

BIRD LINE NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 1

January, 2008



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well it is a new year. I hope everyone had a great holiday.

The bird mart is fast approaching. Please see any board member if you would to sign up to help. Help is needed in all areas; outreach, cashiers, cockatiel show, raffle table, set up and break down.

This month's meeting is a movie and popcorn night. Don't forget to bring something for the refreshment table and please clean up on and around your table before exiting the meeting

Thomas J Neill Jr

MESSAGE FROM THE 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

The Fall Fundraiser was again a huge success. All combined, HD Radio ticket sales, the Fall Fundraiser, and the December raffle table, we raised four hundred and fifty dollars! Thank you to everyone who sold and purchased tickets. It is not an easy task asking people to spend money to help our club.

Thanks to everyone who brought a dish to share at the December Holiday Party. All the food was lovely and the night went extremely well. Special thanks to member Joey C. and anyone else who donated to the raffle table. What a raffle night it was! One of the best so far since my years with the club.

This month's meeting we will have the 50/50 raffle back along with the regular raffle table.

Now that a year is behind us and a new year beginning, it is time to get busy with the mart. Only three months to go! Please remember to volunteer for set up, break down, outreach, donations, or cockatiel show for the mart. Sign up sheets were at December's meeting and will be out again for January's meeting. We will have flyers at the meeting for all to take and start hanging them up on every community bulletin board you can find. It is a lot of hard work where members need to commit their time and energy and help out. We need everyone's participation in order to have another successful event.

Remember as always, the raffle table welcomes your donations and recycled toy parts. Best wishes for a safe and peaceful new year.

Connie Metz

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OUTREACH UPDATE

Happy New Year!

All is quiet on the Outreach front. Spring will bring requests.

I will keep you all posted as they come in.

Thank you to all the Outreach Team participants in 2007.

Looking forward to a great 2008!

Esther

MEMBER REP MESSAGE

Welcome New Members!

Charles and Susan Harper

New this year: An events/happenings table will be set up next to the raffle table with mart sign up sheets, applications, flyers, miscellaneous information and an all new *sign in sheet*.

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

January brings a new year and the time to pay your 2008 membership dues.

Before leaving the meeting, please take some mart flyers with you and start hanging them up where ever you can and when ever you see a community board.

Membership Representative
Debbie Park

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Delco Bird Club Events for 2007/2008

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.

July 2008: Summer break, no meeting.

August 2008: Summer break, no meeting.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

What do birds eat to help make them fly?
Wing Dings

How do robins get in shape?

They do worm-ups

What do you get when you cross a parrot and a pig?
A bird who hogs the conversation



NUTRITION

Your bird has nutritional needs that go far beyond just seeds and water. In the wild, birds only eat dry seeds if absolutely nothing else is available, such as during times of drought. Wild parrots will eat carrion, fruit, vegetables, fish, and anything they can find. Your bird shouldn't be offered carrion, but it needs a wide variety of fresh foods to supplement the seeds and/or pellets you give it daily. For the absolute best advice on feeding your particular species of new bird, consult your breeder and your avian veterinarian.

Fresh Foods An extra dish can be placed in the cage with the daily "goodies" in it. The "goodies" can be shredded meat or pasta leftover from last night's dinner, chopped up fruit or vegetables (no salt or butter, please), hard-boiled egg, peanut butter, bean sprouts, even torn up bread which has been moistened with fruit juice. Be sure not to leave moist food in the cage for more than 4 to 5 hours, as it will spoil. Anything you would eat is safe for your bird, with the exception of chocolate and avocado, which have been shown to be poisonous to birds. Never give your bird anything with alcohol in it. A few drops of alcoholic beverage can kill a bird, as their livers cannot process alcohol. It is all right to allow the bird to sample food from your plate, if you want to let the bird eat at the table. But don't let the bird eat from your mouth, or off a utensil you have already put in your mouth. The bacteria in your mouth can make your bird sick, as their bodies have different natural bacteria than ours. Millet spray (millet seed which is still on the stems) is a good daily treat, and a source of entertainment and stress reliever. Millet spray is available at most pet stores, and is usually sold bulk-style (loose, not packaged). Avoid the kind which is pre-packaged, as it is usually not fresh. You can also soak the millet spray in water overnight to soften it up before feeding it-many birds like it better this way.

Vitamins You may add vitamins which are made especially for birds to the bird's food. Adding vitamins, no matter whether liquid or powder, seems to make a scum on the water surface. Most birds won't drink scummy water (do you blame them?). Vitamins in the water also encourages bacterial growth, which can be dangerous to birds with weaker immune systems. The liquid vitamins work well on moist foods, like fruits. Look for the vitamins with the highest concentration of vitamin D3, Calcium, A, and E that you can find. Vitamins can help keep your bird's feathers in good condition, and help keep up its overall health. Some use commercial vitamin mixes in favor of Wheatgrass powder and Spirulina powder; both are all-natural food supplements, available at health food stores.

