

WAES MONTHLY

WASATCH AVIAN EDUCATION SOCIETY

TOY PARTY!!! - Jill Anderson - June 9, 2007

Next Meeting
June 9, 2007
7:00 p.m.
Salt Lake County Complex
2001 So. State,
Room N1100
(North Building)
Salt Lake City

The members spoke, and the board listened! It's a TOY PARTY!!! Member Jill Anderson is donating her time to bring some toy stock from her web site company to our next meeting. Members will have the option of making their own creations, or copying one of the many sized toys she brings as examples. The parts she has are reasonably priced, and she has a large selection. Jill will be donating any money that she makes after covering her own costs back to WAES. Please come and add your creativity, mingle with other bird lovers and get your hands on some really fun toy parts. Jill's motto is " Helping keep pets safe one toy at a time." Visit her web site to see possible previews or ideas for the meeting:

www.petexpectations.com

Our raffle and light refreshments while meeting other parrot enthusiasts will follow this.

President's Letter

WAES President - Carol Crane

WAES
wishes to
thank Willa
Mae Helmick
for her
generous
donation
made
in memory of
Johnny
Roderick, a
gentleman
and avid
bird-
watcher.

We are at the *half way mark for 2007*. WAES has been progressing very smoothly with its very capable volunteers and eager members. Thanks for your support in every way. Besides the June meeting presenting toys for our birds, please watch for the new monthly toy article. Remember safety is the number one issue with any toy. Our birds all vary in size and fine motor skills. You as the caretaker are number one person to evaluate if a toy is safe. If in doubt, always supervise. Our second board meeting will be held June 9th at 6:30 p.m. There is a very special meeting planned for December. Besides our super raffle prizes (December is the grand finale of raffle prizes---don't miss it), and elections, we are planning a little program treat. But I need everyone's help. We need digital photos of your birds. I know you all do it. Take photos of your precious babies doing everything and anything. Many of you have these photos on your computer and cell phones. Please submit them... Let's share with everyone the number one reason we are involved in WAES. The rules for the photos are as follows: 1. Only bird photos (humans are cute sometimes too, but this is a bird club). 2. Let's present them as they are; dirty, noisy, funny, sleepy, silly, sad, and of course the seasonal favorite— mad. 3. Photos should be sent to ccc@syptec.com by no later than Oct. 20, 2007. 4. If all goes well, there are always no guarantees, a C.D. should be available for purchase featuring our end of the year line-up. All proceeds of course benefit WAES. Many of us (me included) are experiencing seasonal behavior changes in our birds. If its not bad enough ... season allergies settle in, so do nasty birds. Let's all put on our patient hats and remember some of these changes are just temporary. Please avoid the "Quick Fixes." Further details and information about helping our birds in the long run have been included in a lovely article by Marilu Andersen. Thanks Dennis, Susan and Shawna for taking the initiative to find a nice article. Carol Crane

We want to thank all the WAES members who contributed to the raffle table, and also Doug Judd for the May meeting treats. Also Kay Woolsey for building another fine parrot stand. And just a general THANKS for everyone who contributes and come to the meetings as well as reads this newsletter. Come join us. It's not just educational it is FUN.

For information about adoption visit the rescue page on our web site www.wasatchavian.com

Adopt These Rescue Birds...



Demon - Conure, Green Cheek

Adoption fee: \$180

Demon is a green cheek conure about 10 years old, he loves to go exploring and visiting people throughout the house. He is a very adventurous eater (he loves berries, bananas and oatmeal) but mostly he eats Zupreem and a variety of seed, he loves being spoonfed! Demon is afraid of large groups of people (he gets right in his cage and doesn't want to come out) but he is quite friendly in smaller groups. He knows how to step up and he loves doing the dishes with his foster mom.



Gizmo - Poicephalous, Senegal

Adoption Fee: \$180

Gizmo is a great bird who likes to sit on your shoulder. He talks some, saying "Hello Buddy", "night-night", "Hello" and whistles and calls often. He will step up to anyone willing to hold him. He does pluck some but wears a collar and doesn't seem to mind it at all. He was donated because his owner has recently passed away. He is an "awesome" bird. He seems to prefer men, and can deliver a good bite to others.



