Happy Holidays—wishing everyone a safe, healthy, peaceful and joyful time with family and friends. Onward and upward to 2023!

Our November presenter was Pamela Clark. Pamela is a IAABC certified parrot behavior consultant who offers both in-home and distance consultations to clients who need assistance with their parrots. Pamela certainly did open up our eyes to how we can better coexist with our feathered companions. Here is Pamela’s contact info:

eMail: pamelaclarkcvt@gmail.com
Website: https://pamelaclarkonline.com/
Website: https://blogpamelaclarkonline.com/

Pamela offers some great webinars—check out her website. We are looking forward to having Pamela present to us again.

We’re also looking forward to our holiday party being held on Wednesday, December 21 at Greenwood Hall (58 Greenwood Avenue in East Islip—doors open at 6:30 pm). We will have the party catered: Salad, Pizza, Hero, Beverages, Dessert. No need for our members to bring anything besides themselves.

That being said, have you RSVPd for the holiday party yet? It’s easy, just use this link: https://form.jotform.com/223128039675156

Some more great news about the holiday party, Roberta Fabiano will be our musical entertainment.

Don’t forget at the December meeting, members will be voting for board of director candidates as well as what two organizations to donate to by years end (per our Charitable Donation guidelines)—you’ll be given a choice.

Thank you to the members who have volunteered to help during the party.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!

Membership rates are changing! Beginning January 1, 2023, individual memberships will also include families. It will be called a ‘General Membership’ and the price will be $45.00 a year and include digital newsletters.

Members who want a paper copy of the full-color newsletter will pay an additional $15.00 to help defray costs of production and mailing. Senior (62+) 10% discount applies to each membership level. EARLY BIRDS can renew or extend their present subscriptions at the current price until January 31, 2023.

Newsday published an article on Tuesday, November 29: ‘Bill Aims to Prohibit Wild Animal Shows’. Suffolk County lawmakers and animal welfare activists hope to pass a law that would ban traveling shows featuring wild and exotic animals to prevent mistreatment or the spreading of disease. Please read further in this newsletter for more information and how this could affect us. Here’s a link provided by USARK where you can reach out to the legislators: https://usark.org/22suffolk/

Looking back at 2022, we kept our club engaged via our twice-monthly Zoom meetings, quarterly in-person meetings, securing quality presenters, outreaches, educating folks and protecting our flocks against the HPAI (avian flu)—which is still with us, publishing newsletters chocked full of great information, sending out Feather Flash emails to our membership, our Parrot Placement Program was very active, cage sales, answering phone calls and emails, helping many folks with their bird-related questions, brainstorming—needless to say, a BIG thank you to our board and volunteers for making our club so pertinent in the avian community.

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!
**Board Meeting Minutes - November 2022**

**November 9, 2022 7PM via ZOOM ATTENDING:** David Abrahams, Donna Barbaro, Susan Chamberlain, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Diane Hyde, Candy Little

### Financial Report

**Deposits as of November 2022**

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**Expenses as of November 2022**

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### Board Business

- Middle Country Library update (Diane): Event was very nice; lots of human and avian volunteers, including macaws, cockatoos, and others. New member came with cockatiel; small visitor arrived wearing a scarlet macaw costume. Library had carts to make it easy to load up at end of the event. Birds were handed to guests under supervision and with use of hand sanitizer.
- Annual donation (There was a mistake in previous discussion: we did contribute to three organizations: Ukraine, AFA, PERL). We have $200 left for two organizations: Possible non-profits: STAR Foundation; Sweetbriar; Phoenix Landing; Tallgrass Parrot Sanctuary; Quaker Parakeet Society; Gabriel Foundation; Florida organizations affected by Hurricane Ian.
- BOD Holiday Dinner—Restaurant closes at 9:30 p.m.—did we want to meet at 6:30 p.m. rather than 7 p.m.? 6:30 resolved.
- Member Holiday Party—getting RSVPs—if enough attendees, have Roberta perform? 35 people minimum for entertainment. Kaitlin donating an Instant Pot for raffle; Christensens donating a cargo net for birds to climb; Flormans are donating a chocolate themed basket.
- Shawn’s Photo Booth—set up at the Holiday Party? Ask for donations from members? Possibility to buy from Shawn—would need dedicated person to store and bring equipment to events and operate system. Lack of volunteers is biggest drawback.
- Diane took part in a discussion among club officers about motivating members to participate, attend meetings, etc. Difficult to have people commit since COVID.
- Determine additional annual amount to charge for paper NLs beginning January 2023—$10 or more? Cost to produce and mail color newsletter $4.75 each per month. Drop family membership designation; make all memberships inclusive of families. Proposed membership: $60.00 per year for paper; Digital membership $45.00 per year.
- Incorporate membership card into Feather Flash so members can print it out themselves?

