



THE CAPITAL FLYER

The Monthly Newsletter of the
National Capital Bird Club
4615 Harvard Road
College Park, MD 20740-3752
carol.rees@usa.com

<http://www.ncbc-dc.org>

February 2002

Dr. Carol Canny Rescheduled to Speak in February

Unfortunately due to incimate weather, Dr. Canny was not able to be at last month's meeting but will be holding a question and answer session on avian health issues at the February meeting. Dr. Canny is an avian veterrarian currently practicing at the Pender Veterinary Clinic in Northern Virginia. Having a good avian veterinarian is an important element in your pet bird's care, continued health, and well-being. Take this opportunity to meet a local avian veterinarian and learn more about the Pender Veterinary Clinic. Consider what questions you have on avian health and ask Dr. Canny at February's meeting.

IN THIS ISSUE

- p 2 Brotogeris Article
- p 3 Membership Form
- p 4 BCV Flyer
- p 5 The New Berlin Wall
- p 6 Club News
- p 7 Club Information

FUTURE MEETINGS

- February 3
- March 3
- April 7
- May 5
- June 2
- July 14 *
- August 4
- September 8 *
- October 6
- November 10 *
- December 8 *, **

* Note date change
** Different Location

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is the last issue of the newsletter you will receive unless you have renewed your membership for 2002.

"Put a Parrot in Your Pocket"

Grey-cheeked parakeets are also known as "pocket parrots" for their habit of climbing down inside their owners' shirt pockets and then peeking out. They are members of the Brotogeris family of parrots, which includes the grey-cheeked parakeet, the canary-winged parakeet, the white-winged parakeet, the orange-chinned parakeet, the cobalt-winged parakeet, the golden-winged parakeet, the Tui parakeet, and the plain parakeet.

These small birds originate from southern Mexico through the central part of South America and have adapted well to civilization so that there are active colonies in almost all Central and South American countries. There is even a small colony in South Florida, called Coconut Grove.

They have shown their adaptability not just in their accommodation of metropolitan areas but also in their nesting habits. They not only nest in available cavities, as do most other



Above Grey-cheeked Parakeet

continued on page 2...

“Put a Parrot in Your Pocket” continued

parrots, but they will create their own nests when nesting cavities are not found to be available. Most often these alternative nests consist of a tunnel made by the parakeets to the center of a termite nest in a tree, where they hatch and raise their young.

All Brotogeris are between 6 to 9 inches in length and primarily green, with the major difference being the

length of their tail. They make excellent pets if domestically raised and hand-fed. All of the subspecies except the plain parakeet can be found in the United States. Although popular because of their personality and pet quality, they are difficult to breed, which has made them difficult to find. They can also be noisy when there is more than one Brotogeris in a household.

All in all, they can make a wonderful pet and a lifelong friend and are well worth making the effort of finding available birds for sale as pets. For those who are interested in learning more about these personable little parrots, I have listed below some web sites and mailing lists that provide more information.

Brotogeris Society International	http://www.brotosociety.org/
Yahoo Egroups	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Brotogeris/
Avian Network page on Grey-cheeks	http://www.aviannetwork.com/brogoteris/
Grey-cheek article	http://www.petlandinc.com/gazette/gazette_grey_cheeked.htm
Plain parakeet photos	http://www.arthurgrosset.com/sabirds/plain%20parakeet.html
Article on Brotogeris from Bird Breeder Magazine 1999	http://www.animalnetwork.com/birds2/bbol/1999/jun/aviary/feature1/
Grey-cheeked photos	http://www.lib.montana.edu/~bmarsh/cheeky/cheeky.html
Genus Brotogeris (Good Site)	http://www.lib.montana.edu/~bmarsh/broto/index.html

The Capital Flyer Goes Color

The first page of the NCBC newsletter will be in color, starting with the March issue. I had hoped to start this with February's issue but my color printer decided to give me problems at the last minute.

Need for Speakers & Volunteers

The NCBC needs speakers. If you are interested in speaking at a club meeting, know of someone who would be willing to speak, or just have an idea of a speaker, then please contact Tom Marshall at 703-777-3252 or tmarshall@pardoe.com

Volunteers are desperately needed for the following committees: Publicity and Ways & Means. If you have ideas of how to publicize the club and/or ways of raising funds, then please let Tammy Ellison know. She can be reached at 301-946-3511 or elton.tammy@verizon.net

NCBC Membership Renewal

NCBC membership for the year of 2001 ended at the end of December 2001. Membership for 2002 is from January 1, 2002 through December 31,

2002. This is the last newsletter that you will receive if you have not paid your NCBC 2002 membership dues.

To keep current and not let your

membership lapse, please fill out the NCBC 2002 Membership Form below and mail it in along with your check.

