

June 2008  
Volume '08/06

# WAES MONTHLY

## Wasatch Avian Education Society

Affiliated with American Federation of Aviculture

Next Meeting  
June 14, 2008  
7:00 p.m.  
Salt Lake County  
Complex  
2001 So. State,  
Room N1100  
(North Building)  
Salt Lake City

### TOP UTAH VET TO ADDRESS BIRD RESCUE GROUP IN JUNE

Everyone  
Is  
Welcomed

An apple a day certainly isn't going to keep this doctor away as Utah's top avian rescue and education society will be treated to the expertise and knowledge of Dr. Martin G. Orr, DVM, one of the Wasatch Front's leading exotic pet experts at its monthly meeting set for Saturday, June 14th, at 7 p.m. in the Salt Lake County Commission Chambers, 2100 South State, Salt Lake City.

The officers and members of Wasatch Avian Education Society are excited and looking forward to Dr. Orr's appearance with the group, as he is one of the avian vets WAES has worked with and recommended for many years to its members and others who have companion birds, including all varieties of parrots.

Working out of the almost new and state of the art veterinary medicine facility at 12720 Pony Express Road, Draper, Utah, Dr. Orr has practiced in Utah since moving here in 1993 when he began work at Cottonwood Animal Hospital.

**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*

May was a very hard month for many of us. With the accidental death of our Secretary, Alice Mehl, we have been deeply saddened and in shock. Alice was a dear friend, a dedicated family member, and an overall beautiful woman. Her love for animals was astronomical. She believed that once you take in an animal, you are responsible to carry out the love and care for that animal for the rest of its life. I will never forget her and wish her family well.

Gayle Chellis has offered to handle all secretarial duties for the remainder of the year. Thank you, Gayle, and welcome back.

Strut Your Mutt was successful for us this year. Nearly one hundred dollars in donations. It's very hard work being a campaign worker. Luckily the weather was very nice. I want to send a sincere "Thank You" to all those who participated.

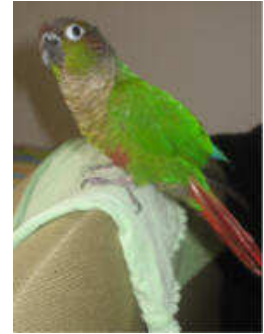
Enjoy the beginning of summer.  
Safe travels.  
Shawna Augustine

### Introducing the following wonderful birds:

#### 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



#### 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



#### 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



#### 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



#### 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



**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 normal.

Adoption Fee \$250

**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 normal.

Adoption \$250

**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 normal.

Adoption fee: \$150.00

**Larry Bird is a Male Ecelectus.**

Larry Bird was formerly the cage mate of Kiwi but they did not get along. Larry Bird 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 normal.

Adoption fee \$250.00

**Tikki is a Blue and Gold Macaw**

Tikki is a 20 year old Blue and Gold Macaw. (We do not actually know if she is male or female). She/He loves bananas, oranges, apples, applesauce, peanuts, all nuts and cooked sweet potatoes. She bites due to some bees getting into her cage and stinging her on her face. She scares easily. She loves to be rubbed on her head. She can be gentle but if scared she will bite. She does talk. She says, sugar, pepper, Tikki and stop it. Due to family circumstances she has been alone a lot and she has been plucking and moody. Vet results Pending

Adoption fee: pending



**Bart is a Nanday Conure**

Bart is a cute fellow. He is friendly to his foster mother but still a bit shy of the rest of the family. Once he knows you he likes having his head rubbed and will take food from your hands. He does bite. He can be loud. He likes his swing and chew toys and loves his mirror. All test results are in normal ranges. He'd make a lovely pet in the right home. Vet results normal. Adoption fee: 180.00