- Donna created Jotform to ask for member skills/volunteering. QR code in the Nov NL. It’s a great form—looking forward to seeing submissions.
- More cage donations coming in—shed is beginning to fill up. Posted large donated cage on FB and no interest yet. If no interest, should we consider donating it to a wildlife org to free up some room in the shed?
- Member Marla Greene is suggesting Ollie the Cockatiel (from NZ) as a Zoom presenter. [https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/ollie-the-cockatieltakes-on-epic-fundraising-trek-across-new-zealand/](https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/ollie-the-cockatieltakes-on-epic-fundraising-trek-across-new-zealand/)
- BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 30, 2022, 7PM VIA ZOOM

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

Holiday Party: Entertainment: Roberta Fabiano; Diane Hyde has found a restaurant nearby that will accommodate our needs.

**MEMBERSHIP PRICE INCREASE**

General Membership (electronic NL): $45 a year (still offer a 10% discount for seniors)

Members Opting for Paper Newsletter: $45.00+$15.00 additional for a total of $60 a year (still offer a 10% discount for seniors) Increase is to cover additional costs of printing and mailing.

Instead of breaking up membership into individual and family, it will be a general membership. EARLY BIRDS can renew or extend their present subscriptions at the current price until January 31, 2023.

**POSSIBLE MEETING SPEAKERS DISCUSSED:**u Budgie Rescue, Karrie Koterman, Pamela Clark, Detective Catherine Spannato, Suffolk SPCA scheduled for March.
UNIQUE & CUSTOM SEED BLENDS FOR BIRDS

To advertise your business or service in our newsletter register on our website:
www.liparrots.org/ad_placement

Full Page $325/year,
$200/6 months
Half Page $175/year, $125/6 months
Quarter page $100/year, $75/6 months
Business card $50/year.

Toadvertise your business or service in our newsletter register on our website:
www.liparrots.org/ad_placement

Full Page $325/year,
$200/6 months
Half Page $175/year, $125/6 months
Quarter page $100/year, $75/6 months
Business card $50/year.

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

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

CT, FLUOROSCOPY AND ULTRASOUND
LIBEVC is one of four hospitals in the country that utilize CATScan designated exclusively for birds and exotic pets. 3-D reformating enables us to perform surgeries or endoscopic surgeries with greater precision and success.

SURGERY
- Orthopedics
- Soft tissue surgery
- Rotident/Lagiomorph dentistry and maxilofacial surgery
- Avian and reptilian reproductive tract emergencies

Phone: 516-482-1101  Email: office@birdlexoticsvet.com
www.birdlexoticsvet.com
333 Great Neck Road, Great Neck, New York 11021
Many thanks for your support throughout 2022. Because of you, our members and donors, The Long Island Parrot Society has been able to survive, and even thrive with increased membership and new innovations over the past several years. We were challenged by COVID, bird flu and relocation to a new meeting hall. We managed to keep members engaged throughout.

We have continued most member services, including our adoption program, which is busier than ever. It’s a full-time job for the Parrot Placement Team. They field inquiries about lost and found birds and have helped facilitate several successful reunions. We provide distinguished speakers and interactive programs at our twice-monthly ZOOM meetings for members. Outreach events have resumed. Quarterly in-person meetings are scheduled. The in-person meetings are also streamed on ZOOM so that far-flung members may participate.

Our Shelter Fund is growing, which is of great importance. Your donations will help make it a reality. Donations enable us to help birds in need now by supporting emergency cases, both medically and in foster homes. We have made several urgent placements, relocations, and temporary foster arrangements. LIPS gets daily requests from people wanting to re-home their birds. Some cases involve multiple birds. The situation is so overwhelming that our leading shelter is on temporary hiatus until current cases have been resolved.

According to a recent Newsday report, shelters here on Long Island are seeing huge numbers of pet surrenders—dogs, cats, rabbits. Reptiles and other pets. However, donations are way down, making it difficult to offer needed services. It is believed that many of these surrendered animals are pets acquired during the height of the pandemic, and now that people are back to school and work, they no longer have time for them. Financial constraints caused by inflation and the rising costs of veterinary care and pet food may also be factors.