National Capital Bird Club 2002 Membership Form

Name		
Address		
City		
State		
Zip		
Phone		
Email		
Publish in roster?	Yes _____ No _____	
Individual Membership (\$20 per year or \$10 after June)	Yes _____	
Family Membership (\$25 per year or \$12.50 after June)	Yes _____ Name _____ Name _____ Name _____ Name _____ Name _____	
Amount Enclosed	\$ _____	

Please mail this form along with your check to:

***National Capital Bird Club
4615 Harvard Road
College Park, MD 20740-3752***

MARCH 23-24, 2002

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12th ANNUAL CONVENTION

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DAMI EMMERLE, IOWA

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12th Annual Convention of the Virginia Society of Public Health

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More info: Joseph H. ... 703-527-3324

or dickia@wvmo.com 202-828-2020

The New Berlin Wall By John Davey

If you remember from last month's "Capital Flyer" newsletter, I had described how – after years of Cold War coexistence – Teddy Bird, the plucked Quaker and Bilbo Bob, the stubborn Meyers parrot – finally had to be separated. (For years, these two birds had shared one large cage out on the screened-in back porch during the warm months and in the bedroom dormer window during the cold months.)

After years of strained cohabitation, I finally came into the bedroom one day – about a month or so ago – to find Old Teddy Bird a bloody mess on the cage grate. Teddy has always had the natural Quaker's resistance to sharing her space with another breed. She had occasionally chased or snapped at Bilbo. I know what had happened without having witnessed the fight: Bilbo had finally had enough of the strained relations, and had snapped back at Teddy. In an out-an-out fight, there was no contest – Bilbo has the strength and beak to easily overcome Teddy's natural aggression. (I brought Teddy Bird in to the NCBC January meeting to assure folks that she had survived the fight – bloodied but unbowed.)

I couldn't leave the two birds together, so I had pulled one of the birds' two smaller sleeping cages out of winter storage, and I had been shifting the two birds back and forth between the smaller and the larger cages. Actually, that was pretty easy to do, since both birds were inclined to sneak into the other's cage and steal food from the other's dish. But the multiple cage arrangement was crowding our dormer window space, and something more drastic had to be done.

So, over the long MLK weekend, I went out to Home Depot and bought a large sheet of Lexan (clear Plexiglas) and some quick link fasteners. The large cage that we have for the birds is the Animal Environments "Acacia" model. It's a nice, substantial cage, with horizontal

bars all the way around and a nice seed tray and grate. It's large enough to accommodate my two 96 gram parrots, with room to spare.

Using a tape measure and a French curve, I cut the Plexiglas sheet to fit inside the cage and act as separator. I aimed for a size an inch smaller than the inside dimensions. People say that you can cut Plexiglas – just like wood. Well, it's not that easy. The Plexiglas that I had purchased was thin and much more inclined to crack than wood. But after some trials and errors and a few minor cracks – that I don't think the birds mind – I created a new wall that fits neatly inside the cage, with about a half inch spacing on top, bottom, and sides. I drilled small holes around perimeter of the new see-through wall and I attached the wall to the cage bars with the quick link fasteners.

