



This newsletter devoted to pet bird enthusiasts is published monthly by Rainbow Feathers Bird Club of Michigan A 501(c) (3) club

January 2013  
Volume 16 Issue 1

# Bird Droppings



## UPCOMING MEETING DATES :

JANUARY 27<sup>th</sup> ---- FOURTH SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 24<sup>th</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY  
MARCH 24<sup>th</sup> ----- FOURTH SUNDAY

## RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

### Who we are and what we are about

- Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
- Support scholarships for avian vet students
- Yearly Bird Fair
- Club Library for members
- Grooming available
- Avian rescue/relocation programs
- Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
- Monthly newsletter
- Periodic Service projects
- Field Trips
- Educational Programs upon request
- Save molted feathers for craft projects
- Make-it-take-it workshops

And more.....

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

## Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary – Marie Keehl 734-262-2098

Email – [mariekeehl@gmail.com](mailto:mariekeehl@gmail.com)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Board of Trustees –

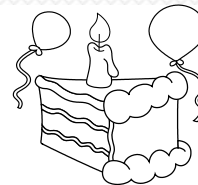
Stan Johnson 248-746-0520

Email – [mmisterjay@comcast.net](mailto:mmisterjay@comcast.net)

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email – [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)

Mary Perva – 734-207-0489



**ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.**

Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

## EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Plafchan is doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please send all items to him at 11021 Henry Ruff, Livonia MI 48150 or email to [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com).

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Those wishing to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.



### Monthly snack list

**We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is twofold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and desserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!**

**From the prez :**



### HAPPY NEW

**YEAR!!!!!!!** I can hardly believe it is 2013 boy how time flies. It was only a few weeks ago some people were preparing for the world to end all because of those silly Mayan's and their calendar. Well we are still here and gearing up for what looks to be another busy year. Now many see the number 13 to be unlucky but not me in fact I have that in common with Taylor Swift 13 is my lucky number. So I am seeing 2013 to be a good year for me and the club as well. If last year was any indication we are going to be in big demand for events and programs and I like it. Many who saw us last year were more than impressed and had nothing but good things to say our club. We were referred to as the happiest, friendliest, most approachable, amazing and kindest group they have ever encountered. All those who

## BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

- ❖ Ask owner's permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
- ❖ Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
- ❖ When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.



## CLUB WELFARE

Please contact Jean Jedrzejek at 734-427-3187 or e-mail her at [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net) if you know of any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one.

saw us left totally blown away by what they had seen and were able to do by stopping at our booths, (getting up close and personal with parrots). Still there were those that left us scratching our heads, (oh you're the bird group, you all look so normal) but always amused. So look forward to the same thing for 2013 and maybe we might find out what that person meant by "looking normal" nah, I don't think we want to know! Now going back to 2012, how about that Christmas Party/ meeting we had, was it not the best? We had food, food and more food plus a dessert table that would have made any restaurant green with envy. Also the raffle was a huge success raising more money for the club and rescue than I can ever remember. The biggest thing was "IT WAS FUN!!!!!!" Everyone had a blast and it truly made the holidays special and that was because of you the club members. I am constantly telling other rescue groups and clubs that we have the best members in the universe and if they believe me or not I don't care because I know it's true. I have posted this on Facebook and I have told people to come check us out and you will see for yourself just how true this is. So as we head into this brand new year let us make this another banner year for ourselves and the club. I know you can do it I've seen you!!!!



Your Prez  
Dave

P.S. It is also election time so if you want to nominate someone for an office you can do it at the next meeting.



Voice of the Veep

The Christmas meeting last month was fabulous from the delicious food to the annual Christmas raffle it was tons of fun. I want to thank everybody in the club for their participation of our Christmas raffle and all the meeting raffles throughout the year. This is the most generous way you can help support our rescue and assist our club in paying vet bills and all of you have succeeded in accomplishing this in a big way. Thank you to everyone for the support. Another way we generate monies for supporting the rescue is to stage senior programs at nursing homes, assisted living and independent living facilities throughout the year. 2013 promises to be the busiest year we have ever had. I say this because the club has already booked three shows for January and there are many more pending (Including one in Frankenmuth.) I encourage everyone to join us at a show, even if you don't bring your own bird, they are a lot of fun and we can always use the help.

Last month I received more practice at gift wrapping than I have ever had in the past. My birds ensured that I wrapped every present at least twice and some of them three times. To make a long story short, I am a slow learner. Someday I will learn that when you own parrots you do not, I repeat, DO NOT, leave paper wrapped boxes and bags within reach of African Grays. There is nothing they like to do more than shred and chew cardboard and paper. I foolishly left my newly wrapped Christmas gifts on the floor in the living room where they were discovered by JB, Pookie, Sparky and Calvin. I spent hours wrapping and trimming the packages and they delighted in destroying all my efforts. My New Year

resolution will have to be not to leave anything within reach of my feathered band of marauders. To this end I wish myself good luck because they are becoming far more resourceful every day.

This month is when we hold our annual elections; there is a description of all the offices and the duties of each office holder included in this edition of the newsletter. If you're interested in running or wish to nominate someone feel free to do so. Our annual dues are also payable this month; if you joined the club within the last six months your dues are good for another year. Please check with Tammy if you're not sure what your dues are or if you owe some.

I'll see you at the meeting  
Your Veep  
Steve

Avast ye Mates



## CAPTAINS CORNER

**Happy New Year!!!!** Well it seems that the Mayan's were wrong. Why do you ask? Well we're still here aren't we? I mean why get worked up over a calendar that was interpreted with too much shall we say added interpretation. But one thing that needs no explaining is the dreaded News Year's Resolutions that are made every year. My pet human always makes them and then

breaks them. In fact most resolutions are broken before New Year's Day is done. I myself never make them I mean why mess with perfection as the old saying goes, "if it aint broke don't fix it". Here lies the problem too many of us cannot leave well enough alone. Our pet humans are always tweaking this or that in order to get just right. Personally I don't get it why try to fix something when it is not needed but our pet humans call it tinkering around. I call it dumb I have been told there is no such thing as perfect but wait one minute you forgot about Sparky, Pookie, J.B. and me. We are so close to perfect it is scary. So this year go ahead and watch your pet humans try to keep their resolutions say to lose weight, (Zumba can be quite entertaining to watch especially if we get Steve and Dave doing it). So as we go headfirst into 2013 let us remember why do any of us have to change let us enjoy each other and our pet humans just as we are (besides it is a great source of entertainment to us).

Cheers  
Captain Morgan



## Out and About with Pookie

It isn't very often that I am able to heap praise and accolades upon Steve for his actions but this is one of those times that I must. The gifts we received from Steve during the Christmas holidays were awesome! Not only did we receive many tasty treats and chew toys on Christmas day he gave us some of the best foraging chew toys preceding the holiday.

It started during the weeks before Christmas; we were all in the family room playing on and in our homes and we could hear Steve in the other room making all sorts of rustling and crinkling noises. Well, nothing peaks the interest of an African Gray more than the sound of paper being flopped and folded. JB was the first to enter the living room where he discovered boxes wrapped in very colorful paper. As he started to investigate Steve shooed him away then picked him up and returned him to the top of his cage. This is when he divulged what he had seen to me and Sparky; our interest was now stimulated and we started planning a clandestine foray into the living room. Patience was the key, we couldn't just charge into the room while Steve was there because he would just pick us up and return us to our cages and if we pushed the issue we'd wind up being locked in.

Steve's actions were perfectly predictable after spending about two hours of toy making he stumbled into the family room and flopped upon the couch where he promptly fell asleep. We made our move at this time; JB and Calvin went forward as scouts followed by Sparky and me. The cornucopia of foraging enjoyment that awaited us in the living room was almost too vast to behold. There were colorfully wrapped cardboard boxes piled on the floor and stacked on the coffee table. There were ribbons and bows on some and some were deliciously inviting bags that promised to hold treasures of discovery.

We went to work at once shredding wrapping from boxes, chewing holes in bags

and finding tissue paper inside of them. It was an amazing afternoon of discovery and foraging as we scattered bits of paper, cardboard, tissue, Styrofoam and plastic throughout the living room and into the kitchen. We knew Steve would be so proud of us when he discovered our handiwork with the foraging toys he made for us. It's not often he spends so much time creating inspirational pleasure for us, his feathered companions and we wanted to be sure he knew how much we appreciated his efforts. JB and Calvin enjoyed the colorful paper so much they brought many bits back to their cages to chew on in the future.

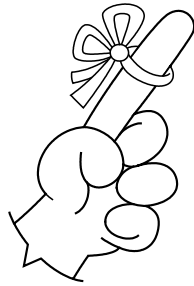
When Steve awakened from his nap and discovered how much we had enjoyed his efforts in creating the awesome foraging toys he emitted a shriek of pleasure. He was so happy that he went to work re-wrapping and re-creating a second pile of toys for us; Steve is so awesome! 😊

See you at the meeting  
Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie



## BIRD FAIR

Our bird fair is coming up on April 6<sup>th</sup>, so bring your ideas and think of what area you would like to help out in. We need a lot of help for our one fundraiser of the year and any time you can be there is greatly appreciated. You do not have to be there all day, but any time you can help out is fine. There will be a sign-up sheet at the upcoming meetings, so start thinking of what you would like to do to help at the fair.



## A REMINDER

Our dues are due by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Checks should be made out to **RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB**. Please pay them at the January meeting or by mail to Tammy Carol at Rainbow Feathers Bird Club, PO Box 1587, Garden City MI 48135.



## Rambling with Rambo

Howdy all my feathered, and non-feathered friends.

That was some party we had last month. Some of you non-feathered people sure can cook great things.

It was great to see so many of you there. I love seeing all these feathered friends come together. We certainly are a diverse group.

It is a joy to see all these species getting along with each other. Hey, where was the toucan? I was looking for him.

Another thing that always makes me happy is to see so many young people there. It's great to see you young ones loving and caring for us birds. Good job boys and girls. When I came in, the crowd was overwhelming; so many people, so many of us birds, and so much noise. This had me scared for a while. It took me some time to relax enough to eat. But after a while, I was having fun. There is this Yellow Crowned Amazon I always talk to a couple of tables over. I still was not calm enough to walk around with Michael. I just sat on my play stand, and squawked at you all.

Hey speaking of food, and eating, daddy has changed my diet again. He now has me on those "Bird Balls" (this is what we call Nutra-Berries, at my house) that are mostly pellets. Those things don't taste as good, and they smell funny.

Even with this new food, I'm eating enough for two birds. Of course, I am playing with my people more, and finding new games to play. You should see me play hockey, with that new little cup. I have to tell you about my new play stand. Last month I told you about hanging out with Daddy. Since we hang out in his office, watching TV, he made me this new play stand. This perch is a little taller. Like my other one, I have the spiral staircase, the bells, and chew toys.

However, like the rest of you, my wings are clipped, so he added a ladder. With this I can get to the water dish, and treats. He keeps these on a table next to the couch. I can also jump up on daddy, and if I'm feeling mischievous, I can jump onto his desk. There are lots of fun things to get into. Those little pieces of paper (receipts), and pencils, fly about.

Well, how was your holiday? I had a good time with all that paper to shred, all those boxes to get into, and all those people coming over to see me. We all know they are coming over to see us birds. They visit the humans for a free meal. Oh, and those little people. It was so much fun to squawk at them. After a little while, I was quiet, and let them enjoy their party. Well what else is there to talk about? Otherwise there is not much going on at my house. Oh yeah, this is the time of year mommy bakes all those cookies. They smell so good. Can you believe she will not let Michael, and me, have any? She says they are gifts for others. Well!!! Michael and I only get the burnt cookies. Well, she gives us a few good ones, AFTER the gift ones are given away.

Between our Christmas party, and all the excitement around here, I'm tuckered out. But you know us parrots. We recover from excitement quickly. So I'm still as rambunctious as ever. That is about all there is for this time.

**So as always,**  
Be Good, Have Fun  
Remember  
Macaws rule,  
Rambo.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
to:

JAMAHL SCOTT	FEB. 10
DAN ERNST	FEB. 19
TYLER GERMANO	FEB. 20
DEBBIE JAMIESON	FEB. 20
DIANE SILAS	FEB. 24



## Annual elections

The annual elections will be held at our January meeting. We will be voting on a

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustee. Any member in good standing is eligible to fill any one of these offices. To help you decide who you think would best fill these offices, the following is a brief guide to their duties:

**PRESIDENT:** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club, see that the bylaws are enforced, call such meetings as are needed, and be responsible for the execution of all motions passed by the members. The President shall also be public relations administrator and liaison between the Club and all other groups.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** The Vice President shall assume the President's responsibilities in the absence or disability of the President, keep constantly informed of Club activities, and shall be responsible for special programs and social events.

**SECRETARY:** The Secretary is responsible for minutes at all general membership and board meetings, reads minutes of previous meetings when requested, keeps a file of all minutes, shall provide copies of minutes for each board member upon request, is responsible for all member notices, and is responsible for all correspondence, both incoming and outgoing.

**TREASURER:** The Treasurer collects all dues and records all moneys belonging to the Club,

disburses same under the direction of the President, deposits the funds of the Club in the name of the Club in such bank or banks as may be designated by the Executive Committee, and submits a statement of accounts at each meeting. The books and accounts shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by any member. The Treasurer shall be responsible for disbursement of moneys for bird bands.

**TRUSTEE:** One Trustee is elected each year to serve a three year term. A person serving as Trustee is ineligible for other elected office. Duties shall be to serve as coordinators of the Club, assuring a meeting place, acting as assistants to the President, and serve as a grievance committee. They shall conduct an annual audit of all Club records, Treasurer's and Secretary's books, etc. The Trustees whose terms of office have not expired shall serve as the election committee and shall conduct the annual elections. The Trustees shall review all absences of officers and shall fill any vacant office by either appointment or special election with the membership.

## A Close Call

I recently received an e-mail from someone about a close call that occurred at their home. Please note that names have been changed to protect the person who sent this in. (Steve)

I just thought I would share this with you. A few months ago just after Elmer's last wing clipping my husband thought it would be "nice" if Elmer could experience the freedom and empowerment of flying once in a while, or at least once.

Reluctantly, I agreed to see how things played out and what we had noticed was that he could jump farther from his perch and had started getting into things we didn't want destroyed.

This morning my husband walked into the bathroom and found Elmer trapped with his wings spread over the toilet bowl and his little feet splashing in the water.

Today he is going for a wing clipping, a little later than usual, but this was a cautionary tale for us that could have ended in disaster we have certainly learned a lesson from our little experiment.

Feeling Very Lucky

# TALES OF BUSTER BROWN



What has amazed me more than anything else is the fact that Buster has a sense of humor. Buster knows about twelve animal sounds that he recites often without a mistake. Every once in a while he will change up his response. For example, gobble- gobble- a turkey will be gobble -gobble- a dog and he will laugh hysterically. It is as if he knows that it is wrong and funny.

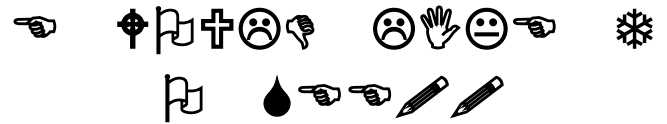
Since he is incredibly clumsy, when he falls off his perch, he will say "are you ok Buster Brown" and he will laugh hysterically. I guess he thinks that because I say that



when he does that, and he thinks it is funny. When I am on the telephone and giving an address, charge card number, telephone number, he recites all the numbers he knows and laughs because it gets me confused about what I am telling the person on the telephone. He imitates the toilet flushing and will say "I am so funny". He will say cocktails at 9am and I will say it is too early for cocktails and he will say "I am so funny". He will say "help- help get me out of here" and laugh as if it is funny. He says "I am a jail bird" and laugh hysterically. He will walk into the laundry room. I think when that happens because he is lost. He will start saying "hello", " you-who" "Help" "knock, knock who is there". When I answer he laughs as if he was just kidding. He will say "you know what?" and I will say "what" and he will say "I don't know" and laugh hysterically. The sad thing is he imitates my terrible laugh. I was ill and spent about 4 days at home. When I felt better I decided to run some errands. When I said, "bye-bye Buster." He said "What?" I guess he thought that was funny and unusual from the past three days. Often times, I will ask Buster if he wants to watch TV and he will say that that is silly, and laugh hysterically.

