

BIRD LINE NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 5

May, 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well the Mart has passed and I want to thank everyone who helped to make it a success. If you did not get to see the cockatiel show it was really something to witness.

At our Board meeting we were able to fill the First Vice President position with Francis Hilario, former membership representative. Find his blurb and let's give him a warm welcome

May 8th's meeting brings us Dr. Briscoe-Reitz VMD, ABVP and Rita Sambruna's mini seminar on Positive Reinforcement for Successful Home Life and Veterinary Visits.

See you at the May meeting and don't forget to bring something for the refreshment table.

Thomas J Neill Jr

MESSAGE FROM THE 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Our 3rd Bird Mart is again another success and let me have this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all the help you have extended in making our mart a success. It's spring time again and as the flowers in our backyards bloom, our club will bloom with new ideas in store for members. I would like to encourage all of you to bring your birds to our monthly meetings and I am pretty sure you will all be happy as we will be adding new items and ideas for you and your birds to look forward to and enjoy.

I'll see you all.

Francis D Hilario

MESSAGE FROM THE 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

We did it! We got through another mart, with only a few minor glitches, everything went very well. The raffle table was again a success. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help. Thank you to Bill Wasson for getting the signs out on the roadsides and a special thank you to Ray Butler for volunteering to be our photographer. Dr. Robert DiGregorio from Boot Road Veterinary Clinic and Dr Kimberly Bowers from Glenolden Animal Hospital also deserve a special thank you for volunteering their time as our mart and show veterinarians. Thanks again everybody.

The board would like to hear from the members on what they thought of this year's mart. Please see a member representative and voice your opinion, it counts!

May's fundraising will include an HD Radio (table top) and 4 passes to the Adventure Aquarium, in which we will draw the winners of these at the June meeting. This gives those who miss one meeting a chance to purchase tickets at the next meeting. The regular raffle table and 50/50 will be going on as usual so support the club and purchase those tickets!

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

Connie Metz



Mother's Day

OUTREACH UPDATE

UPCOMING OUTREACHES

1) Coopertown Elementary "Highland Fling"
Saturday, May 10th, 10 AM to 2 PM
800 Coopertown Rd., Bryn Mawr, Pa. 19010

2) CHOP Staff Appreciation Day
Friday, June 13, 2008. 11AM to 3PM.
Five locations: Voorhees, NJ, King of Prussia, and Center City (Phila.)
These will mostly be held outside so please bring birds that are safe outside (wings clipped or harnesses & leashes).
We will need birds that are friendly with people or that you can keep safe in a crowd.
We each must care to keep our birds and the public SAFE!

Thank you...Esther

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Delco Bird Club Events for 2007/2008

May 08, 2008: Dr. Jeleen Briscoe-Reitz 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.

September 11 2008: (Tentative) Photo night with your birds.

MEMBER REP MESSAGE

by Debbie Park

Welcome New Member

Donald Stambaugh

Thank you to all of the members who volunteered their time to help out at the mart. Please give us your thoughts and ideas for next year's mart.

Just a reminder, if you have not paid your yearly dues, June's newsletter is the last you will receive.

Board Meeting Minutes March 4th 2008

Started: 7:10 pm

Attendance: Connie M, Colleen R, Debbie P, Tom N, Esther S, Francis H, and Christine P

Treasurer's Report: Will be discussed at the meeting.

Outreach: See Esther's Blurb.

Fundraising: We will be raffling off an HD radio at the June club meeting; see Connie for tickets at our next meeting.

1st Vice President: The board appointed and approved Francis Hilario as the 1st Vice President. Welcome Francis!

Bird Mart: The board would like to thank all of the members who helped out at the mart. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Dr. Bob and Dr. Bowers: The board approved to send them a thank you for helping out at the Bird Mart.