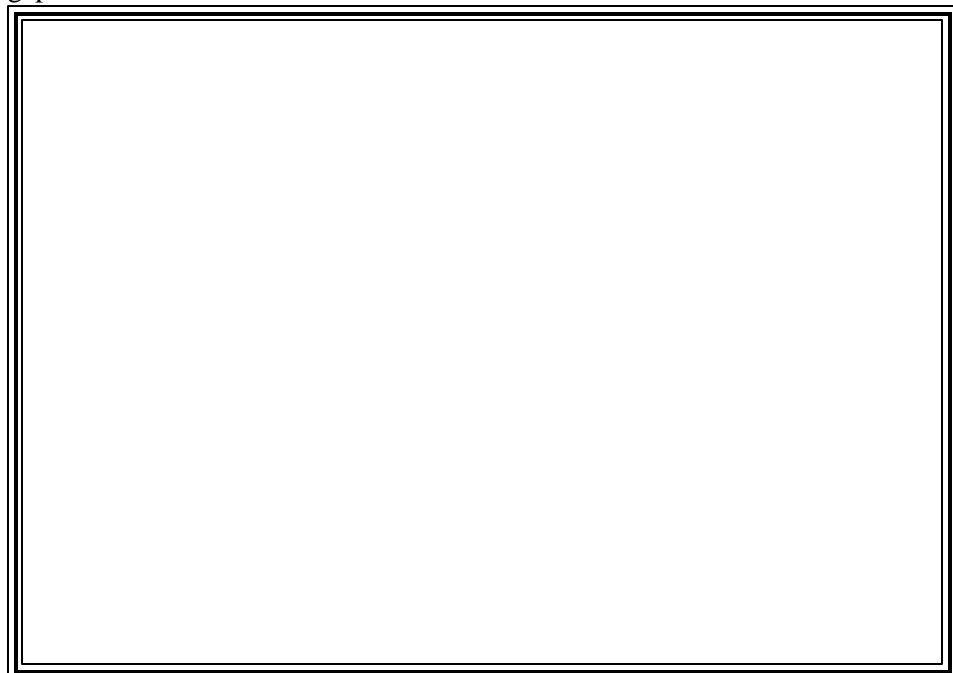
The new wall is suspended from the top, bottom and backsides of the cage with the fasteners. I even drilled two holes through the new Plexiglas wall to accommodate the two large crepe myrtle perches that stretch from one side of the cage to the other. So, there is a half-inch gap around all of the sides of the new

wall and two larger perches stretching through holes in the wall. The Plexiglas wall neatly bisects the front cage door opening, so I can get to either bird, although opening the door for one bird entails opening the door for both birds.

Fortunately, the Acacia cage has provision for feeding cups on both sides of the cage, so I was able to accommodate both birds' feeding requirements. And since I had two small sleeping cages for summer use, I had a second water bottle that I could use for the second "apartment."

I had to re-jiggle the other perches, swings and toys, but after all was said and done, I have arrived at what I think is a very nice arrangement for the two birds. They can see each other, but they can't bite.

So far, my attempt to subdivide the cage real estate has been successful. The two birds have company, but they can't really get at each other. Next time, I would attempt to find thicker Plexiglas than the windowpane stuff I was able to purchase, but I'm happy, and the birds seem happy. So, now we wait for the next adventure.



CLUB NEWS

Treasurer's Report January 2002

Beginning Balance:	\$2745.28
Income	
Dues	282.50
Ad	10.00
Total Income:	\$292.50
Expenses	
Fee for picnic space in June	75.00
Total Expenses:	\$75.00
Ending Balance:	\$2962.78

Membership Report January 2002

Single Memberships	30
Family Memberships	14
Total Memberships	44

National Capital Bird Club Meeting Minutes 1/6/02

Since it was sleeting and threatening to snow on the afternoon of January 6, the month's speaker, Dr. Canny, wasn't able to be there. Despite not having a speaker, the meeting was very enjoyable. Attendees introduced themselves and their birds, telling of how their avian friends came to live with them.

John Davey was there with "Teddy Bird", his plucked Quaker Parakeet, who was very friendly – much more so than my Quaker. He wanted to be sure after the article he wrote in January's newsletter about her injuries that people knew that she had healed and was doing

well.

Courtney Biddle brought her new five month old baby Blue and Gold Macaw, who was very friendly. She related that her 19 year old parrot had died just two weeks previously. Madison Hale brought her Christmas gift, a yellow-winged conure that "Spunky Chicken", the family's caique, was very jealous of. Regulars included "Spunky Chicken", "Reba", "Squeaker", "Lucky", a moustached parakeet, and others.

Silvia Tennison brought in a whole box of macaw feathers to be donated to the Zuni Indian tribe.

New Web Site Address

The NCBC web page has found a permanent home (with no ads). It is now located at <http://www.ncbc-dc.org/> and this is now the official site. I have put up a redirection link at the old free site at Tripod. I hope to expand the site soon and redesign it using frames, which should make it much easier to maintain. The new 2002 meeting schedule is up and the newsletter is available for download in PDF format.

It is my intension to make this site a resource not only for the NCBC but also for bird related issues, products, and stores in the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area. I will be incorporating the information that I received from the membership questionnaires and updating the site within the next few weeks.

