

BIRD LINE NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 10

December, 2007



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Seasons greetings everyone. Please bring a dish to share at the December meeting. Happy Holidays and best wishes to all for the coming new year. If you cannot make this meeting, we look forward to seeing you in January. Please clean up on, under, and around your table and chairs before leaving the meeting.

Thank you.
Thomas J Neill Jr

MESSAGE FROM THE 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

We are having our Holiday party on December 13th, 2007. I hope all will attend this meeting and join in the fun. Please bring a side dish if you can. Call Connie and let her know what it is you will be bringing to the meeting.

I hope to see everyone there
Margaret Ouali

MESSAGE FROM THE 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Our fall fundraising event is now coming to an end. I am sure everyone has sold all of their tickets. Please remember to bring the tickets you have sold and the money collected to the December 13th meeting. This is the Holiday Party and we will be drawing the winning tickets for the HD Car Radio as well as for the Fall Fundraising tickets. If you missed out on purchasing any tickets in the past two months, it's not too late! You can still buy some before we get underway in the drawing. Good luck!

If you were not at the meeting, you missed signing up to bring a food item to the Holiday Party. We need drinks, side dishes, salads, and desserts. Please contact me by phone 610-604-3316 or email me at conniecmm1@aol.com with what you can bring and I will add you to the list. December's meeting is usually a large turnout, so we are asking for everyone's participation.

Save those "gently used" toy parts and recycle them back to the club. Turn them in at the next meeting to myself or Debbie and they will be reused on toys we make for the raffle table.

Mart planning continues. Make sure your calendar is clear for Saturday April 12, 2008. A lot of volunteers will be needed again in all areas of the mart. Committees will be formed for everyone to sign up with but all are asked to participate in hanging flyers for the next three months.

Thank you to Chester County Bird Club for inviting us to their 19th Annual Bird Show & Mart that was held on November 10. They did a wonderful job in hosting another successful mart.

Remember as always, the raffle table welcomes your donations. See you at the party.

Happy Holidays
Connie Metz

OUTREACH UPDATE

We are all starting to settle in for a long Fall/Winter by the fire.

Please stay safe and healthy. We will keep you updated on any future Outreach requests. Most likely they will be in the spring. Thank you for supporting the Outreach Program.

Sincerely,
Esther Scholz

MEMBER REP MESSAGE

Welcome New Members!

Joe Ramoni
Dee Moore
Greg and Alice Sanborn
Patti Sandler

Membership applications to the National Cockatiel Society and the American Cockatiel Society will be available at the December meeting. They strongly encourage you to join and support their societies, especially if you plan on showing your cockatiel at our mart.

Thank you to Connie, Esther, Linda, Flo, and Chris P. for working the membership table at Chester County's Show and Mart held November 10.

With the cold weather upon us, make sure your car is warm before bringing the birds out as they are welcome to all of the meetings.

Membership Representative
Debbie Park

BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 13th 2007

Started: 7:00pm

Attendance: Connie M, Colleen R, Christine P, Margaret O, Debbie P, Esther S, Linda M, Erica S and Tom Neill

Member Dues: It is that time of the year again for member dues. \$20.00 for household, \$10.00 for seniors and \$5.00 for an extra vote.

Treasurer's Report: Will be talked about at the club meeting.

Outreach: See Esther's blurb.

Fundraising: Fall fundraiser will be coming to an end please turn in all raffle money and tickets to Connie the night of the club meeting so we can do the drawing.

Holiday Party: The board approved the main course for the night: Roast Beef, Meatballs and Baked Ziti. If you would like to bring anything as a side dish please email or call Connie. As always birds are welcome!

Bird Mart: Our Bird Mart this year will be April 12th, 2008. For the first time we will be putting on a NCS and ACS cockatiel show. If you would like to enter your cockatiels please see Connie or Debbie. Also if you can spare any free time to help with the mart please see any of the board members. We need help with advertising, donations, and much more.

Newsletter: The club is in need of a newsletter editor if you are interested please see any of the board members. The board will be editing the newsletter in the meantime.

Ended: 8:55pm

Submitted by: Colleen Robinson (Secretary)

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Delco Bird Club Events for 2007/2008

December 13, 2007: Holiday Party

January 10, 2008: Movie and popcorn night featuring 'The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill'.

