

THE REAL MACAW  
PARROT CLUB  
July 2008



The Real Macaw Parrot Club  
7-32 Richard Street  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410





The Real Macaw Parrot Club meets the second Thursday of each month.

Place: VFW Hall - No. 6699  
6 Winslow Place  
Paramus, NJ 07652

Time: 7:15 PM Social Time  
8:00 PM Meeting Starts

All birds are welcome with club members only.  
Visitors must join on their 2nd visit.

### Incident Weather

Call one of the Board members on day of meeting or check the web site for cancellation notice.

### Membership

Membership dues are \$45.00 per year for one family at the same address. Outside NJ and NY, it is \$25.

For membership information:  
Call Art Zimmermann 201-489-1879

See our website for an application:  
[www.realmacaw.com/pages/app.html](http://www.realmacaw.com/pages/app.html)

### RULES OF ORDER

1. BIRDS AT MEETINGS: Only club members are allowed to bring birds. Birds brought to the meetings should have clipped wings or should remain in their cage or carrier. Do not bring your bird if you have it for less than a month and it has not been vet-checked, or if your bird may have been exposed to a sick bird.  
**Disclaimer: Applies to all birds and their owners.**

The Real Macaw Parrot Club is not responsible or liable for you, your bird, or anything that happens to you or your bird.

2. NO ANIMALS OTHER THAN HEALTHY EXOTIC BIRDS (except for guide dogs or programmed entertainment) are allowed. This is for the safety of the birds that share our meetings. Only members may bring birds.

3. NO SMOKING in the meeting room.

4. QUIET must be maintained during meetings. There is ample social time before and after meetings for talking.

5. CHILDREN must be seated with their parents during the meeting. Children who run freely are a distraction, and may also be responsible for a startled bird injuring itself.

6. Vendors must set up and remove all sale tables.

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### THE NATIONAL ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER

800-548-2423

ALTERNATE  
900-680-0000

\*\*Contributors to the newsletter needed each month.\*\*

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### BIRD PERMITS

If you own a parrot, you must, by NJ law, obtain a permit to legally keep the bird. For more information, write or call:

Dept. of Environmental Protection  
NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife  
Office of Permit Management  
CN400  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400  
609-292-9591

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### Newsletter Ad rates

#### **Business Card Ad - 3 1/2 x 2**

\*3 mo. \$15  
\*6 mo. \$25  
\*1 yr. \$40

#### **Quarter Page - 4 3/4 x 3 1/2**

\*3 mo. \$30  
\*6 mo. \$55  
\*1 yr. \$100

#### **Half Page - 7 x 4 1/2**

\*3 mo. \$50  
\*6 mo. \$95  
\*1 yr. \$150

#### **Full Page**

\*3 mo. \$100  
\*6 mo. \$150  
\*1 yr. \$200

\*Payment must be received before ad is published



# The Real Macaw Parrot Club

## An All Species Educational Club



### July Meeting

Thursday, July 10, 2008  
 VFW Hall  
 6 Winslow Place  
 Paramus, NJ 07652  
 7:15 PM - Social Time  
 8:00 PM - Meeting Starts

### July Speaker

Our July speaker is Juan Romero from the Central Park Zoo.

If you have web access, you can always check our Current Speaker web page for last minute speaker updates at:

[www.realmacaw.com/cs.html](http://www.realmacaw.com/cs.html)

### Future Meetings

August 14, 2008

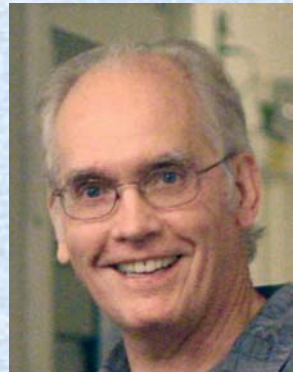
September 11, 2008

October 9, 2008

November 13, 2008

Please mark these dates on your calendar today. Speakers are subject to change.

### Presidential Message



Hello, I really enjoyed the discussion at the last meeting. We all talked about the different foods we feed our birds and the different toys that we give them to play with. That meeting

reminded me of the reason that I originally joined the Real Macaw- to broaden my knowledge about parrots and learn the little things that are not in books or magazines from the experts, parrot owners. Thank you to everyone that contributed.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting and hearing Juan speak.

