

THE REAL MACAW
PARROT CLUB
October 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 Rose Agrusti 973-299-8134
 ragrusti@earthlink.net
 See our website for an application:
 www.realmacaw.com/pages/app.html

RULES OF ORDER

- 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.
- 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.
- NO SMOKING** in the meeting room.
- QUIET** must be maintained during meetings. There is ample social time before and after meetings for talking.
- 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.
- 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.****

Articles may be reprinted, provided that the author and The Real Macaw Parrot Club are credited. All submissions become the property of The Real Macaw Parrot Club. See "Disclaimer" on this page. Mail, email or hand type-written submissions to the Editor at meetings. Please be sure that you have obtained permission in writing before submitting articles for reprinting.

Call Shelly at 201-791-0245
 Email - sheldono@sprynet.com

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



Oct. Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008
 VFW Hall
 6 Winslow Place
 Paramus, NJ 07652
 7:15 PM - Social Time
 8:00 PM - Meeting Starts

Oct. Speaker

Our guest speaker for October will be Doreen Gluck. No birds will be allowed at this meeting. 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

Future Meetings

November 13, 2008
 December 11, 2008
 January 8, 2009
 February 12, 2009
 Please mark these dates on your calendar today. Speakers are subject to change.

Vice Presidential Message

We are currently President-less, so I have the honor of writing this column this month. Next month, after October's election, this column will revert back to our normal Presidential Message.

As mentioned in other places in this newsletter, our elections for the positions of President, 1st VP, and Secretary will take place at our October meeting. Everybody, please come to vote and to enjoy our guest speaker, Doreen Gluck. If you cannot attend, please use the Absentee Ballot that is in this newsletter and on our web site.

Three members who were nominated for office at our last meeting have decided not to run. Two of the open positions now have only one candidate. They are still on the ballot so that you can check the boxes to show that you support these candidates.

(Continued on page 5)



Inside this issue:

Rules of Order, Officers, Committee Members, Membership Info, etc.	2
VP Message, Speaker Announcement	3
Speaker Bio and Lecture Description	4
Minutes From Last Meeting	4
Dues Notice	5
Executive Board Meeting Minutes	6
Financial Report	6
Announcements	6
Forget Bird-Brained by Laura Sanders	7
Giving Up a Bird by Doreen Gluck	8
Bread Bad For Birds by Donna Sleight	9
Absentee Ballot	10
Candidate Surveys	11
Of Cages, Flights, and Aviaries by EB Cravens	14
AFA Call For Papers	16
Upcoming Area Events, Advertisements, Classifieds, Credits	18
Pictures From Last Meeting	19
Advertisements	20

October 2008 Meeting

The elections for the Board positions of President, 1st Vice President, and Secretary will take place at the beginning of our October meeting.

Our October speaker will be Doreen Gluck. Doreen will be speaking about adoption, rescue, and taking in an older bird. Also, should you add another bird to your home, life changes, and how to handle emergencies.



Some information from her web site, www.hometweethome.org:

HomeTweetHome is more than just a sanctuary for birds needing a forever home. We offer help to individuals who love their birds and help them understand how to keep them with them and not put them up for adoption. If need be, and they can no longer keep the birds in their home- we help find wonderful adoptive families for them. We are currently on Long Island in New York State. We will be moving the rescue to our NEW LOCATION in Washington County, NY in the

Summer of 2009. It is located about 48 miles north of Albany.

Once we move we will be offering emergency foster care for birds; transportation to / from foster care, rescue, etc; educational classes as well as adoption placement and consultations.

Read an article of Doreen's beginning on page 8.

The Real Macaw General Membership Meeting #240 Minutes September 11, 2008

Real Macaw Parrot Club General Meeting Minutes

- Food was enjoyed from 7:15 to 8:30 during our late Summer picnic.
- The meeting was started at 8:30 pm by Shelly Orloff, Vice President.
- A motion was made by Rich Holmes to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the last meeting since they were already published in the newsletter. Motion was seconded by Diane Weiner.
- Acting Treasurer, Rose Agrusti presented a balance of \$1757.06 in the treasury.
- Acting VP, Diane Weiner discussed upcoming fundraisers.
 - 1) One of which will be the Holiday Tricky Tray where each member will bring in a \$15 bird related item for the fundraiser. Tickets will be sold at the holiday party for members to participate. This will be the club's first fundraiser of the year, but will also depend on receiving the state gambling license in time.
 - 2) Next year will be the club's 20th anniversary and there is a possibility of having a dinner celebration with a paid speaker. Tickets to this event will be open to the public.
 - 3) An in-house garage sale is also being considered.
- Jim Wright thanked the acting Board for helping the club get through this transitional phase.
- It was agreed by all in the room that the By Laws need to be changed when the new Board takes over.

