

# THE CAPITAL FLYER

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
National Capital Bird Club  
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<http://www.ncbc-dc.org>

May 2002

## “May’s Cockatoo Roundtable”

This month instead of a general speaker there will be a roundtable on cockatoos. If you own a cockatoo you are welcome to participate. Roundtable participants will relate about their particular cockatoo and its species and answer general questions that meeting attendees have on the breed. If you are

interested in possibly owning a cockatoo, then this is a great opportunity to get some firsthand information from actual cockatoo owners on the bird’s personality, talking ability, personal habits, traits, and what they can expect if a Cockatoo takes up residence with them.

## “The Magnificent Cockatoo” by Carol Rees

Known for being cuddly, affectionate, and good talkers, Cockatoos are one of the most recognized species of the parrot family and highly desired as pets. A triton cockatoo was a costar of the TV series Barretta, which helped publicize this parrot. They are also one of the most discarded pet bird species that require

### *Below Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo*



adoption into another home. These highly intelligent birds are long lived (approximately 75 years), require a great deal of attention from their owners, and have loud vocalizations (they scream). They are also known to have featherpicking problems.

Originating in Australia, the breeds available for the pet trade in the U.S. include the Moluccan, Umbrella, Sulphur Crested, Citron-Crested, Galah, Goffin’s, and Bare Eyed. All cockatoos

### *Below Moluccan Cockatoo*



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## FUTURE MEETINGS

- May 5
- June 2
- July 14 \*
- August 4
- September 8 \*
- October 6
- November 10 \*
- December 8 \*\*, \*\*

\* Note date change  
\*\* Different Location

## “Giardia... Recognize the Problem, Part 2” By Debbie Arbogast

Last month I introduced a series of articles on Giardia that I will be writing for the newsletter, beginning with some of the birds that brought to our attention the necessity of running a mail-in Giardia clinic. Due to the number of birds that we found were going untested and/or inadequately tested, we started the clinic to give bird owners a way to test their birds.

The first bird that inspired us was Amadan, whose story was published last month. His very young death could possibly have been prevented by a simple Giardia test.

Other birds that encouraged us to run the clinic were my first birds, two cockatiels named Rosco and Clyde. When I bought them I took them to an avian vet for a checkup, and tests were run, but no test for Giardia. Since I didn't even know it existed, I didn't ask for the test to be run. A couple years went by and then Rosco began acting as if he had fleas. He would look at his legs and watch as if something was crawling up and down his legs, and then bite his legs quickly, similar to the action dogs make

when they have fleas. I took him to a second avian vet, who looked at him and said he was fine. (Of course, Rosco didn't do the “flea biting” action in front of the vet!) I waited a couple weeks and took him to a third (my current) vet, who, after hearing about Rosco, suspected Giardia. Both birds were tested (even though Clyde showed no symptoms), both tested positive, and both were treated successfully with Flagyl (metronidazole). Within one day Rosco quit his “flea biting” action. The period of time that Rosco was uncomfortable could have been prevented by running a Giardia test as part of his routine checkup.

Another bird that inspired us was an African Grey a friend of mine adopted because it was feather-picking. The previous owners thought it was picking because they had just adopted a child. They had taken the bird to an avian vet, whose bill ran over \$800 but included no test for Giardia. The vet determined the bird's problem to be behavioral. So my friend adopted him. She had him tested for Giardia. Two different tests

were used, one came up negative, the other positive. The fecal trichrome (the method we use at the Birdsafe Giardia Mail-In Clinic) showed the positive result, and the bird was treated and found relief from his picking.

We have found that not only is testing necessary, but the method of testing is important. From the work we have done, we have learned that one of the best ways of detecting Giardia is the fecal trichrome test, to collect three days' worth of samples, collecting the sample from the morning “big one” since it has a higher chance of containing the parasite than other daytime poops would, and collecting the sample within seconds of the bird pooping, because the parasite begins to disintegrate after the bird poops, making it that much harder to detect Giardia. As we say at Birdsafe.com, “Get it when it's hot, not when it's not!” Using this method of testing, many birds around the country are being diagnosed and treated, many of who had been misdiagnosed previously.

