

# BIRD LINE NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 8

October, 2007

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 11, 2007:** Dr Robert DiGregorio will be speaking to us about the female bird's reproductive system.

**October 20 & 21, 2007-** Parrot Palooza at Bird Paradise, Route 130, Burlington NJ. Saturday 10:00am to 9:00pm, Sunday 10:00am to 5:00pm  
[www.birdparadise.biz](http://www.birdparadise.biz)

**Nov. 10th - Exton, PA - Chester County Bird Club's Show and Mart**  
- The Church Farm School, 1001 East Lincoln Hwy - 10am-5pm - contact Kristy (610) 323-4632, [info@ccbirdclub.com](mailto:info@ccbirdclub.com)  
[www.ccbirdclub.com](http://www.ccbirdclub.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, it is fall! Now is the time to get ready for the cold air that may get into your homes. Check for drafts that could harm your feathered friends.

I just want to remind everyone that our speakers are at our meetings to pass on information to us. If what they are taking about doesn't interest you, then I ask you not to have your own meeting at your table. It is not fair to the person speaking and to the other members of the club that are trying to absorb what is being said. **I ask that if you feel the need to talk while the presentation is being given PLEASE take your conversation outside.**

Please bring a snack for the refreshment table!

Thomas J Neill JR



## MESSAGE FROM THE 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

This Month's meeting our speaker will be Dr. D' gregorio or Dr "BOB" as most of us know him. He will be speaking on the female reproductive system and how it works in birds. Connie and Christine have heard this talk and in thier opionion it is wonderful. Anyone who has a female bird should be there. They say it was one of the most informative and enlightening talks that they have heard in a long time.... I know that anyone with a female bird can have trouble with egg binding and laying. This is a MUST MEETING for you!!! Dr. "BOB" will answer all questions for you, I am sure that there will be many.

We do ask all of our members to please refrain from talking during his prestantation. Due to the high ceilings and acoustics in the room, our voices carry and it is hard to hear our speakers.....Please be kind and respectful to both members trying to hear and our speaker trying to talk above everyone else.

Margaret Ouali  
1st VP and The Director for the Adoptions and Rescues for the Delco Bird Club

## Message from the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

Fall has arrived and that means the start of our Fall Fundraiser. Since we did so well last year, we again will be selling raffle tickets to our family, friends, and coworkers. This fundraising event will run from October through November with the winning tickets being drawn at the December 13th holiday party. First, second and third prizes will be cash and the fourth prize will be a one year free membership to Delco Bird Club! The cost of the tickets will be \$2.00 ea or 3 for \$5.00. We need everyone's participation in selling these tickets and supporting the club. Wouldn't it be great to win some money just before the holidays?

Our summer fundraising events, i.e. flea markets, were a great success once again. Thanks to all the members, and their birds, who either donated items or came out and helped. A special thank you goes out to Judy DeGeorge and Debbie Park for always helping me out and doing a great job with the membership drives. Such troopers they are!

I would like to personally welcome our new members and any fundraising ideas they might have to share. I am always open to your ideas.

Last, please recycle and bring to the October meeting any "good" toy parts from those toys that were "taken apart" by our feathered friends. We make toys for the raffle table and recycling is one way of keeping the expenses to a minimum, especially the clasps, chains, and bells.

Remember as always, the raffle table welcomes your donations.

Connie Metz, 2nd Vice Pres  
[Conniecm1@aol.com](mailto:Conniecm1@aol.com)

## Board Meeting September 18, 2007

**Started:** 7:02pm

**Attendance:** Tom N, Margaret O, Connie M, Colleen R, Christine P, and Esther S

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

**Fundraising:** The Board approves a fall fundraiser to be held from October thru November drawing will be held at the December meeting.

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

**Adoptions:** If you are interested in any birds or know anyone who is please contact Margaret Ouali.

**Ended:** 8:45pm

Submitted by Colleen Robinson, Secretary

## OUTREACH UPDATE

Saturday September 15th was a very busy and long day for the Outreach Team!

