 This newsletter

Devoted to pet bird

Enthusiasts is

Published monthly by

The Rainbow Feathers

Bird club of Michigan

A 501(c) (3) club

March 2017

Volume 20 Issue3

# **Bird Droppings**

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES**:

March 26th –- Fourth Sunday

April 23rd ------– Fourth Sunday

May 21st --------Third Sunday

## RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

Who we are and what we are about

* Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
* Support scholarships for avian vet students
* Yearly Bird Fair
* Club Library for members
* Grooming available
* Avian rescue/relocation programs
* Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
* Monthly newsletter
* Periodic Service projects
* Field Trips
* Educational Programs upon request
* Make-it-take-it workshops

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – splafchan@twmi.rr.com

### Secretary– Kathe Cote 313-728-2211

Email – gardenfrog1967@yahoo.com

### Treasurer and Membership Secretary – Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

### Board of Trustees –

Mary Perva- 517-672-9528

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Susan Dixon 248-330-6938

Email – susanhdixion@hotmail.net

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email- [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)

**ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.**

Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Plafchan is now doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1st of the month for publishing in the current month’s newsletter. Please send all items to him at 11021 Henry Ruff Livonia, MI 48150 or email to [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:dkennedy@livonia.lib.mi.us).

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

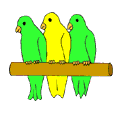
Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Those wishing to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.

BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

* Ask owner’s permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
* Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
* When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
* Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.





Monthly snack list

**We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is twofold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and desserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!**

hm00342_

CLUB WELFARE

Please contact Jean Jedrzejek at 734-427-3187 or e-mail her at [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net) if you know of any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one.

**j0109765From**

**the prez:**

I am getting mental whiplash from the many phone calls we have been getting asking for one thing then in the middle of the conversation changing gears and going in a whole different direction. Trying to get these people to tell me what they are interested in is like pulling teeth and then they are not sure what it is they want. This is why I like the club everyone there loves birds no matter what kind or who they bring with them it is always fun to see all the different birds that show up at the meetings. It is always fun to welcome new members to our flock, we are always growing, and growth is good. We are also going to become very busy in the coming months with the programs starting just look for the time, date and location in the upcoming events in the newsletter. Also, before you know it June will be here, our bird fair will be upon us, it is never too early to get raffle donations, and the best part is they do not have to be bird related. People love our raffle, the donations are coming in from many different places, and anything you can get is greatly appreciated. The one thing I would like to thank you for is how much fun the meetings are; February’s meeting was as always, a lot of fun and full of great food. This is how I envisioned the club when we started it 20 years ago and it has surpassed my wildest expectations and I consider this my bird club family (no comments about nuts in the family tree because if you have known me for any length of time you’ll know I’m the head nut!) Sometimes it is good to just let go and have fun and that is just what we do. So I hope to see you at March’s meeting, it will be spring by then, and let’s get ready to have some fun. As always **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!**

Until Next Time

Your Prez

Dave



**Voice of the**

**Veep**

It’s March and spring is soon to be sprung. For our rescue, this means the show season will soon begin. What I am referring to are our senior shows, which garner donations to help fund our rescue efforts to those of you who are new to the club here is a brief description of a senior show. What we do is offer a program for the residents that we stage for a donation to our rescue. A program usually entails about three to four hours of time and the time needed to drive to and from the location. We bring between twenty to thirty birds and display them by size from the smallest to the largest. The shows are updated on our web site as they are confirmed just go to <http://www.rfbirdclub.com> click on the upcoming events tab and you will see a complete list of show dates and times. We always can use help even if you are not interested in bringing your own bird and the shows are a lot of fun. This information is usually on our Facebook page also, although due to the nature of the way things post sometimes the events are not in chronological order.

If you are interested in attending a show and would like more information feel free to call me on my home phone and leave me a message. I will return your call as soon as I can to fill in any details you like.

Your VP

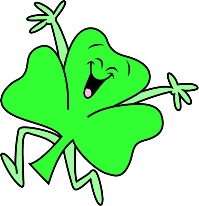
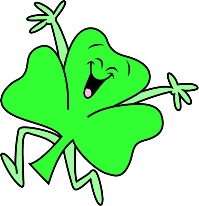
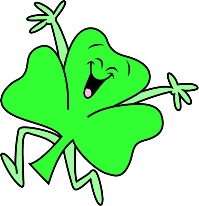
Steve



Rescue Update

There were three adoptions last month. The birds that went to new homes were a B&G Macaw, a U-2 and a Nanday Conure.