I guess I don't always know what Buster finds funny, but he always makes me laugh.

Linda Brown



Well I bet you thought this would be from one of the club members, well it's not. We (Parrots) have taken over this article and these are the resolutions ( if they must still make them) we would like to see.

Let us start with Pookie, J.B. Sparky and Calvin's pet human Steve. I resolve to take a remedial math class and realize Grey's cannot count as two when there is only one and Cockatoos and Macaws could never count as half if there is a whole one. (Submitted to Captain Morgan in a B-mail by Pookie.)

For Dave and Bev, we resolve to act like SANE adults and not sport blue, purple or any other color tongues at events. Plus to stay off of the contraptions that make us giddy it embarrasses Captain and Sunny. (Submitted by Sunny Sholar with Captain Morgan's wholehearted endorsement.)

For Tammy, I resolve to let Ruby have more quality time with Mr. Finnegan. (Happily submitted by Ruby.)  
For Charles and Susan, we resolve to let Mr. Finnegan have more quality time with Ruby. I think I see a trend here. (Happily submitted by Mr. Finnegan.)

For Mary, I resolve to let Willow check out what is on everybody else's plate at the meeting. I won't eat much. (Submitted by Willow.)

For Matt and Diane, Please when saying my name leave the stick part out the other birds have texted me on my Blackbirdie wanting to know where exactly



the stick goes, if you know what I mean.(  
Submitted by Jose Jalapeño without the  
stick.)

For Ken, I resolve to make up a sign  
“Just Napping” if I am going to nap at an  
event especially if it is on the ground. Some  
scary women were all too eager to give you  
a little mouth to mouth if you get my drift.(  
Promptly submitted by Angel Sholar.)

For Henry (Duke), I resolve to wear a  
hat that can happily be chewed by Baby  
without consequences. (Thoughtfully  
submitted by Baby.)

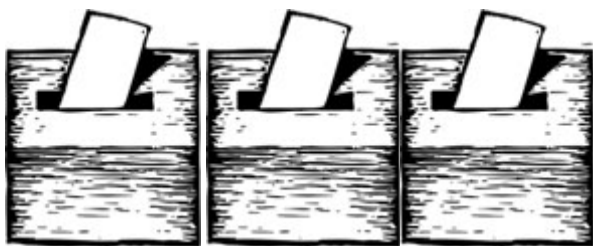
For Brent, I resolve to stay away from  
that hussy Aurora! (Submitted by Cracker  
who says he only bites you because he  
knows a gold-digger when he sees one.)

For Lanah, I resolve to put a little  
more bling on any outfits I make for Miss  
Sophie and Layla. (Respectfully submitted  
by Miss Sophie and Layla because girls  
really like to sparkle and shine.)

Finally one last one to all the pet  
humans of Rainbow Feathers we resolve to  
give the real stars of the show the credit for  
any educational program or event we do.  
(Submitted in a mass Bmail by the club bird  
members.)

Remember resolutions are almost  
always broken so do not be surprised when  
this happens. After all they are only  
human!!!

The contributors and editors of this newsletter.



## REMEMBER WE VOTE

### THIS MONTH!

Quality by Mother Nature  
Original Corn Bean Mix®: Noodles-n-Nuts®  
Rainforest Rice Puddin®: Polypasta®  
Kung Fu Yum®  
For Birds of all Sizes



The Industry Pioneer of Quality  
Broad Natural Low Fat Nutrition®

#### All at a Cost Less than Seed

Because **Crazy Corn®** expands and seed is 60% waste!  
We've made it easy to prevent the most common cause  
of bird death- malnutrition from a seed diet. Cook ahead  
monthly, freeze baggies, keep some in the fridge to  
serve instantly. Superior breeding, lustrous feathering.  
Self-weans chicks. Shining health. Generous chunky  
fruits, veggies, whole grains, exciting herbs, pastas,  
beans, legumes, melon seeds, nuts, and more! Ecstatic  
birds!

**1-800-BIRD YUM**

in California (818) 503-4YUM. Fax (818) 765-4895

SPECIAL BREEDER PRICING



## Upcoming Events

- Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Oakwood Adult Daycare  
3601 Pelham  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
12:30 set-up  
1:30 show
- Jan 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Oakwood Rehab  
16391 Rotunda  
Dearborn, MI 48120  
1:30 set-up  
2:30 Show
- Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
University Living  
2865 South Main Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
1:00 PM Set-up  
2:00 PM Show
- Feb 8<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
American House Livonia  
11525 Farmington Rd

Livonia, MI 48150

1:30 set-up

2:30 Show

March 9<sup>th</sup> Society of Canary and Finch  
Breeders

Bird Fair

\$3.00 Adm. 9AM to 4 PM

Livonia Elks Lodge #2246

31117 Plymouth Rd.

Livonia, MI 48150

\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*

April 6<sup>th</sup> Rainbow Feathers Bird Club

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bird Fair

\$3.00 Adm. 10AM to 4PM

Romulus High School

9650 S. Wayne Rd.

Romulus MI 48174-1551

April 27<sup>th</sup> Motor City Bird Breeders  
Bird Fair

\$4.00 Adm. 10AM to 5PM

Madison Place

876 Horace Brown Drive

Madison Heights, MI 48071

\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*

There has been some confusion from the loyal readers of Bird Droppings as to which events they are allowed to bring their own bird(s) to. As a point of reference and for future information please we want everyone to be aware that when you see the line:

\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*  
following or "Educational Show" preceding an event listing it means we are attending the event in an official capacity representing our club and rescue. At these events all club

members are welcomed to bring their feathered companions with them. Also please note that our space is very limited at some of these events but don't let this stop you from joining us, we will find a way for you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy the fun.

\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*

**\*CANCELATION CONFUSION \***

A few of our scheduled events have been canceled at the last minute by the group staging the event. If you do not regularly participate in the shows but plan on attending please call Steve (734-513-0030) to make sure the event is still a go.



**Rescue Update**

Our rangers have been working overtime on rescue runs. Foster homes have also been doing extra duty with fostering and adoptions. In short it has been a busy, busy month!

Here is a brief recap of our latest adoptions:

- 1 Congo African Gray-Gizmo
- 1 Lovebird-Steve
- 2-Quakers

All of these adopted birds went to their new homes with cages, food and toys. We are able to do this because of all of you, our members. It is your generosity and participation in our monthly raffles that has allowed us to be so successful. Thank you, thank you! Every one of you should be proud of the great job you've done. We couldn't do it without your support.



**Bits from Baby**

**HAPPY 2013  
EVERYONE!!**

Well here we go again with another new year that looks like even a greater one then last year thanks to our club members.

My backup team led by Stan Johnson and Sparky, J.B. and Pookie sent me all the info to help me put out this article for the newsletter. The Duke and I hope to be at the next meeting.

I heard the Christmas Party was a great success with food and fun for everyone there. There were a total of sixty-six people; fifty-nine were members and seven guests. Two of the guests joined our flock. We had a total of forty-eight feathered members there. The Cockatoos led with nine followed by the Macaws and Amazons with five, African Grays with four and Eclectus with three, plus twenty-two other types of parrots.

Duke and I miss seeing you all and hope we can be there with you very soon.

P.S.

Thanks Stan for having my back when I needed it.

Till we meet again,  
God Bless.

Your friend Baby,





animal they love because of unfortunate circumstances. Still it is the Rangers duty and it is a duty that they may not enjoy at all times but must do and will fulfill to the best of their ability for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!!!!**

Stay tuned for our next thrill a minute adventure Naked in Brownstown!

## How do you know if your bird is getting the nutrition he needs for a long and healthy life?



By ZuPreem Staff

### What's the best diet for your bird?

The best diet for your bird is one that provides a reliable consistent source of balanced nutrition. It's also a diet that your bird likes to eat and gives him an enjoyable eating experience, while preventing obesity and other nutritionally related diseases.

### Feeding a variety of foods does not guarantee good nutrition

Bird owners feed their birds a wide variety of foods ranging from seeds to home-prepared foods to commercial diets. Unfortunately, feeding a variety of foods does not always prevent nutritional imbalances. Many of these diets lack important nutrients birds need to maintain their health. Often they are not balanced, providing too much of this vitamin or nutrient, or not enough of another.

### Seed diets can lead to obesity

Seeds are high in fat and deficient in important nutrients. Even if you supplement a seed diet with a nutritionally complete extruded diet or with fruits and vegetables, your bird will often choose the seeds, leaving behind the more nutritious foods. The simple fact is your bird likes seeds, just as you might like high-calorie, high-fat snacks. Okay for an occasional treat, but a steady diet over time can lead to vitamin deficiencies, obesity-related diseases and possible early death. **Home prepared diets are not necessarily healthy**

As a labor of love, some bird owners chop, cook and mix special foods for their birds. Not only is this time-consuming, it is impossible to make sure your bird is getting the correct balance of nutrients. Too much iron, too little calcium, improper levels of Vitamins A, D, E and K. How do you know?

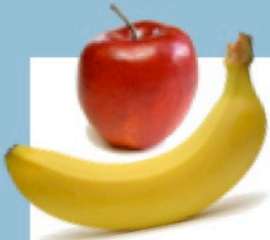
### Supplement sparingly with fruits and vegetables

If your bird enjoys fruits and vegetables, go ahead and serve them, but they should not make up more than 15% of your bird's daily diet. Fruits and vegetables do not offer all the nutrients your bird needs, and some are high in sugar and fiber, curbing your bird's appetite for a more nutritious food.

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# What are you really feeding your bird? Visit BirdFoodFacts.com to find out.

How nutritious is the food in your bird's food cup? To find out, visit BirdFoodFacts.com. This website offers an objective nutritional analysis based on protein, fat, fiber and moisture. Choose from hundreds of food items most common in a companion bird's diet.



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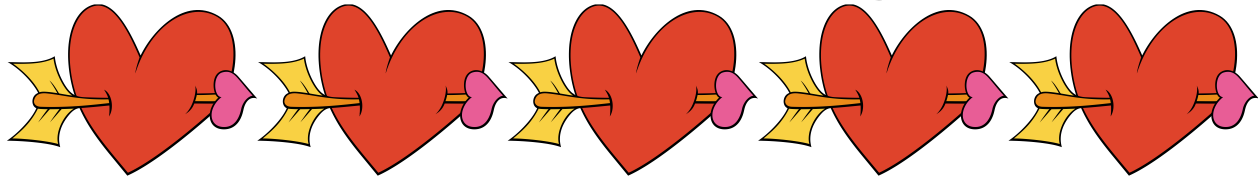
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This newsletter  
Devoted to pet bird  
Enthusiasts is  
Published monthly by  
The Rainbow Feathers  
Bird club of Michigan  
A 501(c) (3) club

February 2013  
Volume 16 Issue2

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING

#### DATES :

FEBRUARY 24<sup>th</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY

MARCH 24<sup>th</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY

APRIL 28<sup>th</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY

#### RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

##### Who we are and what we are about

- Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
  - Support scholarships for avian vet students
  - Yearly Bird Fair
  - Club Library for members
  - Grooming available
  - Avian rescue/relocation programs
  - Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
  - Monthly newsletter
  - Periodic Service projects
  - Field Trips
  - Educational Programs upon request
  - Make-it-take-it workshops
- And more.....

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

#### Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary– Beverly Sholar 313-492-5700

Email – [basholar@yahoo.com](mailto:basholar@yahoo.com)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Board of Trustees –

Mary Perva 517-618-7008

Stan Johnson 248-746-1520

Email- [mmisterjay@Comcast.net](mailto:mmisterjay@Comcast.net)

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email- [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)

**ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.**

Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

## EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Plafchan is now doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please send all items to Steve at 11021 Henry Ruff, Livonia MI 48150 or email to splafchan@twmi.rr.com.

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

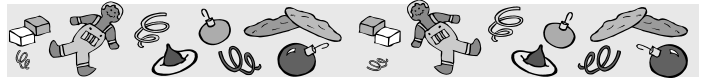
Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Those wishing to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.



## CLUB WELFARE

Please contact Jean Jedrzejek at 734-427-3187 or e-mail her at [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net) if you know of any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one.



Monthly snack list

**We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is twofold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and desserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!**

## BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

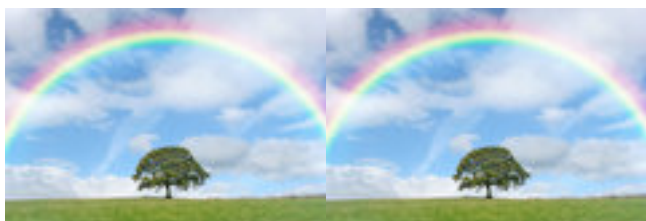
- ❖ Ask owner's permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
- ❖ Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
- ❖ When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.



# OVER THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

Sadly we must report the passing of yet another feathered member of our club. Robbie a Congo African Gray who owned Linnea Nicholson-Farris for the last nine years crossed over on January 9, 2013. Her passing was very sudden and there were no indications she had any health issues at all. The night before she was alert and active and in the morning when Linnea came home from work she was gone. Robbie's passing is a loss to not only Linnea and her family but to all of us who knew her. Robbie was a frequent visitor at nursing and assisted living homes and warmed the hearts of everyone she visited with.

She will be forever missed and will always be remembered, her passing was way too soon for her age. To Linnea we offer our prayers and sympathy's for her loss and to Robbie we wish a fond farewell to the far side of the rainbow bridge. Fly free and soar high forever; we will all miss you but will never forget you.



## The Rainbow Bridge

*Just this side of heaven is a place called  
Rainbow Bridge.*

*When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here,  
that pet goes to  
Rainbow Bridge.*

*There are meadows and hills for all our special friends so they can run*

*and play together. There is plenty of food and water and sunshine,  
and our friends are warm and comfortable.*

*All of the animals that have been ill and old are restored to health and  
vigor, those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong  
again, just as we remember in our dreams of days and times gone  
bye. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing;  
They miss someone very special to them who had to be left behind.  
They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly  
stops and looks into the distance,...*

*The bright eyes are intent; the eager body quivers. suddenly she  
begins to break away from the group, flying over the green grass,  
her wings carrying her faster and faster YOU ~  
have just been spotted, and when you and your special friend meet,  
you cling together in joyous reunion ~  
never to be parted again. The sweet sounds of happy tweets play your  
ears; your hands again*

*caress the beloved's head, and you look once more into the trusting  
eyes of your pet,*

*so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart ~*

*Then you cross~...the  
Rainbow Bridge  
together !*



**From the prez:**



I will be the first to say I got spoiled by last winter with the average temperature around fifty-two degrees on several occasions getting into the sixty's yeah I got spoiled. This year it has been a reality check for all of us, a real Michigan winter. It's a good thing we are a hardy bunch or we'd all be heading for Florida right about now.

What we are heading for is another busy year and we are already getting reservation forms for many of the events we do during the summer. Plus we are such a big hit with the American Houses, Independence Villages and other assisted and independent living senior places we have a plethora of programs, (say that fast five times). This is a good thing because we are a hit, a huge hit with them. They marvel at the colors and different sizes of birds and the fact they are able to see them close up, closer than in a zoo. It is not all one sided to see their faces as they have an experience they don't forget. All you have to have is one experience like I had and you are recharged and ready for the next. It was a gentleman in a wheel chair he looked at all the birds but when I placed Pinkie our Rosy Bourke Parakeet in his hands his face lit up like a 1000 watt bulb. He just could not stop smiling and you saw his inner nine year old come out. That kid in all of us that look with wonder at something that amazes us and at the same time gives us a moment we carry with us forever. I want to see more of those faces and I am more than happy to do the programs for that reason.