Art



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## July Meeting



Our July speaker will be Juan Romero from the Central Park Zoo, formerly from the Bronx Zoo. Juan will speak on the basics of bird training. Depending on time, he may also speak on his experiences working with animals, mostly birds, in the fields and in captivity settings.

Juan has extensive experience working at animal parks in both the United States and Venezuela.

## The Real Macaw General Membership Meeting #237 Minutes June 12, 2008

The 237<sup>th</sup> meeting of The Real Macaw Parrot Club was called to order by President Art Zimmerman at 8:00 pm. The Financial Report was given.

Juan Romero, from the Central Park Zoo, confirmed too late to speak at the June meeting. He will speak in either July or August.

Paul Butler is not taking speaking engagements because he is too involved and cannot speak at the October meeting.

Layne Dicker has returned to speaking.

Saturday 7/19 is the LIPS South American Parrot Conference.

Saturday 6/14 is a hike from Brooklyn College to view Monk parakeets.

Beaks and Feathers, a new bird store in Hawthorne, NJ, may take an ad in the newsletter.

Dr. Cerf's son joined him in avian vet practice. Dr. Cerf now has 4 avian specialists.

Angela will bring in samples of birdie muffins to sample.

There was a roundtable discussion on anything about birds, what they eat, what toys they play with, etc.

### Food

Grapenuts	Cheerios (watch zinc)
Peanut butter	Celery sticks
Carrots	Tops of carrots
Corn on cob, frozen or fresh, cut into wheels	
Pasta	Sweet potato
Potatoes	Toast
Green and red peppers with seeds	Rice
Pomegranate	Eggs, hard boiled, scrambled - add food not well liked by bird
Red palm oil	Raisins

### Toys

Buy lumber - cut up yourself	Plastic pens (without actual pen part)
Yogurt cups	Whiffle balls
Dog toys - rope, etc	Cardboard boxes
Plastic basket w/plastic fruit	Fill paper bags with stuff

(Continued on page 6)



# Real Macaw Parrot Club Executive Board Meeting Minutes

## Thursday, May 29, 2008

Member Jan was in attendance for our Board meeting.

Discussed Real Macaw membership information cards and where to place them. A follow up should be done after cards are placed to see if instructions are being followed. Do not put cards in places that are not legal.

A new store opened, Beaks & Feathers, 124 Rea Avenue, Hawthorne. Does not sell live birds, only parrot paraphernalia. Shelly will drop off membership information cards and ask if they wish to advertise in our newsletter.

Angela followed up with Paul Butler, a potential speaker for our October meeting. He is out of the office and she did not get any response.

Each Officer will contact a potential speaker and get information from them to speak at the October meeting.

Brought up Art's on the spot program on science of birds at the last club meeting. The Board must be notified of any future programs before the club meeting.

Discussed how much speakers can be paid. The recommendation was \$150 - \$200 as a cap and was agreed to by all Board officers.

Future speakers – Dot will check Van Saun Park, Paramus. Art will check with a bird breeder in Emerson.

Art to call Trenton to find out the use of a gambling license permit.

It was suggested by Joan Collins to hold a contest for high school students to write about belonging to a bird club. She would pay for the prize – a 1 year membership to our club. Shelly will forward her email. The Board decided this was probably too involved to do.

A suggestion was brought up to meet every 2 months. This was rejected as not a good idea.

Submitted by Dot Andrusko

## Financial Report

<b>Starting balance -</b>	<b>\$2158.95</b>
Expenses	
Rent	- 65.00
Income	
Membership	+ 45.00
Newsletter Ad	+ 40.00
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$2178.95</b>



# Real Macaw Parrot Club Executive Board Meeting Minutes

## Thursday, June 26, 2008

Present: Art Z., Shelly O., Angela C.

Absent: Dorothy A.

Visitors: Jan and Steve B.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Art Z

1. We discussed the possibility of Layne Dicker speaking at our club this Fall. Angela will try to contact him.
2. We received a new business ad for the newsletter.
3. An old member rejoined and a new person also joined.
4. Art received a call from a woman who wants to join and stated that she will attend the upcoming meeting.
5. We were able to book Juan Romero to speak at the next meeting.
6. Jan brought to the discussion different things that other clubs are doing to get people involved.

Submitted by Art Z.

