



LIPService

Volume 27, Issue 2 February 2022

The Long Island Parrot Society of NY, Inc.



Happy Valentine's Day to you and all your (love)birds! Hope everyone is staying warm

during this cold and snowy winter and the hot chocolate is flowing.

Meeting Hall update—**GREAT NEWS!** We found a new location which will suite our needs perfectly. *See inside the newsletter for more info.* Next in-person meeting will be Wednesday, March 16 at our new location.

Congrats and thank you to Candy Little for being the first to answer the raffle question correctly during the January 19 Zoom meeting and then for passing the raffle prize (\$25 Chewy gift card) along to Cabrini Abbatiello, who was the second person to answer the question correctly.

February 16 regular Zoom meeting presenter will be DeeAnna Garrett, owner of China Prairie Products. She'll be demonstrating sprouting. Sprouting seeds can offer your parrot a valuable new source of nutrition as well as enrichment. *See DeeAnna's bio inside the newsletter.*

We continue to enjoy the reciprocal arrangement with our sister parrot clubs across the Long Island Sound. The Parrot Club's Zoom meeting on February 23 will have Lauren Schmaltz, US Administrator for the

World Parrot Trust present on "Why Save Parrots". The Parrot Club president, Amy Hopkins, was kind enough to change the date of her meeting to accommodate us. Please look for an email with the Zoom info for this informative meeting.

Congratulations to Shawn Florman for being voted in as our new vice president. The new Presenter Coordinator is David Abrahams and our new Outreach Coordinator is Candy Little.

Thank you to Kaitlin Saxton for setting up a fundraiser on Facebook, celebrating Betty White's 100th birthday. We raised \$500!

We have a new committee (Media). The Media Committee will encompass: audio/visual, social media, newsletter, researching, website, signage, filming, presentations at outreaches. If you would be interested in joining this committee, please let us know by emailing info@liparrots.org.

Our first multi-day outreach is the Long Island Pet EXPO scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, March 5-6, 2022, at Suffolk Community College—Brentwood Campus Expo Center. If you volunteer for outreaches, look for an email with more info on this event. If you would like to join in on the fun, please email us at info@liparrots.org.

Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering, want to

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

See you at the next Zoom meeting!

-Diane 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!**

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Website: www.liparrots.org
E-mail: info@liparrots.org
Feather Flash (sign-up): <https://www.liparrots.org/featherflash>
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Kaitlin Saxton, Donna Barbaro, Karie-Ann & Shawn Florman
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Parrot Placement Program Coordinators: (631-456-1813)

Diane Hyde, Shawn Florman,
Katie Degentesh, Marla Greene

Parrot University® Coordinator: Robert Gross

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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: Robert Gross

UPCOMING MEETINGS/OUTREACHES

- **February 24, 2022:** at Island Public Library at 6:30pm where we will be joining Ranger Eric Power (Word of Birds)
- **LI Pet Expo:** Outreach Event at Suffolk Community College, March 5th and 6th, 2022
- **Wednesday, March 16, 2022** - Next in-person meeting
- **Note:** In person quarterly meetings remaining for 2022 - June, September and December.

OUT OF TOWN & VIRTUAL EVENTS

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

- Livestream on The Leather Elves Facebook page every Friday evening at 7PM EST! Robin Shewokis-Sullivan and Jack Pine host an informative and entertaining presentation on different avian topics each week! There's a trivia contest with a prize too! If you 'like' The Leather Elves page, you'll get a reminder when the livestream starts!
- **Friday March 11th to Sunday March 13th** - [Greater Philadelphia Pet Expo](#) - Oaks, PA
- **March 26, 2022-** CT Parrot Society's Featherfest- CANCELLED
- **Thursday - Sunday, August 4-7, 2022:** American Federation of Aviculture 48th Annual Educational Conference & Avian Expo, "Go BIG for Aviculture". Hyatt Regency, Dulles; Herndon, VA. Hotel \$99.00 per night for attendees. [Visit afabirds.org](http://Visitafabirds.org)
- **September 26-29, 2022-**"Wild Parrots Up Close' International Parrot Convention of Tenerife, Spain Loro Parque. Visit <https://www.wildparrotssupclose.com/>
- **Thursday - Sunday, November 3-13, 2022:** Parrot Lovers Cruise, Panama Canal Transit through New Locks aboard the Caribbean Princess. For further information, visit their website: <https://parrotloversruise.com/>

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FINANCIAL REPORT - January 2022

Deposits as of January 2022	
Deposits	\$1656.20
Total Deposits	\$1656.20

Expenses as of January 2022	
Phone:	\$120.00
Island Digital:	\$80.00
Life Storage:	\$362.00
MOTO website Template Updates:	\$69.00
USPS (Bulk Mail/Postage/PO box):	\$78.58
CRM (SalesNow)	\$60.60
Misc:	\$290.63
Total Expenses:	\$1060.81

TFCU Account Balances as of January 31,2022	
Operating Fund:	\$8075.42
EXPO Fund:	\$10,594.34
Parrot Care:	\$2,544.07
MM (Shelter):	\$138,043.33
CD (Shelter):	\$9,249.68
Total:	\$168,506.84

Board Meeting Minutes - January 2022

JANUARY 12, 2022 7PM via ZOOM ATTENDING: David Abrahams, Donna Barbaro, Susan Chamberlain, Bob Dietrich, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Diane Hyde, Candy Little, Kaitlin Saxton

Welcomed new board members, David Abrahams, Candy Little, Kaitlin Saxton.