If you are able, please remember The Long Island Parrot Society with a donation this holiday season. Donations may be made by check and mailed to Long Island Parrot Society, PO Box 2754, North Babylon NY 11703 or call 631-957-1100 to donate via credit card. You may also donate via PayPal to bookkeeper@liparrots.org. Please note ‘donation’ with payment.

Amazon shoppers can garner donations for LIPS by shopping through smile.amazon.com and noting Long Island Parrot Society of New York as the chosen charity. Not a penny comes out of your own pocket! No sensitive information to divulge!

We also need donations of TIME! Please volunteer! Log on to the link below to help us match you with a project aligned with your talents and available time:

https://www.liparrots.org/skills-survey/

Update to Sanibel’s Periwinkle Park: You read about the tragic losses there during Hurricane Ian in last month’s Long Island Parrot Beacon. David Muench, manager at the park posted the following on the park’s Facebook page: “It’s been a bit since San I left the park’s Facebook page since San I left the park’s Facebook page, so it is a visit away from exterior doors that will be opened frequently. Is the cage in a room that is not well-lit? If so, move it to a brighter location, but out of direct sunlight, preferably in a room with southern exposure. Raise the window shades on sunny days to allow the sun to help warm the room and lower the shades at dusk to conserve heat overnight. Covering the cage at night might add a layer of insulation and draft prevention as well.

Many birds, especially conures, enjoy snuggling warmly inside plush fabric ‘huts’ or cuddling up to ‘snuggle buddies’ inside their cages. They’re popular and readily available at pet shops and online. Do take precautions when trying one of these accessories. Make sure your bird’s nails are kept trimmed so they don’t get caught in the fabric and supervise your pet closely to be sure it isn’t chewing and ingesting the fibers.

One of the biggest concerns of bird owners is the safety of heating appliances. Perhaps the safest of all space heaters is the radiant heat variety. A popular model, available at mass merchandisers and home improvement stores is the oil-filled radiator, which operates by warming oil inside the sealed unit. Because heating elements are not exposed to the air, there is minimal danger of dangerous polymers being dispersed into the atmosphere.

Convection heaters make use of a heating element and a fan to heat the area. A fan draws cold air through a heating element and circulates heated air into the room. Older units with exposed metal heating coils can be hazardous, but the newer ceramic units are typically safe if they have a temperature cutoff switch and a tip over switch. The big question is, do you need them? “Has the heating unit been coated with polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) or other fluoropolymers similar to Teflon?” Fumes emitted from heating surfaces treated with such polymers are deadly to birds and may cause flu-like symptoms in humans. Because of fumes and fire hazards, kerosene heaters are illegal in some municipalities. According to articles in the U.S. National Library of Medicine (https://www.nlm.nih.gov/), kerosene heaters do not work properly to outdoors by a chimney, kerosene heaters emit poisonous carbon monoxide, fumes, nitrogen dioxide, which is a lung irritant, and sulfur dioxide, which can impair breathing. Dizziness, drowsiness, headache and unconsciousness may also occur. These cautions apply to humans. Birds have much more sensitive respiratory systems than we do. Don’t risk exposing them to kerosene fueled appliances.

Fireplaces, wood stoves and fireplace heat inserts can be safe when correctly sealed and vented to outdoors and when used with a fireplace damper. Even so, some soot inevitably finds itself into the indoor atmosphere, so it is advisable to house birds in a room away from the immediate heat source. One of the main drawbacks of wood and pellet burning appliances is that they reduce indoor humidity in the home to often uncomfortable levels and can dry out sensitive sinuses. Supplementation of humidity from a humidifier or a little or water atop the heat source can help alleviate some of the dryness. Mist birds with water daily to reduce the incidence of dry skin and feathers.

Clean Air Check-Up

- Check and change filters on heating and air conditioning systems.
- Have air ducts inspected for mold and cleaned when necessary. Keep bird cages clean! Dust from dried droppings can compromise indoor air quality and spread disease.
- Use unscented detergent and forego the use of fabric softer sheets when laundering cage covers, as your bird may be sensitive to scents and chemicals. Birds that have adverse effects on birds.
- Use pure beeswax candles instead. Scented candles may have adverse effect on birds.