I would also like to welcome our new secretary Bev Sholar to the board and thank Marie Kheel for her service as secretary for the last year. We also have to remember that Bird Fair time is fast approaching so be at the meetings for all the latest updates and sign up if you don't have a clue what you might want to do that's Ok we can use you somewhere. You guys welcome new members monthly and make them feel comfortable and eagerly add them to our flock of birdbrains. So I hope to see you at the next meeting for fun food updates food and fun, did I mention food and fun, just checking. Once again **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!!!!**

Until Next Time  
Your Prez  
Dave



## Voice of the VEEP

First I want to thank everybody for their confidence in me to be re-elected to the position of vice president. Also I must say "thank you" for allowing me to continue on as the editor of our monthly newsletter. Even though I was fully prepared to accept banishment for all the misprints and typos that I committed over the past year, I am pleased that all of you had the confidence in me to continue on the job. Please allow me to mention that if you ever notice a typo or mistake in the newsletter let me know.

Beverly Sholar was elected to the position of secretary and Mary Perva was re-elected to the position of trustee. Thanks need to be extended to Marie Keehl for her time as our secretary last year and the excellent job she did. "Thank You Marie"

Things at my house are totally out of control and if I didn't know better I'd say my flock of feathered felons was planning capers against me. Of course this cannot possibly be true but sometimes it sure seems like they are. This past month I had the most difficult time trying to eat a pizza I had ordered. Pookie pooped on my shoulder and while I was cleaning that up Calvin bit my toe. When I went to sit back down JB was scampering into the kitchen with a slice. After chasing him around the kitchen then back toward his cage I found him and Calvin under their cage with the pizza slice; well this I took away from them because birds shouldn't have too much cheese. I did let all of them have a little bit of pizza crust though. It seemed a bit strange though because after I finished eating and taking a short nap I found a large amount of pizza crumbs on the first step going down into the basement? I don't think I gave them that many crust pieces, but I'm probably mistaken.

The official bird count isn't in (we're still waiting on Baby's report) but if I'm any judge of numbers the African Grays were on top last month. To all my fellow gray owned members I say "Great Job." Keep up the good work and here's to more good counts in the future.

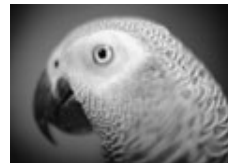
A quick reminder our dues were due last month so if you haven't paid yours yet you can pay them this month or send a check to Tammy.

Your Veep  
Steve



## Feathers Needed

Craig Perdue who is one of our club members is asking of everyone a special favor. He is requesting molted whole feathers and down feathers for a presentation he is giving. He is going to be giving a talk about birds and feathers to a group of school children in late February after our next meeting and needs feathers. He is hoping for a good selection of tail, wing, body and down feathers from many different types of parrots. If you have any feathers and can help Craig out he would appreciate it.



## Out and About With Pookie

It is amazing what can be accomplished with coordinated teamwork. After many years of clandestine raids and forays upon Steve and his salty snacks, we had become quite used to being rebuffed and ignored. Because of Steve's increasing resistance to our overtures we decided to regroup and pool our efforts. One day last month when Steve was out of the house there was a "Gray" team meeting. JB, Calvin, Sparky and I put our beaks together and formulated a multitude of plans. Each plan was contingent on what Steve was

eating and how alert he was at the time of attack.

It had been a long and boring day, Steve was out of the house and all of us were locked in our cages like we were common criminals. He finally returned home and released us from our confinement; Sparky and I went over to JB and Calvin’s cage and the four of us assessed our options. It didn’t take long; Steve picked up the telephone and made a very interesting call. “Hello, I’d like to order a pizza for pick-up.” These words piqued our attention; then we heard “large spicy pepperoni pleaser (a pause) OK I’ll be there to get it.” We now knew what we had to do; it was time to put operation pizza snatch into effect.

When Steve returned home with the pizza we were all in position and ready for our parts in the operation. As with any well planned caper timing and execution are key factors. Sparky went into the hallway; I sat on Steve’s shoulder. When Steve sat down with the pizza box I pooped on him which caused him to put me down. JB and Calvin started to harass Steve by nipping at his feet and toes, when Sparky heard the ruckus she started making noise like she was in trouble. Steve went to see what was wrong, JB climbed up and snatched a slice and tossed it to the floor where Calvin ran off with it. JB then snatched a second slice and jumped down with it and ran into the kitchen. Steve saw him and ran to cut JB off. JB feigned left, dodged right then ran

out of the kitchen and tossed the prize on the basement stairs. When Steve turned the corner JB was sharing the slice Calvin had; Steve promptly relived them of the piece of pizza. We all returned to our cages and Steve finished his pizza; meanwhile we waited and bided our time. After Steve was finished he predictably reclined upon the sofa and took a nap. This was the moment of our victory; JB retrieved the slice on the basement step and all four of us shared the tasty, purloined snack. This is proof that with teamwork you and your feathered roommates will be able to outsmart your companion human and gain treasures and rewards. Done correctly your human will never know they have been manipulated.

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie



# RESCUE RANGERS



Now from the title I can hear some of you laughing but I assure you the Rangers kept their clothes on for this rescue. Of

course if you were thinking **THAT** well shame on you but on the other hand, oh now stop that. Back to the adventure! The Rescue Rangers received the call to pick up a Quaker Parakeet in the burg of Brownstown but this particular Quaker was a little plucked. That is certainly no problem even the fuzzy guys find good homes so it really doesn't matter. So off they went (they had been to Brownstown before so finding the town would not be a problem) they wondered how fuzzy this little bird would be but they were not prepared for this

They arrived at their destination and springing eagerly from the Rescue Mobile they made their way to the house. The owner answered the door and took them inside and **BAM** that's when they got the full impact of this poor little Quaker. To say he was a little plucked would have been an understatement of biblical proportions. This guy was downright naked, in fact he made Pookie look over feathered. He still had wing, head and tail feathers but the rest of him looked as though he was being prepared for Sunday dinner. Moved with pity for this poor soul the Rangers lost no time taking him to his foster home. There he flourished and his true personality came out. Even though he was naked it didn't matter because he had inner beauty to spare, he was comical and sweet and this more than made up for his lack of feathers. Because of this he soon found someone to love him just as he was. to his new parents he was and is the most beautiful bird on the planet. So let's hear it for the baldies they need love to and can be very suave, charming and very good looking (yes I am talking about the birds not Ranger Dave). So with another happy ending they could contently smile for this now happy soul, but there were others like him in need of their services so they had to

stay focused at their never ending task to find all unwanted birds a forever home for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!!!**

So stay tuned for our next super adventure This Wind Was Not Called Mariah!



## Rambling with Rambo

Hi gang.

Well, I just returned from the meeting. I'm feeling pretty good right now. I always have a good time with you all. Wow, all those members we have now. Not much is happening around here this month. Well, mommy broke her foot, and Daddy tore up his back. So she can't stand around and play with me. That is ok. Daddy and I can still hang out together. With this cold weather, daddy wears this funny orange hat. I have lots of fun running across my cage to grab it. I pull it off him and throw it. Oh ya, Michael is trying to potty train me. That bucket scares me. I am getting the hang of it. While he holds that little plastic dish, I dance across the top of my cage, until I can't hold it. I have learned to not poop on the furniture. So what is happening in your corner of the universe? We all know the world revolves around us birds.



Since not much has been happening with me, I'm having trouble coming up with this month's column.

So I decided to write a poem. I call it 'For the Birds'.

*For the Birds, For the Birds.*

Life is For the Birds

While our people work all day. We sing,  
and dance, and play.

*For the Birds, For the Birds.*

We never cause any trouble, we sure do like  
to snuggle.

*For the Birds, For the Birds.*

Life is grand for us pampered pets, this is as  
good as it gets.

*For the Birds, For the Birds.*

Show your people you love them, our life is  
great because of them.

*For the Birds, For the Birds.*

So sing it loud, and Sing it proud.

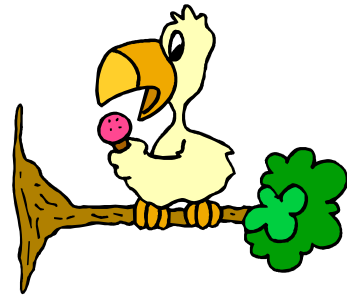
Life is Grand, for US birds.

*So let's hear it, For the Birds.*

Well, that is the best I can do for now. I'll  
see you at the meeting.

As always, be good, Have fun, and  
Remember, Macaws Rule.

Rambo



## ODDS & ENDS

- Details about the bird fair on April 6<sup>th</sup> will be worked on at the meeting this month. Help is needed at the fair. If you can only spare a couple hours, we can still use you to help those who are working all day.
- Cleanup crew will be rewarded with pizza afterwards.
- Donations of food and toys are always welcome into the rescue. The members who are fostering will appreciate it.
- Remember our annual picnic is going to be Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup> and will be under the large pavilion. Remember to mark your calendars!



**Introduction and  
Protest  
By**



**Herbie the**

## Green Cheeked Conure

Let me open by saying that I had a fantastic time at the December meeting! My Humans Bobby and Joni (with the last names no one can spell or pronounce) brought me out to enjoy the neat goings-on at the monthly meeting. I never realized that heaven included macaroni and cheese. When my beak was coated in cheese I don't think I've ever heard my Humans laugh so loudly. BUT! I must say that I think that there should be a recount. After my Humans read the last newsletter to me, I think that there was a miscount of birds at the meeting. I am sure that I saw at least two other Green Cheeked Conures and maybe a third, making four in all. Even though we are among the quietest of the breed, we still RULE! I must say that it was quite fun for me to see all of the different types of feathered friends who brought their Humans out to play. It was really cool to peep and squawk with the rest of my new feathered friends. I am only just two years old so a lot of this is totally new for me, but I am getting used to seeing the new sights and hearing the new sounds in the world. I'm still a bit skittish, but if you approach carefully and say hi, I'll try to refrain from biting. I'm getting better with new peeps. I have a little adopted brother too. His name is Breezy, but my Humans still call him BB Bird. He is only a year old, but soon he will be making the meetings and learning more about the outside world.

Peeps to All,  
Herbie



## The Wind-up Bird

Last weekend when we were about to go to the grocery store, Charles stuck Binky, our Caique, inside his jacket, intending to take her along. I told him that he shouldn't bring her as animals aren't allowed in grocery stores. He said that she'd stay inside his coat and it wouldn't be a problem.

So as we were shopping she stuck her head outside of his jacket and whistled and whistled. You could actually hear her all over the store! Many people stopped and asked about her. After we'd been there for about an hour, we finally made it to the check-out line. As we were standing there, a store employee came up to Charles and said, "You can't have a bird in the store!" At which time he made wind up motions on her chest and replied, "Oh, she's not real. She's a wind-up bird!" The store employee said, "Oh, that's ok then." And walked away!! Can you believe it??? It's true!

Susan Dixon



## Rescue Update

We had a number of successful adoptions this past month and all of them are because of one member. Kathe Cote was without a doubt working her

connections overtime because she enabled all the adoptions to succeed. We found new forever homes for Sammie a Congo African Gray and four parakeets. Thank-You Kathe! Great Job! As usual all these birds went to their new homes with cages, food and toys.

Our thanks go to all our members for your support in the rescue. It is because of your participation in our monthly raffle and your donations of food, cages, toys and money that we are able to accomplish this awesome feat. Thank you one and all and please keep up the great work.



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to :

CINDY GRIFFIN	MAR. 4
SANDY PROSZKOWSKI	MAR. 7
JACQUELINE THOMAS	MAR. 10
KEN SHOLAR	MAR. 13
BRIAN CHINERY	MAR. 17
STAN JOHNSON	MAR. 17
JIM HEFFERNAN	MAR. 18
RON LANKFORD	MAR.18
SUSAN ERNST	MAR. 25
JEFF KEENE	MAR.26
DIANE DAVIS	MAR 28
LANAH HARRIS	MAR. 29
CAROLYN HEMMJE	MAR 30



**\*\* HELP! \*\***

Our annual bird fair is two months away – April 6<sup>th</sup>, to be exact. It will once again be held at Romulus High School, just off I-94. We need all hands on deck to help

make this one the success our previous fairs have been.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting this month. Please consider signing up for any time you can assist. We need help setting up the night before the fair; the morning of the fair assisting vendors to bring in their wares (holding open doors, showing them to their tables, assisting in any way they might ask.) During the fair at the raffle table, the rescue table, the bake sale table, the club table and afterward to help with the tear down and clean-up.

We are also going to have the bake sale table again, (it's always a big hit) so all of you wonderful bakers think of your tastiest treats.

Here is a listing of the best sellers from last year's bake sale.

- Lemon Bars
- Brownies
- Rice Krispy Treats
- Caramel Corn
- Choc. No Bake Cookies
- Choc. Chip Bar Cookies
- Oatmeal Cookies
- Choc. Parrot Lollipops

There will be a sign-up sheet for baker volunteers. All items need to be home made and wrapped individually. We can use your help too!

## Tales of Buster Brown

I am sitting in front of my computer with Buster on my shoulder. I thought I would take a quick break from my obsession with angry birds. I told Buster that I was going to write an article about him and he said "no, no, that is not nice". Sorry Buster, I am going to tell tales about you anyway. I may be crazy, but I really think that Buster has a sense of humor. Sometimes I even think that he has mastered the art of sarcasm. Buster knows about twelve animal sounds. For example, "gobble, gobble a turkey", "moo, moo a cow". However, sometimes he will say "gobble, gobble a dog" and laugh. He thinks it is funny when it is said wrong. He will say "I'm a jail-bird" and laugh. After all, his cage seems like prison bars. He laughs when he imitates the toilet flushing, the microwave, or my coughs and sneezes. I guess he likes a reaction to his comments. He will say "help, help get me out of here" and laugh. Buster will say "cocktails" early in the morning. I will say "it's too early" and will laugh and says "I'm so funny". He laughs when he throws his stuffed bird off the top of his cage. He thinks it is funny when I am on the phone and he repeats over and over "Hello" "Ok, bye bye". I think that he enjoys when I get distracted when he talks while I am on the phone. You may not think that he has a sense of humor, but he sure makes me laugh every single day.

Linda Brown



## Club Website

As you know we do have a website and it can be accessed by going to [www.rfbirdclub.com](http://www.rfbirdclub.com). Celeste Markey is our webmaster and doing a fantastic job. Last year the web site had an average of almost 4500 hits per month. These are hits from a computer counted only once. Multiple hits from the same computer are counted only once! Our website has also been responsible for many adoptions and rescues over the past year.

If anyone has a picture or a story that they would like added to the web site send the information and file attachments to Celeste at [celeste@rfbirdclub.com](mailto:celeste@rfbirdclub.com).

We are putting another order together for club shirts, so that we have them for the Bird Fair on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Tammy will be taking orders at the February meeting, so they can be available for pick-up at the March meeting. Members, who would like one and can't make the meeting, please contact Dave and Tammy 734-422-5981, with the size and color. The logo looks good on gray, beige and lighter colors. The embroidery charge is \$10.00 plus the cost of the shirt; if you prefer to bring your own shirt that's fine, just pin a piece of paper to it with your name on it so we know who it belongs to. The price for S-M-L-XL was \$13.00 and anything above the XL was \$16.00, we try to get the T-Shirts on sale.



