



Long Island Parrot Beacon

Volume 28 Issue 7 August 2023

The Long Island Parrot Society is a proud member of the AFA



Welcome to August! These are the 'dog PARROT days of summer!' Stay hydrated (humans and parrots alike)—the cooler weather is on the horizon.

Thanks to LIPS member, Frank, Huwer, for presenting to our members at the June 21 in-person meeting. Frank demonstrated how to make toys for big/medium-sized parrots—where to source safe wood, how to safely dye the wood, how to construct the toys. Frank then provided the in-person attendees with toy parts so they could make their own parrot toys. Frank also donated a HUGE parrot toy to our raffle table.

We'll be bringing birds back to outdoor outreaches (making sure the location of the outreach is not next to any waterfowl). We enjoy having our avian volunteers attend the outreaches and love educating the attendees about the proper care and joy of being owned by a companion parrot. Parrots will have to be displayed beneath our tent and not be allowed to wander on the ground. It will be up to the parrot's owner's discretion regarding attendees handling their birds. Anyone handling a bird must use hand sanitizer first.

We will be returning to Greenwood Hall in East Islip for our September 20 meeting and for our holiday party on December 20. The Sayville American Legion Hall was very nice, but a little too small for our meetings.

It's always a good time to prepare for your parrot's future. We're

lucky to have two presenters in August, Virginia Wright & Cassandra Gross, from the Parrot Caregiver Network, "Future Care for Your Parrots". The Zoom is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16 at 7 PM. As always, you'll receive the Zoom invite via email the Monday before the meeting.

Sweetbriar Nature Center is having quite the unique fundraiser featuring TV personality and scientist, Jeff Corwin! Won't you join us in supporting Sweetbriar and enjoying this interactive and educational program.

An evening of "Tales from the Field with Jeff Corwin," renowned Biologist, Conservationist and Environmental Journalist. Jeff currently hosts Wildlife Nation on ABC, and previously hosted The Jeff Corwin Experience on Animal Planet.

The fun and inspiring talk is **Sunday, August 27th, 2023, at 7:00pm.** The event will take place at the beautiful, newly renovated Smithtown Performing Arts Council, 2 E. Main Street, Smithtown, NY.

Celebrity speaker Jeff Corwin shares his passion for environmental conservation in this highly interactive and educational program. He discusses the unique challenges each species faces in the world. Corwin inspires audiences to become more aware of the threats to wildlife and to the environment.

A limited number of VIP tickets (\$150) will include a Special VIP Meet & Greet Cocktail Hour with Jeff Corwin.

6:00pm – VIP Meet & Greet Cocktail Hour with Jeff Corwin

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7:00pm – General Admission (\$50)

<https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/smithtownpac/7131/event/1334426> (General Admin Tix)
<https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/smithtownpac/7131/event/1334424> (VIP Cocktail Reception Tix)

PARROT EXPO IS BACK!!!!!!!
October 14, 2023 from 10AM-5PM
at the Sayville VFW Post located at 400 Lakeland Avenue, Sayville, NY.
Robin Sullivan from The Leather Elves will be our speaker. This will be a fun event, full of shopping, raffles, prize wheel, presentations, education center, cage sales, club sales, and MORE!

We need all hands on deck (by the way of volunteers) to make this a great 'HELLO AGAIN' EXPO a success. ie: We'll need help making raffle baskets (tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 30 from 10-4 PM with a rain date of Saturday, October 7) at our new storage facility in Ronkonkoma, set up at VFW (8-10 AM), break down (5-6 PM) on day of EXPO (Saturday, October 14). It's like old times when we get to team build and be a part of one of the important fundraisers for the club. Please be on the lookout for EXPO volunteer opportunities.

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 June 2023

Deposits	\$1502.32
Total Deposits	\$1502.32

TFCU Account Balances as of June 2023

Operating Fund:	\$4736.41
EXPO Fund:	\$10,402.27
Parrot Care:	\$2709.36
MM (Shelter):	\$142,540.15
CD (Shelter):	\$9,551.82
Total:	\$169,939.71

Expenses as of June 2023

T-Mobile:	\$120.00
Best Value Copy:	\$246.14
CRM (SalesNow)	\$45.45
USPS	\$144.30
Misc:	\$174.00
Total Expenses:	\$729.89



Board Meeting Minutes - June 2023

June 14, 2023 7PM via ZOOM ATTENDING: David Abrahams, Susan Chamberlain, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Diane Hyde, Candy Little, Susan Seddo, Susan S

Cage Committee Update: Susan Seddo indicated that some of the overflow cages can go into her storage unit; new flight cage and additional cage donated. Cages in Valley Stream need to be picked up. Susan Seddo suggested Cage Page on website...we can refer interested people to the page.

Tote Bags: Susan S took four of the five boxes of reusable bags to her storage unit. One box of 100 bags in LIPS shed. Will be sold & distributed at meetings and events. Outreach Updates:

OUTREACH

Only one volunteer for North Babylon Library outreach on June 17th so the club had to cancel

Sweetbriar June 10 event was successful; prize wheel was a hit \$50.00 Volunteers were Mike and Carol Christensen, Kelli Phillips, Shawn and KarieAnn. Mike and Carol were fantastic with setting up—they also stayed to breakdown the tent and Kelli helped with that. We were

moved away from the geese. No parrots at event due to bird flu concerns. There were quite a few visitors to our tent, including some LIPS members. LIPS member Holly

Lupo stopped by—will be delivering four reusable bags to her (she was one of the original folks asking if we were going to be getting more bags).

Signed up for CEED event—Shawn will participate. Diane to attend. If possible, Candy will also attend/captain. Need help in loading up car.

Future speakers discussed: AFA board member would be optimal. Amy Hopkins Australia presentation scheduled for October

June 21 in person meeting:

- Hall Set up—confirm that they put out round tables—Susan S; Rectangular tables needed for club sales, raffles, prize wheel, electronics, etc.

- Set up 5 round tables with 8 chairs each • Diane to get round table clothes; rolls of table covering in shed for rectangular tables.

- Picking up items from storage uni for meeting—Monday, June 19th at noon; No charge for space; tip approved for set-up monitor at event. Items to sell: tees, Kong toys; toy parts, raffle items

Raffle table volunteer needed—Gloria contacted.

June 28, 2023 7PM via ZOOM ATTENDING: David Abrahams, Susan Chamberlain, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Diane Hyde, Candy Little, Susan Seddo, Susan S

JULY 19 MEETING: PARROT TRIVIA

OCTOBER 22 PHOTO GROUP EVENT

BOCES: EDUCATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BY JULY 21; Candy L to ask about requirements.

EXPO:

- Vendor contract to be set up via Jotform

- NY Bird Supply said they're interested—just need more info;

- Robin Shewokis-Sullivan, speaker, confirmed that she'll be there; travel expenses will be covered; speaker fee. • Robin also asked us about vendors since she's looking to do an EXPO/Bird Mart up in Maine

EXPO Volunteers needed...recruiting starting now! Volunteering incentives discussed.

Rental truck to be acquired from Home Depot

- Invite select vendors—space very limited.

Virtual adoptions table proposed by Shawn. May be possible.

- Board members to do walk through to assess space. Numerous tables needed...Admissions, raffles, education, club sales; cage sales outdoors under tents.
- Raffle basket making "party" at storage unit as time gets close—storage solutions discussed.

