



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

September 2016  
 Volume 19 Issue 9

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

SEPT. 25<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday

OCT. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Fourth Sunday

NOV. 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> Pet Expo

**No Meeting in November**

#### 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
- Yearly Pet Expo
- 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](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary – Kathe Cote 313-728-2211

Email – [gardenfrog1967@comcast.net](mailto:gardenfrog1967@comcast.net)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

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

Board of Trustees –

Mary Perva 517-618-7008

Susan Dixon 248-330-6938

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Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

E-mail [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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 them to him at [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto: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.



## 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.



## Monthly Potluck

Not too long ago we stopped soliciting volunteers to bring food to our meetings. Instead, it was agreed that the format be a potluck venue. We ask that “Everyone”, please join in and contribute a main dish, veggie, salad, or dessert. Our meetings will be a potluck fair enjoyed by one and all.

## 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.

## FROM THE PREZ:

To say that it was an interesting weekend at the Heritage Festival would be an understatement to say the least the weather did not cooperate like we would have wanted it to. Friday was beautiful sunny and not too hot but Saturday was a whole different story. Saturday started out beautiful and it looked as though it was going to be super busy and we were ready for it but the weather had other plans. It started out with a few sprinkles that quickly turned into a steady two and a half hour downpour. Steve and Joey proceeded to soak each other as



they tried to divert water from the pop-up, they diverted it onto themselves. Then there was Steve's wardrobe malfunction, poor Marie will never be the same all she can say is Thank God for underwear. By the time we got halfway through this deluge we were all pretty much wet, except the birds. So in true Rainbow Feathers fashion we turned it into a shower party. I don't think I have laughed that hard in a long time. In fact one other vendor wanted to join our group because we were having way too much fun. Even the church group next to us was literally singing in the rain. There was not much we could do but make the best of it so we had a party. On Sunday the weather was much better until about 1 PM and everybody who had weather alerts on their phones they started getting notified about a tornado warning and we all saw ominous dark clouds to the south of us. We really dodged the bullet there it all stayed south of us and we got no tornadoes or rain but still it kept the crowds down. We still managed to pull in over \$400 dollars in donations so with all we had to deal with we didn't do badly at all. Now our next big event is the Guardians for Animals Pet Expo October 15<sup>th</sup> 10 AM – 5 PM and 16<sup>th</sup> 11 AM – 4 PM and we will once again be doing pictures to help the Guardians for Animals organization out again this year. We also have 50/50 tickets for sale at the September meeting this benefits us because we get a portion of the ticket sales back as a donation to our rescue so please come to this month's meeting and buy some, we have 500 to sell. We can handle anything and we have proved this time and time again rain or shine we

always have fun and we can now say that we have showered together with no bad results, (well maybe not Marie) but this is because and I will continue to say this **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!**

Until Next Time,  
Your Prez,  
Dave



### **Voice of the Veep**

Well, the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival was on the last weekend of August and what an event it was. Our club was once again one of the most popular attractions at the festival. This was possible because of all the support and help from our members. I have to give personal accolades the Greenwood's (Joe, Kim, Faith and Jessica); Jeremy & Courtney Eames; Mike Gyamati; Susan Dixon; Tom & Marie; Susan & Carolyn; Janet O. and Emma. From set-up until tear down, opening until close the help from our members was tremendous. We survived excessive heat and humidity, an absolute deluge of rain and flooding (this was under the pop-up) and the odor of a dead skunk wafting into the valley. Through it all our spirits remained high focusing on the birds and the public with a small amount of chicanery. For those of you that were not able to attend here are a few enticing tid-bits of information about what you missed; Joe and I became shower buddies while I kept losing my shorts and mooning people. All of us laughed so hard our sides ached

unfortunately that's all I am permitted to divulge because what happens under the pop-up stays under the pop-up (wink, wink). If you have a desire to become privy to all the goings on you'll have to plan on attending next years' festival.

