 This newsletter

Devoted to pet bird

Enthusiasts is

Published monthly by

The Rainbow Feathers

Bird club of Michigan

A 501(c) (3) club

April 2017

Volume 20 Issue 4

# **Bird Droppings**

    

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES**:

**APRIL 23rd –----Fourth Sunday**

**MAY 21st -------Third Sunday**

**JUNE 11th -------BIRD FAIR**

**JUNE 25th -------Fourth 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

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

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

### Board of Trustees –

Mary Perva 517-672-9528

Email- [maryperva@rocketmail.com](mailto:maryperva@rocketmail.com)

Susan Dixon 248-330-6938

Email – susanhdixion@hotmail.com

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email- [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 1st weekend 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 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.

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.



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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

We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is two fold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and deserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!



**OVER THE RAINBOW BRIDGE**

We have had yet another crossing of a feathered club member; Rambo a Hans Macaw who owned Mike Gyarmati crossed over the Rainbow Bridge last month. Rambo was a constant companion of Mike and was dearly loved by everyone. Rambo succumbed to the complications of a stroke at the age of about twenty-four years. To him we say you are free to soar on the far side of the Rainbow Bridge; you will always be loved and forever remembered. In your memory we dedicate the following verse.



**The Rainbow Bridge**

**Just this side of heaven is a place called**

**Rainbow Bridge.**

**When and animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to**

**Rainbow Bridge.**

**There are meadows and hills for all our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food and water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.**

**All of the animals that have been ill and old are restored to health and vigor, those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember in our dreams of days and times gone bye. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing;**

**They miss someone very special to them who had to be left behind. They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance,…**

**The bright eyes are intent; the eager body quivers. suddenly she begins to break away from the group, flying over the green grass,**

**her wings carrying her faster and faster YOU ~**

**have just been spotted, and when you and your special friend meet, you cling together in joyous reunion ~**

**never to be parted again. The sweet sounds of happy tweets play your ears; your hands again**

**caress the beloved’s head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet,**

**so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart ~**

**Then you cross~…the**

**Rainbow Bridge together !**



**j0109765**

**From the** **Prez:**

I cannot believe that we have just passed Easter it seems that time has kicked it into hyper drive and is going fast. Before you know it, the bird fair will be here and we are still taking any donations for the bird fair raffle. Now the things for the raffle can be just about anything it does not have to be bird related we have such a diverse raffle and that is what people like about it there is something for everyone there. People stay all day just for our raffle and who knows I might win something this year. We need help with the set-up in the morning at 6 AM, covering tables and getting the vendors in, all through the day setting up each raffle and at the end helping the vendors out they would like us to be out by 5 PM if possible. I really never worry because we always have so much help it is wonderful so keep June 11th free and let’s make this another successful one. I really love how our flock keeps growing and seeing the Major Mitchells Cockatoo was just fantastic a rare treat in my book. In fact, you never know what types of birds you will see at a meeting and they are all very special. Speaking of special that is what you guys are you make this club what it is. The meetings are fun and stress free and we do get a lot of good food as well. The truth is that every member is unique and valued because it is you who are the heart and soul of this club it is something that we can never forget. The most important element is you and we welcome all your ideas because your ideas are all through the club and the events we do. So, I hope you all had a very Happy Easter and I look forward to seeing you at the April meeting for birds, food and fun. As always **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!**

Until Next Time

Your Prez

Dave



Voice of the Veep

Two months away! Our annual bird fair is on Sunday June 11th. I am hoping all of you are as excited as I am. The fair is at the same venue in Redford and we are going to need as much assistance from all of you to make it a success. In case anyone isn’t sure, the address is: VFW Post 345, 27345 Schoolcraft Road (I-96 service drive) Redford, MI 48239. On Saturday, the night before the fair, at my house we will be loading a U-Haul ® truck with used cages, raffle prizes and anything else that needs to go to the hall. We will probably be at my house about 6:00-7:00 pm to start the loading.

The real work starts at 6:00AM on Sunday when we have to unload the truck, set up for the raffle, cover tables, run extension cords, set-up used cages and play stands and put lawn signs up around the neighborhood. At 7:00AM, the real work starts because we have to start helping vendors bring in their wares and be on hand to help anyone who needs help. One area of help that we fell short at last year was after the fair. We lost all our help! I know it is a long day but please, we still need help after the fair helping vendors load and clearing out of the hall.