Monroe - Cockatoo, Medium Sulpher Crested

Adoption Fee: \$200

Monroe is a personality-plus Medium Cockatoo. He will be a delight in the right situation. Each time Monroe picks out one favorite family member (usually the male of the house), then attacks all other family members. He will go to women and bond with them now. His overall problem of dealing with jealousy remains a problem—this is a one person bird.



Chester - Cockatoo, Moluccan

Adoption Fee: \$250

Chester is a male Moluccan Cockatoo approx 30 years old. He is a vocal bird and can get loud. Chester does not like males. He has an unpredictable attitude, but has gotten a lot better in the short time that he has been in his foster home. He needs someone who will have a lot of patience and time to work with him. He doesn't seem to mind other animals such as cats and dogs, and other birds.

Foster Update: Chester has recently begun starting to form a bond with the man of the house. It has taken a lot of patience and time with his foster family working with him, and he will step up when told it's "OK" by his foster mom and she is there with him coaxing him on. Vet results returned within normal range."



Jasper - Amazon, Orange Wing

Adoption Fee: \$250

Jasper is approximately 11 years old, male, and has a couple of deformed toes. His favorite foods are tomatoes, apples and bananas. He does talk and has been known to be a bit nippy, but he loves head scratches! He's gotten pretty good about stepping up although he still is aggressive in his cage. He's fairly vocal but usually not annoyingly so. He only screams when he feels he's not getting the attention he deserves and is mollified by us coming in and talking to him.



Pepe - Amazon, Red Lored

Adoption Fee:

\$250

Pepe is an unpredictable bird. He prefers to remain in his cage and not be handled. He is not friendly and is NOT good with children. He bites very hard. Pepe will step up onto a stick, and then to your hand. He will move out of the way while you change his food and water. He eats Pretty Bird pellets and nearly everything else he is offered. He is not loud, and is rather quiet for an Amazon. He only says "Hello".

He will now step up to a stick and then go to a hand. He is approximately 10 years old.

Adopt These Rescue Birds...

Jazz - Miligold Macaw

Adoption Fee: \$300

Jazz is a healthy female Miligold Macaw approaching 16 years old. She can be a delightful loving bird, although she has jealousy issues. She needs to be watched around other birds. She bonds to one family member, and becomes aggressive around others.



Brocklin – White Eyed Conure

Adoption Fee: \$200

Brocklin is a White Eyed Conure that is 18 years old. He has personality plus! He is very comfortable being near you, and even on your shoulder, but he does not like to be touched. He is not mean and has not bitten. He will step-up but he is skittish when you want to handle him. Veterinary Diagnostic results of Chlamydomphila, Beak & Feather Disease, and Psitticid Herpes Virus were all negative. He will need an upgraded cage



Baby – Cross Umbrella and Moluccan Cockatoo

Adoption \$250

Baby is a cross between an Umbrella and a Moluccan Cockatoo. He/She is approximately 7 years old. Baby has spent some of his/her time plucking. In the previous home, baby loved the man of house, and would attempt to attack the lady of the house. However, in the current foster home, Baby loves her Momma and is very friendly so far with other members of the house. He/She will even snuggle up to strangers. Baby has a large appetite for greens and other fresh foods and is very loud. Baby loves music and loves to dance and show off. Vet results pending.



Cleopatra – Umbrella Cockatoo

Adoption Fee pending

"Cleo" – joined our family eight years ago when she was nine. After looking months, we settled on her. Last fall Nathan our son went away to college, and his life has become too busy to care for her. So she has stayed home with us. She misses him, and since he left has taken to plucking her chest. Cleo loves to take showers with us. She laughs with us at family meals, and enjoys drinking whatever we're having. She also likes any kind of nut in a shell, shelled, unsalted peanuts. She eats bananas, preferably from our hands. She likes toast – with butter. Cleo likes men best, but tolerates women who are bird-lovers. She doesn't seem to like small children much. One of my favorite activities is lounging with her when I watch TV. I put on an old pair of socks and she plucks it to shreds. She loves to dismantle pens and pencils. Now we're moving to New Zealand, and have learned that while dogs and cats are welcome, birds are not. So we must find a loving home for this loving bird.