We're not done yet on Sat. & Sun. October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> We are going to be at the Guardians for Animals Pet Expo at Madison Place 876 Horace Brown Drive in Madison Heights, MI 48071 Sat. times 8:00AM to 5:00PM Sun times 11:00AM to 4:00PM. We need as much help as we can get: Our club is going to be taking souvenir photos for guests but in order to accomplish this we need members to help with the birds staging the photos.

The Guardians for Animals Pet Expo is a free event for all the pet rescues attending. All the recues receive a portion of the donations from raffle ticket sales also. We have plenty to sell so don't be shy step up and buy a raffle ticket today. Then in November it's the **PET EXPO at the Suburban Collection Showplace** 46100 Grand River Novi, MI 48374 Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 2pm to 8pm, Nov. 12<sup>st</sup> 10am to 8pm Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 10am to 5pm.

As always I encourage everyone to join us not only at the multi-day festivals but at the senior shows also. We can always use your help even if you don't want to bring your bird there will be other birds there for you to help with as well as assisting with watching the other birds. If you have any questions feel free to call me at home. Steve 734-513-0030

Your Veep  
Steve



**CAGE FOR SALE!!**



We have a brand new Stainless Steel Cathedral Cage 48" x 32" x 62"H, overall size 58" X 42" X74" H bar spacing 1.25". (This cage was from Foster & Smith) With the exterior add on Feed cups for sale. It was purchased several years ago from Peaceful Valley and never used it, one latch needs work asking \$800.00 for it. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Tammy Carol at 734-422-5981

## **FALLING INTO AUTUMN**

Wow it is hard to believe that it is September already the kids are back to school and the seasons are changing very quickly. With that brings those fall holidays that we love Halloween and Thanksgiving. Now we may love them but many of our birds do not simply because of all the strange things going on. Halloween with its costumes can downright send a bird into fit of terror worthy of the best scary movie and then there are the other hazards the

decorations. Lit candles, fake spider webs, and many other things that ooze, smoke or mist can be dangerous to our feathered kids. Plus the biggie the candy we give out to the trick or treaters. Chocolate is so poisonous for all pets and the darker it is the more toxic it is. Also the wrappers can pose a hazard as well so keep them away from all pets. Now let us move on to Thanksgiving. First if you are hosting a big dinner the extra commotion can really stress out a bird if they are not used to it. Then there are those hot pans, dishes and pots that look inviting to a bird to come an check out. Also there are in some houses decorations that look pretty tempting to a bird but can really hurt them especially lit candles with their flames and hot wax. So it is important we keep our birds safe during these fall holidays and get ready for the two winter ones.

## PET EXPO

Here is tentative Pet Expo

information; the hours are as follows:

Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2pm - 8pm

Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 8pm

Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 11am-5pm

The Suburban Showcase has the operation of the pet expo again this year. Our club has been given the same generous space that we had last year and vendor badges will be available same as last year. We do know that no birds will be allowed through the



front door; **if your bird is going to attend we must get you a pass to enter in the rear doors.** This can be accomplished in multiple ways; 1) Be sure to wear your club badge 2) Go to the vendor desk at the rear doors to either receive a vendor badge or to be allowed access to our booth to receive a badge. 3) Call Dave, Tammy or me on our cell phones to bring you a badge.

The club will be getting parking passes for you if you have signed up to work. If you are scheduled to work and have to pay an admission to enter or park your car keep your receipts and the club will refund your admission and parking fees. **YOU MUST HAVE YOUR RECEIPTS!** Entrance to the expo as a club member means you plan on working at least three hours at our booth. If you intend to shop and look around plan on arriving early or staying over after your scheduled work times please.

If you signed up to work and haven't heard any details feel free to call Tammy 734-422-5981 or Steve 734-513-0030 for last minute information

**For those of you who want to look around at the Expo, you can come early or stay after your scheduled time. The schedule will be as follows; Set-up is Thursday 9am-untill finished, we will be arriving at the church to move tables into our vehicles about 7:45 AM then to Suburban Showcase at 9am to set up. Friday's show schedule is: 2pm-5pm, 5pm-8pm, Saturday's schedule is 10am – noon, noon-3pm, 3pm-6pm and 6pm to 8pm. Sunday's schedule is 10am-1pm, 1-3pm and 3-5pm, and after the expo closes we will need help to clear out our space and return the tables to the church.**

**Tammy**



## Bits from Baby

HOWDY to all my feathered and non-feathered Friends, this is your roving reporter Baby with the latest and greatest news.