## Club Shirts



## Made in China

When looking at birds toys recently, my husband noticed that a particular product was “Made in China”. Upon further investigation, we found other bird toys and products made in China. You may wonder what inspired me to write this article...it’s because my birds are precious to me, as I’m sure yours are to you.

In the recent past it was reported that the Chinese had exported baby food laced with melamine to make it appear thicker. Then there was the toothpaste contaminated with a chemical found in antifreeze, the same chemical found in cough syrup that killed people in Panama when it turned up in their cough syrup...and not once, but multiple times, our dog and cat food!...and many more things. The FDA is also on the lookout for vegetable proteins contaminated with melamine – the same chemical that killed over 8,000 American dogs and cats when it was imported from China in pet food and treats.

There were some 257 refusals alone (of Chinese food products) in April of 2007 because the food was labeled by the FDA as “filthy”. Most of the time the official term, “filthy,” is used when inspectors smell decomposition or gross contamination of food. This food could be for either human or animal consumption.

No country is increasing its food exports faster than China – about 20 percent in the last year alone. From pesticides, feed additives, heavy metals, coal tar, and other toxins, these are the environmental conditions in China that are poisoning China's people and their human and pet food exports.

So what does this all have to do with pet toys? Well, we need to know what kind of material they’re made from and especially what kinds of dyes are used if our precious birds are going to chew on them! Also found on the website <http://www.parrotparrot.com/alerts-toxins/> is a story on toxic material used on bird cages and the heavy metal poisoning that can occur. Beware of bird cages made in China. Also, beware if they are

lacking a good brand name. It probably means that they were made in China.

In the future, be sure to look at the tags that come on all bird toys and cages, and please refrain from buying ones that come from China. A cheap price is not worth the physical and emotional expense of your bird’s health and possible death.

Many of you have other pets besides birds. You may want to subscribe to “Poisoned Pets: A look inside the pet food industry” to keep up to date with pet/bird food recalls and poisonings at <http://www.poisonedpets.com/>. If you remember just a few months ago, there was a nationwide recall by Zupreem® due to dangerous levels of calcium, phosphorus and vitamin D in some of its Fruit Blend pellets. They actually had two recalls last year. The other was due to calcium levels being higher than recommended in some of their formulated pellets. There were also other recalls, one by Magnolia Bird Farm Products who recalled peanuts and seed mixes due to salmonella contamination. The Lafever recall was due to the possibility of bacteria or fungus in one of the grains used in their products. They recommended discontinuing feeding of the affected products. Kaytee recalled Hand Feeding Formula Baby Birds and Hand Feeding Formula Baby Macaw due to high levels of vitamin D and salmonella. I don’t know about you, but this really concerns me. I don’t know whether or not any of these cases were due to Chinese vitamins, additives or manufacturing, but you can’t be too careful. If the Chinese are not concerned about our babies, they surely wouldn’t be concerned about our birds!

The Bird Mama  
Susan Dixon



## Upcoming Events

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Waltonwood at Cherryhill  
42500 Cherryhill Road  
Canton, MI 48187  
1:30 pm Set-up  
2:30 pm, Show

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Independence Village  
255 Mayer Road  
Frakenmuth, MI 48734  
12:00 noon set-up  
1:00 PM show  
Approx. 1:50 min. drive time

March 9<sup>th</sup> Society of Canary and Finch  
Breeders  
Bird Fair  
\$3.00 Adm. 9AM to 4 PM  
Livonia Elks Lodge #2246  
31117 Plymouth Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150  
\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*

April 6<sup>th</sup> Rainbow Feathers Bird Club  
14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bird Fair  
\$3.00 Adm. 10AM to 4PM  
Romulus High School  
9650 S. Wayne Rd.  
Romulus MI 48174-1551

April 19<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Canterbury on the Lake  
5601 Hatchery Road  
Waterford, MI 48329  
1:00 set-up  
2:00 Show

April 27<sup>th</sup> Motor City Bird Breeders  
Bird Fair  
\$4.00 Adm. 10AM to 5PM  
Madison Place  
876 Horace Brown Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*

Aug 11<sup>th</sup> Pet Emporium Pet Fest  
Aug 12<sup>th</sup> Washtenaw County Fairgrounds  
5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
No Set-up times at this time  
Runs 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Both Days

Ypsilanti Heritage Festival  
Aug 16<sup>th</sup> Noon to 8PM  
Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 10AM to 8 PM  
Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 11 AM to 6PM  
More details will be posted  
as they become available  
\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*

Sept 7<sup>th</sup> Society of Canary and Finch  
Breeders  
Bird Fair  
\$3.00 Adm. 9AM to 4 PM  
Livonia Elks Lodge #2246  
31117 Plymouth Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150  
\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Highland Hey Days  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 Fall Family Festival  
11:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday  
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Sunday  
Livingston Road in Downtown Highland  
We will be arriving around 9:00 AM on Saturday to  
set-up and Tearing down on Sunday after the fair.  
(Show times are just estimates from last year.)  
\*\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*\*

#### **PET EXPO**

Nov.15<sup>th</sup> 11am to 8pm  
Nov.16<sup>th</sup> 10am to 8pm  
Nov.17<sup>th</sup> 11am to 5pm

#### **Suburban Collection Showplace**

46100 Grand River  
Novi, MI 48374

**We will be setting up on Thursday Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> most likely around 9:00 am. Please remember no birds will be allowed through the front door.**

#### **\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\***

There has been some confusion from the loyal readers of Bird Droppings as to which events they are allowed to bring their own bird(s) to. As a point of reference and for future information please we want

everyone to be aware that when you see the line:

\*\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*\*

following or “Educational Show” preceding an event listing it means we are attending the event in an official capacity representing our club and rescue. At these events all club members are welcomed to bring their feathered companions with them. Also please note that our space is very limited at some of these events but don’t let this stop you from joining us, we will find a way for you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy the fun.

\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*

### **\*CANCELATION CONFUSION \***

A few of our scheduled events have been canceled at the last minute by the group staging the event. If you do not regularly participate in the shows but plan on attending please call Steve (734-513-0030) to make sure the event is still a go.

**Avast ye Mates**



### **CAPTAINS CORNER**

Greetings one and all, well from the squawks I have received many of you pet humans have broken the New Year’s resolutions that we made for you. I am not the least bit surprised after all you can lead a horse to water, and you know the rest. Well it seems that there is something on my end

that has me so embarrassed that I can hardly show my face in public. It is my pet human and the absolutely ridiculous winter hat he has been wearing. I received many b-mails after the last meeting about his “Mohawk Hat”. I mean humans are funny looking enough but why oh why do they have to make themselves look even funnier. Especially my pet egghead, err, human I mean the fact that his head is used by the airport to guide the planes in on foggy days because of its luster shall we say. Isn’t bad enough he has to get this “hat” as a Christmas gift and wear it all over the place but he actually likes it. I mean where has your taste gone and to make matters worse people are actually saying they like it. The last thing he needs is encouragement to keep wearing this nightmare. Plus to top it all off he went out and bought two more hats just like it, one is exactly the same while the other is just a different color. Now I know that many of my feathered buddies have trouble with their pet humans but come on now why embarrass us? I know that it is in their nature to be silly but why cross that line into insanity. Many of my buddies have experienced what happens when a flock of humans get together but in the Rainbow Feathers group they tend to take it up several notches. All we can do is roll our eyes toss our beaks and say why me. As hard as we have tried we cannot change them and this hat of his is just icing on the cake. Well maybe I can put on a disguise and no one will know it’s me or I can be embarrassed to the tenth power, oh well we’ll see.





broken color obviously you know nothing about Lovebirds after all you only run a rescue so I doubt you know anything about Lovebirds. I told her no, my wife and I only bred Lovebirds for several years and in 1996 we had the number 7 and 19 Lovebirds on the top bench at the National Bird Show out of about 1500. So no I don't think that I know Lovebirds at all.

Another call involved a Goffin Cockatoo that had gotten out after they had burned microwave popcorn and opened a window to help get rid of the smell. The bird flew to the wife hit the screen and ended up in the back yard. Rather than go out the window wall and get the bird quickly, she did not want to let the dog out so she made the husband go out the front door and around to the backyard. The neighbor's dog heard all the commotion and ran to the fence barking scaring the bird causing it to take flight. Now it got down to 16 degrees that night but they waited until morning to look for it because it was getting dark and the light would be better in the morning. She called back saying the bird has not been found.

Finally I received a call asking for a well-mannered bird. I had to ask her again if I had understood her right, a well-mannered bird. She said yes one that didn't scream, was not destructive and wasn't messy. I told her when she finds one call me I want to see this!  
These are just a few of the calls and I am sure there will be more, many more.



## A REMINDER

We are moving our annual picnic from July to the fourth Sunday in August. This had to be done because there were no pavilions available to rent in July. The picnic is also going to be an open house event as well as our annual picnic. To all of you long time members make a note that we are going to be in the large pavilion again this year. Everyone should plan on attending its going to be a great day



## Are you watching your bird's figure?

By ZuPreem Staff

*Obesity is a common condition in companion birds and occurs when they consume more calories than they can expend over an extended period of time. Lack of flight activity and a diet rich in fatty seeds are common causes of obesity. Your bird could be obese if its body weight exceeds the normal body weight (within normal variation) for its species by 15 percent or more.*

### Here's how to tell if your bird is overweight

Take a minute to perform a quick home exam. Start by noticing your bird's stance. A wider than normal stance can be a sign of obesity. Next, check for a small roll of fat, a "double chin" visible under the beak. Also, look for small yellow or white fat deposits in the abdomen, along the flanks, inner thighs, upper breast and crop area. Finally, check for any bald patches where feather tracts may have separated due to fat under the skin.

**You can also weigh your bird**

To do this at home, use an electronic scale that measures in grams, not ounces, to detect small changes. Of course, the best way to be sure is to have your pet weighed and examined by your avian veterinarian.

**Health risks associated with obesity**

Obesity increases your bird’s risk of developing many serious diseases including heart disease, liver disease, fatty tumor formation (lipomas) and respiratory distress during exercise and play. Obesity is also associated with abnormal feathering, egg binding and infertility.

**What you can do**

If you suspect your bird may be obese, see your veterinarian for a complete and thorough physical examination as well as advice on how to change your bird’s diet to a healthier one. Along with more exercise, converting your bird from a seed-based diet to a more nutritionally balanced extruded diet could be the answer. Remember that any weight-loss regimen for your bird should be done with your veterinarian’s guidance.

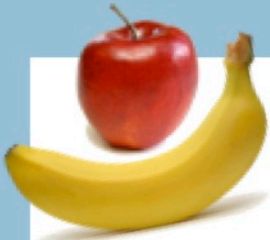
**How does your bird weigh in?**



The following table expresses approximate normal mature body weights for some bird species in terms of both the average weight and a range of acceptable variances (+/-) from the average.

Species	Average Weight (grams)	Variance (+/- grams)
Scarlet Macaw	1,001	151
Blue & Gold Macaw	1039	102
Military Macaw	925	57
Hyacinth Macaw	1355	95
Umbrella Cockatoo	403	57
Moluccan Cockatoo	577	71
Great Sulfur Crested Cockatoo	843	147
Citron Cockatoo	357	34
Grand Eclectus	432	40
African Grey	554	66
Blue-Fronted Amazon	432	51
Mexican Red-Headed Amazon	360	24
Yellow-Naped Amazon	596	85
Double Yellow-Headed Amazon	568	61
Budgerigar	30	*
Lovebird	45	*
Cockatile	180	*

*Taken from Clinical Avian Medicine and Surge*  
 This article reprinted with permission from Zupreem ®



# What are you really feeding your bird? Visit BirdFoodFacts.com to find out.

How nutritious is the food in your bird's food cup? To find out, visit BirdFoodFacts.com. This website offers an objective nutritional analysis based on protein, fat, fiber and moisture. Choose from hundreds of food items most common in a companion bird's diet.



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This newsletter  
Devoted to pet bird  
Enthusiasts is  
Published monthly by  
The Rainbow Feathers  
Bird club of Michigan  
A 501(c) (3) club

March 2013  
Volume 16 Issue3

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING

#### DATES :

March 24<sup>th</sup> -- Fourth Sunday

April 28<sup>th</sup> ----- Fourth Sunday

May 19<sup>th</sup>----- Third Sunday

#### RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

##### Who we are and what we are about

- Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
- Support scholarships for avian vet students
- Yearly Bird Fair
- Club Library for members
- Grooming available
- Avian rescue/relocation programs
- Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
- Monthly newsletter
- Periodic Service projects
- Field Trips
- Educational Programs upon request
- Make-it-take-it workshops

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

#### Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary– Beverly Sholar 313-492-5700

Email – [basholar@yahoo.com](mailto:basholar@yahoo.com)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Board of Trustees –

Mary Perva- 517-618-7008

Stan Johnson 248-746-0520

Email – [mmisterjay@comcast.net](mailto:mmisterjay@comcast.net)

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email- [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)



**ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.**

Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)



## Monthly snack list

**We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is twofold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and desserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!**



## CLUB WELFARE

. Please contact Jean Jedrzejek at 734-427-3187 or e-mail her at [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net) if you know of any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one.

## From the prez:



Well it seems that spring will never get here and Ole Man Winter just doesn't want to give in just yet. Well it is March and spring will soon be here but change is in the air and there is a change in our fair date and venue.

It seems that there are not one but two huge fairs (one is three days); that are on the date we were forced to pick so with the number of vendors not coming in that would cover our expenses we are forced to move to June 23 at the VFW Post 345. We will need

# EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Plafchan is now doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please send all items to him at 11021 Henry Ruff Livonia, MI 48150 or email to [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com).

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Those wishing to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.

# BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

- ❖ Ask owner's permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
- ❖ Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
- ❖ When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.





everyone's help to pull this off and yes we are going back to Sunday. We traditionally get more people through the door on a Sunday fair than a Saturday fair but the city that the school was in closed all their public buildings on Sundays and that forced us to change to Saturdays. After talking to the vendors not only did they like a June fair but they also liked Sundays much better so this is something we have to do. Moving the fair out of the pack of spring fairs seemed only logical and so here we go. This is a monumental move for us and I will miss the size of the gym but this is something we must do. I would like to thank Lance for his tireless work he did securing the gym and getting us everything we needed for the fair he is one the Angels of this Club and I stand and applaud him for everything he has done Thank You my friend. Now we must work like fiends to get the word out there and make this fair the best it can be. Nothing will change helping the vendors in and out, and still being one friendly club to everyone who come through the door. I know we can do this when we work together we can move mountains so let us move one now and show everyone why I say **YOU GUYS**

**ROCK!!!!!!! (YOU KNOW YOU DO)!**

Until Next Time  
Your Prez  
Dave

## Voice of the Veep

Last month was a very busy month for our club; this is unusual because traditionally February is one of our slower months. Besides our meeting and five rescue runs we staged four educational shows at senior centers. By far the most impressive show staged was in Frankenmuth, MI at Independence Village of Frankenmuth. They heard about us from an activities directors meeting and contacted us to ask if we would travel that far. Our answer was of course we would and we received a great reception for our effort. Not only was there a large audience of residents the word about our show spread through the village as we were staging our program. The activities director called Tammy the next day and told her everybody was talking about our show and asking her to bring us back again. The residents that missed the show were disappointed and were asking her to have us back, so needless to say I'm sure we will be returning for another show soon.

We are having issues with the date of our bird fair; it seems that we have inadvertently booked our fair on the same date as a three day fair in Indiana and another fair in Kentucky. This means that many of our regular vendors are committed to the larger fairs and won't be able to be at ours. We are canceling the fair on April 6<sup>th</sup> and are looking into booking the VFW Post 345 hall on Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Why June 23<sup>rd</sup> you may ask, because this is the fourth



Sunday and would be the day of our meeting? This is the only date that the hall has available so if we book it we'll have to move our meeting. This problem occurred mainly because of Bird Talk being discontinued. We have always relied on many months of advance notice of all fairs around the country but now there is no longer a common venue for all of us bird lovers to access.

