Welcome to Spring (almost)! “My favorite weather is bird chirping weather.” — Terri Guillemeets

Kudos to Board Member and MC extraordinaire, Robert Gross, for making the trip into NYC on an early Friday to be interviewed with Romeo and Rio on Cheddar TV—link for the interview inside the newsletter.

Thanks to the mini-Zoom attendees for sharing their knowledge and educating us all—great subject matter on March 1—“Spring Ahead: Planting cold-weather crops for your birds and planting for the pollinators.”

Stolen parrots in California—we’ve been alerted about a news story from a sister bird club in California about several parrots that were stolen from a veterinarian’s office in Calabasas, All Animals Veterinary Hospital. These were parrots boarded or belonging to staff members. There are getting to be too many stories about theft. Here are two links with recommendations on how to keep your birds safe:

https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/thief-proof-your-pet-bird/
https://www.parrotparrot.com/articles/parrot-safety/protect-birds-from-theft/

Exciting news from Dr. Laurie Hess: “So thrilled to be joining the Specialty Pet (aka Exotic Pet) team at Chewy as their new Professional Services Veterinarian! Our goal is to provide specialty pet parents with not only the largest assortment of high quality merchandise for their beloved pets, but also the most knowledgeable customer service agents educated on the nutrition and care of these pets. Check out the specialty pet pages on Chewy.com in the coming months for more!”

A further update on Sergii and Roxy (M2) after one year has passed regarding the war in Ukraine: https://sergiandroxy.wixsite.com/home/post/one-year-passed Let’s hope that the next update is that Roxy has been reunited with Sergii in the Czech Republic.

Through our Charitable Contribution Fund, we have donated towards the animals caught in the earthquake in Turkey and Syria (IFAW—International Fund for Animal Welfare). Here’s their website if you would also like to donate: https://www.ifaw.org/international

Our friend, Lisa Bono from the Platinum Parrot, gave a wonderful presentation on Bird Rooms, Great and Small. She opened our eyes to the various apparatus that can be used to enrich our birds’ lives. Lisa is a great resource for various toys, perches, cage recommendations. Here is Lisa’s email should you wish to reach out to her: theplatinumparrot@gmail.com

Lisa just sent us the following: “For all you mash or chop (I call it mash since I’m older than chop) makers for your parrots, Harmony House has made a coupon code for all my friends, family and bird groups to save 20% off your order. I use this in every batch of evening bird food I make. I use the onions, chives, tomatoes, garlic, potato starch and mushrooms for recipes I cook for my husband. I also have some of their soups in my cabinet to make when I’m not in the mood to cook. Harmony House carries a wide variety of vegetables and fruits. They even have an organic line, plant-based proteins and trail mixes. They carry both freeze dried and dehydrated products. I’ve been using their products for over a decade and their high quality products got us though COVID and ensuring my birds were able to get their veggies each night. Clients of The Platinum Parrot will remember the products had their own shelf in my store.” Here are the details:

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If you would like to suggest a subject/presenter for one of our Zoom meetings, please feel free to reach out to us at info@liparrots.org or call 631 957 1100.

Diane P Hyde, President

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| Classifieds | 4-7 |
| Education | 8-15 |
| Organization / Club | 16-23 |
| Officer List / Outreach Info | 24 |

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 February 2023**

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**TFCU Account Balances as of February 2023**

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**Expenses as of February 2023**

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**Board Meeting Minutes - February 2023**

**February 8, 2023 7PM via ZOOM ATTENDING:** David Abrahams, Donna Barbaro, Susan Chamberlain, Bob Dietrich, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Diane Hyde, Candy Little, Susan Seddo

- The Board okayed making a club donation to member’s GoFundMe. If GFM is still active at the time, will mention on NL & FF

**RE: Avian Flu & Outreach Events**

- No birds at all?
- Our main goal is to mitigate the risk to our birds while educating the attendees.
- Suggested having only one bird per volunteer.
- Safe zone: Choices: No birds, ‘safe zone for birds—no one allowed to touch birds; one person—one bird; keep public 2-3 feet away from you & bird.

