



This newsletter
Devoted to pet bird
Enthusiasts is
Published monthly by
The Rainbow Feathers
Bird club of Michigan
A 501(c) (3) club

April 2017
Volume 20 Issue 4

Bird Droppings



UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

APRIL 23rd -----Fourth Sunday

MAY 21st -----Third Sunday

JUNE 11th -----BIRD FAIR

JUNE 25th -----Fourth 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 and more.....

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

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – splafchan@twmi.rr.com

Secretary– Kathe Cote 313-728-2211

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Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

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Board of Trustees –

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Susan Dixon 248-330-6938

Email – susanhdixon@hotmail.com

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

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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

EDITORS BULLETIN

Steve Plafchan is the editor of the newsletter. All ads and articles will be reviewed at the end 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

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 BETAQUETTE

- ❖ 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.



CLUB WELFARE

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



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 two fold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and deserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!



OVER THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

We have had yet another crossing of a feathered club member; Rambo a Hans Macaw who owned Mike Gyarmati crossed over the Rainbow Bridge last month.

Rambo was a constant companion of Mike and was dearly loved by everyone. Rambo succumbed to the complications of a stroke at the age of about twenty-four years. To him we say you are free to soar on the far side of the Rainbow Bridge; you will always be loved and forever remembered. In your memory we dedicate the following verse.



The Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called
Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially
close to someone here, that pet goes to
Rainbow Bridge.

There are meadows and hills for all our special
friends so they can run and play together. There is
plenty of food and water and sunshine, and our
friends are warm and comfortable.

All of the animals that have been ill and old are
restored to health and vigor, those who were hurt
or maimed are made whole and strong again, just
as we remember in our dreams of days and times
gone by. The animals are happy and content,
except for one small thing;

They miss someone very special to them who had
to be left behind. They all run and play together,
but the day comes when one suddenly stops and
looks into the distance,...

The bright eyes are intent; the eager body quivers.
suddenly she begins to break away from the
group, flying over the green grass,
her wings carrying her faster and faster YOU ~
have just been spotted, and when you and your
special friend meet, you cling together in joyous
reunion ~

never to be parted again. The sweet sounds of
happy tweets play your ears; your hands again

caress the beloved's head, and you look once
more into the trusting eyes of your pet,
so long gone from your life but never absent
from your heart ~

Then you cross ~ . . . the
Rainbow Bridge together !



FROM THE PREZ:



I cannot believe that we have just passed Easter it seems that time has kicked it into hyper drive and is going fast. Before you know it, the bird fair will be here and we are still taking any donations for the bird fair raffle. Now the things for the raffle can be just about anything it does not have to be bird related we have such a diverse raffle and that is what people like about it there is something for everyone there. People stay all day just for our raffle and who knows I might win something this year. We need help with the set-up in the morning at 6 AM, covering tables and getting the vendors in, all through the day setting up each raffle and at the end helping the vendors out they would like us to be out by 5 PM if possible. I really never worry because we always have so much help it is wonderful so keep June 11th free and let's make this another successful one. I really love how our flock keeps growing and

seeing the Major Mitchells Cockatoo was just fantastic a rare treat in my book. In fact, you never know what types of birds you will see at a meeting and they are all very special. Speaking of special that is what you guys are you make this club what it is. The meetings are fun and stress free and we do get a lot of good food as well. The truth is that every member is unique and valued because it is you who are the heart and soul of this club it is something that we can never forget. The most important element is you and we welcome all your ideas because your ideas are all through the club and the events we do. So, I hope you all had a very Happy Easter and I look forward to seeing you at the April meeting for birds, food and fun. As always **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!**

Until Next Time
Your Prez
Dave



Voice of the Veep

Two months away! Our annual bird fair is on Sunday June 11th. I am hoping all of you are as excited as I am. The fair is at the same venue in Redford and we are going to need as much assistance from all of you to make it a success. In case anyone isn't sure, the address is: VFW Post 345, 27345 Schoolcraft Road (I-96 service drive) Redford, MI 48239. On Saturday, the night before the fair, at my house we will be loading a U-Haul ® truck with used cages, raffle prizes and anything else that needs to go to the hall. We will probably be

at my house about 6:00-7:00 pm to start the loading.