**Paco is a Congo African Grey**

Paco is a wild-caught bird, at least 16 years old, believed to be male. He was purchased as a breeder and not handled much. He is nervous and hand-shy. He is making progress in the few weeks he has been in foster care. Paco is very inquisitive and is having a good time exploring his new surroundings. He is on Madeleine's refeathering program, and is growing new down and feathers. He has said a few words, and he has many interesting sounds and whistles in his repertoire. He loves nuts, grapes, blueberries and corn. Vet results normal. Adoption fee: 250.00

**Polly is a Sulfer Crested Cockatoo**

Polly is a 30 year-old Sulfer Crested Cockatoo. She is very gentle and doesn't bite. She is very good natured and stood perfectly still while her wings were being clipped! Polly will be noisy and ring her bell if she is hungry, but is generally pretty quiet or just jabber. Her previous owners have fed Polly primarily Mexican food so she loves rice, beans, and meats. She will eat some seeds but still no pellets yet. She loves to be sprayed with water and begins to dance when she sees the spray bottle. She is a chewer, and loves toys. She is very curious and loves to go under things or snuggle in blankets. Vet results normal. Adoption fee: 250.00



We adopted Meeko the Bare Eyed Cockatoo almost 2 years ago. Since then, she has become a beloved member of our family. She was our first bird. We did a lot of research before we decided to adopt a cockatoo and we were pretty sure we would make a good home. With the help of WAES to prepare us, we felt ready when our family was chosen for Meeko. When we first got her, she was converting from an all seed diet and would not step up when asked. Now she is on a seed/pellet mix and eats fruits, veggies, and especially loves pasta. She steps up when asked almost every time. She is a very social and loving bird. Anywhere we take her, she is the center of attention, asking for scratches, whispering in people's ears, and in general being a cuddle bug. She has learned a variety of tricks, including rolling over. I can not tell you how glad we are we adopted her and everyone always asks us where we got her. I think she should be the poster bird for WAES, since everyone who meets her wants to birdnap her and take her home with them. She is healthy, well adjusted and a part of our family. We continue to look forward to many years of enjoyment with our birdy princess. Thank you WAES!

Jo Overton

## Problems with Medications in Birds

By Doug Folland, DVM

Recently, I was made aware of an unfortunate situation where a veterinarian prescribed a medication that was contraindicated for use on a bird. It succumbed to an adverse reaction. Several years ago I made a similar mistake with the very same medication, but luckily, it did not kill the bird, although some serious side effects were seen. It was at a time when the dangers of this medication were just beginning to come to light in the avian veterinary community. I learned that birds are not dogs with feathers! It is a drug commonly used in dogs, cats and humans with minimal side effects, but in birds, its use can be devastating.

Most of the medications used in birds are extrapolated from other species. The safety of medications is learned, not from careful testing, but rather trial and error. There simply are insufficient funds for such testing in birds. Therefore, the potential for problems in medicating birds is higher than in domestic pets. Choosing a veterinarian familiar with birds, who stays current, helps prevent medication related complications.

I believe bird owners should also be familiar with medications used in their birds and be sure to ask questions of their veterinarian when they are prescribed. Questions to be asked include: What are the side effects? What should I do if there is a problem? How do I use the medication? Does it need refrigeration? Is the medication necessary or is there an alternative that is safer? There are too many drugs to discuss all in this article, but the following should be given special consideration.

Corticosteroids or glucocorticoids should not be used in birds. They are very susceptible to the side effects of immunosuppression and electrolyte imbalances. Even topical preparations of these drugs can be dangerous. Hydrocortisone, triamcinolone, and betamethasone are common ingredients of topical anti-inflammatory creams and ointments and should be avoided. A common brand name used in veterinary medicine is Panalog.

Most ointments and creams of any kind should not be used. The oil base of these products soils and damages the feathers causing them to lose their insulating ability. One exception is silver sulfadiazine or "Silvadyne" cream, which is water soluble. Even it is to be used sparingly.

The non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications should not be used except under the direction of an avian veterinarian. Human preparations such as aspirin, ibuprofen, and acetaminophen (Tylenol) are included in this group of medications. The veterinary drugs Rimadyl and Metacam can be safely used at the proper dosage and are the primary anti-inflammatory and pain medications used in birds at this time.