- Warn volunteers not to walk around wild & farm animals at Pet EXPO in March.
- Need entertaining alternative to live birds at events. Prize wheel, parrot costume and good signage
- Hand sanitation: what sanitizer is best? (Clorox Hydrogen Peroxide Disinfecting Cleaner)
- Distance & space biggest precautions
- Purchase of battery-operated sound system for outreach events? May not be practical due to limited battery life.
- Candy L & Diane will work on email to volunteers.
- PET EXPO MARCH 4; 2023: Saturday best day for LIPS to be present. Diane will query about the club being present for one day only.
- Waiver for ‘hold harmless’ to be signed for venue & organizers in addition to liability insurance.
- BIRD CLUB ASSOCIATION—Association of bird clubs across the country; had presentation about insurances for bird clubs possibility of changing insurance companies as a result; certificates of insurance for single events should be a free service.

- A Bird Club Association has been created by the officers of various parrot societies throughout the country. Maryann May from Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club spearheaded this association. The members include Amy and Sharon from CT; Dan Vollmer from LA; Gala Burkholder from CA; Shelly Orloff from NJ; Nancy Vesely from Hoosier Feathered Friends; and others.

- We met on January 19, 2023, via Zoom and the guest speaker was Rick Sanders from SCORE (in Bozeman, MT) and the presentation was on Insurance for Non-profits.

- Rick’s presentation was very eye-opening regarding what type of insurances non-profits should carry. We carry director’s and officer’s coverage as well as general liability insurance. In Rick’s presentation there are two links for non-profit D&O insurance and general liability. The D&O coverage we have is through Affinity Nonprofits and Amy (The Parrot Club) also signed up with them. It’s suggested that our insurance be reviewed annually. We will get a general liability insurance quote from The Hartford’s non-profit unit. At present, our general liability insurance is through Scottsdale Insurance Company.

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- NEW FEATURE IN NL: “Birdie Corner” to have members update status or short story on what they do with their birds and updates about adopted birds.

(Continued to page 16)
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From all of us at Lefeber, Thank You!

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

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March 2023
March 2023
March 2023
Converting Parrots To Pellets
Or Nutri-Berries In A Multi-Bird Home
by Stephanie Lamb, DVM, DABVP (Avian Practice)

Birds can beDick. It isnot often that long for last. You want
best for your birds, and for most that means eating pelleted
or Nutri-Berries instead of seeds. If you share
your life with multiple feathered friends and want to
convert your parrots to a healthy diet, different
challenges and advantages arise.

Make Flock Mentality For You
One of the benefits to having multiple birds is that they begin to act like a flock. Flock-like behavior occurs among members simultaneously. This behavior evolved in birds because, as prey species, there is strength in numbers. It is more difficult for a predator to pick one individual in a group if everyone is doing the same thing.

Use this flock mentality when it comes to feeding time and converting birds to a better diet. First, birds like to eat at certain times of day. Early morning is one of the most common periods birds like to get together to do this behavior. Use this to your advantage. Offer the diet that you want your birds to be converted to as the first option of the day.

When a new, healthy diet is offered in the morning, it’s likely that the birds won’t know what to do with it. They may be reluctant to dig in. In a group there are usually some bold birds and others that are shy. The more adventurous birds will likely investigate the new diet first. When those bold birds explore the new diet and start to consume it, their shy flock mates observe the activity. As they see the food safely consumed without any problems, they will likely become curious and try the food as well. Before you know it, flock mentality takes over. The birds convert quickly to a new diet.

Avoid These Feeding Pitfalls

One problem that some people encounter when they have multi-bird households is adding too much food. This is another. But overfeeding frequently occurs as a result. A bird that is offered more food in a day than it needs may not select the healthiest food for itself. If birds are given too much of what we think is healthy, they will likely select what they really enjoy, and leave behind foods they don’t favor. Often, new diets are suspicious to birds and are avoided in favor of familiar foods.

In order to avoid this pitfall, only feed the amount of food that is needed for a 24-hour time period. This amount of food is seen as the only option available.

Beware Of Bird Bullies

If you encounter a “bird bully” that pushes others away to get the food first, you may need to separate birds in separate cages. You can still take advantage of the flock mentality though. Simply place the cages nearby so that the birds can see what others are doing and be influenced by each other’s behaviors. This way, shy birds are not pushed away from the food. After feeding a meal, the birds can go back together.

If food is left in the cage though, offer only the new diet that you are converting the birds to so that should a parrot pick through the food later in the day, the option is limited to the new diet. If you choose to feed meal (offer the old diet) instead of free-feed your birds, recognize they will need a few meals a day. The frequency and amount of feeding varies for the bird species that you have.

