



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>

November 2003

Mark Sargent to Speak at November 9 Meeting

Mark Sargent is a member of the NCBC and a breeder of Pionus parrots. He's a high ranking officer in the Pionus Breeding Association (PBA). They recently acquired 20+ Plum-Crested pionus for breeding purposes since no more are being imported into the country.

He recently visited Loro Parque, which is located in the island of Tenerife of the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa. The founder, Wolfgang Kiessling, has a lifelong love of parrots. The park contains the largest and most diverse parrot collection in the world. The Loro Parque Fundación (LPF) was created in 1994 as a non-profit organization in Spain. Its mission is to promote conservation of parrots in the wild, captive breeding programs of parrots in captivity, to conduct and support research into parrot biology, to promote education in communities about parrots and their ecosystems, and to support reintroduction programs of parrots back into the wild. LPF supports many field research projects aimed at protecting the world's most endangered parrots and their eco-systems. For more info check out the LPF website at <http://www.loroparque-fundacion.org/>

Nominations Needed for 2003-2004 Term

Nominations for the December election of officers for the next two-year terms starting in January 2004 along with the AFA Delegate, will be taken at November's meeting. Current members are all eligible for nomination. This club depends on the volunteerism of its members. I ask that everyone seriously consider how you can contribute to the club. Please don't feel intimidated about stepping forward to help. The club cannot continue without officers so it's important that people be nominated and agree to serve. Please contact Laurel Rosinger of the nominating committee if you are willing to be nominated for an office. She can be reached at (703) 803-9572 and lrosinger@hotmail.com

I've listed below the duties of each of the four offices and the AFA delegate.

Elective Offices

Officers

The following officers are up for election. The next two-year term starts in January 2004 and ends in 2005.

President

Presides at all meetings, appoints all committees, approves all bills, and signs all checks in the absence of the Treasurer. Is an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Vice-President

Performs the duties of the President in the absence of the President and is Chairman of the Program Committee. Also arranges for speakers for the monthly meetings.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

November 9 *
December 7 **

* *Date change*

** *Different Location*

Treasurer

Keeps all records of income and disbursements and pays by check all expenses authorized by the Club. Also receives all monies earned or due the Club, collects all dues, notifies members delinquent in payment of dues, notifies the Secretary when a member should be dropped from the roll for non-payment of dues, and makes a Financial Status Report at each monthly meeting and an Annual Financial Report at the end of the year.

Secretary

Keeps the minutes of the Club and Executive Board meetings and has custody of same, as well as conducting all of general correspondence of the Club.

AFA Delegate

Attends AFA meetings and reports back to the club about issues discussed.

They're Out to Get Me! by John Davey

Do you ever wonder...? Well, of course you wonder. Every bird owner in the world wonders about his or her bird – at one time or another. You watch those birds acting and performing and displaying and investigating, and you can't help but wonder what is going on in those little birdbrains. You watch your birds, and you can almost see the gears turning in those beautifully feathered heads.

Here's the latest thing that I've noticed my birds doing that I can't understand and can't explain: It's their eating habits. Both of my birds – Old Teddy Bird, the plucked nekkid neurotic Quaker Parakeet – and Old Bilbo Bob Bird, the sweet, stubborn Meyers Parrot – share a large subdivided cage that is now located back in the dormer window of one of the bedrooms in our home. We just recently made the great migration from the screened-in back porch to the dormer window with the advent of cooler weather in October.

The birds' cage is subdivided with a large piece of Lexan plastic that effectively lets the birds see and torment each other without actually causing any physical harm. Fortunately for me, the cage came equipped with feeding cups on both sides. (Some smart cage designer must have tried to house a Quaker and a Meyers together – some time in the long-ago past.)

Now, here's where the "wondering" part comes in: I'm pretty good about keeping the birds' food dishes filled with nice, fresh pellets each morning. I get the birds some of the higher-priced, all organic, brands of pellets. I get the small, millet seed size pellet, because it used to kill me to watch my birds take one small bite of the larger-sized pellet and drop the rest of the pellet into the cage grate. The smaller pellets do tend to make for a lot less waste.

So, each and every morning, I pull

the food dishes from both sides of the subdivided cage and change the pellets. (The leftover "waste" pellets usually go to the outside birds, which really means that they really go into the stomachs of the ten thousand "chickmunks" who really own our Northern Virginia lot.) I replace the "waste" pellets with fresh, new pellets. By the way, our neighborhood chickmunks are sleek, fat, and remarkably healthy. Those pellets work great!