Never mix cleaning products together (ex. chlorine bleach and ammonia), as these may result.

Winter Comfort and Safety

©Susan Chamberlain

The winter months are often stressful for those of us who share our homes with pet birds. We fret about keeping the warmth enough to avoid drafts, cold snows and sudden power outages.

Do you need supplemental heat for your bird? Often, the answer is no. Down is one of the warmest materials on earth, and a feathered bird is equipped with enough insulation to keep in warm under cool conditions. These important factors can change quickly.

Many exotic birds live in outdoor aviaries or in feral colonies all year. Wild Quaker parakeets are thriving in the Northeast, and various aviaries are in southern climes, but even Florida gets cold snows. The birds are acclimated, so they do very well. There is no exact temperature at which your bird will be too cold: if you’re comfortable in your home, your pet probably is too. Observe your bird for signs of shivering, tucking the beak into its feathers, and crouching low with feathers over the feet during this time. You may notice that he or she is cold. (Abnormal huddling, sleeping at odd times may indicate illness, so consult your avian veterinarian if symptoms persist.)

There are some simple things you can do to offer your bird a bit more warmth during the winter. Serve fresh foods at room temperature rather than refrigerated cold. Evaluate the placement of your bird’s cage. Be sure it is located away from exterior doors that will be opened frequently. Is the cage in a room that is not well-lit? If so, move it to a brighter location, but out of direct sunlight, preferably in a room with southern exposure. Raise the window shades on sunny days to allow the sun to help warm the room and lower the shades at dusk to conserve heat overnight. Covering the cage at night might add a layer of insulation and draft prevention as well.

Many birds, especially conures, enjoy sleeping in a cozy bed of straw or hay. Providing a crouching bed with hay under it will help keep your bird warm. You can also provide a warm spot for your bird to sit on, such as a ceramic heat emitter, which does not disturb the heat cycle. Ceramic heat emitters, designed specifically for use with animals are available in various wattages and do not emit sleep-disturbing light. Use such appliances according to manufacturer’s directions and make sure your bird does not have access to light bulbs or electrical cords.

Be careful when using space heaters. Heat lamps marketed specifically for avian use can help provide supplemental heat during cold snaps. Infrared heat bulbs warm objects instead of the air and the red light does not disturb the heat cycle. Ceramic heat emitters, designed specifically for use with animals are available in various wattages and do not emit sleep-disturbing light. Use such appliances according to manufacturer’s directions and make sure your bird does not have access to light bulbs or electrical cords.

(Continued on page 10)
Do you feel cold when just sitting around and warmer when you’re active? Don’t encourage your bird to be a perch potato. Instead, keep your pet active with stimulating toys and foraging opportunities. Share relaxing evenings with your bird by letting it snuggle with you for a while. That’s rewarding for you both!

**SAFETY FIRST!**
- Never use generator indoors or in your garage.
- Carbon monoxide fumes can kill your birds and you. Be sure generators are kept clear of snow.
- Don’t warm up your car in the garage. Make sure the garage door is open before you start your car, then move it out to warm up.
- Before using any electric heater in proximity to your birds, heat it to its maximum for several hours in a garage, outdoors, or in a well ventilated area away from your pets. This will help burn off some possible chemical residue on exposed parts but cannot absolutely guarantee the safety of exposed heating elements.
- Never use a gas stove or barbecue grill as a heat source.
- Carbon monoxide poisoning may result from such use.
- Install fire and carbon monoxide detectors in your home and check the batteries of existing units.
- Open a window or door for a little while each day, even in cold weather, to exchange the air inside your home.
- Heated perches and ‘bird warmer’ panels are available in select pet shops and from online sources. When using these, be sure they do not contain non-stick components, smoke and fumes during the cleaning process can just be deadly.

**WINTER CAUTIONS**

A house fire in Hicksville recently killed seven pets. With the onset of winter and the use of fireplaces and holiday cooking and lighting, replace your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors now! Unplug small appliances when they are not in use, and never leave candles unattended. The Great Cooking Bag Debate: There have been conflicting reports about their safety around birds on social media, and the posts have ignited something of a firestorm! Debbie Huckaby (Birds of Paradise Sanctuary & Rescue) posted a warning against using them, accompanied by a photo of a turkey roasted in such a bag. Bird owners took the warning as intended, but Debbie was viciously attacked online by a faction of vegans, accusing her of advocating eating animals. They barraged her with hateful phone calls, emails, and posts on social media. Another well known bird owner posted that the bags are safe, quoting statements by manufacturers that the bags do not contain PFTE or PFPA and when ‘used as directed’ are safe. The bags have not been tested on birds. Is it possible that other components could be harmful? Yes, possibly. If in doubt, don’t use them. Always ventilate your home when cooking, and do not use the self-clean feature on your oven unless you can remove your birds from the home. Even if your oven does not contain non-stick components, smoke and fumes during the cleaning process can just be deadly.