The most difficult problem that is associated with a change of venue and date is getting to word out. This is going to be where we really need everyone's help, passing out flyers and asking places to post a flyer for us. The first year of the change will be the most challenging but I'm sure we can do this.

Please feel free to call me for the latest updates and information or if you're not sure about something (Steve 734-513-0030).

Your VP  
Steve

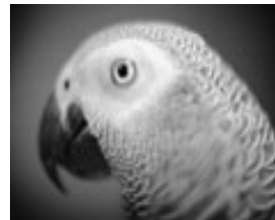


### Rescue Update

Last month we successfully found new homes for one Cockatiel, a Sun Conure, a Green Cheek Conure and a Goffin Cockatoo.

All of these birds went to their new homes with cages, toys, water bottles, and pellets. We were able to accomplish this

because of the wonderful generosity of the members of this club. Your donations of supplies brought to the meetings and especially your participation in the monthly club raffles has allowed the rescue to send our adoptees to their new homes fully prepared. Thank you one and all. You should all be very proud of yourselves for this; our rescue couldn't do this without you.



### OUT AND ABOUT WITH POOKIE

Foraging, we all know that foraging is simulative and beneficial for our companion humans. The activity promoted by having them forage keeps humans healthy while stimulating their senses and minds. Pine nut and almond shells scattered about on the floor will increase jumping and hopping by your human when they step on them in their bare feet. A large glob of poop placed on a shoulder while sitting in a chair or lying upon a sofa causes a human to jump up while wriggling and writhing to remove your present. However I digress, we as parrots know all of these things, and the true challenge is having our companion humans to perform reciprocating actions for us.

After many years of training and not so subtle hints we think Steve has finally figured it out. I say this because lately he has been delivering to all of us some of the most awesome foraging toys we have ever seen. I know this is difficult to believe but most often the simplest is the best. Paper bags; there is probably nothing that is more fun than a paper bag. A quarter bushel brown paper bag that you receive from a grocery store provides hours of entertainment and stimulation for an active parrot. We hide inside the bag, roll around in the bag, climb on top of the bag and chew the bag into little itty bitty pieces. We have hours of fun and Steve attains much needed stimulus trying to find and clean up all the little pieces. There are also the smaller bags he has brought home for us. These can be described and identified as a number six or number eight bag; these can be tossed, chewed and rolled around with. If we're alert we've discovered Steve usually brings these bags home for us with French fries or tacos inside of them. Let me tell you a small paper sack with paper wrapped tacos inside of it is a foraging parrots dream.

JB, Sparky, Calvin and I have learned to keep a keen eye open for when Steve brings home one of these foraging toys for us. He sits down in front of the television and places the toy on the floor next to the chair he's in. I spring into action; my duty is to distract Steve by demanding attention and / or biting at his toes. JB, Calvin and

Sparky then move in on the bag of tacos. JB snatches the bag from the bottom and runs off with it, this causes the paper wrapped tacos to spill on the floor. Sparky snatches a taco, Calvin snatches a taco, I swiftly snatch a taco and JB snatches a taco. Steve then starts chasing us around trying to rescue his tacos. He then relents and allows us to share at least one taco treat; this results in Steve receiving simulative foraging activity. Best of all we have foraged for a tasty taco treat.

Until next month  
Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie



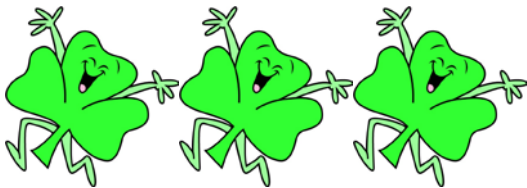
**!!!!ALERT!!!!**

Our annual bird fair that was scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> has been canceled! We were forced to cancel because we inadvertently booked our fair on the same date of a three day fair in Indiana and a two day fair in Kentucky. All the vendors that would normally be at our fair are attending the larger fairs.

After talking with many of our vendors we are taking their suggestions and re-scheduling our fair on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Everyone we talked to suggested a June date because of a lack of any fairs during this time period.

The Romulus high school gym is not available at this time and it is not air conditioned either so we are moving to a different location. We have booked the VFW Post 345 hall located at 27345 Schoolcraft Rd. Redford, MI 48239. This is on the south side of I-96 (Jefferies Freeway) just east of Inkster Rd.

**!!!!ALERT!!!!**



## CAPTAINS CORNER

Avast ye Mates



OK, I have tried everything but it's no use I still have to put up with my pet human and that thing they call a hat. Grant you it is cold outside but really a line has to drawn somewhere and I think it should be done here and now! I realize that it was after all a

Christmas present but it should go with the ugly sweater the great Aunt Millie sent you in the back of the closet. What really sends me into spasms is the fact he went out and bought two more just like it one in a different color, one the same. Has my pet human lost his mind? To make matters worse people are actually saying they like it or cool hat one person wanted to know where he got it, seriously! I know I went on a rant about this last time but it has not stopped him. I think he is doing this just to spite me. So I asked Pookie if her pet human did anything crazy or weird and she told me he likes to chase boats really big boats on the Detroit River. I asked her if he ever caught one and she told me he never brings one home so she doesn't think so. Weird hats, chasing boats and wearing shirts that one has to read plastered on their bodies I just don't get humans not at all not one bit. I do have a plan though to make his hat sleep with the fishes but it will have to wait until spring when he doesn't wear it anymore. He will misplace it misplace them all and I will be once again to hold my head up high without any more embarrassment. Just wait till spring that hat is good as gone HEHEHEHE!!!!!!

Cheers  
Captain Morgan





## Club Shirts

We are trying to get another order together for club shirts, so that we have them for the Bird Fair. Tammy will be taking orders

at the meeting, so they can be available for pick-up at the April meeting. Anyone who would like a shirt and can't make the meeting, please contact Dave and Tammy 734-422-5981, with the size and color. The logo looks good on gray, beige and lighter colors. The embroidery charge is \$10.00 plus the cost of the shirt; if you prefer to bring your own shirt that's fine, just pin a piece of paper to it with your name on it so we know who it belongs to. The price for S-M-L-XL was \$13.00 and anything above the XL was \$16.00, we try to get the T-Shirts on sale.

Buster. The interesting thing is that he avoids all rugs in pursuit of his toys on the other side of the rug. At least, he no longer eats the rugs! I would like to know what is so fascinating about rugs? Rugs are so fascinating to my parrot, maybe I will never know.

Also, I would like to know what is the fascination with zippers and buttons????? One night I was so tired that I fell asleep in my chair. Buster climbed up on a winter night and chewed up all the buttons on my PJ's. I woke up because I was cold. I woke up and discovered Buster had removed all the buttons from my pajamas so I put an afghan on my chest, and went back to sleep.

Now I have an old piece of clothing that has buttons on the floor for Buster to chew on. I call it the "baby sitter". My family has given me so many old things that Buster has about six months of "baby sitter" clothing at the house for him.

Linda Brown



## TALES OF BUSTER BROWN

I have wood floors and numerous rugs in my house. I bought a new rug (Because Buster had destroyed one). I replaced the rug in the living-room with the one in the kitchen. Buster got so upset that he fell off his perch when I unrolled the rug in the living room. I guess what is not distressful to me could be distressful to

## BITS from BABY



HEY PILGRIMS I FINALLY MADE IT TO THE MEETING!! This is Baby your roving reporter back at last. I was so excited that I couldn't control myself and stay on Duke's shoulder for the whole meeting. Hope I can relax for the meeting in March.

There were fifty-four people and thirty Birds in attendance. Fifty Feathered members and four guests of which one



darkness and into the light. The cage was adequate but not nearly enough for a regal Blue and Gold she deserved better. So with bird and cage in the Rescue Mobile they were off to give her the life she longed for and so richly had coming. Now it would not be long before, though tattered and rough around the edges, she would find her new home and blossom into the bird that was always inside trying to get out. She would find and revel in her newfound birdness and her new Parrot Parents would want nothing more. (It is OK to either let out a heavy sigh or cheers which ever moves you.)

Another happy ending but it doesn't mean that their job is over, no sir there are other birds like Mariah that need the assistance of the Rangers so they stand ready to answer the call. Where ever they are needed (well almost where ever) they will go for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!!!!!!!**

Stay tuned for our next nail biting adventure, Nobody's Baby in Warren.



## Rambling with Rambo

Hi Gang:

Here is an interesting thought. Are we a gang, a group, a flock, or just a bunch of friends? Well let's

get to this month's story.

Every Saturday, Michael and I listen to this radio program. It's a Canadian program; stories, songs, and general fun stuff. Well, this week it was about the relationship between a man and his cat;

and their life together. After the program ended, I thought that story applies to every one of us feathered people owners. So here is my story: it started 20 years ago.

I was introduced to Michael quite by chance. I was a juvenile, just out of baby hood. I was presented to this strange, funny looking, crazy guy. At this time, he had this little girl with him. She was eight years old. I was delivered as a present to Daddy and Mommy. I had been acquired by Mommy's son. He was home on leave from the Marines. My new home was setup the night before. Before being let out of my travel box, I heard these other birds making a racket. One of them was a Sun Conure. So daddy opens this box. Here I am a scared, scruffy, little thing. I thought "oh no. I'm going to live in this madhouse; crazy people, and loud squawky flock mates. I'm just a little boy." Well, daddy took me out. He set me on top of my new house. While he was getting me some food, and water, the first thing I did was jump on the little girl, and bite her. She let out a scream and started crying. This is how I earned my name, Rambo. I was going to show them whose boss around here ME!!!

Well, over time Michael and I got to know each other. And I got to know my flock mates. The Sun Conure was ok. She was a typical woman, always screaming about something, and demanding attention. She never did mellow with age. Then there was that Senegal we never did get along. I

guess this was two guys always trying to dominate the other.

About 5 years ago my sister died. She had a stroke, and after then she was never the same. Then two years ago, my brother died. Though we never liked each other he was a good brother. He taught me to talk. And, we had that bed time game. Our people would tell each of us good night. Then we would tell each other good night, and send kisses. Every night we did this. Ya know I miss that. I miss him.

It was just before my brother died, that I made my first trip to the vet. We all had been healthy. So we only needed our nails trimmed. This was the first time Daddy had me out of my cage, and held me. Actually he had to chase me around to get me in that box. We both learned something. We can trust the other. He didn't hurt me, and I didn't hurt him too bad. I gave him a few bites, but there was no blood. After my second trip to the vet, we got along better. Daddy didn't let that vet, or his assistant hurt me. We were both afraid of the other, a little. Now I knew he would protect me. A few days later, I let daddy scratch my head. Hey, that feels good. Well, after this daddy let me out once in a while. For the first week only a few minutes, then as time went by, longer. Now, I'm spoiled to the point I'm always out. These past couple of months, I want to be with daddy most of the time. I sit on his shoulder, and we hang out together. And now I have a good time being with all of you

every month. Whenever daddy is out for the day, I'm very sad. I stay on my perch and chew it.

So like the story we heard on the radio, our life has been one adventure after another. Life has thrown some bad times at us. But, those don't matter. We have had many, many more good times together. I'm glad we met each other all those years ago. I'm sure Daddy feels the same. The whole point of the story is this. Times change and relationships change. From an uneasy start, to loving each other so much, we're best friends.

As always, have fun, be good, and remember Macaws Rule.

Rambo

## PEOPLE SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS!



If anyone is old enough to remember the TV show Kids Say the Darneest Things You will remember the premise. The host would talk to children and ask them questions or field their questions, well it got hysterically unpredictable and very entertaining. That sort of thing happens to us every now and then when we do an education program at the assisted living places. This is one of them.

At this particular program sitting in the front row was one very animated lady



who was just full of questions. She asked about the feather color, the life spans, what they ate and what they lived in. She was enjoying the program immensely when out of left field; way out of left field came her next question. Are any of these birds edible? Well I replied I know in Australia the Aborigines do eat Parakeets and Cockatiels but I am not ready to see if any of these guys taste like chicken! The crowd laughed and then she wanted to know about how many eggs they laid how long it takes for them to hatch. Her last question left me speechless and I had to let that one go unanswered because we are not **THAT** educational. She boldly asked “How do birds do it?” Well this is a bird program not birds and bees so explaining that would have just made for more questions and gotten very embarrassing. This is what makes these programs so much fun is the unpredictability that comes with the territory. So don’t you dare ask me that question, just Google it!!



## UP COMING EVENTS

March 22<sup>nd</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Inn at Cass Lake  
900 Cass Lake Rd.  
Waterford, MI 48328  
2:00PM Set-up  
3:00PM Show

April 10<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Oakwood Adult Daycare  
3601 Pelham Rd.  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
1:00PM Set-up  
1:30PM Show

April 14<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Inn at Cass Lake  
900 Cass Lake Rd.  
Waterford, MI 48328  
2:00PM Set-up  
3:00PM Show

April 18<sup>th</sup> Earth Day 2013  
Constitution Hall  
525 West Allegan Street  
Lansing, MI 48993  
8:30AM to 3:30PM

April 19<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Canterbury on the Lake  
5601 Hatchery Road  
Waterford, MI 48329  
1:00 set-up  
2:00 Show

April 21<sup>st</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Waltonwood of Carriage Park  
2000 Canton Center Rd.  
Canton, MI 48187  
2:00 PM Set-up  
2:30 PM Show

April 27<sup>th</sup> Motor City Bird Breeders  
Bird Fair  
\$4.00 Adm. 10AM to 5PM  
Madison Place  
876 Horace Brown Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071

\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

June 8<sup>th</sup> Meet on Main Pet Adoption Fair  
Downtown Whitmore Lake  
Main Street in Whitmore Lake

Runs from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm Rain or  
Shine

Set-up at 11:00 am

We will be setting up our pop-up  
In a 10' X 10' Space

June 23<sup>rd</sup> Rainbow Feathers Bird Club  
14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bird Fair  
\$3.00 Adm. 10AM to 4PM  
VFW Post 345  
27345 Schoolcraft Rd.  
Redford, MI 48239

Aug 10<sup>th</sup> Pet Emporium Pet Fest  
Aug 11<sup>th</sup> Washtenaw County Fairgrounds  
5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
No Set-up times at this time  
Runs 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Both Days

Ypsilanti Heritage Festival  
Aug 16<sup>th</sup> Noon to 8PM  
Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 10AM to 8 PM  
Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 11 AM to 6PM

More details will be posted  
as they become available

\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Sept 7<sup>th</sup> Society of Canary and Finch  
Breeders  
Bird Fair  
\$3.00 Adm. 9AM to 4 PM  
Livonia Elks Lodge #2246  
31117 Plymouth Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150

\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Highland Hey Days  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 Fall Family Festival  
11:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday  
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Sunday

Livingston Road in Downtown Highland  
We will be arriving around 9:00 AM on  
Saturday to set-up and Tearing down on  
Sunday after the fair. (Show times are just  
estimates from last year.)

\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> Guardians for Animals  
Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> Pet Expo

More information will be following  
Our monthly meeting will have to be moved  
to the 20<sup>th</sup> of October for this event.

**PET EXPO**

Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 11am to 8pm  
Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 10am to 8pm  
Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 11am to 5pm

**Suburban Collection Showplace**

46100 Grand River  
Novi, MI 48374

**We will be setting up on Thursday  
Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> most likely around 9:00 am.  
Please remember no birds will be allowed  
through the front door.**

**\*\*\*\*\*2014\*\*\*\*\***

**Yes we truly have booked a show for 2014**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Library Educational Show  
2014 Novi Public Library  
45255 W. 10 Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48375  
6:00 PM set-up  
7:00PM Show

\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*

There has been some confusion from the loyal readers of Bird Droppings as to which events they are allowed to bring their own bird(s) to. As a point of reference and for future information please we want everyone to be aware that when you see the line:

\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*

following or “Educational Show” preceding an event listing it means we are attending the event in an official capacity representing our club and rescue. At these events all club members are welcomed to bring their feathered companions with them. Also please note that our space is very limited at some of these events but don’t let this stop you from joining us, we will find a way for you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy the fun.