Saturday June 10th is also going to be a busy day for us. We are attending the Garden City Flea Circus that is being held in the Kroger parking lot at Ford Rd. and Middle Belt. This is an event with rescues, vendors, food & snacks and rescued pets of all types up for adoption. The set-up is between 8:00am and 9:00am; the event runs from 10:00am until 3:00pm. We will be setting up our pop-up in the morning and taking it down after the flea circus ends then head to my house to load the U-Haul truck. If you are a newer member of the club this event would be an awesome opportunity for you to join us at an open event. Do not worry about bringing one of your own birds because there will be plenty of our birds there that you can assist with.

On a totally different subject and a very disconcerting issue I think I hear voices. They are talking in deep dark tones and saying things like white and pink feathers are better than gray. Don’t be afraid, Cockatoos are nice! Join us it may be dark but we have cookies. Am I being lured to the dark side? Does anyone know, do I need professional help? Yum, cookies!

Your Veep

Steve

**MAY I HAVE**

**YOUR**

**ATTENTION**

As you know, we are approaching a very busy season of both outdoor and indoor events. The Garden City Flea Circus, Our bird fair, the Guardians for Animals pet expo, the All American Family Pet Expo and possibly the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival to name two of many events that we will be attending. Along with doing these events comes something that we have become accustom to and that is drawing huge crowds.

With that being said there are certain rules that must be followed to insure that birds do not go missing and the owner does not have heart failure wondering where that bird is. So I would like to pass on to you the rules of etiquette for doing high traffic events. If you have someone else’s bird other than your own always follow these rules. First let the owner of the bird know that you have that bird so they know where and who the bird is with. Second stay within eyesight of the bird’s owner. We love the fact that many of us can handle each other’s bird and it gives the owner peace of mind when they can see where their bird is. Third and most important never ever hand a bird to someone and then walk away. With the huge crowds we attract it would be very easy for someone to steal a bird if you take your eyes off of it for even a few seconds. Fourth, always take the bird back from the person you have handed it to and never let them hand it to someone else. Finally, return the bird either back to the owner or its time out stand, if you put it on the stand let the owner know that you have done so. This will help avoid the owner having panic attacks and keep everyone happy, relaxed and the event fun for all!

Honest Steve’s needs your help

We need help for “Honest Steve’s” used cages at the bird fair. Help is needed cleaning, tagging and repairing the used cages that have accumulated in my garage. In the near future and most likely on a weekend day we are going to attempt to power wash, clean and repair the used cages that have been donated over the winter months. Tagging cages as to which parts belong together and that they all have bowls and perches along with needed hardware for assembly. This sounds simple but it is quite a daunting task.

Please! Anyone who might be able to help me contact me to let me know so I may let you know when this is going to happen.

My phone numbers are Home- (734)-513-0030 Cell (313)-608-7106. Call and leave me a message on either phone and I will get back in touch with you when a date is determined.

 **Rescue update**

The rescue continued to have success on placing foster birds in new homes. This past month we placed a Blue Crown Conure named Rambo in a new forever home,

We also rescued a number of gently used cages, which will be available at our bird fair in June. If you are interested be sure to stop by “Honest Steve’s Used Cages” table at the fair

As is standard for our adopted birds they went to their new homes with cages, toys and food. We are only able to do this because of you, our members.

We want to thank all of our club members for your generous participation in our monthly raffles and your donations of toys and food. It is you, the members that enable us to send our rescued birds to their new adopted homes fully outfitted with cages, food, and toys. Your generosity also allows us to pay for vet care if needed and have made our rescue the success that it is. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



**Attention Kroger Shoppers**

Kroger sent us a message

Informing our club that we do not have to re-enroll annually in their Community Rewards program. If you are presently enrolled, you do not have to do anything to continue your participation.

Anyone in the club interested in joining the community rewards program you must go to Kroger’s Website to register your Kroger card into the program.

