



Welcome to Spring (almost)! "My favorite weather is bird chirping weather." — Terri Guillemets

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/theft-proof-your-pet-bird/>
<https://www.parrotparrot.com/articles/parrotsafety/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

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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 through 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.”

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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

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

Deposits	\$2112.99
Total Deposits	\$2112.99

TFCU Account Balances as of February 2023

Operating Fund:	\$6653.10
EXPO Fund:	\$10599.65
Parrot Care:	\$2691.70
MM (Shelter):	\$141,894.40
CD (Shelter):	\$9,458.50
Total:	\$171,297.35

Expenses as of February 2023

Phone:	\$120.00
Best Value Printing:	\$208.90
Life Storage:	\$442.00
CRM (SalesNow)	\$45.45
USPS	\$93.96
IFAW Donation	\$100.00
Misc:	\$962.13
Total Expenses:	\$1972.44



Board Business

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.
- AFA is going to join another organization for their annual conference in September
- Large cage being donated by LIPS to CEED. Cage inventory is needed so we can sell stock in the shed. Cages in Valley Stream need to be picked up. Sold cages need to be removed from the website and replaced with current ones.
- 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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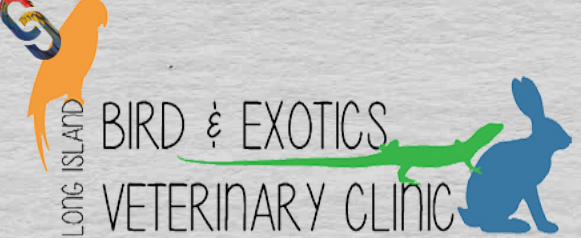
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Long Island Bird & Exotics Veterinary Clinic (LIBEVC) is a state of the art veterinary hospital dedicated entirely to the care of bird and exotic pet species. We specialize in surgical procedures, endoscopy and minimally invasive surgery and advanced imaging of these unique species. We are open seven (7) days a week and our overnight staff can be reached by calling our emergency line: (516) 441-2726

ENDOSCOPY Dr. Malka is one of the leading avian and exotics endoscopists in the field


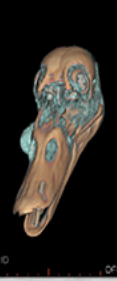
- Gastrointestinal endoscopy, bronchoscopy, endoscopy assisted surgery and celioscopy
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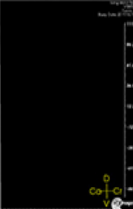
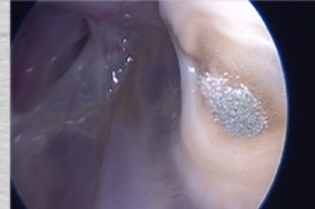
CT, FLUOROSCOPY AND ULTRASOUND

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

SURGERY

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

I just got back from a trip to Vietnam and 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 captured, cared for, and then released under the tenets of Buddhism. There were several veterinary clinics seen along 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.

Cambodia, on the other hand, was alive with the chatter of birds and monkeys. I saw hornbills flying overhead and heard Asian parakeets calling from the very high treetops. Wading birds dabbled in rice paddies and along riverbanks. Apparently, some people keep birds as pets 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 very 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.

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' and provide for them in case of your incapacity.

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 \$100.00 to the International Fund for Animal Welfare to benefit pets affected by the earthquake.

Novelty socks were hot 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,



By: Susan Chamberlain

white or black design. (https://mailchi.mp/da3be23780e3/otr57mk7m5?mc_cid=ac646fbc22&mc_eid=UNIQID)

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 – Pahump, Nevada.

Avian enrichment expert and Leather Elves owner, Robin Shewokis-Sullivan recently spent time at Bird Gardens of Naples, an avian rescue organization on the edge of the Everglades in Naples, Florida. See her interview with director Keriellen Lohrman at Robin's Facebook page [facebook.com/theleatherelves](https://www.facebook.com/theleatherelves) or click on (6) Facebook Robin has been "on tour" in Florida, also visiting Ziggy's Haven Bird Sanctuary in Inverness.