**Echo Conservation Center**

On the island of Bonaire doesn’t only care for indigenous yellow shouldered Amazons — “Baby”, a greenwinged macaw also makes his home there. A former pet, his favorite type of enrichment is social interaction with human visitors.

Lewis “Buddy” Waskey has added two young great green macaws to his education and breeding program. The birds will be ambassadors for conservation and free flight. Some LIPS members watched Waskey’s mature macaws in free flight at the AFA Convention in Connecticut several years ago.

Here are some of the recent accomplishments of the World Parrot Trust:

Over 100 endangered Puerto Rican Amazon chicks hatched this season, bringing the total to more than 200 Puerto Rican Amazons in the wild—a new milestone!

The WPT has helped empower local communities in Bolivia to prevent and manage wildfires so they can protect their land and native birds.

More than 100 African grey parrots have been confiscated from trade and given a chance to fly in the wild once again.

The WPT was able to provide emergency funding for food, medication and transportation for war-weary Ukrainians and their companion birds.

From Forbes: Puerto Rico’s endangered parrots may be facing a new challenge to their long-term survival: dialects. Conservation efforts have apparently allowed these iconic parrots to develop different dialects from their wild relatives. This may prevent them from being able to communicate effectively with their wild peers after they’re released into their native habitat, which could prevent them from finding mates, thereby threatening their survival.

Going on a fall or winter beach walk? Cold-stunned sea turtles often wash up on shore suffering from hypothermia and even pneumonia. Riverhead’s New York Marine Rescue Center is already caring for 23 turtles that have come ashore. If you come across a stranded sea turtle, even if it seems lifeless, please call 631-369-9829. Assume the turtle is alive until you’ve spoken with a biologist. Many have been revived, even when they had no detectable heartbeat.

From the Scientific American: Environmentalists are calling Brazil’s presidential election of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, popularly known as Lula, a big win for the Amazon rain forest. The ecosystem suffered record high levels of deforestation after the nation’s former president Jair Bolsonaro took office nearly four years ago.

Lula, who served two terms as president from 2003 through 2010, said during his campaign that preserving the rain forest will be one of his top priorities. Amazon deforestation decreased by an estimated 67 percent under the previous Lula administration. Brazil has excellent environmental regulations and plenty of highly motivated people in its agencies who are ready to help Lula achieve his goals. “Brazil is ready to retake its leadership in the fight against the climate crisis,” he told supporters. “Brazil and the planet need a living Amazon.”

And in Florida: The bald eagle pair in North Fl. Myers rebuit their nest after losing it to Hurricane Ian and egg #1 was laid on November 29th.

**ARE “WILD” ANIMAL SHOWS IN THE PAST?**

Suffolk County lawmakers and animal activists are trying to pass a law that would ban ‘traveling shows featuring wild and exotic animals’ ostensibly to prevent disease spread or poor treatment of the animals. Saying that animals shouldn’t be transported for entertainment purposes, legislators Jason Richberg and Trish Bergin sponsored the bipartisan bill. Sloth Encounters, a business that brings sloths into homes for up-close visits, is at the center of this movement after complaints were lodged last summer. The owner, Larry Wallach, does have permits from the Dept. of Agriculture, which he hopes will supersede local regulations.

The proposed law defines a ‘wild’ animal as one that is not a cat, dog, cow, goat, sheep, horse, or pig. What does this mean to us? Pet birds are not one of the seven domesticated species and would be classified as ‘wild’. Under the proposed law, we may be prohibited from transporting our birds for ‘entertainment’ purposes. The law will not apply to accredited zoos, aquariums, universities, research, and environmental education programs.

From Forbes: Billionaire Stephen K. Ross is publishing a book, “The Game Changing” in which he argues that the U.S. military is the best trained organization in the world. Ross believes that if those same skills could be applied to environmental issues, they could make a significant difference.

