



THE CAPITAL FLYER

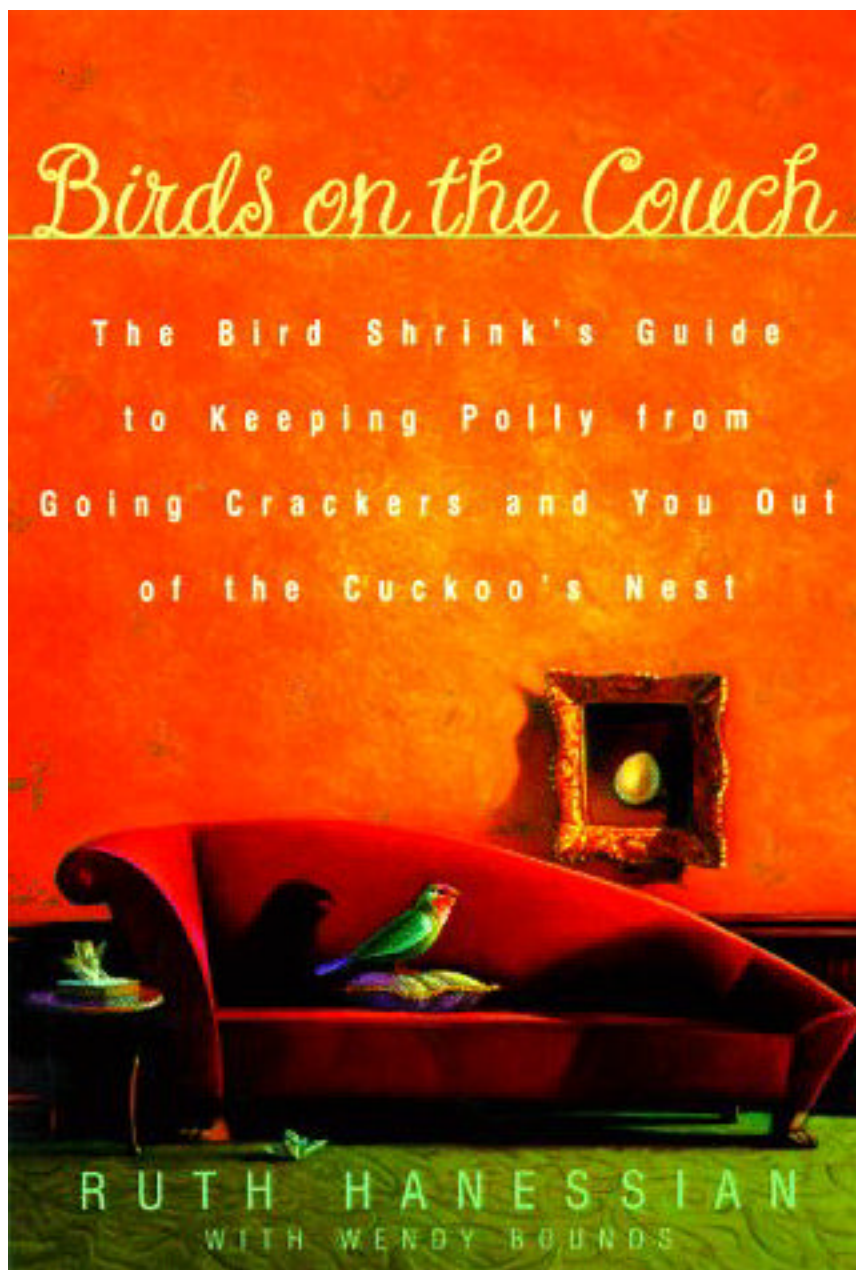
The Monthly Newsletter of the
National Capital Bird Club
4615 Harvard Road
College Park, MD 20740-3752
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<http://www.ncbc-dc.org>

November 2002

Ruth Hanessian to Speak at November's Meeting

Ruth Hanessian of the Animal Exchange in Rockville, MD will be speaking at November's meeting. She is the author of a book, "Birds on the Couch: The Bird Shrink's Guide to Keeping Polly from Going Crackers and You Out of the Cuckoo's Nest". Hope to see you there.