- Carol Christensen will donate cargo net for raffle

- Kaitlin Saxton would like a table to set up about her business and to help the club

- POSTCARDS & PUBLICITY—2,500 postcards; direct mail, outreaches; Susan C will contact Kathy V for design & printing costs

- SALES: wrapped snacks, bottled water

- ADMISSION FEE--\$5.00 regular admission, Over age 60-\$3.00, Under 12, \$3.00, 2 & under FREE \$1.00 off regular adult admission with postcard

- Gift card donation solicitation letter to be updated by Susan C.

More board minutes on [page 16](#).

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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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Have you ever wondered why avian and other animal rescue, sanctuary or shelter groups ask for relinquishment and adoption fees? "No bird turned away" may seem an honorable goal, and it is, but unless there is a treasure trove of cash in the basement, that goal can quickly become unsustainable as the facility becomes overwhelmed with displaced pet birds.

Whether home-based or organization-run, such ventures are in constant need of funds. No one gets rich in 'rescue'. Expenses for housing, food, enrichment accessories, cleaning supplies and veterinary care mount with each bird taken in. Even though many vets work with organizations on fees, one avian illness or injury can cost a thousand dollars or more. Add to that, rent or mortgage, insurance, utilities, licenses, equipment, and administrative costs don't go away.

The work is relentless. People get into shelter/sanctuary/rescue work because they want to help the innocent creatures they love so much. Debbie Huckaby founder and director at Birds of Paradise Sanctuary and Rescue in Bradenton, FL, works 14-hour days with the help of just a few volunteers. She often drives,

without remuneration, hundreds of miles to retrieve birds from horrendous situations. She constantly participates in community outreach to educate people about proper bird care and to raise funds for BOPS. There are approximately 400 birds in residence, living in huge, open-air flights. The birds get needed veterinary care, toys, and excellent diets. Some are there for life, while adoptable birds often move to new homes. It all costs money. Lots of money. Therefore, Huckaby and other sanctuary directors do require relinquishment and adoption fees, especially when birds are placed for lifetime care.

Such fees help defray costs and offset some of the expenses for birds that arrive with nothing but health issues. There are birds that arrive at facilities inside transport carriers, having been rescued from hoarding or abuse situations. Others may have been left alone after their owners died. Some, especially in Florida, have been rescued as hatchlings in piles of yard waste. There are always exceptions to fees, and adjustments can often be made, but please, don't ever think that they are unnecessary. Most registered 501c3 (tax exempt) charities can be checked at www.charitynavigator.org and www.guidestar.org. Be advised that some information may be missing or incomplete.



By: Susan Chamberlain



And locally...

Sloth Encounters has been ordered by Suffolk County Supreme Court to halt pet sales after the owner, Larry Wallach, was found guilty of violating court orders in March. Wallach, a federally licensed animal exhibitor has been ordered to cease and desist from operating as a pet store or petting zoo until necessary approvals have been obtained from the town. It was the opinion of the court that the location was operating as a petting zoo under the guise of being a pet store. The location was specifically designated as a pool supply store and Wallach was issued a notice of violation for the change of use of a building.

This case is important to the Long Island Parrot Society because it triggered a bill that would prohibit traveling wild and exotic animal 'shows' or 'exhibits' in Suffolk County. The bill defines wild animals as one that does not belong to one of 7 domesticated species: dogs, cats, cows, goats, horses, pigs, and sheep. We are concerned that if passed, such a law would interfere with the club's participation in outreach, Parrot EXPO, and privately contracted events. Educational appearances would likely be exempt, but discussions are ongoing. Our president, Diane Hyde has attended hearings to offer input and to better understand the possible ramifications of the bill.

At the State level, a bill introduced in April defines exotic animals as wild animals with origins on a different continent and it would further prevent people from selling, harboring, or owning exotic animals in New York. Surprisingly, it is legal to own a sloth without a license in New York State. Roy Gross, Suffolk SPCA Chief, told Newsday that there have been no complaints to the agency about animal mistreatment at Sloth Encounters.

Wallach's citation for the change of use of the building is significant because it acts as a warning for us when we eventually get a shelter location...Just one more box the check!



LIPS' Cage Connection by Susan Vocolka-Seddo

It has been a couple of extremely busy months for LIPS' Cage Committee!!

We have been very busy with Emails, Meet and Greets, and building our inventory of some truly, wonderful cages, in anticipation of our PARROT EXPO, Cage Sale, Saturday, October 14, 2023, at the VFW Hall, Lakeland Avenue, Sayville, NY!

We continue to accept cages of all shapes and sizes — free of RUST and BIRD DROPPINGS!!

Shoot us an Email or call us on our "Squawk Box!"

We ask that you drop off your donation at our storage unit; please coordinate with our Cage Committee Members!

THANK YOU in advance!! We'll see all of you at the PARROT EXPO, October 14th!!

TRAVELING BIRDS

By Susan Chamberlain

Many Long Island Parrot Society members have relocated out of state with their birds: Marcia and David Abrahams moved to Florida and back to NY with their flock, Elise Negrin moved to Florida and then to North Carolina, Andrea Feldman Walen moved to Arizona and then to Florida. Pat and Neal Rudikoff travel to their winter home in Arizona and back to Long Island each year with their quartet of cockatoos. Kenny Friedman and his wife sold everything and are about to embark on a world tour, leaving their parrot in the care of a trusted friend.

We've learned from their experiences, as they've shared their hints and pitfalls encountered when traveling with birds. Perhaps no adventure has been as complicated and as carefully orchestrated as that of Susan Maurer and her blue-headed Pionus parrot, Uncle Paulie as they navigated a recent move to Portugal. Many thanks to Susan as she shared their journey with us:

"It was a year-long, very involved process. Uncle Paulie, my female (LOL - long story) blue-headed Pionus, is a restricted species, so she needed a CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) export permit.

"She also had to undergo the usual quarantine (which I was able to do at home), an avian flu test and a medical exam by an accredited USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) veterinarian. Not every vet is USDA accredited so I had to find one. Another medical exam had to be done within 48 hours of the flight and then validated by both USDA and then by USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service), all within that same 48 hours.

"It was quite a drama and quite a crunch, and the final paperwork from the USFWS office (VERY kind and capable people there - they really came through for us) was issued literally as we were ON THE WAY to the airport on Wednesday evening. We also had to apply for and obtain an import permit from the Portuguese Department of Agriculture before leaving the U.S.

"I was determined not to let Uncle Paulie travel as cargo, so I did some research and found out that currently, the only international airline that permits birds in cabin is Iberia, so I went for broke and booked a one-way business-class ticket with them from JFK to Lisbon with a connection in Madrid as Iberia does not fly direct from JFK to Lisbon. Thus, I was able to have her on my lap for the entirety of both flights. She flew in a Celltei soft-sided airline carrier and handled the trip like a champ.

"In Madrid, as in New York, we had to pass through TSA and I had to remove her from the carrier and pass through the scanner while holding her, while the carrier passed separately through the X-ray machine. In both places the TSA people couldn't have been nicer, and Uncle Paulie was a big hit with everyone. They all wanted to have a look at her.

"Upon arrival in Lisbon, we had to stop at the veterinarian's office (conveniently located next to the baggage claim area) to show our paperwork and let them scan her chip before being permitted to leave the airport. The vet in Lisbon also couldn't have been friendlier.

