



THE CAPITAL FLYER

The Monthly Newsletter of the National Capital Bird Club

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

February 2005

Caiques *The Parrot Clowns*

Tom Marshall, a long time breeder of both Black Headed and White Bellied Caiques, will speak on this playful clown of the parrot family at the February 6th meeting. Caiques are known for being quiet, very active and playful, and typically well socialized parrots.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet this parrot species in person and to learn more about it. This could be the perfect parrot species for you so come and find out.



Bake Sale at Jan 30th Bird Mart

The NCBC will be holding a bake sale at their table at the January 30th, 2005 Bird Mart to raise money. All members who bring baked goods before 10am for sale at the Bird Mart will be admitted for free. Elizabeth Moore is coordinating workers at the table so all who are willing to volunteer please contact her at (703) 751-5717.

Renew Your NCBC Membership

NCBC 2004 membership has expired. For 2005, the dues will remain at \$20/year for a single membership and \$25/year for a family membership. This is the last month that 2004 members will receive the newsletter if they haven't renewed. Show your support of the club and renew your membership. The membership form is on page 10. The members are what makes the club what it is. We need your participation.

IN THIS ISSUE

- p 2 Bird News Worldwide
- p 3 Jan 2 2005 Minutes
- p 4 Incredible Budgie Facts
- p 5 Sad Story - John Davey
- p 7 Smuggled Parrots
- p 8 Animal Welfare Act
- p 9 Advertisements
- p10 Club News
- p11 Club Information

FUTURE MEETINGS

- February 6, 2005
- March 6, 2005
- April 3, 2005
- May 1, 2005
- June 5, 2005 **
- July 10, 2005 *
- August 7, 2005
- September 11, 2005 *
- October 2, 2005
- November 12, 2005 *
- December 11, 2005 *,**

* Date change

** Different Location

Next Meeting
February 6, 2005

Bird News from Around the World

Bird Flu Kills 7 in Vietnam in 3 Weeks (1/21/05)

The death of a 47 year old man in Vietnam on January 10, 2005 is the seventh fatality due to the H5N1 strain of bird flu in three weeks. That brings the total fatalities in the past year to 25 of the 34 confirmed bird flu cases in Vietnam. Experts are worried that this may be the next pandemic killing millions around the world. For more on this, see <http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/asiapcf/01/20/vietnam.birdflu.toll/index.html>

Bushfires pose threat to endangered parrots (12/31/04)

In the Esperance region of Western Australia several habitats of endangered birds including the western ground parrot were threatened when four bush fires broke out. They have now been contained. For more on this, see <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200412/s1274542.htm>

How a School Saved Its Baby Parrots (12/29/04)

A school principal in India saved baby parrots that were stolen out of a tree on school grounds by a parent of one of his students. He later worked to have the peepal tree that around 30 parrots lived in declared a sanctuary. For more on this, see <http://cities.expressindia.com/fullstory.php?newsid=112231>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Returns Smuggled Birds to Mexico (12/23/04)

See page 5 in the newsletter for the entire story.

Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act of 2005 (12/6/04)

This bill strengthens the existing law by ensuring that invasive species such as the European Starling and English Sparrow that cause harm to native migratory birds could not be extended legal protection under the act. For more on this, see http://www.audubon.org/news/press_releases/mig_bird_act.html#TopOfPage

Belgium kills 200 Parrots as bird flu fears linger (10/25/04)

Belgium officials killed over 200 parrots that had been at the same Brussels airport as two smuggled eagles that were found to have avian flu. The Thai smuggler was apprehended but later released. The two eagles were discovered live, wrapped in plastic tubing in his luggage. For more on this, see <http://health.news.designerz.com/belgium-kills-200-parrots-as-bird-flu-fears-linger.html>

US and Puerto Rico Race to Save Last Native Parrots (7/17/04)

The Puerto Rican Parrot was down to 13 birds in 1975, decimated by deforestation, predation, and hurricanes. It is the last native species of parrot found in U.S. territory.

The Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program was created and is trying breed and raise captive parrots for release back into the wild. They have released 39 birds in the last four years and have a stock of 48 more at the Luquillo Aviary. Another team, under the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, has raised 103 birds so far for release in western Puerto Rico. For more on this, see <http://forests.org/articles/reader.asp?linkid=33623>

Minutes from 1/2/2005

Several new members joined at the January 2nd meeting. It is encouraging that the club has recently added some new members. Jeanne Nathanson will be the new Publicity Chairperson and will be spearheading a new membership drive. February is the last month that 2004 members will receive the newsletter unless they renew their membership.

The food brought to the meeting was impressive. We appreciate Elizabeth Moore, the Hospitality Chairperson, bringing and setting up the coffee at every meeting, as well as all of the wonderful snacks and desserts that attendees bring to the meetings.

Before the meeting, Suzie Buck dropped off a large number of bird magazines for the club to sell and a bird toy to raffle off. Selling used bird magazines at the bird marts is one of our fundraising efforts, and we raised \$30 at the December 5th Bird Mart.

The club will have another bake sale at the January 30th Bird Mart and members will get in free if they bring bake sale items to the club table before 10 am that day. At the December 5th Bird Mart, the club made \$121.75 on the bake sale.

Tom Marshall will be organizing a group to go together to see the premiere of the feature film, "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill", on March 11, 2005. Anyone who is interested in participating should contact him by email tmarshall@cbmove.com or by phone (703) 777-3252.

There is a possible interest by members in eco-tours. This will be investigated further.

Kitty Miller, the Vice-President, outlined possible future speaker topics such as bird toymaking, wing clipping, etc. Attendees present indicated they

Classes in Partnership with Fairfax County

<http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/accotink/birds.htm>

Lake Accotink now offers classes and workshops in bird care and related topics. No matter what size or type of bird you may have, they all present challenges for their human caregivers. Given their long life expectancy, pet birds require a strong commitment and patient nurturing. Choose from the programs below to find one that best fits your situation. Classes are taught by members of Phoenix Landing, a parrot advocacy group. To register or to obtain additional information, call Lake Accotink Park, 703-569-0285.

Avian Care Classes

6 Thursdays, Jan 27-Mar 3, 7-8pm
6 Thursdays, Mar 31- May 5, 7-8pm

From budgies to macaws, birds present many challenges for their owners. Learn how to properly handle your pet bird and provide the proper nutrition, health care, toys and housing. Participants will also learn to avoid and handle many common pet bird behavior problems. An introduction to clicker training will be given. Parrot behavior in the wild will be discussed to provide an understanding of parrots in the home. Birds should not be brought to class. Families are encouraged to attend together. Six classes, Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. starting March 31, 2005. \$95 covers all six classes. For registration and additional information, call Lake Accotink Park, 703-569-0285.

Basic Parrot Care & Behavior Awareness Workshop

Saturday, March 12, 2-5pm

For new and experienced parrot owners alike, this workshop covers in condensed format the range of basic information you need to fully enjoy your parrot friend and excel in the important role of caregiver. You will learn about avian health, nutrition, cage essentials, and other aspects of care. You will also gain strategies for living with your bird's natural behavior. \$45 per person. For registration and additional information, call Lake Accotink Park, 703-569-0285.

Parrot Behavior Mngt Wkshop

Saturday, April 9th, 2-5pm

Biting, screaming, plucking... Many parrot owners confront these issues. Find out how to avoid these problems in the first place, and learn the latest in behavior modification techniques that will help you and your parrot cope. \$45 per person. For registration and additional information, call Lake Accotink Park, 703-569-0285.

Cockatoo Conundrum

Saturday, April 16, 2-5pm

They start out as cuddly chicks but, without the proper training, a cockatoo might turn into a screaming and biting problem. Bird rescue groups are seeing a rise in the number of cockatoos relinquished to their care. Learn to keep your bird from this fate and ensure its future as a meaningful companion in your home. Whether you have a cockatoo already or you are considering adding one to your life, this class is a must for you and every member of your family. \$45 per person. For registration and additional information, call Lake Accotink Park, 703-569-0285.