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FUTURE MEETINGS

November 10 *
December 8 **, **

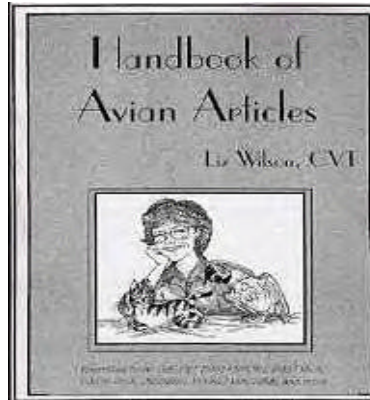
* Note date change
** Different Location

Holiday Party Reminder

December's meeting is the Holiday Party, which will be held this year at Bozena's Pait's. Directions and a map will be in December's newsletter.

A DAY WITH LIZ WILSON

November 24 10:00 AM - 4:00



Registration starts at 9:00

**Parrot Behavior Management * Behavior Problems & Causes * A Slide Presentation *
What To Do About Biting And Screaming * Open Discussion, With A Question & Answer
Session.**

🤗 **Liz will be bringing copies of her new book to sell** 🤗

A full lunch buffet is included.

\$90.00 before October 24, 2002, \$100.00 after and at the door.

Tax deductible proceeds will go to the Grey Poop On Challenge & Brandson Ritchie.

Together We Will Try & Stop PDD!!

McLean Government Center/Police Substation

1437 Balls Hills Road 703-556-7750

This is where the National Capitol Bird Club meets each month

From Rockville (9 Miles)

From Maryland: Take I-270 S. Take I-270 SPUR S towards I-495 S/NORTHERN VIRGINIA. Take CAPITAL BELTWAY into Virginia take Route 123 N McLean (look for blue sign that says Police Substation) Make a left at the traffic light onto Lewinsville Road make your next left onto Balls Hill Road. Government Center on your right as soon as you turn onto Balls Hill

From Virginia

Take I-495 N take Route 123 N McLean (look for blue sign that says Police Substation) Make a left at the traffic light onto Lewinsville Road make your next left onto Balls Hill Road. Government Center on your right as soon as you turn onto Balls Hill

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____

Please mail nonrefundable payment to Beaks & Tails 13120 Cool Brook La, Clarksburg, MD 20871.

Contact: Kelsie Holtje 301-428-0562 or IOWEHP@AOL.COM

Time Passages by John Davey

Well, it's that funny time of the year again. (Funny – Peculiar – Not Funny – Ha Ha!) It's the time of the year when the outdoor temperatures can register a high of 85 degrees on one weekend and then register a high of 45 degrees – just three weeks later. Folks never know what to wear; you are always either too hot or too cold; and it's time for the cold and flu season to begin. We just turned our clocks backwards to Standard Time, and although I enjoyed that extra hour of sleep, everything just seems so much darker.

It's also time for the Great Migration. Now, I know. I know. I've seen the "V's" high up in the sky – as the great flights of waterfowl head south for the cold months. No – the particular migration I'm referring to may not be as long or as dramatic as the feathered travelers passing over our heads along the Eastern Flyway, but it's just as important and just as traumatic for our own avian participants. I'm actually referring to a different, smaller migration – as the Davey parrots head inside – off the screened-in back porch and back to the upstairs bedroom dormer widow. Time to go inside for the winter.

During the warmer months we keep our birds in a large, now subdivided, cage on the screened-in back porch. It's a nice place, with lots of fresh air, sunshine, shade, and all sorts of wild birds calling and flora and fauna "happening." Every morning, I take the two birds out of their smaller indoor sleeping cages and wander downstairs and out onto the back porch. We make the reverse trip back upstairs each night as darkness falls. However, during the colder months, the large cage is moved upstairs, and the birds take up semi-permanent winter residence in the dormer window.

It seems that the timing of the switch to and from Daylight Savings Time and

Standard Time seem to neatly dovetail (I am writing about birds.) with the temperature-driven need to change daytime locations for the birds. Over the past week or so, before the move, I could sense the consternation and confusion as I took the birds out of their pleasantly comfortable sleeping cages and carried them downstairs and out onto a cold, dark porch. It must have been especially chilling on poor Old Teddy Bird, our female Quaker, who

has plucked off all of her contour and down feathers. I've tried to explain to her that if she let her feathers grow back in – she would feel a lot warmer. But Quakers are hearty birds, and Teddy chooses not to listen to me.

The Great Migration – moving cages and birds – is a larger job than a non-bird-owner might imagine. The two smaller cages and their stand must be carried downstairs and cleaned and stored away. The large cage must also be cleaned and then carried upstairs and put into its winter location. This procedure involves some cage disassembly and considerable huffing and puffing. I usually coerce Younger Son into that duty. Older Son has finally figured out approximately when the Great Migration takes place, and makes himself scarce at that time.