\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*

### **\*CANCELTION CONFUSION \***

A few of our scheduled events have been canceled at the last minute by the group staging the event. If you do not regularly participate in the shows but plan on attending please call Steve (734-513-0030) to make sure the event is still a go.



## **How to tell if your bird is sick**

By Don J. Harris, DVM

Birds in the wild instinctively hide illness in an attempt to avoid predators that prey on sick or injured birds. Pet birds are also just as effective in hiding illness as their wild counterparts, and it is up to bird owners to recognize subtle behavioral and physical signs that may indicate their birds are sick.

### **Behavioral signs may include:**

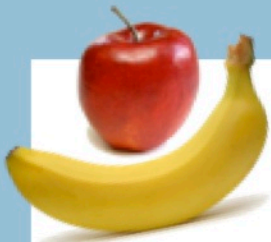
- Sleeping later in the morning than usual
- Sleeping more during the day
- Irritability
- Unusually compliant or passive
- Sitting on the bottom of the cage
- Picking at food and/or not eating at usual times
- Eating less overall
- Vocalizing less
- A change in the voice or hoarseness
- Different breathing pattern
- Making unusual sounds when breathing

### **Physical signs may include:**

- Coughing or sneezing
- Discharge from nostrils (nares)
- Matted eyes
- Eyes are dull and closing excessively
- Matted feathers on the face and head
- Diarrhea
- Black stools
- A change in the white part of the droppings to another color such as red, yellow or green
- Weight loss—can you feel or see the breastbone?
- Unusual swellings, especially around the eyes
- Irregular discoloration of the feathers
- Feathers are “fluffed up”
- Random or generalized loss of feathers
- Scaling or crusting of skin
- Increased temperature of feet or beak

Any of the signs listed above, or any other unusual signs, may indicate your bird is sick. You should take immediate action by making an appointment with your avian veterinarian. Waiting even one day to resolve the problem can jeopardize the long-term outcome of your bird’s health.

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This newsletter  
Devoted to pet bird  
Enthusiasts is  
Published monthly by  
The Rainbow Feathers  
Bird club of Michigan  
A 501(c) (3) club

April 2013  
Volume 16 Issue 4

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING DATES :

**APRIL 28<sup>th</sup> -----Fourth Sunday**

**MAY 19<sup>th</sup> -----Third Sunday**

**JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup> -----BIRD FAIR**

**\*\*\*\*\*NO MEETING IN JUNE\*\*\*\*\***

### RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

Who we are and what we are about

- Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
- Support scholarships for avian vet students
- Yearly Bird Fair
- Club Library for members
- Grooming available
- Avian rescue/relocation programs
- Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
- Monthly newsletter
- Periodic Service projects
- Field Trips
- Educational Programs upon request
- Make-it-take-it workshops and more.....

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

### Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary– Beverly Sholar 313-492-5700

Email – [basholar@yahoo.com](mailto:basholar@yahoo.com)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Board of Trustees –

Mary Perva 517-618-7008

Stan Johnson 248-746-0520

Email – [mmisterjay@comcast.net](mailto:mmisterjay@comcast.net)

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email- [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)

**ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.**

Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

# EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Plafchan is now doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please send all items to him at 11021 Henry Ruff Livonia, MI 48150 or email to splafchan@twmi.rr.com

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Those wishing to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.



## CLUB WELFARE

. Please contact Jean Jedrzejek at 734-427-3187 or e-mail her at [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net) if you know of any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one.



### Monthly snack list

We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is two fold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and deserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!

## BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

- ❖ Ask owner's permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
- ❖ Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
- ❖ When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.

From the prez:

I have to say that we had a great meeting and it was so nice to see Pam, Susie and Jan back at a meeting. There are those people we think about often and to see them at a meeting after a long absence was a real treat. I hope to see more of them. Also Charles, Jeff and Matt I was glad to see you guys up and around, winter has not been kind to any of us especially the three of them. I cannot forget Lanah she was back after a rough patch with health issues in her family and all seems well now. It is funny that even though our club has grown I can still tell





who is missing or we have not seen in a while and we hope that all is well if you haven't been able to come. Well if you have not heard we have had to cancel and reschedule our fair, it is now on Sunday June 23 at the VFW Post 345 in Redford Michigan. This was due to the fact there were two huge fairs on our original date in April and our vendors were already committed to do these fairs so we had no choice but to move it. Now the fact that we are on a Sunday again has the vendors very excited because the number of people through the door is much higher on Sunday than Saturday. So it is truly a leap of faith but I am sure we can pull this off in grand fashion. Help on fair day is crucial because we can't get in the night before so every bit of help will be needed Sunday morning bright and early at 6:00 AM and throughout the day. So make plans to join us and have fun, shop, try your luck in our raffle and buy some homemade baked goods, we hope you can come. Also get the word out about our fair date change to every bird person you know. I am not worried you guys always come through bigger and better than I could ever hope for. So come to the April meeting as we finalize the fair plans. I truly am not worried about the fair or its success because of the incredible members we have it will be fantastic and that's because **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!!!!**

Until Next Time  
Your Prez  
Dave



## Voice of the Veep

It was nice to see so many first time faces at the meeting last month as well as a number of members that we haven't seen for quite some time. It's always fun to see longtime friends at the club meetings after an extended absence and I'm sure I speak for everybody when I say we all hope to see you again at the next meeting. Sadly and with great trepidation I must report a drastic turn of events. This situation is so dire I am not sure our meetings will ever be the same. All of our members and loyal readers of Bird Droppings are well aware the dominate species of companion parrot at the club meetings has been the African Grays. (Of course I say this with no bias what-so ever.) 😊 Yes, occasionally the Cockatoo and Macaw contingencies do outnumber the African Gray's however: nothing like what occurred at last month's meeting has ever occurred. Conures!!! Conures everywhere. Sun Conures, Green Cheek Conures, Pineapple Conures, Blue Crown Conures there were so many Conures I thought I was in an episode of "The Birds." I was forced to make and estimated count and edit Baby's birdie attendance report because the inordinate and excessive number of Conures simply overwhelmed the meeting census taker. To my fellow African Gray owners I plead; we need you, we need to attempt to re-claim the vaulted position of most numerous bird species at the meeting. We have not been on top for many months now.

Our annual bird fair is now two months away and I'm sure all of you have heard that we are moving to a new location

and day of the week. It will be held on Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the VFW Post 345 at 27345 Schoolcraft (I-96 service drive) Redford, MI 48239. We will not be able to set-up the night prior to the fair so the standard plans have been changed. On Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup> we are going to rent a U-Haul truck and meet at my house about 5:00pm to load it up with used cages, gently used and donated toys and perches, raffle items, carts, dolly's and wagons. Then on Sunday at 6:00 AM we will be at the VFW post to unload the truck, cover tables, set up the raffle and help vendors move their wares into the hall. It's going to be hectic and crowded and we need as many volunteers as we can muster; so if you can please plan on helping.

P.S. I hope all of you realize I was just feigning outrage about the Conure takeover. It really was awesome seeing so many at the meeting.

Your Veep  
Steve



## Protocol Information

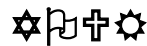
## For Other Club's Fairs

Our club is offered a free table at other clubs bird fairs and we reciprocate by giving the other clubs a free table at our fair. A free table always includes admission for two and only two club members with the space.

We have always encouraged members to join us at events like these and thankfully there are many members that do join us. We have always said the club would reimburse your admission cost when you join us. Please be aware that when you come to another clubs fair that we have a table at, plan on paying their admission fee at the door; when you get to our table we will refund your admission fees. Steve will reimburse you at the table and he will receive a refund from the club. Following this procedure will eliminate the confusion of the large number of members we have in attendance trying to get in for free. Remember these clubs are staging bird fairs for the same reason we have a fair and they can't let all of us in for free. It's also very hard for other clubs to comprehend how involved and active our membership is and sometimes that confuses them. This causes them to think we're all just trying to get in for free.

So please remember if you're intending on joining us at the Motor City Bird Breeders fair on April 27<sup>th</sup> don't try to

get in without paying. Pay your admission fee and see Steve at the table he will refund your admission on the spot.



As you know we are approaching a very busy season of both outdoor and indoor events, the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival and the All American Family Pet Expo to name two of many events that we will be attending. Along with doing these events comes something that we have become accustom to and that is drawing huge crowds. With that being said there are certain rules that must be followed to insure that birds do not go missing and the owner does not have heart failure wondering where that bird is. So I would like to pass on to you the rules of etiquette for doing high traffic events. If you have someone else's bird other than your own always follow these rules. First let the owner of the bird know that you have that bird so they know where and who the bird is with. Second stay within eyesight of the bird's owner. We

love the fact that many of us can handle each other's bird and it gives the owner peace of mind when they can see where their bird is. Third and most important never ever hand a bird to someone and then walk away. With the huge crowds we attract it would be very easy for someone to steal a bird if you take your eyes off of it for even a few seconds. Fourth, always take the bird back from the person you have handed it to and never let them hand it to someone else. Finally, return the bird either back to the owner or its time out stand, if you put it on the stand let the owner know that you have done so. This will help avoid the owner having panic attacks and keep everyone happy, relaxed and the event fun for all!



## Rambling with Rambo

Well friends, it's another Saturday morning.

I'm sitting on daddy. We are listening to that Saturday morning radio show. I was going to write a story about sending, and receiving letters. Well, it's a nice lazy morning. So the subject of Bedtime came to me. So this story is called "The Magic of Bedtime"

Bedtime is a very special time for us birds. Mine starts like this. Every night at about 8:00, I say to daddy "GOOD NIGHT!!" He knows I'm not ready yet. He sees me run across his arm and look up at the table.

The food and water cup are there. As I'm looking up my eyes are flashing away. Well, between 8:45, and 9:00 I say "Good night!" This time I'm not yelling and flashing. He says, "Are you ready for bed? Ok." Then I say "Good night" again, softly. Once in a while, if I'm cuddling with daddy, I stay up until 10:00. It does not matter what he is watching on TV. He takes care of me first. Sometimes, I go straight in to my house. Most nights, I grab a bite to eat, and then run across the cage top. I try to get back up on him. I know he has this bedtime ritual. He always cleans up the mess I made during the day. He sweeps off my play stand, then the floor around my house. Since daddy and mommy are walking past my house all day, he has to shake out these rugs by the back door, and in the hallway. Somehow, my food and poop get on the bathroom rug. He needs to shake out this one to. And for some reason, my food is all over daddy's office floor, and couch. Imagine that. Well, after daddy cleans up all this, he says, "Time to go sleep." He covers me and turns out the light. Then of course, I start my nightly game. I say, "gimme kiss." Daddy kisses me. We do this 5, 6 times. Then I have to start saying, "Good Boy" after daddy says, "Yes, you're a good boy." Well, we have to do this a few times. I do throw in a "Gimme Kiss," a few times. I'm such a silly bird. I sure have daddy trained well. After this, anytime someone goes past my house, or to the kitchen, I give a kiss.

Here is my poem called, "The Magic of Bedtime."

Bedtime is a magical time of day. This is a special time.

Us pampered pets can rest and dream. We can dream about the fun we had.

Oh the Magic of bedtime

There is a magic land called Bedtime. This is a place like no other.

In this magic place called bedtime, we never need to be sad.

But, why would we ever want to be sad.

The Land of Bedtime is a happy place.

We can dream about tomorrow's adventures. Everyone will have a smiley face.

The Magic of Bedtime. The Magic of Bedtime.

We can sit in our house safe and secure.

Our people will watch over us.

We don't have to worry about anything.

Safe in our house, there are no cats, or rats, or snakes. So we don't have to shake, shiver, or fuss.

The magic of Bedtime, The Magic of Bedtime.

Our dreams can send us away to special places; lands of lush jungles, with sweet fruit everywhere. Our dreams can send us to magic lands.

I once went to a magic land where the flowers talk, and the trees can walk.

In this dream I had, I saw some mice blowing a horn, while riding a unicorn.

There was also many fruits a ripe, and a hound smoking a pipe.

The Magic of bedtime. The Magic of Bedtime.

In our magic dreams, we never get a 'time out'. We only play and shout.

Life is always the best it can be. That is what life is all about

So sweet dreams my friends. So after this magic time, we'll feel our best.

So my friends let's all sleep well, and enjoy The Magic of Bedtime.

As always, Have Fun,  
Be Good and Remember  
Macaws Rule  
Rambo



**Rescue update**

The rescue continued to have success on placing foster birds in new homes. This past month we placed a Sun Conure and an Umbrella Cockatoo.

We also rescued a number of gently used cages which will be available at our bird fair in June. If you are interested be sure to stop by "Honest Steve's Used Cages" table at the fair. As is standard for our adopted birds they went to their new homes with cages, toys and food. We are only able to do this because of you, our members.

We want to thank all of our club members for your generous participation in our monthly raffles and your donations of toys and food. It is you, the members that enable us to send our rescued birds to

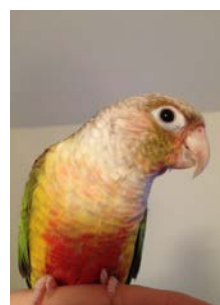
their new adopted homes fully outfitted with cages, food, and toys. Your generosity also allows us to pay for vet care if needed and have made our rescue the success that it is. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:**

PAT GREENWOOD	MAY 2
SHARON MURPHY	MAY 3
JOSEPH FONTANA	MAY 5
MICHAEL GYARMATI	MAY 5
RACHEL JOHNSON	MAY 8
DAVE CAROL	MAY 13
SUE GOUIN	MAY 13
DALE DOMEIER	MAY 15
LANCE KNUDSON	MAY 16
ANTONIO RIOJAS	MAY 16
JIM HAGER	MAY 17
RANDY BRATCHER	MAY 20
EMMA SCHOENFELNER	MAY 21
BILL MEDLEN	MAY 23
LAURIE STADTHER	MAY 29
LANGE BOUGENOY	MAY 31

**Cricket Chirps**



Hello there all my birdie brothers and sisters! You may remember me as the adorable Pineapple

Green Cheek Conure at the Pet Expo and some of our meetings. My name is Cricket, and it's nice to meet you!

Just thought I'd fly in to give you all a warning. It was bad enough when my momma started working at Discount Pet and learned how to clip our wings and nails, but now she's really done the unthinkable. She's become one of THEM! You know them! They wear the brightly colored plumage called "scrubs" and carry around towels for "restraint" and yucky "needles"! Yes, my momma is becoming a Veterinary Technician! As horrible as it is that is, she's learning a bunch of stuff about keeping us healthy. I keep trying to tell her that there is nothing healthy about being poked and prodded by strangers, but she thinks she knows better than a bird brain (the greatest of the brains, as we all know.)

One thing that momma always worries about are those late night emergencies that we birdies like to have. Yes, we have our regular vet that we go to for well bird visits, but at night and on weekends these places lock up. Still, I guess there are some crazy humans that like to be AWAKE at those times (instead of being tucked away and hidden from predators like anyone with sense.) These humans work at places called "24-Hour Emergency Vets". They can be pretty handy if we get sick or hurt, but did you know that a lot of them won't see birds? What's wrong with these vets, that they aren't equipped to care for the most superior species' on the planet?! Fortunately, there are a few out there that have wised up. Momma has taken my sister, Sadi, to the Animal Emergency Center in Novi a few times when she had egg problems. It doesn't really matter which place you choose, but it's really important to have a plan and to know for sure that a birdie can find the right care. Pick out your

emergency vet ahead of time and have their number programmed in your Blackbirdie. Know how to get there before the emergency happens and call ahead so they know you're coming!