Nick Janceto, “Nature Nick”, who has appeared with his animals at Parrot Expo has launched a petition on change.org against the pending legislation. Petition - Stop Suffolk County from Banning Exotic Animal Shows - Change.org

It isn’t clear if the regulation would apply to his business, but he told Newsday that his animals are inspected by federal and state authorities. “Kids seem to benefit from an up close and personal encounter; these are concepts that can’t be learned in a textbook.”
Atherosclerosis: The Hidden Killer
By Pamela Clark

It is currently agreed that Amazon parrots, African Grey parrots, quaker parakeets, and cockatiels appear to be at greatest risk. While the disease has been seen in cockatoos and macaws, their risk is not as great as in parrots, which are thus considered to be quite as susceptible. Many avian species, though not all, have been found to develop atherosclerosis in captivity.

Age

Young parrots are usually not at risk, but as they age, the risk increases. Older parrots have a higher risk of developing atherosclerosis.

Gender

Female birds are at greater risk than males. The reason for this is not clear, but it may be due to hormonal differences.

Species

Some species are more susceptible to atherosclerosis than others. For example, African Grey parrots are considered to be at highest risk.

Diet and Nutrition

High-fat diets, especially those high in saturated fats, can increase the risk of atherosclerosis. Low-fat diets, on the other hand, can lower the risk.

Other Risk Factors

Atherosclerosis is caused by the buildup of plaque in the arteries, which can lead to heart disease. Other risk factors include age, gender, certain medical conditions, and a family history of heart disease.

Signs and Symptoms

The early signs of atherosclerosis may be subtle and difficult to detect. However, if left untreated, the disease can lead to serious complications, including heart attack and stroke.

Prevention

Maintaining a healthy diet and lifestyle can help prevent the development of atherosclerosis. Regular exercise, a healthy diet, and avoiding smoking are all important factors in preventing the disease.

Treatment

Treatment for atherosclerosis usually involves medication and lifestyle changes. In some cases, surgery may be necessary to remove plaque from the arteries.

Conclusion

Atherosclerosis is a serious disease that can lead to heart attack and stroke. By understanding the risk factors and signs of the disease, we can take steps to prevent it.
Boarding my four Amazon parrots with a friend during the day... The first house was in New York and quite small, so I knew about the susceptibility of our companion parrots. However, I suspect that we have in our hands the tools to keep our parrots as healthy as absolutely possible.

However, we do have enough information to take action and keep our parrots as healthy as absolutely possible.

*Aused with permission: Pamela Clark www.pamelaclarkonline.com*

### Selling Your Home is for the Birds!

*By Susan Chamberlain*

Are you planning to sell your home this year? It’s a great time to do so! Watch any television program geared toward helping people sell their homes, and you’ll learn that one of the first pieces of advice realtors give is “Relocate the pets!” It isn’t always practical to move the pets out for open house viewings and showings. If you have numerous birds, it may be close to impossible.

This is the one time you can look at your birds as part of the decor. Use them to enhance the ambience of your living room. Cages and surrounding areas were kept so spotless that the cleaning could be shown on 30 minutes notice. Consider marketing your home your new full-time job. Estimate how long it will take to get your house ready for impromptu showings, and let your realtor know how much lead time you’ll require.

Buyers are waiting for great deals even in a hot market and inventory may be low, but you can compete. The first impression is the lasting impression. What will the thesis of the home see first? A jumble of cages, bird food and play stands in the living room won’t pass muster, especially if the potential buyer isn’t a ‘bird person.’ Before you even call a Realtor® to coach the cage and not to stick their fingers in the cage. If I have any misgivings, I’ll accompany them to the showing.” (It should be noted that she sells homes on an island where it is not unusual to encounter 6-foot guanacas on a porch or pecking peacocks in the yard!)

Some people are superstitious about birds indoors. Others may not want anything reminiscent of birds. I ask the seller to make the pet area as clean as possible. You don’t want people walking over bird seed or smelling pet odors.

One advantage of birds over cats and dogs is that there’s virtually no odor.

In my experience, most people like birds, but some might be put off by a very loud bird. In that case, I might move the cage to the smallest bedroom, or the den – a cage to a room that isn’t the focal point of the home,” she continued. “I wouldn’t want a home that is perfect in every way to be remembered as the house with that awful bird in it! If the sellers are motivated, they should do whatever they can to minimize the negative impact of their animals. They know how their pets react to strangers coming into the room. For instance, covering the cage might keep a loud bird quiet.”