...continued on page 10

The Amazing Budgie – Incredible Budgie Facts

I have been doing some reading lately about my favorite bird, the English Budgerigar (Budgie) and put together some facts about them that I think are nothing short of amazing. Of course, some of these facts are not exclusive to the Budgie, but apply to many other types of parrots as well – Sally O'Dwyer

- A budgie has between 2,000 and 3,000 feathers on its body.
- Budgies have monocular vision, which means they use each eye independently.
- Budgies have fewer taste buds than humans.
- Budgies grind their beaks when they are contented.
- 45% of pet birds kept in the US are Budgies, according to statistics from the American Pet Product Manufacturers Assn
- Budgies have air sacs in some of their bones (pneumatic bones)
- The budgie's average resting heart rate is 350 to 550 beats per minute.
- Budgies can turn their heads 180 degrees (they have more neck vertebrae than humans).
- A bird can only withstand the loss of 20 percent of its blood (for a budgie, that's about 12 drops)
- During breeding season, a female bird's bones become denser as they store calcium – a female's skeleton can weigh up to 20% more during the breeding season than it does during the rest of the year.
- Vitamin D and protein aid in the absorption of calcium
- Budgie egg shells are perforated by thousands of tiny holes (pores) that allow the free exchange of gases—mainly carbon dioxide and oxygen.
- Light plays a large role in stimulating the ovary and bringing the hen into breeding condition.
- Bird's lungs don't expand and contract to bring in air. Instead the bird's body wall muscles expand and contract—to force the air out and in.
- Birds do not have a bladder or a urethra.
- Budgies have semiplume feathers, which are found on a bird's beak, nostrils (cere) and eyelids
- Budgies have a 3rd eyelid.
- In the past, Budgies were also known around the world as Shell Parrots, Warbling Grass Parakeets, Zebra Parrots, Undulated Parakeets, and Canary Parrots.
- *Budgerigar* supposedly means “good to eat” in aboriginal language.
- The average respiratory rate for a budgie is between 65 and 85 breath per minute.
- The scientific name for the budgie is *melopsittacus undulatus*, meaning song sparrow with wavy lines.
- John Gould reportedly brought the first live budgie to Europe in 1840
- All budgie colors originate from the green and yellow budgie. The first color mutation to appear reportedly was the yellow bird with faint green suffusion in 1872.
- The first blue budgie appeared in 1878.
- The first report of a talking budgie originated in 1877 from Germany.

facts from:

The Budgie, An Owners Guide to a Happy Healthy Pet, by Julie Rach.

Howell Book House 1997.

The Challenge, by Gerald Binks, Osprey International, 1997

LOST BLUE INDIAN RINGNECK in HOLLYWOOD, MD (40 miles south of Washington, DC)

My son's blue Indian Ringneck flew away from our home on January 1, 2005. My son hand fed him from a chick and is devastated. 'Berry' was 2 1/2 years old, Wedgwood blue with a dark ring around the front of his neck, an orange-red beak and gray feet. He is extremely tame, loves oranges, and says his name. We live in Hollywood, Maryland (about 40 miles south of DC). It has been unseasonably warm here for the last few days, so we still have hope that Berry is OK. We have put up fliers, but I am afraid that his range may be in terms of miles. Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated. We are offering a \$500 reward for his safe return. Thank you.

Debbie Cleavenger, 301-995-7555 work, 301 373-9622 home

Sad Story by John Davey

Not every story is a funny story, and not every story has a happy ending. This is one of those stories.

You've been warned. You might want to stop right here. It doesn't get any lighter or funnier from this point to the end of the article.

I have been in the habit of keeping my two parrots – Old Teddy Bird, the plucked nekkid neurotic Quaker parakeet, and Old Bilbo Bob Bird, the sweet, stubborn Meyers Parrot – in a large, strong, locked parrot cage on the screened-in back porch of our home during the warm months of the year.