August was a busy month with four Senior programs and one school program and ending with the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival's three-day event.

Ypsilanti Heritage Festival was a great event even with the storm on the second day in the afternoon. That only stopped us for a short time and we were still able to finish the day on Saturday and Sunday. It is one of our Great events that everyone looks forward to. The members who came had a great time meeting all the people who visited with us.

September is going to keep us busy with eight programs for the month. Hope you can join us and have fun.

See you at the next meeting.

Your friend Baby,

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## RESCUE UPDATE

The adoption side of our rescue was above average this month. There were four adoptions; A DYH Amazon, Sunny a Sun Conure, two Cockatiels and a Green cheek Conure were all adopted.

They all went to their new homes with cages, toys, and food thanks to the generosity of you, our club members.

The rescue side has been very active also. I can't divulge what birds are in the rescue right now, however I will say if you are interested in adopting a larger bird contact a member of the board to find out what is available we just might have that special bird you've been waiting for.



## Guardians for Animals Pet Expo Raffle Tickets

The Guardians for Animals Pet Expo is fast approaching on October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and the way our rescue benefits from this event is from raffle ticket sales. All the rescues receive an equal cut of the total raffle ticket sales with the rescue that sells the most tickets receiving an extra cut.

Tammy has received our club's first box of 500 tickets to sell; the price of the tickets is \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00 we could sure use everyone's help selling and buying tickets over the next couple of

months. We will have tickets available at all of the upcoming events or you can call Tammy for arrangements to obtain some.

Talk to your friends and neighbors and ask if they would be interested in helping our rescue out. Let's all do our best to sell all of our tickets!



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

CHUCK JAMIESON	OCT. 1
INGA BUSCH	OCT. 5
KEVIN BOLTON	OCT. 10
NADA JURISICH-FONTANA	OCT.11
ISABEL FONTANA	OCT. 11
BRIGETTE FELIX	OCT. 15
JOHN BUSCH	OCT. 16
JOSEPH GREENWOOD	OCT.17
STEVE PLAFCHAN	OCT. 17
EDWARD FRACZEK	OCT. 19
MIKE BURGESS-KRZESOWIAK	OCT. 20
JAN HARTZ	OCT. 21
JENNIFER PLAGENS	OCT. 25
FAITH GREENWOOD	OCT.30

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SPECIAL BREEDER PRICING



## **Out and About with Pookie**

This past month our club participated in a three-day outdoor festival in Ypsilanti, MI; I however was not able to participate this year because of the excessive heat and humidity. Leastwise that was the excuse that was given to me by Steve. Ergo, I formulated a plan of action to determine if the mitigating factor for Steve leaving me at home was the temperature or his affliction with the Cockamaw virus. Sparky and JB both attended the three-day event with specific instructions to report back to me about Steve's behavior and if the heat was that oppressive.

As it turns out my being left at home wasn't because of the heat or my lack of feathers. He left me at home because he didn't want me to witness his outlandish behavioral changes due to the Cockamaw virus. There is no doubt in my mind that had I been there I would have been able to curtail his audacious actions and reinstated the Grey dignity that should be shown by an African Grey owned companion human. Erroneously I was under the impression Steve was recovering from the virus; sadly, everything that Sparky and JB reported to me contradicts all the progress I thought was being made.