Once your house is in contract, you can begin looking for your new home. Are you looking at a development in a condo? Review the rules regarding noise and pets. Are you planning an outdoor aviary? Check the zoning regulations. Do you want cathedral ceilings so your macaw will have plenty of headroom? A roll-in shower for bird cages? A sunporch for your cocktailies? Happy house hunting!

### Biting and Other Problems

If you have aggressive birds, post signs in front of cages warning people away. Realtors® suggest keeping it friendly with something like, “We know we’re cute, but please don’t touch!”

Tell your agent not to allow people to poke at the birds or remain in the house to supervise if you feel it’s necessary. “It’s better to be absent during showings,” according to Pamela, “because it makes it easier for potential buyers to imagine the home as their own. If you remain in the home, tend to the pets but leave all the talking to the agent. Don’t hover. Stay out of the way. On the plus side, there may be some questions that need answering and you can do so on the spot.”

My Florida friend addressed another situation that occurs quite frequently. “When another realtor shows one of my listings and there are animals present, I warn them about what to expect. I instruct the realtor to control the client. I tell the client not to touch the cage and not to stick their fingers in the cage. If I have any misgivings, I’ll accompany them to the showing.”

Advertise in bird related publications and on avian websites. What makes your home ideal for your birds may attract a buyer with my current home has a 28-foot conservatory style room that’s perfect for birds and it’s right up the hill from a top-notch bird store!

Are your birds nervous around strangers? Cover the cages or advise people not to approach them. Take your bird out for a ride during showings or relocate your pet to a friend’s house.

**Noisy birds? Relocate to a friend’s or cover the cages. Play soft background music to soothe the tropical soul.**

Do you have an unused area to relocate birds, such as finished basement, enclosed porch or playroom?

Designate that area as a temporary bird room.

Move cage to a large room so area it doesn’t dominate the room. Be sure some large, inexpensive potted palms at Home Depot and place them strategically near cages for a tropical look.

Is your bird’s cage beginning to look shabby? This is the ideal time to purchase a new one. Think of it as a ‘home improvement’ that will help sell your house!
It’s ultimately up to the owner where their bird is placed.

The 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.

Here are a few of joyful adoptions facilitated by The Island Parrot Society:

- A couple wanted an African grey parrot. The wife was hesitant. They wanted a fully-feathered friend until they met an African grey whose feathers were not in great condition. The bird’s personality captivated them, and they adopted him. We get constant updates and photos showing how he is thriving. In fact, the wife is the bird’s main squeeze!
- A large, active family was interested in adopting a cockatoo. A Goffin’s ‘too from a similar family was looking for a new home. Perfect match! Both families were thrilled, and the bird is loving life.
- A Moluccan cockatoo’s owner died. There was no family to take the bird in. We found an emergency foster home. That foster mom became a foster failure and adopted the bird—the Moluccan has a home and is thriving!

- An adoption candidate wanted a talking African grey—she was in no rush. A family had to place their “talking” grey immediately—we had the qualified candidate waiting in the wings. Everyone is happy.

In 2022, the Parrot Placement team fielded almost daily calls, emails, and phone calls from potential new homes. Some of these were emergency situations requiring immediate placement or fostering. Numerous other requests were received via email. While a great number of birds were placed through the program; some were placed by their owners and the status of others is unknown. Sometimes owners decide to keep their birds and they are not available for adoption. The birds remaining in the program will be eligible for adoption to qualified homes once the backlog is cleared, hopefully by mid-January.

For more details, visit the Parrot Placement Team at a Long Island Parrot Society meeting, or visit www.liparrots.org or call 631-957-1100. There’s no need out there who wants to share the joy with you!
LIPS MEMBER DISCOUNTS

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

Bird Paradise, Burlington, NJ, 10% off (doesn’t apply to purchased birds or Harrison’s products) - in store only. 15% discount for on-line purchases—code: LIPS15.
B.T.J.’s Jungle, West Islip (631-587-8191) 10% off
Central Veterinary Associates, 24/7, Valley Stream + 5 other locations, 10% off all services, call (888-4CVA-PET), www.centralvets.com — for LIPS members
Fine Feather, LLC (The Pet Store Next Door), www.finefeather.us (516-801-6400) discount code liparrot10
First Flight, 514 Middle Country Road, Coram (631-732-1494) 10% off birds and related services
Paumanok Veterinary Hospital, Patchogue (631-475-1312) 10% off exam
Total Pet Care/Lawrence Labs, Holbrook (800-TOTL-PET) 10% LIPS.