As I have mentioned in other articles, the back porch is a nice place to while away a summer day – or even a summer season. It gets the morning sun and is shaded all afternoon. The porch and yard back up onto heavily wooded parkland, and there are always all sorts of wild birds in the area – to keep my birds amused. Both parrots could do great Cardinal and Robin chirps, but I have to admit that a Mockingbird in full song would leave both of them enthralled – and silent.

We had a natural rhythm to the seasons – the birds would stay in their sub-divided cage in the bedroom dormer window during the cold months of the year, and in that same cage on the back porch during the warmer months of the year. It worked out to a back porch rotation for the months of April through October.

The porch was fully screened, with the animal-proof screening which costs a lot more, but which was very strong and effective. I covered the birds' cage each evening and then uncovered it in the morning. It was right before the Labor Day holiday, and I was already planning the ritual trek upstairs to the bedroom dormer window. August had been a relatively cool month, and I didn't want the birds to catch a chill.

One morning, our new dog, Mosby, woke me up at our regular get-up time of 5:00 so that I could take him down on the back porch, and he could scout out the backyard half acre to ensure there were no interlopers in the area. We had all settled into a warm weather routine – Mosby, the birds, and me – where all the important stuff would get taken care of in those pre-dawn moments. I would let Mosby out the door and then take the cover off of the birds' cage and wish them a good morning. The birds would be waiting for me with a couple of wing and leg stretches and a couple of good yawns. I would then busy myself with the important chores of fresh pellets for the birds and fresh kibbles for the dog and fresh water all around.

Mosby Dog would usually rocket out onto the porch and out the doggy door into the backyard just as soon as I opened the kitchen door. This morning was different. People always say that animals know – that they know when something is going to happen or has happened – well before us poor humans. I never used to believe that, but I do, now.

I opened the door onto the porch and Mosby took two bounding steps out onto the porch and then he stopped in mid stride. His head and tail went down and his front paw went up on point. Mosby is a Black and Tan Coonhound mix, and he retains much of his hunting hound heritage.

I immediately knew that something was wrong from the dog's demeanor and just from that atmosphere on the porch. I'm not one of those people who are given to extra-sensory perceptions or mantras or auras or any of those "feelings" kind of stuff. I'm normally a "What you see is what you get" sort of guy. But even I could tell that there was something very, very wrong on that porch. Even I could feel the sense of

foreboding.

Mosby walked very, very slowly towards the birds' cage with his tail and ears down. He put his nose very slowly up to the cage and whimpered softly. In the half light of dawn, I could see that the cage cover was ever so slightly rumpled – as if there had been a breeze over the nighttime hours. Again, I don't think that I'm an overly fussy person, but I do normally cover the birds' cage neatly and precisely – so that there is no chance of something startling them. Long, long ago, we had lost a wonderful pet Cockatiel to night fright, and I was intent on that not happening again.

The cage cover was slightly awry, and Mosby Dog was putting his nose up to the cage and whimpering. I went across the porch floor and took the cover in my hand and lifted it up, softly giving the "Birds?" call I used to wake the birds in the morning. I knew something was wrong, but I didn't know what. I took the cover off the cage and tried to spot the silhouettes of the birds in the half light or hear their recognition chirps. Nothing.

It's funny how slowly we seem to react when something is not right or not as it should be. It almost seemed as if things were moving in slow motion – I know that at that moment, I was moving and thinking in slow motion. I looked halfway down the cage to see if the birds were sitting on their feed dishes, waiting for their food. No birds. I was confused and mentally not firing on all cylinders.

Then I looked down on the floor grate of the cage and saw what had happened. I'm not going to share that with you. I haven't shared that with anyone, and it would do no good to go into any detail about what was there. Suffice it to say that something – some predator – had somehow gotten into that

...continued on page 6

Sad Story continued from page 5

strong, locked parrot cage and had killed and eaten my two lovely birds.