[www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)

click “sign in”

* enter their email and password
* click “enroll now”
* put in the NPO number or part of the organizations name
* check the correct group
* click “enroll”

Anyone having an issue with their email address or password can call 1-800-KROGERS for customer service.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

PAT GREENWOOD                        MAY 2

JOSEPH FONTANA                        MAY 5

MICHAEL GYARMATI                    MAY 5

TERRI ALLORE                              MAY 10  
DAVE CAROL                                  MAY 13

SUE GOUIN                                      MAY 13

DALE DOMEIER                              MAY 15

LANCE KNUDSON                         MAY 16

RANDY BRATCHER                      MAY 20

KRISTEN LAMBERT                    MAY 24



**Out and About with Pookie**

In last month’s column, I revealed that companion humans (especially Steve & Celeste) want to be misled and fooled. Ergo we, the Greys in our home initiated OPERATION GHOST this is the code name we are using to invigorate the interest of our humans. There is no doubt all of you are wondering exactly what this operation entails. We all put our beaks together and ascertained what our best asset was; it was determined it is our ability to imitate different human voices and household sounds. With this knowledge is hand we started.

1. Shatner took point and started asking for Steve in Celeste’s voice.
2. Tyler began to use Steve’s voice and say “Good Morning” but only when there was no one watching.
3. Casey started barking with two different barks.
4. JB barks in the same voice Casey uses but he also quacks like a duck.
5. The house alarm and the creak of the doors. I almost forgot, all of us have mastered all the different noises.

In all honesty, I could use pages to list the totality of what we all can say; the value is in how to use it. We made the decision to use Celeste’s voice when we know Steve is awake and in the house and to use Steve’s voice when Celeste was awake. Two of us have mastered the art of throwing our voices; I cannot divulge at this time who the budding ventriloquists are because neither Steve nor Celeste know and we want to keep it that way. However, the ability to imitate the sound of the front door opening when one or the other is home alone is quite disconcerting to both. Household noises are another way we have to trick both Steve and Celeste; we imitate the sounds of the electronic door lock buttons being pushed then throw our voices into the kitchen and beep like the alarm system to indicate a door is being opened. Sadly, I am unable to divulge who the budding ventriloquists are at this moment because it is more important to keep Stave and Celeste off balance and hopping up and down out of their chairs to answer doors that are not being opened. This process provides exercise and stimulation and you can believe me that Steve needs both.

There is another troubling situation developing in our peaceful and balanced home; Ricky seems to have welcomed another  to stay here. All of us here know that there are only two ways something like this could happen. One is its only temporary and Steve knew it was occurring but neglected to tell us. The other choice is far worse and much more foreboding; the evil forces of the dark side are courting Steve. The dark side has not only been luring Steve but also tempting him with cookies!

Chirps and Squawks

Pookie

**Avast ye Mates**



**CAPTIANS**

**CORNER**

Well it seems that we have a defector in our midst and the scoundrel said he could never be swayed. We have the proof, we have pictures lots of pictures and there even may be a video out there somewhere. I know the force is strong but this person seemed so strong and so stable (well not mentally, that is another story but look what I have to deal with so I understand). It didn’t happen overnight it came in small increments, a hi here, a scratch there and acting just so adorable and sweet you could almost get a sugar high. In the end, this person was helpless to the force, the dark force of the Cockatoo. Now we have all heard Sparky’s, Pookie’s and J.B.’s pet human complaining about the number of Cockatoos at a meeting especially if they outnumbered the Grays. Strangely something began to take shape and it took the shape of Ricky’s pet human Celeste she introduced Steve to the dark side and slowly but surely it took Steve over. Now the Grays were very alarmed and tried all sorts of thing even crystals and a Cockatooism to no avail he was crossing over and there was nothing they could do about it. Oh, he was still a Gray guy but he became a Cockatoo guy too and just when they thought it could not get worse the pink menace showed up. Now I have to say I have developed a soft spot for Aroura (Rory for short) the Rose breasted Cockatoo that shares my pet humans but the Gray Gang as we like to call them was totally unprepared for Mr. Pink (I’ll call him Mr. P for short). Mr. P. is a Major Mitchell’s Cockatoo, he has infused the gray territory with another color besides red and green, and that is pink. I have to admit that he is quite the handsome fellow and he does fit right in with the rest of us but white was one thing but pink seriously pink what he was thinking laments Sparky. Well it is just a natural progression and one to surely ruffle a few Gray feathers but they are just going to have to deal with it because he is here to stay. I think he will add some new color to our New Year’s Eve celebration because he looks like a real party animal.