Making Eating Fun! Additionally, as recommended for single-bird households when converting to a healthy diet, you can try other tricks like hiding food in toys for the birds to explore together, or placing new foods around play stands or activity centers. Convert feeding time into playtime by stuffing foraging items full of whatever food you are trying to get your birds to try. As one bird starts to play and investigate, the others will likely want to try it out, too!

Getting birds converted to a healthy diet is important whether it is a single bird or a multi-bird home. Use flock mentality to your advantage to substantially improve the conversion process.

Supporting Animal Welfare

RIPR is raising funds to complete the updated quarantine rooms at a new Rescue Center. Quarantine rooms are essential to the RIPR mission. Check ‘em out – one size fits all! Adult athletic socks in narrow feather,

White or black design. [https://mailchi.mp/ ubce237bde55075kn7mh3c_cid=a6e46e238&rec id=UNI][8]

After a devastating flood in San Diego County, CA, the Chloe Sanctuary for Cockatoos and Parrots had to find a new home. Founder Don Scott recently signed escrow papers on a new, permanent house for Chloe, Baba Lou and the others in a drier area – Pahrump, Nevada.

Avian enrichment expert and Leather Elves owner, Robin Garevski-Sullivan recently spoke with the Daily Everglades in Naples, Florida. She mentioned that she had spent a year in Cambodia, because the Sofitel Hotel in Phnom Penh has a sun conure that was found on the 10th Floor of the hotel and continues to be cared for by the hotel staff. The bird was very friendly and housed in a spacious cage in a sheltered outdoor area for a good part of each day.

The trip made me realize how fortunate we are to live in the United States. As pet owners, we have access to the best food and veterinarians for our birds. Most of us are not simply fighting for survival as are many in southeast Asia. We can indulge ourselves simply by having a pet bird. We have clean water for them to drink and clean air for them to breathe. Count your blessings.

In Cambodia, on the other hand, was alive with birdhousehold is adding more one multi-bird livestogether in a cage and roosting. Cambodian people keep birds as pets in Cambodia, because the Softitflake

In Cambodia, it was an adventure and a real revelation. Both countries are poor, but the differences are marked. One of the first things that struck me was the silence on the Mekong River and other waterways. There were no fish jumping out of the water, no wading birds, and no bird sounds. The reasons explained to me were “Agent Orange, over-fishing, pollution, and ‘people eat everything’.” I observed small, wild-caught birds in cages in some of the open, marketplaces, and I learned that many of these were captive to be cared for, and then released under the tenets of Buddhism. There were no birds on the roads, but they looked very questionable indeed. Saigon and Hanoi likely have better facilities, although an online search didn’t turn up any avian vets.

According to a 2021-2022 National Pet Owners Survey, 67% of U.S. households own a pet. 9.9 million households owned birds, the 4th most popular pet after dogs, cats, and fish. Because many people own multiple birds, the number of actual avian pets is much higher. Many of those birds will ultimately be re-homed or surrendered to shelters or sanctuaries. It is so easy to acquire multiple birds, whether through purchase or adoption. Often, friends will prevail on us to take their pet birds. (That’s how I got several of mine.) There’s nothing wrong with that, but please consider how you will care for the ‘extras’ that may be consumed because it is the only option available.

And elsewhere...

A 13-year-old boy was rescued from the rubble of the earthquake in Turkey with his pet budgie in his hands. We also saw a photo of a woman sitting on the street with an African grey parrot in a cage next to her. The Long Island Parrot Society recently donated $500.00 to the International Fund for Animal Welfare to benefit pets affected by the earthquake.

Novelty socks were holiday gifts. Check out some new socks and benefit Rhode Island Parrot Rescue at the same time. RIPR is raising funds to complete the updated quarantine rooms at a new Rescue Center. Quarantine rooms are essential to the RIPR mission. Check ‘em out – one size fits all! Adult athletic socks in narrow feather,

white or black design. [https://mailchi.mp/ ubce237bde55075kn7mh3c_cid=a6e46e238&rec id=UNI][8]
**Healthy Foods Your Bird Should Stop Eating Today**

**by Laura Doering**

When shopping for granola, look for low-sugar, low-calorie granolamixes are packed with rolled oats, nuts and dried fruits — delicacies most parrots love. What you might not realize is that some granola mixes are packed with sugar and calories.

When shopping for granola, look for low-sugar, low calorie granola, which can also be found in bin-style in some avian retailers so your bird can have his/her own healthier version. If you do share yours with your bird, remember a beak-size taste is just that.