Discussed Board Rules of Conduct & Duties

Explanation of current board members’ roles: Veteran Board members described their duties to new board members. Noted how things have changed since COVID and how ZOOM has helped keep Board and members connected. Discussed open positions on Board and indicated where help is needed.

Virtual “Green” binder has been sent to Board members; includes documents, updates, Board meeting minutes, etc.

Advised Board members that when responding to a board email, use “reply to all”

Vote on VP position from current board. Shawn Florman elected to VP position.

TFCU—In addition to Diane Hyde, Shawn Florman will be named on LIPS accounts.

2022 Budget Explanation; Budget is a guide so we can see where money is allocated and spent; good snapshot of what we spent; it’s fluid and can be adjusted as needed. As Treasurer, Diane puts together numbers for bookkeeper each month. Discussed possibility of using Quickbooks for accounting purposes.

2021 Pollydays Fundraiser Update; As of 12/31/21: \$7,760; A member is sending a donation in honor of Betty White’s 100th birthday. Kaitlin will set up Facebook fundraiser.

February 16 Meeting via Zoom (already have presenter)—February Newsletters? Yes, important to produce February edition in order to keep members engaged and connected.

(Continued to page 5)



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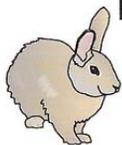
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DietrichSVC@gmail.com

Heidi Hoefler, DVM, ABVP

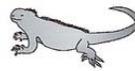


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or email link that is
clickable.



(Continued from page 3)

Meeting Hall—investigate other options that allow parrots. Robert is in contact with member Curtis B since he's affiliated with the KofC. Masonic Lodge in Amityville—we looked at it a few years ago. Location should be between Amityville and Babylon. Member sent message regarding an old KofC on Carleton Avenue in Central Islip—it's currently closed—member didn't know if we could use as shelter and meeting hall. He's getting more info. SC will send Feather Flash to members asking for suggestions for new meeting hall.

Monthly Meeting Presenters (live and/or via Zoom): Long Island Parrot Society Monthly Meeting Presenters: January 19, 2022: Steve Baldwin, Brooklyn Parrots (Naturalized Quakers). Doesn't charge a fee. What would be a good raffle prize? Gift card decided upon.

Question: Birds in the genus psittacula (sit-tack-ula) (ie: IRN) are sexually dimorphic. What is a distinguishing characteristic between male & female? Answer: Males have well defined neck rings.

Notes from Paula: I do have 2 speakers lined up for 2022 - - I have Dee Ann Garrett (demonstration on sprouting) from China Prairie confirmed for February 16 - have Chris Armstrong (Training and Free Flying) confirmed for July 20 Back Pocket: Dr. Laurie Hess—Discussion on Geriatric Birds Dr. Jason Crean—Avian Nutrition Bird Proofing Your Home (HiRedBird YouTube) Potential Speakers and Subject Matters: Financial Future of your Parrot (Attorney from Nassau County) Paula contacting someone from The Oasis Sanctuary Donna contacting someone (can't remember who—sorry)—appeared in WPT Psittascene Magazine (gave out copies at BOD Dinner Meeting Dec 2021) Billy Berman and Vinny Valenti from The Pet Drug Store (and they host The Animal Airwaves radio show. Robert (Romeo and Rio were recent guests).

LIPS plans to get more involved with networking with **American Pet Professionals**.

Update on Kenny B's parrots in the Islip shelter: CAG adopted; M2 adopted; Quaker adopted, Person who adopted M2 has relatives interested in Gucci the B/G macaw. I will do the pre-screen for the shelter U2 with prolapse may become the "hospital" bird over at VMCLI.

Addition A/V equipment new speakers, etc, Tabled until next board meeting.

Creation of a Media Committee to encompass AV and anything media, including newsletter; research, getting permissions for reprinting articles in NL, filming at outreach events. Use our laptop for powerpoint presentations. Kaitlin has set up chat on FB page.

Shawn has created a blog page to archive newsletters.

2022 EXPO: Keynote speaker, Vendors, hotels, etc. SC to query possible vendors for 2022.

"Dream" committee---Donna presented ideas for library presentations.

Long Island Parrot Society



Congratulations to Pat & Neal Rudikoff on their 45th wedding anniversary!

Condolences to Terri Pakula on the loss of her mother.