Oscar – Meyers Parrot

Adoption Fee \$180

Oscar would be perfect for the right family. He loves to be near people, where he can see them, and loves to snuggle, and be petted. He can and does bite hard. If you have small children, this is not the bird for you. He gets nervous around children. If anyone sticks a finger in his cage, he will most likely attack, and bite down hard, drawing blood. You should not put him next to your face.

Foster Update: *Oscar is a sweet little fellow, the bigger parrots and dogs here are a little overwhelming. He has not bitten. He is quite a sight with a grape or Mandarin orange segment.*



Kiwi - Eclectus

Adoption Fee \$250

Kiwi is a female Eclectus that comes with a big metal cage and toys. She is 14 years old. She has bitten the lady of the house but not the husband. She shares a cage now with a male Eclectus, and they seem to tolerate each other. She had some feather loss but the feathers are slowly growing back in. She says a couple of phrases, but is not often vocal. She says "hello", "who's the pretty bird/girl", and "how are you". She drinks from a water bottle and loves peanuts. She is on a diet of 75% LaFebre's pellets and also eats fruits, vegetables, grains, fish, and meat. Kiwi needs a home where she can get lots of attention, and be more in the mainstream of daily activity. She can open up puzzle toys and loves to chew on wood toys.



Simon - Congo African Grey

Adoption Fee \$375

Simon is an 11 year old Congo African Grey. He is a great bird that needs a lot of love and attention. He is very smart and very funny. He makes all kinds of funny noises. He is nervous and likes to pull feathers and bite his nails. His foster home is gently working on that problem. He is on a diet of Pretty Bird, fruits, veggies, nuts, and he loves pistachios and enchiladas. Simon loves girls. He should not be in a home with younger children. Simon has been known to inflict some pretty serious bites, all the while saying "No Bite"! . Simon has a history of attacking small birds such as parakeets. Simon will be happiest in a home where he gets to be out of his cage the majority of the time, and right in the family action. He enjoys music, likes to sing, dance and talk up a blue streak. Vet results are pending.



Newsletters can be sent either by mail or e-mail. The e-mail version is in color and no waiting for snail mail. Please send your e-mail address to rademan_2000@yahoo.com rademan_2000(at)yahoo.com or ccc@syptec.com

Strut Your Mutt!

WAES was there and had the opportunity to staff the WAES booth, and represent AFA.

Shawna Augustine,
Audrey Hollaar,
Peggy, Billy + Chelsie Carpenter,
Susan + Dennis Kelley

With guests of honor

- Elvis - Umbrella cockatoo
- Mr. Sunny - Sun conure
- Oscar - Meyers Parrot

This is an event put on by No More Homeless Pets that features mostly dogs and their minions. However, as WAES provides rescue assistance for many birds, we were invited and had one super great time. We met some great people. We hope to see some of them at future meetings and got some exposure for our cause. Peggy had success in speaking to Todd and Erin from the z98.6 radio show and they have promised us a "parrot adoption spot on their website. "Way to go Peggy"



Quick Fixes and Why They Don't Work

by Marilu Anderson, Bird Nutrition and Behavior Counselor
Phone: (503) 771-BIRD

Over the years, many different theories have evolved regarding parrot behavior and many different techniques have been tried in an effort to change some of those behaviors. The first behavioral trials involved techniques proven successful in dog training. Now, we've come to a place where techniques similar to those used with young children are often employed. The problem is, parrots are not dogs, and they're not human children - they're parrots, unique unto themselves. Our psittacine companions are highly intelligent, extremely empathetic and empathic and very sensitive emotionally. They do not comprehend cause and effect logic well.