**Dried Fruits**

What can be wrong with dried fruits, aren’t they packed with vitamins, minerals and fiber? The answer is yes, but sulfur dioxide is a food preservative that finds its way into a variety of dried fruits like raisins, dried apricots and prunes to give it a longer shelf life and sugar is also sometimes added, especially for tart dried fruits like cranberries.

Opt for unsulfured and unsweetened varieties in health food stores. Parrot-friendly dried fruits are offered online in avian specialty stores, and Lafeber offers naturally preserved dried fruits in its diet as well. Once beak pleaser is *Fruit Delight Avi-Cakes*.

**Microwave Popcorn**

This is another food with a big crunch appeal that your bird might be attracted to, especially if he/she catches you with a foot. While popcorn can be a low-caloric snack, there is a difference between the microwaveable variety and popping your own kernels. Research has shown that a significant amount of ultra-fine particles are produced when people microwave popcorn. In fact, study results found that a bag of microwave popcorn results in ultra-fine particle emissions 560 greater than emissions from microwaving water.

A fun alternative to “people” popcorn is *Lafeber’s Popcorn Nutri-Berrie Treats*, which offer wholesome ingredients mixed with popcorn to make a delicious berry-shaped treat that is specifically designed to satisfy your bird’s natural desire to forage for food.

**Granola**

This seems like a healthy choice, after all, a traditional mix is infused with rolled oats, nuts and dried fruits — delicacies most parrots love. What you might not realize is that some granola mixes are packed with sugar and calories.

**“Wheat” Bread**

Not all wheat bread is made the same. A common marketing strategy is to label products as "wheat," which is especially commonly on bread and cracker packaging. "Wheat" can, in fact, also mean processed white bread with a smidge of wheat flour.

The words you want to see are “100-percent whole wheat,” and a minimum of 2 grams of fiber. Go ahead, break off a bit of unbuttered 100-percent whole wheat bread toasted or fresh out of the bag, for your bird to enjoy!

*Used with permission - www.lafeber.com - https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/healthy-foods-your-bird-should-stop-eating-today/*

**The American Bird Conservancy reports that of the seventeen bird species extinctions considered to have been averted since 1994 in the Americas, ABC and partners have helped contribute to the prevention of five, including the Lear’s macaw and the yellow-eared parrot.**

**The biggest danger to wild birds in the United States is predation by domestic and feral cats, followed by window and vehicle collisions and pesticides and other toxins.**

**Indian ringneck parakeets** were recently shot out of trees in a dead of night operation in Hawaii. A homeowners association claims that they were using air guns only to scare the naturalized birds away, but they were seen stuffing bodies into garbage bags. The birds are potentially under government sanctioned fire if introduced bills pass this legislation session which would deliver funds to “control” the rose ringed parakeet population. Officials claim the birds are out of control on Kauai and cause around 10% in losses for small farms on the island. Other cited reasons are that they compete with native birds and their droppings pose a threat to public health. The Aloha Hawaiian Parrot Association disagrees: “We are outraged at the state’s senseless shooting and killing of feathered friends at Fairway Village. The birds were sleeping in trees and were defenseless and unable to escape, which is why the state chose midnight to shoot them.”

**Exception for Antarctica**, you can see wild parrots on every continent. That includes North America if you know where to look. “Where the Birds Are” is the Feb, ’23 feature story by George Sommers at http://duckburypetga zette.ma.newsmemory.com/

**The 22-23 breeding season of the blue-throated macaw saw 10 active nests, 10 chicks and 10 eggs as announced by Brehm and Ferrick with Convention des Amis de la Nature who stated that the bird’s breeding success is high this year.**

**John McCormack, director of the Moore Laboratory of Zoology at Occidental College and a lead investigator of the school’s Free-Flying Los Angeles Parrot Project, Corey Husic recently listed a tally of birds observed: (time period unspecified): 1,323 individual birds included 1,000 red-crowned parrots, 180 mitred conures, 20 lilac-crowned parrots, 25 red-masked parakeets, four each of red-lored Amazons and yellow-headed parrots, plus native: crows (3), ravens (3), and one Cooper’s hawk. Non-native parrots (descendants of those originally imported from Mexico as pets that were freed or escaped) have been part of the Southern California landscape for more than half a century.**