February 21, 2008: Dr Bowers is bringing new information from the latest avian convention.

March 13, 2008: Mart planning night. Sign up with Connie Metz, Esther Scholz, or Debbie Park to help on a committee, help with mart in general, with the outreach, or with the show. All should attend!

April 10, 2008: Final mart planning night. All should attend!

May 08, 2008: Dr. Jeleen Briscoe and Rita Sambruna will be giving a Mini-seminar called "Positive Reinforcement for Successful Home Life and Veterinary Visits."

June 12, 2008: The Foxwells from Birdsnest Specialty will kick off our summer party.

Balancing Your Bird's Diet With Variety

If you ask 100 bird experts about the proper bird diet, you're going to get 100 answers. Most experts, however, agree that variety is essential. For birds, balance in the diet is all about variety. The more variety you can offer, the more possibilities that your bird will get the nutrients it needs

So, it makes sense to feed the most nutritious foods when the bird is hungriest, in the morning, and then feed the base diet in the late afternoon with a little bit of seed tossed in just before bedtime. This gives your bird what it needs when it's most likely to eat it.

If you put a bowl of seeds alongside a bowl of veggies, the seed will win your bird's attention. But if you present a cooked diet and some fresh foods in the morning, pellets in the afternoon, and then a small amount of seeds in the evening, your bird will have no choice but to eat what's offered.

Protein- Is the building block of muscle. Lack of protein can cause feather and skin issues and lowered immunity. Good protein sources for birds include hard-boiled eggs (boiled more than 40 minutes), well-cooked poultry and fish, cooked beans (never raw) and small amounts of cheese and yogurt (but not milk or ice cream). Nuts are also a good source of protein but not a complete source.

Carbohydrates- Carbohydrates create energy, so a lack of them leads to fatigue and decreased immune function. For birds, carbohydrates are typically found in seeds, cereals, starchy vegetables and fruits.

Fats- Fat is an essential part of the avian diet. Fat helps with vitamin absorption, lubricates the skin and feathers, and contributes to overall health. Find appropriate fats for birds in nuts, seeds and in oils added to the diet, such as flax seed or fish oils.

Vitamins- Like people, birds also need their vitamins. In general, birds tend to suffer from a deficiency of vitamin A. You will find this vitamin in carrots, jalapeno peppers, kale, red peppers, spinach, butternut squash and mango, among other items.

Vitamin D is also a common deficiency, but it can be helped by exposure to sunlight or full-spectrum lamps. The jury is still out on whether or not birds should be supplemented with vitamins in the water. One camp says that it is necessary and the other warns about making the water a breeding ground for bacteria

Minerals- Minerals allow multiple bodily systems to function properly, from the musculoskeletal system to the respiratory system to the digestive system. Many captive birds suffer from a calcium deficiency, which can be diagnosed by your veterinarian. Leafy greens (turnip, beet, mustard chard, and watercress), cheese, almonds, broccoli and yams are all high in calcium.

Feeding your bird right isn't as difficult as you think, but it certainly takes a little time and effort. But your bird is worth the extra effort. Don't over think the diet-just try to give your bird as many nutritious foods as you can each day, and let it sort through them.

Cuttlebone and Mineral Blocks

Cuttlebone (which comes from a type of squid) and mineral blocks offer a stable form of calcium, calcium carbonate, to pet birds. You can attach these items to cage bars for easy access. The soft side of the cuttlebone should be facing the bird, not the hard portion, which they might not be able to scrape through. These items also often contain trace minerals vital to a bird's daily bodily functions.

Iron-for red blood cell formation and function, carrying oxygen in the bloodstream and egg production

Manganese- metabolizes fats and sugars and improves egg hatchability

Potassium-maintains normal heart and muscle activity

Zinc- immune system

Cooper- for proper circulation and healing

Magnesium- activates enzymes

Phosphorus- for calcium metabolism

Sodium- for almost every bodily function

Even with the use of cuttlebone, your bird will still need to absorb calcium from foods such as leafy greens for these natural sources are more readily digestible.

