

# BIRD LINE NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 2

February, 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr Bowers from Glenolden Animal Hospital will be joining us for February's meeting. Her presentation will be on signs of disease and first aid. Please give her a warm welcome and be courteous while she is speaking.

Please bring a snack or refreshment to share and remember to clean up around your table before leaving.

Thomas J Neill Jr

**\*\*\*Reminder February's Meeting is on the 21<sup>st</sup>\*\*\***

## MESSAGE FROM THE 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

February is upon us now and that means only two months left until our mart. The vendors are signing up and the donations for the raffle table are coming in at a steady pace. But first, we are going have a booth at the Super Pet Expo Feb 15, 16, and 17 held at the Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, PA. This is very exciting for our club to be able to reach over 20,000 customers to expose our club, recruit new members, and most importantly get our mart flyer out there. A team has been set up to work the booth for the three days. The expo's advertising consists of the following:

- 239 radio commercials
  - Newspaper ads in various papers
  - 500,000 discount coupons distributed all over Philadelphia
  - Coupons in 100+ pet stores & veterinary offices
  - 36 billboards throughout Philadelphia
  - 192 television commercials
  - E-mail coupons to 100,000 local pet owners
- and a link to our club's web site is posted on the Super Pet Expo's list of exhibitors. I am really looking forward to doing this one!

We are still in need of volunteers for the mart. Sign up sheets will be at the meeting again for all areas where needed.

February's fundraising will be the regular raffle table and 50/50 drawing, so don't forget to purchase those tickets before Dr. Bowers gets underway.

Remember as always, the raffle table welcomes your donations and recycled toy parts and thanks you for them.

Connie Metz



## OUTREACH UPDATE

We have two Outreaches planned for 2008 so far. They are:

**1) Super Pet Expo: Membership/Outreach Booth**  
<http://www.superpetexpo.com/shows/kingofprussia/>  
 Valley Forge Convention Center  
 1160 First Avenue  
 King of Prussia, PA 19406

Friday, February 15, 2008 4 PM - 9 PM  
 Saturday, February 16, 2008 10 AM - 8 PM  
 Sunday, February 17, 2008 10 AM - 5 PM

**2) Cub Scout Troop #92**  
 Saturday, March 8, 2008, at 5:30 PM.  
 We will be the after diner entertainment for their Blue and Gold Banquet.  
 They meet in the Gym of the Drexel Hill United Methodist Church located at 600 Burmont Rd, Drexel Hill, Pa.

**3) Saunders House (Nursing Home)**  
 Wynnewood, Pa. (located at the base of Lankenau Hosp's drive)  
 March ?, 2008 at 2:00PM. (Date pending)

Everyone is welcome to join us at any/all Outreaches!  
 Try it! You and your bird(s) may like it!

Esther

## Board Meeting Minutes January 15<sup>th</sup> 2008

Started: 7:15pm

**Attendance:** Christine P, Connie M, Colleen R, Margaret O, Debbie P, Linda M, Esther S, Francis H and Erika S

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

**Outreach:** See Esther's Blurb.

**Fundraising:** The board approved an outreach/membership table at the Super Pet Expo in King of Prussia, February 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Bird Mart:** Our annual bird mart is approaching quickly April 12<sup>th</sup> 2008. Donation letters and vendor applications have been mailed out. Please sign up to help.

**Library:** Christine Phelps has taken over the library; if you would like to borrow or donate a book please see Christine at the club meetings.

**Membership:** Our annual membership dues are now due. Please see Colleen to update your membership.

**Nanday Conure:** The board approves Erika as a member representative to go to Harrisburg for the bill, which will ban Nandays, if passed, in the state of PA. We will have further info at the club meeting.

**Board Members:** As of January 15<sup>th</sup> Margaret Ouali has resigned from 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President due to personal reasons. If anyone is interested in filling in please speak with any of the board members so a vote can be passed.

**Newsletter:** The club is still in need of a newsletter editor if anyone is interested in this position please speak with any of the board members.