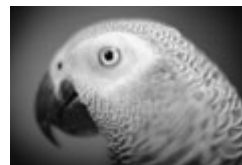
Momma also always makes sure to have carriers ready to go and a home emergency kit. It has Quick Stop, scissors, towels, bottled water and tweezers for those "uh-oh" moments we get into at one time or another. She says it's really important to be prepared.

Sometimes, having momma as a vet tech has its advantages (she brings us yummy treats home all the time!) But I still don't like being "restrained". Maybe I'll take up my brother DaVinci's motto. "Imma bite you!" Grrrr.... Do you think I make a mean-looking bird?

Well, that's all for now!

I'll see you guys at  
the next bird club meeting!

Cricket the  
Cheeky Green Cheeky <3



## Out and About with Pookie

Well, I certainly hope everybody is satisfied with the forecasted weather predictions this year. I say this rather sarcastically and definitely with a personal "I've told you so." Companion humans, especially Steve our own companion human, put all their weather forecasting faith every February 2<sup>nd</sup> in an obese, oversized, bucktoothed ground rat named Punxsutawney Phil. Who, I might add probably doesn't have the

intelligence of a cannoli. How many times do humans have to be misled by this rodent before they wise up? He predicted an early spring and what did we receive; snow, sleet, ice and lots of cold, cold lousy weather.

There is a logical solution for all of you poor misled humans pick a prognosticator that can actually forecast something. I Pookie the practical predictor have the ability to forecast the future weather trends better than a bucktoothed ground swine and will prove it. I predict that by the time all of my loyal readers are seeing this that winter will be over, there will be no more snow storms, the grass on your lawns will be turning greener and the outdoor temperatures will be getting warmer. This warming trend will continue through the month of July intermixed with thunder storms and rain.

There is a second subject that must be brought up this month mainly because I've been receiving questions and letters about this subject all winter long. Should I give my bird showers in the winter? Is it too cold for a shower? Why does my bird need a shower? How wet is wet? Should I use soap or shampoo? How hot should the blow dryer be? This is just a small sample of the questions I've received here at the Bird Droppings editorial desk over the past few months. Allow me to answer these questions as succinctly as I can.

We're birds whose near relatives are from tropical climates and rain forests. Where do wild birds live? That's a rhetorical question; outside in the weather

and rain; not inside a climate controlled heated apartment. We need to get wet; not just misted, soaking wet, it's good for our skin and feathers. Being soaked in a bathroom shower with just water, no soap, no shampoo, just good old hydrogen hydroxide (water, H<sub>2</sub>O) then allowing us to dry and preen our own feathers is good for us. Regular showering promotes good feather health and helps reduce itching of dry and flakey skin. Allowing us to preen and clean our own wet feathers after a shower promotes good feather health.

One more quick point of caution, if your human puts you in a bath tub shower please make sure they remove the tub drain plug. We don't want any accidents because of the drain plug being stepped on and accidentally closed causing the tub to fill up.

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie

Avast ye Mates



CAPTAINS  
CORNER

Greetings Mate's

Greetings to everyone I hope your Easter was just grand and I have good news to share with all of you. I was recently talking to Stella (aka Mother Nature) and

she assured me that Spring and Summer would arrive it's just that Old Man Winter is a stubborn sort and he like to hang on as long as possible. He realizes that he can't stop it but he'll try everything to stay longer than he is welcome to stay. That's good news because we are going to be busier than a one legged man in a tap dancing contest. What! You thought I was going to say WHAT; well I'm shocked, really! Anyway it is shaping up to be a very busy season with the Meet On Main, Pet Fest, Pet Awareness Day, Pet Expo and a new pet adoption event plus all the programs we are going to be busy and then some. I like the fact that we are so popular, although the one program where the question was asked if "We were edible?" did have me a little worried I still love doing them. The look on the people's faces as they get up close and personal with us is priceless. Even that little cutie Pinkie (yes I admit he is cute there's no denying it) can bring a smile bigger than he is to someone's face when he sits in their hands. I know it makes our pet humans smile that we can bring out the happy in so many people. So I've been busy on Squawker (Just a little louder than Twitter) telling Pookie and all my birdie buddies to get ready to shine because the spotlight will be on us. Oh, and if any knows Jimmy Buffet let him know Pookie and I can introduce him to some real Parrot heads and they really know how to have a good time, (just add sugar). So get ready for a great time all summer long. Suddenly I need a Kid Rock fix and I don't know why.

Cheers  
Captain Morgan



## BIRD FAIR

Our annual bird fair is now going to be on Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup> and has been moved to a new location. The new location is VFW Post 345 at 27345 Schoolcraft (I-96 service drive) Redford, MI 48239.

We are not going to be able to set up for the fair the night before as we have in years past but we will be getting access to the hall about 6:00 AM. The tentative plan is load a U-Haul® truck the evening before with Cages and stuff at Steve's house. In the morning before the fair starts we will bring in all the cages, raffle items and supplies.

We will need as much help as we can get at 6:00 AM to cover tables, price cages, run electricity and set up the raffle. Hopefully this will mostly be done at 7:00 AM when the vendors will start arriving. We need help holding doors open and assisting vendors move in at this time. They really appreciate this; it's something that rarely occurs for them at other fairs and keeps them



coming back. During the fair we need help at the admissions desk, assisting at the raffle, rescue, and bake sale tables. Another time when help is needed is after the fair doing the clean-up.

This is our rescue's largest fundraiser of the year, so please; one and all come and make this fair the success of past years. We have rented out a record number of tables this year with many first time vendors. Let's show them what a dynamic group we are by assisting them in every way possible.

Come on out and lend a hand even if you haven't signed up. You don't have to stay all day; any time you can help would be wonderful.

Bake sale items are also needed. If you're one of the talented members that can bake goodies please consider making something wrapped in individual servings.

Back to the meeting I hear there were sixty-nine people and forty- nine birds in attendance. Fifty-eight people were members and eleven were guests, of which one joined our flock. We seem to get at least one new member every month which is GREAT. The feathered members were as follows; twelve Conures, Macaws and Cockatoos tied with nine, the African Grays with five plus sixteen other types of Parrots.

Well I told you guys to rest up because April is rocking with six programs and one fair. The first show is on April 6<sup>th</sup> in Bloomfield followed by shows on the 10<sup>th</sup> in Dearborn, the 14<sup>th</sup> in Waterford, the 18<sup>th</sup> in Lansing, the 21<sup>st</sup> in Canton, the 23<sup>rd</sup> in Detroit and the one fair on the 27<sup>th</sup> in Madison Heights. We do all of this before our April Meeting. I'm planning to be at most of them if Duke can keep up with me. We'll have some time in May to catch our breath with only three programs so far.

God bless, till I see you all at the meeting,

Till next month,  
Your friend Baby

>< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< ><

**BITS from BABY**



him.

This is Baby your roving reporter back, but Duke is now under the weather and could not make the meeting. Stan the man stepped in as Duke's backup to take the counts and got them to me. I'd like to thank Stan for always being there when we need



**RESCUE RANGERS**



Big and small we rescue them all and this little guy was no exception. In the burg of Warren Michigan there was a sad little

baby and I do mean little. It was a pacific Parrotlet under a year old that was no longer wanted. It seemed that the magic had worn off and they no longer wanted this little gem of a bird. It was so sad that this tiny ball of energy had no one to love him. This happens so many times the novelty just wears off and they are off to the next thing that catches their fancy. Well the rangers would make sure that the next person who got this bird would have it forever. So with this tiny precious package the Rangers were off. Now those who don't know Parrotlets should realize they think they are as big as Macaws even though they measure just 3 inches long. They are bold fearless little birds and he was no exception but he captured the heart of one person and was soon living in his new forever home. There was a big happy ending for this tiny little bird. This though would not be the end for the Rangers, no not at all there are more birds to rescue and more forever homes to find. They are up to the task for they are **THE RESCUE RANGERS!!!!!!**

Stay tuned for our next nail biting adventure Melvindale's little Don Juan.



## UP COMING EVENTS

April 23<sup>rd</sup> Educational Show  
Hutchinson Elem. School  
(Stan Johnson's school)  
2600 Garland  
Detroit, MI 48214  
10:00 AM Set-up  
11:00 AM Show

April 27<sup>th</sup> Motor City Bird Breeders  
Bird Fair  
\$4.00 Adm. 10AM to 5PM  
Madison Place  
876 Horace Brown Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

May 8<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Sterling Woods  
(Located behind Starbucks,  
Hampton Inn and Meijer)  
36430 Van Dyke  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312  
11:30 AM Set-up  
12:30 PM Show

May 10<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Lockwood at Waterford  
1407 Skipper Dr.  
Waterford, MI 48327  
1:30PM Set-up  
2:30PM Show

May 29<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Oaks of Woodfield  
5370 East Baldwin Dr.  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
2:00PM Set-up  
3:00PM Show

June 8<sup>th</sup> Meet on Main Pet Adoption Fair  
Downtown Whitmore Lake  
Main Street in Whitmore Lake  
Runs from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Rain or Shine  
Set-up at 11:00 am  
We will be setting up our pop-up  
In a 10' X 10' Space

June 9<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Independence Village White Lake  
935 Union Lake Rd.  
White Lake, MI 48386  
12:00PM Set-up  
1:00PM Show

June 23<sup>rd</sup> Rainbow Feathers Bird Club  
16<sup>th</sup> Annual Bird Fair  
\$3.00 Adm. 10AM to 4PM  
VFW Post 345  
27345 Schoolcraft Rd.  
Redford, MI 48239  
10:00AM to 4:00PM

Aug 10<sup>th</sup> Pet Emporium Pet Fest  
Aug 11<sup>th</sup> Washtenaw County Fairgrounds  
5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
No Set-up times at this time  
Runs 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Both Days

Ypsilanti Heritage Festival  
Aug 16<sup>th</sup> Noon to 8PM  
Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 10AM to 8 PM  
Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 11 AM to 6PM  
More details will be posted  
as they become available  
\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Sept 7<sup>th</sup> Society of Canary and Finch  
Breeders  
Bird Fair  
\$3.00 Adm. 9AM to 4 PM  
Livonia Elks Lodge #2246  
31117 Plymouth Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150  
\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Highland Hey Days  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 Fall Family Festival

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday  
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Sunday  
Livingston Road in Downtown  
Highland  
We will be arriving around 9:00 AM on  
Saturday to set-up and Tearing down on  
Sunday after the fair. (Show times are just  
estimates from last year.)  
\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> Guardians for Animals  
Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> Pet Expo  
More information will be following  
Our monthly meeting will have to be moved  
to the 20<sup>th</sup> of October for this event.

### **PET EXPO**

Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 11am to 8pm  
Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 10am to 8pm  
Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 11am to 5pm

**Suburban Collection Showplace**  
46100 Grand River  
Novi, MI 48374

**We will be setting up on Thursday  
Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> most likely around 9:00 am.  
Please remember no birds will be allowed  
through the front door.**

**\*\*\*\*\*2014\*\*\*\*\***

**Yes we truly have booked a show for 2014**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Library Educational Show  
2014 Novi Public Library  
45255 W. 10 Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48375  
6:00 PM set-up  
7:00PM Show

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\***

There has been some confusion from  
the loyal readers of Bird Droppings as to  
which events they are allowed to bring their

own bird(s) to. As a point of reference and for future information please we want everyone to be aware that when you see the line:

\*\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*\*

following or “Educational Show” preceding an event listing it means we are attending the event in an official capacity representing our club and rescue. At these events all club members are welcomed to bring their feathered companions with them. Also please note that our space is very limited at some of these events but don’t let this stop you from joining us, we will find a way for you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy the fun.

\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*

**\*CANCELATION CONFUSION \***

A few of our scheduled events have been canceled at the last minute by the group staging the event. If you do not regularly participate in the shows but plan on attending please call Steve (734-513-0030) to make sure the event is still a go.



The call came in one Friday morning to the bird rescue with an impossible task one that would never happen not in a million years. That task was relocating a large flock of pigeons. It seems that this person’s neighbor fed the wild birds and everyone loved seeing all the colorful songbirds and wild finches coming into their backyards because of this. This soon changed as the pigeons began to show up first one then three then ten soon their numbers began to top 200 on a daily basis. It was not that they were loud it was the mess they left behind covering patios, roofs, decks, lawn furniture basically everything in Pigeon poop. It had gotten so bad that it was becoming a health hazard for everyone living around the person feeding the birds. So, being a rescue, I was asked to relocate this annoying flock of Pigeons. I had to break it to them we only dealt with exotic cage birds and that it was futile to relocate them they would just come back. I explained that the only thing they could do was ask the neighbor to stop feeding the birds and the Pigeons would eventually not come back. I also informed this person if he refused the city they lived in had an ordinance against feeding Pigeons and they could report this person if it came to that and they would receive a citation and a fine. As this person hung up the picture Steve and I trying to wrangle a huge flock of Pigeons flashed in my mind and I could hear myself say to Steve, “I think we’re going to need a bigger net.”



# 10 steps to a better relationship with your parrot

By Liz Wilson,CVT

- 1) Ensure your companion bird is healthy by doing annual check-ups and routine diagnostics with your experienced avian veterinarian. Since birds hide the obvious signs of illness, allowing basic annual testing is critical to the early detection of medical problems.
- 2) Ensure your companion bird is consuming a good diet. This is critical to the proper functioning of its immune system and increases its potential for a healthy life, as well as eliminating nutrition-based problem behaviors, such as some cases of feather destruction
- 3) Ensure your companion bird lives in a sufficiently large cage, allowing it lots of room for exuberant wing-flapping exercise and energetic play; allow it daily out-of-cage time on play stations other than just the cage to minimize territorial behaviors. Encouraging healthy exercise can decrease problem behaviors like excessive screaming, since a tired parrot is a quiet parrot.
- 4) Establish controls with your parrot by lovingly teaching it to respond to the simple commands of Up and Down, and setting clear and consistent limits on its behavior. By teaching manners and setting boundaries, parrots can become better companions.
- 5) Give your parrot quality interaction daily, no matter how busy your life gets...even if for just 10-15 minutes of one on one time. Psittacines are biologically wild animals, and won't retain their "tameness" without daily contact with people
- 6) Make your companion bird a member of the family, since it is a flock animal and extremely social. Single birds should not be housed in rooms by themselves.
- 7) Socialize your parrot to family and trusted friends, thereby teaching it to adapt to the society in which it lives. It should be comfortable interacting with and being handled

by other people. Do not allow it to become over-bonded to one person.

8) Assure your companion bird gets adequate rest, with 10-12 hours of dark, uninterrupted sleep time nightly. Sleep deprivation often leads to problem behaviors like biting, excessive screaming and feather destruction.

9) Establish trust with your companion bird by teaching it that it is safe with you. Consistency is critical to establishing trust, as your parrot learns what to expect from you and what you expect from it.

10) Accept your parrot for what it is, not what you want it to be. No matter how well trained it is, a healthy parrot may still be noisy messy and destructive because it's a parrot!