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### Assisting Birdsafe.com

How can you help us in our efforts? Currently Birdsafe.com, Inc. is an organization dedicated to spreading the safety and health message for companion birds. We have recently started our store to raise funds to help us in this effort. With enough funds we hope to start or sponsor a sanctuary for the Mid-Atlantic region of the country. Any purchases made at our store will help that dream.

You can help us by getting the word out. The more visitors we have to our site, the more knowledge we spread, the more birds we help. So spread the word, have all your bird-loving friends stop by and take a look and check back regularly.

You can also help us with content. Let us know through emails and surveys what you want to see and read about. We are adding new sections and information as we have time. So let us know!

Joe Arbogast  
Executive Director, birdsafe.com

**Be sure to check out their website at <http://www.birdsafe.com>**

## “The Magnificent Cockatoo continued” By Carol Rees

have a crest on their head that they can lift at will. They also have a heavy dander, which is a consideration if there will be persons with allergies living in the same household as the bird. Males typically are less aggressive than females.

The Moluccan Cockatoo at 20 inches is one of the largest in this family. It is white with salmon-pink color in the undersides of its crest and flight feathers. It is highly intelligent and a wonderful talker.

At 16 inches, the Umbrella Cockatoo, is all white. They are

considered moderate talkers.

Sulphur Crested Cockatoos are comprised of the greater sulphur-crested at 19 inches, the triton, the Eleonora at 12 to 14 inches, and the lesser sulphur-crested at 9 inches. All of these are white with yellow on the underparts of some of its feathers.

The Citron-crested is only 13 inches and makes a wonderful pet. It is mainly white with orange on the underside of its crest.

One of the smallest Cockatoos at 12 inches, the Goffin's is readily available

in aviculture. It is pure white and an active bird.

At approximately 14 inches long, the pink Galah Cockatoo, also known as the rose-breasted, is incredibly stunning. It is an average talker and is the most plentiful cockatoo in the wild. In its native Australia, it is considered a pest by farmers, who are allowed to kill many of them in order to protect their crops. The best talker of the Cockatoos is the Bare-Eyed Cockatoo. At 15 inches they are all white and have a small pouch beneath their eye.

### Cockatoo Web Site Links

Avian Web Cockatoo Information	<a href="http://www.avianweb.com/cockatooinfo.htm">http://www.avianweb.com/cockatooinfo.htm</a>
Cockatoo Heaven at Birds N Ways	<a href="http://www.birdsnways.com/cockatoo/">http://www.birdsnways.com/cockatoo/</a>
World Kids Network	<a href="http://worldkids.net/critters/birds/cockatoo.htm">http://worldkids.net/critters/birds/cockatoo.htm</a>
Phillipine Cockatoo Conservation Program	<a href="http://www.philwildlife.com">http://www.philwildlife.com</a>
The Cockatoo Gallery	<a href="http://members.iinet.net.au/~mahony/">http://members.iinet.net.au/~mahony/</a>
Cockatoo Index of Species	<a href="http://www.tasweb.com.au/bapa/s-cock.htm">http://www.tasweb.com.au/bapa/s-cock.htm</a>
Palm Cockatoo SSP Husbandry Manual	<a href="http://www.funnyfarmexotics.com/PALM/patoc.htm">http://www.funnyfarmexotics.com/PALM/patoc.htm</a>
Cockatoo Email Group	<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cockatoos/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cockatoos/</a>
Cockatoo Email Group	<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/COCKATOO-LIST/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/COCKATOO-LIST/</a>
Cockatoo Email Group	<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Cockatoo/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Cockatoo/</a>
Cockatoo Email Group	<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Cockatoo-L-II/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Cockatoo-L-II/</a>
Clicker Trained Cockatoo	<a href="http://www.geocities.com/umbrella2.geo/">http://www.geocities.com/umbrella2.geo/</a>
Cockatoos.org	<a href="http://www.cockatoos.org">http://www.cockatoos.org</a>
Everything You Never Wanted to Know About Cockatoos	<a href="http://www.mytoos.com">http://www.mytoos.com</a>

## Bird Adoption (Birds That Need Homes)

Kimberly Manthay has the following birds available for adoption. If you are interested, please call her at (703) 578-3219.

