



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>

June 2003

June 1st NCBC Picnic

Bozena Pait and her husband have very graciously opened their home and yard located in Vienna, Virginia to be the site of our 2003 NCBC picnic, which will be held on June 1, 2003 starting at 2pm. The club is providing plates, plastic, napkins, hotdogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers. The Pait's have generously offered to provide the sodas. Club members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. The picnic will be held outside if the weather is good; otherwise, the party will be brought inside.

Do not bring your birds to this picnic. The bird in residence (Aga) is sick with Internal Papillomatosis.

Directions and a map to the Pait's is on page 2.

July's Speaker is Kelsie Holtje

She will be speaking on parrot behavior. She has been trained by Liz Wilson as a Bird Behaviorist and will be giving important incite on how to modify your bird's behavior. Get your questions on parrot behavior ready!

New Internet Bird Site

There is a new Internet bird site at <http://www.BirdBoard.com> A great site that's been around for quite awhile is <http://www.upatsix.com/>

Pair of Cockatiels for Adoption

Two sweet, healthy, young, beautiful cockatiels in need of a very loving permanent or foster home due to child's possible allergic reaction combined with demands of caring for three babies under one year old. One cockatiel is a three year old pied. The other is a one-year-old white cockatiel. Both are assumed to be female, and are very tame and affectionate. Owners are seeking an excellent home where they will receive lots of attention and be very well cared for. One or both cages and supplies will be provided free of charge, and owners prefer that the cockatiels stay together, if possible. For more information, please contact Tivah and/or Jeff Brown at 703-758-9010 or at tnjbrown@yahoo.com.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

June 1 **
July 13 *
August 3
September 7
October 5
November 9 *
December 7 **

* Note date change
** Different Location

June 8 Fredericksburg, VA Bird Mart Has Been Cancelled

Directions to Picnic

Directions to the picnic from the McLean Government Center:

- Start out going Southwest on Balls Hills Rd toward Lewinsville Rd.
- Right onto 123 (Dolley Madison Blvd/Chain Bridge Road) towards Tysons Corner, Oakton. (The road will change name to: Maple Ave in Vienna)
- Left on Park Street
- Past two stop signs (the second stop sign is next to Elementary school on your right)
- Past Kingsley Road (on your right), past Fardale Street
- Turn right onto Casmar Street to house # 104 on right side.

Bozena & Tony Pait

104 Casmar Street

Vienna, VA 22180

TEL. 703 207 0384 Please call if you have any questions.

Note:

Park Street ends on Cedar Lane, if you will see stop lights – go to the Cedar shopping center on your right and back onto Park Street. From here take second street (Casmar St.) to the left. The house is on right side.



Splish Splash by John Davey

Last month I told you how the Davey parrots – Old Teddy Bird, the plucked nekkid Quaker hen, and Old Bilbo Bob Bird, the sweet, stubborn Meyers drake – would use their cage water dishes to make poop soup and pellet stew. We solved that problem by finally installing water bottles in both bird’s cages.

Even with the water bottles, the birds were able to shove open the ball stoppers on the water bottles and soak their food or enjoy a leisurely shower. And that leads us to another consideration of water and birds and the combination of the two.

Every single bird that I have ever known has loved – simply loved – to bathe in their water dishes. It has always seemed that no matter how small the dish, no matter how inaccessible the location, my birds have always loved to bathe in their drinking water.

So, once I solved the poop soup and pellet stew problem, I still had to consider how to satisfy the bird’s innate love of bathing. Now, I have probably purchased every birdbath available to pet bird owners. All of these contraptions work – to a greater or lesser extent. They all seem to be plastic bubbles that attach to a cage door – sorta’ like installing a bathtub in an upstairs sunroom.

Now, I really do wish that birdcage and birdbath manufacturers might some day get together – say at an AFA convention – and decide to standardize sizes and dimensions. I have never, ever had a birdbath match the size or configuration of any cage door. They are either too large or too small, and the attachment mechanism? Just forgeddaboutit!

It’s sort of like one of those other great mysteries of the universe – Why do the food companies always bag a dozen hot dog rolls, but put only 8 hotdogs in a package? I try, and I fix,

and I jury rig, and eventually I come up with some way to keep the birdbath on the cage without it falling off – too often – and without the birds escaping through the gap – too often.

Now, when it comes to bathing, both of my birds are completely different individuals. They both have different ways of getting wet. Old Teddy Bird, our plucked Quaker, just loves to dive right in. She is always the first in and loves to plop right in the deepest part of the water. She stands and dips and flutters and splashes and generally has a wonderful time. You haven’t lived until you have seen an almost completely plucked bird, soaking wet, with each and every remaining feather sticking out in every direction.

