

February 2008

Volume '08/02

WAES MONTHLY

Wasatch Avian Education Society

AFFILIATED WITH AFA

WAES Welcomes Back Ronie Wheelwright

Next Meeting
February 09 2008
7:00 p.m.
Salt Lake County
Complex
2001 So. State,
Room N1100
(North Building)
Salt Lake City

Open to everyone



One of Intermountain West's Top Parrot Experts to Speak to Local Avian Education Group

Those who plan on attending the February meeting of the Wasatch Avian Education Society are in for a night of advice and education concerning their companion parrots and exotic birds from one of the Intermountain West's most well established experts in the field.

Read more about Ronie Wheelwright on page 7

WAES meetings offer not only educational lectures but also the opportunity to socialize with other parrot enthusiasts over light refreshments.

President's Letter

From WAES President - Shawna Augustine

I was having a friendly conversation with an associate of mine who mentioned he would like to know if there was such a class on reading human body language. And, to learn how his body language was giving off certain messages. It made me think that a bird's body language is easily read, if you know what to look for. Do you think if he got a parrot, he'd learn how to read human body language after quickly realizing what a bird is getting ready to do? It sounds silly, but there are things that a bird will do to let you know what's coming. Those pinning eyes, the tail spread as wide as can be, and those fluffy feathers. Look out. People can be that way, too, with their pupils dilating, their shoulders lifted, and fists tight together. Sounds like there's a common denominator there.

I remember from our bird care class in 2007, given by Steve Coleman, that as far as parrots are concerned, they are being perfectly clear with their feelings and if we don't understand what they are telling us, they perceive us humans as being ignorant. Don't be naive and think it's cute when that bird is sending off the message of "I'm going to bite you now". I've seen it happen, as many of you have. My birds can read my body language. If I come home from work and I'm loud and talking a lot, they get excited, and they squawk, and want to come out and play. When I'm quite, and slow, and tired, they seem to be understanding and are also quite, and loving, and want to just sit quietly on my lap and are content with a snack. There's nothing like a parrot to know and understand you.

Speaking of parrots, we are in need of foster homes! Please let Susan Kelley know if you have room in your homes and your hearts for one more. Tell your friends or families that show interest in your birds, that if they have the time and a place in their hearts for a bird in need, I'm sure we've got one "waiting in the wings" for them.

Take care and hope we hear from you!

Shawna Augustine

Introducing the following wonderful birds:

Pilot the Yellow Collared Macaw

Pilot is a male Yellow Collared Macaw. He was purchased from a pet store and he is terrified of people because of people poking fingers and other items in the cage bars at him, which absolutely traumatized him. He tries very hard to talk. He has lived with one owner for over 10 years. He is used to living with dogs and other birds, which he has been friends with for over 10 years. (Puddles and Tiger) Vet results pending.

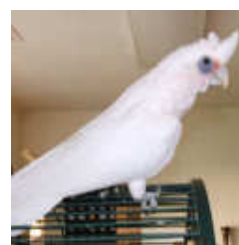
Adoption \$250



Puddles the Bare-Eyed Cockatoo

Puddles is a male Bare-Eyed Cockatoo. He is very loveable and in perfect feather. He was purchased from a pet store over 10 years ago and has only one owner. He is used to living with dogs and other birds, which he has been friends with for over 10 years. (Tiger and Pilot) Vet results pending.

Adoption Fee \$250



Yellow Crown the Yellow Crown Amazon (Who would have guessed?)