"Transporting a bird internationally is infinitely more complicated on every level than taking a dog or a cat. Once we left New York everything was smooth, but the process of doing all the paperwork and obtaining all the permits required the engagement of a professional animal transport expediter that specializes in avian transport, so I used Airborne Animals Bird Shipping - Airborne Animals www.airborneanimals.com because they had been very highly recommended to me, and I also highly recommend them. They really got the job done for us. It is probably impossible to do it without an expediter as they have the contacts and the experience to get it all done correctly, and within the correct time frames, which is critically important. One little mistake or miscalculation can invalidate the entire process. Seriously. It can, and it does. Overall, the process was long, stressful, and expensive, but in the end, it was more than worth it, and I have no regrets whatsoever!"

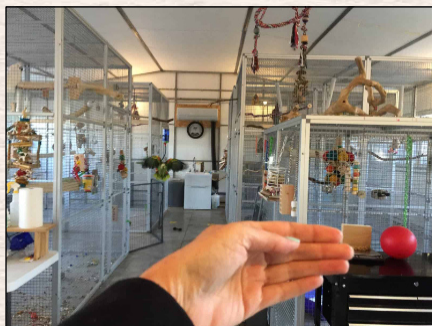
NEXT MONTH: Helpful Websites for Traveling with Pets



This cage, above, will be generously donated to Sweetbriar Nature Center!, Smithtown, NY!

Working With Behavior Issues from a Lunging, Dive-Bombing Amazon

By [Laura Joseph](#)



Calling Suki to my hand (recall training) during a behavior training session to modify the behaviors of dive-bombing and lunging. This is a time where she is showing many behaviors associated with nesting, such as seeking dark corners and areas.

It has been very busy here at The Animal Behavior Center over the past few months. We had our annual event and then my lecture schedule is taking me out of town for several weeks and still not over. In my presentation that I gave on The Parrot Lover's Cruise last week, I addressed several behavioral issues that are arising here due to our being busy and not having

the time to train. With lack of training comes many undesired behaviors from the animals we live and/or work with.

So, let's get started. Our daily behavior modification plans are being put into place for each animal. In this particular blog post I'm going to share with you my plan with Suki, our blue-fronted amazon. Every day, in the beginning I'll start working with Suki in mornings before the volunteers get here. After I start getting reliable and predictable behavior, I will then begin varying the times I get her out and work with her to prevent routine which can lead to anxiety. The behavior issues I'm working on with Suki are her dive-bombing heads while heads are turned. She is also showing nesting behaviors such as flying to dark corners, areas, and wanting to walk under cabinets. These nesting behaviors can lead to other aggressive behaviors we are seeing such as the dive-bombing and lunging. This is why I never reinforce nesting behaviors by providing parrots boxes to play in, happy huts in cages, toys with large holes to crawl in, etc.

Suki is very bonded to Murray, our greenwing macaw. Not earning the trust through training and getting in between them can cause high anxiety behaviors in both of them such as screaming, lunging, and biting.

Are you yet following my scopes yet? Scopes are live-broadcasts on-line through a Twitter app called Periscope. Once you download the app you can find me by searching for Animal Behavior Center. Each day I try to scope from the center on a behavior issue, a training, tip or an enrichment tip. Yesterday I scoped on teaching Suki to station, meaning going to an area and not move until cued to do otherwise. I just started training her this yesterday and stationed her to a pvc perch at the front of the room. I am also working on keeping her stationed as I turn my back for small periods of time. I'll eventually increase these periods of time until the undesired behavior of dive-bombing no longer exists. I know if I don't keep reinforcing her stationing, the dive-bombing will resurge. Here is my scope from yesterday. You will hear me talking to people attending my scope but you can't see what they are saying.

During this training session yesterday she didn't dive bomb once because I reinforced the station without pushing her past that threshold of wanting to leave the pvc perch. I bridge (giving a sound or signal that tells the animal that particular behavior is what is earning its reinforcement until I can get the reinforcement to the animal) and turn and reinforce before she flies off the perch to dive-bomb my head.

Take a look at the photo. If I stand back by the sink in back ground, she's likely to dive bomb my head because it's next to Murray's cage on the back right and I have identified a nest site next to Murray's cage. In this photo I called her back, and recalling her back to the front where I placed her on her station. I reinforced her for stationing and walked her back into her enclosure. Her morning fruits and veggies were then delivered and an extra pine nut for an awesome morning training session. The whole time out and total length of several training sessions was 20 minutes. A very accomplishable time to train daily.

At the same time I was training Suki, I was also training Rico, our umbrella cockatoo to target his beak to a stick without biting it and pulling it in his cage. I was also teaching Milo the pig to station as well because Rico will chase Milo if Milo is too close to his cage. Yes, I was training all three at once. All were potential behavior issues impacting each animal. I couldn't not train all three or undesired behaviors would be reinforced. Make sense? We are always training. The key question is 'what are we training?'

If you find this information helpful and want more consistent information on animal behavior, training and enrichment, you may want to take a look at our Membership Programs here at The Animal Behavior Center. Our [memberships](#) are an on-line program consisting of behavior, training and enrichment advice and details provided to you every month, numerous times a month for a whole year.

Thanks for reading and thanks for following. I hope this information helps you in the daily lives you share with animals.

*Used with permission - Lara Joseph - [The Animal Behavior Center](#) - <https://www.theanimalbehaviorcenter.com/working-with-behavior-issues-from-a-lunging-dive-bombing-amazon/>

Cassie Malina CPBT-KA, CPBC has been training people and animals professionally worldwide for **over 20 years**.

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All animals are **unique** and **awesome** creatures, with **inspiring** behaviors and adaptations. Cassie has a **passion** for helping animals and their caregivers build and strengthen **relationships** based on a foundation of **trust** and mutual **respect** by focusing on the **most positive, least intrusive effective** solutions.

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Conservation Notes

More smuggling! On June 16, 2023, U.S border officials found 13 yellow-headed parrots stuffed into duffel bags in a vehicle attempting to cross into the U.S. at the San Ysidro Port of Entry between San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico. The driver, applying for entry into the U.S. concealed the live birds in two duffel bags in the trunk. He was detained and turned over to Homeland Security Investigators and Fish and Wildlife Services. The parrots were placed in a secure and safe area by Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists. Officials said they would remain under quarantine by US Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services to make sure no avian diseases were affecting the birds. More info: <https://www.fox9.com/news/13-yellow-headed-parrots-hidden-duffel-bags-us-border>

Although the African grey parrot is one of the most protected species in Cameroon, smuggling still goes on. A shipment of 84 birds headed for Nigeria was recently confiscated by wildlife officials.

The cherry headed conure is days away from becoming San Francisco's official animal! The Board of Supervisors approved a resolution acknowledging the wild parrots' victory in a contest recently put on by the San Francisco Chronicle. The cherry head conures became established in the public eye with the publication of *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill* by Mark Bittner which became a hit documentary film. Bittner has been a featured speaker at Long Island Parrot Society meetings, and LIPS member Roberta Fabiano's original song *Dogen, Connor, and Tupelo* appears as an extra on the DVD of the film.

According to Bittner, the ordinance making the wild parrots the official animal of San Francisco was signed by the mayor on July 6. A state law says that any ordinance passed must wait 30 days to go into effect to allow any opponents time to gather signatures for an override. No such movement is in the works, and on August 5, the ordinance becomes official.