(Continued on page 7)

DUES NOTICE

Renewals Due By Oct. 31, 2008

Please send payments to - **Real Macaw Parrot Club**
c/o Rose Agrusti
685 Boonton Ave
Boonton, New Jersey 07005

*If you have been pro-rated, this means that your pro-rated dues will extend your membership to Sept. 2009, when \$45.00 membership dues become payable again.

\$45

Baker	Garofano	Locke
Baloutine	Glenn	Lord
Campbell	Heaney	Orloff
Collins	Heymann	Phaneuf
Cupo	Holmes	Szabo
Datz	Kahak	Testa
DeGeorge	Koenemund	Weiner
Ferrera	Krehlik	Zimmermann
Ferry	Ladosz	Zych

Pro-Rate

Braidech	\$17
LaCouture	\$5
Nicholson	\$13
Patrick	\$9
Cronin	\$33

Out of State Members

Alembik	\$25
McConnell	\$25

(Continued from page 3)

The food that was brought to the last meeting for our picnic was great. The actual meeting started a half hour late, at 8:30, because people kept eating and eating. Thank you to everybody who brought the great dishes. The club assumes no liability for the people who gained weight that night.

There were 3 minor errors in last month's newsletter, and our online members had fun seeing who would be the first one to spot these errors after I announced online that the newsletter had an error in it. Donna spotted two of them and Sandy spotted the third. And no, I did not deliberately make these errors just to get people to read the newsletter looking for the errors. They were honest mistakes.

If you have an email address and are not on our ParrotGroup and RealMacaw mailing lists, please let me know so that I can add you. These lists are only open to club members.

I'm excited about our planned newsletter naming contest. Many of the clubs that I exchange newsletters with have great names for their newsletters, which is what made me think that ours needs a name also. A prize will be offered to the winner. Details will follow.

If you have not already renewed, please don't forget to bring your membership renewal check with you to the October meeting to save yourself a postage stamp. The notice on the top of this page has been updated to show those who have not renewed as of September 28.

Shelly

Real Macaw Parrot Club Executive Board Meeting Minutes September 2008

The September Board meeting has been postponed a week due to one of our Board members being out of the country, so the September minutes will not be in this issue. Next month's newsletter will therefore probably contain the minutes from both the September and October Board meetings.

Financial Report



Starting balance -	\$1757.06
Expenses	
Rent	-65.00
Membership refund	-45.00
Income	
Membership dues	+515.00
Closing Balance	\$2162.06



Announcements

- Elections for the positions of President, 1st Vice President, and Secretary will take place at the October meeting. For those who cannot attend the meeting, an Absentee Ballot is available on page 10 and on our web site at www.realmacaw.com/pages/absentee.pdf. Instructions for submitting the ballot are on the ballot.
- The membership renewal due date have been extended from the end of September to the end of October. Dues are \$45 for one family at the same address if you live in NJ or NY, and \$25 if you live in any other state. If you joined during the past year then your renewal amount will be pro-rated; the amount you owe is listed on page 5. Dues can be brought to the October meeting, or mailed to the address on page 5. Payment must be received by October 31 to avoid a lapse in membership.
- No pet birds will be allowed at the October meeting. This was requested by our speaker.
- The Club would like to welcome back former member Sharon Bergen!



FORGET BIRD-BRAINED

By Laura Sanders

Web edition : Monday, September 29th, 2008

Reprinted courtesy of ScienceNews, www.sciencenews.org

Fossil find uncovers new species of meat-eating dinosaur that had birdlike lungs

Paleontologists have discovered a new species of carnivorous dinosaur that possessed an interesting feature: It breathed like a bird.

Unlike mammals, birds have evolved a highly efficient system of breathing in which multiple bellows, or air sacs, in the rib cage push oxygen-rich air through a fixed lung.

The fossils from this new dinosaur — called *Aerosteon rio-coloradensis*, which means air bones from the Río Colorado, the Argentine river near where they were found — show characteristically avian features, including air-filled bones in the rib cage that show the hallmark imprints of air sacs, the team reports online September 30 in *PLoS ONE*.

Scientists are left to wonder why a birdlike system of breathing would be used both by a 10-meter long predatory dinosaur that weighed as much as an Indian elephant, and by a chicken.

In birds, air goes in one end of a lung and comes out the other, a system called flow-

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 4)

- Shelly Orloff was applauded for his fantastic newsletters, but to keep the size of them the same.
- Shelly Orloff suggested that the club have a contest to name its newsletter.
- Jim Wright was announced as Sergeant at Arms for the club.
- There will be a door prize raffle at the end of each meeting.
- Candidate bios will be printed in the next newsletter for members to read and be informed about each person running for office.
- A motion was made by Jim Wright to open the nominations portion of the meeting. It was seconded by Jan Braidech.