Converting Parrots To Pellets Or Nutri-Berries In A Multi-Bird Home

by [Stephanie Lamb, DVM, DABVP \(Avian Practice\)](#)

Birds can be addictive. Most people cannot have just one! And if they do, it often does not last for long. You want the best for your birds, and for most that means eating a pellets or Nutri-Berries diet 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 Work For You

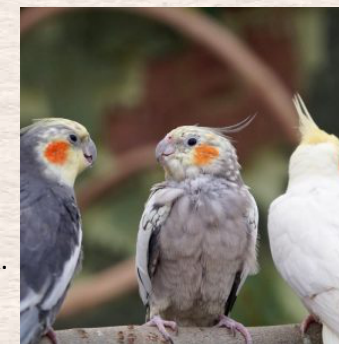
One of the benefits to having multiple birds is that they begin to act like a flock. Flock-like behaviors dictate that the birds within the group will do things around similar times, even if the birds do not necessarily get along. This means feeding time, social hour, and grooming activities often occur 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 out 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 individuals 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 new diet. 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 more food than necessary to a shared cage, just in case one bird has a more voracious appetite than



Flock mentality can emerge when more than one bird lives together in the same environment. [RoyBuri/Pixabay](#)



When too much food is offered, birds may overeat or eat only the bits of food they like best. [ErvinGiata/Pixabay](#)

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 available. This makes the bird more reluctant to convert to a healthier diet. Compare this to a person at a buffet. When a cornucopia of food is provided, it allows for selection of what our taste buds tell us we want. The same problem happens with birds offered too much food. They 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 items.

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 varies from one multi-bird flock to the next. Consult with your avian veterinarian to find out exactly how much food everyone in your flock needs. Then, offer only this amount of food daily in the cage and no more.

As a dietary conversion is taking place, mix the old and new diets together so the parrots have some of the familiar diet with the unfamiliar diet. The birds will likely eat the familiar diet first. After this is consumed, they will only have the new diet left. As the day goes on and they get hungry, the new diet will likely be consumed because it is the only option available.

Beware Of Bird Bullies

If you encounter a "bird bully" that pushes others away to get to the food, then feed the 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 never 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 meal feed (offer food at specific, limited times) 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.

Make Eating Fun! Additionally, as recommended for single-bird households when converting to a healthier diet, owners 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 parrots to explore. 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.



Observe your birds eating together to be sure none are being bullied. [TheOtherKev/Pixabay](#)

“Healthy” Foods Your Bird Should Stop Eating Today

by Laura Doering

Sugary Cereal

Many of us start the day with a bowl full of cereal. And if your bird is within earshot of the breakfast nook, he or she will certainly take notice, after all, what bird doesn't like crunching? But before you hand over a frosted shredded wheat, take a look at the sugar content and then consider the fact that your bird's body composition is measured in grams — that's probably a lot of sugar for such a small body!



There are healthier ways for your bird to get his or her crunch on. If you want to go the cereal route, make it of the low-sugar, low-sodium variety, plain Cheerios vs. Honey Nut Cheerios, for example. And keep it to a couple of beak-sized pieces. Cereal, even the healthier variety, should not be your bird's main meal.

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 fistful. 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 popcorn microwaved for three minutes resulted 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.



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

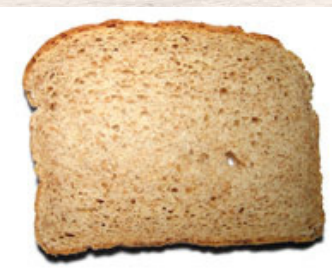
What can be wrong with dried fruits, aren't they packed with vitamins, minerals and fiber? The answer is yes, but sulfur dioxide is a food preservative that finds its way into a variety of dried fruits like raisins, dried apricots and prunes to give it a longer shelf life and sugar is also sometimes 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 and in avian specialty stores, and Lafeber offers naturally preserved dried fruits in its diets as well. Once beak pleaser is [Fruit Delight Avi-Cakes](#).

“Wheat” Bread

Not all wheat bread is made the same. A common marketing strategy is to label products as “wheat,” which is especially common 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/>



Conservation Notes

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. Keep your cats indoors and stop using pesticides in the garden!

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 feral ringnecks 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.”

Except 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://duxburypetgazette.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 Bennett Hennessey with Asociación Civil Armonía at The Bird Endowment's happy hour at Houston's Parrot-Festival. Last year 8 chicks fledged and 12 the prior breeding season.

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 (2) 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 Hawdon 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 natural 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 Bonaire 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://www.echobonaire.org/join-the-team/current-opportunities/>

Brazil: ASM Cambaquara'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 19 Southern Mealy Amazons and early this year they released 26 Maroon-bellied Conures rescued from roofing eaves, cat and dog attacks and collisions with glass windows.

Wild Parrots up Close presents Steve Brookes' Parrot Eco Tours to Brazil, Colombia, and Bolivia. There are four tours scheduled for 2023. For details, visit [Parrot Ecotours 2023 - Wild Parrots Up Close](#)

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

(Continued to page 13)

Adopting A Pet Bird Might Be Your Best Match by Laura Doering

January is Adopt a Rescue Bird Month... although “re-homed bird” might be a better term, as not all birds in a need of a new home were in need of rescuing! There are many companion birds who need (and deserve!) a new start in life. Sadly, there are far too many pet birds relinquished to adoption organizations. Compared to cats and dogs, their longer lifespans put parrots at an even greater risk of losing their homes. Consider improving the well-being of a bird in need. If you’ve put serious thought into welcoming a bird into your home, here are questions to ask yourself and reasons to consider the adoption option.