The real work starts at 6:00AM on Sunday when we have to unload the truck, set up for the raffle, cover tables, run extension cords, set-up used cages and play stands and put lawn signs up around the neighborhood. At 7:00AM, the real work starts because we have to start helping vendors bring in their wares and be on hand to help anyone who needs help. One area of help that we fell short at last year was after the fair. We lost all our help! I know it is a long day but please, we still need help after the fair helping vendors load and clearing out of the hall.

Saturday June 10th is also going to be a busy day for us. We are attending the Garden City Flea Circus that is being held in the Kroger parking lot at Ford Rd. and Middle Belt. This is an event with rescues, vendors, food & snacks and rescued pets of all types up for adoption. The set-up is between 8:00am and 9:00am; the event runs from 10:00am until 3:00pm. We will be setting up our pop-up in the morning and taking it down after the flea circus ends then head to my house to load the U-Haul truck. If you are a newer member of the club this event would be an awesome opportunity for you to join us at an open event. Do not worry about bringing one of your own birds because there will be plenty of our birds there that you can assist with.

On a totally different subject and a very disconcerting issue I think I hear voices. They are talking in deep dark tones and saying things like white and pink

feathers are better than gray. Don't be afraid, Cockatoos are nice! Join us it may be dark but we have cookies. Am I being lured to the dark side? Does anyone know, do I need professional help? Yum, cookies!

**Your Veep
Steve**



**MAY I HAVE
YOUR
ATTENTION**

As you know, we are approaching a very busy season of both outdoor and indoor events. The Garden City Flea Circus, Our bird fair, the Guardians for Animals pet expo, the All American Family Pet Expo and possibly the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival to name two of many events that we will be attending. Along with doing these events comes something that we have become accustomed to and that is drawing huge crowds.

With that being said there are certain rules that must be followed to insure that birds do not go missing and the owner does not have heart failure wondering where that bird is. So I would like to pass on to you the rules of etiquette for doing high traffic events. If you have someone else's bird other than your own always follow these

rules. First let the owner of the bird know that you have that bird so they know where and who the bird is with. Second stay within eyesight of the bird's owner. We love the fact that many of us can handle each other's bird and it gives the owner peace of mind when they can see where their bird is. Third and most important never ever hand a bird to someone and then walk away. With the huge crowds we attract it would be very easy for someone to steal a bird if you take your eyes off of it for even a few seconds. Fourth, always take the bird back from the person you have handed it to and never let them hand it to someone else. Finally, return the bird either back to the owner or its time out stand, if you put it on the stand let the owner know that you have done so. This will help avoid the owner having panic attacks and keep everyone happy, relaxed and the event fun for all!



**Honest
Steve's
needs your
help**



We need help for "Honest Steve's" used cages at the bird fair. Help is needed cleaning, tagging and repairing the used cages that have accumulated in my garage. In the near future and most likely on a weekend day we are going to attempt to power wash, clean and repair the used cages that have been donated over the winter months. Tagging cages as to which parts belong together and that they all have bowls

and perches along with needed hardware for assembly. This sounds simple but it is quite a daunting task.

Please! Anyone who might be able to help me contact me to let me know so I may let you know when this is going to happen.

My phone numbers are Home- (734)-513-0030 Cell (313)-608-7106. Call and leave me a message on either phone and I will get back in touch with you when a date is determined.



Rescue update

The rescue continued to have success on placing foster birds in new homes. This past month

we placed a Blue Crown Conure named Rambo in a new forever home,

We also rescued a number of gently used cages, which will be available at our bird fair in June. If you are interested be sure to stop by “Honest Steve’s Used Cages” table at the fair

As is standard for our adopted birds they went to their new homes with cages, toys and food. We are only able to do this because of you, our members.

We want to thank all of our club members for your generous participation in our monthly raffles and your donations of toys and food. It is you, the members that enable us to send our rescued birds to their new adopted homes fully outfitted

with cages, food, and toys. Your generosity also allows us to pay for vet care if needed and have made our rescue the success that it is. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Attention Kroger Shoppers

Kroger sent us a message Informing our club that we do not have to re-enroll annually in their Community Rewards program. If you are presently enrolled, you do not have to do anything to continue your participation.