Sympathy to Barbara-Jean Landsperg whose brother passed away last month.

Applause to Anne DePietri whose action photo of the bald eagle couple was honored as a Cover Photo on the Bald Eagles of Centerport Facebook page!

Condolences to Ken Lisi and Michele Benners on the loss of cockatoo, Angie.

Thanks to Eileen Barry for donating \$100.00 to LIPS in Diane Hyde's name in gratitude for Diane's kindness and helpful advice about her cockatiel.!

We are delighted to welcome longtime members Ray & Rhea Young as new Lifetime Members of LIPS!

Congrats to avid bird watcher, Marcia Abrahams who spotted a 'lifer,' the black-legged kittiwake on a recent trip to Montauk!

Many thanks to Connecticut's Parrot Club for inviting LIPS members to join their ZOOM meeting on February 23, featuring Lauren Schmaltz, US administrator for World Parrot Trust and former director of Echo in Bonaire. The club rescheduled their meeting for that date so it would not overlap ours! Watch for your invitation via Feather Flash!

Thank you to all who took up the Betty White Challenge and donated to LIPS!

A HUGE Thank You to the Board members who researched and visited possible venues for the Club's future in-person meetings! You are going to love the place they found!

Fun fact: Will Ferrell, motion picture and Saturday Night Live star, has a collection of birds reportedly worth \$7.8 million, including cockatiels, cockatoos, and a turkey vulture named Gregory.

Participants loved Steve Baldwin's Zoom presentation about the wild Quaker parakeets of NY & NJ on January 19th. We are hoping to meet him at Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn sometime this spring to see them 'in person.' Join us!

Heading for Southwest Florida this winter? Visit the family-owned Sarasota Jungle Gardens just off US 41 in Sarasota! You will mingle with parrots and strolling flamingos and see an entertaining and informative exotic bird show. (Sarasotajunglegardens.com) Make an appointment and visit Debbie Huckaby and the birds at Birds of Paradise Sanctuary & Rescue in Bradenton. (birdsofparadise.org) Debbie was our June 2018 meeting speaker.

GIMME SHELTER

By: Susan Chamberlain



According to the latest APPMA (American Pet Products Manufacturers Association) survey for the year 2016, the

percentage of pet bird owners in the United States has held steady at about 6%. With a population of 323.4 million people and nearly 126 million households, which works out to about 7.9 million bird owners and 20.3 million birds. Most bird owners are concentrated in the Mid-Atlantic, South-Atlantic, and Pacific regions of the country. According to the survey, bird owners have the second largest household income after horse owners, and spend the most money on treats, cages, and sick bird vet visits.

The number of years people have owned their birds has decreased

from 13 to 10, but this may be partly because of people obtaining new birds. Thirty-nine percent had designated emergency caretakers, and 18% of those survey respondents had made financial arrangements for their birds in case of their demise or disability. 46% people surveyed had no provisions in their wills, nor emergency caretakers designated for their birds. The good news is that more millennials are sharing their homes with pet birds, and this group has increasingly made provisions for their birds' care in case of death or incapacity.

These numbers are important because, as our population ages, there will be far more displaced pet birds than there will be homes for them. The Long Island Parrot Society has recently helped to place birds whose owners have died. Our Parrot Placement Team helps to place parrots in new homes via referral, and occasionally fosters birds on an emergency basis. The Club is helping by educating

people about proper bird care, thus increasing owner/pet satisfaction, and keeping more birds out of the adoption stream.

The Long Island Parrot Society is currently seeking reasonably priced rental property in a central location for the Island's first open-to-the-public avian shelter and adoption center. When this is realized, the Society will be able to provide emergency shelter to displaced pet birds and to enable direct adoptions.

For more details on avian adoptions, visit the Parrot Placement Team at a Long Island Parrot Society meeting in March, visit www.liparrots.org or call 631 957 1100. There's a bird out there who wants to share its life with you!



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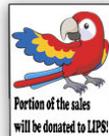
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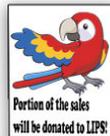
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LIPS MEMBER DISCOUNTS

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

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

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

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

Fine Feather, LLC (formerly Long Island Pet Supply), www.finefeather.us (631-499-0276) 10% off bird related

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.

Meet the Speaker



China Prairie Company has been around for 38 wonderful years! First started by Fred Bauer here in Northern California on his 81 acre property in the middle of the Humboldt forest. He was a very well-known aviculturist/breeder of many species of parrots, but particularly Eclectus parrots. He co-wrote one of the first in-depth books on the species titled "The Complete Guide to Eclectus Parrots" along with authors K. Wayne Arthur, and Laurella Desborough.

A naturalist and farmer at heart, he grew all of his own food for himself and his huge flock that at one point was over 200 breeding pairs. Much food was required but not just any food, very nutritious food!