- 1 2 year old orange-wing Amazon with a Cockatoo sized cage
- 1 8 year old female Triton Cockatoo
- 1 young cockatiel though to be male with a cage
- 1 2 year old female quacker parakeet -- very plucked with no cage
- 4 parakeets
- 1 female lovebird -- healthy but needs to be with a male
- 1 splay-legged female lovebird -- not tamed, cannot handle a cage mate, with cage

# “Companion Bird Magazines” By Carol Rees

Subscribing to a companion bird magazine gives the bird owner detailed information about companion birds and is a great resource for information not only on bird species, but bird products, and behavior issues. Sample copies of the various magazines included in this article will be available at the next bird meeting for attendees to look through.

## Commerical Publications

### **Bird Talk**

This is probably the best known companion bird magazine on the market today with the largest number of subscribers. Issues are approximately 100 pages in length with extensive color photos, including a centerfold of a companion bird. Geared mainly to parrots, it does include information and articles on other companion birds such as canaries, finches, Toucans, etc.) The color photos are spectacular and each issue features a bird species to focus on. Additional articles typically include information on nutrition, health issues, cages, toys, behavior, bird products, and others. It includes a calendar of upcoming conventions and events, such as Bird Marts. It has extensive advertisements for bird products and bird breeders.

Published: Monthly  
 Subscription Cost: \$13.99/yr to subscribe currently online, \$27.97 subscription card from magazine  
 Retail Cost: \$3.99  
<http://www.birdtalk.com>

### **Birds USA**

A yearly publication that gives a brief description of almost all companion birds along with spectacular color

photos. Great for giving the reader a comparison of the different companion birds available as pets along with their appropriateness for the beginning or experienced bird owner.

Published: Yearly  
 Retail Pet Stores for less than \$10

### **Companion Parrot Quarterly (Formerly The Pet Bird Report)**

Touted as the thinking person's bird magazine, CPQ has extensive in-depth articles on behavior issues along with other bird related articles. Edited by Sally Blanchard, a renowned companion bird behaviorist, its focus is mainly on bird behavior issues but it includes lots of articles on other companion bird areas of interest. Only the front cover is in color so if you are looking for great color pictures, then this magazine isn't for you. It has extensive advertisements of bird products.

Published: Quarterly (February, May, August, November)  
 Subscription Cost: 6 issues by 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mail – \$35, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Mail – \$25  
<http://www.companionparrot.com>

### **Original Flying Machine**

A relatively new publication, this magazine donates 10% of its profits to worthy avian causes. Since I have not seen an actual issue of this magazine, I am just going by what I found on its web page.

Published: Bimonthly  
 Subscription Cost: \$24 (6 issues)  
[www.originalflyingmachine.com](http://www.originalflyingmachine.com)

### **Bird Times**

Similar to Bird Talk but not as many pages or as widely available. It does contain great color photos but the issues are much slimmer than Bird Talk.

Published: Bimonthly  
 Subscription Cost: \$14.97 (6 issues)  
<http://www.birdtimes.com>

## Organization Publications

### **Psittascene (World Parrot Trust)**

This quarterly publication put out by the World Parrot Trust is available to members as part of their membership. Full color publication containing approximately 20 pages that focuses on endangered parrots and conservation efforts worldwide. It also may contain articles on parrot behavior issues and parrot rescue. It is currently a main source of information on worldwide parrot conservation efforts, many of which are sponsored by the WPT.

Published: Quarterly (February, May, August, November)  
 Membership Cost: Student \$15, Single \$35, Joint \$40  
<http://www.worldparrottrust.org>

### **Watchbird (AFA)**

Although geared mainly to bird breeders, this publication has articles of general interest along with a limited number of color photos. A valuable resource even for the non-breeder, each issue is approximately 80 pages and contains a limited number of advertisements.