*(Continued from page 4)*

### Real Macaw Club Membership Information Cards Given Out

Shelly Orloff	Beaks & Feathers, Hawthorne	1 pack
	Dr Cerf	2 packs
Angela Cupo	CVS, Garfield	1 pack
	A&P, Garfield	2 packs
	A&P Manager, Garfield	1 pack
	Dr. Sullivan, Clifton	1 pack
Dot Andrusko	Step-In Fitness, Clifton	1 pack
	Dr. Crupi	1 pack
Joan	Walmart, Rt 46	posters to all
	Blue Printer, Elmwood Park	
	CVS, Upper Montclair	
	TD North Bank, Montclair	
	NJ Community Bank, Montclair	
	Bus Stop, Montclair	
	Neimon Marcus, Short Hills	
Michael's, Wayne		

Respectfully submitted,  
Dorothy Andrusko



## "ON THE WINGS OF THE GREAT WHITE BIRD"

Hi, It's Big Bob here. Hope everyone is enjoying their summer. This month our topic is "HUMANS WANT TO KNOW".

Humans want to know why we scream, why we talk, why we aren't talking, what to feed us, when to feed us, when to put us to sleep, whether to cover us or not, why second hand birds sometimes bite more, pluck more, etc. Curious minds want to know they say.

We scream for many reasons, we like it, it is natural at certain times of the day, we want attention, we want to eat, or maybe because we are hurt.

We talk to please you, our humans, that makes sense right, we don't talk in the wild, we have our own call, so needless to say, we do it for you to please you, and it does, doesn't it?

WE DON'T TALK SOMETIMES BECAUSE WE CHOOSE NOT TO, NOT BECAUSE WE CAN'T, AND SOMETIMES WE TALK TO certain people, but not others.

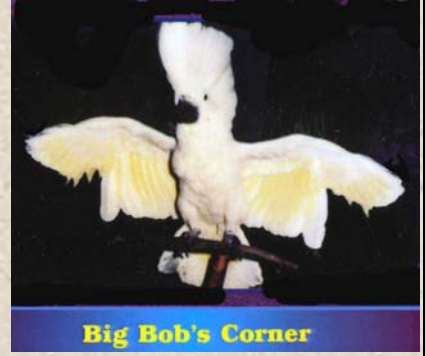
Feeding depends on the type of birds you have, but seeds are NOT a diet for any of us, it causes malnutrition, and there are so many wonderful diets available these days, do your homework on the type of bird you have before you get it, so you are well prepared. Most birds definitely want food and fresh water in the morning, as we do, and certainly some later in the day along with lots of fresh fruits and veggies everyday.

Birds require at least 8 to 10 hours of sleep daily for optimum health and well being.

Covering is a preference, in our house we don't get covered, our human says we don't need that, we get peace, quiet, and plenty of shut eye every night to meet the requirements.

Try to remember when you get a bird from another owner, or several other owners, that bird

comes with baggage, and depending on the reason they gave the bird up, sometimes the owner dies or is terminally ill, sometimes the owners can't handle their bird, sometimes the



bird is a plucker for various reasons, or a screamer for various reasons. The bottom line is the new owner never knows the whole story, so you must have lots of time and patience to deal with your new arrival and all his/her good and bad traits that have developed.

The most important thing is always do your homework before you get your bird, think clearly when deciding, it is a big commitment and not to be taken lightly. Remember how social we are, we need your attention, some of us more than others, if you don't have the time, or don't want to give it, then think twice before you commit.

I know my human gives us so much and everyday, no matter how she feels. It is not such an easy task, but she always says she gets more back than she gives, but we think she gives us everything we need because she loves us dearly.

In closing, we would like to thank DOT ANDRUSKO for her donation to the club in our Uncle BOB'S NAME. Our human and the CUPO FLOCK appreciate your kindness, and thoughtfulness.

TILL NEXT TIME,

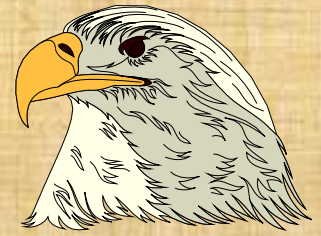
Big Bob, our human, ANGELA CUPO, and the Cupo Flock

## Announcements

- We are looking into getting a big speaker in October 2008, possibly Layne Dicker.
- The Club would like to welcome a new member, Victoria Patrick.
- We have a new advertiser this month, club member Pat Heaney from FLOCKS OF FUN.



# Eagle Receives Artificial Beak



*With the help of volunteers, a bald eagle named "Beauty" can now live up to her name.*

Reported by Real Macaw member Donna Sleight

I'm sure you all remember the story about the bald eagle named, "Freedom" in a previous newsletter.