The Scientific American reports that at least 60 of the world's approximately 380 parrot species have breeding populations in countries outside their natural habitats? Cherry headed conures thrive in San Francisco. Peach-faced lovebirds decorate the palm trees of Phoenix. Non-native wild parrots are present in Barcelona, Amsterdam, Brussels, Rome, Athens, Tel Aviv, and Singapore. Hong Kong hosts sulfur-crested cockatoos. California, Florida, and other sunbelt states are home to numerous parrot species. Wild quakers can be found in New England, New York City, Chicago and in many areas of Long Island, such as Copague and Amityville. More information: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/parrots-are-taking-over-the-world>

www.scientificamerican.com/article/parrots-are-taking-over-the-world

The Rare Species Conservatory Foundation's team has worked for months, caring for 24 confiscated, endangered parrots smuggled as eggs from Nicaragua to Miami. The yellow-naped and red-lored Amazons have flourished and RSCF's job is finished. The staff cared for these youngsters from the moment the eggs arrived, to feeding the hatchlings around-the-clock and then managing 24 weaning, fledging, juvenile parrots! The goal has been to keep these birds together, and thanks to SoCal Parrot and director Brooke Durham, this is a reality. With US Fish and Wildlife Service's approval, on March 13th the birds were flown via private jet to California to be housed as a flock at SoCal Parrots' parrot rehabilitation facility. The birds will remain together in a large enclosure and are allowed to become wild as options to return them to their native range for eventual release take shape. Visit socalparrot.org and rarespecies.org for more information about these and other parrots.

The New York State Legislature has finally banned wildlife 'killing contests.' The ban does not limit Second Amendment or hunting rights, but it does end the biologically destructive mass killings of our wildlife.

The Biden administration has proposed bringing back rules to protect imperiled animals and plants, reversing changes made under the previous administration. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said that it would reinstate a regulation that mandates blanket protections for species newly classified as threatened.

Traveling to Florida? Etched Feathers is an exhibition that will delight avian enthusiasts, and the rare collection is now on view at The Tampa Bay History Center. Birds have inspired artists for centuries. Florida is a birders paradise. Pelicans, spoonbills, herons, hawks, screech owls, parrots, and other stunning avian species make the Sunshine State an even more lush and lovely place to explore.

Etched Feathers examines the works and artistic processes of John Costin and other bird artists and devotees, whose creations capture the essence of winged beauty. See the exhibit until Oct 15 in the Wayne Thomas Gallery at the Tampa Bay History Center, just a quick walk from the Tampa Riverwalk.

Despite Hurricane Ian destroying all known eagle nests on the islands, the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation reported that 9 bald eagle chicks fledged this year on Sanibel, Captiva, and North Captiva! On another note, sea turtle nests on the islands

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Parrots and Neophobic Behavior

By Pamela Clark

I would be a rich woman if I had a dollar for every time that a parrot's owner has told me that she had given away a playstand or toy that her parrot didn't like. We've all had this experience, right? We bring home a perch or new toy, excited to introduce it to our bird, only to find that she won't go anywhere near it.

Too often, when seeing this reaction, we assume that the parrot doesn't like it. Thus, today I want to discuss yet another aspect of parrot behavior that is largely misunderstood – neophobia.

What Is Neophobia?

Neophobia can be defined as an extreme or irrational fear or dislike of anything new or unfamiliar. Parrots, generally speaking, display neophobic tendencies. This is why they so often reject new things – not because they don't like them.

This is often blamed upon the fact that parrots are prey animals. However, this assumption is incorrect. This same behavior has been observed in virtually all species of mammals and birds, including some raptors. (Greenberg, 2003) Many animals show an aversion to novelty.

Neophobia is usually observed in adult parrots. Young parrots tend instead to be neophilic – they eagerly explore new items in their environment. (Greenberg, 2003) When I used to breed African Grey parrots, I often thought of those babies as learning machines. They immediately and joyfully investigated anything new.

Factors Influencing Neophobic Behavior

This behavior has long been observed and studied across species lines, including fish and amphibians among others. However, investigations have been conducted by both psychologists and behavioral ecologists, each from a different perspective. Due to these different orientations, both fields have gathered conflicting results. (Greggor et al, 2015)

That said, however, one conclusion recurs in the research – the level of novelty to which a young parrot is exposed during its early developmental phases has a direct impact upon that same bird's willingness to accept new things as an adult.

A study done with Orange-winged Amazons confirm this. Interestingly, this study found that exposure to the baby's parents (parent-rearing vs. hand-rearing vs. co-parenting) had no impact upon later neophobic behavior. It was the level of novelty to which the birds were exposed in early life that had the biggest impact. (Fox, & Millam, 2004)

Another study found that species that typically inhabit more complex habitats, such as the edges of forests, tended to accept novel items more quickly. (Mettke-Hofmann, 2002) Yet another concluded that neophobic responses tended to be lower in wild-caught birds. (Crane, 2017) These findings both underscore the impact of exposure to novelty in early development.

Ramifications of Neophobia for Companion Parrots

This is an important topic because your reaction to your parrots' neophobic behavior has a big impact upon the quality of life that she will have in the future. If you give away a toy or playstand every time your bird reacts to it with fear, the amount of enrichment she has available will shrink and she will have fewer options for interaction. Fewer choices result in a decreased quality of life.

This can't be allowed. Now only does it narrow a parrot's future choices, but anecdotal experience would indicate that having this natural fear response reinforced may create more fear responses in the future. Your parrot will enter a behavioral tunnel.

Further, we have evidence that, once the initial fear response toward an item has been overcome, animals engage in just as much exploration of it as those who showed no fear initially. (University of Lincoln, 2017) This indicates how valuable it can be to a parrot if we are willing to engage in just a little bit of training.

The Necessary Approach

We know that the initial fear of a novel item tends to diminish with exposure. However, it is not acceptable to simply put a new item near to a parrot and expect him to "get over it!" Using this approach is not ethical and is a form of flooding. As defined by Friedman, "With flooding the subject is presented with the highly feared object or situation which is not removed until the fear diminishes. The response that is prevented in this case is escape." (Friedman, 2002)

Have you ever heard of The Five Freedoms? This concept was proposed by the UK's Farm Animal Welfare Council in order to establish guidelines that could be used to assess quality of life. It states that "animals should be free (1) from thirst, hunger and malnutrition, (2) from discomfort, (3) from pain, injury and disease, (4) to express natural behaviors, and (5) from fear and distress." (Rodríguez-López, 2016)

This was written to be used for farm animals; a similar set of guidelines for companion parrots might be more complex. However, it is of note that freedom from fear and distress has been included along with freedom from injury, pain, and hunger.

It is a primary right of all animals to be free from fear and distress. Thus, we must use methods other than direct continued exposure to new things without regard for the parrots reaction. Thankfully, we have more ethical, scientifically proven, methods for behavior modification that will help our parrots to overcome this aversion to new things.

The Introduction of New Things

First, I will say that the methods discussed below should be used to introduce items that will create a better quality of life for your parrot by allowing an increased number of choices for interaction – playstands, perches, foraging options, toys, travel carriers, outdoor aviaries, etc.

Other items, not necessary to quality of life, are best avoided. Just don't bring the helium balloons home. If you must bring a ladder into the house, put the parrot into a different room first. If your friend comes in wearing a baseball cap that scares your parrot, ask him to take it off. Don't paint your fingernails bright red if you don't normally wear nail polish. Believe me, none of these things will matter to you in 10 years.

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The methods that work best for teaching acceptance of new things are (1) a combination of systematic desensitization and counter conditioning (DS/CC) and (2) Constructional Aversion Treatment. Anyone can learn to use these techniques to successfully introduce new enrichment items, all the while allowing the bird to maintain a distress-free experience. All that is required are patience and persistence and the ability to read body language.

