 This newsletter

Devoted to pet bird

Enthusiasts is

Published monthly by

The Rainbow Feathers

Bird club of Michigan

A 501(c) (3) club

March 2018

Volume 21 Issue 3

# **Bird Droppings**



**UPCOMING MEETING DATES**:

MARCH 25th - FOURTH SUNDAY

APRIL 22nd - FOURTH SUNDAY

MAY 20th - THIRD SUNDAY

## RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

Who we are and what we are about

* Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
* Support scholarships for avian vet students
* Yearly Bird Fair
* Club Library for members
* Grooming available
* Avian rescue/relocation programs
* Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
* Monthly newsletter
* Periodic Service projects
* Field Trips
* Educational Programs upon request
* Make-it-take-it workshops

And more…….

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

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

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – splafchan@twmi.rr.com

### Secretary– Kathe Cote 313-728-2211

Email – [gardenfrog1967@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenfrog1967@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer and Membership Secretary – Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

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

### Board of Trustees –

Susan Dixon 248-330-6938

Email- susanhdixon@hotmail.com

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email- [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)

Mary Perva 517-672-9528

Email-maryperva@rocketmail.com

**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 1st of the month for publishing in the current month’s newsletter. Please send all items to Steve at 11021 Henry Ruff, Livonia MI 48150 or email to splafchan@twmi.rr.com.

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Those wishing to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.

hm00342_**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 snack list

**A few years 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. YUM!!**

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.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

MARK MAKLENBURG APR. 2

JEFF ROSENTHAL APR. 3

SANDY MOSS APR. 4

MEGAN SMITH APR. 5

BARB ROSENTHAL APR. 8

PATRICIA POLZIN APR. 8

JELENA FONTANA APR. 9

COURTNEY EAMES APR. 13

McKENNA LYNCH APR. 13

JEFF GARRETT APR. 14

NANCY TEATRO APR. 16

MARIE KEEHL APR. 17

ROSEMARY MEDVE APR. 17

KEVIN GARRETT APR. 19

TAMMY CAROL APR. 20

JACK PLAGENS APR. 22

ALISON SAUVE APR. 24

MARK GREENWOOD APR. 25

CARINNE KORANY APR. 27

ANDREW SULLIVAN APR. 24

**j0109765From the prez:**

I really missed not coming to the meeting last month, but the doctor said not this month so I must listen. For those of you who didn’t know I had major back surgery on February 9th and it has really knocked the stuffin’ out of me and limited my activity for a while. The only good part is that I will be back in time for all our summer events so a temporary set-back will make me good all summer. I truly did miss you guys and I will be at the next meeting.

We have not heard about Plymouth’s Art in the Park as of yet and I am hoping that we are accepted. We must be juried in, but if we are accepted it will be like the heritage festival on steroids and I know we will be a huge hit. As far as our other events yes, we are doing the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival again along with Guardians for Animals and the Novi Pet Expo I know that they seem far away but they have a habit of sneaking up on us. Also, the Garden City Flea Circus in June and of course our bird fair. It will be a busy summer and fall season. So, I am doing well and getting stronger everyday and I look forward to see you all at the next meeting. As always **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!**

Your Prez

Dave



**Voice of the VeeP**

Hello everyone, Last month’s meeting was great, however I would like everyone to know that I missed Dave. The fact that I was suddenly thrust into the position of MC for the meeting which resulted in my having a case of “tangle tongue” then having to call the raffle numbers just compounded the issue. I hope Dave will be back next month to resume his duties.

I also must let everyone know that I also am in recovery. I underwent eye surgery for the fourth time in three years for a hole in my retina. The surgery was not to bad but the recovery was quite problematic, I had to remain face down for five days. If you have never tried this exercise, my advice is “don’t”. It was the longest five days I have ever experienced in my life.

With any luck Dave and I will both be back next month.