We started out at 9AM at John Heinz Refuge. We were happy to be part of their "Cradle of Birding and Wildlife Conservation Festival". We were there to expose the public to our exotic pet birds and let bird owners know about our club. We wrapped up there at 3PM and then we went to Park Day with the Llanerch Civic Association. All the neighbors enjoyed the birds! We wrapped up there at 7PM; it was a long and exhausting day but full of great people and FUN!

A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to All the Outreach Team that gave of part or all of their Saturday! Blueberry and I appreciated all your company all day!

Flo Clupp	Connie Metz (all day)
Debbie Park	Tom Neill (all day)
Keith Flury (all day)	Kelly Flury
Margie Lyons	Chris Webb
Margaret Ouali	Chris Phelps

Esther Scholz 610 446-6427 [Luvbrds@msn.com](mailto:Luvbrds@msn.com)

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

Luanne Pennesi  
Joan Duswalt  
Cathy Mulvaney  
Kim Duswalt  
Sharon Montello  
Sandy Coombes

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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### MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

Support Your Club!

Submit articles to the Newsletter,  
Bring refreshments, Donate to the raffle,  
Help set up/clean up.  
We appreciate member involvement!

Welcome all new members! Please see me for your membership packet if you have not already received one. We had quite a few membership drives over these past few months where applications and tri folds were passed out all over the county. Thanks to all who helped out.

**Our next membership drive will be at Bird Paradise's Parrot Palooza on Saturday, October 20 from 10:00 am until 9:00 pm and Sunday, October 21 from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm.** We need volunteers to work in shifts to cover both of these days. We will NOT be taking any birds with us, for this event takes place outside and will be too cold. Please call me at 484-461-3640 or email me at [debbiescockatiels@yahoo.com](mailto:debbiescockatiels@yahoo.com)

Debbie Park  
Member Representative

## Birds Eye View : Delco Bird Club Events for 2006/2007

**October 11, 2007:** Dr Robert DiGregorio will be speaking to us about the female bird's reproductive system.

**November 08, 2007:** Dr Len Donato will be telling us about all the "new" happenings at his practice.

**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 on the bird world.

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

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

**May 08, 2008:** Dr Jeleen Briscoe from the University of Pennsylvania.

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

### CLASSIFIEDS

#### Cockatiels

Great breeding stock, lots of splits from babies to 1 year olds. All are National Cockatiel Society banded. Call for available birds - Debbie Park 484-461-3640. Leave a message. Or email [debbiescockatiels@yahoo.com](mailto:debbiescockatiels@yahoo.com)

#### FINCHES FOR SALE

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

**Frandelhi's Touch** Cages, toys, playpens, nest boxes and carriers, personally built by Francis for yours and your birds' likings. Any wood craft ideas for them, EMAIL [frandelhisflyers@rcn.com](mailto:frandelhisflyers@rcn.com) or <http://birdshows.com/avianservices.htm>.

**NCS Banded Baby Cockatiels of various mutations now available for new homes**

**Bird Cage Covers** - Replace that old, torn sheet or blanket with a colorful, durable, fitted and machine-washable bird cage cover. Assorted colors and sizes to fit your cages. Call Paula Kreiser 610.858.1356 or email [pkreiser222@yahoo.com](mailto:pkreiser222@yahoo.com)

**FOR SALE : Foster & Smith model Z1 cage** – like new, barely used!!! Inside is 37-1/2"x 27-1/2"x 39"high; outside is 44"x 35"x62-1/4" high including seed catcher. Unit is only 2 yrs old, tan color, and comes with extra seed dishes. Contact AnneMarie 610-513-8801.

### CLASSIFIEDS

#### FOR SALE (3 items):

Brooder from Deans Animal Supply. Here is a link to the web site. <http://www.thebrooder.com/models.htm>. Used once to pick up some 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.

Please contact **Richard Elijah at 215-490-6464**. I can deliver, or items can be picked up from my house. I live in the Germantown section of Philadelphia.

#### Greenwing Macaw Pair for sale

Domestic, beautiful feather, raised together, 9&10 yrs old. Asking \$2,000 OBO  
e-mail Nancy @ [nchambers2@nyc.rr.com](mailto:nchambers2@nyc.rr.com)

## George Wells

The Board was saddened to hear of the passing of former member George Wells. George was a long time Delco member until his health prohibited him from attending meetings. Many members fondly recall George and his Amazon parrot, who was frequently quite vocal during our meetings. He is survived by his daughter, former member Caral Wright. George will be missed.