I will be contacting all of the local avian veterinarians, bird stores, and bird service consultants in order to obtain biographies of the avian veterinarians, details on the services and products offered by the local bird stores and web sites, and details on services provided by local consultants. I want to be able to

include all of the ones in our area so if one is not listed that you know of, please let me know so that I can include it.

My current plan is to get all of the information together, have it reviewed for errors, and then publish a booklet in May or June to be given out to all members.

On the Lookout for Articles

The newsletter needs stories in upcoming issues on a variety of topics. John Davey has been wonderful for providing articles but please don't feel intimidated about submitting one yourself. You can write the entire article yourself, provide a draft for editing, or give a phone interview that I will then write up. You can submit an article on any bird related topic but the following topics are some that I am especially interested in featuring.

- Disabled parrots
- Bird sanctuaries
- Funny things that your bird does
- How your pet bird relates to the other pets in your house (dogs, cats) – maybe an amusing story
- Embarrassing things that your bird does or says

NCBC 2002 Membership Cards Distributed in the February Newsletter

For the first time the NCBC is distributing membership cards effective for the 2002 calendar year. These membership cards include the membership year, the member's name and membership ID number. For family memberships, each member listed on the membership form is given a card. I have attached the membership cards in each paid members copy of this month's newsletter on the bottom of page 7.

CLUB INFORMATION

President

Tammy Ellison 301-946-3511
 elton.tammy@verizon.net

Vice President

Tom Marshall 703-777-3252

Treasurer

Wayne Porter 703-751-5717

Secretary

Carol Rees 301-277-9846
 carol.rees@usa.com

Audit Committee Chair

OPEN

Hospitality Committee Chair

Elizabeth Moore 703-751-5717

Library Committee Chair

Silvia Tennison 301-474-1883

Newsletter Committee Chair

Carol Rees 301-277-9846
 carol.rees@usa.com

Publicity Committee Chair

OPEN

Ways & Means Committee Chair

OPEN

AFA Delegates

Tom Marshall 703-777-3252

NCBC is affiliated with the American Federation of Aviculture, Bird Clubs of Virginia, and Bird Clubs of America. NCBC is dedicated to education and aviculture with respect to all types of birds.

Annual **DUES** are payable on January 1 of each year: Individual - \$20; Family - \$25. After June, dues are one-half the above amount. Make checks payable to NCBC and send to: National Capital Bird Club, 4615 Harvard Road, College Park, MD 20740.

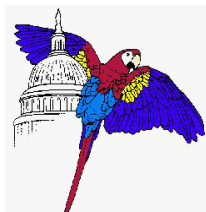
Club **MEETINGS** are normally held the first Sunday of each month at 3:30p.m. at the McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA; (703) 356-0551.

DIRECTIONS TO MEETINGS:

From Capital Beltway (I-495): Exit onto Rt. 123 EAST (toward McLean). Follow Rt. 123/Dolly Madison through watching for small blue sign that says "police substation." Turn left onto Lewinsville Road. Take immediate right on to Balls Hill Rd.

BIRDS are normally welcome at meetings; however, NCBC assumes no responsibility for their safety or welfare.

REFRESHMENTS: Please bring a snack to share at the meetings whenever you can. It doesn't need to be fancy or handmade, store-bought is fine.



DONATE USED MAGAZINES:

Please donate your old magazines to the Club Librarian when you are finished with them.

NCBC Advertising Policies

Advertisements appearing in *The Capital Flyer* are not endorsed by NCBC unless stated otherwise. NCBC assumes no responsibility for advertiser's claims or the quality of their product or service. NCBC reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it considers inappropriate. Advertisements must be prepaid.

NCBC Editorial Policies

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<u>Ad Type</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Line Ad	Free	15¢/word - \$ 3 min.
Bus. Card	\$3	\$ 5
¼ page	\$5	\$10
½ page	\$8	\$15

**Your new membership card
 is stapled here for paid members.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 6-10

The Gabriel Foundation Symposium 2002

U.S. Grant Hotel at Horton Plaza

San Diego, CA (877) 923-1009

<http://www.thegabrielfoundation.org/education1.html>

March 23-24, 2002

Bird Clubs of Virginia 18th Annual Convention

Renaissance Hotel & Waterfront Conference Ctr.

Portsmouth, VA (757) 420-3354

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Address Correction Requested