FOODS TO AVOID

Your bird can eat most of the foods that you eat, but there are a few things you should avoid feeding

- **Chocolate**
- **Caffeine**
- **Avocado**
- **Alcohol**
- **Peanuts**
- **Apple seeds(cyanide)**
- **Stone fruit pits**
- **Raw dairy(milk, ice cream)**
 - **Raw onions**
 - **Rhubarb**
- **Raw mushrooms**
- **Salty items**
- **Junk food**
 - **Beef**

A special thank you to Dr. Len Donato for yet another informative talk on "Myth Busting" Giardia linked to feather picking. Dr Donato comes to us from Radnor Veterinarian Hospital and it is always a pleasure to have Dr. Donato speak at our club meetings.



HOLIDAY PET SAFETY

We all know how beautiful this time of year is and how we love to decorate our homes and Christmas trees with beautiful decorations that sparkle and lights that twinkle. All of which look attractive to a curious parrot.

Everyone loves the beauty of the Poinsettia, but these beautiful holiday plants are hazardous to animals. The poinsettia has a milky substance which will cause a skin irritation or rash. Immediately wash your pet if it has come in contact with this milky substance. You do not want your birds or other pets to ingest this plant for it causes nausea and diarrhea. The ASPCA, in the past, has issued warnings of hanging mistletoe in the home. One or two sprigs will most likely cause a stomach ache, but larger quantities ingested can cause seizures, coma and even death. If you do have poinsettias or mistletoe in the home, take precautions and just be aware at all times of your pets whereabouts and what it is doing.

Did you ever wonder why your Christmas tree lasts so long inside the home? Because it is treated with a chemical so it can! (no joke) Don't let your bird near your Christmas tree for he may want to chew on it. And those gorgeous glass ornaments we all decorate our tree with, can be shattered by your bird's beak and ingested into the digestive system as well as can the attractive lights we string up. Electric shock will occur if your pet chews on these lights or any extension cord that may be accessible to him. Make sure your animals do not drink the Christmas tree water, which may contain fertilizer, and may become stagnant and carry bacteria.

We all know the dangers of chocolate with our pets and this season brings us so many shiny foil wrapped santas, bells and snowmen to choose from. Please keep them out of the reach of your birds and other pets in the home.

As our guests come to visit us this holiday season, be aware of your bird's location, especially if it is not clipped, as we wouldn't want your bird to escape through an open door while someone was bringing in gifts.

So let's all practice common sense and take precautions to keep our pets safe while we still enjoy the beauty and magic of this year's Holiday Season.

Connie Metz

(Also be careful if use those "net" style lights for the bushes outside. I work with a woman who had a sparrow get its wing caught up in one).

JOKE OF THE MONTH

What do you get when you cross a Canary and a 50ft long snake?
A Sing-A-Long
How do you get down off an elephant?
You don't, you get down from a duck!
Daughter asks Mom- Can I have a Canary for Christmas?
Mom- No, you will have turkey like everyone else!



PARROT OF THE MONTH

New feature added to the newsletter. Watch for a different bird each month from A to Z.



African Grey

Genus: Size:

Psittacus erithacus, 33cm (12.8in); *timneh*, (11.7in) 30cm

Species: Adult Weight:

erithacus Erithacus 400g (14 Oz); *timneh* 320g (11.2oz)

Races including nominate:

two: *P.e. erithacus*, *P.e. timneh*

Adult Color: *erithacus*: both adults grey in colour with grey/white scalloping to feathers; flight feathers darker grey; red tail and lower undertail coverts. Bill black. Eye grey.

***timneh*:** both adults dark grey in colour, paler on rump and abdomen; dark grey lower undertail coverts tinged with dark red; dark burgundy tail, the feathers edged with brown. Upper mandible dark red tipped with black, lower mandible black; smaller in size.

Found in primary and secondary rainforest, forest edges and clearings, gallery forest and mangroves; wooded savanna, cultivated land and some gardens. Their longevity is 50 to 60 years and are near-threatened due to extensive forest loss in Nigeria to Dierra Leone and heavy trapping for pet trade.