I always take the birds out of their cage when we make the move. Only

once have we tried to move the large cage with the birds still in it. Only once. Our birds don't seem to like being transported like an Indian Raja through the corridors of our home. They instinctively seem to go for fingers wrapped around cage bars, and the recipient of their attention is faced with an immediate choice between a knucklectomy and the unpleasant results of a heavy cage and birds bounding down a flight of stairs. Neither choice is especially attractive.

When the move is completed and the large cage is finally set up in the bedroom dormer window, the birds once again seem to quickly settle in to their Winter Home. The window faces West, and it gets as much sunlight as is possible during the Washington, DC winter. There's light, but there's also shade. There's lots going on outside, and lots to watch and scold – if you are a parrot. There's almost always a cat or a squirrel trespassing on the birds' front lawn. The neighborhood children are great entertainment, and the birds seem to get especially excited when we do get a snowstorm.

And so the cycle of the Seasons goes on – perhaps not as sweeping or as dramatic as Nature in all of her splendor – but planned, and comfortable, and nice. Still in all, I wish it were springtime.

African Grey Timneh breeding pair (6 chicks so far) seek rescue from teenage drummer & home remodeling. Will bring cage (5'x5'x3') & breeding box for ransom of \$1000. Call Jan Clark (after 7pm) at 703-866-3944.

Come to the December 8 meeting and give \$1,000 to a worthy cause. One of the things our Club does is support organizations that protect and promote avian interests. In the past we have supported a number of conservation and research groups. It's time to make another donation and what better way to celebrate the holiday season than to help our feathered companions and their kin. We attempted to come up with a recommendation for the Club. Although it was gratifying to research these organizations, the number of deserving entities was overwhelming. Even after limiting our review to only those groups with proven track records for accomplishing conservation or research goals, it proved too difficult to narrow our decision to only one or two. So here are the finalists and you will get to decide at the December 8 meeting. The rules will be simple. Each member will vote by allocating \$1,000 between any number of the organizations (1\$ = 1 vote). We will total all of the votes and divide the Club's \$1,000 donation proportionally between the organizations based upon the votes they received. Any entity that receives less than a 10% of the total votes will be eliminated and those funds will be allocated between the other organizations. Here are the nominees. Most of them are already well known to most of you but some brief comments are provided. Please do your own research (or check with other members) and come ready to vote on December 8. Absentee ballots can be mailed to Elton Ellison 4103 Fogel Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20906 but all votes must be received at or before the December 8 meeting.

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
World Parrot Trust 12 Funds (www.worldparrottrust.org) The WPT is one of the leading organizations on parrot conservation Issue.	
Lear's Macaw (1)	(1)_____
Echo Parakeet (2)	(2)_____
Golden Conure (3)	(3)_____
African Grey (4)	(4)_____
Great Green Macaw (5)	(5)_____
Palm Cockatoo (6)	(6)_____
St. Vincent Amazon (7)	(7)_____
Kakapo (8)	(8)_____
Imperial Amazon (9)	(9)_____
Red Throated Lori (10)	(10)_____
Hyacinth Macaw (11)	(11)_____
Mollucan Cockatoo (12)	(12)_____
American Bird Conservancy (www.abcbirds.org) Although not limited to parrots, they have done some great projects with parrot conservation. (13)	(13)_____
Nature Conservancy – Latin American/Caribbean (www.nature.org) This organization sets the standard for habitat preservation. (14)	(14)_____
Bob Dahlhausen DVM, MS - Research Associates Laboratory, Inc., Milford, Ohio 45150 - "Avian Research Fund" - Conducting research into the cause and nature of Proventricular Dilatation Disease (Myenteric Ganglioneuritis, or Macaw Wasting Disease) in pet birds. (15) (www.blackstone-aviaries.com/pdd.html)(15)	(15)_____