Old Bilbo Bob, the sweet Meyers parrot, is a completely different bather, altogether. Bilbo prefers the more cautious approach to bathing. He insists that he always keep one foot securely on the side of the bathtub. It takes a lot of maneuvering and posturing and bending and stretching to get completely wet, that way. Bur somehow, Bilbo manages. He hangs on; he holds on; he dips; he stretches; he dunks. The funny part comes when he loses his grip on the side of the birdbath and slides down into the water. There is always a wild scramble to get back up on the side of the tub and a (I swear) look of foolishness on his face. “Gee! I hope no one noticed my clumsiness!”

While Teddy soaks for a long time, like some sort of Roman nobility, Bilbo is more of the “get in – get out” type of bather. But both birds get the job done, and they both wind up looking like wet, disheveled feather dusters. After bathing, both birds always climb to a top perch for a long session of preening and oiling. Teddy Bird may not have many feathers, but she still spends time and effort on the feathers she has left.

Both birds also enjoy a bath on the kitchen counter – in a glass pie pan or a shallow dish. The birds especially like to bathe in one of those (clean) roller brush paint trays. They both seem to like the textured ramp that lets them walk slowly down in to the water and choose the depth that’s best for them. I have found – through unscientific observation – that both birds prefer shallow – even a quarter inch – depth to a deeper – 2-inch – depth.

It’s funny. I know a lot of bird owners who swear that their birds love to bathe in a bathroom and/or kitchen sink. The birds will even scramble down an owner’s arm to get to the sink water. These birds even love to shower under a lightly running tap. Not my brood! Neither bird likes those nasty old sinks, and they will absolutely freak if I even bring them near those chambers of horror. We all know that it takes all kinds. I just have two of a kind.

I’m not even going to mention bathroom showers. I’m not even going to mention some crazy guy (me) that I know who had one of his shower tubs replaced and retiled after the rigors of two now-grown teenaged sons. I won’t tell you about this same guy (still me) who had a long argument with the tile installer who objected to putting the new tile towel rack low on the rear wall of the shower. I won’t tell you how the tile guy said, “That’s crazy, Mister! If I put the towel rack in that spot, all of the towels will be soaked every time you turn on the shower!” I just hope that we stay in this house for a long time and don’t ever have to explain the odd location of the towel rack to a prospective buyer. Of course, if the prospective buyer is a parrot owner, maybe we could raise the asking price!



AFA in Brief...

May, 2003

Published Monthly by the American Federation of Aviculture®

Editor: Carol Brasaemle

EXOTIC NEWCASTLE (END) UPDATE

END has been confirmed in backyard fowl near El Paso, TX. To date, only one flock has been affected. Numerous nearby flocks have been depopulated. El Paso has banned the sale or transfer of birds of any kind. APHIS declared an extraordinary emergency and the establishment of a federal quarantine for the Texas counties of El Paso and Hudspeth, and the New Mexico counties of Luna, Dona Ana and Otero. There have been no cases in NM. This one case, which is of an unrelated strain to the CA strain, has sparked panic in TX and surrounding states, prompting borders to be closed to any bird from TX or NM. TX is preparing to pass a Draconian bill requiring all keepers and breeders to be licensed and unfortunately counting exotic birds as poultry, despite the fact that they are managed completely differently.

On a more cheerful note, fewer and fewer new cases in AZ, NV, or CA are being reported. Strict biosecurity is still and will forever be important, however, to protect our flocks. If the situation in CA drizzles to nothing, we are probably still months away from having quarantine lifted.

CONVENTION 2003 - THE PLACE TO BE!

The Adams Mark Hotel - San Antonio Riverwalk is where it all will happen. President Gallaway has asked that this Convention be a birdless one. Just look at the schedule of festivities, and some of our expected speakers!

WED., AUG. 6 - Registration opens, House of Delegates meets, Exhibit Hall open, San Antonio Zoo Tour

THURS., AUG. 7 - General Sessions, Exhibit Hall open, Specialty Club meetings

FRI., AUG. 8 - General Sessions, Exhibit Hall open, Specialty Club meetings

SAT., AUG. 9 - General Sessions, Exhibit Hall open, Reception & Silent Auction, Banquet & Live Auction

OUR SPEAKERS

The focus of Convention 2002 is the parrots of Australia and the Australasian Region. The program will consist of concurrent sessions on captive-breeding and management, veterinary needs, behavior, conservation, and general topics for everyone from first-time bird owner to long-term breeder. The program will include many other species in addition to the cockatoos and Australasian species.

We will include 2 special-interest symposia this year. A full day Pet Bird Symposium on Saturday will cover topics of interest to both the novice and expert bird owner. Featured speakers include Mattie Sue Athan, Diane Grindol, and Sandee Molenda. We have also included a Finch & Softbill Symposium highlighting the breeding, conservation, and management of these fascinating birds. Speakers to be announced.