Anyone in the club interested in joining the community rewards program you must go to Kroger’s Website to register your Kroger card into the program.

www.krogercommunityrewards.com

click “sign in”

- enter their email and password
- click “enroll now”
- put in the NPO number or part of the organizations name
- check the correct group
- click “enroll”

Anyone having an issue with their email address or password can call 1-800-KROGERS for customer service.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

PAT GREENWOOD	MAY 2
JOSEPH FONTANA	MAY 5
MICHAEL GYARMATI	MAY 5
TERRI ALLORE	MAY 10
DAVE CAROL	MAY 13
SUE GOUIN	MAY 13
DALE DOMEIER	MAY 15
LANCE KNUDSON	MAY 16
RANDY BRATCHER	MAY 20
KRISTEN LAMBERT	MAY 24



Out and About with Pookie

In last month's column, I revealed that companion humans (especially Steve & Celeste) want to be misled and fooled. Ergo we, the Greys in our home initiated OPERATION GHOST this is the code name we are using to invigorate the interest of our humans. There is no doubt all of you are wondering exactly what this operation entails. We all put our beaks together and ascertained what our best asset was; it was determined it is our ability to imitate different human voices and household

sounds. With this knowledge in hand we started.

- 1) Shatner took point and started asking for Steve in Celeste's voice.
- 2) Tyler began to use Steve's voice and say "Good Morning" but only when there was no one watching.
- 3) Casey started barking with two different barks.
- 4) JB barks in the same voice Casey uses but he also quacks like a duck.
- 5) The house alarm and the creak of the doors. I almost forgot, all of us have mastered all the different noises.

In all honesty, I could use pages to list the totality of what we all can say; the value is in how to use it. We made the decision to use Celeste's voice when we know Steve is awake and in the house and to use Steve's voice when Celeste was awake. Two of us have mastered the art of throwing our voices; I cannot divulge at this time who the budding ventriloquists are because neither Steve nor Celeste know and we want to keep it that way. However, the ability to imitate the sound of the front door opening when one or the other is home alone is quite disconcerting to both. Household noises are another way we have to trick both Steve and Celeste; we imitate the sounds of the electronic door lock buttons being pushed then throw our voices into the kitchen and beep like the alarm system to indicate a door is being opened. Sadly, I am unable to divulge who the budding ventriloquists are at this moment because it is more important to keep Steve and Celeste off balance and hopping up and down out of their chairs to answer doors that are not being opened. This process provides exercise and

stimulation and you can believe me that Steve needs both.

There is another troubling situation developing in our peaceful and balanced home; Ricky seems to have welcomed another **Cockatoo** to stay here. All of us here know that there are only two ways something like this could happen. One is its only temporary and Steve knew it was occurring but neglected to tell us. The other choice is far worse and much more foreboding; the evil forces of the dark side are courting Steve. The dark side has not only been luring Steve but also tempting him with cookies!

Chirps and Squawks
Pookie

Avast ye Mates



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Well it seems that we have a defector in our midst and the scoundrel said he could never be swayed. We have the proof, we have pictures lots of pictures and there even may be a video out there somewhere. I know the force is strong but this person seemed so strong and so stable (well not mentally, that is another story but look what I have to deal with so I understand). It didn't happen overnight it came in small increments, a hi here, a scratch there and acting just so adorable and sweet you could almost get a sugar high. In the end, this person was helpless to the force, the dark force of the Cockatoo. Now we have all heard Sparky's,