Systematic Desensitization and Counter Conditioning

Systematic desensitization and counter conditioning (DS/CC) are usually used in combination with each other. However in some cases, such as the introduction of a new toy, desensitization may be all that is required.

Systematic desensitization is training during which your parrot is exposed to an item at a level at or below which fear is displayed. In other words, "the bird is slowly presented with tolerable amounts or durations of the feared object or condition. The bird is never allowed to experience a high level of fear." (Friedman, 2002) For example, the distance between the parrot and the object might be decreased as the parrot's body language suggests that the closer proximity of the item no longer elicits fear.

Counter conditioning is used to change the parrot's attitude toward a feared item by pairing it with something of value, such as a preferred food. In other words, through this pairing the bird learns to regard the new item as something that is desirable. The result of this training is that the previously fearful response is completely resolved and your bird will continue to interact happily with this item in the future.

Example: Introduction of a New Toy

You have a new toy that you want to hang in the cage, but as soon as your parrot sees it he leans away, obviously scared of it. You can use desensitization to introduce it successfully:

- Hold the toy no higher than about chest height where it is visible to your parrot and move far enough away that he shows no signs of fear.
- Slowly walk toward him, one step at a time, carefully observing his body language.
- At the first sign of alarm, stop approaching and take one step backward.
- Put the toy somewhere at that distance, at a level below your parrot's typical perching height, so that he can easily see it. (A TV tray works well for this.)
- Every day or so, move the toy a little closer to your parrot. If you ever see a sign of alarm when you do so, put the toy back at the last distance and allow your bird to look at it a little longer at that proximity.
- When you've been able to move the toy right next to the cage, hang it on the outside of the cage down low.
- Move it up to the middle of the cage, still on the outside.
- Move it up to the height at which you would like to eventually have the toy.
- Move the toy inside the cage.

It is vital that you observe your bird's body language carefully during this process and that you use the information you collect to adopt a "red light, green light" approach. Any sign of distress from your bird serves as a red light – you go back to the last proximity. Comfortable body language is your green light to leave it at that

distance.

This is an example in which counter conditioning may not be necessary. If your bird regularly plays with other toys, we might assume that he would accept this one for interaction once he is comfortable having it in his enclosure. At this point, interacting with the toy itself would be reinforcing.

Example: Introduction of a New Playstand

Desensitization to a new playstand can be accomplished in the same manner, if space limitations allow for this. In other words, you would move the stand closer and closer to the cage as your parrot's body language allowed you to do so.

If they did not, you must still begin by having the stand in the same room for a period that allows your parrot to become comfortable with its appearance.

If you were able to gradually move the stand right up next to the cage, as in the toy example, counter conditioning can be quite simple. You can place interesting toys, along with a variety of highly valued food items, on the stand and simply allow your parrot to explore it on his own. At this point, you should be able to locate the stand anywhere and have the ability to place your parrot onto it. (As an aside, travel carriers can be introduced in the same way.)

If space limitations do not allow for this type of introduction, you can quite easily counter condition your parrot to accept the new stand, as long as your parrot steps up without reserve. Try it this way:

- First, make sure that the stand is located far enough away from your parrot that he shows no fear of it.
- Ask your parrot to step up and offer a highly valued food item that is small in size (no bigger than about the size of ½ pine nut or smaller).
- After he eats it, take a step closer to the playstand and watch his body language carefully.
- If he reacts in any way that indicates distress, move back to your initial spot and spend a few more minutes at that distance, simply offering one treat after another.
- If he shows no distress, spend a minute or two there, offering treats.
- Take another step closer and repeat this process until you can get all the way up to the playstand. (This will likely not occur all in one training session, but that's fine; simply pick up where you left off the next time.)
- When you have been able to walk all the way up to the playstand, you can begin to teach him to step onto it. At this point, you may find that your progress slows a bit; this is natural – stepping up onto it requires more from your parrot than simply walking towards it!
- Hold your treat at a point such that your parrot just has to lean over the stand in order to reach it. Do this enough times that you see no hesitation at all to perform this behavior.
- Next, hold the treat at such a distance that your bird has to just put one foot onto the stand in order to reach it. Again, repeat this enough times that your parrot is 100% comfortable.
- Now, move the treat just enough that your parrot can't reach it unless he has to step onto the stand with both feet. As soon as he does, allow him to come right back to your hand – don't expect him to spend any time there yet!
- Now begins another phase – making sure that he's

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comfortable staying there. Some parrots might immediately be quite comfortable on the new stand; others may take a bit of convincing.

- Therefore, gradually ask your parrot to spend first one minute, then two, then three...and so on, standing on the new perch. Use your "red light, green light" approach. Feed reinforcers the whole time he stays there.
- At some point, your parrot will happily step onto the new stand and enjoy spending time there.

Congratulations! What you have accomplished is huge! Your parrot now has one more location in which to comfortably perch, a really big improvement in his quality of life.

Constructional Aversion Treatment (CAT)

I mentioned this training technique previously, in my blog post [about Dash](#), an extremely aggressive dog. This approach was originally called Constructional Aggression Treatment, but is equally effective for the resolution of fearful behavior.

From the few resources I find, I might conclude that it is still not widely recognized for the incredibly fast results it can produce when implemented correctly. I include it here because it is so incredibly helpful in a wide variety of contexts to fairly quickly make significant progress. I have very successfully used it to address fearful behavior toward the owner herself, fear of hands, fear of new toys and fear of new perches.

One caveat: it may be best if you seek the help of a behavior professional before attempting to use this strategy. It requires more sensitivity to and accuracy in reading body language, than the methods of DS/CC explained above. I have consulted remotely with clients in using this and found that some struggled due to difficulties reading body language. This was corrected when they provided videos for my review. Another pair of eyes was necessary for success. Thus, your best chance with this is to have a coach.

Example: Introduction of a New Toy Using CAT

- Hold the toy in a spot where it is clearly visible to the parrot, but lower than she is perched. Make sure that the spot you choose elicits no signs of distress in your bird toward the toy. If you do see a fearful reaction, move back until this dissipates completely.
- Take one step toward your parrot and observe body language.
- If she looks completely relaxed, take another step.
- Continue in this way until you do see a reaction. The goal is to be so observant that you catch the earliest signs of alarm – perhaps she stands up a little straighter or looks a bit more intensely at the toy. (If she moves away from you, it's likely that you missed earlier signs.)
- When you see this reaction, stay put and don't move but continue to observe body language.
- Watch for any sign of increased comfort – an eye blink, turn of the head, more relaxed body posture or feather position.
- When you see this, immediately turn and walk back to your original position.
- Approach again, using this same technique, repeatedly during a single training session. If you are doing this correctly, you will find that you are able to approach closer with each repetition or two, while your parrot remains distress-free.

- When you can walk with the toy right up to the parrot, you will likely be able to simply put it directly into the cage.
- Example: Introduction of a New Playstand Using CAT
- This might, on the surface, appear similar to the counter conditioning approach described above. However, the significant difference is that no food reinforcers are used.
- With the parrot on your hand, begin at a distance from the perch at which your bird shows no signs of concern.
- Approach slowly, one step at a time, carefully observing body language.
- Stop at the very first sign of alarm.
- Watch for any slight indication of reduced distress/ more relaxation and immediately walk back to your starting position.
- Repeat using the same technique until you are able to walk all the way up to the perch.
- At this point, you can begin to use reinforcers to teach the parrot to step onto it, as described previously.