Water Your bird must have fresh water available at all times. If you live in a house with older pipes, it may be better to give the bird bottled water. If that's not an option, then it is good to let the water run for 3 to 5 minutes before filling the bird's dish, to allow the settled water to flush out. Some older pipes contain lead, which concentrates in the standing water. Repeatedly giving your bird this settled lead could inadvertently give it lead poisoning. If your bird is a "soup-maker" who puts all his food and toys into the dish, you might consider teaching him to drink from a water bottle instead of a dish.

Calcium Calcium is another necessity. You may offer a cuttlebone (the oval shaped bone of the cuttlefish), or a calcium block, both of which you can get at most any pet store. If the bird does not chew on the bone (many don't care for the taste, and some just never learn what to do with it), scrape the soft surface of the bone with a knife over the dish of food till the food is covered with powder, every day. Birds that don't get enough calcium get soft bones, and female birds who are calcium depleted may die if they try to lay eggs. You may also get calcium powder supplements from your vet or from a health food store. You can use these on any soft moist foods.

Seeds When you choose a seed mix, pick one that is fresh, with no small bugs or worms in the bag. The worms are a natural part of the seed plants, but some factories can't seem to clean them all out before packaging. These worms will turn into small moths and invade your whole house. Avoid purchasing seed in boxes, as you cannot see what condition the seed is in before buying. As a precaution, any seed mix you buy should be frozen for 24 hours before opening the bag. Choose a mix without sunflower seeds. These seeds are fatty and tasty, but not very nutritious. But birds love them, and will usually eat them to the exclusion of every thing else, if given the chance. Save sunflower seeds for special treats that you hand to the bird, perhaps as a reward for trick training. When your bird eats seeds, it shells the tough outer seed hull off before swallowing the inside part. As the birds usually eat leaning over the dish, these hulls will soon cover the top of the food. Whenever you think of it, you should take the dish out and blow gently across it to blow off the seed hulls. Some birds never realize that there is more food under the layer of hulls, and will go hungry. Other birds learn to rake their beak through the dish to uncover more food, and make an awful mess in the process. If you don't fill the dish more than ½ full, this problem is somewhat reduced, but not eliminated.

Pellets Pelleted diets are considered to be the diet of the future for birds. Research has shown that seeds alone are not nutritious enough for birds to thrive on. Giving a bird a varied diet of seeds and goodies is better, but the nutritional quality of food offered is not always the same from day to day. Many companies have produced pellets (similar in appearance to dry dog food) which are more nutritionally complete than seeds, and healthier for birds. But some companies did not do any research into the nutritional requirements of birds before producing their pellets-they just wanted to get a product on the market to compete for consumer cash. Choose a pellet that has been around for a long time, and has done LOTS of research on bird nutrition. Read the labels-some pellet manufacturers use a lot more preservatives or artificial coloring than others. Use the one you feel most comfortable with. Ask your vet for help in choosing a pellet if you are confused by the selections. Pellets have added protein, vitamins and minerals which are not in seeds, and are less messy, as there are no seed hulls to be discarded when the bird eats. There is no waste with pellets, as the bird can eat the entire pellet. If you choose to feed your bird pellets, you may alternate seeds for one day, and pellets for the next three days, or offer daily people food treats with the pellets, so the bird does not get too bored with its diet. If you plan to feed pellets, you can ask the breeder to wean your baby onto them so he is used to pellets before coming home with you.

PET BIRD SAFETY

There are an amazing number of things in the average house that can hurt or kill your bird. It is better to be aware of them before trouble occurs. Houseplants can be poisonous. As a general rule, do not allow your bird access to any plant. Even safe plants might have been treated with bug spray that you do not know about. Spray residue can kill birds too!

Open windows are an invitation for your bird to escape (yes, even tame birds will fly the coop if given the chance!), and sliding windows can fall and injure or kill birds sitting on the sill beneath them. Birds that can fly (or think they can fly) will sometimes get confused and try to fly through glass. If your bird can become airborne, keep the drapes shut while it is flying (and clip its wings as soon as possible!) Screens are essential for windows and doors. When a bird is out of its cage, always remain nearby. Even a bird with properly clipped wing feathers can flutter to disaster around the house. A ceiling fan should be an obvious "no-no," but other mechanical appliances can be equally dangerous. Birds have been injured falling into electric beaters in the kitchen. They can fly and land on hot surfaces or into scalding water. Expect the unexpected with birds. If you open the hot oven, your parrot may pop in. Keep toilet lids closed for many birds have slipped in while trying to get a drink or a closer look at their reflection, and have drowned this way.

If your bird is always confined to its cage, some of these precautions may seem excessive. Remember, escape is always possible, and accidents do happen.

It is best to keep your bird out of the kitchen if anything is cooking. Do not permanently locate the cage in the kitchen. Cooking fumes can suffocate birds (their respiratory systems are much more sensitive than ours and absorb airborne impurities very easily).