First things first, it is important to note that not all birds in adoption organizations were in need of “rescuing,” — i.e., from an abusive situation. Many birds in pet bird adoption groups were lovingly cared for by devoted caretakers who subsequently developed health conditions that made it a challenge to maintain the standard of care their birds were accustomed to or the bird’s caretaker passed away. Unforeseeable life situations like job loss or a change in living situation can also cause a bird to lose their home. And there are also individuals who find themselves “in over their heads” in trying to care for birds they might have inherited, found, been gifted, or purchased — they realize that the bird deserves much more than they are capable of providing.

Before You Adopt...

Does the adoption option make sense for you, your household, and your current circumstances? Can you reasonably take on another bird in terms of housing, food, and veterinary care? A “hope for the best, but prepare for the worst” mindset can actually help put things in perspective. There’s no guarantee that a new bird will get along with your established bird(s) and vice versa. Not all birds like each other, even birds of the same species, so be prepared for that reality and consider how you would deal with it. That’s not to say that birds that don’t wish to interact with each other won’t learn to tolerate each other and co-exist peacefully in your home—just know that housing will have to be separate and you might have to rotate out-of-cage time. This is not to scare you away from adoption, but to make you more prepared.

Now that you thoroughly assessed your home and circumstances, here are some excellent reasons why the adoption option can be a win-win for you and a bird in need of a loving home.

A Loving Home

First and foremost, you’ll have a chance to offer a healthy and loving forever home to a bird in need. If you already have bird experience or are willing to study all the nuances that come with sharing your home with a feathered companion, you’re already off to a great start. Many, not all, birds in need of re-homing were in many ways misunderstood. Perhaps they were skittish of hands after too many tries with forced interactions in their previous home and subsequently received little interaction or time outside the cage. Or they were fed an inadequate diet because the owner didn’t know a seed-only diet lacks complete nutrition. Or the bird might have had a loving owner who, due to circumstances beyond their control, could no longer care for them; here’s your opportunity to continue the happiness.

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, which often hits medium to large parrot species around 10 years of age. The “always cuddly” bird a person is used to might be aggressive around the cage during spring. Many pet birds that are available for adoption have already reached sexual maturity and, as such, there is less of a chance of being caught off guard with a “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” switch in personality. Or if the bird is just reaching the age of sexual maturity, the adoption group can help you navigate hormonal stages, and this important “Intel” can greatly help you build a relationship of understanding and respect with your new feathered companion.

You Might Have a Talker

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. Wanting a parrot that talks, however, should not be the only reason to welcome a pet bird into your life. Think of talking as an added bonus and as an opportunity to interact, whether to teach new words or phrases or to converse based on the vocabulary your bird has already learned.

You’ll Meet Your Match

Reputable parrot adoption organizations will often try to talk you out of getting a bird. That’s not to say that they do not want to adopt out their birds — they want to make absolutely certain that the match will be mutually beneficial to both person and bird. You might have had your sights on getting an Amazon parrot or cockatoo but, after assessing your pet bird experience, living situation, expectations, and many other factors, a reputable pet bird adoption organization might very well guide you toward another species of bird that would be better fit. And by the time a pet bird has been taken in under a rescue group’s wing, so to speak, they are likely to have good knowledge of the bird’s history, such as how many homes the bird has lived in, under what circumstances, the bird’s behavioral quirks, likes and dislikes, etc. Not only will they be able to recommend a species of bird that is the best fit for you, but they can also help narrow it down to a specific bird based on that bird’s personality, which is more likely to be well-known by the time the bird is available for adoption.

A Healthier Eater

Reputable adoption organizations work very hard to turn a neglected bird’s health around (which typically eats up the largest portion of the organization’s budget!), and that includes switching the bird from a nutritionally deficient diet to a nutrient-rich diet a parrot needs to thrive. All too often, even the most well-meaning but uninformed parrot owners feed the wrong diet. For smaller birds especially, like budgies, lovebirds, cockatiels, and conures, their previous diet might have consisted primarily of seed. It can be a challenge to convert a “seed-only” bird to a diet that provides essential nutrients. What’s more, since parrots can enjoy many of the healthy foods we prepare for ourselves, such as fresh vegetables, cooked sweet potato, whole-wheat pasta, quinoa, yams, etc ... it is rewarding and fun to see your bird enjoy what you share with him or her. Many companion

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Thomas, Dominica, St. Lucia, Martinique, and Antigua. Visit parrotloverscruise.com for details.