Your Veep

Steve

**Out and About**

**With Pookie**

Greetings everyone, this past month has been quite busy for all of us here at Steve’s house. First, I must mention that we have finally returned Ricky back to normal or as normal as a U-2 can possibly be. He was totally out of control after his movie making experience and now he is at least sitting on his perch and peeling his own grapes.

All of us here have been quite busy this past month mainly because Steve underwent surgery on his left eye and we have all been taking turn being his seeing Eye birds. It has been quite a chore perching on his shoulders giving him guidance to avoid walls and which way to turn while driving. More importantly, he has finally accepted the fact that treats and snacks must be offered to us before he is allowed to eat. Driving was much easier - a loud squawk to stop and nips on his left or right ears to turn. In addition, as you may well know is that as his vision returns directing him becomes easier.

On a different note this is the month we return to the show circuit and although it has not been mentioned prior to this, all of us owe Ricky our gratitude. Ouch! It truly is painful admitting we owe him and his big fluffy white feathered ego our thanks but it is true. His stardom attracted numerous booking agents and we followed his recommendations and hired one. His agent is spectacular; the bookings are filling up our calendar rapidly. We already have four shows scheduled before the end of this month. I am so excited because my debut will be this month; I am showing off my new feathers.

Chirps and Squawks

Pookie

**THE ADVENTURES OF**

**~~STEVE AND DAVE~~**

**COURTNEY AND JEREMY**

JUNIOR

**the**

Rescue Rangers!

The Great Column Takeover!! The Charming Amazon of Saline!

We interrupt your regularly scheduled programming with a special edition of Rescue Rangers. Our normal rangers, Steve and Dave, have been recovering from medical ailments so your Junior Rescuers Courtney and Jeremy are here to bring you another exciting adventure!

Winter’s cold hand had descended on our land by mid-December when the Junior Rangers were dispatched from HQ to help with a multi-bird pick up – 6 in total. This was an all-to-familiar scenario for the Rangers. The owners of these birds had many happy years with their companions but recognized it was time for them to be passed on to new homes, as they were getting harder and harder to care for.

The Junior Rangers pulled up to a lovely home in Saline and knew two things right away. One – these folks really loved and cared for their birds in the best way, and two – BOY did they have a LOT of stuff!! As the garage door opened, the massive amount of supplies stared the Rangers down like Mount Everest! There were 8 giant bundles of Sunday papers, tee stands, boxes and boxes of toys and supplies, food, dishes, extra cages, and there MAY have been a kitchen sink in there! This would take completely stuffing Ranger Dave’s car, Junior Ranger Mike’s van, and Junior Ranger Jeremy’s Prius – WITH an extra trip!

The Junior Rangers were to take one of the six birds – a double yellow headed amazon named Humphrey. The other birds were picked up by Ranger Dave and Mike. It didn’t take long for the Junior Rangers to know this was an extremely special bird. He could sing, he was beautiful, and he was nice! (A feat for some amazons!)

He may have become a failed foster if it wasn’t for someone falling head over heels for him at the first Club meeting he went to. The Junior Rangers knew immediately it was the perfect situation, the paperwork was signed, and tears were shed (Mostly Junior Ranger Courtney). And thus, the day was saved thanks to the **Junior Rescue Rangers!**

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**Rescue Update**

There were eleven adoptions last month. We adopted out 7 parakeets, 2 lovebirds, a double yellow amazon, and a pineapple green cheek conure.

We are always in need of foster homes especially for smaller birds but be aware that finding homes and people willing to adopt smaller birds is very difficult so a foster offer could be for a long time

Our thanks go to all our members for your support in the rescue. It is because of your participation in our monthly raffle and your donations of food, cages, toys and money that we are able to accomplish this awesome feat. Thank you one and all and please keep up the great work.

**Avast ye Mates**

**CAPTAINS CORNER**

I was shocked that my pet human missed a bird club meeting but I was also worried. This is not like him so I have made some observations on his condition.