This story is about an eagle named "Beauty," the recipient of an artificial beak. I thought you'd all be interested to hear of yet another eagle, against all odds, that overcame a horrible incident.

Beauty (now weighing 15 pounds) was found in 2005 scrounging for food up in a landfill in Alaska, slowly starving to death after a poacher shot off her upper beak. The bullet had taken out most of her curved upper beak, exposing her tongue and sinuses. The remaining stump was useless for grasping food, and she had trouble drinking water, and could not preen her feathers. Now, three years

later, she has gone through a ground-breaking procedure that has attached an artificial beak, not only improving her appearance, but more importantly, helping her to grasp food.

The first attempt at an artificial beak left some metal exposed when a piece of the synthetic beak broke off during application. The new complex beak took 200 hours to design and is being used to ascertain the precise measurements needed. This beak is temporary until one made of tougher material can be created and attached, using the measurements obtained.

It is not planned at this time to release her back into the wild, as she has spent too much time with humans, and they feel that when she receives the permanent

beak, it still might not be strong enough to tear flesh from prey. A wild eagle that must be hand-fed by humans would eventually need to be euthanized, so getting this artificial beak is *key* to her survival.

It has now been almost two months since the "temporary" nylon-composite beak has been attached, and although she is doing very well, her future remains *guardedly* optimistic.

Since she cannot be released, and if all goes well, plans are to use Beauty at lectures across the country to teach people not to shoot at raptors!

*Wouldn't it be great to have her at a Real Macaw meeting someday!*

## Gulliver Returns to America in July

The Oasis Sanctuary's efforts to rescue the abandoned macaw pull through.

*By Erin O'Brien*

*Posted: June 29, 2008, 5 a.m. EDT*

Reprinted courtesy of The Bird Channel, [www.birdchannel.com](http://www.birdchannel.com)

After months of tireless effort from the Oasis Sanctuary, Gulliver, the blue-and-gold macaw that has captured the

hearts of bird lovers across the world, is finally making the journey back to America in July.

Sybil Erden, executive director of the Oasis Sanctuary and ringleader of "team Gulliver,"

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8)

is flying to the Republic of Kiribati to retrieve Gulliver on Sunday, June 29. Once Gulliver returns, he will enter a 30-day quarantine in Southern California. Upon his release from quarantine, Gulliver will join the other 2 dozen able-bodied macaws in the Oasis Sanctuary's 4,000-sq.-ft. macaw aviary.

Gulliver was abandoned by his American owners after they got shipwrecked in early December, 2007. Their boat crashed onto Fanning Island, a tiny island in the South Pacific. Following the advice of locals, who, according to Erden, promised them that Gulliver would be well taken care of, Jerry and Darla returned to the U.S. and left Gulliver behind.

The 4-year-old macaw was abandoned without papers at a locale that lacks electricity, running water and an airport, with a family that had only breadfruit and rice to feed him. This family eventually sent him to Christmas Island, where they thought he could easily be rescued. This rescue, as Erden knows, was not so simple.

Erden has worked on "team Gulliver" vigorously since April through contacts at Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); she has also coordinated with officials

in the Republic of Kiribati and Nautonga and Mamarau, the couple who rescued Gulliver from extermination on Christmas Island. With their help, Erden was able to overcome the multiple legal obstacles and find the necessary paperwork for Gulliver's return.

The Oasis also faced a number of financial obstacles. Erden addressed these problems with a fundraiser.

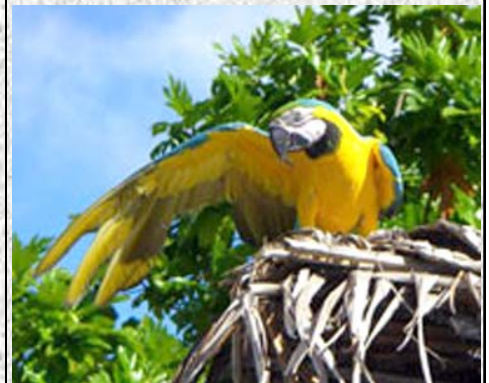
"The Oasis put word out through our 'OasisNews' and on our website regarding ... the difficulties bringing Gulliver home," Erden said. "Within a week, \$3,000 was raised for the rescue."

Now that Gulliver's situation has fared for the better, Erden reflects on the incredible story that inspired people from all over the world to join "team Gulliver."