Pookie's and J.B.'s pet human complaining about the number of Cockatoos at a meeting especially if they outnumbered the Grays. Strangely something began to take shape and it took the shape of Ricky's pet human Celeste she introduced Steve to the dark side and slowly but surely it took Steve over. Now the Grays were very alarmed and tried all sorts of thing even crystals and a Cockatooism to no avail he was crossing over and there was nothing they could do about it. Oh, he was still a Gray guy but he became a Cockatoo guy too and just when they thought it could not get worse the pink menace showed up. Now I have to say I have developed a soft spot for Aroura (Rory for short) the Rose breasted Cockatoo that shares my pet humans but the Gray Gang as we like to call them was totally unprepared for Mr. Pink (I'll call him Mr. P for short). Mr. P. is a Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, he has infused the gray territory with another color besides red and green, and that is pink. I have to admit that he is quite the handsome fellow and he does fit right in with the rest of us but white was one thing but pink seriously pink what he was thinking laments Sparky. Well it is just a natural progression and one to surely ruffle a few Gray feathers but they are just going to have to deal with it because he is here to stay. I think he will add some new color to our New Year's Eve celebration because he looks like a real party animal.

Cheers
Captain Morgan



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 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, and bake sale 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.

CLUB T-SHIRTS



Good news! Tracy Hilka who is Bella

Embroidery is now going to make our club shirts. The price for t-shirts, including our logo embroidered on it, is \$10.00 for sm. to XI and \$12.50 for 2xl to 5xl. These are Gildan brand #8000 50/50 t-shirts, there are lots of colors.

What you do is go our website www.rfbirdclub.com and click on the tab "RF GEAR" or to her website.

www.sportswearcollection.com/bellaemb
Then type Gildan in the search box (this will put you on the Gildan page).
Look down the page and find Gildan DryBlend 50/50 T-shirts #8000
Click on the icon and this will open the page with all the colors and sizes.

Choose your size and color(s) and add it to your Cart.

On the cart page there is a place for comments when you place your order, in this box tell Tracy you would like your shirt embroidered with the Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Logo
When she receives your order she will send you a PayPal[®] invoice

In a short time you will receive your new club shirt in the mail.

If you don't have internet access or a PayPal® account you can contact me, Steve Plafchan and we'll figure out a solution to get you a shirt.

She has many items available (hats, tote bags, etc.) that she can put our logo on if you wish. She has given us a catalog full of things you can order, all the prices are retail and she receives a wholesale price so you will have to talk to her about pricing. (IE prices will be less than what's listed in the catalog.)

BITS from BABY



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

We are on a roll already this year and it just started. It makes me and all the members feel great doing the programs for the people just to see the smiles on their faces after the program. They tell us how much seeing all the beautiful colored birds brightens up their day.

Come join use and see what I'm talking about.

Well that's all for now.

God bless till we meet again,

Your friend Baby

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THE ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND DAVE THE

RESCUE RANGERS

IN TO BARRYTON WE WILL GO (AND A LITTLE SIDE TRIP)

Well it was a beautiful summer day the perfect day for a road trip and a long road trip it was it took the Rangers to the tiny berg of Barryton Michigan. For those who do not know where the heck Barryton is (believe me the Rangers had nary a clue either) it is about two and one half hours away from Ranger Steve's place. Therefore, an Iron butt run it was and they drove through some very scenic countryside past farms and fields of corn, cows, sheep and horses. Through blink and you'll miss them towns even a town with the quaint name of Rosebush. It seemed like it was taking forever but they were finally at their destination. Now mind you the center of Barryton seemed like it was just a wooden shed and a cow (there had to be more I guess they were in the wrong place) any way they had finally arrived and were greeted by a young man who was surrendering his Greenwing Macaw. This was particularly hard because the gentleman was diagnosed with a terminal illness and needed to find his beloved parrot a proper home before it was too late. There he was this magnificent creature giving the Rangers the stink eye because he did not know them. So, after good-byes were said the Rangers put him in the Rescue Mobile with his cage and other goodies and they were off for home but not

before they made a little side trip (no it wasn't for shopping or anything like that) but for another pick-up. This would happen in the city of Chesterfield Michigan and it would be much smaller than the Macaw. This was a Cockatiel. This was the case of an Australian bird with a Spanish name, Chico. Chico was a relatively young bird that the owner simply tired of and wanted to rehome him. It was a good thing that Chico was indeed a boy so no name change would be necessary. They put Chico in the carrier loaded up his cage and the Rangers were finally heading home, for real this time. When they finally made it back they knew both of their new charges would find homes quickly. The Greenwing Macaw got adopted by a club member whom he chose as his new birdie mom and the Cockatiel would soon find his forever home as well. It was a good day for an iron butt run and for two birds from afar. Still duty would soon call again and they would be ready for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!**

Stay glued to your mailbox for the next eggciting adventure Three Cities Two birds and Two Cages!