They got the benefit of the flowers he grew along with lots of fruits and vegetables, and large free flying outdoor enclosures to stretch those beautiful wings. Thus the China Prairie Diet was born. Fred sprouted for himself and recognized the extremely beneficial nutrients that a germinated and sprouted seed(s) held. Knowing that birds eat seeds and grains out in nature in all states of germination, it made perfect sense to develop a blend to aid in parrot nutrition. He formulated the China Prairie Diet over an 18 year

period with this in mind along with nutrient dense wholefood supplements made of herbs and flowers to top the sprouted blends. This became a very efficient way of feeding and his birds were rarely ill.

Fast forward to 2022 and we are still going strong, and helping customers give their parrot(s) the most nutritious food possible! Fred has long since retired, and still lives by the California ocean but is always my bird mentor and guru. I have led the Company since 2014, and we are still dedicated to the mission of providing the most natural and nutritious food available for birds. Our heart is in it and we would not do it any differently.

DeeAnna Garrett-owner
China Prairie Products
chinaprairie.com

China Prairie Shares: "Sprouting 101 Plus Sprouting Myths Debunked"

Many of us that share our lives with birds have heard of sprouting for our feathered companions but may not have taken the plunge yet! While some have some have not, Why?

We will discuss the health benefits of sprouting, why you should be doing it, and how easy it really is. Trust us it is really easy!!

Many myths still float around about sprouting, but we can shed light on those and answer any of your questions that hold you back from sprouting or share success stories too!

The results really are impressive so let's get sprouting today!



History of Parrots - Part 5 Presidential Parrots, Bird Clubs and Parrots in Art **By Susan Chamberlain**

US Presidential Parrots

George Washington's wife Martha had a parrot as did James Madison's wife Dolley, who owned a 'green' parrot. William McKinley had a double yellowheaded Amazon parrot and Theodore Roosevelt lived at the White House with two parrots. The Kennedys shared the White House with a canary and some budgies, and lovebirds lived in the White House during Lyndon Johnson's administration.

Bird Clubs

Bird clubs first began as groups of breeders meeting to discuss avian husbandry and to show their birds in exhibitions. The Avicultural Society of America, founded in 1927 is perhaps the oldest U.S. organization still in existence, and another venerable organization, The Alamo Exhibition Bird Club in Texas will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2011.

Over the years, bird clubs gradually expanded to include pet owners. Captive breeding efforts were the focus for many years. Eventually the clubs took up various causes, such as conservation and avian medical research, and raised money to support those efforts. Presently, education is at the forefront with bird clubs attempting to inform the public about avian behavior and the proper care of their birds. Many clubs are also involved in adoption and rehoming efforts as a service to members and local residents who can no longer keep their pet birds. The number of displaced parrots is growing at an alarming rate and many shelters and sanctuaries are overwhelmed.

Today, national, and international organizations, such as the American Federation of Aviculture, The World Parrot Trust and Parrots International support worldwide education and conservation efforts.

Parrots in Art

Parrots have been subjects of drawings, paintings, sculpture, and mosaics for thousands of years, from 5,000-year-old cave paintings of macaws in Brazil to Frida Kahlo's modern-day self-portraits of herself with her parrot. Her "Still Life with Parrot and Flag" features what appears to be a peach-fronted conure.

"Villa of the Birds" in Alexandria, Egypt has a mosaic depiction of a parrot dating 50-300 A.D.

Two paintings depicting Indian ringnecked parakeets are "Madonna & Child with the Parrot" by Martin Schongauer (1470-75) and Jan van Eyck's "Madonna with the Canon van der Paele", painted in 1436.

Vincent Van Gogh honored the double yellowheaded Amazon in his 1886 painting, "The Green Parrot".

Artists did not forget the African grey parrot! There is one prominently depicted in Manet's "Young Lady in 1866", painted that year.

Architecture: The original Bird House at New York City's Bronx Zoo has a row of parrots and cockatoos around the roofline. Go see it this spring!

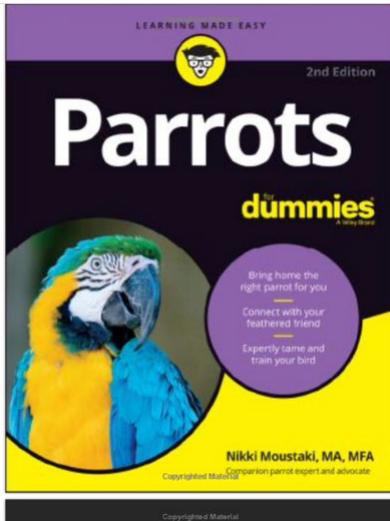
Further reading: These are older books but may be available on Amazon or eBay.