Though most birds living with humans now are domestically bred hand raised babies, at heart they're still wild animals, with a lot of wild instincts guiding them. Problems arise when these very smart, very loving wild animals come to live in the artificial environment of a cage in our homes. Proper guidance in early stages is vital in helping birds learn to adapt to this world we've created for them, and lack of nurturing often leads to problems down the road. Screaming, biting, feather plucking, and "running wild" in the home are some of the most frequently seen problems that arise. These can be frustrating things for even the most loving and tolerant bird parent. 25 years ago, when I got my first bird, I was told to deal with problems by covering the cage, banging on it, screaming loudly at the bird, or squirting her with a spray bottle. I tried these things a few times (Hey, I didn't know any better at the time), but quickly realized nothing was happening as far as effecting behavioral change. What I did notice was an Amazon parrot who seemed confused or got extremely angry when I tried those things - dubbed "Quick Fixes." Amazingly, these methods are still recommended by some breeders and behaviorists. I have a few clients who still stubbornly cling to these methods, insisting they have no alternative, but my question is - "If these techniques work so well, why do you have to keep repeating them?!" Quick fixes can sometimes appear to work by temporarily distracting the bird, but the solution doesn't last long. Often, the problem becomes worse as the bird becomes more angry and confused. Why don't they work? All interaction with companion parrots is based on trust. Trust is the only thing that's proven effective in human/parrot interaction.

The problem with quick fixes is many of them destroy the trust we work so hard to build. They're based more on fear and intimidation tactics, which can totally wipe out the bond of trust. Yelling at a bird is perceived as an invitation to scream back - who can be loudest? Covering the cage is possible, and as I mentioned earlier, it may exacerbate the problems even more. Just remember, aggression begets more aggression.

confusing - "Is It bedtime?" "What's going on?" Banging on the cage makes them fearful and angry. A cage is a bird's territory and sanctuary. Parrots are prey animals, not predators, so an "attack" on their territory is an attack on them. Squirting with water is also confusing - "Is it bath time?" and can cause birds to develop a fear of bathing. I know birds who've been squirted as discipline who run as fast as they can to get away and hide when they see a squirt bottle. Effective behavioral change in parrots is accomplished much more effectively with positive reinforcement of "good" behaviors and ignoring negative ones. Punishment doesn't work well, due to the lack of understanding the cause and effect. The problem with quick fixes is that the cause of the problem is not being addressed, so no permanent change is possible, and as I mentioned earlier, it may exacerbate the problems even more. Just remember, aggression begets more aggression.

So, forget the quick fixes and learn to recognize that's causing the problem, so you can effectively change the behavior with positive reinforcement and guidance.

This Article Comes from [Your Parrot Place](#) and we'd like to thank them for allowing us to use it.

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God Asked You to Come and Play Today. By Lindsay Vass

God asked you to come and play today.
We had to let you go.
with all the pain and hurt you felt,
we couldn't bear to say no.

Now you're there with him
In a far better place
With wide open skies,
and no limited space.

Your wings can spread wide,
You can feel the soft breeze.
I can't help but smile,
though you're away from me.

Losing someone you love is one of the most painful experiences — and it's something we're almost certain to experience at some point in life. Many of us have lost a bird, it's a topic we don't discuss much but should.

There's nothing you can't do now,
There's nowhere you can't go.
God asked you to come and play today.
I had to let you go.

In Memoriam of Elvis, Ireland, and Angel.
The three most amazing baby 'Tiels I've ever known.



President – Carol Crane
 Vice President – Chase Kimball
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 Public Relations – Peggy Carpenter

2007 Officers

Special Events – Doug Judd
 Newsletter – Susan + Dennis Kelley
 Website – Susan + Dennis Kelly
 Rescue Director – Shawna Augustine

For contact info. Please visit web site

The website has new look – and gets updated regularly

See us for the latest in Waes :

<http://www.wasatchavian.com/>

To find out what's happening in WAES
Join our Chat group in Yahoo.

Send an email to:
Waes-subscribe@yahogroups.com

Everyone is Welcome
Stay up to date in a dynamic club

What is happening?

AFA CONVENTION - Los Angeles, California.
August 22-25, 2007 the 33rd Annual Convention of the American Federation of Aviculture!
 *A speaker lineup that will include a variety of well-known aviculturists.
 *The offsite tour this year that will be a special behind the scenes look at the Lost Angeles Zoo.
 *A Presidential Gala held for all Registered Attendees, Speakers and Vendors.
 More info on our website and also see AFA website at:
<http://www.afabirds.org/>

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