Cheers

Captain Morgan



**BIRD**

**FAIR**

Our annual bird fair is now going to be on Sunday June 11th and will be at the same location as last year. The location is VFW Post 345 at 27345 Schoolcraft (I-96 service drive) Redford, MI 48239.

We will be getting access to the hall about 6:00 AM. The tentative plan is load a U-Haul® truck the evening before with Cages and stuff at Steve’s house. In the morning before the fair starts we will bring in all the cages, raffle items and supplies.

We will need as much help as we can get at 6:00 AM to cover tables, price cages, run electricity and set up the raffle. Hopefully this will mostly be finished by 7:00 AM when the vendors will start arriving. We need help holding doors open and assisting vendors move in at this time. They really appreciate this; it’s something that rarely occurs for them at other fairs and keeps them coming back. During the fair we will need help at the admissions desk, assisting at the raffle, rescue, and bake sale tables. Another time when help is needed is after the fair doing the clean-up.

This is our rescue’s largest fundraiser of the year, so please; one and all come and make this fair the success of past years. We have rented out a record number of tables this year with many first time vendors. Let’s show them what a dynamic group we are by assisting them in every way possible.

Come on out and lend a hand even if you haven’t signed up. You don’t have to stay all day; any time you can help would be wonderful.

**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 our website [www.rfbirdclub.com](http://www.rfbirdclub.com) and click on the tab “RF GEAR”or 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.)

**BITS from BABY**



HOWDY all my feathered and non-feathered friends, this is your roving reporter Baby with the latest and greatest news.  There were forty-six people at the March meeting, thirty-eight club members and eight guests of which five guests joined our flock. Now for the feathered members there were twenty-four in attendance, seven Cockatoos, three African Grays, and three Macaws plus eleven other parrots.

       We are on a roll already this year and it just started. It makes me and all the members feel great doing the programs for the people just to see the smiles on their faces after the program. They tell us how much seeing all the beautiful colored birds brightens up their day.

       Come join use and see what I'm talking about.  
                   Well that's all for now.  
            God bless till we meet again,  
                              Your friend Baby

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****

****



****

****

****

Well it was a beautiful summer day the perfect day for a road trip and a long road trip it was it took the Rangers to the tiny berg of Barryton Michigan. For those who do not know where the heck Barryton is (believe me the Rangers had nary a clue either) it is about two and one half hours away from Ranger Steve’s place. Therefore, an Iron butt run it was and they drove through some very scenic countryside past farms and fields of corn, cows, sheep and horses. Through blink and you’ll miss them towns even a town with the quaint name of Rosebush. It seemed like it was taking forever but they were finally at their destination. Now mind you the center of Barryton seemed like it was just a wooden shed and a cow (there had to be more I guess they were in the wrong place) any way they had finally arrived and were greeted by a young man who was surrendering his Greenwing Macaw. This was particularly hard because the gentleman was diagnosed with a terminal illness and needed to find his beloved parrot a proper home before it was too late. There he was this magnificent creature giving the Rangers the stink eye because he did not know them. So, after good-byes were said the Rangers put him in the Rescue Mobile with his cage and other goodies and they were off for home but not before they made a little side trip (no it wasn’t for shopping or anything like that) but for another pick-up. This would happen in the city of Chesterfield Michigan and it would be much smaller than the Macaw. This was a Cockatiel. This was the case of an Australian bird with a Spanish name, Chico. Chico was a relatively young bird that the owner simply tired of and wanted to rehome him. It was a good thing that Chico was indeed a boy so no name change would be necessary. They put Chico in the carrier loaded up his cage and the Rangers were finally heading home, for real this time. When they finally made it back they knew both of their new charges would find homes quickly. The Greenwing Macaw got adopted by a club member whom he chose as his new birdie mom and the Cockatiel would soon find his forever home as well. It was a good day for an iron butt run and for two birds from afar. Still duty would soon call again and they would be ready for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!**

Stay glued to your mailbox for the next eggciting adventure Three Cities Two birds and Two Cages!