"I've had a lot of people ask me, 'Why Gulliver? Why did you use all these resources just to save a single life?'" Erden said. "We did this for Gulliver because he is a spokesperson. Gulliver is a platform for the American public to learn about the tens of thousands of birds that need homes. When their owners pass away, birds are not likely to get passed to someone else who is willing to care for them. The result is massive euthanizations of these incredibly intelligent animals. At Oasis, we're doing everything we can to convince the bird lovers of America to take in just one more homeless bird. That's why Gulliver."

Erden plans to celebrate Gulliver's homecoming with a welcome-home picnic in Southern California upon his release from quarantine.

"I'm not exactly sure when Gulliver will get out of quarantine, so keep an eye on our website, [www.the-oasis.org](http://www.the-oasis.org), for updates" said Erden. "I think the picnic will be a ball."



*Courtesy The Oasis Sanctuary*  
Gulliver, the blue-and-gold macaw that was abandoned in the Republic of Kiribati, spreads his wings to head for home.



*Courtesy The Oasis Sanctuary*  
The Oasis Sanctuary features a 4,000-sq.-ft. macaw aviary that hosts 2 dozen able-bodied macaws.



## "Another Trip to Our Local Adoption/Rehab Facility"

April and I took another trip to our local adoption refuge this past weekend, this time to drop off two pairs of conures no longer wanted by their retiring aviculturists. It was the second such journey in two weeks—the first had been to deliver a twenty four year old Moluccan Cockatoo and two unhappy amazon parrots of different species, all three of which the owner could no longer care for because of cancer.

While there we took the regular tour around the premises to see the latest placements in the cages and flights up and down the hill. I will not say it was depressing because there were about as many happy birds and positive stories as there were sad ones and negatives. What it was, was a healthy dose of *realism*. One thing stands out in my mind as I write this BN, though:

*"Every single bird breeder, hand feeder, pet store worker, and aviculturist of any type should be persuaded to make a similar excursion to the parrot sanctuary nearest to them to see firsthand what is happening at such places..."*

The inhabitants of all those wire enclosures in the shelter on our island and in hundreds more sites like it around the U.S and the world, and the lamentable accounts of many of these parrots' lives in captivity are certainly not the *only* outcomes to the process of breeding psittacines for the pet trade; but they are unquestionably *one* of the results of some of the avicultural practices that have been going on for decades and continue as we speak.

Now I am not so naïve as to presume to tell aviculturists that they should *not* be reproducing psittacines in captivity. Others have done that. And scores of hobbyists have curtailed their breeding in recent years. What is more important, however, is that perhaps if some of those parrot breeders who earn their living selling baby birds would venture to explore personally the avian occupants in refuges, they would take more seri-

ously the responsibilities they have assumed.

Beyond the wild caught birds we saw there, including a pair of Senegal Parrots who were obviously alarmed of all humans, it was the former handfed pets that most evoked sadness from me. For example, Wasu, the cockatoo we dropped off, was one of the most incredible male pet cockatoos I have ever known. But to see his life fractured by being loaded in a carrier and taken to a strange place seemed like such a letdown. We expected him to get all excited about all the other squawking white cockatoos living there. But, Wasu reacted not at all to the noisemaking of his white relatives. He made no effort to communicate with the female cockatoos we showed him. In fact, he was altogether a bit startled by their active demeanors. All he wanted to do was court humans and beg for attention from keepers. His total lack of social habits towards others of his kind is a stark void—a failure of sorts—for aviculture and the way it chooses to produce some pets. The very same behavior attitudes could be seen in some of the Sun Conures, a Patagonian Conure, large macaws and Eclectus Parrots at this facility. They begged to humans, even though it was humans who abandoned them in the first place. Perhaps it is precisely the fact that humans have forsaken them that makes these psittacines so *needy*. Yet after years of raising a number of self-reliant, well-behaved baby parrots that know they are parrots and can entertain themselves without constant human input, I can't help but believe that many bird breeders are inadvertently doing the chicks they profess to love a major disservice by fawning over them and cuddling them and taking them from their parents and siblings so hastily that the future pet has no family life, no personal *identity*.

We all know the importance of



proper teaching for the character development of human children. Well, where are the teachers for our baby hookbills? Obviously in a great deal of pet bird cases, humans are the teachers. But, what are we teaching these birds? Don't bite. Don't scream. Step up. Step down. Scratch your head. Most of the parrots April and I saw in that adoption center have those things down pat! Are they happy because of it? Do such rudimentary skills prevent them from being discarded by their original owners? Wouldn't our psittacine chicks be better served learning intricate lessons from their own parents and species, so that they might comprehend a smidgeon of healthy birdlike behavior in a world dominated by people?