**From World Parrot Trust: The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust announced mid-December that twenty orange-fronted parakeets were transported to a release site in Hamilton Valley in New Zealand, joining fifteen that were released in November to help increase an existing population there. The group reports encouraging signs that some of the birds are pairing up to breed. The orange-fronted parakeet is IUCN Critically Endangered, with about 350-400 individuals left in the wild. They are at risk from non-native species predation and the loss of beech nesting trees from logging and burning.**

**After 52 years, Singapore’s Jurong Bird Park is closing, and will relocate as Bird Paradise at the Mandai Preserve. The reason Jurong Bird Park is relocating is because they want to merge the Rainforest Park, Mandai Zoo, Night Safari and River Safari to form a massive 5-in-1 national reserve. The birds will be given a 17-hectare forest, where they will be given the freedom to roam freely.**

**Want to leave it all behind? Echo sanctuary is looking for parrot husbandry volunteers who can help once or twice (or more!) a week to care for their resident Loras. No experience is needed as they give full training but they do need someone who can commit to a regular schedule. Echo, located in Bonita in the Caribbean, (a short flight from Aruba or Curacao) is a non-profit conservation organization that relies on the generous help of volunteers. To apply follow the link in current opportunities http://echobonaire.org/join-the-team/current-opportunities/**

**Brazil: ASM Cambuquara’s staff are continuing their work to rescue, rehabilitate and release birds surrendered, confiscated from trade, or injured in contact with people. Since 2008, the facility has received more than 750 birds and has returned over 75% of them to the wild. At the end of last year staff successfully released 15 Southern Mesbys Amazons and early this year they released 26 Maroon-bellied Conures rescued from roofing eaves, cat and dog attacks and collisions with glass windows.**

**Parrot Lovers Cruise FEB 6-16, 2024, benefits the World Parrot Trust and leaves from Ft. Lauderdale on Princess Cruise Line. Ports of call include Princess Cays, St. Bodacca, Castaway Cay, Roatán, Honduras and Cozumel, Mexico. For details, visit Parrot Ecotours 2023 - Wild Parrots Up Close**
Adopting A Pet Bird Might Be Your Best Match

Laura Doering

January is Adopt a Rescue Bird Month... although “re-homed” birds might not be a good match for everyone’s home, they can be a great addition to any household with the right circumstances. Many birds that were not in loving homes find themselves in need of a new home. Sometimes, these birds are scavenging for food, and their owners don’t know how to help them. In other cases, the birds are in need of medical care, and their owners are simply unable to provide it. In these situations, it’s important to consider adopting a rescue bird as a loving home.

First things first, it’s important to talk to your veterinarian about the right kind of bird for your home. Many bird experts recommend starting with a small bird, like a cockatiel or a parakeet, before moving on to a larger bird, like a parrot. It’s also important to consider the bird’s personality and behavior. Some birds are more active than others, and some are easier to train than others.

Before You Adopt...

Does the adoption option make sense for you, your household, and your circumstances? Can you reasonably take on the responsibilities of owning a bird, including feeding, exercising, and veterinary care? If not, it might be best to consider other options, such as volunteering at a bird sanctuary or adopting a bird through a rescue organization.

You’ll Meet Your Match

Reputable parrot adoption organizations will try to talk you out of getting a bird. That’s not to say that they don’t want to adopt out their birds — they want to make absolutely certain that the match will be mutually beneficial. They want both parties to be happy with the outcome, and they don’t want to see any of their birds end up in a situation where they’re not being well-cared for. If you’re interested in adopting a parrot, the adoption group can help you find a bird that is a good fit for your home and lifestyle.

A Better Sense of the Bird’s Personality

You’ll have a better sense of what the bird is like once he or she reaches sexual maturity. Those who are used to dog and cat companions might not be prepared for the fact that some parrots can be quite different once they reach sexual maturity. Additionally, large parrot species might not be well-adapted to living in a home environment, and therefore may not be the best choice for someone looking for a companion parrot.

A Healthier Eater

You’ll want to ensure that the bird you adopt is eating a healthy diet. Many people buy a specific species of parrot based on the bird’s reputation as a top talker, such as an African grey or Amazon parrot. While many parrots are capable of mimicking human speech, the only way to guarantee that a bird will choose to do so is to adopt a bird that already talks. If you’re looking for a parrot that talks, you should not be the only reason to welcome a parrot into your home. Think of talking as an added bonus and as an opportunity to interact, rather than as a requirement.