The African grey parrot has a wonderful character, a combination of intelligence and charm. African grey parrots have been kept as pets for over 4000 years. The Egyptians are thought to be the first to keep the African grey parrot as pets, as depicted in their hieroglyphics. The Greeks also highly valued the African grey parrot as pets, as did the Romans who kept these intelligent birds in highly ornate cages. The tradition of keeping the African grey parrot continued with King Henry VIII keeping one as a pet. Portuguese sailors kept them as companions on their long sea voyages. In earlier days, natives killed Grey parrots for food and for their red tail feathers, which were used for decoration and were considered to have magic power. In the 19th century, African Grey parrots were sold to the Europeans and these birds gained popularity among them. At that time parrots were stuffed into reed cylinders and transported by sea. Strangely enough people thought that the parrots didn't require water. Even the European veterinarians prescribed no water for Grey parrots.

The African Gray parrot is a monogamous bird, nesting solitarily in a tree with a hole for her eggs. Greys feed primarily on nuts and fruits supplemented by leafy matter.

The Grey Parrot's main defense mechanism is fluffing up its feathers to look larger. The grey parrot is considered to be one of the most accomplished mimics. Parrots, when raised by humans, show an amazing ability to mimic people and noisy objects, but in the wild they have never been observed mimicking.

With exports totaling more than 350,000 specimens from 1994-2003, the grey parrot is one of the most heavily-traded CITES-listed bird species. Today, many African Grey parrots are hand-reared by breeders for the pet trade, and they make a wonderful and very affectionate companion parrot. However, because they can be unpredictable at times, they may not be compatible with small children. African Grey parrots are very strong, and they can bite with their powerful beaks. Their nails are naturally sharp and can scratch, although they don't use them aggressively. Pet owners often liken the experience of keeping an African Grey to that of raising a young child, not only because of the birds' intelligence, but also arising from the substantial time commitment which they require. Due to their sensitive natures they may develop behavioral problems.

BIRDS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION FROM THE BAILEY FOUNDATION

(Advertisement paid for by Chris Webb)

As many of you know, I am an active volunteer and foster home for the Bailey Foundation. I am currently fostering the 6 Bailey birds described below, and will be happy to give you details on any one of them. There are many other birds available, please check out their web site www.baileyfoundation.org

Sonny – male Orange Winged Amazon

Sonny came from a very loving family who experienced a major lifestyle change, and were forced to find a new home for Sonny. He is a very friendly bird who steps up easily and loves to cuddle. He gets along with other birds once he gets used to them. He is relatively quiet and enjoys his time out of his cage.

Buddy – 14 YO male Lesser Sulphur Crested Cockatoo

Buddy seems to be a good natured bird who craves human contact. He has been mistreated, however, and bites out of fear. In recent weeks, he has come to trust people and allows petting of his beak, chest, head and legs through the cage bars. His behavior remains unpredictable, however, and he would do best in a home with a seasoned bird owner, where he will receive consistent love and attention.

Mango – 2 YO male Peach Front Conure

Mango is a young, friendly bird who loves fruit, especially dried papaya, and enjoys slowly destroying his wooden toys. He tends to bite your fingers when he steps up, but this is decreasing over time, and I believe he will be a good companion with consistent positive reinforcement from his caregiver. Mango can be a bit noisy, as with most conures, but does not scream excessively.

Roscoe – 10 YO male Nanday Conure

Roscoe is as charming as he is naked!! He has plucked his chest and back repeatedly, and feathers will most likely not grow in these areas. His remaining feathers are beautiful, however, and his tail is long, full, and gorgeous!! He is very friendly, loves a good head scratch, and has a sweet, low voice that sounds like a whisper. He plays vigorously with his toys, and screams for joy while doing it!

Lucky – male Nanday Conure with special needs

Lucky is a very gentle and sweet bird and has only one leg. How and when he lost his leg is unknown; however, he seems to have adapted well to his disability and gets around fine! His cage has been customized to his needs; to minimize injury from falling, but Lucky hardly seems to think he needs it! He can be quite vocal when he greets his family, and thoroughly enjoys company.