Ended: 8:30pm

Submitted By: Colleen Robinson

## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

### Delco Bird Club Events for 2007/2008

**February 21, 2008:** Dr Bowers will be speaking on signs of disease and first aid.

**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:** Dr Donato from Radnor Vet will be speaking on another "myth buster".

**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.

**July 2008:** Summer break, no meeting.

**August 2008:** Summer break, no meeting.

### Why Birds Scream

Parrots engage in behaviors that served them well in the wild but that do not fit in well in a domestic household. Of course, screaming is one of these behaviors.

Parrots scream in the wild for a variety of reasons. It is believed that screaming parrots are warning flock mates of impending danger. A screaming parrot may also keep outsiders away, thereby defending the flock's territory. Screaming is used by wild birds to call a mate or to reunite lost members of the flock. Parrots scream in the morning and evening hours to locate flock members. Natural screaming increases during the breeding season.

While it is normal for parrots to "call" flock mates in the morning and evening hours, some species "call" or scream more than others. Ideally, it is best to research what parrot species will fit with your tolerance level prior to bringing a bird into your home. If you already have a bird, learn what is normal for that species of parrot.

Try to make sense of the screaming from your parrots' point of view. Domestic parrots may naturally be trying to preserve the flock (your family) or to protect a chosen mate (you). Have you noticed your bird calling for you when you are not within its sight? Or, how about the parrot that screams during family arguments or while the children are being disciplined? Some birds scream out of fear such as when they are faced with an unfamiliar object or an unfamiliar person enters the home. These situations are natural "carry-overs" from the wild. We can unwittingly reinforce this type of screaming when we provide "attention" to the parrot for screaming.

Some parrots enjoy testing the limits, especially when they are adolescents. Think about how teens test the limits. Even though we know testing the limits is normal, it is still our responsibility to provide redirection and not reinforce misbehavior so that it becomes routine. Apply these same conditioning principles with your bird. Begin training your parrot appropriate behavior as soon as you bring it home.

Remember, your bird will reach sexual maturity in a few years and will naturally challenge you. So train your bird when it is young. Don't let an annoying problem develop that you will have to live with for a lengthy period of time.

Never isolate your parrot for long periods of time, (i.e. hours). Long periods of isolation will worsen problem behaviors and cause emotional damage since parrots are flock or social animals

Avoid calling loudly to other's throughout your home. Your bird will interpret this as normal communication and then try to imitate you.

Don't yell back at your parrot. Yelling only reinforces a parrots desire to communicate loudly.

Never allow anyone to taunt your bird by yelling at it or banging it's cage to get it to stop screaming.

All birds "scream" or make loud vocalizations in the morning and evening hours. Some species are louder than others, though. Learn what is normal for your particular bird.

As with most problem behaviors that parrots develop, prevention is the key to dealing with screaming. It is especially easy to unwittingly teach and reinforce screaming in parrots since screaming is a natural behavior for them. Plus, being smart, social creatures, parrots will "fine tune" their screaming skills if they receive any attention, good or bad, for the behavior.

Pay attention to your reactions to screaming! We unwittingly teach our pet to scream when we respond in any way to loud vocalizations. Common responses include picking up a screaming bird, yelling at an overly loud bird or even turning up the tv in response to screaming.

Prevention, then, means refusal to model loud vocalizations. Your bird will simply imitate your behavior. Prevent screaming by teaching our bird to entertain itself with bird toys when it is young. Develop a special "whistle" that is a call between you and your bird so you can maintain contact with each other in a pleasant way if you leave the room or it can't see you.

Learning to tolerate normal vocalizations and refusing to provide reinforcement when your bird is loud are important keys to preventing screaming. And, remember, bird's become more vocal during seasonal periods.

### MEMBER REP MESSAGE by Debbie Park

#### Welcome New Members!

Teresa Mullaney and Courtney Griffith

Don't forget to renew your 2008 memberships if you haven't already.

Next to the raffle table is our mart sign up sheets, applications, flyers, miscellaneous information and an all new please "sign in" sheet.

Membership applications to the NCS and the ACS will be available at the February meeting. They strongly encourage you to join and support their societies, especially if you plan on showing your cockatiel at our mart.