UP COMING
EVENTS

As of
April 2nd 2017

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 22nd Senior Show
Sat More Info Coming
Susan Dixon's Church
Handicapped Adults
Woodside Bible Church
9000 Highland Road
White Lake, MI 48326
Set-up Noon
Start 1:00pm

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 7th Senior Show
Sun Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks
27475 Huron Circle
Novi, MI 48377
Set-up 1:00 pm
Start 2:00pm

May 8 th Mon	Senior Show Oakhaven Manor 1320 Ashebury Lane Howell, MI 48843 Set-up 11:00 am Start Noon	June 11 th Sun	Rainbow Feathers Bird Fair VFW Post 345 27345 Schoolcraft Rd. Redford MI, 48239 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
May 12 th Fri	Senior Show American House 24400 Middlebelt Road Farmington Hills, MI 48336 Set-up 1:30 pm Start 2:30pm	June 24 th Sat	Senior Show Samaritas Senior Living of Bloomfield Hills formerly Maple Village) 6257 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301 Set-up 1:00pm Start 2:00 pm
May 17 th Wed	Senior Show Oakmont Sterling Assisted Living 2200 15 Mile Road Sterling Heights, MI 48310 Set-up 1:00pm Start 2:00 pm	July 25 th Tues	Library Show River Rouge Library 221 Burke Street River Rouge, MI 48218 Set-up 2:00pm Start 3:00 pm
June 6 th Tues	Senior Show The Oaks Adult Daycare 2500 S. Main Street Ann Arbor, MI 48103 Set-up 12:30 pm Start 1:00 pm **note 1/2 hour set-up	Sept 9 th Sat	Canary & Finch Bird Fair Livonia Elks Lodge #2246 31117 Plymouth Rd. Livonia, MI 48150 \$3.00 admission 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
June 10 th Sat	Garden City Flea Circus Parking Lot at the Corner of Middlebelt & Ford Road Starts at 10 AM til 3 PM Set up is between 8 & 9am	Oct 21 st Oct22nd	Guardians for Animals Pet Expo Madison Place 876 Horace Brown Drive Madison Heights, MI 48071 Sat. Times 10:00AM to 5:00PM Sun Times 1:00AM to 4:00PM We hopefully will be setting up on Friday like last year

Oct 28th
Sat

Senior Show
Huron Woods
Towsley Health Building
5361 McAuley Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48106
Set-up 1:30pm
Start 2:30 pm

you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy the fun.

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.

PET EXPO

Nov. 10th 2pm to 8pm

Nov. 11th 10am to 8pm

Nov. 12th 10am to 5pm

Suburban Collection Showplace
46100 Grand River
Novi, MI 48374

We will be setting up on Thursday Nov. 9th most likely around 9:00 am.

Please remember no birds will be allowed through the front door.

NOTE**NOTE*****NOTE***

**CANCELTION CONFUSION **

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

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE!



People never cease to amaze and frustrate usually at the same time and sometimes it is literally a matter of life and death. The sad fact is these situations almost always end tragically and this is one of them.

One early morning I received a phone call asking about a bird that might possibly be sick so at 7:15 AM on a Monday I am listening to a woman describe her bird's behavior to me. It is on the bottom of the cage with its head on the grate but it will still lift it up when we come into the room. I told my husband I think it's just tired am I right? I told her she was very wrong your bird is sick very sick and you need to take it to the vet immediately and I was starting to give her the numbers to a couple emergency vets offices when she stopped me. She said you mean we have to take it to the vet, you actually take birds to a vet. I told her yes and then asked her what kind of bird it was expecting it to be a Budgie or Cockatiel, it was a Blue and Gold Macaw that was just 2 years old. I stressed to her that this was a life or death situation and it may already be too late. I then asked her when did you notice it was not acting right she said on Friday. I wanted to just scream at her and ask why

you didn't do something about it then? I calmly asked why they waited and she once again said she thought it was just tired. I was about to totally lose it but stayed calm and told her she needed to get it to a vet right away and explained to her how birds operate and mask illness until it is too late. She then said one final thing that pushed me over the edge, I going to have to wait until my husband gets home from work and ask him. I was now literally yelling at her and was told her she didn't have that much time the bird would be dead by then she had to act now but I had a bad feeling she would wait. She said I was not very helpful and hung up.