First, I have noticed that he is walking around like he is egg bound, I mean, there are treatments for that if that is the problem. I found out no he is not egg bound he had surgery on his back. I was really hoping he was egg bound - we could have made a fortune off of that. Next, I noticed he is wearing something that looks like what I can only describe as a girdle and he must wear it until the doctor says he can ditch it. I am glad about that as you know his fashion sense has a lot to be desired. The biggest thing is he is home all the time and I mean all the time. I can’t even get on Featherbook! He is always puttering around and that alone is making me nuts. He is really cramping my style and I do not like that not one bit. I can only hope that he gets better soon and gets out of my way so I can go back (with Pookie and J.B.) to planning our world domination!

Cheers

Captain Morgan



**Bits from Baby**

Howdy all my feathered and non-feathered members, this is your roving reporter Baby with help from some friends, with the latest and greatest news.

The February meeting was great with Sixty One people in attendance. Fifty Three were club members and Eight Guests. There were Eleven New Member who joined our Flock. The feathered members were Seven African Grays, Ten Cockatoos, and Four Macaws, plus Thirty One other types of Parrots. We also have some new feathered members that have joined our flock this year.

It looks like 2018 may be even buzzier then last year was, with all the calls we are getting for programs!  We all look forward to getting out and see the smiles on the faces of the people we get to visit at the programs. Our care givers have as much fun as all the feathered members do.

Doing the programs is one of my favorite things I look forward to all year long and will be there with Duke and the whole gang; I’ll be there with my best feathers on.

Well that's all for now.

God bless, till we meet again,

Your friend Baby

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**UPCOMING**

**EVENTS**

**As of March 8th,2018**

**\*\*\*\*2018\*\*\*\***

**Fri, March 16th - Senior Show**

American House

24400 Middlebelt Rd

Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Set-up 1:30pm; Start 2:30pm

**Fri, Mar 23rd - Senior Show**

American House

20300 Fort Street

Riverview, MI 48193

Set-up 1:30pm; Start 2:30pm

**Wed, March 28th - Senior Show**

Shelby Twp. Senior Center

51670 Van Dyke

Shelby Twp., MI 48316

Set-up 10:40am; Start 11:40am

**Fri, Mar 30th - Senior Show**

Glacier Hills

1200 Earhart Rd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Set-up 9:00am; Start 10:00am

**Sat, Mar 31st - Senior Show**

Hillside Terrace

1939 Jackson Ave.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Set-up 2:00pm; Start 3:00pm

**Wed, April 11th - Senior Show**

Lourdes Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center

2300 Watkins Lake Rd.

Waterford, MI 48328

Set-up 1:30pm; Start 2:30pm

**Tue, April 17th - Senior Show**

American House

26600 Ann Arbor Trail

Dearborn, MI 48127

Set-up 2:00pm; Start 3:00pm

**Sat, April 21st - Senior Show**

Huron Woods Towsley Health Building

5361 McAuley Dr.

Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Set-up 1:30pm; Start 2:30pm

**Fri, April 27th - Senior Show**

Baldwin House

200 Chester St.

Birmingham, MI 48009

Set-up 1:30 pm; Start 2:30pm

**Wed, May 16th - Senior Show**

American House

1660 S. Venoy

Westland, MI 48186

Set-up 1:00pm; Start 2:00pm

**Thurs, May 17th - Senior Show**

American House

5859 W. Maple Road

West Bloomfield, MI 48322

Set-up 2:30 pm; Start 3:30pm

**Thurs, May 24th - School Show**

Hale Creek Elementary

16200 Harrison

Romulus, MI 48174

Set-up 1:30; Start 2:00 pm

(note 1/2 hour set-up)