EAGLE UPDATE

SW FLORIDA The eaglets in North Ft. Myers continue to thrive with just their dad feeding them. Their mother, known as ‘Harriet’ has been missing for over a month. A visiting female eagle has been getting closer to the youngsters, even helping to feed them on one verified occasion, Debbie Huckaby, of Birds of Paradise Sanctuary in Bradenton, Florida has been searching the wilderness for Harriet to no avail.

SANIBEL: After Hurricane Ian, the Island was devastated. The eagles quickly rebuilt their nests, and at least one clutch of babies is thriving. A male eagle on the island is busily restoring several nests!

CENTERPORT: After the male eagle perished a few months ago, “Mom” the female, has been courted by at least four suitors. Just when it seemed like she had chosen one, a previous male showed up again, and is vying for her attention. Three babies were raised in both 2021 and 2022.

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!



(Continued from page 12)

parrots take their time to enjoy each and every savory bite of a food they like. Some will squeal with anticipation or delight, others will literally ask their people for some — the love of wholesome food truly makes life with a pet bird an adventure in dining.

Can’t Adopt? Sponsor a Bird!

Adopting a pet bird might not be feasible for you, but you can still make a huge difference in the lives of parrots in need by volunteering your time, donating supplies (many pet bird adoption organizations have wish lists of items they need); or monetarily through donations. You can even sponsor a specific bird in an organization.

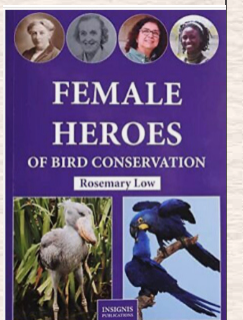
*Used with permission - www.lafeber.com - <https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/adopting-a-pet-bird-might-be-your-best-match/>

Remarkable Female Heroes of Bird Conservation by Rosemary Low

Women have made remarkable achievements in bird conservation, but we seldom heard about them. Noted avian expert and author, Rosemary Low is changing all that. Her book **Remarkable Female Heroes of Bird Conservation** tells the stories of more than 30 inspirational women who have played important roles in bird conservation and in rescue centers.

Low, who was the first person to write a book about endangered parrots, shifted her interests from aviculture to conservation after seeing that there was no interest in parrot conservation during her first visit to the tropics some years ago. At the time, little was known about the status of most species in the wild or the impact of trapping for export which took off in the 1980s. The trade became unsustainable, and many parrot species were in serious decline, but no one seemed to care. The women profiled in the book campaigned against illegal wildlife trade and educated people regarding the important role that birds play as part of the biodiversity of their locality and of the planet itself. The book also covers social issues such as discrimination against women working in the field.

Remarkable Female Heroes of Bird Conservation is available from Buteo Books <https://www.buteobooks.com/>



Book Report

How Lafeber's Helping Hands Changed Avian Medicine

August 5, 2015 by [Susan Orosz](#), PhD, DVM, Dipl ABVP (Avian), Dipl ECZM (Avian)

As part of the 25th anniversary and celebration of [Nutri-Berries](#), it is also a great time to reflect on where we have come in avian medicine. I have been part of that exciting transformation of avian medicine, and I owe that to the inspiration of one man who stood in front of a jam-packed room of veterinarians and veterinarian students at Ohio State about 32 years ago. That tall, slender, elegant gentleman with a suit and bow tie stood there describing a variety of cases and successful treatment of his pet-bird patients. This enthusiastic veterinarian was encouraging us that we, too, could do this by applying the information we were learning on the other species of animals to birds. That was quite novel at the time, as birds were really not part of the curriculum and were touched on only briefly, if at all, with some basic information on chickens. But there he stood, with a twinkle in his eye, with warmth as his style, and an encouraging way. He politely introduced himself as Dr. Lafeber from Nile, Illinois — from the Chicago suburbs. He will forever be described only as “Doc” to those who listened and were inspired in those early years of avian medicine.

Spreading The Word About Pet Bird Care

“Doc” was the vet who provided the “budgies in a bag,” as my colleague [Dr. Kevin Flammer](#) described him. Yes, he often arrived at the lecture room to talk to students, veterinarians, and even deans of vet schools with his paper bags that contained a wide-eyed young budgie that we took out and handled as he deftly described how to hold, play, and care for these little birds. He wanted to elevate the status of budgies — if you fell in love with them, then you would want to care for them properly he reasoned. And he was very good at bonding you to your budgie while he lectured on. I had the privilege of watching him do his magic a number of times at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. This was because I was the avian veterinarian and faculty member in charge of the Avian and Exotic Animal Medicine Service for over 10 years. Doc would come yearly to do his “budgie in a bag” day, teaching basic care and principles of avian medicine to vet students from the southeast veterinarian schools. At the end of the day, you could keep your newly made feathered friend — and many did! The outcome was a bonded commitment by these budgie students that was reflected in heightened interest in learning during the course in avian medicine that I noticed over the years of teaching.