I was shocked and stunned and hurt and upset. I stood back a step from the cage and then I could see stuff – unnamable stuff – scattered over the floor of the porch. Everything seemed to be going in slow motion, but I'll bet that this entire episode had taken only twenty or thirty seconds. Mosby was whining and nosing my leg with his snout. I had that hot flush over my face and that metallic smell in my nostrils that a doctor friend has told me is the rush of adrenalin that kicks in you are really upset.

I didn't go to work that day. I put the cover back on the cage and rolled it out onto the outside deck. I let Mosby out into the backyard with the hope that he would find, track, and catch whatever creature had done this to my birds. No luck there. Mosby tracked back and forth, back and forth around the porch area, but he never picked up a scent.

I fed the dog and got dressed, and after everyone had left for work, I set out collecting what was left of my two birds and putting the remains in a very small box. I took the box out into the woods in the backyard and dug a small, deep hole and buried them there. I covered over the hole, and I put a large, heavy flat rock over the spot, so that nothing could disturb it. I have to admit that I did say a prayer and asked Saint Francis – the patron saint of animals – to bless and keep those two lovely creatures.

It took me a while to clean the cage. I washed it and scrubbed it and disinfected it. I took all the toys and perches and what-nots out of the cage and put them in a bag and put the bag in the trash. Some of those things could have been cleaned, but I didn't want them anymore. I scrubbed the porch. By the time I finished all of that, Younger

Son was home from work, and he helped me carry the cage to the large garden shed in the back yard. Before we stored the cage in the shed, the two of us tried to break in to the locked cage.

We couldn't do it. The cage was a strong, name-brand parrot cage, with the heavy bars, spaced five-eighths of an inch apart. It had a strong, spring-driven rifle bolt lock on the door. The two of us pushed and prodded and pressed and shoved and pulled and tried everything we could to get a hand into the cage. The best we could do was to get a finger in as far as the knuckle. We tried. We really tried. I had installed a dog door in the porch, so I know that was how the intruder got on the porch, but how it got into the cage is still a mystery to me.

I think that it was a weasel or a mink or an ermine that had gotten into the cage and killed and eaten the two birds. It had to be an animal like that – that could compress its body through such a narrow gap to get through those bars. We have had infrequent glimpses of *Mustela* over the years, and the backyard does back up onto heavy woods. A number of well-meaning people have suggested that a snake could have slid through the bars, but they are wrong. I have seen a snake eat a bird in the wild, and the victim is consumed whole. Teddy and Bilbo were killed and consumed by a fast moving, warm blooded, killing machine that bit and tore and shredded. Enough said about that.

So. There is supposed to be some good to come out of every bad. I have yet to figure out what that good is – or will be. I guess part of the lesson is that you should never, ever keep birds outside – no matter how strong or well constructed the cage. But I had been doing that exact thing for the preceding nine years without any trouble, and there are outdoor aviaries all over world aviculture. The cage was strong and

locked. I also honestly thought that the smell of a hound dog would keep wild critters away from the porch. We haven't had any deer or seen any raccoons on the property since Mosby arrived. Wrong again.

I guess that there should be some lesson learned from this tragedy, but I also cannot clearly define the lesson. I should have done things differently, and if and when I ever get another parrot, I'm certain that I would do things differently. But right now, I don't know what that would be. I don't think I'll have another bird until I figure things out.

I still like birds and intend to keep my Bird Club membership and my Quaker Parakeet Society membership current. But I still fell dumb and stupid, and I wish I had done something different. And so it goes.

©John Davey, 2005

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Returns Smuggled Birds to Mexico

<http://news.fws.gov/NewsReleases/R9/009EB515-D2C6-B33D-B85CCA7EEC8BCD3D.html>

Ninety rare parrots, all smuggled into the United States for the black market pet trade, were returned to Mexico by Federal authorities on December 20, 2004, at Otay Mesa, located south of San Diego on the U.S./Mexico border. The parrots, which were recovered during two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service investigations of bird trafficking, are species native only to Mexico that are protected under international treaty and U.S. and Mexican law.