Before leaving the meeting, please take some mart flyers with you and hang one up where ever you see a community bulletin board, visit a vet office, or hand one out when the opportunity arises.

### PA Game Commission rejects proposed ban

Parrot owners from across the state descended upon the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) headquarters in Harrisburg on January 27th to present information in the hopes of overturning the proposed ban of the Nanday Conure or Black-Hooded Parakeet.

Fortunately we succeeded!

Some of you might remember that the Delco Bird Club board appointed member rep. Erika Scarborough to attend the meeting in hopes to get a clearly written grandfather clause in the proposed ban and possibly a permit system in place for current owners within the club. "I had made that suggestion to the board because I wasn't confident we could mobilize the state in two weeks time and I hadn't been able to access the source of the ban through my contacts." stated Member Rep. Erika Scarborough. When asked about the results of the meeting, she states "Hallelujah for the internet and the AFA! Without those things, I don't think this would have turned out this way."

Shortly after contacting other area clubs to try and unite, Erika was contacted by Kristy Garcia of Chester County Bird Club and informed her that clubs and rescues were beginning to unite and were swarming PGC with emails and phone calls. Erika shared with Kristy the information she had gathered so far regarding the proposed ban and feral parrots in the United States in particular information about the Nanday Conure. Kristy informed Erika of a conference call was being planned by Kelly Williams, former AFA state rep. at her house and invited her. During the numerous calls and emails between Kristy and Erika, she learned that the cause had Dr. Miller in our corner. Dr. Miller is an avian vet for the PA Dept. of Agriculture. Though unable to attend the public comment session in Harrisburg as a state employee, he was able to attend as a private citizen, well educated on the subject - and TESTIFY HE DID!

"Several people from across the state and even a few from out of state, attended and testified at the meeting." said Erika. "I choose to defer my time to those experts who had spoken before me and were due to speak after, but I did deliver letters to PGC on behalf of club members in addition to my own letter."

"My contact with PGC did tell me Sunday afternoon that he thought we wouldn't have a problem, which was comforting but I wasn't about to count on that!" said Erika.

Member rep. Erika Scarborough would like to thank members that sent her emails to bring to PGC and to thank those that attempted to get media in the Philadelphia area to shine a light on the cause. "We weren't that successful in this area, but we were west of here. In fact, Bailey Foundation was kind enough to let me borrow "Lucky" for an interview at Kelly Williams's house. That is a GREAT bird; we need to find him a home!"

As a closing statement, Erika said "I would also like to encourage all of our members to send thank you notes to PGC; they were very kind to the speakers and listened intently."

A new group has been formed to keep abreast of current laws affecting our companion birds. The Coalition of Pennsylvania Aviculturists (TCOPA) was formed to oppose a proposed amendment to 58 Pa. Code, §137.1 by the PA Game Commission (PGC) to prohibit the importation, possession, sale and release of all non-human primates and the Conure-Nanday, *Nandayus nenday*, sometimes referred to as the Black-hooded Parakeet. As word got out about our efforts, people from all over the country joined TCOPA to help in the opposition. Emails, letters, and faxes were sent to the Game Commissioners, Governor Rendell, and all of the PA senators and representatives voicing our opposition to the proposed amendment. The news media was contacted and TV and newspaper interviews began appearing all over the state.

PGC began hearing public testimony on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Paul Miller (Avian vet for the PA Department of Agriculture), Dr. John Hall (Avian vet), and about 20 other people presented testimony to the PGC opposing the amendment. On Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, the Commissioners voted unanimously to remove all reference to the Nanday Conure in their proposal! Many of the Commissioners then made comments praising TCOPA for giving very well organized, professional, and fact based presentations. One Commissioner jokingly remarked that he had heard so many interesting facts about that "little green bird" that he might be interested in owning one!

The Coalition of Pennsylvania Aviculturists (TCOPA) has evolved into a group of dedicated bird owners from all over the country that have banded together as one to monitor proposed legislation and to bring opposition where appropriate. If you would like to join our group, please go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TCOPA/>.