## DELCO BIRD CLUB ADOPTIONS AND RESCUES

### THE FOLLOWING BIRDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION.

**Buddy** is a male Blue & Gold macaw, 18yrs old. He loves to dance, sing and talk.

**Moe** is a female Blue & Gold macaw, 15yrs old. She likes to hang out on top of her cage and talk and eat. Moe was give to me by someone who had a flower shop and had to give his birds up. Moe lived in the flower shop for 14yrs of her life. She would do great with a man as her Adopted person; she will need to be more social with people and birds alike but would be a great bird.

For more info, Please call Margaret at 610-713-0331  
Margaret Ouali, 1st VP and The Director for the Adoptions and Rescues for the Delco Bird Club.

**WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF FOOD AND TOY DONATIONS. MORE BIRDS ARE COMING INTO THIS PROGRAM. PLEASE CONTACT MARGARET IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADOPTING A BIRD. THANKS FOR HELPING BIRDS IN NEED.**

## JOKE OF THE MONTH

There was once a pub landlord who had a pet parrot. The parrot used to live in the pub's bar and was much admired by all the regulars.

Unfortunately, one day the parrot was chased out of the pub by a cat and was killed as it flew into the traffic on the busy road outside. The pub landlord was heart broken.

For the following year when the pub was closed, the landlord was sure he sometimes heard his parrot talking to him. A year to the day after the parrot died, the landlord was sitting in his pub after closing time doing the pub's accounts. He looked up and saw the ghost of his dead parrot.

"Hello" said the landlord "what are you doing here"

"I'm a parrot who can't rest" replied the parrot "I can't go to parrot heaven and I've been stuck here as a ghost for the past year"

"What's the matter" asks the landlord "can I help?"

"Well" says the parrot "when I was run over by the traffic outside, my tail came off. I can't go to heaven until my tail is put back on, I've had to carry it with me for the past year. Can you put my tail back on me?"

"I'm sorry, I can't do that" replied the landlord "it would be against the law"

"Why would it be against the law?" asked the parrot ghost.

"Well" said the landlord "I'm a licensed pub landlord and it's against the law for me to re-tail spirits after closing time"!!!

## ALEX AND IRENE

Submitted by  
Terri Jones  
Director  
Arcadia Bird Sanctuary and Educational Center  
[www.ArcadiaBirdSanctuary.org](http://www.ArcadiaBirdSanctuary.org)  
732-995-8562

Aviculture lost an icon this month, when the world's most famous Congo African Grey, Alex, passed away suddenly. While many know of Alex as the bird that could count, he did so much more.

About 30 years ago, Dr Irene Pepperberg walked into a pet store and asked the salesperson to pick out a Congo African Grey. Dr Pepperberg was going to study how animals communicate and this grey was to be the focus of her studies. Alex went home with Dr Pepperberg and together they began to make history.

It has been asked what kind of life Alex had, being the focus of Dr Pepperberg's study. Alex spent his nights in a huge cage in a university, but had the run of the lab all day--he could sit on top of his cage, sulk inside it if he chose, climb to some perches, ask to go to others. His health and husbandry were constantly monitored. Dr Pepperberg worked with Alex every weekday, teaching him to recognize colors, shapes, letters, numbers, objects and textures, concept such as big/small, same/different, and absence, and she recorded his responses. As Dr Pepperberg's studies progressed, graduate students become involved and when Dr Pepperberg wasn't there, there were a multitude of students and assistants working with Alex. The day was, of course, not all work. Alex bossed the students, requesting showers, tickles, and treats, asking them about items in the lab as well. He interrupted the sessions of the other birds, for example, asking them "What shape?" in the middle of their sessions on colors. Few pet birds could boast of such a stimulating and intellectually challenging environment.

The team developed a unique teaching method for Alex, which they termed "modeling." Two people would perform, or model the behavior they wished Alex to learn, with Alex watching. After several demonstrations, one of the people would turn to Alex and repeat the behavior or ask him the question. Alex would then learn to respond as he had seen the people respond. Dr Pepperberg would record how many attempts were made and Alex's responses.