Yellow Crown is a Yellow Crown Amazon. He/she has been in foster care for a couple of months for rehabilitation. He/she has been to the vet twice since being in Rescue and the Doctor said that he/she is back to "whole health and is doing alot better". He/she is a complete sweetheart. Yellow Crown has become a great cage mate with Keiko, yet will now come to individuals easily as long as they both get some attention. ([More on our web site](#))

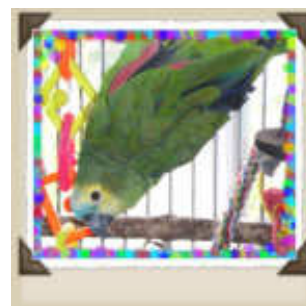
Adoption Fee \$390



Keiko a Blue Front Amazon

Keiko is a Blue Front Amazon He/she has been in foster care for a couple of months for rehabilitation. He/she has been to the vet twice since being in Rescue and the Doctor said that he/she is back to "whole health and is doing alot better". He/she is a complete sweetheart. Keiko has become a great cage mate with Yellow Crown, yet will now come to individuals easily as long as they both get some attention. Keiko will sit and jibber jabber with you for hours on end and LOVES for you to scratch his head. ([More on our web site](#))

Adoption Fee \$390



Fern (Fernando) the Peaceful Quaker

This little Quaker was found in someone's back yard in the springtime. His owner has never been found, but he has been cared for very well. He has seen the vet, and all test results are normal. The home he has been living in donated a nice cage for him, too. We believe he is an adult male Quaker. His favorite toys are a metal measuring cup and the lid to a mason jar. He enjoys Zupreem and Harrison's pellets. He is not hand friendly, and tends to bite. He has a cute little chirp, and is rather quite. He enjoys having other birds around and when you spend time in the room with him. Adoption Fee \$120



Kiwi the Eclectus

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. They used to be more of a pair than they are now. She laid eggs many years ago, but not in recent years. 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". ([More on our web site](#)) Adoption Fee \$250

**Brocklin the White Eyed Conure**

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. Brocklin really enjoyed being near his boy companion that passed away recently. He has been a feather plucker, and shared a cage with this other Conure who was also a plucker. The feather plucking was caused from trauma after the two daughters that were the responsible care takers for the birds went off to college. ([More on our web site](#))

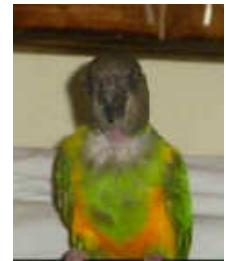


Adoption Fee \$200

Gizmo the Poicephalous, Senegal

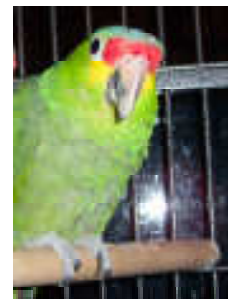
Gizmo is a great bird who likes to sit on your shoulder. He talks some, saying "Hello Buddy", "night-night", "Hello" and whistles and calls often. He will step up to anyone willing to hold him. He does pluck some but wears a collar and doesn't seem to mind it at all. He was donated because his owner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

Adoption Fee: \$180.00

**Pepe the Amazing Amazon, Red Lored**

Pepe is an unpredictable bird. It is estimated that he is 9 years old. 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".

Adoption Fee: \$250.00

**Jasper Another Amazing Amazon, Orange Wing**

Jasper was adopted from WAES approximately 3 years ago and has been returned to rescue because of lifestyle changes. Jasper is approximately 11 years old, male, and has a couple of deformed toes. He has been on a good diet of Zupreem, seed, and fruits and vegetables. 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 is currently not stepping up very well, but the foster family is working with him.

([Update on our web site](#))

Adoption Fee: \$250.00



Damon the Cute Crimson Bellied Conure

Damon 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! Damon 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. He also loves to take baths. I just put out a lukewarm bowl of water, and he jumps in and has fun. He also loves to eat mandarin oranges.