*continued on page 5...*

## You Never Know - You Know? By John Davey

Well, we all had a near catastrophe over the past few days. Someone in our house (names are withheld to protect the guilty) got up in the middle of the night (guilty conscience, I guess) and wandered around, half asleep. For some reason, still not clear to me, they went down into the basement to get something. Still half-asleep and naturally clumsy, they reached for something on a shelf and knocked over a pint bottle of liquid insect killer. Said glass bottle fell to the cement floor of the basement and broke into a zillion pieces. The perpetrator - still half asleep - dropped a rag on the spill to sop up the liquid and went back to bed.

I woke up sometime about 4:00 in the morning to some noxious odor. We had the house windows open to enjoy the spring air, so I thought that I was smelling some sort of chemical treatment that one of the neighbors had put on their lawn. I drifted off to sleep again, but when I woke up with the alarm clock and wandered out into the hallway, and I could tell that we had some sort of a big problem in our house.

It was easy enough tracking down the problem - just follow your nose - and it was easy enough finding the guilty party, but none of that helped solve the problem. We have a totally below-ground basement (Didn't know those still existed - did you?) that was filled with a poisonous atmosphere, and that stuff was wending its way up the stairwells and up through the air ducts. I was gasping and choking as I opened the three basement windows (in window wells) and ran up to the garage. We had some of that oil spill absorber stuff - a mix of vermiculite and kitty litter - for cleaning up oil spills in the garage. I grabbed the bag of that stuff and went back to the basement and covered the whole area of the spill with a deep layer of the spill absorber. It took a while, but the absorber stuff began to work.

With the three basement windows open, I went back upstairs and closed the basement door and shoved a towel under the door. The stuff was still wafting its way up through the air ducts, so I went around the house and closed all of the ducts. There was still the main intake duct that runs up the three levels of the house, and there was really nothing I could do about closing that off.

Younger Son, now an adult whose bedroom was closest to the main duct, woke up terribly nauseous. Fortunately, the birds were in a bedroom dormer window, about as far from the stairs and the ductwork as physically possible. I made sure that the windows were open, the air ducts feeding into the bedroom were closed, and I closed the bedroom door, sealing that room off from the rest of the house - as much as possible. (Actually, we did that for each of the bedrooms.)

There wasn't much else we could do - except worry and let time and nature take their course. When we all got home from work that evening, I could hear the "Welcome Home" chirp from the birds upstairs, so I knew they were OK. There was still a noxious smell in the house, but it did seem better - less caustic - than it had in the morning. I took the big industrial shop vacuum and pulled up all of the absorber stuff. That seemed to help, too. I took the rag and the broken bottle and the vacuum out into the garage - on the far wall, just to get as much of the noxious stuff out of the house as possible. I then sprayed the basement and the downstairs with Febreze odor absorber. The Febreze sorta masked the odor, but it obviously isn't made for what I consider an industrial spill.

We finally decided to go out and buy some of the odor absorbers - the bags of what looks to be vermiculite and crystals. We also laid sections of wet newspaper on the affected part of the concrete floor of the basement - hoping

that more of the chemical would leach up into the wet paper. It is taking a while, but slowly and surely, the odor is dissipating.

I guess that the lessons to be learned from our misadventure are that you never know what sort of nasty stuff is lurking around your home. I like to think of myself as a reasonably careful, safety-conscious sorta guy. But as the late, great, Alan Funt used to say, "Somewhere ... When you least expect it ...!" For the birds - I think it was a matter of luck for us. The birds sleep in a dormer window in an upstairs bedroom. It was fortunate that the bedroom windows were open and that the bedroom was so far away from the spill. Actually, it was fortunate for all of us that all of our bedroom windows were open and that we all survived this near catastrophe. Ya never know ... You know?

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### Companion Bird Magazines continued...

Published: Quarterly (February, May, August, November)  
 Membership Cost: Single \$40, Family \$45  
<http://www.afa.birds.org>

### On-line Ezines

#### **Winged Wisdom (Birds N Ways)**

This online companion bird magazine is put out by Birds N Ways. It contains four to six articles and is posted monthly. Most articles deal with avian health issues or diseases, nutrition, and behavior issues.