TOTAL =

\$1,000

Branson Ritchie's Email Response to Dick Ivy

Our group has always been complimented on providing the avicultural and veterinary communities with problem resolving research results in a timely fashion. In fact, I remember that you once introduced me to speak using similar language. To date we have defined that PDD is associated with a transmissible agent, we have confirmed pathologic methods necessary to confirm the disease, we have documented 5 viruses (several that have not been previously defined in psittacine birds) that can be recovered from birds with clinical signs similar to those associated with PDD (these are viruses that do not cause PDD but rather cause proventricular dilatation syndrome), we have confirmed that many birds with suspected PDD have bacterial, fungal, or parasitic diseases, and we have documented the widely varied clinical presentations of PDD in both clinical and research settings. This latter finding is particularly important in understanding the role that clinically stable, but chronically affected birds probably play in transmission of the causative organism. All of this work has been reported and has helped the avicultural and veterinary communities

better understand this disease. As we identified viruses and other infectious agents in patients with suspect PDD, we had to methodically rule each of them out as the cause of PDD resulting in a long list of pathogens that can cause proventricular dilatation syndrome rather than proventricular dilatation disease. It is this tome of work that has been most beneficial to companion birds. I do not want to think about the number of birds that have been euthanized during the last 25 years because they were passing undigested food, regurgitating, loosing weight and had a dilated proventriculus on radiographs. Many of these birds had PDS and not PDD and likely could have recovered with appropriate therapy. Through widespread dissemination of our work, the avicultural and veterinary communities are now increasingly aware of PDD, PDD "look alikes", confirmatory diagnostic methods and disease control issues.

We were disappointed several years ago when we ran out of funding to continue our PDD work at our desired pace. Through the support of groups like BVC, we have now been back on our PDD hunt for more than a year and are

quite pleased with our progress. With the foundation of work that we have already completed and reported, the next publishable data that we will disseminate will be a method to screen for infected birds that are not showing clinical signs. When available, this test should provide the avicultural and veterinary communities with a preliminary method to reduce the spread of the PDD agent just as we have accomplish for PBFD virus, avian polyomavirus and Chlamydothila spp. Whether or not we can move forward with developing some type of vaccine in a timely fashion will depend on how much funding we have for continued studies of the causative agent and for vaccine development and testing. I assure you that we will be asking you to help as disseminate data on how to test for persistently affected birds as soon as we are confident that the data is ready for release. Each in every member of our group is sick and tired of this disease and the damage it is causing to our feathered friends.

Good luck with your upcoming conference.

**For sale - 7 y/o female greenwing macaw.
She is tame & enjoys being handled.**

**\$1500 for bird & California cage.
Call Susan Salvato at 301-855-4851.**

CLUB NEWS

Treasurer's Report October 2002

Beginning Balance: **\$3418.59**
 Total Income: **\$0.00**
 Total Expenses: **\$25.00**
 Speaker Expense **\$25.00**
 Ending Balance: **\$3393.59**

Membership Report October 2002

Exchange Memberships 18
 Single Memberships 43
 Family Memberships 20
 Total Memberships **81**

National Capital Bird Club Meeting Minutes 10/6/02

Dick Ivy, of the Bird Clubs of Virginia (BCV) spoke at October's meeting on the breeding of the amazon parrot. He has a large number of parrots that he breeds including many amazons. He went over the behavior characteristics of the various amazon breeds such as screaming, biting, gender, speaking ability, singing ability, etc, which was very useful for selecting an amazon breed that would match your requirements.

Some of the amazon breeds are now somewhat scarce and are not being bred much anymore. Two amazons were at the meeting and provided great examples of this wonderful parrot.

National Capital Bird Club 2003 Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Would you like to be published in the roster? _____

Membership Type: Individual \$20.00 Family \$25.00

(If you are joining after June, your annual dues are one-half the above amounts for the year.)

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

If family membership, names of other family members: _____

Types of birds you own: _____

Are you a: Pet Owner Breeder Other _____

List any other societies, clubs, or bird magazines you subscribe to: _____

How did you hear about NCBC? _____

List the topics you would like to see covered by speakers or articles: _____

Would you consider volunteering on a committee for special projects or serving in a leadership position? Yes No

Would you be willing to serve as a guest speaker or do you know someone who would make an interesting guest speaker on pet bird-related topics? Yes No
 If so, who? _____

ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE ON JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR

Mail your check, made payable to NCBC:

4615 Harvard Road, College Park, MD 20740-3752

Meetings are normally held the first Sunday of the month

At the McLean Government Center, 14537 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, VA

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.

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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
1/4 page	\$5	\$10
1/2 page	\$8	\$15

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 24, 2002

Liz Wilson Seminar

McLean Government Center/Police Substation

1437 Balls Hills Road

McLean, VA (703) 556-7750

December 1, 2002

Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart

Tysons Westpark Best Western

McLean, VA (703) 771-9678

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