Nominations for President-

Angela Cupo by Rich Holmes, Rose Agrusti by Sandy Kahak, and Ursula Baker by Ray Datz.

Nominations for 1st Vice President-

Diane Weiner by Celeste Wright, Jim Wright by Ray Datz, and Dorothy Koenemund by Angela Cupo.

Nominations for Secretary-

Dorothy Andrusko by Marianne Linss.

- A motion was made by Wayne Baker to close the nominations portion of the meeting. It was seconded by Sandy Kahak.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Linss

"Giving Up A Bird"

Doreen Tamara Gluck 1998
updated 2007
HomeTweet@aol.com

While I would like to think that all the birds that get adopted, bought or given as gifts are going to stay with that one family, I am realistic enough to know that many don't.

I have been adopting and placing DOZENS of birds each year. There are as many good reasons for giving up birds as there are bad reasons. A woman on AOL (America Online) had to not only give up her birds because of several medical problems (some she has had for years) but she couldn't return home till the house was professionally cleaned. Every trace of bird had to be removed. Several years ago, I received a call on Thanksgiving Eve that an older woman had to give up her two birds. A hispanolian Amazon, about 25 years old at the time, and a Congo African Grey, who at the time was in her teens. The woman's daughter came home from work and told her mother "It is you or the birds, pack or find a home for them". I now share my life and home with Momma and Silvey. I worked with a man who had over 125 cockatiels and 45 parrots. His daughter told him one afternoon- "Get out dad and your birds go too!"

Several years ago I had a woman contact me. She needed to place a Moluccan Cockatoo that she had only a few years. When I asked her why, she said because when she repainted her living room, the bird didn't match the color scheme. A young woman going to law

school gave up her 7-year old lovebird because she needed to study and he

wanted to sit on her... she didn't like anything touching her when she studied.

So... for every bird there is a reason. The purpose of this sheet is to help you find the best home possible for your bird should you have to give him or her up. I am not here to judge, whatever your reason for having to give up your bird, your goal should be finding the best permanent home that you can.

One last thing... while I do not like the idea of people who need to find a home for their bird selling them, I also understand that sometimes that is needed. There is a woman I talk to on the Internet whose husband walked out on her. HE had over 200 birds, he left all them behind. He cleaned out the bank accounts and closed all IRA's, stocks etc. She was left with birds she doesn't even know how to feed, what they are or ANY info on them. She is flat broke, just got a job at an office supply store, earns minimum wage and has no family to turn to. She is now working with a local bird club and selling the birds (she is NOT going to get rich- she sold a pair of greys who had babies in the nest for only \$300.00) Her goal is not to get rich, but she is broke and this will help. I know some people would say her goal should be good homes and not the money, but in this case, she is doing both.



WHERE TO TURN:

Whether you are adopting out or selling your bird(s), I DO NOT recommend you put ads in newspapers. I dislike this for several reasons:

- 1) Some people are looking for FREE birds. They want them to turn around and sell them. Their goal is not to give a good home. Like many con people, they will come across as the loving home you are looking for. Days later when you call to check on the bird, it is long gone.
- 2) Many people think that people with birds MUST have money. While a little paranoid, I would be afraid someone would case my house thinking I was loaded.
- 3) How can you properly screen people thru a phone call? I want to see their homes, talk to their

(Continued on page 17)



Bread Bad For Birds?

By Real Macaw Member Donna Sleight

Recently, in correspondence with the Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research in Delaware, they had an interesting hypothesis about bread and other carbs in relation to appropriate bird diets. According to them, bread can be a bad thing to feed wild birds. If this is true for wild birds, I think it is a viable consideration for the health of our parrots, don't you?

In most households, bread and other carbs seem to be a most enjoyable staple -- despite the low-carb hype of recent years. Bread is the source of fuel preferred by the cells in our bodies, coming with an assortment of a few essential vitamins and minerals. However, even though bread (including whole grain varieties) is also enjoyable to birds, is it essential, or even safe for our parrots?

In maintaining our parrots' health, we should be aware that bread may rob a bird's diet of the more nutritionally dense foods it requires. In the case of a wild bird that relies on optimal muscle mass, bone

strength, and feathering, they are more susceptible to predators, to making potentially fatal pilot errors, and to losing out in the competition for more appropriate food. What, then, could it mean for a parrot's health? No, they usually don't need to protect themselves against predators; however, muscle mass, bone strength and feathering are very important. So, again, this is a viable consideration.