Of course. But such teaching takes a special setup and quite a bit of time. And time is money, is it not....?

I have always believed firmly in keeping mature parrots in twos whenever it is plausible. That is certainly the best way to "retire" older parrots for the last phase of their captive lives. The problem with this conviction, as revealed at our rescue sanctuary, are that so many pet parrots are dysfunctional to the point that they cannot accept what would be the best thing for them--a birdie friend or companion. Many have absolutely no idea that another psittacine of their same genus or species is something they should relate to.

*(Continued on page 14)*



# Wild Birds Put On A Show

Written by Brad Durrell  
THURSDAY, JULY 03, 2008

Reprinted courtesy of The Bridgeport News, [www.thebridgeportnews.com](http://www.thebridgeportnews.com)

Rosie sure knows how to catch grapes thrown into the air.

The trumpeter hornbill, a bird from Africa, regularly demonstrates her grape-catching skills these days during the Free Flight Bird Show at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo.

Trinity Wood, 7, was impressed after she was selected from the audience by trainer Lindsey Morse to toss a grape high above them.

"I was surprised the bird was so good," Trinity said after Rosie easily grabbed the grape in mid-air with her beak. The 300 audience members also were amazed, based on their reaction.

In the wild, Rosie prefers catching insects to grapes.

"I was a little afraid, but it was kind of fun," said Trinity, a Georgia resident who was visiting her grandparents in Connecticut.

Morse joked about Rosie's talent. "That's why there are no more flying grapes left on the plains of Africa," she told the audience.

Rosie is one of 10 birds from around the world in the show, performed free for zoo visitors up to three times daily from Wednesday to Sunday. About 30 birds have been trained to

be part of the presentation, but only some are used.

The show, which continues through Sept. 1, is put on by Natural Encounters, a company that has trained staff at DisneyWorld for similar animal shows. The Philadelphia Zoo and Texas State Aquarium previously hosted the bird show.

The Free Flight Bird Show highlights unusual kinds of birds, from raptors to parrots, combining their natural behaviors with a conservation message.

The birds are trained by using positive re-enforcement such as food treats, and none have had their wings clipped.

Many of the birds fly just over the heads of audience members during the show. "If you guys duck, she just flies lower," Morse said after one bird with a wide wingspan created a breeze near some heads in the audience.

Sluggo, a black-legged seriema from South America, repeatedly smashed a rubber lizard against a rock as if preparing a meal. "That's what they do in the wild," Morse explained.

## A singing performance

Quito, a double-headed Amazon parrot, sang an unusual version of "Old McDonald had a Farm," made a puckered-up sound like a kiss, and imitated a tiger's roar and a cat's meow. When exiting the stage to applause, Quito even politely said "good-bye."

Mike Perfetto, 15, of North Haven, particularly liked the parrot's rendition of "Old McDonald."

"And some of the birds flew very close to our heads," said Mike, who was visiting the zoo with relatives.

Audience members seemed to really like Archimedes, a Eurasian eagle owl. The largest type of owl in the world, they can catch up to 2,000 mice a year.

The trainers had some fun with the audience by having a group of mice run behind Morse and Archimedes on stage during the show. "Mice! Mice!" the audience shouted.

Garfunkel, a pied crow, demonstrated his intelligence by flying about 25 feet to grab a credit card from an audience member's hand and bringing it to Morse.

"I'm going shopping," joked Morse, before having Garfunkel return the credit card to

*(Continued on page 12)*



(Continued from page 11)

its rightful owner. A dollar bill is the usual prop in this part of the show.

Others birds in the show are named Squirt, Moe and Curley, and Skittle and Starburst. The names are meant to be clever and “cheesy,” Morse said.

As the audience found out, there are about 9,000 bird species on the planet. Visitors learned that crows and ravens are at the top of the bird intelligence scale. Owls, despite a reputation for being wise, are near the bottom.

People in the audience were told many of the birds would not make good pets, and some parrots can live up to age 50. “Hearing ‘Old McDonald had a Farm’ at 5 a.m. isn’t much fun,” Morse warned.

They were told of programs to protect the birds’ shrinking habitat, especially in Africa and South America. The show also promoted the importance of recycling.