Especially avoid using non-stick cookware such as Teflon or Silverstone. When heated to 530 degrees, which can occur when someone forgets a pan on the stove a bit too long, it releases toxic fumes which will kill all the birds in the house in 10 minutes or less. There is no antidote. Teflon non-stick burner drip pans reach 530 degrees every time they are used. It is better to not own non-stick pans at all than take this risk! Non-stick irons, Teflon curling irons, potpourri pots and other non-stick appliances are also very dangerous.


Beware the common household cleaner! Anything that comes in a spray can is potentially toxic to birds. The propellants are dangerous, and the fine mist that results is too easily absorbed into sensitive bird lungs. Paint, paint thinner, varnish, bleach, glue, perfume, wood smoke, ammonia, hair spray, deodorant, room freshener, cigarette smoke, car exhaust, kerosene heater fumes, nail polish-these have all proven harmful to birds!

This is not by any means a complete list of harmful substances. A general rule is: anything that has a fragrance (pleasant or not), or comes in a spray-propelled form (even pump-type bottles), could hurt your bird. Read all labels for safety precautions before opening any cans or bottles. If you must use potentially harmful items, use them outside. If you are doing chores with your bird, be sure the chores are safe for it.



PARROT OF THE MONTH

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

 <p>Baudin's Black Cockatoo</p>	<p>Genus: <i>Calyptorhynchus</i> Size: 56cm (21.8 in) Species: <i>baudinii</i> Adult Weight: 630-750g (22-26.25 in) Races including nominate: one Adult Color: Male-in general grey/black plumage, feathers finely margined with dusty white; ear-coverts dusty white; side tail feathers with broad white band near end. Bill dark grey and narrow with elongated tip. Eye ring pink, eye dark brown. Female-ear-coverts brighter, clearer white; bill horn in colour and narrow with elongated tip. Eye ring grey. Colorization Juvenile: Ear-coverts dull white, sometimes yellowish; narrower tail band with irregular spotting. Bill horn colored, narrow and elongated washed with grey. Eye ring grey. Call: Contact call while in flight is unusual, high-pitched wailing note. Also same sometimes while perching. Also described as sad and plaintive. Grating or croaking while feeding and harsh screech in alarm. Also Known As: Black Cockatoo, White-tailed Black Cockatoo, White-tailed Cockatoo, Long-billed Black Cockatoo, Long-billed White-tailed Black Cockatoo</p>
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A native of South West Australia. Found in wet sclerophyll forests during breeding season, favoring karri. Sclerophyll forests are taller than 30 meters and have a soft-leaved under storey, such as tree ferns and a canopy of eucalypts. Outside breeding season may range to farmland, orchards and open woodland.

World population is between 10,000 and 15,000 and they are endangered. In spite of these numbers of Baudin's Black Cockatoos, only 10% of those birds make up the breeding population.

The Baudin's Black Cockatoo diet consists of the cones of pine trees and shrubs. Also bull banksia, apples, pears and almonds from orchards, pomegranates and the nectar of Banksia and marri flowers, and sometimes the seeds of exotic species and those shed by trees burnt by wildfires. Also

wood-boring grubs, mainly during the breeding season.

The Black Cockatoo is wary and very difficult to approach. Sentinels alert groups of 50 or more birds that congregate to feed. As with other large parrots, pair bonding is permanent. Flocks in winter have been seen in parties of three with two adults and an immature. Their breeding season is between August and January.

A quarter of this species' habitat has been cleared for agriculture and logging. They also face a threat from feral (non-native) bees infesting their nest sites. A loss of habitat has been due to mining also. Even though this bird has been protected since 1996 it is still illegally shot by farmers.

As far as pet suitability, they can be somewhat noisy, a bit demanding for attention, may be prone to stress in captivity and may learn to talk.

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
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Provided as a service to our members-not an endorsement

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 West Chester PA 19380
 610-692-9079

Gloria J Goodman VMD
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 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
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 112 N Aberdeen Ave
 Wayne PA 19087
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Stoney Creek Veterinary Hospital
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 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

Smoketown Veterinary Hospital
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 Smoketown PA 19576
 717-394-5542

Malvern Veterinary Hospital
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 Malvern PA 19355
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 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
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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, 4th & Monroe Sts, Media PA
7:00 pm on the second Thursday of the month.**

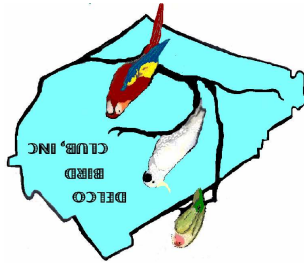
Take 476 (Blue Route) to the Media/Swarthmore Exit. Turn West onto Baltimore Pike. Follow Baltimore Pike six traffic lights to Monroe Street. Turn right onto Monroe. Turn left onto 4th street. The Hall is on your left and is handicapped accessible. If you have any questions, or need more directions,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