Upon doing a little research on this subject, it seems that bread can kill a wild bird directly by damaging its whole digestive system, as well as contributing to potentially fatal intestinal blockages.

Most vulnerable is the "crop", located at the base of a bird's throat. The crop is where food is moistened. Any sticky or expandable (bread product) substance can remain in the crop, causing it to become distended, infected, or impacted ("crop stasis"), which will kill a bird.

Knowing the risk to wild

birds, it isn't worth the risk to our parrots' life to feed it bread, or bread products (cake, cookies, chips, crackers, rice or fries).

Options? For your outside wild birds, you can feed black oil sunflower seeds, suet, berries, apples, oranges, or even a dish of yummy mealworms. Ducks and other waterfowl can be given whole corn (feed corn, not seed corn). Seed corn is most likely treated with insecticides, and can kill birds. For your parrots, offer a wide variety of vegetables and fruits.

Autumn is here -- take advantage of the season and don't forget to buy your parrots some of those little pumpkins (not the shellacked or painted varieties), almonds in the shell, and especially those luscious pomegranates. A pomegranate will keep a parrot occupied for hours.

Oh, and by the way, my African Grey does not agree with the part about the cookies!

Real Macaw Parrot Club October 2008 Absentee Ballot

Directions:

Choose only one candidate for President by checking the appropriate box. Check the box for the 1st VP and Secretary candidates if you support these candidates.

Do not sign this form if you wish to keep your vote confidential. Place this form in an envelope and write your name and membership number on the envelope; the membership number is required to ensure that the ballot is coming from a legitimate member. If you do not know your membership number, contact Shelly at sheldono@sprynet.com or at 201-791-0245.

At the October meeting, the ballots will be removed folded from the envelopes and then later tabulated to ensure that your votes are kept confidential. Envelopes without a valid signature and membership number will be rejected. Only one ballot is allowed per paid membership. Ballots must be received by October 8, 2008.

This absentee ballot can also be printed from www.realmacaw.com/pages/absentee.pdf

Mail the ballot to:

Shelly Orloff
Real Macaw Parrot Club Ballot
7-32 Richard St.
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

If you have email and we have your email address, you will receive a confirmation that your ballot has been received.

For President:

Rose Agrusti

Ursula Baker

For 1st Vice President:

Jim Wright

For Secretary:

Dorothy Andrusko

Candidate Surveys

(Listed alphabetically)

For President: Rose Agrusti

How long have you been a member of The Real Macaw Club? 8 years

What activities or committees have you served on?

I was newsletter editor for 3 ½ years and treasurer on the Executive Board for 7 years. During these years I assisted in all fundraisers including Tricky Trays and an Expo. In addition, I have taken care of club paperwork in respect to the I.R.S., club tax exemption forms, insurance, licenses, etc.



What do you have to offer the club?

I have been involved in various school clubs and organizations that my children were involved in. In these organizations I participated in various executive boards as corresponding secretary, treasurer, and Vice-President.

Being an active member of the New Jersey Teachers' Association, I have been involved and formally trained in grievance procedures, liaison actions, membership motivation, and presidential dealings. Within the last 18 years I have held several positions in my Teachers' Association Executive Board in the capacity of Vice-President, secretary, and (in the last three years) President.

I have had parrots since a child and presently have three (a Senegal, African Grey, and Umbrella Cockatoo). Of course, I would have many more if I had more room in my home and extra time to spend with them. On weekends, I try to attend bird shows in the tri-state area and have attended two AFA Conferences (one in Los Angeles and the other in Florida), as well as, a Bird Clubs of America Conference in Virginia.

If elected president of the Real Macaw Club I intend to use my experiences to further the club in all areas. My main goals are to focus on educating our members and the public about parrots, as well as, re-establishing a sense of camaraderie amongst our parrot lover members.



Candidate Surveys

For President: Ursula Baker

How long have you been a member of The Real Macaw Club? 9+ years

What activities or committees have you served on?

Treasurer of North Jersey Exotic Bird Club. Secretary of North Jersey Exotic Bird Club. Choir member at church. Help out in the office at Church when needed. Helped out in all capacities at Jarad's Parrots Exotic Bird Store (my husband's business). Ran a 12 Step Meeting in Clifton of O/A. Worked at the Parrot Aviary, "Parrots Without People" a Non Profit located at the New York Renaissance Faire trying to educate people about parrots.



What do you have to offer the club?

A great love and respect for birds. My husband and I have owned birds for as long as I can remember. We have also rescued and rehabilitated abused and abandoned parrots for many years. I learned a great deal about my beloved parrots from just being with them, from my Vet, membership to the Real Macaw and other Parrot Clubs, and reading anything I can get my hands on. I can incorporate the benefit of all my experiences not only to the people who come through our parrot aviary at the Renaissance Faire but more locally at my own club. How nice that would be.