Conclusion

Neophobia is normal behavior for any adult parrot. Therefore, we should anticipate fearful reactions to new things.

That said, however, it is not difficult to introduce new toys, perches and other items to parrots if the correct approaches are used. Best methods always minimize the parrot's stress levels during the process.

For ethical reasons, as well as those related to quality of life, we should never (1) force a new object into a parrot's space when signs are evident that this is causing distress, nor (2) eliminate objects from the parrot's environment if these have the chance of creating greater quality of life once accepted.

Systematic desensitization, counter conditioning, and Constructional Aversion Treatment are all effective methods for addressing the typical neophobia so often seen in parrots. These methods can be used by anyone, but best success may be achieved with an experienced behavior professional guiding your efforts. If you want to go it alone, your success will be dependent upon accurate assessment of your own parrot's body language and responding appropriately.

*Used with permission - Pamela Clark - <https://blogpamelaclarkonline.com/2019/11/14/parrots-and-neophobic-behavior/>



(Continued from page 11)

numbered 1,078 this year, with 4,244 hatchlings emerging so far! (Turtle nests are monitored by trained individuals under Marine Sea Turtle Permit)

And in Wyoming, a wind farm company must pay \$29,628.00 for any eagle killed by its turbines. Violations of the Eagle Protection Act rose during Obama's second term. Trump appointees rolled back enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that protects more than a thousand species, and a Biden order reversed that rollback. The steps taken by Duke's Top of the World wind farm reduced eagle deaths by 60%: they deployed a camera system that detects incoming eagles so that turbines in the bird's path can be shut down.

Baby parrots babble like baby humans as both are learning to communicate. Parrots may provide the best non-human examples of beginning to learn language. Parrots, songbirds, humans, and a few other mammals are vocal learners. They listen and mimic. More: <https://www.science.org/content/article/wild-parrot-chicks-babble-human-infants?>

Shame on the person or persons who destroyed piping plover nests in the Rockaways in June. The protective fence around their nesting area was vandalized and eggs stolen. The Federal government has offered a \$5,000.00 reward for information leading to the thieves.

Do you know this bird?

By Susan Chamberlain



It's Charlie, Roberta Fabiano's African grey parrot, adopted from Joan Napolitano! Charlie was a Bird Talk cover and centerfold bird, as were other members' pets! Bird Talk is no longer published, but you can pick up FREE back issues at LIPS meetings and outreaches and at Parrot EXPO! There is still a lot of great information in those issues. If your bird appeared in BT, please send a photo to editor@liparrots.org so we can use it in a upcoming issue of the Long Island Parrot Beacon.



Links worth Checking Out!

[Avian Behavior and Training with Debbie Foster](#), CPBT-KA and CPBC - August 12 at 1 PM EDT - Phoenix Landing Zoom webinar

[The Good Life: Tips and Essentials with Ann Brooks](#), CPBC - September 23 at 1 PM EDT - Phoenix Landing Zoom webinar

[Lafeber Home Learning](#)

[The Most Common Birds Found in North America](#)



[Watch](#) our President, Diane Hyde in an interview with Nancy Hessel of American Pet Professionals.

[Veritable Aviary of Birds and Pollinators by The Paper Ark Are Small Enough to Perch on the Tip of a Finger](#)

[Why Do Birds Sing? Recent Studies Sing a New Tune About Birdsong](#)

[Is an Army of Ants Invading Your Space ?](#)

What is a Kestrel?

By Shawn Florman



One of the best known falcons in North America is the American Kestrel. The Kestrels, which are most observed are conspicuous, colorful, open-habitat birds of prey. They are the size of Morning Dove.

Make no mistake about this little bird, it packs a predator's fierce intensity into its small body. The Kestrels are the most colorful of all raptors. The male has a slate blue head while the wings contrast with the rusty red back and tail. The females on the other hand, have the same warm reddish color on their wings, back and tail.

While you may think this is a cute bird because of its size, it is illegal to have wild birds as pets. Should you ever encounter one, it is suggested to contact a wild life rehabilitator and get advice.

Board Meeting Minutes - July 2023

July 12, 2023 7PM via ZOOM ATTENDING: David Abrahams, Susan Chamberlain, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Diane Hyde, Candy Little, Susan Seddo

American Legion Meeting Hall in Sayville:

donates 10% to LIPS. Agreed not to advertise availability of birds for parties or events as participation would be on a case-by-case basis.

VOTE to move back to Greenwood Hall for September & December meetings Passed 6/1

EXPO discussion

August 2 meeting at Nassau SPCA Disaster preparedness refresher Noon-1PM in Wantagh at Bide-a-Wee; RSVP required. Several board members to attend.

Board must survey the hall for layout, number, and measurements of tables—tentatively scheduled for 7/18

July 19 ZOOM trivia night: Prize: Membership renewal for answering “Final Squawk” question. DPH to pull questions from the Parrot Quiz Book, No. 1. Folks are to type answers in the chat or poll. Questions will be sent to board for review.

Depending on size of hall and layout, can we invite more vendors? TBD Vendors will be by invitation only due to space limitations.

Dorothy from Dorothy’s Land of Oz interested in vending

Presenters for August 16 ZOOM meeting: Virginia Wright & Cassandra Gross, Parrot Caregiver Network, “Future Care for Your Parrots”

Create vendor application via Jotform

Cost of Vendor tables TBD

SC will work with Kathy V on postcard design (2,500)

Use airport hotel for Robin: Hilton Garden Inn, Vets Hwy, Ronkonkoma (Friday and Saturday)

Dinner with Robin (Friday or Saturday)

Proposed hotel costs be covered for EXPO sponsor. TBD

LIRR to use: Ronkonkoma Station (more train availability and taxis)

LIPS table and chair needs:

- Admissions
- Membership
- Club Sales (Multiple: Tees, toys, dishes, toy parts, perches, tote bags, miscellaneous items)
- Raffles (Multiple)
- Water/Snacks (recycle receptacle for empty bottles) No ice...we’ll have water dripping everywhere.
- Education Center-multiple
- Tent Sales Table outside under tents
- NY Bird Supply
- PRIZE WHEEL
- FACE PAINTING—depends on space available
- Kaitlin Saxton is donating a square.com terminal to LIPS (value \$300). We can use for credit card payments and to print receipts

Shana Kersten (LI Budgie Rescue is our Sept presenter) may bring a few budgies to meeting with her.

Presenter for October 18 ZOOM meeting: Amy Hopkins, The Parrot Club, “Where in the World and Other Parrot Facts”

Postage increase. Will cost additional to mail newsletters. Board to review cost

Outreach Captains, participants, multi-day outreaches, losing an important member of the outreach team, outreach admin (and back-up) make it difficult to attend multi-day and lengthy outreaches. Days to be divided up so that each volunteer doesn’t have to stay all day. Bringing birds back to outdoor outreaches may encourage volunteerism—should be okay if not placed next to waterfowl. Parrots will have to be displayed beneath the tent and not be allowed to wander on the ground. Leave avian participation up to owner’s discretion. Anyone handling a bird must use hand sanitizer first.

Multi-day Outreach Events: Bellmore Street Fair, LI Pet EXPO in September; require multiple volunteers. Possible volunteer Zoom meeting. Will bringing birds encourage more volunteers?

Party Requests: People want one or two parrots supplied for parties; need to standardize fees; member gets fee,

The Long Island Parrot Society is building
The Long Island Parrot Museum,
Shelter and Learning Center . . .
one brick at a time!