Bing – Cherry-Head Conure

Bing was removed from a bad situation and brought to the Bailey Foundation for help. He was plucked in spots, but his feathers have grown nicely and he is learning to trust people again. He says many words, and appears to want to be with people. He will mutter under his breath if people are nearby, but not paying attention to him. He will be a fine companion with patience and understanding.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE BIRDS, OR OTHERS AVAILABLE AT THE BAILEY
FOUNDATION, PLEASE CONTACT ME

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For Sale (3 items)

Brooder from Deans Animal Supply. Website link www.thebrooder.com/model.htm Used once to pick up baby African greys from out of state. Practically new and comes with car charger. Original cost was \$369.99 asking \$200.00. Cage used for an African grey: purchased new for about \$300 asking \$100. Price negotiable, extra bowls included with the cage.

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 Boot Road Veterinary Clinic
 1455 East Boot Road
 West Chester PA 19380
 610-692-9079

Gloria J Goodman VMD
 3000 Concord Road
 Aston PA 19014
 610-494-2811

Old Marple Veterinary Hospital
 820 West Springfield Road
 Springfield PA 19064
 610-328-1300

Glenolden Animal Hospital
 Kimberly Bowers VMD
 405 S Macdade Blvd
 Glenolden PA 19036
 610-237-6120

Radnor Veterinary Hospital
 Len Donato VMD
 112 N Aberdeen Ave
 Wayne PA 19087
 610-687-1550

Stoney Creek Veterinary Hospital
 Jennifer Johnson
 701 Kedron Ave (Rte 420)
 Morton PA 19070
 610-328-3600

Ludwig's Corner Veterinary Hospital
 298 Black Horse Road
 Chester Sprngs PA 19425
 610-328-8567

Rocky Hill Veterinary
 Terry McGrath
 Rte 352 & Mango Lane
 East Goshen PA
 610-431-1620

Township Line Animal Hospital
 Daniel R Silverberg VMD
 8510 Lansdowne Ave
 Upper Darby PA 19082
 610-789-2525

Jeleen Briscoe VMD
 Univ of Penn Veterinary Medicine
 3900 Delancey Street
 Philadelphia PA 19104
 215-898-4680

Smoketown Veterinary Hospital
 2487 Old Philadelphia Pike
 Smoketown PA 19576
 717-394-5542

Malvern Veterinary Hospital
 545 S Warren Avenue
 Malvern PA 19355
 610-647-2626

Glen Croft Veterinary Hospital
 Harold L Russell DVM
 4 E Glenolden Ave
 Glenolden PA 19036
 610-583-2200

Conchester Animal Hospital
 Kathleen Tracy DVM
 530 Conchester Hwy
 Boothwyn PA 19061
 610-485-6007

Limerick Veterinary Hospital
 Limerick PA 19468
 610-489-2828

Larkin Veterinary Center
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If you have a vet not listed here, please provide the information and the page will be updated

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Email: Frandelhisflyers@rcn.com

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(484)461-3640

Email: Debbiescockatiels@yahoo.com

Member Reps : Linda Martin (610)789-1447
Erika Scarborough (610)626-3579 or
Email: Eala322001@yahoo.com
Francis Rich Frslacker1@aol.com

Chairpersons

Club Photographer WANTED

Outreach Committee

Esther Scholz
(610) 446-6427

Email: Luvsbrds@msn.com

Raffle Table

Connie Metz
(610) 604-3316

Email: Conniecmm1@aol.com

Refreshment Table

Tom Neill
(610) 622-2508

Email: atntjn@msn.com

Library

Beverly Jiminez
(610)368-9938

Newsletter Editor

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National Cockatiel Society
Debbie Park (484) 461-3640
American Cockatiel Society
Diane Baxter (302)369-8487
A.F.A. for Delco Bird Club
Christine Webb (610) 630-9125

Meeting Directions

**Meetings will be held at the Media Community Center, 4th & Monroe Sts, Media PA
7:00 pm on the second Thursday of the month.**

Take 476 (Blue Route) to the Media/Swarthmore Exit. Turn West onto Baltimore Pike. Follow Baltimore Pike six traffic lights to Monroe Street. Turn right onto Monroe. Turn left onto 4th street. The Hall is on your left and is handicapped accessible. If you have any questions, or need more directions, please call Tom Neill (610) 622-2508

Delco Bird Club Web Site: www.delcobirdclub.com

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BIRD LINE NEWS

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