Candidate Surveys

For 1st Vice President: Jim Wright

How long have you been a member of The Real Macaw Club?

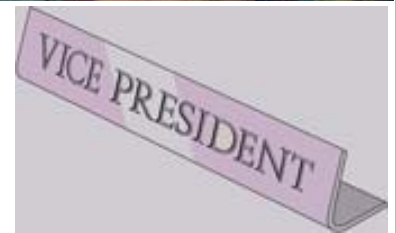
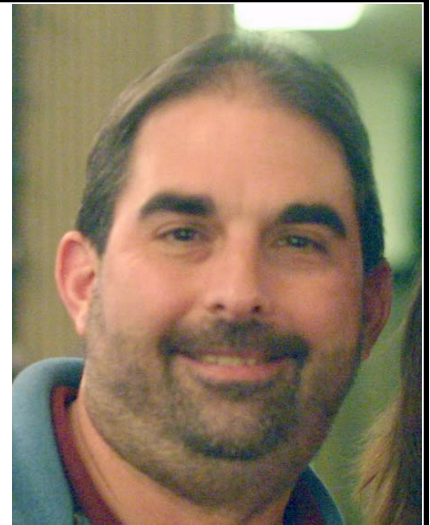
4 years

What activities or committees have you served on?

Sound Technicians Local #630 Assistant Director 1984-1986, National Press Photographers Association NJ Chapter Vice President 1995-1997, Real Macaw Grievance Committee 2008-present.

What do you have to offer the club?

A strong sense of ethics. A great love for all things avian. Good organizational skills. The ability to make important decisions. The ability to work within a group.



For Secretary: Dorothy Andrusko

How long have you been a member of The Real Macaw Club?

13 years

What activities or committees have you served on?

Secretary of the club. Volunteer at many club events.

What do you have to offer the club?

I attend the club meetings every month unless unable to do so. I have the experience since I have previously been Secretary. I have a good work ethic and will always work for the good of the club.



“Of Cages, Flights, and Aviaries”

I remember some time ago, I was involved in a discussion about the appropriate size of enclosures for pet and breeder parrots. One aviculturist talked about her “aviaries” where the birds lived; but when I took a quick look at that breeding facility’s web page, there were numerous photos of 4-foot x 4-foot cages in which African Grey sized psittacines were being housed.

That was a bit of a shock to me and I confronted the breeder with the consideration that such wire boxes were not adequate enough to be called “aviaries.”

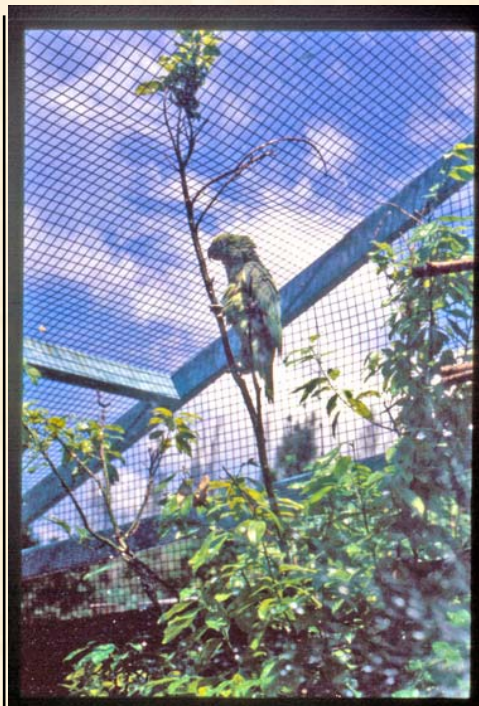
This brings up the point: when is a cage a flight and when is a flight an aviary? Obviously the first is an enclosure of limited size and sometimes appeal; the second is usually a longer, thinner area offering the hookbills the pleasure of full flight, even if sometimes in a straight line back and forth; while the third is often used interchangeably with “flight” but suggests an even larger space or pen with many lifestyle enhancements designed for the gratification of the occupying birds and for pleasing the eye of the beholder!

Now I am not saying that every cage must necessarily be boring and uninviting for its parrot. Many pets in a home prefer to eat, sleep, nap, chew, and just hang out in the security of their own cage. Where cages lack sufficiency usually is in the realm of potential exercise. There just is not enough room to burn off calories at the high rate natural to avian species. Also, the smaller the space, the more sameness creeps into the picture. Regardless of how many toys are hung inside (and I have seen some

cages stuffed to silliness with plastic, rope and wood items), there is only so much that can be done with a pen that is measurable in 72” lengths or less. That’s why keeping birds—even small canaries, finches, budgerigars in cages means they need to be let out regularly for flight. Incidentally, canaries, finches, etc. are extremely easy to train to fly around a safe room and return to their own cage to eat! With parrots, cages should be left open daily, allowing the birds to move about under supervision or in a safe play room.