Two current issues will be highlighted at the Convention: the decision by the government to include birds in the Animal Welfare Act, and the Exotic newcastle Disease(END) outbreak. USDA will participate.

Our keynote speaker will be our own Sheldon Dingle, speaking on "The History of Aviculture." A partial list of other speakers includes Rick Jordan on "Breeding Gang Gang and Palm Cockatoos," Jerry Johnson on "Installing an Inexpensive Video Monitor in the Nest Box," Diane Grindol on "Making it Public," Paula Strasser on "Softbills in the Garden," Sandee Molenda on "Going from a Pet Owner to a Breeder," Laurella Desborough on "Eclectus Parrots," Allison Beutel on "The Role of Red-Browed Fig Parrots in the Coxen's Fig Parrot Recovery Program," Mattie Sue Athan on "Development of Behavior in Companion Parrots," John O'Neill on "Birds and Peru," Joe Barkowski on "Parrots and Zoos: What Does the Future Hold?," Jerry Jennings on "Toucans," Nancy Speed on "Golden Conures," Donna Lynn Salyer on "Yellow-Bibbed Lories." Dr. Darrel Styles on "Biosecurity," Dr. Walt Frey on "Cockatoo Aggression," Dick Ivy on "The Glory of a State Federation of Aviculturists," Mary Ellen LePage on "Cockatoos of the World," Dr. Mark Stafford on "Macaws Etc: A Multi-Media Presentation," and much, much more! Note that this is an initial list of speakers and last-minute changes may become necessary and many more will be added. Updates will appear here as soon as they are available. This is shaping up to be a Convention for all interests and levels of expertise.

Visit the AFA web site at <http://www.afa.birds.org> for further information regarding registration for the Convention and your hotel. Next time: more about the special Zoo Tour and Reception. Don't miss a minute of this outstanding Convention near the San Antonio Riverwalk!

"Promoting the Advancement of Aviculture"

AFA memberships per year: \$125 commercial
\$40 individual • family \$45 • \$75 supporting

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Visa / MC / AMEX # _____

Exp Date _____ Signature _____

AFA, P.O. Box 7312, N. Kansas City, MO 64116

Phone: 816-421-2473 • Fax 816-421-3214

email: <AFAOffice@aol.com >

1st American Amazona Convention

hosted by **Bird Clubs of America**
and **The Amazona Society** in Alliance

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 4-5, 2003

Hampton Holiday Inn & Conference Center

Hampton, Virginia (Mercury Blvd at I-64)

**Hotel \$89 plus tax, sgl/dbl. Must identify
as Amazona Convention before Sept 3, 2003.**

Free shuttle from Newport News-Williamsburg Int'l Airport

Convention registration \$60 per person. Banquet \$25.

Bird & Products Mart. Awards.

**Species roundtable, and a meeting of The Amazona Society
Speakers on conservation, care, training, behaviors, breeding
Sally Blanchard, Nigel Carter, Nancy Speed, Nancy Burke,
Dennis Saydak, Diana Holloway, others**

Bird Clubs of America, PO Box 2005, Yorktown, VA 23692

Check in for updates, speakers and registration information

Bird Clubs of America <http://server3003.freeyellow.com/clubpage/bcahome.htm>

after April: www.BirdClubsofAmerica.org

The Amazona Society <http://www.AmazonaSociety.org>



photo *Hondurensis*
- Sebastian Lousada

CLUB NEWS

Treasurer's Report April 2003

Beginning Balance:	\$2681.58
Total Income:	\$0.00
Total Expenses:	\$125.00
AFA Membership	\$125.00
Ending Balance:	\$2556.58

Membership Report May 2003

Exchange Memberships	18
Single Memberships	36
Family Memberships	21
Total Memberships	75

National Capital Bird Club Meeting Minutes 5/4/03

Jerry De Poyster, who works for Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture spoke on regulation and impending laws involving pet birds. The government will be enacting a law governing the minimum requirements for humanely keeping a pet bird such as cage size, access to water and food, much like the laws already on the books for dogs and cats. He also gave us a briefing on Exotic Newcastle Disease (END), which is rampant in parts of California and Texas.

Tammy Ellison read us a letter from the Nature Conservancy concerning the upcoming exposé about them in the Washington Post.

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

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.



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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.

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Sunday 11-3
Mon & Thurs 10-8
Wed, Fri & Sat 10-6

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 6-9, 2003

AFA 2003 Convention

Adam's Mark Hotel - San Antonio Riverwalk
San Antonio, TX 78205
For Hotel Toll Free: 1-800-444-ADAM (2326)
For AFA: 816-421-BIRD (2473)

August 24, 2003

Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart

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

October 4-5, 2003

1st American Amazona Convention

Hampton Holiday Inn & Conference Center
Mercury Blvd at I-64
Hampton, VA

<http://www.amazonasociety.org/TASconvention.html>

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

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