PLANTING FOR BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES

Dill seed: Host plant for Eastern black swallowtail butterfly caterpillars. It grows quickly. Plant some seed as soon as frost is no longer a threat. The caterpillars will devour it, but it grows back quickly.

Milkweed: Host plant for Monarch butterfly eggs and caterpillars. Buy plants or seed.

Flowers: Nasturtium blossoms are great treats for birds! Buy plants or seed.

Peas for parrots. Plant some now!
How Lafeber’s Helping Hands Changed Avian Medicine

As Dr. Lafeber, a pioneer in companion bird medicine and the founder of Lafeber Company, passed, I got to know him better. I shared with others the story of his passion, his dedication, and the impact he had on avian medicine.

Spreading The Word About Pet Bird Care

Doc was the vet who provided the “budgies” in a bag to his veterinary school students. As Dr. Kevin Flammer described Riata’s story, he told how Dr. Lafeber, during his last lecture, arrived at the lecture room to talk to students, veterinarians, and even deans of vet schools worldwide. What he had in his hand was a picture of a paper bag that contained a wide-eyed young budgie. Lafeber looked out and handled as he described to the students the importance of bonding, feeding, and caring for these little birds. He stressed the importance of elevating the status of budgies, if you knew them well, they would be happy to talk to you about birds.

Bringing Innovation To Pet Bird Care

And that was very good. Doc also wanted to add that he was an avian veterinarian and that he had started the Lafeber Company with his friend and colleague Dr. Kevin Flammer.

There are a number of great principles of medicine that he wanted to share. Because of this passion, he developed the principles of medicine to solve these problems. These pet-bird patients were succumbing to diseases he surmised due to the poor-quality diets of only seeds. Under the microscope, he observed the epithelial lining of the major immune organs—the GI and respiratory tracts were changed from normal to those of many diseases of dogs and cats, then they could fend off many of these diseases and live more healthful lives.

Bird is flying away

- Call to your bird loudly as he is flying: it may help him find his way back to you. If he has no other option, expect the process to be slower and be patient with your bird as he builds his confidence. He may also fly again if he touches the new object that looks like the old one.

Strategies to Utilize When a Flighted Parrot Reaches You

My blue-fronted Amazon parrot, Tarah, does not have clipped wings. However, like many birds that were clipped during the fledging process, he has never quite learned the kind of flight skills that might earn him the title of a “flyer.” I often said “He’s a good feather, but he doesn’t fly” One day I learned, the hard way, that this wasn’t exactly true. I was visiting my parents as I was moving from southern California to New England, and I brought him to my cage to my old bedroom. I opened the door to allow my bird some much-needed free time. Before I knew it, he bolted off the cage, through the bedroom door, took a right and made his way down the hall. He then banked right and flew through the living room at that very moment. His father was just opening the sliding glass door to step out onto the deck. He saw the deck was on the second floor, so my father had two stories of lift to assist him on his grand flight down the fairway of the golf course beyond the house. Thank goodness, there was a green flying brick. He ran out of gas and slowly descended to the soft green grass before a tree offered its branches as refuge. Juiced by adrenaline, my feet barely touched the ground as I ran after my bird.

I have always been very careful about the choices I make having a flying bird in the house. But I was very surprised by how little this bird was made on this day. Sometimes birds that we think will never fly do indeed fly. Sometimes birds that have flight feathers trimmed surprise us when feathered and fly, not to mention those who find themselves in unfamiliar territory. Whatever the situation, there are some strategies that can be very useful to a recovering a bird that has flown to a location undesired by you. Despite being only partially feathered and perched in an area for that day when your bird may find itself airborne and heading in the wrong direction. These strategies apply if you have a bird in flight while you are away.

I was always very careful that this was not exactly true. I was ready to make an effort to return to you. I was surprised by how little this bird was made on this day. Sometimes birds that we think will never fly do indeed fly. Sometimes birds that have flight feathers trimmed surprise us when feathered and fly, not to mention those who find themselves in unfamiliar territory. Whatever the situation, there are some strategies that can be very useful to a recovering a bird that has flown to a location undesired by you. Despite being only partially feathered and perched in an area for that day when your bird may find itself airborne and heading in the wrong direction. These strategies apply if you have a bird in flight while you are away.

Be careful not to ask your bird to fly from a great height or a steep angle. Try to position yourself (or bird buddy, or bird cage) to allow short flights or short climbs to lower places.