Many of my psittacines live in flights outside. These 6-foot x 10-foot or 10-foot x 12-foot structures are not quite large enough to be called aviaries, but do provide my birds with a varied environment of plants and trees along with the ground (so I can walk in to be with them!) and a tall roof area usually 8-10 feet up.

In the past I have viewed many flights that are 15 feet in length by 6-feet high by 4-feet wide up on legs with a suspended bottom. But I prefer the solidness and ease of cleaning provided by a walk-in flight. It also makes the enclosure plant-friendly and gives skittish parrots a really safe feeling. Walk-ins are less noisy than suspended wire, make arrangement of new perches and fittings a simple step ladder requirement, and offer space to place an entire nesting log or thick wooden box inside for parrots to completely explore. I do not like situations where my hens and cocks only have a opening to a box that they are supposed to nest in, but they have no knowledge of being on top of the box, or around the opening from differ-



ent sides.

I also tend to construct flights that are interconnected with hallways and easy open trap doors to a neighboring flight, L-shaped and such with nooks and design contrary to that basic “rectangle” of most cages. This permits me to allow my parrots access to an empty flight or cage other than their own, to change flights during different seasons and to altogether have a more varied life experience. One of my serious pet peeves is to see a fancy new breeding facility with row upon row of bird flights all the same size and orientation, all furnished the same, with matching doors, cement floors, boring horizontal perches and the like. What an unimaginative way to keep lovely birds—in cubicles all alike to a fault. Moving birds around after a breeding season in such a place would not offer any real change in stimulation.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

When one comes to the "aviary" definition, a whole new world opens up for the natural birdkeeper...

Aviaries can be huge. They can accommodate multiple pairs or mixed species or all the pets in your household (that have been taught to get along, of course!). Aviaries may include planted trees and bushes and hanging boughs and running water and bird bath basins and large logs, posts, cargo ropes, tunnel hiding places and a huge variety of toys and natural playthings. One of the great things about aviaries is the freedom they offer birdkeepers to enjoy their charges in an environment very much akin to the ones parrots might experience in the wilds. Walk into your pets' home, rather than taking them out to interact in *yours*.

Aviaries turn mundane cleanup chores into gardening projects. They encourage lengthy flight by occupants not just from fixed perch to fixed perch as

many boxy flights do—but in and around things which hang and sway and move with a bird's body weight. Aviaries are nearly always outside in the fresh air and sunshine allowing parrots to absorb the ultraviolet spectrum of daylight and see the changing infra-reds of sunset. I have always believed my psittacines were healthier when they could experience rain and wind and thunder and the sounds of nature off in the distance. Even snow is a possibility with cold weather species that have indoor housing attached to a large aviary.

Have you ever gone to a reputable zoo where they had a walk through aviary? Perhaps to see softbills and finches and psittacines all housed together, or to feed a delightful flock of handfledglies and lorikeets. 'Tis a wonderful experience to visit with birds that are so comfortable in their own habitat that they trust humans. In fact, skittish parrots that do not like leaving their cage, or those breeder birds which are afraid of people when forced to

deal with them at basic face to face room level will often blossom in a natural setting, giving up much of their apprehension with the addition of height and greenery to hide within.

Aviaries are the perfect place to teach baby parrots about the magnificent and complex world around them—so much more so than a living room barred enclosure with food and water and artificial playthings. It comes down to imagination in our birdkeeping: either we cage our birds and offer them only what we can think of daily, or we create an aviary mini-habitat for our pets (and for certain breeders during the off season), and allow them to experience and explore things we never would have thought of...

The choice is ours as aviculturists: cages, flights, aviaries--or perhaps some of each. Now that's "Birdkeeping Naturally."

Cheers, EB

(Continued from page 7)

through lungs. This allows more oxygen to be absorbed than the mammalian way of breathing, in which air comes in and goes out the same way, leaving some stale air behind after each breath. Birds' small, lightweight lungs are also a big benefit for flying.