All of the birds we adopt go to their new homes with cages, toys, water bottles, and pellets. We are able to accomplish this because of the wonderful generosity of the members of this club. Your donations of supplies brought to the meetings and especially your participation in the monthly club raffles has allowed the rescue to send our adoptees to their new homes fully prepared. Thank you one and all. You should all be very proud of yourselves for this; our rescue couldn’t do this without you.

  **OUT AND ABOUT WITH POOKIE**

A few months ago we Greys knew that there was a problem with our companion human, Steve. Our dilemma quite simply, was he was losing his focus. What I mean by that is he wasn’t as “grey” as he once was. Don’t be so literal when I say grey, the reference is to his state of mind not the color of the gray hair upon the top of his head. Steve had always been a stalwart and steady supporter of the entire flock here at our home and was the human companion with a complete African Grey attitude.

The changes started to occur a couple of years ago when we allowed Ricky (U-2) to move into our humble abode. We all felt that seven Greys would be able to counter the effects of one Cockatoo but none of us was able to predict the way he wormed his way into our home. All of us realized that we Greys who once had free range and total dominance of our home had become relegated to staying in or on our cages while Ricky was receiving snuggles and affection from Steve.

Surrendering was not an option for us. We knew that we had to take our home back so putting our beaks together we formulated a grand plan. It began with a brain storming session; step one was for us to identify the allure of Ricky (U-2) and why Steve and Celeste were so infatuated.

Here is a short list, Start all of the following statements with

A U-2 (are/ can/ is /will /?)

1. NUTS!!
2. Self-entertaining. Anything provided to them will become a toy.
3. The best wood chipper you can find.
4. Sing opera.
5. Scream, Scream, Scream, Scream, Scream and Scream some more.
6. Sit in your lap then suddenly bite your lip/ face/ ear/ toes/ arm/ thumb/ finger/ nose/ cheek and anything else exposed.

Briefly, this research showed that companion humans (especially Steve & Celeste) enjoy being tricked and misled.

This was an epiphany for us. All seven of us, myself included, were under the impression that our ability to have an intelligent conversation with Steve was paramount. I could not have been more incorrect Steve & Celeste want to be misled and fooled. They do not want conversion they want trickery, hmm?

What is out best asset? Our intelligence and our abilities to imitate voices and sounds and solve complex problems. Knowing that this would not be easy nor would the results be recognizable quickly all seven of us agreed.

OPERATION GHOST would begin ASAP!!

Until next month

Chirps and Squawks

Pookie



**BIRD**

**FAIR**

Our annual bird fair is now going to be on Sunday June 11th and will be at the same location as last year. The location is VFW Post 345 at 27345 Schoolcraft (I-96 service drive) Redford, MI 48239.

We are not going to be able to set up for the fair the night before as we have in years past but we will be getting access to the hall about 6:00 AM. The tentative plan is load a U-Haul® truck the evening before with Cages and stuff at Steve’s house. In the morning before the fair starts we will bring in all the cages, raffle items and supplies.

We will need as much help as we can get at 6:00 AM to cover tables, price cages, run electricity and set up the raffle. Hopefully this will mostly be finished by 7:00 AM when the vendors will start arriving. We need help holding doors open and assisting vendors move in at this time. They really appreciate this; it’s something that rarely occurs for them at other fairs and keeps them coming back. During the fair we will need help at the admissions desk, assisting at the raffle, rescue tables. Another time when help is needed is after the fair doing the clean-up.

This is our rescue’s largest fundraiser of the year, so please; one and all come and make this fair the success of past years. We have rented out a record number of tables this year with many first time vendors. Let’s show them what a dynamic group we are by assisting them in every way possible.

Come on out and lend a hand even if you haven’t signed up. You don’t have to stay all day; any time you can help would be wonderful.

**Avast ye Mates**

 **CAPTAINS CORNER**

Ok it seems that there are some people who do not know what no means and Sparky, J.B. and I witnessed this first hand at the Finch and Canary Club’s Bird Fair. We had so many people coming to our table and the first words out of their mouths were “how much?” For some odd reason they thought we were for sale and a few got irritated when our pet humans told them that we were not for sale. One group even came back and each member of their group tried to see how much we were. I mean come on if one in your group was told we were not for sale then what makes you think that things would change in a few minutes. Sparky’s and J.B.’s pet human Steve told one guy that there was no amount of money that would make him sell them. Even my pet human Dave had to tell this same guy the same thing and he said “Why there are more out there”, Dave replied “but they are not the same as the Captain here”. Even Tuna had his share of I’ll buy that bird! I guess that reading is not a skill some learn and when there are numerous signs stating that these birds are rescue examples not for sale all over the place playing stupid is easier than being smart. We are just so very grateful that they care enough about us to keep these people at arm’s length because no just does not seem to be in there vocabulary. Some even got angry and muttered as they walked away “this is a bird fair and you are supposed to be selling birds” hello, please read the many very prominent signs. Sigh, I know things like this will not stop and people will try anything but we are secure in the fact that our pet humans will never sell us and love us very much. Now I just need to find out who this colonel is and why does my pet human sometimes want’s to drop me off there!