**UP COMING EVENTS**

**As of**

**April 2nd 2017**

April 5th Senior Show

Wed. American House

777 East Woodward Heights Blvd.

Hazel Park, MI 48030

Set-up 12:30 pm

Start 1:30pm

April 14th Senior Show

Fri Glacier Hills Senior Living

Community

1200 Earhart Rd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Set-up 9:00 am

Start 10:00 am

April 22nd Senior Show

Sat More Info Coming

Susan Dixon's Church

Handicapped Adults

Woodside Bible Church

9000 Highland Road

White Lake, MI 48326

Set-up Noon

Start 1:00pm

April 24th Senior Show

Mon. Waltonwood Main

1401 N. Rochester Rd.

Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Set-up 2:00 pm

Start 3:00 pm

May 2nd Senior Show

Tuesday AARP meeting at

Wayne Community College

21000 Northline Road

Taylor, MI 48180

Set-up 11:30 am

Start 12:30 pm

May 7th Senior Show

Sun Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks

27475 Huron Circle

Novi, MI 48377

Set-up 1:00 pm

Start 2:00pm

May 8th Senior Show

Mon Oakhaven Manor

1320 Ashebury Lane

Howell, MI 48843

  Set-up 11:00 am

Start Noon

May 12th Senior Show

Fri American House

24400 Middlebelt Road

Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Set-up 1:30 pm

Start 2:30pm

May 17th Senior Show

Wed Oakmont Sterling Assisted Living

2200 15 Mile Road

Sterling Heights, MI 48310

 Set-up 1:00pm

Start 2:00 pm

June 6th Senior Show

Tues The Oaks Adult Daycare

2500 S. Main Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Set-up 12:30 pm

Start 1:00 pm

\*\*note 1/2 hour set-up

June 10th Garden City Flea Circus

Sat Parking Lot at the Corner of

Middlebelt & Ford Road

Starts at 10 AM til 3 PM

Set up is between 8 & 9am

June 11th Rainbow Feathers Bird Fair

Sun VFW Post 345

27345 Schoolcraft Rd.

Redford MI, 48239

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

June 24th Senior Show

Sat Samaritas Senior Living

of Bloomfield Hills

formerly Maple Village)

6257 Telegraph Road,

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

Set-up 1:00pm

Start 2:00 pm

July 25th Library Show

Tues River Rouge Library

221 Burke Street

River Rouge, MI 48218

Set-up 2:00pm

Start 3:00 pm

Sept 9th Canary & Finch Bird Fair

Sat Livonia Elks Lodge #2246

31117 Plymouth Rd.

Livonia, MI 48150

$3.00 admission

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Oct 21st Guardians for Animals

Oct22nd Pet Expo

Madison Place

876 Horace Brown Drive

Madison Heights, MI 48071

Sat. Times  10:00AM to 5:00PM

Sun Times   1:00AM to 4:00PM

We hopefully will be setting

up on Friday like last year

Oct 28th  Senior Show

Sat Huron Woods

Towsley Health Building

5361 McAuley Dr.

Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Set-up 1:30pm

Start 2:30 pm

PET EXPO

Nov. 10th 2pm to 8pm

Nov. 11th 10am to 8pm

Nov. 12th 10am to 5pm

Suburban Collection Showplace

46100 Grand River

Novi, MI 48374

We will be setting up on Thursday Nov. 9th

most likely around 9:00 am.

Please remember no birds will be allowed

through the front door.

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\***

***\*CANCELATION CONFUSION \****

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.

A few of our scheduled events have been canceled at the last minute by the group staging the event. If you do not regularly participate in the shows but plan on attending please call Steve (734-513-0030) to make sure the event is still a go.

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People never cease to amaze and frustrate usually at the same time and sometimes it is literally a matter of life and death. The sad fact is these situations almost always end tragically and this is one of them.