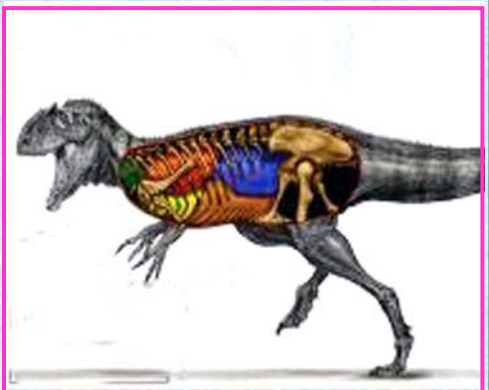
"The real trick is understanding how the air sac is useful to both birds and dinosaurs," says study coauthor Jeffrey Wilson of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. "We know now that the machinery [of the bird lung] was in place 86 million years ago in animals

that look nothing like a bird."

Soft tissues, like lungs, disintegrate long before scientists can find them, but can leave imprints, or "stamps" on hard bones, explains Wilson.

"Since generally all we have is bones in the fossil record, we hit the jackpot with *Aerosteon*, which shows the presence of these air sacs" explains study lead author Paul Sereno of the University of Chicago.

The idea of birds and dinosaurs sharing breathing styles has been around for a while. In 2005, a team led by Patrick O'Connor of Ohio University in Athens found a different type



AVIAN AIRWAYS

The new dinosaur species *Aerosteon riocoloradensis* had lungs (red) and air sacs (other colors) similar to those of modern birds.

Todd Marshall, Project Exploration

(Continued on page 18)

AFA Call For Papers
35th Annual Convention
Houston, Texas

CALL FOR PAPERS

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ture**

35th Annual Convention

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The American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. (AFA) is a nonprofit national organization established in 1974 whose purpose is to represent all aspects of aviculture and to educate the public about keeping and breeding birds in captivity.

We invite you to submit a proposal to present a paper during the convention. Proposals should be submitted in the form of an abstract, accompanied by a brief biographical sketch identifying the author's experience with the topic to be presented and other relevant information. Please consider submitting multiple abstracts as you may be asked to give more than one presentation.

Abstracts will be accepted through February 15, 2009. Receipt of abstracts will be acknowledged and applicants will receive timely updates from the speaker committee.

If the abstract is accepted, you will be required to sign a speaker's contract and return the contract promptly. A short bio and a current high resolution photograph is also required. Speakers will not be officially confirmed without receipt of a signed contract. Speakers are required to submit a paper to be published in the convention proceedings and in the *Watchbird*, the official publication of the AFA. Final Papers for the

proceedings must be received no later than April 15, 2009 to be included in the convention proceedings.

AFA will provide a complimentary convention registration package that includes one banquet ticket. All other arrangements, including transportation and hotel accommodations are the responsibility of the speaker.

Abstracts are short summaries of the paper you wish to present and should be no more than 250 words. They must include the name of the author(s), mailing addresses, Email and all phone contact information for the author(s). It is also helpful to know the name of your company, organization, aviary or other affiliation. If there is more than one author, please indicate which one will present.

Presentations will typically be 40 minutes in length plus a brief period for questions. Audio-visual equipment will be provided and will be specified in the contract.

Abstracts, biographies and final papers may be submitted in electronic format to nancyspeed@att.net. Please send as an Email or as an attachment in MS Word and identify it as "AFA Convention Abstract." Abstracts may also be faxed to 662-673-2226 or mailed to Nancy Speed, P. O. Box 369, Benton, MS 39039. The convention requires non-exclusive publication rights to submitted papers including the publication of Proceedings and publication in the *Watchbird*, the official publication of AFA.

For questions specifically regarding speaker topics and issues, contact Speaker Chair Nancy Speed at

662-673-8100 or by email at nancyspeed@att.net. For general information regarding the convention please visit our website at afabirds.org.

(Continued from page 8)

family, even talk to their vet. I am not sure I would feel comfortable going to a stranger's home to check them out.

BIRD CLUBS:

They are in almost every big city, or at least within an hour's drive. Many clubs have adoption programs. You can speak with the club member in charge of this program regarding placing your bird. Many clubs require that individuals who want to adopt be club members for at least 6 months. Some interview individuals and their families. This usually rules out the bad homes. TAKE YOUR TIME -- providing you have time. This should not be a rush decision. I thought I had the greatest home going. I knew the woman a few months. While I hadn't been to her home, others had and she seemed PERFECT... well, she wasn't. I found out she had had a bird fly away, lost another, has no money to care for medical care if needed, and has gotten over a dozen birds in the year that I know her. She is someone who is out to collect free birds. While her birds are healthy, clean, well fed, vetted etc. She is a collector, I won't help her do that.

THE INTERNET:

I kind of have the same feeling about the Internet as I do newspapers. How do you really know who you are dealing with? On AOL there is a special area for bird adoptions. Tons of birds are posted there for adoption. Ten times as many people are there to adopt. A friend posted an amazon for adoption. He got

300 responses. He forwarded names to me to look at. Several of the people I knew personally and knew that adopt birds for free and then adopt them out, always asking for a small fee to cover expenses. How sad that people are thinking the birds are going to the man and a home they are trying to trust- only to have the bird end up who knows where.