Parrot Culture by Bruce Thomas Boehrer

Parrots: A Natural History by John Sparks & Tony Soper

Next month: Quiz and Timeline

Book Report



Parrots for Dummies

Nikki Moustaki's *Parrots for Dummies* has been revised and updated. She explores the diversity of the parrot world, including macaws, cockatiels, and parakeets and more. Written and organized in easy-to-find reference sections, there's valuable information for both novice and seasoned bird owners. Chapters on nutrition, caging, training, behavior, health, lifestyle, and more are accompanied by entertaining anecdotes. This second edition of *Parrots for Dummies*

Parakeets for Dummies

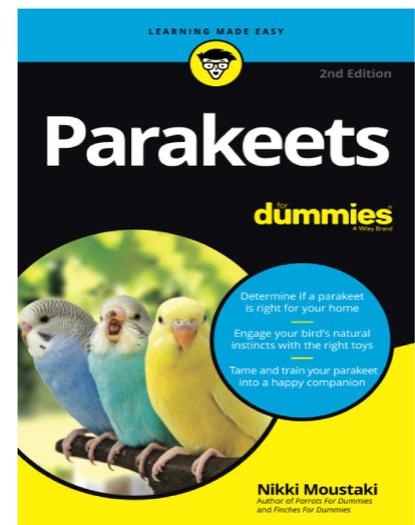
Are you experienced with larger birds, but not with the little guys? *Parakeets for Dummies*, also by Nikki Moustaki, introduces you to these little gems of the bird world, and prepares you to give a bird the perfect home.

The book offers expert advice on adopting a parakeet and introducing it to other fur or feathered critters in your home. And no, cats, dogs, and larger birds should *not* have access to your parakeet! You will get advice on the best way to groom and train your parakeet and get tips on how to teach it to talk.

And when your feathered friend appears to be sick, you can turn to this book to identify the symptoms of illness and know what to look for when choosing a vet for your pet.

- Discover whether a parakeet is a good fit for your family, including any existing birds and other pets
- Construct a comfortable enclosure and prep your home so your bird can play safely
- Protect your parakeet from common dangers and avoidable illness.

Moustaki is a former contributor to *Bird Talk* and other pet magazines and was a speaker at a LIPS meeting some years ago.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEETING HALL!

The Long Island Parrot Society has a new meeting hall! Our new in-person meetings will be held at Greenwood Hall, 58 Greenwood Ave., East Islip! We have four meetings scheduled for 2022: March 16, June 15, September 21, and December 21. In addition, our picnic will be held offsite at Belmont Lake State Park in July. Zoom meetings will continue twice a month, with in-person meetings streamed to at-home participants. Greenwood Hall checks all our boxes:

- Well-lit parking lot with plenty of parking; no meters to worry about!
- Handicapped accessible
- Parrots are allowed (no one else in the hall to be concerned about)
- They only have one event per day
- Rent includes table and chair set up. The hall can accommodate 120 people. Rent is to be paid in advance of event—cash or credit card. Our time is from 5:30-9:30 PM. The \$200 damage deposit is held for our other events.
- **The damage deposit will be withheld for the following reasons:**
 - o Event starts prior to agreed Event Start Time or runs past agreed Event End Time (we receive access one hour prior to Event Start Time for set up and 30 minutes after Event End for cleanup).
 - o We use glitter or confetti, staples, or nails/screws
 - o Damages hall in anyway (peeling paint off wall, putting holes in walls, scratching floor, damaging kitchen appliances/accessories
 - o Buffet tables are moved from where they were initially (they are large buffet tables located along kitchen wall)
 - o Garbage is not put into the dumpster
- Wi-Fi included
- Access to kitchen (very nice and clean)—has an ice machine
- Permitted to have food brought in for December holiday party
- There is a rental agreement and contract to sign. We're to remove the garbage from the bathrooms and kitchen. Since it is a "bare-hall" rental, we are to make sure we leave the hall the way we found it, including wiping down all surfaces. **Volunteers are needed to help!** Bathrooms are spotless and the hall is very well-lit. Wood floors make for easy clean-up. There is room for vendors, groomer, and raffles.

See it now at greenwood-hall.com

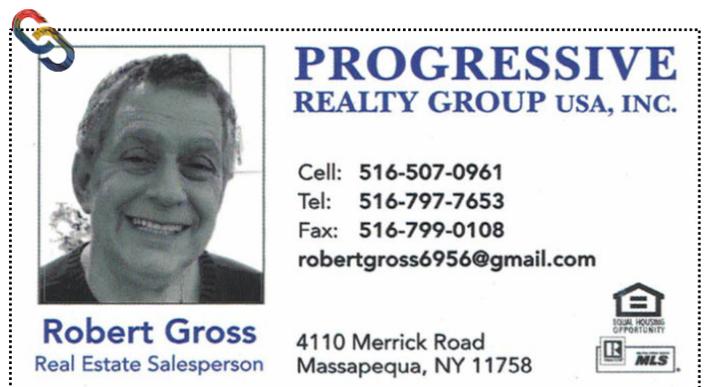


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Check Out Our Meeting Vendors!

Diane's Bird Toys—great selection of parrot toys for any size parrot.