“We were pleased to send these birds home where they belong and hope they may eventually thrive again in the wild,” said Kevin Adams, Chief, Office of Law Enforcement. “Their recovery in the United States and return to Mexico reflects a shared commitment to wildlife conservation in both countries.”

The Service works closely with Mexican authorities, including that country’s Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA), and with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to police wildlife trade along the border and uphold wildlife protection laws and treaties.

“Such enforcement partnerships were essential to rescuing the repatriated birds from the illegal trade,” Adams noted. The birds, which included 68 lilac-crowned Amazon parrots and 22 red-headed Amazon parrots, were among those seized in two separate foiled smuggling attempts earlier this year that involved interagency assistance. Prosecutions in both cases are being handled by the U.S. Attorney’s Office in San Diego.

In one incident, the defendant, who has pleaded guilty to smuggling and wildlife trafficking charges, was under surveillance by Service special agents before his arrest. CBP inspectors stopped the suspect at the San Ysidro



***Smuggled parrots seized
by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service law enforcement agents***

border crossing on August 28 as he was returning from an overnight trip to Mexico; they discovered 128 birds hidden in the side panels and under the rear seats of his pickup truck.

ICE agents assisted the Service with its investigation of the subject, who eventually admitted smuggling birds on as many as 20 different occasions. Birds seized at the time of his arrest included 48 lilac-crowned Amazons as well as orange-fronted conures, cardinals, and mockingbirds.

In the second case, CBP stopped a Los Angeles resident returning from Mexico via Otay Mesa on October 30, 2004. The man had 45 parrots (including lilac-crowned and red-headed Amazons) concealed behind the rear seat of his car. He pleaded guilty to Federal charges last week.

Both defendants await sentencing. Of the birds seized in the two investigations, 90 were available for repatriation.

Officers from Service, CBP, and ICE were present at the USDA Veterinary Services Quarantine Facility in Otay Mesa on Monday to witness the parrots’ repatriation and alert the public to the ongoing problem of bird trafficking. They were joined by representatives of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, USDA,

PROFEPA, and Mexico’s Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT).

As officials at the repatriation event pointed out, parrots and other wild birds remain a target for smugglers, despite efforts to meet consumer demand for these exotic pets through captive breeding. Illegal trade and loss of habitat have depleted many wild populations.

Bird smuggling also represents a potential threat to the health of poultry and people. Wild-caught parrots may carry psittacosis, which can infect humans, and exotic Newcastle disease, a rapidly transmitted avian virus that spreads easily to poultry. An outbreak in the fall of 2002 forced the destruction of more than 3 million chickens in California, Nevada, and Arizona.

Federal regulations require that all imported wild birds, including parrots, spend a minimum of 30 days in USDA quarantine facilities (like the one in Otay Mesa) after they arrive in this country. Smuggled birds typically bypass this health screening. The birds returned to Mexico on Monday all completed the required quarantine period after being seized by the Service.

Both lilac-crowned and red-headed

...continued on page 9

USDA Regulations - Animal Welfare Act

What is the status of the USDA regulations?

The comment period is closed so it's in the hands of the USDA for now. We're waiting for their next move.

The next step from here is that the USDA will review all of the comments they received during the comment period and use them to help decide how to comply with their mandate to enforce the Animal Welfare Act. The lawsuit settlement that got birds included in the AWA only required that birds be included in the definition of "animal" under the Act. The settlement did not spell out how birds would be

regulated under the Act. The USDA has some discretion on this matter.

When the USDA makes their determination, it will be published in the Federal Register as a Proposed Rule. Dr. Gipson indicated that they will be accepting additional comments at that time, and then they may further refine their ruling. This will take additional time, after which, the USDA will publish a Final Rule which usually becomes effective at least 30 days after publication.

In short, it's likely to be a couple of years before any regulation is put in place, but it may take much longer since

the USDA has more important issues to address.

I am happy to answer any additional questions regarding the Animal Welfare Act.

