



THE CAPITAL FLYER

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

January 2003

NCBC Generously Donates to Worthy Organizations

Thank you to all of the club members who participated in the selection for our donations. The results are listed below. The World Parrot Trust 12 Funds were the clear favorite and recipient of over half of the funds. A few members picked one or two species but the majority of votes included a number of the funds. Because of their common administration, we are asking the WPT to allocate the total amount as indicated even though some of the amounts are relatively small. The venerable Nature Conservancy received the next amount and we are going to direct the contribution for use for TNC activities in the country of Brazil. The other two contributions are going to be made as indicated. Thanks again to those who participated in the decision.

WPT Total	\$576.00
Lear's Macaw	\$11.92
Echo Parakeet	\$19.62
Golden Conure	\$23.46
African Grey	\$81.15
Great Green Macaw	\$19.62
Palm Cockatoo	\$103.46
St. Vincent Amazon	\$104.23
Kakapo	\$4.23
Imperial Amazon	\$19.62
Red Throated Lori	\$4.23
Hyacinth Macaw	\$142.69
Mollucan Cockatoo	\$142.69
American Bird Cons.	\$134.62
Nature Conservancy	\$176.92
Bob Dahlhausen	\$111.54
Grand Total	\$1000.00

Three Rare Parrots Added to Appendix I of CITES

The Conference on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) held its 12th Conference of The Parties in Santiago in November. Under discussion were proposals to upgrade four parrot species from Appendix II to the Appendix I – roughly the equivalent of changing their status from “relatively tradable” to “relatively untradable.” On Appendix I are the species threatened with extinction on which trade would have a catastrophic effect. On Appendix II are species that could be threatened if export was not regulated effectively. Trade in these species is permitted if it is

sustainable and the specimens were obtained legally. The four proposed additions to Appendix I were the Yellow-naped Amazon (*Amazona auropalliata*), the Yellow-headed Amazon (*Amazona oratrix*), the Blue-headed Macaw (*Ara couloni*), and the Cape Parrot (*Poicephalus robustus*). The first three proposals passed and the last one was apparently withdrawn for reasons unknown at this time. This change in the CITES classification should provide additional protection to the wild stocks of these three species.

Source: The World Parrot Trust, PsittaScene No. 53.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

- January 5
- February 2
- March 2
- April 6
- May 4
- June 1 **
- July 13 *
- August 3
- September 7
- October 5
- November 9 *
- December 7 **

* Note date change
** Different Location

Say What? By John Davey

This is nothing new to you. I have heard this problem discussed by bird owners – over and over again. It’s not even a big problem, but it’s one we all face. I hesitate to even call it a problem, but I don’t know what other term to use. We bird owners have all had this problem – at one time or another – the problem of a bird trying to talk – trying out a new word or phrase – and not quite getting it right. At least not getting the new word or phrase clear enough that we owners can understand what they are trying to say. It certainly is frustrating.

Right now, I have that problem with Old Bilbo Bob Bird – my sweet, stubborn Meyers Parrot. Bilbo is 5 years old now, and he is a real sweetheart. He’s pretty as a picture and very affectionate. He does have a mind of his own, and it can occasionally be very, very hard to get Bilbo to do something that he doesn’t want to do. But that’s a small price to pay for such a sweet bird. The books all say that Meyers Parrots are not especially known for their talking ability, but Bilbo can say a couple of words in a voice that is the exact clone of Mickey Mouse.

Bilbo’s favorite word is his own name, “Bilbo!” which I swear he thinks means “Please scratch my head!” Anyone – and I mean anyone – who meets Bilbo will get a cheerful “Bilbo!” greeting with a bowed head and the expectation of a 15 minute head massage. In fact, the only time Bilbo ever becomes the least bit testy is when some human does not realize that head scratching is the best way to that bird’s heart.

But, back to our current communications problem: Besides the terms “Bilbo!” and “Teddy!” and “Stop it!” and “Step Up!” – Bilbo has been working on a new word or phrase that has me completely stumped. It sounds

something like “Ga-rish-kick!” He usually says that strange new word when he is hanging on the front bars of the subdivided cage that he shares with Old Teddy Bird – our plucked nekkid, but very verbal female Quaker Parakeet.

I never have a problem understanding what Teddy is saying. She can pick up a new phrase at the drop of a hat. In fact, I have to be very careful with what I say around Teddy, because I know that she would just love to learn some naughty word to bring out whenever the parson or some of the family come calling. So far, so good. If Teddy has ever learned any naughty words, she has never shared them with me. We do want to keep it that way.

But Old Bilbo Bob has me completely stumped. What in the world does he mean by the term “Ga-rish-kick” ??? And he says it with such force, such assurance, such meaning!! I know that he must be terribly frustrated with me for not understanding what he is saying.

Or, maybe Bilbo’s new phrase is one of those great “parrot jokes” – not the kind that we owners share with our (hopefully) patient friends and families – “Hey! Did you hear the one about the guy who put his parrot in the freezer...” But one of those “parrot jokes” that our birds like to play on us. Like the time the birds decided to imitate the chirping of a dying smoke detector battery. They had me hauling the ladder upstairs and replacing three perfectly good batteries – one right after the other – before I realized that they were just whistling and grooving on the spectacle of me doing some work around the house. That’s a true “parrot joke” – with me as the butt of the joke and the birds as the comedians.

Maybe Bilbo is serenading me with the new “Ga-rish-kick” word to see how many times I will stop and ask him to

repeat himself (He never does.) and to try to figure out what in the world I am saying that sounds remotely like that strange phrase.

Maybe he’s trying to teach me a new language. If he is – he’s a very patient teacher, and I’m a very slow student. I wonder how I would stand up in comparison to other breeds and species of owners. I can just see the published parrot review of this particular human pet: “John is a reasonably affectionate, reliable companion, although occasionally prone to emotional outbursts. He is normally quiet – good for a small home or apartment, but is slow to learn new phrases and sounds. No unusual dietary requirements, but he is prone to over-eating. A pelleted diet is recommended.” Perhaps Bilbo is just turning the tables on his owner.

I’ll let you know if I ever figure out what Bilbo is trying to communicate.

CLUB NEWS

Treasurer's Report December 2002

Beginning Balance:	\$3393.59
Total Income:	\$220.40
Magazines	\$128.40
Raffles	\$37.00
Dues	\$50.00
Ad	\$5.00
Total Expenses:	\$519.71
Newsletters (June thru November)	\$450.66
Christmas Party	\$69.05
Ending Balance:	\$3094.28

Membership Report December 2002

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

National Capital Bird Club Meeting Minutes 12/8/02

Although I ended up not attending, I've heard that the Christmas party held at the Pait's house was delightful. Voting occurred to determine which organizations the NCBC would be donating to.

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.

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.

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CLASSIFIED AD RATES:

<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

December 1, 2002
Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart
Tysons Westpark Best Western
McLean, VA (703) 771-9678

February 23, 2003
Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart
Tysons Westpark Best Western
McLean, VA (703) 771-9678

May 4, 2003
Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart
Tysons Westpark Best Western
McLean, VA (703) 771-9678

June 8, 2003
Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart
Fredericksburg Holiday Inn
I-95 & Rt #3
Fredericksburg, VA (540) 786-8321

August 24, 2003
Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart
Tysons Westpark Best Western
McLean, VA (703) 771-9678

October 26, 2003
Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart
Fredericksburg Holiday Inn
I-95 & Rt #3
Fredericksburg, VA (540) 786-8321

November 23, 2003
Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart
Tysons Westpark Best Western
McLean, VA (703) 771-9678

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