14 Karat Parrot—Great “Parrotphernalia”! Fine Gifts and Accessories for the Exotic Bird Lover!

Nicole Pica—Grooming

★ Snack Sweethearts ★

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

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

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

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

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

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



From the East:

Sunrise Hwy to exit 46. Left on Connetquot Avenue. Stay straight. Turn right at Union Ave. Turn right at Greenwood Ave. At the end of the street, note the Greenwood Hall Sign. Turn left 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.



Don't Mess with Texas!

According to the American Bird Conservancy, the red-crowned, green-cheeked, or Mexican red-headed Amazon parrot (*Amazona viridigenalis*) has become established in Texas, Florida, California, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii. The current Texas population, in the Lower Rio Grande Valley is estimated at about seven hundred birds. The number has remained steady during the last three to five years, after increasing for decades. Approximately 110 miles from the northern limit of the bird's Mexican range, satellite population is considered an important reservoir for the endangered species. Southern California is home to approximately 3,700 of the birds, while the total U.S. population is estimated at roughly 4,700, possibly outnumbering the estimated remaining wild Mexican population of 2,000 to 4,300 adults.

In the US, red-crowned parrots lack federal protections other small bird populations garner under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The species was passed up for ESA listing in 2019. Although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes the South Texas population as native, it declared listing it was not justified because the U.S. population was not declining and because the rate of habitat loss in Mexico has not been as high as in prior decades.

The state of Texas classified the parrot as native after reviewers considered historical parrot records in the LRGV, as well as the likely route Mexican birds take north when dispersing. Texas is in the process of modifying its threatened species list, and likely will soon declare the red crowned Amazon "threatened." The parrot is protected in its four Texas roost cities. Brownsville has even designated it the city's official bird, its likeness appearing on a prominent underpass and elsewhere.

Read the full report by Howard Youth at Parrot Paradox: The Unprotected, Endangered Red-crowned Parrot - American Bird Conservancy (abcbirds.org)

Meanwhile, in Queens, NY...

The Thick-billed Parrot is the only surviving parrot species native to North America. It was seen in Arizona and New Mexico. Shooting, logging, and development eliminated the species from its U.S. range, and attempts to reintroduce the species have been unsuccessful. It is included on the 2014 State of the Birds Watch List and was listed as Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1973.

There is a breeding colony of thick-billed parrots at the Queens Zoo. Since 2000, 23 chicks hatched at the zoo have been raised to adulthood. Go see them this spring! Visit Thick-Billed Parrots: Native to North America | Wild View (wcs.org) for more information.

And in Your Own Backyard...

Spring is coming! Forego the use of toxic chemicals on your lawn and in the garden. They poison baby birds in the nests when parents feed them affected insects. The chemicals eventually seep into our water table and affect us all. Plant an organic garden for your pet birds and attract bees, birds, and butterflies too! Re-use plastic yogurt containers as starter pots for seedlings.

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(Continued from page 14)

Spring is a great time to plant fast growing, cool-weather crops like peas, and parrots often enjoy eating them right from the pod. Carrots, kale, string beans and other nutritious produce is easy to grow as well. Grow sunflowers for the wild birds or for your own pets. Parrots love eating the ripened seeds right from the flowers.

Bees and butterflies are declining at an alarming rate worldwide. Bees pollinate approximately one-third of the plants we eat, and many of these we share with our birds. Between 2008 and 2013, the wild bee population in the United States dropped 23% and a wild bumblebee species was listed as endangered. Sunflowers, borage and lavender are a few flowers that attract bees. Visit thehoneybeeconservancy.org for more information.

CAN YOUR BIRD GET COVID-19?

Information on whether birds can catch COVID from humans is elusive – a possible indication that it is more prevalent among, and possibly exclusive to mammals. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention notes that cats and dogs have been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, mostly after close contact with people with COVID-19. The risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is low. Pets can get serious illness from infection with the virus that causes COVID-19, but it is extremely rare. If you are sick with COVID-19 (either suspected or confirmed by a test), the CDC recommends avoiding contact with pets including, kissing, licking, sharing food, and sleeping in the same bed, behaviors already discouraged with pet birds. If your pet is sick and you suspect it is from the virus that causes COVID-19, consult your veterinarian. If you have a sore throat, flu, or cold, it is also wise to avoid close contact with your bird until you have recovered. Wash your hands and mask up!

WINTER BIRD HACK

Drafty window? Spray the glass with water, then apply the bubbly side of bubble wrap to the glass, over the drafty area. In the spring, just cleanly strip it off!



Bird Tested - Lixit Drinking Water Bottles for Birds

By Susan Chamberlain

A constant supply of fresh water is one of your bird's most essential needs, and despite our best efforts, our little charges seem intent on polluting the contents of their water bowls. Does your bird make 'bacteria chowder' out of its water each day, dipping and dunking its food to moisten it while eating? Perhaps your parrot enjoys splashing around in its water dish until everything in a four-foot radius is soaked, including the family dog! What about the 'poop soup' some birds seem intent on making, somehow fouling their water dishes no matter how creatively we place them in the cage? And what about *you*? Are you tired of replacing soaked food and changing soggy paper tray liners several times a day? Have you found it nearly impossible to keep a clean supply of drinking water in your bird's cage? A drinking water bottle may be the answer to your woes!