Cheers

Captain Morgan





**BITS from BABY**

HOWDY to all my feathered and non-feathered friends, this is your roving reporter Baby with the latest and greatest news. There were sixty-one people at the last meeting fifty-five club members and six guests of which four guest joined our flock. Now for the feathered members there were thirty-four in attendance, eight Macaws, seven African Grays, and six Cockatoos plus thirteen other parrots.

February's meeting was every lively and had great food and fun.

Well get ready for another busy year with three programs all ready to go in March just for starters. If you never took part in the any of the programs, you do not know how great they make you feel seeing the smiles on the people’s faces. The folk at the programs cannot thank us enough for coming and brightening up their day seeing all the beautiful Birds.  Even if you do not want to bring your own birds, extra hands are always welcome.

Well that all for now.

God bless, till we meet again,

Your friend Baby

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BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

BENJAMIN MACKAY                      APR. 1

MARK MAKLENBURG                   APR. 2

JEFF ROSENTHAL                         APR. 3

SANDY MOSS                                 APR. 4

MEGAN HOPE                                 APR. 5

BARB ROSENTHAL                       APR. 8

JELENA FONTANA                         APR. 9

COURTNEY EAMES                      APR. 13

McKENNA LYNCH                          APR. 13

SARAH MACKAY                            APR. 14

NANCY TEATRO                             APR. 16

MARIE KEEHL                                 APR. 17

ROSEMARY MEDVE                      APR. 17

LISA SCHAAP                                 APR. 17

TAMMY CAROL                               APR. 20

JACK PLAGENS                              APR. 22

ALISON SAUVE                              APR. 24

MARK GREENWOOD                    APR. 25

CARINNE KORANY                        APR. 27

ANDREW SULLIVAN                      APR. 27



**THE ADVENTURES OF**

**STEVE AND DAVE**

**the**

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****

****

We have seen the Rangers rescuing many types of birds but this was a first for them. This particular rescue took them to a city they had been before the lovely city of Ferndale and it was there they would pick a rather unusual type of bird. Now when one says Parakeet one’s mind goes to those blue, green, yellow, white and combinations of those colors types of small birds. We all know the ones you see them in every pet store but this little guy was different. You see he was not a Budgie but a Lineolated Parakeet. He was a green bird with prominent black stripes a little bigger than a Budgie with a short tail. As was the case the owner had grown tired of the bird and how it made things difficult to do things as vacations and such. When they arrived, they were taken to a darkened room and there was this poor little bird sitting looking forlorn in its cage. Without hesitation, they removed the bird from its cage put him in the carrier gathered up his cage and they were off. It took a while but finally someone fell in love with it and he found his forever home. Another happy ending but still there are more that need the Rangers assistance to help them find their forever home as well. So as they streak across the state (no not kind of streaking, seriously) to rescue more helpless birds and give them a happy ending but they are up to the task for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!**

Stay tuned to this channel for our next exciting adventure To Barryton We Will Go!

****

People must not think too much when calling to adopt a bird because if they did they might not say half the things they do and as you know I will put it in the news letter for your entertainment. So here we go again!

A guy calls me up and is looking to adopt a bird, now mind you he has called before after his Albino Burmese Python (8ft long) made dinner out of his Blue Front Amazon. He calls again looking for a bird because the Sun Conure he purchased off of Craig’s list became the latest snack for his snake. I told him in no uncertain terms would we ever adopt a bird to him he would have to get rid of the snake. He became angry and said that the snake was his baby and he had it since it was little. I told him sorry but we are not feeding your snake any more birds he hung up on me.

A woman was looking for a bird and asked me “what was in season?” I told her Parakeets and she was disappointed there was nothing larger and would try another rescue. It sounded more like a restaurant question than a bird rescue question.