- Try to lure your bird to fly or to climb branches/objects that are similar to those upon which he is sitting if possible. A bird may be frightened to climb onto a distinctly different perch. (For example, the bird might be afraid to climb off of a tree onto a fence.) If you have no other option, expect the process to be slower and be patient with your bird as he builds his confidence. He may also fly again if he touches the new object that looks like the old one.

- Do not raise unfamiliar objects up to your bird to have him step onto it. More than likely this will only scare your bird to fly farther away. If you have a familiar item, you may have a chance to persuade him to take it.

- Keep in mind things like ladders, people climbing trees, cherry pickers etc. may also scare your bird. Go extra careful. If you resort to using these items. Stop any action if your bird looks like he wants to fly away.

- Try to call your bird down when his body language indicates he is ready to try to come down. Do not constantly call.

- Try hiding from your bird on occasion. This will create a barrier of space that your bird can use to calm down. Try to come to you once you reappear. Usually birds will scream and start moving around a lot when they are ready to try to come to you. If you notice this activity, come out from hiding. If you hear your bird screaming

(Continued on page 17)
Subject for Mini-Zoom on March 1 determined: “Spring Ahead”: ideas for bird care as the weather turns, gardening with birds in mind, etc.

Susan Seddo: Possibility for free meeting hall space in Sayville; board of organization to discuss & will get back to us.

PET EXPO

- Time slots for Pet EXPO set up confirmed with volunteers. Attendees so far: 11 people, 7 birds, broken down by 2-hour time slots
- Sanitation protocols reviewed.
- Several new members will attend.
- Extra Newsletters to be passed out at EXPO.
- Electricity: $80.00 for one day of electricity at booth vs. portable battery-operated speaker at $117.00. Board approved purchase of portable speaker.
- Game wheel obtained for EXPO...asking for donation per spin...everyone who spins gets a prize...$2.00 per spin. Lottery ticket suggested as prizes.
- One bird per volunteer to be enforced.

PARROT EXPO

- Virtual or in person? Agreed that in-person events are necessary, even scaled down due to lack of vendors.
- Possible venue in Sayville.
- Susan Seddo exploring Saturdays from Sept 30 thru October for EXPO.

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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
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.

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.

Support the Long Island Parrot Society when you shop on 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!

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.

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.

Visit www.someguyssewing.com
Etsy Store: someguyssewing.etsy.com
Portion of the sale donated to LIPS

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Robert Gross, along with cockatoo Romeo and conure Rio, made an appearance on Cheddar TV on behalf of the Long Island Parrot Society on February 17th. Great job, Robert, and friends! Robert gets a Hero Award for driving to the NYC studio during a Friday morning rush hour!

Condolences to Board member, Susan Seddo on the loss of her beloved horse, Greg.

Happy 46th Anniversary to Pat and Neal Rudikoff! We expect a BIG party in four years!

Kudos to Shawn Florman for keeping up with ad sales for the Long Island Parrot Beacon! Several major ads were just renewed!

First lovebirds flew in, now arriving on March 1: a LEGO Exotic Parrot Building Set featuring a 3-D blue & gold macaw! Visit lego.com

Happy 95th birthday to Marcia & David Abrahams’ mother!

Recent ZOOM speaker, Lisa Bono shared a 20% off coupon with us to use at Harmony House Foods, Inc. Harmony House carries a wide variety of vegetables and fruits. They even have an organic line, plant-based proteins, and trail mixes. They carry both freeze dried and dehydrated products.

Terms: Limit one per person. Enter or mention this code with your order. Non-stackable with other promotions. Give them a call or find them online. Harmony House Foods, Inc. Phone: 1-800-696-1395 www.GoHHF.com

Here are the details: CODE: PLATINUM20 DISCOUNT: 20% OFF YOUR ORDER

Member Diane Ciardullo (Diane’s Bird Toys) lost her husband in January after a lengthy illness. A friend started a GoFundMe to help with overwhelming expenses. Details below:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/steven-ciardullo?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=p_cp%20share-sheet&fbclid=IwARzvWtNhBrk0pGt2...

Fundraiser for Dana Ciardullo by Tina LoPinto Spruill : Steven Ciardullo (gofundme.com)

Barry Whitaker, owner of ABC birds in Texas and husband of AFA’s Jamie Whitaker sadly passed away shortly after the couple’s 34th anniversary. Many of us know Jamie from AFA conventions, and we send our sympathy.