Lixit's bottle kit certainly helped me cope with my African grey, Bobo's messy habits! The metal bracket holds the bottle securely to cage bars so that she cannot dislodge it. Bobo is known for quickly dismantling and tossing 'bird-proof' feeders, so this is quite an endorsement! She loves to bathe, but now enjoys showers on her stand instead of soaking her cage, food, and toys daily. Most important, she has a steady supply of clean drinking water.

It's not difficult to switch your bird from drinking from a dish to a water bottle. Although some older, set-in-their-ways birds may absolutely refuse to have anything do with a water bottle, others take to one almost immediately. Place the water bottle above the existing water dish so the bird's head just touches the nozzle as it goes to drink the water from the dish. Water will drip on the head feathers, drawing the bird's attention and encouraging it to eventually drink from the bottle. Birds are also attracted to the ball at the tip of the nozzle and will use their tongues to investigate. After it has become apparent that your bird is drinking from the bottle, remove the dish. Mark the high-water level on the outside of the bottle with a felt-tipped pen so you can tell when it's going down. Birds are great imitators. If one bird drinks from a bottle, others may observe and follow. Finally, adjust the bottle so the nozzle is just above beak height and within reach of a convenient perch. The bird should have to stretch its neck slightly to access the nozzle.

Plastic drinking bottles are available for small birds that lack the beak strength to puncture them, but larger birds require strong glass bottles. Lixit's basic glass bottles are available in 16 and 32-ounce capacity. Three sizes of tubes are available: 5/16", 7/16" and 5/8" diameter. In addition, there's a Tuff Tip tube made of solid, crush resistant stainless steel. It's recommended for strong, destructive birds, like cockatoos and macaws. All parts are made in the United States.

Using a drinking water bottle doesn't mean you can neglect changing your bird's water. Change it at least every 48 hours. If you add vitamins to your pet's water, change it daily. Keep several bottles on hand so a clean, filled bottle can replace the used one. You don't need to buy multiple kits. Lixit bottles can be purchased separately. Replacement nozzles, bottle guards and stoppers are available as well. There's even a converter kit to utilize soda and other bottles for drinking!

You don't have to deprive your pet of its daily shower just because you've switched to a water bottle. Birds can become accustomed to showering on their stands rather than inside their cages.

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I convinced my Amazons and African grey parrots to bathe *only* on their play stands by creating a daily routine. I place them on their stands in the morning and give them all a good shower. They have bowls of water handy for additional splashing. If you prefer, bathe your bird in the shower (special shower perches are available) or on a portable perch placed in the kitchen sink. The point is to establish a bathing routine *away* from the cage. While my birds are preening and drying in the sun, I make their morning meals, change their water and clean their cages. I do *not* provide food for them on their stands. By the time they go back into their cages, they're more interested in the fresh food than in bathing.

Helpful Hints

- If you fill the bottle all the way to the top, you may create too perfect a seal and form a vapor lock which will restrict the flow of water. Linda Parks, president of Lixit Corporation, recommends leaving about half an inch unfilled so the vacuum forms properly. 'It's not the ball in the tube that holds the water in the bottle; it's the vacuum formed when the stopper is inserted,' she said.
- Make sure bottles are securely fastened to cage bars. If they're loose in their holders, birds may be able to manipulate them and send them crashing to the floor.
- Some birds learn to stuff seed or even paper up into the nozzles, so you must be vigilant about checking them. Others, like a pair of conures that once lived with me, learn to shower under the nozzles. Check bottles regularly to be sure birds haven't drained them.

Cleaning the Water Bottle

Use bottle brushes and tube brushes to thoroughly clean your bird's water bottle and drinking tube. Even though they may appear to be clean, small food particles and mineral deposits from the water may build up inside the tubes. Disinfect water bottles and tubes weekly by immersing them in a solution of 1 part household bleach to 10 parts water for several minutes. Glass water bottles are top-rack dishwasher safe, but plastic bottles must be washed by hand. Rinse well before returning them to your bird. All-steel drinking tubes may be soaked in the bleach solution or boiled for sterilization purposes. Wash the rubber bottle stopper in hot, soapy water as you would dishes, but don't put it in the dishwasher, as the rubber may begin to deteriorate. It's designed to be autoclaved, so you can sanitize the stopper by boiling it for a few minutes. It's made of a high-quality rubber compound formulated by Lixit in 1968 and is designed for long term use."