As Doc walked and talked in front of the classroom, he would unfold with pictures and cases a number of diseases that he was observing in pet birds and how he



Dr. T.J. Lafeber was recognized as a pioneer in companion bird medicine and the human-companion bird bond. His concern for the health and welfare of his avian patients led him to develop medical treatments, diagnostic techniques, and nutritionally balanced foods.

used 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 that the epithelial lining of the major immune organs- the GI and respiratory tracts were changed from normal. These changes altered the immune system, and that was the underlying cause of the devastating diseases affecting his feathered patients. Doc reasoned that if the diets were balanced like those of dogs and cats, then they could fend off many of these diseases and live more healthful lives.

He seemed to be leading a one-man band. He continued on and so enlisted the aid of poultry nutritionist Dr. Milton Sundae to help him design balanced diets for pet birds. They experimented with a number of options along with Doc's veterinarian son, Ted, and developed the first balanced foods for our companion birds. These first products — [Nutri-Berries](#), [AviCakes](#), and [pellets](#) — were non-GMO, have stood the test of time and were designed because of this frustration to make the lives of birds better. While Nutri-Berries and Avi-Cakes were first thought to be a way to transfer seed-eating companion birds to pellets, we now know that they really represent a great innovation to whole-grain foods for our birds. And they have improved their lives.

Bringing Innovation To Pet Bird Care

And that was what Doc was about — innovation to make the lives of our pet birds better. While we celebrate Nutri-Berries, we celebrate Doc and his inspiration to avian medicine. He transformed the lives of birds but also students who would move avian medicine forward. When he passed, it was decided that as a fitting tribute we would honor those avian clinicians who were like Doc — innovative avian veterinarians who were working to make the lives of companion birds better. To that end, the [Dr. T.J. Lafeber Avian Practitioner Award](#) is given annually at the Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV) annual conference to an avian veterinarian whose career exemplifies those principles of Doc — from innovation to inspiration.



The T.J. Lafeber Avian Practitioner Award is presented to an outstanding practitioner dedicated to advancing the quality of health care for companion birds.

There are a number of great veterinarians who have received the Award, many of whom were inspired by Doc with his talk with a “budgie in a bag” when they were vet students. And as part of the Award, each recipient receives a bronze sculpture that is a replica of his hands gently holding a wide-eyed budgie! A fitting tribute for all of us in avian medicine — that humble budgie that we are beginning to realize is so complex, so unique. It represents the beginning of avian medicine but inspires us to look and understand more closely these wonderful little psittacines. The unfolding of Doc's hands for the budgie to emerge in the bronze sculpture and yet be part of the human experience ... well it just is amazing — and a very personal and touching side to the celebration of Nutri-berries and Avian Medicine!

*Used with permission. Lafeber.com - <https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/how-lafebers-helping-hands-changed-avian-medicine/>

Strategies to Utilize when a Flighted Parrot Escapes

By Barbara Heidenreich

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 has his flight feathers, 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 northern California. When I arrived I brought Tarah in his cage to my old bedroom. I opened the door to the cage to allow my bird some much needed free time. Before I knew it, he bolted off his cage, through the bedroom door, took a right and made his way down the hall. He then banked left and flew through the living room. At that very moment my father was just opening the sliding glass door to step out onto the deck. Guess who went through the door too? The deck was on the second floor, so my bird had two stories of lift to assist him on his grand flight down the fairway of the golf course behind the house. Thank goodness he 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 adrenalin, 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 flighted bird in the house. But I was very surprised by the amazing flight my bird made on that day. Sometimes birds that we think will never fly do indeed fly. Sometimes birds that have flight feathers trimmed surprise us when feathers return. Sometimes experienced flyers get frightened or find themselves in unfamiliar territory. Whatever the situation, there are some strategies that can be very useful to recovering a bird that has flown to a location undesired by you. The following information is provided to prepare you for that day when your bird may find itself airborne and heading in the wrong direction. These strategies apply if you bird has no flight skills or is a world class flying athlete.

Bird is flying away

- Call to your bird loudly as he is flying- it may help him find his way back to you.
- As your bird is flying, do not take your eyes off of him. Note the last place you saw him, the level of his flight, how tired he looked. He may have landed in that area. (Radio or phone contact for a group of people searching can be very helpful in this situation. Grab your cell phone!)