Adoption fee: \$180

**Milo Molaccan Cockatoo the One to Watch!**

Milo is a Molaccan cockatoo, She was born on a farm in Havre Montana and is 7 years old. She began to pluck about 5 years ago when the owner's daughter was born. Through the years they tried all the resources available to try to keep him from plucking, but haven't been successful. There were various changes in the family and, Milo has begun bite more and squawks what seems to be non-stop. They have been working with a veterinarian and tried everything they could. The veterinarian recommended WAES. Vet results pending Adoption fee: pending

**Little Bird - Senegal**

Little Bird is close to 22 years old. She has been in her latest home for 7 years). She is pretty much a one-person bird. She is very loving with her "mate" but has a vicious bite with those who are unlucky enough to not be 'the love of her life'. Little Bird has a wonderful repertoire of calls and whistles. She can mimic telephone ringers and makes Star War sounds. She says 'pretty bird' in several voices and will on occasions say 'what's up?' She has plucked as long as we know of. She does not have a cage. She had some health issues. Vet results pending Adoption fee: pending

**Hannah - Blue and Gold Macaw**

Hannah was approximately two when she came to live in her most recent home and was there for 6 years. She has always been a curious and very, very smart girl. She talks quite extensively and understands a great deal. Her vocabulary includes: Hannah-Banana, Come on, hurry up, right now; I love you, pretty bird. She teases Little Bird by saying 'pretty bird' over and over until Little Bird begins shrieking then Hannah says to Little Bird: "Stop it, you brat". She sometimes sounds like a bad opera singer. Hannah is wary of being handled and does bite. Her foster home is working with her and she had some health issues. Adoption fee: pending She has been to the veterinarian. Vet results are pending. Adoption fee: pending

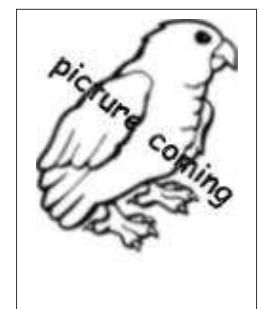
**Larry Bird is a Male Ecelectus.**

Larry Bird was formerly the cage mate of Kiwi but they did not get allong. Kiwi has been plucking but his foster mom is putting him thru Madeleine's re-feathering program.

Larry is very companionable and would like you to spend a good bit of time with him. He doesn't play with toys much. He enjoys his food. He responds verbally to female voices

Vet results are pending.

Adoption fee: pending



Many bird owners do not keep their bird in a cage because they believe that it is cruel to do so. Somehow they equate the bird's cage to a prison. Cages should be set up as a sanctuary for the bird, a roomy safe haven and place for rest and independent entertainment. The type and set-up, general environment around the cage, and their own attitude determines whether or not this is true.

I believe that our companion birds need a cage for their safety and well-being. Birds who have a secure and stimulating cage environment are far more contented than those who do not. Like children, birds feel safe and secure when all their basic needs are satisfied and they know their boundaries, both physically and behaviorally. Your bird should not feel threatened to be placed back into its cage, even if it is for a time-out to chill-out, if it is comfortable and secure in its cage.

Birds who do not receive rules, structure, and guidance virtually rule the roost and do whatever they want, whenever they want to. Often these birds turn into biting, screaming, furniture chewing problems for their owners. It would be better for the bird to gradually get used to a spacious cage and the rules, structure, and guidance that goes along with it, than to be sent to a new home.

In order to create a safe, secure, and stimulating environment for your bird try to anticipate your bird's basic needs. Then try to think of the things that will make your bird happy to be in its cage. There are times that you cannot be there to supervise your bird and it should be content to play, eat, or sleep in its cage while you are away or otherwise occupied. Here are some things to think about:

First of all, your bird's cage should be as large as possible. (Make sure that the bar spacing is the correct size for your bird; its head should not fit through the bars). Larger is better.

The location should be where the people in the house spend most of their time, whether it is in the living room, bedroom, office, den, etc.; birds like being "where the action is." (This does not mean that the bird is in an area that has such high traffic that it is constantly being threatened by strangers or unsupervised circumstances). Many birds also enjoy being near a window for the stimulation it provides.

The perches should be various sizes, shapes, and materials so that the bird can exercise its feet. Having several perches is ideal because it encourages the bird to exercise its body by climbing to different locations in the cage.

There are many types of perches available. Never use a dowel. Natural wood branches are my favorite, especially Ribbonwood because it is very hard wood. Manzanita is also hard wood, but is slippery. (It can be made less slippery if you sandpaper it). Fruit tree branches are fine, but make sure that they have not been chemically sprayed. Cement perches are okay as long as your bird does not spend the majority of its time on it. Some birds are okay with rope or sisal perches, but watch them for fraying and the length of your bird's toenails.