At the show’s end, donations were solicited to help conservation and environmental organizations such as the World Parrot Trust. Beardsley Zoo visitors already have contributed more than \$6,000.

Mary Thielen of Stamford said after the show that her young children liked the birds’ colors, and how they gracefully moved through the air. “It was great,” she said.

### “The coolest job”

Morse, a 29-year-old Michigan native, later said she has been fascinated with animals since being a toddler.

She had worked in a veterinary office before Natural Encounters hired her for a show at the Toledo Zoo in Ohio.

Working in a bird show is the ultimate job for her. “It’s a thrill to hear people — especially young kids — laugh and cheer every day while we’re showing them how to appreciate animals more,” Morse said.

“I’ve had people come up to me afterward with tears of joy, telling me how we’ve changed their view of wildlife forever,” she said.

People often tell her she has “the coolest job” they have encountered. “I’ll do this forever if I can,” Morse said.

She said it can take weeks to get the birds in the show used to a new venue. The trainers spent three weeks setting up in Bridgeport.

While Natural Encounters hasn’t had a bird fly away in two decades, there can be close calls when in a new location. Still, the birds grow attached to their trainers. “They’ve been raised by us,” Morse said.

On Monday and Tuesday when the Wild Bird show isn’t put on, the zoo offers the Awesome Amphibians and Rowdy Reptiles presentation at the same times. This show is done by zoo staff and offers close encounters with different animals.

See the Free Flight Bird Show from Wednesday to Friday at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., with a third show at 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.



Trainer Lindsey Morse holds Rosie, a trumpeter hornbill, as the African bird eats a grape. (Photo by Wayne Ratzenberger)



Garfunkel, an African pied crow, grabs a dollar bill from an audience member and brings it to a trainer on stage. (Photo by Wayne Ratzenberger)



AFA Notes  
July 2008  
Editor - Carol Lee

**AFA 34th CONVENTION**  
*July 30 - August 2, 2008*  
*St. Louis, Missouri*  
**Register NOW**

As the song says, "Meet me in St. Louis, Louis, Meet me at the fair, Don't tell me the lights are shining any place but there." We may not do the Hoochee Koochee and you may not find your tootsie wootsie but we will certainly be having fun. The American Federation of Aviculture is going to light up the lights in St. Louis, Missouri with their 34th annual convention.

St. Louis is a city of many nicknames, among them is The Gateway City, and is steeped in history. It was the first leg of the Oregon Trail when people started moving west; hence it was called The Gateway City. It was named for a French King, King Louis IX and part of the Louisiana Purchase. It was the site of the first U.S. World's Fair as well as the Olympic games in 1904. The list goes on and on.

We are going to the zoo. The zoo is located in Forrest Park, the site of the 1904 World's Fair and one of the largest urban parks in the world, out sizing Central Park in New York City by 500 acres. The St. Louis Zoological Park is one of the oldest and largest in the country, ranking as one of the top five most visited zoos across America.

Another must see for tourists is the Gateway Arch, one of the world's most recognizable landmarks. For those brave souls who would like a real bird's eye view of St. Louis, there is an internal observation platform at the top of the arch. For a small fee you can enjoy a spectacular view and/or be scared out of your wits. I did it once and being claustrophobic did not help. It is definitely one of the things you may want to add to your list of things to do. Other points of interest include Union Station, Grants Farm, Six Flags and for you baseball fans there is Busch Stadium and the St. Louis Cardinals. Un-

fortunately, they will be playing out of town while we are there but you can still see their home field.

There are so many things to see and do in St. Louis you will need at least an extra week to capture them all. In light of this, arrangements have been made with the hotel to extend our special rate to include three days prior to the convention and three days after the convention. Check our web site, [www.AFABirds.org](http://www.AFABirds.org) for updates and highlights. Convention will be held at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel.

**SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Darrel K. Styles, DVM**

"Update on Avian In uenza"

**Bennett Hennessey**

***Sponsored by Bird Endowment***

"Red-fronted Macaws"

"Swallow-tailed Cotingas"

"Currosow"

**Jean Pattison**

"Breeding African Parrots"

**Bonnie Zimmerman**

**Ricardo Valentin**

"Puerto Rican Parrots at the Abajo Aviary"

**Thomas M. Edling, DVM, MSpVM**

**Sharman Hoppes, DVM, ABVP-AVIAN**

"Proventricular Dilatation Disease (PDD)"

**Linda Rubin**

**Ian Tizard, BVMS, Ph.D., DACVM**

*Texas A&M University,  
College of Veterinary Medicine*


And more!