Club meeting dates: We have booked the hall for our club meetings for the following dates this year; May 8th, 2008 & June 12th 2008. We also have tentative dates for the year 2009; September 11th 2008, October 9th 2008, November 13th 2008, December 11th 2008, January 8th 2009, February 12th 2009, March 12th 2009, April 9th 2009, May 14th 2009, June 11th 2009.

Membership representative: The club is in need of membership reps please see any of our board members if you are interested.

Ended: 9:00 pm

Submitted By:
Colleen Robinson

The Older Bird

Health challenges that senior birds may face:

Energy levels go down as birds age and you will notice a decrease in physical activities. Senior birds become more easy-going, almost sedate. Also conditions like arthritis may make certain movements uncomfortable and even painful. Watch for any limping or swollen toes that may point towards the back instead of naturally forward. Birds do not understand pain and when their joints ache, they may snap at them angrily, pretending to bite them. This is when you will most likely see the swollen joints. An arthritic bird may not be able to grip the perch easily or may appear clumsy or lose balance. Antibiotics, proper nutrition, heat/warmth, or a holistic approach are all ways of treatments for arthritis and can give your pet bird quality of life.

- **Diabetes:** Older, overweight birds are more likely to develop problems with blood glucose regulation. Diabetes needs to be carefully managed by the bird owners and if this is done correctly, a bird can live a long, good life
- **Cataracts:** Older birds may develop a progressive opacity (the degree of which light is blocked) of the lens (behind the iris). It may involve one or both eyes.
- **Renal failure:** This is one of the more common problems in older birds. Increased water consumption and more urine in droppings can be an indication that the kidneys aren't functioning at optimal capacity
- **Diminished immune functions:** Older birds may be more susceptible to certain bacterial, fungal, protozoa and viral infections.
- **Tumors:** Tumors can be benign or malignant (cancerous) and can involve any organ or system. Some Lipomas are commonly seen in overweight Amazon Parrot, Rose-breasted Cockatoos and Budgies. It seems that older budgies are more prone to tumors of the ovary, testicle or kidney, which may eventually put pressure on the sciatic nerve on the affected side, resulting in lameness of the foot or leg. Fibromas are tumors found on the wing and they may need to be surgically removed. In some cases amputation of the wing may be necessary.
- **Heart failure:** Birds who are getting plenty of exercise (flying) are less prone to develop heart problems. However, birds who are mainly cage-bound and/or clipped can develop heart problems as they age.

Modifications to Cage & Surroundings:

Remove any metal grates from the bottom of the cage. Broken legs in clumsy birds have resulted from these grates. Keep your bird's toenails trimmed. Long nails can get caught causing the bird to fall and potentially injure itself. Provide a variety of perch widths and shapes throughout your bird's lifetime. This helps to exercise all the muscles in your bird's feet, encourages good circulation, and may help to prevent arthritis from developing in the first place. Once your bird has been diagnosed with arthritis, it may have difficulty perching and flat perches / surfaces may have to be provided. Placing two perches side-by-side is one option if flat perches can't be found. Alternatively, a bird ladder can be covered to turn it into a flat surface for the bird to move around on. Re-arrange toys and other items in the cage to make the cage more accessible for your bird. Watch your bird carefully as he/she moves around the cage. An arthritic bird usually prefers climbing to flying or hopping. This bird may not be able to squeeze through small areas or climb over things. Observe your pet and rearrange the cage to allow him or her to more easily move around. Horizontal cage bars are preferable to vertical ones. Make hard walking surfaces softer. Arthritic birds tend to get sores on their legs. Old clothing, such as jeans, work well. Thick material should be chosen that provides sufficient cushioning. A thin foam sheet or fleece sheet cut to the size of the cage floor. Cover with newspaper to keep clean. The area around the cage should also be covered to allow for cushioned falls. Pads are available at the drug stores that are specifically made for people suffering from calluses and bunions. These pads work great for birds as well. They come in sheets that are about 2 mm thick. One side has adhesive, and the other side is soft and fuzzy. Make sure that your parrot doesn't chew on it; if he or she does, you need to remove it and choose something else. Other than padding the cage floor, you can also cover all surfaces your parrot usually stands on, including perches. Since arthritic birds tend to be clumsy, you may want to cover any sharp or hard surfaces.