It is now 7:30 AM on Tuesday and the phone rings again and it's her again this time she was very nasty and had this to say to me; "well I came to you for help and you were no help at all the bird died at about 10:20 yesterday morning". She went on to say that I should have done something to save the bird. I told her I did everything in **MY** power to save the bird I am not a vet and I cannot tell you what is wrong with your bird **YOU** needed to get it to the vet on Friday when you noticed it wasn't acting right and **YOU** did nothing. I told her I felt bad for the bird because a Macaw should not have died at two and that this was totally their fault for not acting sooner and that they let then bird die. I hated being so blunt but it was the only way to make her understand they screwed up big time. She was silent for a moment and then had the nerve to ask if we had any Blue and Golds in the rescue. I didn't lose it this time but told her under no circumstances would we adopt to her because she still did not get it about parrots and finding an avian vet before you really need one because she said "well that's only if the bird gets sick". I just couldn't believe she said that to me and said the answer would be no that they had a lot of learning

left to do and I would not put any bird in a bad situation like that. She told me I needed to work on my people skills and hung up. There are many people out there like this woman and her husband who just don't get it about having a large parrot and all we can do is pray they do not get another bird!



10 steps to a better relationship with your parrot

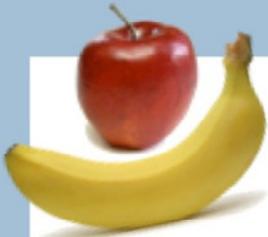
By Liz Wilson, CVT

- 1) Ensure your companion bird is healthy by doing annual check-ups and routine diagnostics with your experienced avian veterinarian. Since birds hide the obvious signs of illness, allowing basic annual testing is critical to the early detection of medical problems.
- 2) Ensure your companion bird is consuming a good diet. This is critical to the proper functioning of its immune system and increases its potential for a healthy life, as well as eliminating nutrition-based problem