Steve Duncan
NAWA Coordinator
www.nawabirds.org
nawabirds@earthlink.net



"The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill"

This documentary movie will be debuting in the Washington, DC area on March 11, 2005 at the E Street Cinema and the Avalon Theater. For more info on the movie, see <http://www.wildparrotsfilm.com>

You can learn more about these amazing parrots at <http://www.pelicanmedia.org/wildparrots.html>

To learn more about the book, see <http://www.wildparrotsbook.com/>

Tom Marshall is organizing a group to go together to see the premiere of this film. If you are interested, please contact him by email tmarshall@cbmove.com or phone (703) 777-3252.

Phoenix Landing is sponsoring an event where the author, Mark Bittner, and the director of the film, Judy Irving, will give a presentation. It is on Sunday, February 27, 2005 at 2pm at George Washington University, 805 21st St. NW (corner of 21st and H Sts. NW), Room B107, Lower Level. The nearest metro is Foggy Bottom/GWU and parking is available on the street and in nearby lots. Admission is \$15 and there will be a book signing also.

For more information, see <http://www.phoenixlanding.org/seminars.htm>

Advertisements

Only bird related advertisements are accepted for publication in the newsletter. Both line ads and business card ads are free for club members. Line ads will only be printed for 1 month only unless otherwise requested by the applicant. Business card ads will be printed for the entire calendar year. If possible, please submit business card ads in electronic form. All ads must be submitted 2 weeks before the next club meeting at the latest in order to appear in that issue.

Ken Globus

“The Bird Whisperer”

Ken Globus, internationally known as the “The Bird Whisperer”, has been taming “difficult” birds for the last 25 years. You can read more about him at his website,

<http://www.thebirdwhisperer.com/>

He will be giving some bird taming demonstrations and also some bird taming workshops at the World Pet Expo on January 29-30, 2005 held at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, MD.

The Bird Taming Demonstrations are free with paid admission and will be on both Saturday and Sunday from 11:00am to 12:30pm.

The 4 hour workshops will be held on both Saturday and Sunday from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. The workshop costs \$50 without a bird and \$100 with a bird. It is \$75 for a cockatiel or budgie. This fee includes attendance to the Expo. Register early since bird slots and space are limited.

For Registration Info contact:

Jeanne Emge (800) 882-9894

info@worldofpets.org

Expo Info at

<http://www.worldofpets.org>

Adopt a Bird

Phoenix Landing has many birds currently in foster care that need a permanent home. If you are interested in making them part of your family, you can contact Vicky at vicky@phoenixlanding.org

For more information visit the Phoenix Landing Website to learn more about adoption -

<http://www.phoenixlanding.org/>

The Wilson Parrot Foundation has birds that need adoption. If you are interested in volunteering or adopting, you can read more about what is required at http://www.wilsonparrotfoundation.com/volunteer_adopt.htm

Smuggled Birds continued from page 5...

Amazons are among the more than 300 parrot species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). More than 160 countries work together through this global treaty to ensure the continued survival of imperiled animals and plants worldwide.

The red-headed Amazon is listed on CITES Appendix I, a level of protection reserved for species facing an immediate threat of extinction. All commercial trade of wild Appendix I species is prohibited.

Although the lilac-crowned Amazon had been listed for many years on CITES Appendix II (a level of protection that allows commercial trade with permits), CITES nations agreed this fall that increased protections requested by Mexico were needed for the species. Commercial trade of these wild birds will be prohibited beginning in April 2005.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency

responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

CLUB NEWS...

Rosinger's Cockatiel Died

One of Laurel & David Rosinger's pet cockatiels died on Christmas Day. It is always hard to lose a pet and especially over the holiday season.

Both John Davey's Parrots Died

Both of John Davey's pet parrots died in August. The story is written by him on pages 5 & 6.

Minutes from 1/2/2005 continued from page 2...

were interested in those topics. Carol Rees will send Kitty Miller info on those new members/renewals who expressed interest in being a speaker.

Kitty Miller also is interested in getting together a list of people who are willing to birdsit for others in the club and who need birdsitting services. If you are interested, please let her know by email kittibel@hotmail.com or phone (703) 914-1050.