- **Toys:** Older birds will benefit from environmental enrichment just as much as the babies. Older birds that have never had exposure to varieties of toys will be frightened by the introduction of them now. Gradually introduce toys by first placing them in the room with the bird. Then as time goes on, move the toy closer and closer to the cage. This way the bird will be familiar with the toy once you do place it in the cage.

Although the level of affection towards the family members remains the same, older birds may be less tolerant of people inexperienced with parrots. They just are less likely to be with people they do not know.

Older birds have been observed to adjust surprisingly easy to a new home: Rescues and adoption organizations found that older birds placed into new homes adjust surprisingly easily and rather quickly to their new homes and new family. Some even state that the change in home environment was even perceived as invigorating by many senior parrots.

Delco Bird Club's 3rd Annual Mart and Extravaganza April 12, 2008



Welcome



The Outreach

Blueberry working hard



There goes that raffle table again



The NJ Bird Man

and The Exotic Bird Show



Exhibitors

Exhibitors


Exhibitors



Watch for many more pictures and a slideshow to be placed on the website soon!

PARROT OF THE MONTH

Watch for a different bird each month from A to Z.
(If you are keeping track, we are up to the letter "F")

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Festive Amazon</p> 	<p>Genus: <i>Amazona</i> Size: 34cm (13.3 in)</p> <p>Species: <i>festiva</i> Adult Weight: 370g (13 oz)</p> <p>Races including nominate: two: <i>A.f. festiva</i>, <i>A.f. bodini</i></p> <p>Colorization Adult: <i>A.f. festiva</i>: both adults plumage green, the feathers of the neck faintly edged dusty black; wing coverts thinly edged yellow/green; lores and narrow frontal stripe dark red; blue above and behind eyes, sometimes bisecting occiput; blue chin; red lower back and rump; primary coverts violet/blue, edged green; primary feathers violet/blue; tail green. Bill grey/black. Eye ring grey, eye orange. <i>A.f. bodini</i>: both adults more yellow than <i>festiva</i>, particularly on underparts; red frontal stripe extending to forehead and forecrown; feathers of crown and occiput edged dull purple; feathers of hindneck strongly edged dusty black (more so than <i>festiva</i>); lores black; feathers of cheeks edged violet/blue; primary coverts and outer webs of primary feathers green.</p> <p>Colorization Juvenile: As in adults but duller; green lower back and rump with a few red feathers; some dull red at concealed bases of lateral tail feathers. Eye brown.</p>
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Also Known As: Festive Parrot, Red-backed Amazon or Parrot, Bodin's Amazon (*A.f. bodini*)

The Festive Parrot's habitat is rarely far from water. They are found up to 500m (1640 ft) in varzea forest, along the water banks and river islands.

Usually in pairs or small flocks, but with large groups gathering at communal roosts for the night or at a localized food source. Noisy at dusk when coming to roost. Call is a nasal wah-wah in flight. Also wide variety of calls including screeches.

Although they are captured for wild bird trade, their swampy forest habitat is not in demand for agriculture.

Temperament is extremely excitable. Males tend to be aggressive. Good to excellent mimic.

Their longevity is 40 or more years, with no recordings of world population.

Their clutch usually consists of three with an incubation period of 28 days.



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JOKE OF THE MONTH

Why do hens lay eggs?
Because if they dropped them they would break!

What is a parrot's favorite game?
Hide and Speak!

Why did the parrot wear a raincoat?
Because she wanted to be a Polly unsaturated!