Rick Rowland, co-moderator TCOPA & President Berks County Bird Club

## PARROT OF THE MONTH

Watch for a different bird each month from A to Z.



**Genus:** *Aratinga*  
**Species:** *cactorum*  
**Races including nominate:**  
 two: *A.c.cactorum*, *A.c. caixana*

**Size:** 25cm (9.75 in)  
**Adult Weight:** 75-90g (2.6-3.1 oz)

**Colorization Adult: *A.c. cactorum*:** both adults in general yellow/green; pale brown crown; brown face and upper breast; orange/yellow lower breast and abdomen; green tail tipped with blue. Bill horn coloured. Eye ring bare and white. Eye orange. ***A.c. caixana*:** both adults as in *cactorum*, but paler green body color; buff/brown throat and breast; abdomen in centre less orange and more yellow.

**Colorization Juvenile:** Green crown, brown tinge minimal or absent; olive breast and abdomen, with orange tips to some feathers. Eye brown.

The cactus conures habitat is found up to 600m (1968 ft) in caatinga scrubland dominated by low thorny shrubs and small trees; also found in open semi desert country including overgrazed pastures.

They are threatened by local persecution due to crop raiding. This species is also trapped for the pet bird trade. Long term threat from excessive degradation of habitat and habitat loss.

Their wild diet consists of seeds, fruits, cactus, berries, nuts, flowers and buds, and sometimes crops.

Seen in pairs or flocks of up to 20 individuals outside of breeding season. More gather together in groups where food is abundant.

As pets the cactus conure is moderately loud and initially shy. It acclimatizes to its keeper slowly. They may be kept with other non-aggressive birds outside of breeding season. Their longevity is 35 years

In the wild, calls made in flight are strident notes, repeated in short bursts between pauses. Softer notes when feeding. Enjoys bathing, so provide overhead misters or shallow bowls of water. Is also a vigorous chewer, so provide bird-safe, unsprayed branches of flowering trees, fir, pine and willow, heat sterilized pine cones, wooden toys, vegetable tanned leather toys, ladders, swings and noise-makers.

## JOKE OF THE MONTH

What do you call geese that have a head-on collision?

Goose Bumps!

How do baby hens dance?

Chick to Chick

Why did the chicken cross the road, roll it the dirt, and cross the road again?

Because he was a dirty double-crosser.

**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](http://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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Provided as a service to our members-not an endorsement

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 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-Reitz VMD, AVBP(Avian)  
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 Philadelphia PA 19104  
 215-898-4680

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 Smoketown PA 19576  
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 4 E Glenolden Ave  
 Glenolden PA 19036  
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Conchester Animal Hospital  
 Kathleen Tracy DVM  
 530 Conchester Hwy  
 Boothwyn PA 19061  
 610-485-6007

Limerick Veterinary Hospital  
 Limerick PA 19468  
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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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## CLUB CONTACTS

### Officers

**President** Tom Neill  
(610) 622-2508

Email : atntjn@msn.com

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** Connie Metz  
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**Secretary** Colleen Robinson  
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Email Colleenrsee@yahoo.com

**Treasurer** Christine Phelps  
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### Member Representatives:

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**Club Photographer**  
WANTED

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Debbie Park  
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### Society Delegates

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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, 4<sup>th</sup> & Monroe Sts, Media PA  
7:00 pm on the second Thursday of the month.**

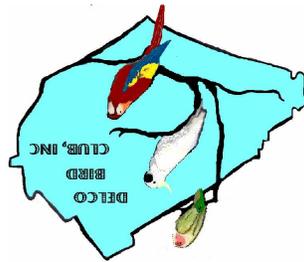
Take 476 (Blue Route) to the Media/Swarthmore Exit. Turn West onto Baltimore Pike. Follow Baltimore Pike six traffic lights to Monroe Street. Turn right onto Monroe. Turn left onto 4<sup>th</sup> street. The Hall is on your left and is handicapped accessible. If you have any questions, or need more directions,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

**Delco Bird Club Web Site: [www.delcobirdclub.com](http://www.delcobirdclub.com)**

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