Out of control, just totally and completely out of control during the

entirety of the festival. He held and snuggled with Whinny, Boogie and Rickey (Umbrella Cockatoos) and Cello (Moluccan Cockatoo). Holding Cockatoos wasn't his worst infraction his behavior was embarrassing. During the second day there was a rain storm and while all the Greys were under cover staying dry Steve was in the rain getting soaked and dancing around (just like a Cockatoo). Oh, but the shameful display didn't end there, he started taking off his clothes? Why? I have no idea why, what I do know is that every time he reached up to adjust the canopy his shorts fell off. When he bent over to pull them up the water poured in and soaked everyone even more. Thankfully, he heeded my dignified advice and had worn clean underwear that day. His behavior was a different story; JB reported that he was singing about dead skunks in the road and caterwauling loudly as festival visitors walked by under the protection of their bumbershoots. Many of them stopped in to visit even though there was rain pouring down. Our neighboring booths were also wondering what was happening under our pop-up due to all the singing and laughing. Sparky reported that many of the adjacent vendors stopped in to find out what was going on. All because Steve is starting to behave like a Cockatoo.

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie



Avast ye Mates



## CAPTAIN'S CORNER

OMG!!!!!! I cannot believe the behavior of our pet humans at the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival it was so embarrassing we could have died! Friday started out relatively calm with no surprises the weather was great and we all had a good time. Let us now talk about Saturday shall we, it started out with what looked like it was going to be a busy day with all the people and the pictures but that soon would change. I guess Stella (Mother Nature to you) had other plans because around noon it started to sprinkle then the sprinkles turned into a steady down pour. That is when it started! First those crazy humans Steve and Joey tried to divert the water out of the tent which ended up with it hitting Joey bouncing off of Joey and soaking Steve. Then Steve took a step back and sat in Marie's lap but it didn't stop there oh no it didn't. Steve got up and proceeded to have a wardrobe malfunction and Marie saw a moon during the day. Thank God for

tighty whiteys or it would have been a whole lot worse. Then my pet human tried to remove water from the top of the pop-up and got himself soaked as well (without the wardrobe malfunction). The tent next to us was singing and it seemed every human was having a party in the rain. What was it about the rain that made all the humans go crazy all of us (Parrots) we were thoroughly embarrassed by their behavior and we pray that this doesn't get around to our other friends. Now we have the Guardians for Animals Pet Expo to look forward to and they had better behave better than they did at the Heritage Festival or we WILL have words!

Cheers  
Captain Morgan



## FESTIVAL FOLLIES 2016

As you know these events always bring out an eclectic mix of people and this one was no exception.

Several people looking at Captain Morgan asked if he was a Toucan!

Several thought Steve had Pigeons!

One woman called me a liar when I told her Princess was a Parakeet!

One gentleman asked if it hurt if they bit you!

One young man asked me if you get high off the African Gray dust! (Aha now we know Steve)

A group of people wanted to know why we took them out of the wild just to bring them here!

One woman thought we “color enhanced” them to make them look good for the public!

When a group of young people gathered around the booth all it took was one scream from Captain to send them running in fear!

A woman asked me if I could get her some feathers (pull them out) for her so she could use them in her crystal power rituals!

The best was the guy who wanted to know if we take them back to their native countries when we are done (can anyone say road trip)!

These are the best comments we got at the Heritage Festival and as you know I will always pass these gems along to you so we can all have a good laugh!!!



## **A FAILURE OF JUDGEMENT**



This short story is to inform all of our loyal readers of “Bird

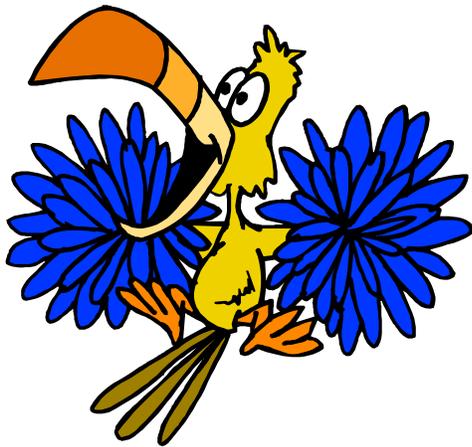
Droppings” that there can be serious consequences for not carefully considering your actions with pterodactyls, also known as Umbrella Cockatoos. Although I choose to remain nameless, this story was submitted for publication to enlighten all to my folly and the results from my misjudgments.