**Thurs, May 31st - Senior Show**

Oakmont Parkway

36725 Utica Road

Clinton Twp., MI

Set-up 1:30 pm; Start 2:30pm

**Sat, June 2nd - Garden City**

**Flea Circus**

Parking Lot at the Corner of Middlebelt & Ford Road

Starts at 10 AM til 3 PM

Set up is between 8 & 9am

We will be setting up a pop-up

**This is an outdoor event**

**Fri, June 8th - Senior Show**

St Joseph Care Center

Felician Sisters

36800 Schoolcraft Rd.

Livonia, MI 48150

Set-up 1:00pm; Start 2:00pm

**Sun, June 10th - Rainbow Feathers**

**Bird Fair**

VFW Post 345

27345 Schoolcraft Rd.

Redford MI, 48239

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Sat, June 23rd - Senior Show**

Waltonwoods at Twelve Oaks

(Independent Living)

27475 Huron Circle

Novi, MI 48377

Set-up 12:30pm; Start 1:30 pm

**Sat, Sept 8th - Canary and Finch Breeders Bird Fair**

Livonia Elks Lodge #2246

31117 Plymouth Rd.

Livonia, MI 48150

$3.00 admission

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

\*\* Our Club Has A Booth At This Event\*\*

**Sat, Sept. 22nd - Senior Show**

Huron Woods Towsley Health Building

5361 McAuley Dr.

Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Set-up 1:30pm; Start 2:30 pm

**Sat, Nov. 3rd - Senior Show**

Huron Woods Towsley Health Building

5361 McAuley Dr.

Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Set-up 1:30pm; Start 2:30 pm

**PET EXPO**

**Fri, Nov. 9th - 2pm to 8pm**

**Sat, Nov. 10th - 10am to 8pm**

**Sun, Nov. 11th - 10am to 5pm**

Suburban Collection Showplace

46100 Grand River

Novi, MI 48374

We will be setting up on Thursday Nov. 8th most likely around 9:00 am.

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

**\*\*\*\*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.

**CLUB T-SHIRTS**

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

What you do is go to her website.

[www.sportswearcollection.com/bellaemb](http://www.sportswearcollection.com/bellaemb)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**How to tell if**

**your bird is sick**

**By Don J. Harris,DVM**

Birds in the wild instinctively hide illness in an attempt to avoid predators who prey on sick or injured birds. Pet birds are also just as effective in hiding illness as their wild counterparts, and it is up to bird owners to recognize subtle behavioral and physical signs that may indicate their birds are sick.

**Behavioral signs may include:**

• Sleeping later in the morning than usual

• Sleeping more during the day

• Irritability

• Unusually compliant or passive

• Sitting on the bottom of the cage

• Picking at food and/or not eating at usual times

• Eating less overall

• Vocalizing less

• A change in the voice or hoarseness

• Different breathing pattern

• Making unusual sounds when breathing

**Physical signs may include:**

• Coughing or sneezing

• Discharge from nostrils (nares)

• Matted eyes

• Eyes are dull and closing excessively

• Matted feathers on the face and head

• Diarrhea

• Black stools

• A change in the white part of the

droppings to another color such as red, yellow or green

• Weight loss—can you feel or see the breastbone?

• Unusual swellings, especially around the eyes

• Irregular discoloration of the feathers

• Feathers are “fluffed up”

• Random or generalized loss of feathers

• Scaling or crusting of skin

• Increased temperature of feet or beak

Any of the signs listed above, or any other unusual signs, may indicate your bird is sick. You should take immediate action by making an appointment with your avian veterinarian. Waiting even one day to resolve the problem can jeopardize the long-term outcome of your bird’s health

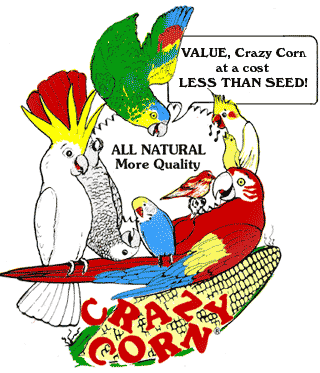


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