The American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. is a 501(c)3 educational organization. Be sure to register early at [www.AFABirds.org](http://www.AFABirds.org) or by completing the registration form in the AFA *Watchbird* magazine.

*(Continued on page 15)*

## Upcoming Area Events

- July 19 - Tri-State Budgerigar Society - Knights of Columbus Hall, 83 East Lincoln Ave. Monroe, NJ - 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - 732-583-1591 - chuck83r@aol.com - [www.tri-statebudgie.org/shows.html](http://www.tri-statebudgie.org/shows.html)
- July 19 - LIPS South American Parrot Conference - American Legion Post #94, 22 Grove Place, Babylon, NY - 9:00 am - 5:00 pm - 631-957-1100 - info@liparrots.org - [www.liparrotsociety.org/SA-ParrotConference.htm](http://www.liparrotsociety.org/SA-ParrotConference.htm)
- Sept 27 - New York Finch & Type Canary Club Annual Show - St. Judes Church, 9401 Seaview Ave, Brooklyn, NY - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm - 718-967-6899
- Oct 11 - Long Island Parrot Society Parrot Expo - Freeport Recreation Center, 130 Merrick Road, Freeport, NY - 9:00 am - 5:00 pm - 631-957-1100 - [www.liparrotsociety.org/annualshow.htm](http://www.liparrotsociety.org/annualshow.htm)
- Oct 26 - Castle Enterprises PDD Benefit Luncheon and Birdie Bingo - Heritage Hotel, 500 Centerville Road, Lancaster, PA - 11:30 am - 4:30 pm - 717-957-4241 - info@PetBirdShows.com - [www.petbirdshows.com](http://www.petbirdshows.com)



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## My House of Wings

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\*We pick up in tri-state area

*(Continued from page 10)*

Often the only preening any of these birds has ever experienced has been done by human fingers—not a very efficient mechanism for grooming and comforting single feather shafts, I can assure you! If you are taken from the nest or incubator weeks before your plumage is fully grown, the chances that you will have experienced the joys of being preened by another bird are oftentimes nil. Sometimes, birds spend a relatively short time in clutches with brothers and sisters, yes, but more often pets are sold off early (even unweaned!) or clutches are split up and go to different destinations, etc.

Certainly, few chicks have the opportunity to fledge and wean with members of their family and their own kind. Is it any wonder that their species identity is lost to the degree that they will never be able to look upon another parrot as something to provide reassurance and camaraderie?

Put such birds into a human environment as a single pet for a decade or more and the situation oftentimes becomes worse. In the past I have written about baby parrot loneliness; I have written of chicks being raised as orphans, but truly, as evidenced at our local rehab center, if there is one rather convoluted rationale of pet birdkeeping in the world these days it is the phobic concept that, “*My parrot*

*does not think he is a bird.”*

“My bird thinks he is human.” What a totally mixed up insult to both the pet parrot and to the humans that raised and are presently keeping him. If you have a psittacine such as this currently living in your home, may god bless you both; and hopefully the beloved pet will never have to attempt to cope with a crowded rescue/rehab facility. I honor those who run these sanctuaries, but I am aghast at the lack of training that went into producing so many of the birds that occupy them.

With aloha, EB      *(Next month:  
So What Do We Do About It?)*

## Classifieds

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Email Arthur - [awfulart@optonline.net](mailto:awfulart@optonline.net)

**Credits:** The front cover, page 3, and back cover pictures are courtesy of Linda Costello.



## Pictures from the June 2008 Meeting



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(Continued from page 13)

Speakers & topics subject to change.

*St Louis Zoo Tour Grants Farm For more details, contact: Wanda Elder, AFA Convention*

For more details, contact: **Wanda Elder**, AFA Convention Coordinator

ConventionCentral@idealbirds.com

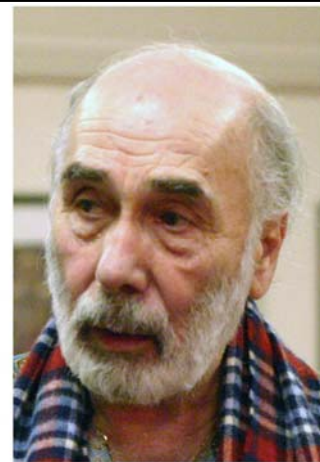
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