The Cockatoo (whom shall be known as bird X for the remainder of this parable) was happily playing on the table in front of me. Bird X was enjoying scratches and playing with three humans at once. My scratching his back and tail feathers while he was snacking and looking away didn’t bother him one bit but this is when my judgement failed me. Thinking that it would be funny to clap my hands together as loudly as possible behind him with his tail between my palms. Everyone in the room howled with laughter as Ricky (oops, bird X) went straight up like a roman candle, expanded his feathers to make him look five times his normal size and landed back on the table in front of me. The leap he then made to my back was epic and it was faster than the speed of light; so now you need to picture a screaming, pi\*\*ed off, Umbrella Cockatoo clinging to my shirt as I ripped it off in great terror. The pterodactyl wanted me dead but I threw him and what was left of my shirt to the floor and ran for my life into the kitchen. Oh but he was not to be fooled because he had played this game before, bird X went in the opposite direction and met me in the hallway. I turned about and attempted to flee, alas it was to no avail I slipped and ran

into a wall; bird X caught me and bit my toes on both feet knocking me to the ground where the carnage and pain continued. Realizing at this point that clapping his tail or otherwise antagonizing an Umbrella Cockatoo was most likely not one of the best ideas I had ever had. I knew that some sort of peace offering or atonement had to be made. Reaching out my hand to make friends the last thing I remember was a large screaming beak aimed at my face when suddenly the room went black; I woke up in the emergency room.

Now that I have, for the most part, recovered from my injuries and been released from the hospital it is my duty to impart to all of you the knowledge that was given to me because of this event.

**“DO NOT under any circumstances startle or surprise an Umbrella Cockatoo regardless of how well you might think you know him”.**



**Upcoming Events  
As of  
Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Wed Presbyterian Village of Westland  
32115 Cherry Hill Rd.  
Westland, MI 48186  
Set-up 1:30 pm  
Start 2:30 pm

Sept 17<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Sat Waltonwoods at University-Assisted  
3250 Walton Blvd.  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
Set-up 12:30 pm  
Start 1:30 pm

Sept.20<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Tues. Caretel Inns of Brighton  
1014 E. Grand River Ave.  
Brighton, MI 48116  
1:30 PM Set-up  
2:30 PM Start

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> Senior Show  
Fri American House Riverview  
20300 Fort Street  
Riverview, MI 48193  
Set-up 1:30 pm  
Start 2:30 pm,

Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Sat Huron Woods  
Towsley Health Bldg.  
5361 McAuley Dr.  
Ann Arbor , MI 48106  
1:30 PM Set-up  
2:30 PM Start

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Senior Show

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Show

Tues Oakmont Parkway  
36725 Utica Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48035  
Set-up 1:30 pm  
Start 2:30 pm

Wed. Independence Village  
of Brighton  
7700 Nemco Way  
Brighton, MI 48116  
Set-up 1:00 pm  
Start 2:00 pm

Sept 28<sup>th</sup> Show  
Wed Arka Center  
27600 Hall Road  
Flat Rock, MI 48134  
Set-up 11:30 am  
Start 12:30 pm

Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> Senior Show  
Sat Waltonwoods at  
Carriage Park-Independent  
2000 N. Canton Center Road  
Canton, MI 48187  
Set-up 12:00 pm  
Start 1:00 pm

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Tues Henry Ford Village  
Rehabilitation Entrance  
15051 Ford Road  
Dearborn, MI 48126  
Set-up 1:30 pm  
Start 2:30 pm

**PET EXPO**  
Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 2pm to 8pm  
Nov. 12<sup>st</sup> 10am to 8pm  
Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 10am to 5pm  
**Suburban Collection Showplace**  
46100 Grand River  
Novi, MI 48374

October 12<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Wed Brookdale Brighton  
833 East Grand River  
Brighton, MI 48116  
Set-up 12:30pm,  
Start 1:30 pm