All over-the-counter medications are to be avoided. Most are ineffective and can delay proper diagnosis and treatment. Many times, that delay is the difference between success and failure.

Itraconazole, a drug used to treat serious fungal infections, must be used with care in African Grey parrots. They are particularly sensitive to this drug, therefore, the dosage is usually reduced.

Again, the best way to avoid problems with medications in birds is: 1. Choose a veterinarian familiar with treating birds, who stays current in the field. 2. Familiarize yourself with the medications used and ask questions. 3. Follow label directions carefully. If there is confusion or the label doesn't seem right, call the veterinary office for clarification. 4. Don't self medicate your birds.

## Outside Dangers

By Lisa McManus [Http://www.scottieparrots.com](http://www.scottieparrots.com)

With summer here, our birds may be spending more time out of doors. With this comes a different set of dangers of which we need to be aware. The most obvious is a bird whose wings are not clipped. How often many of us have heard, "But he has never flown off my shoulder before". I think our immediate thought is it only takes once. We can all imagine, if not remember, the immediate desperate desire to turn back the hands of time. But how many realize that even a bird with trimmed wings is capable of flying away? Given the right circumstances, even a trimmed bird can catch an updraft and fly away. Or startled off your shoulder or hand, and immediately be grabbed up by the barking dog that startled it to begin with, or the pouncing cat waiting patiently. These are all true stories. In one situation a man lived in canyon country and his trimmed Senegal flew off his shoulder and lost altitude, as expected. What was not expected was that the Senegal cleared the canyon edge by about a foot, gained airspeed and disappeared on the other side of the canyon. Fortunately this tale has a happy ending after 2 days and nights of cold weather and continuous searching. It could have just as easily ended in the jaws of a coyote or the talons of a hawk.

The other story, without a happy ending, was of a Jardines Parrot riding on the owner's shoulder while out walking. A barking dog ran out and startled the bird, causing it to fall to the ground where the dog immediately killed it. What a terrible thing to witness, the killing of your own pet.

Raptors, even in cities, are a danger to our birds. They can swiftly swoop down and snatch a bird off a perch or off your hand and with one quick snap break the bird's neck. Yes, even macaws are at danger here. Raptors have even been known to grab the whole cage containing a bird outside and fly off with it.

Outside cages should be large enough that they cannot be moved or knocked over by a dog, cat, raptor, raccoon or even children playing near by. The bar spacing should be small enough that a cat cannot get it's paws between the bars, or a raccoon cannot get it's hands between the bars to grab a bird. Don't be fooled thinking the bird can get away to the other side of the cage to escape, it doesn't always happen that way. A double wall of screen or mesh several inches apart is your best safe guard. The screen on a porch can be ripped by talons or claws, so other safety measures should be taken. Snakes are also a consideration when leaving a bird out doors in a wire cage. Consider that the food put out for your pet bird can be an enticement to other animals as well. Take notice of excessive screaming and flapping. This could be warning that a predator is nearby.

Weather should always be considered – storms could move in quickly bringing hail, lighting, high winds and flooding. Shading from the sun must be provided along with a fresh water supply.

Mosquitoes can carry the West Nile Virus and has been reported in most states. If you have an outdoor aviary or cage make sure that you use mosquito-blocking netting. Mosquitoes and birds can pass the virus back and forth. Mosquitoes will feed on an infected bird, incubate the virus for up to 14 days and become infectious. Birds become infectious between one and four days after being bitten. If the bird is lucky enough to survive, it becomes immune for life. If the bird, wild or exotic, reproduces it will pass on that immunity. Over the years, this will diminish the number of infected birds available to mosquitoes to feed upon, which will reduce the number of infected. This in turn will make our pet birds less susceptible to West Nile. For now, take precautions from mosquitoes. Dusk is an active time for mosquitoes. Standing water should be cleaned or replaced every day. Even small puddles left to stagnate long enough are breeding grounds for mosquitoes. During warm weather until the first hard frost, mosquitoes will be an issue. For more and up to the minute information go online to: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm> or <http://www.fightthebitecolorado.com/> In Colorado you may call the Statewide HelpLine toll-free and staffed daily from 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.: 1-877-462-2911.