Drinking water bottles have many advantages:

- Birds can't poop or dump their food into water bottles.
- Water bottles are impervious to dander, feathers and other airborne debris.
- They assure a constant supply of fresh, clean water.
- Veterinarians often recommend water bottles for sanitary reasons.
- Most birds, from finches to macaws, quickly learn to drink from water bottles.
- Cage maintenance is easier without constant water clean-up.
- Corrosion of bottom trays and cage parts will be reduced with less splashing.

Lixit products, including replacement parts and cleaning brushes are available in pet shops and through online sources mail order catalogs. Visit www.lixit.com for FAQs and click on the link provided to find a retailer. Online retailers include mysafebirdstore.com birdieboutique.com chewy.com and smile.amazon.com (indicate Long Island Parrot Society of New York as your charity!).

Parrot Species

I X Q Y P A R R O T L E T W I R N	African Grey
X U X U Y A D N E J O Z L T B E V	Amazon
T M F D A E R U N O C Z T S N G L	Blue and Gold
K F T X L K M E N T H P N W Y I C	Budgie
N J Y U H O E P I O N U S U E L S	Caique
X E A H R R G R R F K T P C R L Y	Cockatiel
X C P P S N G D Z Q Y K O E G I H	Cockatoo
O L L N W M X X N A S C G S N N T	Conure
O E J O A Q N L K A K V T B A A N	Ecletus
T T S Z V O T D M A E E L V C C I	Goffin
A U G S Z E P E T P E U K C I C C	Hyacinth
K S E A E M B I A K E G L R R U A	Illiger
C Y M I Z N E I I J U O E B F L Y	Jenday
O A E X G L E R R X Q F H V A O H	Lorikeets
C E Q G Z D O G X D I F K M D M L	Lovebird
W B Z H J L U E A N A I W X G F F	Moluccan
B R Y H N J O B D L C N Z A Q K O	Parrotlet
	Pionus
	Quaker
	Senegal



Adoption Spotlight



- Name of Parrot: Tovah
- Species: Umbrella Cockatoo
- Age of Parrot: 15 years
- Sex: Female
- Birthday Hatchday: unknown
- Bird Color: white
- Size: Large
- Wings Clipped: No
- Parrots Usual Diet : zupreem fruit pellets nutriberries and cheerios you can also experiment
- Talking Ability: says bye bye look at the girl hello she loves music and dancing
- Last Vet Check Date: 2021
- Good With Children: Good Fit
- Good With Dogs: Unknown
- Good With Cats: Unknown
- Good With Other Pets: Unknown
- Is Bird Hand Tame: yes
- Have Any Feather Issues: None
- Any Behavior Issues: no plucking some screaming really a good girl.
- Reason: the owner passed in late December 2021 she was the original owner.
- Notes: Tovah will make one or more people very happy and is amazing. she can also spin in circles on her perch.

The family prefers Tovah be adopted with Mush. However it is not a deal-breaker if a really good home can be found for them separately.

- Name of Parrot: Mush
- Species: umbrella cockatoo
- Age of Parrot: 18 years old
- Sex: Female
- Birthday Hatchday: unknown
- Bird Color: white
- Size: Medium
- Wings Clipped: No
- Parrots Usual Diet: zupreem fruit pellets nutriberries cheerios and you can experiment almonds and walnuts in shells
- Talking Ability: says hello bye bye waves bye bye with left claw likes music and dances
- Last Vet Check Date: 2021 October
- Good With Children: Good Fit
- Good With Dogs: Unknown
- Good With Cats: Unknown
- Good With Other Pets: Unknown
- Is Bird Hand Tame: yes
- Have Any Feather Issues: None
- Any Behavior Issues: no biting and no loud screaming, a very well behaved young lady. Mush has a pet sitter 2 times daily and loves the company.
- Reason: the owner passed away in December 2021, she was the second owner
- Notes: Mush will be a welcome addition for a single person or married couple. the bird was handled by kids 8 and older. ***** PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING IN REGARD TO MEDICAL NEEDS FOR THIS BIRD ***** Mush is a healthy bird but needs an implant done every 6 months by Dr. Malka of great neck, the cost of this procedure is 1100.00 yearly the implant controls egg laying, this is a great bird and you will fall in love.



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

The Long Island Parrot Society

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

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



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

Did you know that teflon can make your bird sick?
Check with your manufacturer of your pots and pans to see if they are PFOA or PTFE Free



LIPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(Please Print Clearly)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (with area code) _____

eMail Address for FeatherFlash: _____

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

Check all that apply: NEW MEMBER RENEWAL SENIOR (10% off)

Single (\$35) Family/Commercial (\$45) Lifetime Membership (\$500)

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 online at our website using PayPal: liparrots.org/membership

LIPS meets the third Wednesday of the month, 10 months a year (no meetings in February or July)
(Check schedule for dates: liparrots.org/monthly-meetings)

Meeting Place: American Legion Post #94, 22 Grove Place, Babylon, NY 11702

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

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT LIPS: _____

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

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

TO:

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