



THE CAPITAL FLYER

The Monthly Newsletter of the
National Capital Bird Club
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carol.rees@usa.com

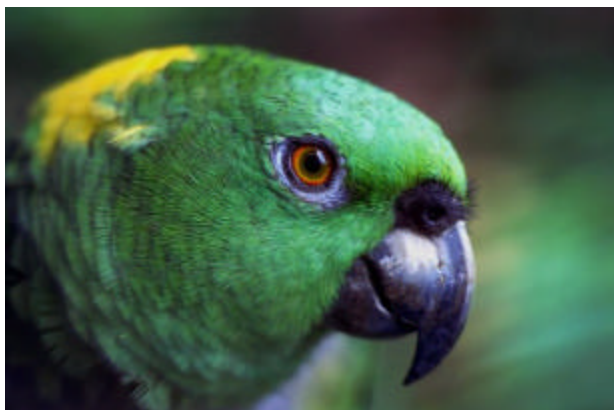
<http://www.ncbc-dc.org>

October 2002

Dick Ivy to Speak at the October Meeting

Dick Ivy, President of Bird Clubs of Virginia (BCV) will speak on Amazons at the October 6 NCBC meeting. I hope to see you there.

Amazons are highly prized for their talking ability and intelligence. Hopefully you will learn if an amazon is a good fit for you as a bird companion. I encourage all members who live with Amazons to bring them to this meeting so that we have a good representation of the many subspecies of this wonderful parrot.



Above Yellow-naped Amazon

November's Speaker

Ruth Knesian of the Animal Exchange will be the speaker for November.

Liz Wilson Consultations

Ruth Roe has informed me that since Liz Wilson is in town the weekend of November 24 for her seminar if you schedule a consultation with her on that weekend you will not be charged the normal travel fee from Philadelphia, PA since she will be in town. Consults run around \$155. To schedule one, contact Liz Wilson directly to set it up. Her email is lwilsoncvt@att.net If there are enough people that want a consult she will come down one day early.

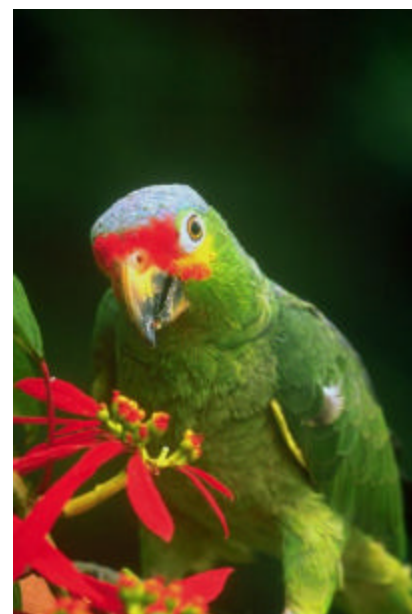
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FUTURE MEETINGS

October 6
November 10 *
December 8 *, **

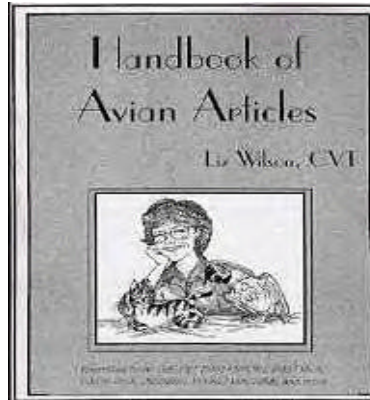
* Note date change
** Different Location



Above Red-lored Amazon

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

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

The Great Escape by John Davey

I have written a few articles about my experiences with keeping parrots. (Note that I used the words “keeping parrots” – I don’t believe that anyone ever “owns” a parrot. The reverse is probably more accurate.) Anyway ... after reading a couple of my articles, you might get the idea that I know something about keeping companion parrots. (That was certainly my intention for writing those articles. I would like people to think that I know something about keeping companion parrots.)

However ... my birds seem to go out of their way to prove to me that I know absolutely diddlysquat about keeping pet birds. The older I get, and the longer I keep parrots, the less I know.

My latest lesson in humility has come at the hands (feet?) (wings?) of Old Bilbo Bob Bird – our pet Meyers Parrot. Bilbo is a five year-old male who is sweet and pretty and shy and has a beak the size and sharpness of Jim Bowie’s famous knife.

Bilbo has two – actually three – loves in his life. The first love of his life – the one that I just remembered – is my wife. My wife is not a “Bird Person,” but that matters not at all to Bilbo Bob. He loves my wife – really, truly, deeply – and will do anything – ANYTHING! – to be with her. But, beside that great, unrequited love affair, Bilbo loves to chew, and he loves to untie knots.

Give Bilbo a stack of pine boards, hanging from a chain at the top of his cage, and Bilbo will blissfully spend hours reducing those blocks of wood to the finest sawdust available. Give Bilbo a set of leather laces, knotted into a series of double sheepshank cross-knit bow lines and he will spend hours blissfully untying those knots – turn by turn and knot by knot. Once he’s completely untied all the knots, he will leave the laces alone until I

re-tie them, and then it’s back to his

Houdini act again.

Here’s where the “great escape” part comes into this story: By now, it should be obvious to you (It actually should have been obvious to me!) that Bilbo loves to solve puzzles.

