinators:**

(Newsletter, Social Media, Signage, AV, Web, & Research)

Kaitlin Saxton, Donna Barbaro, Karie-Ann & Shawn Florman

**Outreach Events Coordinator:** Candy Little

**Parrot EXPO Coordinator:** Board of Directors

**Parrot Placement Program Coordinators:** (631-456-1813)

Diane Hyde, Shawn Florman, Marla Greene

**Parrot University® Coordinator:** Robert Gross

**Picnic Coordinators:** Bob Dietrich, Diane Hyde,  
Carol and Mike Christenson

**Programming and Education Coordinator:** David Abrahams

**Publicity and Public Relations Coordinator:** Susan Chamberlain

**Raffles Coordinators:**

**Special Events:** Susan Chamberlain

**Vendor and Venue Liaison:** TBD

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Candy Little

**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

**LIPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
(Please Print Clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

eMail Address for Feather Flash: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for membership in the Long Island Parrot Society of NY, Inc. Check all that apply:

- NEW MEMBER       RENEWAL       SENIOR (62+ 10% off)
- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
(includes electronic newsletter delivery: \$45)       LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP \$500
- Only select this option if you **do not** want electronic newsletter delivery  
Paper Copy (\$15 additional annual fee charged to help defray the cost of paper version)
- Gift (if gift, list your name as sponsor): \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check or money order payable to the Long Island Parrot Society of NY,  
Inc.

Mail to: P O Box 2754, North Babylon, NY 11703-0754

Memberships may also be paid on-line on our website using  
PayPal: <https://www.liparrots.org/membership>

General Phone: 631 957 1100

Adoption Line: 631 456 1813

eMail: [info@liparrots.org](mailto:info@liparrots.org)

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/OUTREACHES**

**May 20<sup>th</sup>** - Outreach - Sachem Library  
Adoption Fair - 10a -2p

**May 20<sup>th</sup>** - Outreach - Lindenhurst  
Adoption Fair - 11:30a to 2:30p

**June 10<sup>th</sup>** - Sweetbriar Nature Center's  
Butterfly and Bird Festival - Saturday  
from 10 to 4pm.

**June 17<sup>th</sup>** - North Babylon Library's Pet  
Adoption Fair, Saturday from 10 to  
1pm.

**June 21<sup>st</sup>** - In Person Meeting at  
American Legion Hall, Sayville. Starts  
at 7pm.

\*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!

**May 13<sup>th</sup>** - [NJ Audubon's World  
Series of Birding](#) Bernardsville, NJ

**May 18 - 21** - [New Jersey Audubon's  
2023 Cape May Spring Festival](#) -  
Cape May, NJ

**May 19 - 21** - [Pennsylvania Society  
For Ornithology's Birding Festival](#) -  
Narvon, PA

**June 2 - 4** - [Great Adirondack Birding  
Celebration](#) - Paul Smiths, NY

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