I know of several rescue groups on the Internet. They are people all over the country who help with placement and rescue of birds. Often birds are bought or --as many say-- "ransomed" from horrid homes and then placed with a loving family. Like all groups, there are some good and some bad. I know many birds that have been placed in great homes because of programs like them, but do you homework. Talk to people. Don't be afraid to say that you would like to know more about the person who will be getting your bird.

YOUR VET, PET SHOP or FRIENDS

Ask around. You never know who has an interest in birds. I received my first bird from family friends who could no longer keep her. I use to sit for hours at their house and play with Ghandie. What a thrill to find out they wanted me to have her! Maybe you know someone whose life you can change. I know mine is. Twenty plus years later I talk around the country on bird care. Birds are a very big part of my life --and all because of a bird no one wanted all those years ago.

IS IT A GOOD HOME?

Check out the person and the home you are giving your bird to. I am amazed at the number of people who just hand a bird over to the first smooth talker to come along. Ask for references --ask to see their home, speak to their vet, even a neighbor. There are too many wackos out there wanting free birds. I had one man contact me for a bird, he wanted it NOW!! (I already ruled him out because he was in such a rush) I asked to speak to his vet, he gave me the vets number, HE GAVE THE VET PERMISSION TO TALK TO ME. The vet did. The man had had 4 birds in the last year.

#1 was killed by the family dog
#2 flew off the man's shoulder when he took him for a walk.
THE BIRD WAS FULLY FLIGHTED

#3 they left alone for the WEEK-END and he hung himself with a toy that had a long chain. And #4 died after the man gave him a cigarette to play with.

Hmm... should this man ever get another bird? Now, I spoke with the man for over an hour and he never told me he had had other birds. I asked him directly and he said "no". Now, why he said "yes" to talking to the vet is beyond me. But had I not checked him out... number 5 would have died too I am sure.

However you find a new home for your bird, FEEL GREAT ABOUT IT. Do not settle. You want this home to be the FOREVER home. If you couldn't provide that, the next home should.

Doreen Tamara Gluck 1998
HomeTweet@aol.com

Upcoming Area Events

- 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 - info@liparrots.org - www.liparrotsociety.org/annualshow.htm
- Oct 12 - Catskill Exotic Bird Club Pet Bird Show - Liberty Ambulance Corps Bldg, Mill Street, Liberty, NY - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm - 845-292-5242 - spegga@hvc.rr.com - www.birdclub.com
- Oct 18-19 - Bird Paradise's Parrot Palooza - 551 E Rt. 130 South, Burlington, NJ - Sat. 10:00 am - 9:00 pm, Sun. 10:00 am-6:00 pm - 609-747-7777 - kathie@mybirdstore.com - www.bird-paradise.biz/parrotpalooza.htm
- Nov 7-9 - Super Pet Expo - Rockland Community College, 145 College Road, Suffern, NY - times vary each day - 866-SUPER-PET - info@superpetexpo.com - www.superpetexpo.com/suffern.html
- Nov 14-16 - Super Pet Expo - NJ Convention & Exposition Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison, NJ - times vary each day - 866-SUPER-PET - info@superpetexpo.com - www.superpetexpo.com/edisonfall.html



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(Continued from page 15)

of predatory dinosaur with air-filled bones, indicating birdlike breathing. The new fossils from *Aerosteon riocoloradensis* provide much-needed clarity. "The specimen represents an additional data point to in-

corporate into existing models" comments O'Connor.

In addition to shedding light on the mysterious beginnings of modern bird features, this newly discovered dinosaur unravels some deeper questions about dinosaur lineages.

"*Aerosteon* represents a surviving lineage never before found and possibly existing in the Late Cretaceous only on the isolated continent of South America," says Sereno.

Credits: The front cover, page 3, and back cover pictures are courtesy of Linda Costello. The page 19 Macaw picture is courtesy of Jan Braidech.

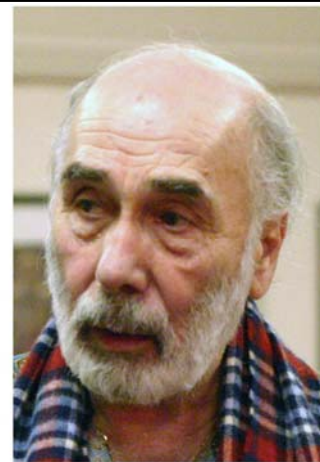
Pictures from the September 2008 Meeting



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