**\*\*\*\*\*2017\*\*\*\*\***

Oct 15<sup>th</sup> Guardians for Animals  
Sat Pet Expo  
Oct 16<sup>th</sup> Madison Place  
Sun. 876 Horace Brown Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
Sat. Times 8:00AM to 5:00PM  
Sun Times 11:00AM to 4:00PM

March 29<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Wed American House Livonia  
11525 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48150  
Set-up 1:00pm  
Start 2:00 pm

We hopefully will be setting up on Friday  
like last year

Oct 19<sup>th</sup> Senior Show

May 2<sup>nd</sup> Senior Show

Tuesday AARP meeting at  
Wayne Community College  
21000 Northline Road  
Taylor, MI 48180  
Set-up 11:30 am  
Start 12:30 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.

THE ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND DAVE

THE

RESCUE RANGERS

IN

ORANGE IS THE NEW WING COLOR

This month’s adventure takes us to the colorful burg of Waterford Michigan to rescue another Amazon Parrot. This was a special Amazon because they are the only

Amazon that has orange instead of red on the wings thus the name Orange Wing Amazon. Like many Amazon Parrots this little girl was all business and began to size up the Rangers the minute they walked into the house. You see like many people this woman was not this bird’s first owner and thought with a little time and love this Amazon would eventually come around, boy was she wrong. Instead of becoming a sweet loveable she became more aggressive to the woman and she made the painful decision to give her up. She really did not have the time to invest in her to try to make her come around so she called the Rangers. This is where we pickup our story with this bird sizing up the Rangers to see just how much she could do to scare them. Well instead of scaring them they had her on the run because this parrot realized she was not dealing with your everyday type nutcases, no these were special nutcases that now had gotten the upper hand on her. So with her large cage plentiful toys, big bag of food and bird in the carrier they were off. It would not be long before this Orange Wing Amazon would truly fall in love and find her forever home where she would blossom into a beautiful well adjusted bird (unlike the Rangers who, well need adjusting) but that’s a whole much longer story. Ah, all is well in this Amazons world but there are others in need of help and the Rangers will be there to give for wherever there is a bird in need they will be there for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!**

Stay bolted to the floor for our next thrilling adventure An Ypsilanti Conure!



## Establishing Control with Nurturing Guidance

By Liz Wilson, CVT

Nurturing guidance is a training concept developed by Sally Blanchard, and it is critical to enjoying cohabitation with a parrot. Without it, a parrot is often unclear as to his position within his human flock. Genetically an exotic bird is a wild animal, whether domestic-bred or not, and he understands little about cohabiting with people. With patient teaching and guidance, he can learn how to be a good companion. Nurturing guidance is established by teaching and using basic commands. By setting these parameters, a parrot will have a better understanding of what is expected of it.

The first command is “Up,” which means step onto my hand. The second command is “Down,” which means step off my hand onto an inanimate object (like a perch). This is not a directional command. Onto the hand is up, off the hand is down. Teaching these commands requires a neutral room and a neutral perch. Ideally, the bird should have no experience with either the location or perch. This minimizes distractions and maximizes learning. Lessons should be short and upbeat, held once or twice a day for 10-15 minutes. Make sure you are relaxed before you begin, and smile and be patient. Under NO circumstance is aggression acceptable. Training a parrot is like teaching nursery school. You must keep your student involved or it won't learn. Sessions should be fun, not boring or frightening. Simply put,

behavior modification uses positive reinforcement for good behaviors and no reinforcement for bad behaviors. Instead, misbehaviors are ignored. If the parrot follows a command, smile and praise the bird. If it doesn't, ignore the transgression and repeat the command, pushing gently at his legs with the side of your hand. If you don't expect him to behave, he won't. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCE is aggression allowed with parrots. If approached with respect and love, parrots learn quickly and happily. Aggression begets aggression and is absolutely unacceptable. Experienced parrot behavior consultants agree that allowing a parrot to shoulder is asking for trouble. In this position, you cannot see a bird's body language, so you don't know if he's getting frightened or upset. You also can't anticipate and prevent a bite—and you DON'T want to be bitten in the face. If you follow these guidelines and use these commands clearly and consistently, life with your parrot should improve immensely.

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