Many skeptics are quick to say, "So what? A bird learned his colors." But what Alex did was far more than that. Little known is that this new teaching/learning technique developed by Dr Pepperberg for Alex is being used with great success with autistic children. Yes, Alex taught us much about avian communication and learning, but what Alex and Dr Pepperberg also did was provide a way to work with her colleague, Diane Sherman (New-Found Therapies), to break through the walls of autism and reach these children who had no communication.

Alex was a bird. Alex was a pioneer. Alex was a blessing. Alex will be missed. Dr Pepperberg, thank you for giving us Alex and we support your continued work with Griffin and Arthur.

God Bless You.

# Parrot Fossil from the Cretaceous Pushes Back Origin of Modern Land Birds

By Robert Sanders, Public Affairs  
posted November 18, 1998

The fossilized jaw of a parrot dating from the last days of the dinosaurs is the earliest known fossil of a modern land bird, says Thomas Stidham, a graduate student in the Department of Integrative Biology. The find provides the strongest evidence to date that modern birds evolved long before most scientists thought.

An analysis of the find, excavated from Cretaceous deposits in eastern Wyoming, appeared in the Nov. 5 issue of the British journal *Nature*.

"This find suggests that by the end of the Cretaceous period, around 65 to 70 million years ago, modern birds were an important group, at least in North America," said author Stidham.

"These data also indicate that modern bird groups, including parrots, may have been relatively unaffected by the mass extinction at the end of the Cretaceous period," he wrote in a scientific correspondence in *Nature*.

According to Stidham's advisor, paleontologist William Clemens, professor of integrative biology, "Tom has made an interesting discovery: that while modern birds survived the Cretaceous, more primitive birds with teeth became extinct. This heightens the mystery surrounding an explanation for the extinctions at the end of the Cretaceous. It's not clear why some animals survived and others didn't."

Primitive toothed birds, relatives of archaeopteryx, were the dominant bird group during most of the Cretaceous period, flapping amongst dinosaurs like *Tyrannosaurus rex* and triceratops. Toward the end of that period, however, modern toothless birds began to crowd them out, and the toothed birds went extinct around the end of the Cretaceous.

Until now the only modern bird fossils uncovered from the Cretaceous have been water birds: loons, duck-like waterfowl, shorebirds and tube-nosed seabirds like the albatross. The oldest of these dates from about 80 million years ago. This led many paleontologists to conclude that modern terrestrial birds arose after the major extinction at the end of the Cretaceous.

One reason for a lack of landbird fossils, however, may be that most paleontologists hunt for fossils in the deposits of past watery environments, such as ancient shorelines and river deltas, where few terrestrial birds would be expected, Stidham said.

As interest in ancient birds has risen over the past 10 years, more and older bird fossils have been identified, often from old museum collections. A separate line of evidence -- molecular studies of modern birds and the rate at which their DNA has changed with time -- also has placed the origin of modern birds, including parrots, in the Cretaceous. The new find confirms this hypothesis from molecular divergence data.

The fossilized lower jawbone Stidham analyzed was found by Clemens around 1960 in the Lance Formation of Niobrara County in eastern Wyoming. Excavated from an old river deposit, it sat in the Museum of Paleontology's collection until now, labeled as an unknown avian fossil.

Stidham, who is writing his doctoral thesis on the origins of modern birds, has rifled through these collections in search of interesting bird fossils, and to date has identified nearly a dozen new species. Until now all have been water birds.

He readily recognized this particular fossil as a parrot, which has a distinctive lower jaw normally covered by a horny, fingernail-like substance that forms the beak. Stidham X-rayed the jaw and found nerve and blood vessel tracks identical to those of modern parrots.

This specimen, only half an inch long, was probably from a bird about the size of a macaw, and most closely resembles the lorries of Australia and some of the South American macaws. It thus is the oldest known parrot and the oldest reported modern land bird.



**BIRDS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION FROM THE BAILEY FOUNDATION**  
(a paid advertisement from 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 website <http://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 regrow 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 who 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 for 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 regrown nicely and he is learning to trust people again. He says a very 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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