I now am going to get to the "wondering" part. (Honest!) Here goes: I have noticed that the pellet consumption for both birds is never, ever, steady or consistent or reliable or predictable. As an example, some mornings, all of Bilbo's pellets will be gone, and I will be faced with an empty feed bowl on his side of the cage while Teddy's bowl will still be

relatively full. On other mornings, Teddy's feed bowl will be empty and Bilbo's bowl will be still brimming. There's no rhyme or reason, and I just think that there should be.

On other mornings, it will appear as if both of the birds took a day trip or ate out, with no appreciable reduction to the pellet portions. Maybe they both just don't eat anything at all on some days. Sometimes, all of the food – really enough food for two or three days – will be gone at noon. Maybe some days, they invite friends in for an all you can eat festival. I've tried to figure it out, but so far, I have not been very lucky.

Now, I realize that this is not the most important or pressing issue ever to be associated with keeping companion birds. My birds are happy and healthy. They seem to be normal in every manner and fashion. I do have to admit that I have a sneaking suspicion that they may possibly be plotting to slowly, surely drive me insane – sort of like the old story of the Volkswagen Beetle owner

whose friends topped off his car's gas tank every

evening, so that he thought he was getting 700 miles to the gallon. And then, later on, they would drain the tank every night so that he thought he was getting 3 miles to the gallon. Maybe the birds are trying a variation of that trick on me.

But doggone it! Doesn't it seem to make sense that two healthy, active birds – in the same place, with the same stimuli – would tend to eat approximately the same amount of food every day? I tend to eat the same amount of food every day. We just inherited a dog, and he certainly eats the same amount of food every day. (Actually, the new dog eats anything he can get into his mouth, so maybe that's not a good example.)

Anyway. That's the only news from our house. Wait until next month when I describe how the birds and the new dog get along.

CLUB NEWS

Ballots in December Newsletter

The ballots for the 2004-2005 election of NCBC officers will be in the December newsletter. Current members will have the option of either mailing in their ballots or bringing them to the December meeting.

National Capital Bird Club Meeting Minutes 10/12/03

October's meeting was held at the Carvers' in Ijamsville, MD. Approximately 25 people attended and viewed the Carvers' new deluxe bird room and their many large parrots. A birdroom fact sheet of the make up of the facility is given on page 3.

Holiday Party in December

December's meeting will be the holiday party. The location and directions will be in December's newsletter.

Help Needed in Compiling Book of Parrot Resources for the DC metro area

I am going to start again redoing and compiling a list of all avian veterinarians in the area, breeders, bird stores, rescue organizations, bird sitters or boarding, etc. I will get up an initial list but hopefully people can add to it. My goal is to use some of this info in the newsletter and website plus to put out a handbook with all of the information in it for members.

Rather than just being a general listing, it would be nice if there could be a short write-up on each entry such as a bio. If you know of avian vet, breeders, bird boarding, and bird stores that you would like to recommend please email me at carol.rees@usa.com or call me at (301) 277-9846 or mail me the info at Carol Rees, 4615 Harvard Road, College Park, MD 20740.

If anyone is interesting in helping out in compiling this and writing up bios or short descriptions for the entries, please let me know.

National Capital Bird Club 2004 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.



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Ad Type	Member	Non-Member
Line Ad	Free	15¢/word - \$ 3 min.
Bus. Card	\$3	\$ 5
1/4 page	\$5	\$10
1/2 page	\$8	\$15

DONATE USED MAGAZINES:

Please donate your old magazines to the Club Librarian when you are finished with them. The club resells these at bird marts and it really helps out in raising money.

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ANIMAL EXCHANGE

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 15, 2003 (10:30-12:30)

Ask the Experts (Phoenix Landing)

Speaker: Joe Arbogast of [http:// www.birdsafe.com](http://www.birdsafe.com)

1725 Wilson Boulevard

Arlington, VA

November 23, 2003

Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart

Tysons Westpark Best Western

McLean, VA (703) 771-9678

December 13, 2003 (9:30-12:30)

Ask the Experts (Phoenix Landing)

Speaker: Liz Wilson, CVT & Renowned Parrot

Behavior Consultant

(To Be Determined)

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Address Correction Requested