There was a raffle held for various bird toys.

Miki Spatzak gave a PowerPoint presentation on Amazons. She is a long time breeder (over 25 years) of Amazons, Parrolets, and other parrots.

She and her husband brought along one of their pet Amazons named Oscar, who was a big hit at the meeting. Her presentation covered the temperaments of the various Amazons subspecies as well as tips on breeding, handfeeding, and socialization.

Miki Spartzak is also is a judge at parrot shows and will come back later in the year at another meeting to judge our birds. Before the judging, she will send Carol Rees info on what standards the birds will be judged for and these will be published in the newsletter.

National Capital Bird Club 2005 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...

NCBC Officers and Board Members

President	John Long	703-771-9678.....	jodo@eswis.net
Vice-President	Kitty Miller	703-914-1050.....	kittibel@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Wayne Porter	703-751-5717.....	ponypair@hotmail.com
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	OPEN		
Newsletter Committee Chair	Carol Rees.....	301-277-9846.....	carol.rees@usa.com
Publicity Committee Chair	Jeanne Nathanson ...	301-263-0770	
Ways & Means Committee Chair	OPEN		
AFA Delegate	Tom Marshall	703-777-3252.....	tmarshall@cbmove.com
AFA Delegate	John Long	703-771-9678.....	jodo@eswis.net
BCV Delegate	John Long	703-771-9678.....	jodo@eswis.net
BCV Delegate	OPEN		

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. The club resells these at bird marts and it really helps out in raising money.

NCBC Editorial Policies: The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Club or its members. Unless otherwise stated, articles appearing in *The Capital Flyer* may be reprinted provided that credit is given to the author and *The Capital Flyer*. To protect other authors, permission must be obtained from the original source. Send articles or newsletter submissions to: Carol Rees, NCBC Editor, 4615 Harvard Road, College Park, MD 20740-3752 or carol.rees@usa.com

CLASSIFIED AD RATES:

Ad Type	Member	Non-Member
Line Ad	Free	15¢/word - \$ 3 min.
Bus. Card	Free	\$ 5
¼ page	\$5	\$10
½ page	\$8	\$15

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.

Article & Info Submission: Please submit all articles and info for the newsletter to Carol Rees at 4615 Harvard Road, College Park, MD 20740-3752 or to her email address of carol.rees@usa.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 29-30, 2005

World of Pets Expo

Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium

Admission \$8.00

Contact (800) 882-9894 or info@worldofpets.org

<http://www.worldofpets.org/>

January 29, 2005 (10am-12pm)

Phoenix Landing - "Things I Wish I Had Known"

American Legion Post 139

3445 N. Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA

<http://www.phoenixlanding.org/seminars.htm>

January 30, 2005 (9am-4pm)

Mid-Atlantic Bird Mart

Tysons Corner VA. Westpark Best Western Hotel

Admission \$3.00

Contact John Long at 703-771-9678 or jodo@eswis.net

February 13, 2005 (1pm-3pm)

Phoenix Landing Seminar - Dr. Stahl on Feather Plucking

Vienna Community Center

120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna, VA

<http://www.phoenixlanding.org/seminars.htm>

February 27, 2005 (2pm)

**Mark Bittner & Judy Irving Special Event
(The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill)**

George Washington University, Admission \$15.00

<http://www.phoenixlanding.org/seminars.htm>

March 19, 2005 (9am-5pm)

Susan Friedman Behavior Seminar

Location TBA

Registration is \$50

<http://www.phoenixlanding.org/seminars.htm>

April 1-3, 2005

Super Pet Expo

Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA

Admission \$10

Contact 301-564-4050 or info@superpetexpo.com

<http://www.SuperPetExpo.com>

April 9-10, 2005

Bird Clubs of VA 21st Convention

Holiday Inn Select, 2801 Plank Road, Fredericksburg, VA

<http://www.birdclubsva.org/2005.htm>

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



Address Correction Requested