Another woman insisted that she needed to come to our building and see what we had in the rescue. I told her we didn’t have a building and she needed to tell me exactly what she wanted. She said a big bird so I asked what experience she had and she said I have had parakeets. So I asked her if her family was on board with this and she said that they want a dog but I want a bird so we are getting a bird and asked to come to our building again and again I told her we had no building. She then proceeded to tell me birds were less messy than dogs and gave me the grocery list of things she expected a bird to do and be. I told her she was wrong that large birds are very messy and I could not guarantee any of the things she had on her list. She got angry with me (really another person I ticked off I must be doing something right) and called me a nasty name, I guess telling her she was not fit to keep a dead Goldfish was not to her liking and she said she would try another rescue.

The one I liked the best was the woman who started off looking for a Green Cheek Conure and by the time we were through it had morphed into a Macaw. She then asked if we ever got any Hyacinth Macaws in or maybe a Moluccan Cockatoo, uh, what happened to the Green Cheek Conure. By the time she was done she had run the gamut of many parrots of all sizes and I had mental whiplash. The kicker was she lived in an Apartment building and wasn’t sure if they allowed pets something she should have checked before she even called us.

These are the best of this past month (yes just a month’s worth) and we can only imagine what the next month will bring. As always you can count on them going into the newsletter for your entertainment!

**UP COMING EVENTS**

**As of**

**March 9th 2017**

March 18th Senior Show

Sat Inn at Cass Lake

900 N. Cass Lake Road

Waterford, MI 48328

Set-up 1:00 pm

Start 2:00 pm

March 22nd Senior Show

Wed. American House

26600 Ann Arbor Trail

Dearborn Heights, MI 48127

Set-up 2:00 pm

Start 3:00pm

March 29th Senior Show

Wed American House Livonia

11525 Farmington Road

Livonia, MI 48150

Set-up 1:00pm

Start 2:00 pm

April 2nd Senior Show

Sun Huron Woods

Towsley Health Building

5361 McAuley Dr.

Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Set-up 1:30p

Start 2:30 pm

April 5th Senior Show

Wed. American House

777 East Woodward Heights Blvd.

Hazel Park, MI 48030

Set-up 12:30 pm

Start 1:30pm

April 14th Senior Show

Fri Glacier Hills Senior Living

Community

1200 Earhart Rd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Set-up 9:00 am

Start 10:00 am

April 24th Senior Show

Mon. Waltonwood Main

1401 N. Rochester Rd.

Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Set-up 2:00 pm

Start 3:00 pm

May 2nd Senior Show

Tuesday AARP meeting at

Wayne Community College

21000 Northline Road

Taylor, MI 48180

Set-up 11:30 am

Start 12:30 pm

May 12th Senior Show

Fri American House

24400 Middlebelt Road

Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Set-up 1:30 pm

Start 2:30pm

Oct 28th  Senior Show

Sat Huron Woods

Towsley Health Building

5361 McAuley Dr.

Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Set-up 1:30pm

Start 2:30 pm

**\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\***

There has been some confusion from the loyal readers of Bird Droppings as to which events they are allowed to bring their own bird(s) to. As a point of reference and for future information please we want everyone to be aware that when you see the line:

\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

following or “Educational Show” preceding an event listing it means we are attending the event in an official capacity representing our club and rescue. At these events all club members are welcomed to bring their feathered companions with them. Also please note that our space is very limited at some of these events but don’t let this stop you from joining us, we will find a way for you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy the fun.

**\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\***

***\*CANCELATION CONFUSION \****

A few of our scheduled events have been canceled at the last minute by the group staging the event. If you do not regularly participate in the shows but plan on attending please call Steve (734-513-0030) to make sure the event is still a go.

**PONDERIN’ WITH PACKO**

Well friends, it has been a slow, unexciting winter. The only thing I have done is attend a few Rainbow Feathers meetings. Otherwise, about the only thing I have done is come out to visit with Michael a few times.

Though this is March, I need to tell you what happened at the January meeting. See Daddy has this new friends. He has been driving them to the meetings, Educational Events, and those Big Events.

Well this lady Absolutely Adores yours truly. So at the January meeting, I let her hold me for the entire meeting. Oh friends she scratched me under my wings. THAT FELT SO GOOD. I will not let daddy do that. With Daddy, I am quite happy to stand at my royal position, on his LEFT SHOULDER. Mind you Rambo, this IS MY PLACE TO STAND. I don’t like Daddy messing with my wings, or feathers.

At the February Rainbow Feathers meeting, I stayed with Daddy. Miss Karen could not be there this time. Everything was going great. Until Daddy went in the line of people. You know the one I mean. Not the good one with the food. No, that other line. The one where that lady with the scissors, and noisy thing is. And that guy with the towel is. Yes, that line. Almost all of us try to escape from there.