Congratulations to Eric Powers (CEED) and Isabella Rosselin on their shared guide dog. Rosie!

The American Association of Aviculture has partnered with the Avicultural Association of America for this year’s conference! It is September 28-30 in Richardson Texas. Visit afabirds.org for details.

Thanks to Roberta Fabiano for donating a large, Victorian style cage which the Long Island Parrot Society in turn, donated to Eric Powers and Ceed for Lovey Dove.

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### Meet the Member

Tom Walkowiak, although a relatively new Long Island Parrot Society member (joined pre-pandemic), is not new to pet birds! He had budgies as a child and got a severe macaw at about age ten. At 20-21 he got a Congo African grey parrot, which developed an approximately 5,000 word vocabulary, so it’s been a lifetime hobby. Tom credits the internet with much of his avian education: “I never knew about dangers like non-stick toxins or air fresheners until I saw it online.”

Tom learned about the club when he ran into Bob Dietrich at a car show. “He had a blue and gold macaw with him, and we struck up a conversation about bird scams. Bob gave me information on the club and I joined soon after. I had George, my umbrella cockatoo at the time.”

Today Tom and wife Gayle share their Ridge home with five birds: Magoo, a nine month-old Harlequin macaw. (Tom weighs him every day to make sure his weight stays on track), Fran a Catalina macaw 23, Calypso a 23 year-old scarlet macaw, Sam, a 19 year old toucan and George a 4 year-old umbrella cockatoo. Magoo and George were purchased at Parrots of the World and the other two macaws adopted through LIPS. The toucan was adopted privately.

You may have had the pleasure of meeting Tom and his birds at the Parrot Society’s Holiday Party. His greatest pleasure as a parrot parent is letting people hold and interact with his birds, and at outreach events, teaching people about the larger birds. “Often people are afraid, so I love being able to let them hold the birds. Tom’s advice is to socialize a bird as you would a dog. “I bring them everywhere,” he said, “So they are accustomed to people. They tolerate touch because they are used to it. Tom really does take the birds ‘everywhere’...on errands, to the Post Office and to Fire Island for the weekend on his 44 foot boat. “I bring a few of them at a time. Fran, in particular, loves to go fishing with me.”

Tom’s biggest challenge was Catalina macaw, Fran. “It took 6 months before he’d let me touch him. I gave him patience and time. He wasn’t vicious; he would step up but didn’t want to be petted. Calypso, the scarlet, was in a cage for 21 years and never handled. The woman who had him said I’d need a helmet to get near him, but three days after adopting him, he was fine. The birds are all very lovable and handleable. I was told Calypso hates women and kids, but he goes to everyone.”

At home, the birds enjoy their heated and air-conditioned habitat, which was formerly the garage. There’s an 8’x8’x9’ high outdoor aviary for nice days. All are protected via live cameras, so Tom would be alerted if anything were amiss.

Tom hopes to see the Long Island Parrot Society’s shelter project come to fruition, “A lot of people don’t know what to do when they have a bird they don’t want. Many just drop them off at a pet shop and that is a shame.”

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### Adoption Spotlight

**Name of Parrot:** Albin  
**Species:** Yellow Nape Amazon  
**Age of Parrot:** 38  
**Sex:** Male  
**Birthday / Hatchday:** Not sure  
**Bird Color:** Green and yellow  
**Size:** Medium  
**Wings Clipped:** No  
**Parrots Usual Diet:** Seeds, fruit  
**Talking Ability:** Yes, Limited vocabulary, He Whistles  
**Last Vet Check Date:** approx. 25 years ago  
**Good With Children:** Not a Good Fit  
**Good With Dogs:** Not a Good Fit  
**Good With Cats:** Not a Good Fit  
**Good With Other Pets:** Unknown  
**Is Bird Hand Tame:** yes with caution  
**Have Any Feather Issues:** None  
**Any Behavior Issues:** He can bite, He likes to wander on the floor. He likes to Whistle. He rarely screams

**Reason:** He bonded with my wife who passed away 10 years ago, they were always together. I am now caring for my 100 year old mother and I cannot spend as much time with him as needed.

**Notes:** I am hoping to find Albin a loving home with someone who he can again bond with and spend quality time.

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

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UPCOMING MEETINGS/OUTREACHES

June 21st - In Person Meeting at Greenwood Hall. 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

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

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