**Your very own commemorative brick on a special memorial path or wall . . .
What a great way to honor a special bird, living or passed; or to celebrate your family,
a special date, person, pet or event!**

The bricks will become a permanent part of the Long Island Parrot Society’s future Parrot Museum, Shelter and Learning Center!
Your sponsorship will help make the project a reality!

Three lines of engraved type, 13 spaces per line, standard size brick.

Donation: \$50.00

Bricks will be delivered to the Long Island Parrot Society and stored until needed.
YES, I would like to donate _____ bricks at \$50.00 each. Total: _____

Line 1: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Line 2: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Line 3: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Attached a separate piece of paper for additional bricks.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ eMAIL _____

Please enclose your check or money order; to pay online using PayPal.
Go to www.liparrots.org for details!

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631 957 1100 www.liparrots.org

The LI Parrot Society is a non-profit, 501c3 organization and NY State registered charity #43-65-18



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Portion of the sale donated to LIPS

LIPS MEMBER DISCOUNTS

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

- **Bird Paradise**, Burlington, NJ, 10% off (doesn't apply to purchased birds or Harrison's products) - in store only. 15% discount for on-line purchases—code: LIPS15.
- **B.T.J.'s Jungle**, West Islip (631-587-8191) 10% off
- **Central Veterinary Associates**, 24/7, Valley Stream + 5 other locations, 10% off all services, call (888-4CVA-PET), www.centralvets.com — 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.

goodshop

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!

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.



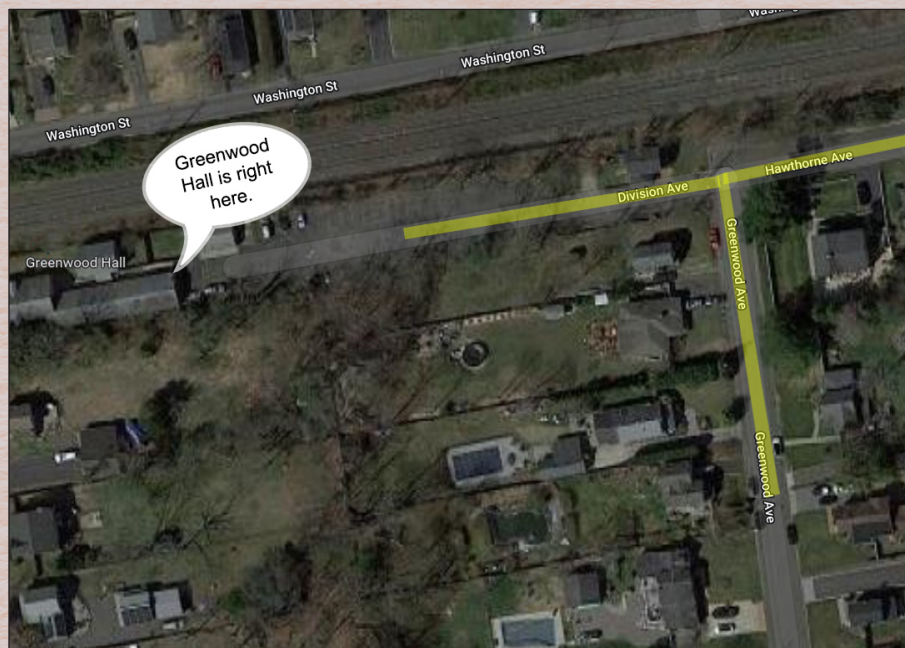
Please observe the following rules for the safety of your parrots and others!

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

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

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

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



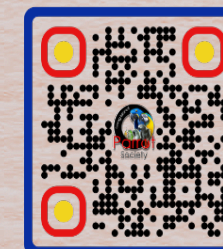
From the East:

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.

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



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We welcome July's new members with open wings: Hannah Birch, Nate Morgan, Nikki Giordano, Ronaldo Montes, Ines Peek, Jose Diaz, Katherine Dessommes

Congratulations to LIPS Board member, Bob Dietrich...he recently became a grandfather!

Walk-through aviaries where visitors can interact with free flying budgies are proliferating. If you're in the Boston area this summer, visit the Franklin Park Zoo's Aussie Aviary. Closer to home, check out White Post Farm in Melville, NY. It features Bird Landing, a parakeet aviary, and Poppie's Lorikeet Landing.

Congratulations to Lewis Buddy Waskey on his election to American Federation of Aviculture President! Some of us were fortunate to meet him and his free-flying macaws at the AFA Convention in Connecticut several years ago.

Welcome, new Long Island Parrot Beacon advertiser, Gold Crown Macadamia Nuts! Thanks, Shawn Florman for doing such a great job getting advertising for the newsletter!

Our Parrot Placement Team works very hard. They field calls and emails from people wanting to adopt or relinquish birds. They've heard almost everything. Someone recently wrote a simplified request: "I would like to revoke my parakeet." Wait, what???

Congrats to Dr. Robert Monaco of Old Country Animal Clinic! On Father's Day weekend, he completed a triathlon, taking second place in his age group!

Jimmy Buffett won't be appearing at Jones Beach this summer, but you can get that tropical feel when *Escape to Margaritaville*, a musical inspired by Buffet's songs, dances into the Engeman Theatre in Northport July 13-August 27th! Visit engemantheatre.com or call 631-261-2900 for tickets.

Want to see a kea, live and 'in person' without traveling all the way to New Zealand? Visit the Franklin Park Zoo at 1 Franklin Park Rd., Boston MA this summer! Visit www.franklinparkzoo.org for more info and directions.

R.I.P., Paquita, the 60+ year-old Amazon parrot who had lived at Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg, Florida for decades. Susan Chamberlain visited Paquita at the Gardens while staying with her grandparents in St. Pete and later, as a writer for *Bird Talk*, photographed Paquita and her trainers for an article about Florida tourist attractions for bird lovers.



Reusable tote bags are here!
Get yours at a meeting,
outreach event or at Parrot
EXPO on October 14th!



Parrot Caretaker Network



Meet the Speaker

Virginia Wright



Virginia Wright has a Bachelor's degree in music, with professional experience in online and print design, IT/systems administration, and arts/nonprofit management and administration. She has passions for visual and performing arts, worldwide tea cultures, animal intelligence and welfare, and social equity and justice. She

has contributed articles and essays for publication, both online and in print on a range of topics, including arts, culture, and heritage. She has multiple blogs and websites that she has designed, built, and supplied content for. Inspiration for her work with parrots is provided by her two cockatoos: Peach, a Goffin's, and BB, a Lesser Sulphur-Crested.

Cassandra Gross



Cassandra Gross has a Bachelor's degree in business from the University of Washington, with professional experience as a systems analyst. She plays trombone with the Port Townsend Symphony Orchestra and is an artist specializing in digital pet portraits. Her other interests include running, bicycling, kayaking, Crossfit and general

fitness, as well as reading and crochet. She and her husband are owned by a senior Patagonian Conure named Sammy. Cassandra's love of parrots began over 30 years ago and she has a deep interest in bettering their lives through educating and providing resources to parrot owners.

Meet the Member



This is Candy's encore appearance in this column, having been profiled by Bob Dietrich in 2013. Ten years later, Candy is still an active member, participating in numerous outreach events, helping at meetings, and now serving on the club's Board of Directors, where she fulfills the

challenging position of Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator.