See a few weeks before I was playing a little rough with my toys. In doing so, I broke a big flake off the top of my upper beak. Well that left my beak Real Pointy, and Wicked Sharp. Daddy wanted that repaired. I should say, Daddy wanted that nice sharp point gone. I was doing some real damage to his arm with that.

Needless to say, he made me visit that lady with the grinder thing. I hate getting my beak filed. As I am sure the rest of you do also. So after having this done, Daddy always puts in back in my travel box. He takes Rambo for his beak trim next. Well, then it happened. I barfed. I made such a mess, Daddy had to clean out my travel box. But I am getting better riding in the car. I didn’t get sick in there this time.

Well friends that is all the adventure I have had. Everyone Have Fun, Play Hard, and Train Your Human Well. Remember, they are there to serve us. Packo.

Packo.



**Rambling with Rambo**

Well everyone, I have not had much to say lately. With the cold weather, and Michael running around like some crazy person, I have not gotten out of the house for any adventures.

The other day Daddy did take me to both the bank, and to Wal-Mart. The weather was warm. He told me I could go with him. I had lots of fun.

But, I was so happy to be our, I got Daddy in trouble at Walmart. See Daddy was dressed real nice. He put my carrier down in a shopping cart. He thought I would sit on my box or the side of the shopping cart. His idea was for me to stand on the handle, or in that little seat. Silly man. I had to be on my daddy. So I climbed up the side of the cart, across the handle, to Daddy’s hand, then up to my royal position on his LEFT Shoulder. That right shoulder is birds of lessor status than us Macaws. Remember this my feathered friends. Our humans are there to SERVE US, not be entertained by us. We must remind them that we are in charge.

So being the Royal Most Spectacular Animal of the Store, I had to make my presence known. Yes, I had to proclaim that His Royal Macaw-ness was there. So from Daddy’s shoulder, I called to everyone far and wide. And naturally, I had to use that voice only us Macaws can claim. Think of Captain Morgan when he wants attention.

Daddy wanted his friends at the Customer Service counter to meet this regal specimen of Macaw. Well, with all the noise I was making, Daddy got in trouble. That big Boss Man that runs the store told Michael, “You must take your parrot outside. I can’t have all this commotion in my store.” Who do you think you are talking to a King, and his servant that way? Mind your tongue young man. You are speaking to Royalty. And young man I am potty trained. I have not pooped in this establishment.

Well, hence only one of Daddy’s friends were able to see me up close. But I did have fun there. I had everyone in the store looking in my direction.

The Rainbow Feathers meeting was loads of fun. We had many old friends there. And thank you to the person that always brings pizza for us birds.

Well, friends, that is all I have room to tell you for now. Now that March is here, perhaps you will see me at some Educational Events. So as always, “Have Fun, (try to) Be Good, and Remember, Macaws Rule.

Rambo.

**How to tell if your bird is sick**

**By Don J. Harris, DVM**

Birds in the wild instinctively hide illness in an attempt to avoid predators that prey on sick or injured birds. Pet birds are also just as effective in hiding illness as their wild counterparts, and it is up to bird owners to recognize subtle behavioral and physical signs that may indicate their birds are sick.

**Behavioral signs may include:**

• Sleeping later in the morning than usual

• Sleeping more during the day

• Irritability

• Unusually compliant or passive

• Sitting on the bottom of the cage

• Picking at food and/or not eating at usual times

• Eating less overall

• Vocalizing less

• A change in the voice or hoarseness

• Different breathing pattern

• Making unusual sounds when breathing

**Physical signs may include:**

• Coughing or sneezing

• Discharge from nostrils (nares)

• Matted eyes

• Eyes are dull and closing excessively

• Matted feathers on the face and head

• Diarrhea

• Black stools

• A change in the white part of the droppings to another color such as red, yellow or green

• Weight loss—can you feel or see the breastbone?

• Unusual swellings, especially around the eyes

• Irregular discoloration of the feathers

• Feathers are “fluffed up”

• Random or generalized loss of feathers

• Scaling or crusting of skin

• Increased temperature of feet or beak

Any of the signs listed above, or any other unusual signs, may indicate your bird is sick. You should take immediate action by making an appointment with your avian veterinarian. Waiting even one day to resolve the problem can jeopardize the long-term outcome of your bird’s health.

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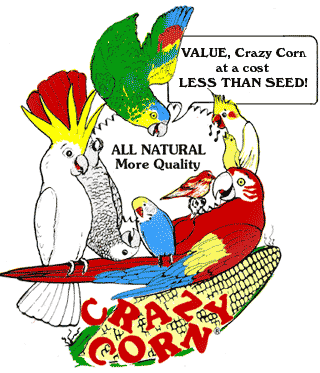
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