TOYS, TOYS, TOYS! A large cage allows for many toys to be included within the cage. (I've already written about the importance of toys in a previous newsletter). Many birds also enjoy swings.

Three bowls inside the cage will hold dry foods (seed, pellets, etc.), water, and moist foods (cooked foods, veggies, etc.). You can include a forth bowl for hand-held toys, if you wish. Never put moist foods on seed or pellets/extruded foods.

Cage top playpens are okay for birds who receive behavioral guidance from their owners and who view their owners as "flock leader." Some birds will display "cage top dominance" behavior while at a height above household humans heads. This behavior is usually displayed by birds who have inconsistent guidance and are in control of their own lives. Avoid this behavior by having a separate playgym below shoulder height.

The upper tray below the cage top playgym blocks out too much light, so I remove it.

A quality powder-coated metal cage that is square or rectangular shaped and has horizontal and vertical bars is what I prefer for my companion and breeder parrots. More cage width versus cage height is desirable. Often vertical space is wasted space.

Decorative scroll work on cages looks pretty, but it can trap a bird's head or other body part. Watch for cages that have bar spacing that is wide at the top and narrow at the bottom (e.g. round cages); the bird can get its head or other body part caught. It may be tempting to purchase a used cage, but be careful to inspect and test it first because some older cages may be coated with leaded paint.

Acrylic cages are not recommended because they generally promote bacteria growth from lack of adequate ventilation and usually lack climbing bars.

Some ground birds, like cockatoos and African greys, prefer to be able to forage on the bottom of their cages and do well without a bottom grate. In fact, they seem to prefer it.

Full-spectrum lighting placed near the cage is a plus. Even if the bird's room is light, the window glass blocks out parts of the light spectrum that are needed by the bird for its general health.

Covering the cage at night is recommended not only to keep your bird warm at night, but also as a night time ritual that it can count on.

The cage habitat is one of the most important things in our companion parrot's life. Providing a safe and stimulating environment will help prevent many potential behavioral problems. Because our parrots are so active and we cannot always be there to supervise them, they need a cage environment where they can be quite active and where they can create their own safe entertainment. The cage should also provide all of the bird's basic needs, such as food and water. The cage habitat should be a happy home within a home as long as you address your bird's emotional and physical needs.

From Page 1

Ronie Wheelwright established her own Sandy, Utah avian specialty pet store, Ronie's For The Love of Birds, on November 8, 1997, and has since seen the store become a gathering place where birds and birdowners "flock" to keep up-to-date on the best in care, nutrition, grooming, boarding, toys, and cages. Not to mention Ronie having one of the most amazing selections of healthy and hand-raised exotics to consider for ownership and becoming members of the family.

Ronie opened her shop with the intent of informing the public, along with avian owners, of how majestic these creatures are; and since opening For The Love of Birds the shop has been voted the best board facility by Salt Lake City Weekly and Best Pet Store by the Sandy Newspaper.

Ronie brings with her vast knowledge of avian nutrition and behavior and more than 20 years of experience to the pet bird industry. Her facility is a friendly, enjoyable experience that offers individuals the opportunity to spend quality time with a large selection of parrots.

Ronie has a tradition of selecting bird breeders who have extensive tests done on their breeding stock to ensure the parent's health. These breeders understand the importance of socializing their baby birds with humans and other birds. This socializing process continues at Ronie's. Healthy, well socialized, and hand-fed baby birds are what you will find at Ronie's.

At the February meeting Ronie will address topics ranging from bird nutrition and care, to picking the right cage size and individual bird and companion socialization. Ronie's shop is located at 9187 South 700 East, Sandy, Utah 84070. The phone number is 801.561.8083 and her website can be found at www.roniesloveofbirds.com. Anyone interested in contacting Ronie with specific questions prior to the meeting can do so at info@roniesloveofbirds.com.