She never had her own pet bird as a child, but her grandmother had canaries. "I loved how they sang and interacted with each other, and how pretty they looked in their cage in the sunny window. I got budgies as an adult, probably around 1990. My son saved his money and bought his own Quaker parakeet when he was nine years old."

Because her son was at school all day, Candy spent a lot of time with the bird and decided "I need to get a bird for my very own. So, I went back to the bird store in Smithtown, near where Uncle Giuseppe's is today. I tried to talk myself out of getting a bird but bonded with a baby African grey. I visited and fed him daily and took him home a little early because I was doing so well feeding him. He is my sweet Griffin."

Candy had always wanted a scarlet macaw and loved hyacinths. "I loved them and applied to LIPS to adopt a scarlet who had been on a diet of seed and pretzels and had a deformed beak. The bird was not recommended as a good fit for me by the adoption team. Then blue and gold macaw, Maverick came along. I went and met him. He lived with a woman in her 80s. The bird had been her daughter's who had passed away. It was one of the last links to the daughter. Everyone was trying to be very solicitous of her feelings, and finally the woman said to other daughter, 'Oh for God's sake...you're just afraid I'm going to drop dead and leave you with the bird.' I adopted Maverick and stayed in touch, sending her photos, and encouraging her to come to outreaches to see Maverick. Her daughter brought her several times." The woman is now in a care facility and Candy continues to let her know Maverick is doing well. Maverick is between 29-32 years old and was adopted on Dec 9, 2009.

Maverick has been challenging at times "Maverick used to bite, but eventually we came to an understanding. One day he had my thumb and wouldn't let go no matter what I did. I reprimanded him strongly. A very well-respected avian behavior consultant concurred with me. Bird owners must realize that It's not always their fault when a bird bites."

Candy doesn't remember exactly when she joined the Long Island Parrot Society, but it was likely shortly after she got Griffin in 1995. "I was looking for like-minded people who love parrots. I wanted to connect and learn more. I had little kids so I couldn't go to meetings at first. My membership lapsed a few times and I always rejoined and was finally able to attend meetings. I became more active in the club around 2004."

She enjoys participating in Pet EXPO, Sweetbriar events, Parrot EXPO, and many of the smaller outreach events. Presently, most of the responsibility falls on Diane Hyde and Candy. "It's tough to set up alone. The tents are heavy to haul around. The days are long. It's very difficult to get volunteers to commit to captaining these events. We need more help."

She finds it very satisfying to educate people about proper bird care. "People look and talk among themselves. I open a conversation and find out that they often own birds too. I call them 'closet parrot people'. Education is the most important thing. I reprimanded a teenage boy who brought a budgie to an outreach. He told me his mom got them budgies for the summer, then let them go 'free' in the fall."

Griffin used to accompany Candy to outreach events, but he grew to hate it, so she retired him. "Maverick, on the other hand, loves doing events. He was used to it before I got him. His former owner used to take him and do presentations at libraries and assisted living facilities." One of Candy's favorite club events was the tailgate party preceding the Jimmy Buffett concert at Jones Beach. "Parking lot #5 was the best. I brought my motor home. It had AC, a fridge, and an awning. We could rest with the birds inside. People were partying like it was 1995. They loved seeing and taking pictures with the birds. We had lots of fun and got significant donations for LIPS too!"

Candy is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and has volunteered at Sweetbriar Nature Center for about 20 years. Spike, a DYH Amazon who lives there is somewhere over 40 years old. "He's been my buddy," said Candy. "He was with a Mexican redhead, Rasputin who would yell for help all day. I sometimes bring Spike into the butterfly house and let him get sprayed and relax out of the cage. Also in residence are a Moluccan cockatoo, a Goffin's and a cockatiel. At one point we had multiple birds there, including budgies and cockatiels."

What surprised Candy the most upon joining the Long Island Parrot Society was "How incredibly kind and giving members can be; people are so supportive. Many would stay behind and help me pack up after outreaches."

Candy's hopes for the future of the club are "That we thrive, continue to grow, and educate people. It's sometimes shocking to learn how little people know regarding feeding, husbandry, and behavior. Expanding our educational programs would be great I've learned so much myself. I Would love to see us realize a brick-and-mortar shelter. For that to happen, we need to have a more active volunteer base. Even with sufficient money, we still must depend on volunteers. Being a volunteer is just as important as having a paid job."

PARROT EXPO IS BACK! Save the Date! Saturday, October 14, 10AM-5PM New Venue!

SAYVILLE VFW Post 433
400 LAKELAND AVENUE
SAYVILLE NY 11782

Although we had planned to launch Parrot EXPO last year, for the first time, post-pandemic, the lack of vendor response put the kibosh on that. 2023 brings new energy and possibilities, so we're presenting a new, albeit smaller version of Parrot EXPO this October! Lower admission rates—LIPS members admitted FREE until NOON!

Avian enrichment presentations, hosted by world-renowned expert, Robin Shewokis-Sullivan will be scheduled throughout the day. Enjoy the interactive education center where you can consult with longtime parrot owners about your own experiences in Birdland! Learn which bird might be a good fit for your own family, share and learn from others' avian behavior issues and ask all the 'Why does my bird do that?' questions you like! Get veterinarian, grooming, and bird sitter referrals, enjoy the live parrots on display and much, much more! Want to adopt a parrot? Start here! There may be a bird just waiting for YOU!

Shop a carefully curated selection of goodies for pet birds and their human companions! Cages, food, toys, accessories, giftware, and art, all at great prices! It's a great opportunity for 'pollyday' shopping too! Try your luck at the raffle arena, where you'll find a breathtaking array of bird-related products and more! Spin the prize wheel for more lucky chances! Due to space limitations, vendor participation will be by invitation only.

FREE parking, handicapped accessible.
ADMISSION: (Humans only! Please leave birds & other pets at home!)
Adult: \$5.00 Senior: (60+) \$3.00 Under 12: \$3.00
Under 2: FREE
Watch for news and updates! Visit liparrots.org Phone: 631-957-1100



These two 24" x 24" prints on canvas will be raffled as a pair at Parrot EXPO on October 14th! Save some wall space!



- Adoption Spotlight**
- Parrot's Name** Henrik
 - Species** Quaker Parrot
 - Age of Parrot** 11
 - Sex** Unknown
 - Are the Wings Clipped?** Partially flighted
 - Bird Color** Green and grey
 - Does your bird talk?** he can say: Henrik, peek-a-boo, step up, stop it
 - What do you currently feed your bird to eat?** Pellets and seeds
 - Is your bird hand tame?** No
 - Does your bird have any feather issues?** None
 - When was the bird last Vet checked?** N/A
 - Which of the following your bird is good with.** Dogs
 - Tell us if your bird has any behavior issues?** He bites at any interaction. But he will let you pick him up if he's off his cage.
 - Why are you needing to rehome your bird?** Moving to a new house, cannot take him with. Provide us with any additional information that may help a candidate show interest in your bird. He is quiet most of the time. He gets along with dogs. He is sociable in one on one settings.

Henrik is looking for his forever home. If you are interested in adopting Henrik 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

AFA DELEGATES

Diane Hyde, Susan Chamberlain

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**

September 16 - Long Island, NY
[Seatuck Long Island Birding Challenge](#)

September 16 - 17 Copiague, NY
[Long Island Pet Expo in the Park](#)

*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!

September 1 - 2 - Waynesburg, PA - BAA ([Budgerigar Association of America](#)) [Grand National](#)

September 22 - 24 Tarrytown, NY [New York Birders Conference](#)

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