Searching for your bird

- If you have a group of people, spread out and circle the area you last saw him.
- If you cannot locate him, call to him. He may call back. Say words or sounds he knows or mimics. Most parrots are located by their screams.
- If he has another bird he likes, put that bird in a cage and bring it to the area you last saw him. Walk away from the bird in the cage. It might encourage the bird in the cage to

- scream. This may inspire the lost bird to scream. Keep talking to a minimum so you can listen for the scream.
- Look carefully in a limited area (within 1 mile) in the early stages of your search. Parrots usually do not go far unless, blown by the wind, chased by a bird of prey or extremely frightened.
- Keep in mind your parrot may see you before you see him. When this happens, parrots are sometimes very quiet. This may be because the parrot is more comfortable now that you are present.
- Despite some parrots bright colors, they can be very difficult to see in trees. Look for movement buried in the trees as opposed to your whole bird perched prominently on the tree.

You have located the bird, but he is out of reach

- Once you find your bird, relax (unless the bird is in immediate danger.) It is better to let the bird sit where he is (if he is inaccessible) while you work out a strategy. Do not frantically try to grab the bird, hose or scare him down.
- If the bird has just landed. He will probably not fly again (if at all) for awhile.
- Bring the bird's favorite person and/or favorite bird friend (in a cage) to the area where your bird is located. Bring favorite food items, familiar food bowls and the bird's cage if possible.
- 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 climb to branches/objects that are similar to those upon which he is sitting if possible. A bird may be too 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 perch and is frightened by it.
- 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 that the bird will step onto it. Keep in mind things like ladders, people climbing trees, cherry pickers etc. may also scare your bird. Go extremely slowly 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 level of anxiety in your bird which may cause him to try to come to you once you reappear. Usually birds will scream and or start moving around a lot when they are ready to make an effort to return to you. If you notice this activity, come out from hiding.
- If you hear your bird screaming while

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- NL advertisers: Some are renewing ads; Lafeber sent a new ad. Possible new advertiser coming in spring.
- Suffolk County SPCA to present at March 15 in-person meeting.
- Help with PhoneTag messages is needed. The goal is to acknowledge calls from folks and to gather more information so their calls can be referred to the proper committee.
-
- CEED had Dr. Gabby Wild present to a group of children (and adults) on February 5, regarding animal communication. Eric Powers asked that we bring two parrots—one being Romeo and Tom W brought two of his macaws. Diane H. spoke with Dr. Gabby about presenting via Zoom to our group and she said yes—payment would be a donation to her non-profit. <https://gabbywild.org/>



Board Meeting Minutes - February 2023

February 22, 2023 7PM via ZOOM ATTENDING: David Abrahams, Susan Chamberlain, Bob Dietrich, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Diane Hyde, Candy Little, Susan Seddo

- **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 tickets 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.

(Continued from page 15)

you are hiding, he may be ready to fly or is already in the air. Come out of hiding right away. Most parrots scream when they are flying in this type of situation.

- Birds also often relieve themselves and also scream right before they fly. Be alert for this. You may need to see where your bird flies. Be ready to run if necessary.
- Avoid having a crowd of people around the bird's favorite person. A scared bird may not want to fly into a crowd of strangers. Give the bird's favorite person lots of room.

The sun is setting and your bird is still out.

- Parrots will usually fly again shortly before the sun starts to set. This is probably your last opportunity to get your bird back before he will begin to roost for the night. Take advantage of it. You can try to get the bird “pumped” up by yelling and creating a level of excitement. This may encourage one last flight.
- As the sun starts to set, your bird will start to fluff his feathers and get ready to roost for the night. At this point it is best to just allow him to go to sleep. Keep an eye on him until the sun has set completely. Remember his exact location.
- Before the sun rises the next day, return to that location. Your bird should still be there, unless he was frightened in the night (owls can cause this).
- Usually by 8:30 or 9:00 AM your bird will be ready to fly again or make an attempt to get to you. Repeat the steps described in the section “You have located your bird, but he is out of reach”.

Your bird has flown off and after 24 hours of searching he has not been spotted.

- Contact the following people and let them know you are looking for your bird. If a person finds your bird they may contact one of these organizations.
 - Call animal control
 - Call the SPCA/humane society
 - Call local veterinarians
 - Call local zoo
 - Call local pet shops
- Place an ad in the classified section of the paper for a “lost” bird.
- Note: Don't give out the bird's band number. If your bird accidentally falls into the wrong hands this could lead to removal of the band.
- Check the classified section of the paper for “found” bird. Answer all ads. People are sometimes unaware of what they have found. A Congo African grey may be mistaken for the mythical red tailed pigeon by a helpful stranger who is unfamiliar with parrots.
- Post flyers that state “lost bird” in the areas you last saw your bird. You may also wish to offer a reward as incentive for people to call.
- Often times a bird is found within 24 hours of his disappearance. The trick is to find the person who found your bird before you.

Do not give up

The key to getting a bird back is perseverance. Do not accept that you will not get the bird back once you have lost sight of him or her. As a professional bird trainer that free flies many types of birds on a regular basis, I can attest that parrots are often the easiest type of bird to locate and recover. Trust me - nothing is more frustrating than searching for the silent, but observant owl who has buried himself in the bushes and has watched you walk by 100 times! Thankfully our parrots often seek out human or bird companionship if and when they have a big flight adventure.