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.bailey-foundation.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

**CHRISTINE WEBB
610-209-9035**

CLASSIFIEDS



Quality Cockatiel Flock for Sale:

After 20 years of breeding Cockatiels, our birds are for sale. We are not getting out of breeding birds just focusing on our Green Rump Parrotlets. There are about 50 Cockatiels available. We would like to sell them as one group. Our hope is to find a fellow hobbyist that will appreciate the many years that has been put into building this fine line. What a great opportunity for someone to increase their breeding stock, especially one who enjoys the look of a prestige cockatiel. All breeder cages and accessories will be for sale as well. If you are interested in purchasing our flock call Lori Castle at 717-957-4241.

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Frandelhi's Flyers

Handfed National Cockatiel Society (NCS) banded baby cockatiels of various mutations ready for a new home. I also have cages, toys, playpens, nest boxes and carriers, personally built by Francis for yours and your bird's likings. Did I mention that I have handfed parakeets as well? Send an e-mail to frandelhisflyers@rcn.com and I will be happy to send pictures and discuss further details.

Jojo The Grey Adoption and Rescue For Birds

If you are looking to adopt or place a bird up for adoption, please call Margaret Ouali at 610-713-0304 or email: jojothegrey@yahoo.com web site <http://jojothegrey.com>

For Sale-Foster & Smith model

Z1 Cage- like new, barely used. Inside 37-1/2x27-1/2 39" high. Outside is 44"x35x62-1/4 high including seed catcher. Unit is only 2 yrs old, tan color, and comes with extra seed dishes. Contact AnneMarie 610-513-8801

For Sale (3 items)

Brooder from Deans Animal Supply. 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. Two custom breeder cages, used for African greys and are still in good shape. Asking \$100 for both. Contact Richard Elijah at 215-490-6464. I can deliver, or items can be picked up at my house in the Germantown section of Philadelphia.

Finches For Sale

Gouldians, shaftails, red faced parrot finches. Call Dave for availability at 610-566-5103

For Sale - Green Rump Parrotlet

babies: I have several of these little gems available. All have been hand feed and are tame, price \$225-\$250. Also have a few birds that I would be interested in trading for other Green Rump blood lines. Call Lori Castle at 717-957-4241

Rattlebox Nature Center

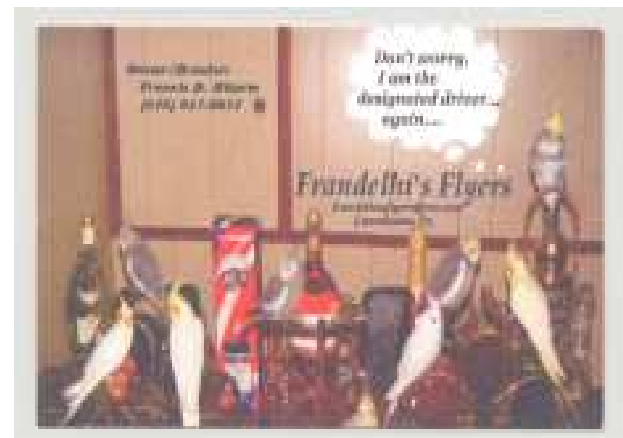
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Provided as a service to our members-not an endorsement

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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 DABVP-Avian
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

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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
Jessica K Stephens
2333 Penn Ave
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Debbie Park (484) 461-3640
American Cockatiel Society
Diane Baxter (302)369-8487

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.**

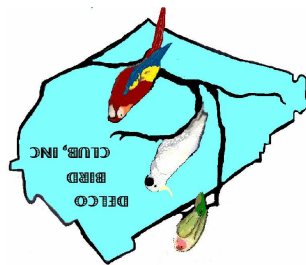
Take 476 (Blue Route) to the Media/Swarthmore Exit. Turn West onto Baltimore Pike. Follow Baltimore Pike six traffic lights to Monroe Street. Turn right onto Monroe. Turn left onto 4th street. The Hall is on your left and is handicapped accessible. If you have any questions, or need more directions,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

Delco Bird Club Web Site: www.delcobirdclub.com

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BIRD LINE NEWS