Theft is a very real concern, no matter where you live. Parrots can appear to be a quick opportunity to turn a few bucks. Or even the chance to obtain an expensive pet at no cost.

You can take your bird outdoors safely. Be aware of the risks and decide if the risks are ones you want to take with your most prized companion. We all know that dangers are everywhere, but if we know those dangers and where to find them, we can guard against them. Rule of thumb – do not leave any pet unattended outside for extended periods of time.

### **AFA CONVENTION - UTAH RAFFLE TABLE**

The AFA Convention is coming up quickly, July 30 - August 2. Early Bird Registration must be completed prior to June 16th for the best rates. Please see [www.afabirds.org](http://www.afabirds.org) for more information.

Our first ever Utah Raffle Table is off to a good start. We have received Olympic logo gear bags, a framed feather mask from a Utah artist, several Utah logo tote bags, and a few other items. We need much more to fill our table. To our artists and toymakers, please consider donating one or more of your creations. We are looking for items that show the unique character of our state, as well as bird-related items. Typical souvenirs such as coffee mugs, t-shirts, hats, pens, snow globes, pins, postcards, etc. are welcome. Some logo items from all the wonderful universities in our state would make a great addition. Some books on Utah history and culture would be greatly appreciated. If you think we can use it, we probably can. Please help us make this table a good fundraiser for the AFA. Donations can be brought to WAES meetings (charitable receipts given upon request), or contact one of our officers.

### **Contest for New WAES Logo**

Wasatch Avian Education Society is inviting you to get wild and let your creative side go free in creation of a new logo for the group. Open to one and all, the winning logo will then be prominently featured on Wasatch Avian's web site, its letterhead, business cards, and posters used in advertising its monthly meetings. The contest begins March 1, 2008 and close June 5, 2008. A panel of judges will then choose a winner from the submissions.

The winner will be featured with a photo and article in the WAES newsletter. They will also be given a free one year membership in Wasatch Avian valued at \$30. Please submit entries via email to [peggieann67@yahoo.com](mailto:peggieann67@yahoo.com) - or mail them camera ready to Wasatch Avian Education Society, P.O. Box 651701, Salt Lake City, Utah 84165

Artwork must be camera ready and can be full color or black and white.

For more information contact Peggy at.... 801-814-2585

### **WAES Rummage Sale**

If you are spring cleaning please save some of those items you no longer want for our rummage sale to raise some money for our rescue parrots. Anything is welcome but some parrot items would be nice. This will be at a home behind Redwood Drive Inn where there is a lot of traffic from their Swap meet.



The Date is June 22nd  
**3788 South 1950 West**  
**Phone # 801-908-9981**

### **Want to know what's happening in WAES?**

Join our **Chat** group in Yahoo and find out.

Send an email to:

[Waes-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Waes-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

You don't have to be a member to join

**Everyone is Welcome**

Stay up to date in a **dynamic club**

President – *Shawna Augustine*  
Vice President – *Clark Caras*  
Secretary – *Gayle Chellis*  
Treasurer – *Audrey Hollaar*  
Fundraiser – *Danielle & Robert Blanch*  
Public Relations – *Peggie Tackett*

### 2008 Officers

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

For contact info. Please visit web site address below

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Western Region Director: Lisa McManus, conurecare@comcast.net 720-936-4016.

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: [utahparrot@yahoo.com](mailto:utahparrot@yahoo.com)

We now have a Calendar of upcoming WAES events on the WAES web site. To get to it go to the Home Page and click on the Menu/ Events then Coming Events

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/>

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