behaviors, such as some cases of feather destruction

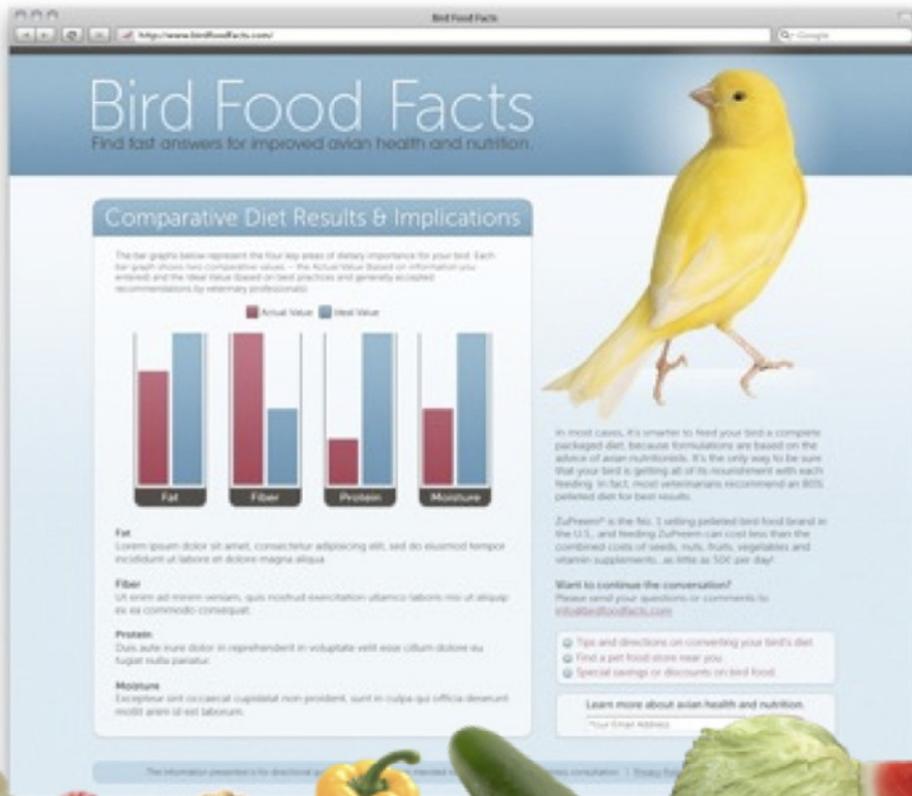
- 3) Ensure your companion bird lives in a sufficiently large cage, allowing it lots of room for exuberant wing-flapping exercise and energetic play; allow it daily out-of-cage time on play stations other than just the cage to minimize territorial behaviors. Encouraging healthy exercise can decrease problem behaviors like excessive screaming, since a tired parrot is a quiet parrot.
- 4) Establish controls with your parrot by lovingly teaching it to respond to the simple commands of Up and Down, and setting clear and consistent limits on its behavior. By teaching manners and setting boundaries, parrots can become better companions.
- 5) Give your parrot quality interaction daily, no matter how busy your life gets...even if for just 10-15 minutes of one on one time. Psittacines are biologically wild animals, and won't retain their "tameness" without daily contact with people
- 6) Make your companion bird a member of the family, since it is a flock animal and extremely social. Single birds should not be housed in rooms by themselves.
- 7) Socialize your parrot to family and trusted friends, thereby teaching it to adapt to the society in which it lives. It should be comfortable interacting with and being handled by other people. Do not allow it to become over-bonded to one person.
- 8) Assure your companion bird gets adequate rest, with 10-12 hours of dark, uninterrupted sleep time nightly. Sleep deprivation often leads to problem behaviors like biting, excessive screaming and feather destruction.
- 9) Establish trust with your companion bird by teaching it that it is safe with you. Consistency is critical to establishing trust, as your parrot learns what to expect from you and what you expect from it.
- 10) Accept your parrot for what it is, not what you want it to be. No matter how well trained it is, a healthy parrot may still be noisy messy and destructive because it's a parrot!

This article was funded by an educational grant from ZuPreem®, the makers of exceptional diets for extraordinary animals. ZuPreem® is committed to the advancement of knowledge regarding avian husbandry and nutrition. Working together, ZuPreem® and bird clubs with similar interests can support high-quality avian health in our worldwide community



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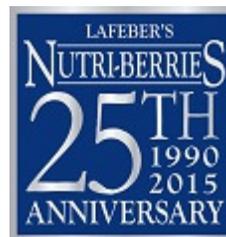
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AVIAN VETERINARIANS

This is a list of veterinarians who are qualified to treat birds. Meaning, they are able to do diagnostic exams and treatments, not just clip wings and toenails. **Rainbow Feathers Bird Club does not endorse a *specific* doctor, clinic or hospital. This list assists in the search for avian vets. It is not, however, all-inclusive.**

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

All Creatures Animal Clinic
3382 Washtenaw Avenue
(734)973-1884
(Drs. Lewis & Alexander)

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Animal Kingdom Vet Hospital
4920 Ann Arbor-Saline Road
(734) 913-0003
(Dr. Daldin-Marsh)

Birch Run, MI 48415

Frankenmuth-Birch Run Veterinary Hospital
9339 Gera Road
(989) 652-6689
(Dr. Kimberlee Buck)

Birmingham, MI 48009

Birmingham Veterinary Clinic
33788 Woodward Avenue
(248) 647-5474
(Dr. Christine Glikis-Fernandez)

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Ross Animal Hospital for Animals
880 W. Long Lake
(248) 642-2050

Canton, MI 48187

Canton Center Animal Hospital
5900 Canton Center Road North
(734) 459-1400
(Drs. Grzanowski & Moran)