The other evening, just after sundown, I came out on the screened-in back porch to take both birds out of their large cage and carry them upstairs to their sleeping cages. It was dark. You know how dark it gets at this time of the year when the sun goes down. I walked out onto the porch and greeted the birds with the news that it was time to go to bed. I heard both birds chirp out a recognition greeting to me, but when I got up to the cage, it was very apparent that only Teddy Bird, my plucked nekkid Quaker parakeet, was in the cage. Bilbo was gone!

I froze. (One of the major causes of accidents with companion birds is them being accidentally stepped upon.) I looked again. The light was bad – maybe he was hiding by the feed bowl or down on the floor grate. No Bilbo. His side of the cage was empty. I freaked. Where was he? What had happened to him? I thought I had heard two welcoming chirps a moment before!

I looked in the gathering darkness and couldn’t see anything amiss with the cage. But then, after a second and third look, I noticed that the triangular weighted lock was off one of the feed dish doors on Bilbo’s side of the cage. The food dish door was closed – up against the side of the cage, but the lock was off. I must have missed locking one of the food doors when I changed the birds’ food that morning! I had been in and out of the front door of the cage during the day, but I had not checked the side door locks.

Still not moving, I looked around some more, and suddenly there were two orange-rimmed eyes looking back at me

– through the gloom – at my eye level. Bilbo was sitting on the top shelf of a wrought iron baker’s shelf that we have in the corner of the porch. He was sitting there, proudly, in the midst of three of my wife’s prize ornamental birdhouses.

Now, I know that Bilbo has been attracted to the birdhouses. They are pretty and ornate and – more importantly for Bilbo – all made of wood. Somehow, that little escape artist had pushed open the feed bowl door, crawled out of the cage, then CLOSED the door back up, then somehow – I still don’t know how – gotten over to the baker’s shelf unit and climbed up onto the top shelf! I don’t know if he had fluttered to the floor and scampered over to the shelf or if he had hopped on the porch screen and crawled across, or what he had done! All I know is that he did it!

He was sitting there – in the dark – obviously very pleased with himself. I had him step up and he gave me one of those “pleased parrot” quick ruffles of his tail feathers. I know that birds can’t smile, but you could almost see the big grin on his face as I asked how he had escaped, and how he had wound up exactly where he wanted to be. I don’t know how long he had been there – it might have been a few minutes or it might have been an hour or two.

I do know that I am now lots more careful about checking cage doors. This story had a happy ending, but we all know how escapes sometimes end in tragedy. I went inside and told my wife that she had once again missed out on being a rich widow, because my heart had truly stopped for a moment. Once again, the joys of keeping parrots!

CLUB NEWS

Treasurer's Report September 2002

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Balance: | \$3391.59 |
| Total Income: | |
| Dues | \$27.00 |
| Total Expenses: | \$0.00 |
| Ending Balance: | \$3418.59 |

Membership Report September 2002

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Exchange Memberships | 18 |
| Single Memberships | 43 |
| Family Memberships | 20 |
| Total Memberships | 81 |

National Capital Bird Club Meeting Minutes 9/8/02

The Carvers spoke and showed a video on their experience of being on an episode of Animal Planet with the pet psychic where they brought on their 25 year old Mollucan Cockatoo, Gulliver and asked about her featherpicking and self-mutilation problems. Susan Carver had the attendees practice communicating psychically with their birds.

They own a large number of Mollucan Cockatoos and other large parrots. They described their 10 year ordeal of dealing with one of their cockatoos, Gulliver (who turned out to be a female), for featherplucking and self-mutilation.

They are currently building an ideal bird room for their birds, which will include a misting system, tile floor and

drain, and separate air system due to Susan Carver's lung problem with birds.

PDD Research Money Needed for Dr. Bob Dahlhausen's Research

The BCV is trying to get all the clubs to donate to Dr. Bob Dahlhausen and his PDD research. He is going to be a speaker at the convention next year and it looks as though he is making some headway in his research. To date Dr. Ritchie is waiting for funds to build up before he undertakes his research again while Dr. Dahlhausen is moving head with his. He spoke at M.A.R.E this year and outlined a look at what he has found.

Each club will make their own donation and receive credit for it. This has not been the case for donations made to Dr. Ritchie. The University of Georgia receives part of all donations as administrative cost sent to Dr. Ritchie. Not to say that Dr. Ritchie's research is not important but, this is not something that you can put on the sidelines while you are waiting for money to build up. You can contact John Long if you have any questions or Dick Ivy.

Five MORE Things that a Parrot Owner Says Only Once.

By John Davey

1. She has lots of chew toys. She doesn't have the time or energy to chew furniture.
2. I've got him well trained. He "steps up" whenever I give the command.
3. It's instinct. Parrots know exactly what they can eat and what is bad for them.
4. If you have an intelligent, informed owner who mixes just the right amounts of love and discipline, you will have a happy, well-adjusted, well-behaved parrot.
5. "No, no! All parrots love me! It's a gift! Here – Step Up, Sweetie!"

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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| <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

October 19, 2002

Baltimore Bird Fanciers Bird Mart

Tall Cedars of Lebanon Hall
Putty Hill Avenue & Old Harford Road
(410) 239-1928 or (410) 628-2051

October 26, 2002

Pet Bird Assoc of VA Bird Mart

Khedive Temple, Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, VA (757) 420-3354

October 27, 2002

Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart

I-95 & Rt #3
Fredericksburg, VA (540) 786-8321

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*



Address Correction Requested