Published: Monthly  
 Cost: Free online  
<http://www.birdsnways.com/wisdom/>

# CLUB NEWS

## Treasurer's Report March/April 2002

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$3475.81</b>
Income	
Dues	115.00
Magazine Sales	9.00
Raffles	118.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$242.00</b>
Expenses	
WPT Membership	150.00
Printing Newsletter	88.20
Membership Cards	13.94
Postage	50.66
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$302.80</b>
Adjustment for Uncashed check	25.00
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$3440.01</b>

## Membership Report April 2002

Exchange Memberships	17
Single Memberships	39
Family Memberships	20
<b>Total Memberships</b>	<b>76</b>

## National Capital Bird Club Meeting Minutes 4/7/02

A last minute announcement that Liz Wilson will hold a seminar starting at 8:30 am on April 14th in conjunction with the D&J Bird Mart on April 14th.

An ad hoc committee was created with Elton Ellison to come up with nominations of avian charities that club members will later vote on to make donations using the club budget surplus.

Andy Andresen, a club member, donated the raffle proceeds from the NOVA Exotic & Pet Bird Fair.

## Recipees from Laurel Rosinger

### Tapenade recipe

#### Ingredients:

1 cup pitted black olives  
3 cloves garlic  
2 Tb. lemon juice  
2 Tb. fresh parsley, chopped  
2 tsp. capers  
½ tsp. dijon mustard  
½ tsp. thyme  
1/3-cup extra virgin olive oil

#### Preparation:

In food processor with chopping blade, process olives, garlic, lemon juice, parsley, capers, mustard and thyme until finely chopped. Spoon olive mixture into serving bowl and stir in olive oil until well combined. Serve or cover and refrigerate.

**Note:** Tapenade is best served with slices of French bread or cocktail rye bread.

### Chocolate Éclair Cake

#### Ingredients:

2 boxes instant French vanilla pudding  
3 cups milk  
1-16 oz. container of Cool Whip  
1 box of graham crackers

#### Frosting:

1-cup sugar  
1/3-cup cocoa  
½ tsp. salt  
1 tsp. vanilla  
¼ cup milk  
¼ cup margarine

#### Preparation:

Prepare pudding using 3 cups of milk. When thickened, fold in Cool Whip. Using a 9" x 13" glass baking pan, line the bottom with whole graham crackers. Divide the pudding in half. Spread one half of the pudding over the graham crackers. Put another layer of graham crackers over the pudding and another layer of pudding on top of the crackers. Carefully ice the top layer of graham crackers with the frosting.

To prepare frosting – combine 1-cup sugar, 1/3-cup cocoa, ½ tsp. salt, and ¼ cup milk. Bring to a boil and boil for one minute. Remove from heat and add ¼ cup margarine and 1 tsp. vanilla.

# 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.

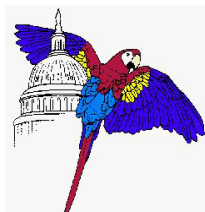
Club **MEETINGS** are normally held the first Sunday of each month at 3:30p.m. at the McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA; (703) 356-0551.

**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**

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Club or its members. Unless otherwise stated, articles appearing in *The Capital Flyer* may be reprinted provided that credit is given to the author and *The Capital Flyer*. To protect other authors, permission must be obtained from the original source. Send articles or newsletter submissions to: Carol Rees, NCBC Editor, 4615 Harvard Road, College Park, MD 20740-3752 or carol.rees@usa.com.

**CLASSIFIED AD RATES:**

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

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 11, 2002**

**Peninsula Caged Bird Society Spring Bird Mart**

Columbian Center  
12742 Nettles Drive  
Newport News, VA (757) 874-4651

**May 18, 2002**

**Baltimore Bird Fanciers Bird Mart**

Tall Cedars Hall  
Parkville, VA (410) 628-2051

**June 2, 2002**

**Bird Mart**

Tysons Westpark Best Western  
McLean, VA (703) 771-9678

**August 8-11, 2002**

AFA Convention 2002  
Hyatt Regency Hotel - Tampa City Center  
Tampa, FA (816) 421-BIRD

<http://www.afa.birds.org/convention/index.html>

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