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 bored 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 these birds to meetings.

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

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

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

Don’t miss out!
Subscribe on our website: www.liparrots.org/featherflash/

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.
News from the Flock

Did you know that eating berries, nuts, whole grains, and healthful plant-based foods can help our mental well-being? Must be why our birds are so level-headed. LOL.

Keep your guard up. There have been 3 new avian Influenza detections in our state in November: Queens, Sullivan and Wayne County, NY. Thank you, Donna Barbaro for constantly monitoring the status of this deadly disease.

Many thanks to lifetime member, Roberta Fabiano for her weekly Facebook Live concerts for the Long Island Parrot Society! Visit Frog Hollow Music on the Facebook app to view previous sessions. Tune in on Mondays at 2PM for a live performance. And congrats, Roberta, on your new car!

As she has done in years past, lifetime LIPS member, Roberta Fabiano will entertain attendees at this year’s LIPS Holiday party! We are indeed in rare company with Roberta!

A graduate of Boston’s Berklee School of Music, Roberta is the lead vocalist and guitarist with the legendary Peter Duchin Orchestra. She has toured with Nellie McKay, written songs with Doc Pomus and collaborated with noted music producer/engineer Don Casale on various original song projects. Her song, “Dogen, Conor and Tupelo” is an extra on the DVD of The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill. She is one of the musicians whose work will be heard on Mark Bittner’s Street Song companion DVD, Street Songs, when the book is published.

With the Duchin Orchestra, Fabiano’s performances include six Presidential Inaugural Balls, parties for the Royal family at Windsor Castle, Cruises’ 150th Crossing celebration afloat the GFL, the annual Save Venice balls in Venice, Italy, New Year’s Eve gala at the Metropolitan Opera and Carnegie Hall’s 100th Anniversary gala. She has appeared onscreen and contributed to the soundtracks for numerous films, most recently, The Post for DreamWorks Pictures and Never Too Old, A Music Documentary, produced by the Music Performance Trust Fund. Television appearances include NBC’s Today Show and ABC’s Good Morning America.

She currently does a Monday afternoon LIPS concert on Facebook Live. Visit Frog Hollow Music on Facebook to see previous shows and at 2PM on Mondays for the live version.

Roberta shares her home with two African grey parrots, a blue-fronted Amazon and a Nanday conure.

LIPS Board member, Donna Barbaro reported that one of her house chickens has a penchant for sharing her dog’s bed!

Best wishes for a quick recovery to Nicole Pica who broke her tibia while trying to move a weighty veterinary patient.

Remember the exotic cat that made the news last July? It showed up at Frank Huwer’s house and an effort to capture it lasted several days. It had apparently been someone’s illegally kept pet. After a stint at Sweet briar, the Eurasian lynx was recently transferred to the Holtsville Ecology Site and Animal Preserve, where attendees can visit “Leo,” the 40-pound cat in its new enclosure. The former owner has not come forward.

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Thank you to member Whitney Bremer for being a monthly sustaining donor to the club. Whitney’s generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to lifetime member, Kaitlin Saxton, for donating a Brand-new Instant Pot to the raffle table at our Holiday Party on December 21.

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Happy New Year!

Seon Facebook: Michael Schindlinger, who has studied the ‘language’ of wild parrots posted a photo of the lead page of an article about him in a long-go issue of Bird Talk magazine. LIPS member Susan Chamberlain wrote the article. Michael spoke at a LIPS meeting many years ago, and we showed his movie “Stalking the Wild Amazons” at several meetings.

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November 5, 2022 -Middle Country Library
Scales and Tales Pet Adoption Fair
UPCOMING MEETINGS/OUTREACHES

March 4 - 5 - Long Island Pet Expo - Brentwood, NY

*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

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!

Friday to Sunday, January 6th to the 8th - Super Pet Expo - Edison NJ.

January 14 at 1 PM EST - Phoenix Landing Zoom webinar - Avian Behavior and Training with Debbie Foster, CPBT-KA and CPBC

January 27 - 29 - World of Pets Expo - Timonium, MD

February 3 - 5 - Lehigh Valley Pet Expo - Allentown, PA

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