From the ASPCA website - Bird Safety

* Birds are highly sensitive to inhalant fumes, so please avoid exposing your pet to fumes from self-cleaning ovens and overheated cookware, automobile exhaust, tobacco smoke, glues and paints, insecticidal fumigants, perfume and hair spray.

* Keep all prescription and over-the-counter drugs out of beak's reach, preferably in closed cabinets. Pain killers, cold medicines, anticancer drugs, vitamins and diet pills are all examples of human medications that can be lethal to birds, even in small amounts.

* Never allow your bird access to areas in which cleaning agents are being used or stored. Should your pet ingest them, he could suffer from a range of symptoms, depending on the substance, from mild stomach upset to severe burns of the tongue, mouth and crop.

* Foods and beverages that could be dangerous to birds include:

- avocados
- chocolate in any form
- coffee and tea
- moldy or spoiled foods
- onions and garlic
- tomato leaves and stems
- yeast dough

The ongoing Saga of **Milo** the *Molaccan Cockatoo*



Milo is doing well, it seems some of her feathers are growing back. She is very energetic and fun. She loves to come onto the kitchen table and share our dinner with us. She seems to love people. She has even gotten used to my little son. She will climb on the curtains and swing around while looking out side. She is extremely friendly, she even jumped of the table to come and sit on my shoulders and watch me play Uno with the kids. She is quite a character.

Never Give Up!

A letter in the WAES Chat Group – Join today. Everyone (Members and non-members) is welcome

A lot of you know about the heartache I have had with my Bare-Eyed Cockatoo, Curly. I got him in March 1995 when he was three months old, and he was supremely loving and affectionate. In July 1999 he broke a wing feather on a Sunday night, it was bleeding badly and there was no one to help. I had to pull it, as gently as possible, with needle-nosed pliers. The next day he became phobic with me, but no one else. It has been a huge struggle since, and I have spent many thousands of dollars on treatment, behaviorists, etc. There was also the heartache of seeing him so hungry for affection from everyone who came to the house, but running away from me. The only time I could handle him was after turning the lights off and covering the birds, then he would step on my hand and we would watch TV together for an hour. Over a year ago I began trust-building exercises with him, which included not handling him after dark either. These were extremely difficult for me, and for over six months I never held him at all.

Then I started getting him out at night sporadically. Anyway, in the past few days something has changed. He has been crawling into my lap to tear up the newspaper while I read in the morning and at dinner, and at night he comes back out of his cage when I am about to cover him, which is very unusual, as if to insist that I take him to watch tv. This morning he crawled up into my lap like he has been doing for a few days, and then he regurgitated for me, which he has never done before. It has taken almost 9 years of patience and heartache, but now I really feel like I am going to get my baby boy back!

Chase

President – Shawna Augustine
Vice President – Clark Caras
Secretary – Alice Mehl
Treasurer – Audrey Hollaar
Fundraiser – Danielle & Robert Blanch
Public Relations – Peggie Carpenter

2008 Officers

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

For contact info. Please visit web site

The website has a new look – and gets updated regularly. Check for the latest news

See us for the latest in WAES: <http://www.wasatchavian.com/>

Want to know what's happening in WAES
Join our **CHAT** group in Yahoo.
Send an email to:

Waes-subscribe@yahoo.com

You don't have to be a member to join
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
Stay up to date in a **dynamic club**

Board Members, remember the first Board Meeting of 2008 is Saturday an hour before the regular meeting. Please bring your budget with you.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend WAES Board meetings to see how your club is run. Bring your ideals and suggestions.

Newsletters can be sent by postal mail or e-mail. The e-mail version is in **color** and no waiting. Please send your e-mail address to rademan_2000@yahoo.com rademan_2000(at)yahoo.com or utahparrot@yahoo.com

Wasatch Avian
Education Society
P.O. Box 651701
Salt Lake City, Utah
84165
801-424-2589



Be Mine!

Please check the address label for **membership expiration date**. Don't forget to renew. We need you!