One early morning I received a phone call asking about a bird that might possibly be sick so at 7:15 AM on a Monday I am listening to a woman describe her bird’s behavior to me. It is on the bottom of the cage with its head on the grate but it will still lift it up when we come into the room. I told my husband I think it’s just tired am I right? I told her she was very wrong your bird is sick very sick and you need to take it to the vet immediately and I was starting to give her the numbers to a couple emergency vets offices when she stopped me. She said you mean we have to take it to the vet, you actually take birds to a vet. I told her yes and then asked her what kind of bird it was expecting it to be a Budgie or Cockatiel, it was a Blue and Gold Macaw that was just 2 years old. I stressed to her that this was a life or death situation and it may already be too late. I then asked her when did you notice it was not acting right she said on Friday. I wanted to just scream at her and ask why you didn’t do something about it then? I calmly asked why they waited and she once again said she thought it was just tired. I was about to totally lose it but stayed calm and told her she needed to get it to a vet right away and explained to her how birds operate and mask illness until it is too late. She then said one final thing that pushed me over the edge, I going to have to wait until my husband gets home from work and ask him. I was now literally yelling at her and was told her she didn’t have that much tine the bird would be dead by then she had to act now but I had a bad feeling she would wait. She said I was not very helpful and hung up.

It is now 7:30 AM on Tuesday and the phone rings again and it’s her again this time she was very nasty and had this to say to me; “well I came to you for help and you were no help at all the bird died at about 10:20 yesterday morning”. She went on to say that I should have done something to save the bird. I told her I did everything in **MY** power to save the bird I am not a vet and I cannot tell you what is wrong with your bird **YOU** needed to get it to the vet on Friday when you noticed it wasn’t acting right and **YOU** did nothing. I told her I felt bad for the bird because a Macaw should not have died at two and that this was totally their fault for not acting sooner and that they let then bird die. I hated being so blunt but it was the only way to make her understand they screwed up big time. She was silent for a moment and then had the nerve to ask if we had any Blue and Golds in the rescue. I didn’t lose it this time but told her under no circumstances would we adopt to her because she still did not get it about parrots and finding an avian vet before you really need one because she said “well that’s only if the bird gets sick”. I just couldn’t believe she said that to me and said the answer would be no that they had a lot of learning left to do and I would not put any bird in a bad situation like that. She told me I needed to work on my people skills and hung up. There are many people out there like this woman and her husband who just don’t get it about having a large parrot and all we can do is pray they do not get another bird!





**10 steps to a better relationship with your parrot**

**By Liz Wilson,CVT**

**1)** Ensure your companion bird is healthy by doing annual check-ups and routine diagnostics with your experienced avian veterinarian. Since birds hide the obvious signs of illness, allowing basic annual testing is critical to the early detection of medical problems.

**2)** Ensure your companion bird is consuming a good diet. This is critical to the proper functioning of its immune system and increases its potential for a healthy life, as well as eliminating nutrition-based problem behaviors, such as some cases of feather destruction

**3)** Ensure your companion bird lives in a sufficiently large cage, allowing it lots of room for exuberant wing-flapping exercise and energetic play; allow it daily out-of-cage time on play stations other than just the cage to minimize territorial behaviors. Encouraging healthy exercise can decrease problem behaviors like excessive screaming, since a tired parrot is a quiet parrot.

**4)** Establish controls with your parrot by lovingly teaching it to respond to the simple commands of Up and Down, and setting clear and consistent limits on its behavior. By teaching manners and setting boundaries, parrots can become better companions.

**5)** Give your parrot quality interaction daily, no matter how busy your life gets…even if for just 10-15 minutes of one on one time. Psittacines are biologically wild animals, and won’t retain their “tameness” without daily contact with people

**6)** Make your companion bird a member of the family, since it is a flock animal and extremely

social. Single birds should not be housed in rooms by themselves.

**7)** Socialize your parrot to family and trusted friends, thereby teaching it to adapt to the society in which it lives. It should be comfortable interacting with and being handled by other people. Do not allow it to become over-bonded to one person.

**8)**  Assure your companion bird gets adequate rest, with 10-12 hours of dark, uninterrupted sleep time nightly. Sleep deprivation often leads to problem behaviors like biting, excessive screaming and feather destruction.

**9)**  Establish trust with your companion bird by teaching it that it is safe with you. Consistency is critical to establishing trust, as your parrot learns what to expect from you and what you expect from it.

**10)** Accept your parrot for what it is, not what you want it to be. No matter how well trained it is, a healthy parrot may still be noisy messy and destructive because it’s a parrot!

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