Clinton Twp., MI 48038-2794

Parkway Small Animal & Exotic Hosp
39321 Garfield Road
(586) 416-8800
(Drs. Bankstahl, Pope, Golombek & Engel)

Commerce Twp., MI 48382

Lakeside Animal Hospital
2645 Union Lake
(248) 363-0822
(Dr. J.A. Brooks)

Commerce Twp., MI 48390

Vet Select Animal Hospital
1010 W. Oakley Park Road
(248) 926-9696
(Dr. Andrea Maceri)

Dearborn, MI 48124

Dearborn Family Pet Care
24909 Michigan Avenue
(313) 561-5920
(Dr. Cheryl Good)

Detroit, MI 48214

Harvey Animal Hospital
18479 Mack Ave.
(313) 882-3026
(Dr. Rebecca Coll)

Detroit, MI 48214

Jefferson Veterinary Clinic
11300 E. Jefferson Street
(313) 822-2555
(Dr. Schacht)

Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Jeffrey Animal Hospital
20720 Middlebelt Road
(248) 471-3636
(Dr. Demetriou)

Highland, MI 48357

Highland Veterinary Hospital
1255 South Milford Road
(248) 887-3755
(Dr. Wilson & Groehn)

Howell, MI 48843

Countryside Veterinary Hospital
2745 East Grand River Avenue
(517) 546-5714

Jackson, MI 49201

Crossroads Animal Hospital
3232 North Dettman Road
(517) 784-1111
(Drs. Howe & Harshbarger)

Livonia, MI 48152

Sheehy Animal Hospital
18790 Middlebelt Rd.
(248) 615-7670
(Dr. Sharon Sheehy)

Livonia, MI 48154

Strong Veterinary Hospital
29212 5 Mile Rd.
(734) 427-6360

Novi, MI 48375

Breckenridge Veterinary
21524 Novi Rd.
(248) 344-8649
(Dr. Joseph Osbourne)

Plainwell, MI 49080-1067

Bluegrass Animal Hospital
594 10TH St.
(269) 685-5894
(Dr. Mary Cambell)

Plymouth, MI 48170

Roose Animal Hospital
509 W. Ann Arbor Trail
(734) 451-2870
(Drs. Roose & Knight)

Redford, MI 48239

Five Mile Animal Hospital
25920 Five Mile Road
(313) 532-4440

Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Rochester Animal Clinic
2155 Crooks
(248) 852-3650

Royal Oak, MI 48067

Woodside Animal Clinic
27452 Woodward
(248) 545-6630

Salem, MI 48175

Salem Veterinary Services
9629 W. Six Mile Road
(248) 348-5075

Southfield, MI 48076

North Branch Animal Hospital
17630 West 12 Mile Road
(248) 557-7773

Southgate, MI 48195

Southgate Animal Hospital
13697 Dix-Toledo Road
(734) 284-9122
(Drs. Keith & Eileen Cook)

Warren, MI 48088

Warren Woods Veterinary Hospital
29157 Schoenherr
(586) 751-3350
(Dr. Cappel)

Westland, MI 48186

Westland Veterinary Hospital
7610 N. Wayne Road
(734) 261-5900

Williamston, MI 48895

Cedar Creek Veterinary Clinic
2295 N. Williamston Rd.
(517) 655-4906
(Dr. Beasley)

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If emergency services are needed, call to confirm if Avian Veterinary is currently on call.

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Oakland Veterinary Emergency Group
1400 Telegraph Road
(248) 334-6877
(Drs. Karen Fidell, Latra, Konoski, Snow, Fleischaker)

Madison Heights, MI 48071

Veterinary Emergency Service East
28223 John R
(248) 547-4677

Milford, MI 48380

Veterinary Care Specialists
205 Rowe Road
(248) 684-0468
(Dr. Stephanie Schmidt)

Novi, MI 48375

Animal Emergency Center
24360 Novi Road
(248) 348-1788 or (248) 697-2557

Plymouth, MI 48170

Veterinary Emergency Service West
40850 Ann Arbor Road
(734) 207-8500

Rochester, MI 48307

Animal Emergency Center
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