*Used with permission - <http://www.goodbirdinc.com/barbaraheidenreich-bio.html>

Cheddar News Guest: Robert Gross along with Romeo and Rio



Watch Robert Gross, Romeo, and Rio on their interview on Cheddar News. Aired February 17, 2023 at 8am. <https://cheddar.com/media/what-all-potential-parrot-owners-should-know>



Happy Spring

from the
Long Island Parrot Society

Prevent escapes! Check your bird's flight feathers & trim if necessary.

Join us - Meetings
3rd Wednesday of each month
Info: 631-957-1100
or visit www.liparrots.org

Sign up for Feather Flash

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

- Updates on Club Activities and events!
- Timely products warnings!
- News you can use!
- Happenings in the avian community

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



Hand Made Items

Visit www.someguyssewing.com

SALE

Portion of the sale donated to LIPS

Etsy Store: [someguyssewing.etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/someguyssewing)

LIPS MEMBER DISCOUNTS

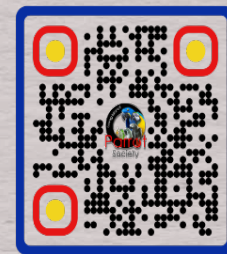
The following businesses give the discounts noted for LIPS members. You must show your current membership card. Discounts are subject to change; we suggest you ask before you make your purchase. If you have a problem with a store or service not honoring it, let us know. (631-957-1100):

- 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% birds and related
- Paumanok Veterinary Hospital**, Patchogue (631-475-1312) 10% off exam
- Total Pet Care/Lawrence Labs**, Holbrook (800-TOTL-PET) 10% LIPS.



Support the Long Island Parrot Society when you shop on GoodShop.com.

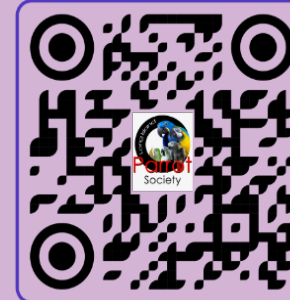
- Simply click on Choose a Cause at the top of the page.
- In the search box type in Long Island Parrot Society.
- On the right of the page, a link for Long Island Parrot Society will appear. Click the link.
- Goodshop.com will display information on LIPS, on the right, click the SHOP NOW button.
- At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



Vet list

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

Become a LIPS Volunteer!

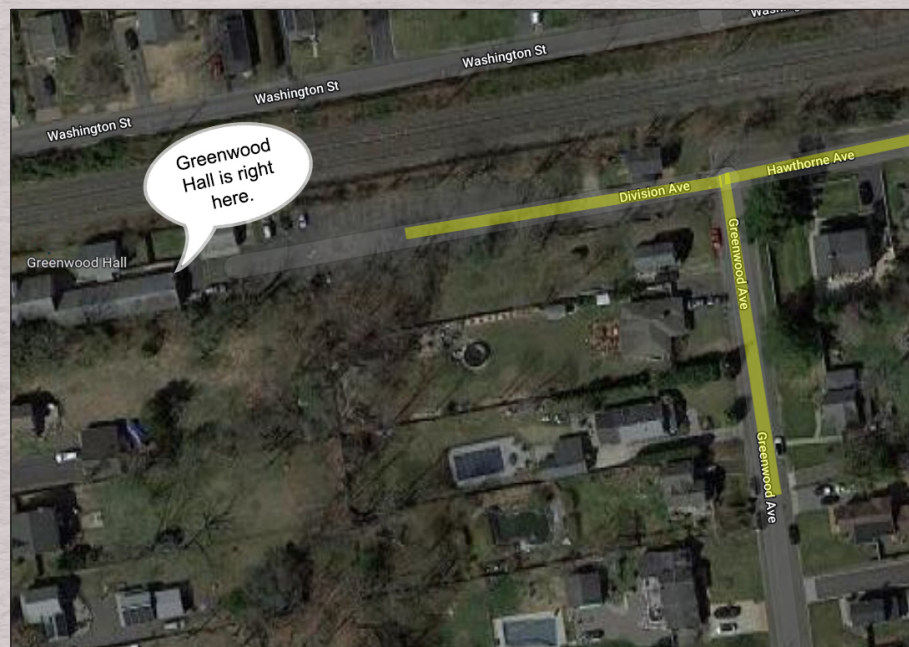


We need help with Administrative work, answering phone call, emails, data entry, committee specific help, just to name a few. Get more involved with the Long Island Parrot Society. Let's build a team that helps grow our organization. Scan the QR code to take our Skills Survey. Once we received your information, we will contact you.

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

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.

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.

News from the Flock

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.

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

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

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=IwAR2vNfnBrkOpGtfi...

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

Barry Whittaker, owner of ABC birds in Texas and husband of AFA's Jamie Whittaker 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 Rosselini 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.



Chief Roy Gross



The Suffolk County SPCA is a local, independent not-for-profit organization that has been servicing the humane needs, requirements, and enforcement of cruelty laws for Suffolk County, New York animals since 1984.

NY State Law provides that there is to be but only one SPCA per county in the State – the Suffolk County SPCA is in no way affiliated with, not a subdivision of, nor is it funded by the Manhattan based ASPCA, or any other local, state, or national organization. They are the only authorized SPCA tasked with enforcing and protecting the animals within Suffolk County, NY.

Chief Roy Gross, along with his team, has been a speaker at Long Island Parrot Society meetings and has participated in Parrot EXPO. Parrot Society members also hosted a seminar on standards for pet bird care for the SPCA.

He was instrumental in obtaining a mobile spay/hospital unit for the county and was interviewed on 60 Minutes about his role in aiding animals working recovery operations at the World Trade Center after 9/11. Suffolk SPCA was the only humane law enforcement agency authorized to assist first responders in the hot zone. But until officers began working with the Office of Emergency Management, there was no protocol in place, and they took patients as they came in. In addition to providing medical care, the SPCA also helped nearby residents who were evacuated from their homes, escorting them back inside to retrieve their animals safely, and then re-evaluated their health after the disaster.

Chief Gross has been on the scene of animal hoarding situations, animals trapped inside hot cars, investigates cruelty cases, and helped facilitate the capture and placement of exotic animals such as alligators and big cats.

Birdie Corner



Robert Gross: One of my favorite daily activities is my nightly folding chair chat in the bird room with 8 birds. If you had a long day and normally take your birds out then try the chat. It's quality time with the one or if you have a flock. Discuss your day with them. This idea was officially created on 5/4/2022. It's a lot of fun.



Shawn Florman: Having 4 birds is a lot of shared time for each bird. So it's important to divide your time so that each bird will get to spend some time with you. For example, Noah and Perry both love their head scratches. Of course they need to take turns - Noah

will sit on my shoulder while Perry gets his head scratched. Then of course, I switch their places. So each gets a turn.

If you would like to participate in Birdie Corner, email editor@liparrots.org. Email subject Birdie Corner Article. Tell us what you do with your bird on a daily basis in about 4 to 5 sentences. You can participate as much or as little as you wish. Don't forget to send a picture of you and your bird to go with your article.

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."



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.



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

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

OFFICERS:

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website: www.liparrots.org
E-mail: info@liparrots.org

Feather Flash (sign-up): <https://www.liparrots.org/featherflash>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/liparrots>

Parrot Phone: 631-957-1100; Diane Hyde

GET INVOLVED—TEAMS & SERVICES—JOIN A TEAM:

Accountant: Adam Seyam, CPA

Bookkeeper: Sharon Millard

Cage Donation Committee: Bob

Dietrich, Robert Gross, Susan Seddo

Fundraising Coordinator: Susan Chamberlain

Grooming: Nicole Pica, LVT

Holiday Party Coordinator: Diane Hyde

Hospitality: Carol and Mike Christenson

Membership Coordinator: Bob Dietrich

Media Coordinators:

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

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

Outreach Events Coordinator: Candy Little

Parrot EXPO Coordinator: Board of Directors

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

Diane Hyde, Shawn Florman, Marla Greene

Parrot University® Coordinator: Robert Gross

Picnic Coordinators: Bob Dietrich, Diane Hyde,

Carol and Mike Christenson

Programming and Education Coordinator: David Abrahams

Publicity and Public Relations Coordinator: Susan Chamberlain

Raffles Coordinators:

Special Events: Susan Chamberlain

Vendor and Venue Liaison: TBD

Volunteer Coordinator: Candy Little

HELP WANTED!

Monthly Meetings:

Help with set-up before meeting and break down afterward

Coffee/Refreshments

Volunteers for Parrot University and Outreach Events
during the year

LIPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(Please Print Clearly)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (with area code): _____

eMail Address for Feather Flash: _____

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

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

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

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

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

General Phone: 631 957 1100

Adoption Line: 631 456 1813

eMail: info@liparrots.org

**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

**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!

March 21 at 7 PM EDT - The
Parrot Club of CT Zoom webinar
[Penguins Up Close](#) with Mystic
Aquarium

April 2 - Monroeville, PA
OHPA Bird Fair

April 15 at 1 PM EDT - Feather
Destructive Behavior with Richie
Burdeaux, DVM, ABVP (Avian) -
Phoenix Landing Zoom webinar

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