**This article was funded by an educational grant from ZuPreem®, the makers of exceptional diets for extraordinary animals. ZuPreem® is committed to the advancement of knowledge regarding avian husbandry and nutrition. Working together, ZuPreem® and bird clubs with similar interests can support high-quality avian health in our worldwide community**

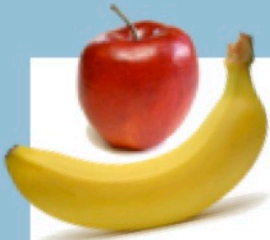
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This newsletter  
Devoted to pet bird  
Enthusiasts is  
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The Rainbow Feathers  
Bird club of Michigan  
A 501(c) (3) club

May 2013  
Volume 16 Issue 5

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING DATES :

MAY 19<sup>th</sup> –Third Sunday

JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup> – Bird Fair

JULY 28<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday

\*\*\*\*\***NO MEETING IN JUNE**\*\*\*\*\*

### RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

#### Who we are and what we are about

- Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
- Support scholarships for avian vet students
- Yearly Bird Fair
- Club Library for members
- Grooming available
- Avian rescue/relocation programs
- Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
- Monthly newsletter
- Periodic Service projects
- Field Trips
- Educational Programs upon request
- Make-it-take-it workshops and more.....

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

#### Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary– Beverly Sholar 313-4925700

Email – [basholar@yahoo.com](mailto:basholar@yahoo.com)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Board of Trustees –

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email- [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)

Stan Johnson 248-746-0520

Email- [mmisterjay@comcast.net](mailto:mmisterjay@comcast.net)

Mary Perva - 517-618-7008

**ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.**

Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

## EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Plafchan is now doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please send all items to him at 11021 Henry Ruff Livonia, MI 48150 or email to splafchan@twmi.rr.com

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Those wishing to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.



## CLUB WELFARE

. Please contact Jean Jedrzejek at 734-427-3187 or e-mail her at [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net) if you know of any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one.



### Monthly snack list

We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is two fold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and deserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!

## BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

- ❖ Ask owner's permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
- ❖ Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
- ❖ When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.



### Crossing The Rainbow Bridge

Sadly it must be reported that our club lost yet another feathered member last month. Cricket "The Cheeky Green Cheek" a Pineapple Green Cheek Conure who owned Cara Ward crossed over the rainbow bridge. Cricket would poof up

and march back and forth on her perch and give little love nips when her head was scratched. The way she said "Hey Baby" when she wanted attention will never be forgotten. Cara will always cherish and remember her time with Cricket which was so tragically cut short.

We say to Cricket, soar high and free across the rainbow bridge, you will always be remembered and loved.

To both we dedicate the following verse.



## The Rainbow Bridge

*Just this side of heaven is a place called  
Rainbow Bridge.*

*When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here,  
that pet goes to  
Rainbow Bridge.*

*There are meadows and hills for all our special friends so they can run  
and play together. There is plenty of food and water and sunshine,  
and our friends are warm and comfortable.*

*All of the animals that have been ill and old are restored to health and  
vigor, those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong  
again, just as we remember in our dreams of days and times gone  
bye. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing;  
They miss someone very special to them who had to be left behind.*

*They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly  
stops and looks into the distance,...*

*The bright eyes are intent; the eager body quivers. suddenly she*

*begins to break away from the group, flying over the green grass,  
her wings carrying her faster and faster YOU ~  
have just been spotted, and when you and your special friend meet,  
you cling together in joyous reunion ~  
never to be parted again. The sweet sounds of happy tweets play your  
ears; your hands again  
caress the beloved's head, and you look once more into the trusting  
eyes of your pet,  
so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart ~*

*Then you cross~...the  
Rainbow Bridge  
together !*



From the prez:



WOW!!!! That was some meeting we had over 86 people showed up and had a good time. The food was great but we could have used more of it for the crowd we had. Everyone was having such a good time and oh the birds that were there it was like being in the middle of a tropical bird zoo. I am glad to see us have these types of meetings where everybody has a good time and there is no stress just fun. We must mention that the preparations for our fair are progressing fantastically well and I could not be happier and if things keep going we will sell out the hall. We need all hands (as many as we can

get) to get things set up but the great thing is no set-up or teardown (YAY). We do need people to help bright and early Sunday morning to set up Honest Steve's and the raffle and to help the vendors in. So any time you can give us is appreciated more than you know and you do not have to commit to the entire day anything will do. Plus you can shop before the doors open which is so cool. Also the Earth Day exhibition was a rousing success, we blew them away and they loved us. Just like they did at Stan's school, boy we really felt like rock stars and everyone had a great time. So always keep looking for the events to be updated on the website they are growing by leaps and bounds, it looks to be an extremely busy summer for the club with no signs of slowing down. We can handle it because you are the best members anybody could ask for, **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!!!!**

Until next time,  
Your Prez, Dave



### Voice of the Veep

One month away! Our bird fair is approaching fast and I'm hoping all of you are as excited as I

am. The fair is at a new venue in Redford and we're going to need as much assistance from all of you to make it a success. Starting the night before at my house loading the U-Haul<sup>®</sup> truck with used cages, raffle prizes and anything else that needs to go to the hall. The real work starts at 6:00AM when we have to unload the truck, set up for the raffle, cover tables, run extension cords, get the bake sale table ready and set-up used cages and play stands. At 7:00AM the real work starts because we have to start helping vendors bring in their wares and be on hand to help anyone who needs help.

On a completely different subject I have lost all control at my home. I have finally realized that I live in an environment of total chaos and the birds of my flock are in charge. Please allow me to tell you of this last month's adventure.

I stretched out on the sofa to watch TV all the birds are sitting on or in their cages like perfect angles. My problems always seem to happen when I fall asleep. (I do believe that my flock has some sort of electronic sleep detector or a built in sixth sense so they know I'm napping.) After about an hour or so I awakened and sat up; this is when I knew there was big trouble afoot. Glancing at Pookie and Sparky's cage then to Calvin and JB's cage I noticed they were both empty. Concerned is the best description for how I felt at this point; I arose and went onto the kitchen. There were no birds, no mess and no problem, the same held true for the foster room, living

room, basement and family room. Then I stepped into the hallway and looked to the back bedroom which is my computer room. It was like a bomb had gone off! There was shredded paper cascading into the hall, paper shreds floating in the air, paper everywhere. With great trepidation I went into the computer room and there they were all four of the missing delinquents with a small mountain of shredded paper in every corner of the room. Pookie burrowed in the pile, Calvin and Sparky playing with the shreds and JB standing in the middle of the mess with a “What, who me; what did I do?” look on his face.

There were two kitchen trash bags of paper that I was going to take to the local pet store for them to use that was now distributed everywhere. I will say this though; all of the flock was having a grand time.

Your Veep  
Steve



## BIRD FAIR

Our annual bird fair is now going to be on Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup> and has been moved to a new location. The new location is VFW Post

345 at 27345 Schoolcraft (I-96 service drive) Redford, MI 48239.

We are not going to be able to set up for the fair the night before as we have in years past but we will be getting access to the hall about 6:00 AM. The tentative plan is load a U-Haul® truck the evening before with Cages and stuff at Steve’s house. In the morning before the fair starts we will bring in all the cages, raffle items and supplies.

We will need as much help as we can get at 6:00 AM to cover tables, price cages, run electricity and set up the raffle. Hopefully this will mostly be done by 7:00 AM when the vendors will start arriving. We need help holding doors open and assisting vendors move in at this time. They really appreciate this; it’s something that rarely occurs for them at other fairs and keeps them coming back. During the fair we need help at the admissions desk, assisting at the raffle, rescue, and bake sale tables. Another time when help is needed is after the fair doing the clean-up.

This is our rescue’s largest fundraiser of the year, so please; one and all come and make this fair the success of past years. We have rented out a record number of tables this year with many first time vendors. Let’s show them what a dynamic group we

are by assisting them in every way possible.

Come on out and lend a hand even if you haven't signed up. You don't have to stay all day; any time you can help would be wonderful.

We are also going to have the bake sale table again, (it's always a big hit) so all of you wonderful bakers think of your tastiest treats.

Here is a listing of the best sellers from last year's bake sale.

- Lemon Bars
- Brownies
- Rice Krispy Treats
- Caramel Corn
- Choc. No Bake Cookies
- Choc. Chip Bar Cookies
- Oatmeal Cookies
- Choc. Parrot Lollipops

There will be a sign-up sheet for baker volunteers. All items need to be home made and wrapped individually. We can use your help too!



## Rambling with Rambo

Hi gang:

Well, I will try making this column a better one than the last one. We have two related things to talk about this time. So I guess we'll start here. Let's talk about toys. I'm sure each of you has a

favorite toy. Do you have something you play with all the time? I would say mine is the bell on my play stand. I'm not much of a toy player. I'm afraid of all bigger toys. Daddy and I have a couple of games we play. But, there is nothing special. My favorite games are kind of strange. When Daddy is cleaning my cage, I love throwing the cleaning brush. It's actually bigger than I am. It's one of those brushes guys clean their work bench with. It's red, and plastic. I try to throw it off the cage top.

Sometimes, I can get it out of the cage while he is dumping the dust pan. This is a real challenge. And I really enjoy throwing my food and water dish. Some time back daddy bought me a bouncy rope. At first, I loved this. I would wrestle with it, and shake so hard the bell would ring and the play stand would shake. I would do this really hard when I was frustrated over being left alone, like when Daddy has his nap. Then one day I decided I don't like it anymore. Well, Michael made me some new toys, and bought me a new bell. I play with it a lot when I'm in my cage. When I get down on the floor, I climb up the ladder to the cage. But, if Daddy can catch me first, he makes me climb up that bouncy rope. Funny thing is that I was afraid of the ladder when Michael brought it home. Now I use it all the time.

Guys I am really looking forward to our Annual Fair. It's going to be lots of fun. Those of us that can go will meet new

people. We can do our tricks for them. People will want to pick us up, pet us, and Give Us Treats. If Michael takes me, I'll be real happy. You know, I've never been to any of our events, like school visits, or visiting them sad old people. Michael has always been busy. Well, one of the great things about all the Bird Fairs is all the new toys. Daddy always brings me home something.

This brings me back to the subject of toys. Think about some of the weird things we make a toy of. There are spoons and paper bags and smelly old socks. Some of us make a game of hiding our human's important things. It is a laugh riot when we have hidden their car keys. Seeing them act crazy looking all over for them is so funny; especially when we put them in plain sight. They don't think to look right in front of themselves. I never have to bury them. All I have to do is move them a little bit, or leave them sitting on the floor, maybe in the living room, or better yet kitchen. Our kitchen is in the front of the house. He keeps them on the shelf by the front door. Of course, our best toy is our human. They buy us new shirts to destroy, always on a place that everyone can see. They have ears, and fingers to nibble on. My human doesn't have much hair. I sneak to the back of his shirt. Then I take a single hair and pull it fast and hard. He says this really hurts. If you have not tried this one, do so. It is fun. Another great place for a surprise

attack is those toes. Just be sure to run away fast. But guys, and girls, let's not be too hard on our people. We want them to know this is only a game.

That brings up another point, about being mean to our people. It is spring, and I am molting. At this time I get a little cranky. Michael knows I can't help this. So I try to be nice. But you all know, sometimes, I can't help but give him a good hard bite on the ear or finger. And we all know what comes next. My human says, in a sharp stern voice "Time out." When he does this, I know he's serious. I better get in my cage 'Right Now.' Well, I always get let out 5 – 10 minutes later. He tells mommy, even if it is nap time or bedtime, "I won't leave him in longer than 10 minutes. I don't want him to think he's being abandoned, just for being bad. I love him too much for that." So friends I'll end this month's column with this little ditty.

Toys, toys, toys. Oh they are a joy.  
Some are new, and some are old  
Some are warm, some are cold.  
Be they colorful, or be they dull,  
It is always nice to have something to pull.  
So it's always a joy to get a New Toy.

As always, have fun, be good, and  
remember Macaws Rule.

Rambo.



There were two women at our bird fair talking as they approached the raffle table and one looked at a toy we had in the raffle and made this statement: “I am going

to stop buying my bird toys that he can destroy because I read on the internet it leads to feather mutilation and eventually plucking.” When her friend asked her where on the internet she had found this it was in some bozo’s blog but she took it as the cold hard truth. In fact there are many so called “internet experts” these days it can drive you crazy. Just because it shows up on the internet it has to be true is the argument some people use and that is truly not the case.

One good example was the story that was making its rounds on the World Wide Web a few years ago accusing sunflower seeds of being a narcotic to birds. The evidence they used to back it up was the fact that birds went nuts and would gorge themselves on the sunflower seeds until they were gone. They said it put them in a state of euphoria not seen with other seeds or foods. Many people believed this and many quit using sunflower seeds even as a treat. The real fact of this matter was simply they taste good, really good to the birds. It is like offering a 4 year old his choice to taste then they can pick one, chocolate cake or broccoli? Well you know what their choice would be (mine too) the chocolate cake just because it tastes better. Well with no real evidence to back this up it slowly became lost in cyber-space, but it took a while.

These kinds of things can make the life of a bird owner really, really nuts. Now I am not saying that the internet is bad there are many wonderful websites out there with fantastic information but beware. There are many independent sites that offer a somewhat cockeyed spin on things that leave you scratching your head. What makes these less than reputable sites bad is that there are many people who believe them as gospel truth. So please be discerning when surfing the web and separate the fact from the fiction. Beware of the internet experts!!!

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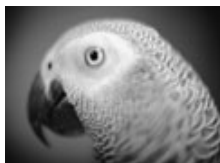
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SPECIAL BREEDER PRICING

There have been many discussions in this forum about the importance of foraging for the health and wellbeing of your companion human. We here in our home strive to assist Steve in his foraging activities and in maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle. I would like to take this opportunity to expound on one of our latest achievements. Finally a major breakthrough was archived this past month; Steve reciprocated by providing Sparky, JB, Calvin and me with one of the most wonderful foraging toys that we have ever had.

The day started out pretty much as every day does at our home. We were looking for adventure around the house scouring the kitchen, family room, living room and computer room for new and interesting items. Steve was in his typical position stretched out in his easy chair, his feet up on an ottoman snacking on popcorn and tacos. JB was doing his best to convince Steve to share his tasty snacks with us by climbing up his pant leg, snatching the sack of tacos or diving into the popcorn bowl. Sadly Steve has become very resistive to our advances and we were not achieving any great success. Becoming quite frustrated with our failed advances I wandered into the back computer room where the discovery was made. Immediately I scampered back to the family room where I gathered up the rest of the team to show them my discovery.



**Out and about  
with Pookie**



Linda Brown



## TALES OF BUSTER BROWN

There is something that really bothers me about Buster Brown. As you know, many species of birds migrate thousands of miles for winter and back to the exact place. Homing Pigeons always find their way home. Bird parents always find their way back to the nests to feed their young. Swallows always find their way to Capistrano every year. So tell me why Buster will walk into the laundry room and cannot find his way out? He will walk into my bedroom and he will have to be retrieved as well. Is this a learned trait? Do captive birds lose some instincts? I always know when he is lost because he will stand frozen for long periods of time and I do not hear any cabinets banging or scratching. After some time, he will loudly call out "You whoooo", "Knock, knock who is there?" or "Help, help get me out of here". I always have to go get him and put him back on his cage to give him perspective. I guess going through a doorway gets him confused. It must be stressful for him to be lost. I would not like him to get too stressed out. Why is it that Pookie, JB, and Sparky know how to get around and sabotage Steve and get back to their cage with no problem? So does Buster have a handicap? Oh well, I love him anyway.

Avast ye Mates



## CAPTAINS CORNER

OH YEAH!!!!!!

Now I know what it feels like to be a rock star and it feels good, very good. I am talking about the experience we had at Hutchinson-Howe school on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April of course. From the minute Pinky came out of his carrier to the finale when Max made his entrance the gym was electric. I mean the excitement was so thick you could practically bottle it up and take it home. The kids were super and I truly mean that they made us feel well like rock stars cheering and oooing and ahing at us as we each made our entrance and cheering when we did the deed, (I'm talking about pooping of course) and it seemed the bigger the poop the bigger the reaction. Boy oh boy did we get a taste of the celebrity treatment we felt like Mick Jagger, George Clooney and One Direction all rolled into one on a red carpet somewhere. It was AWESOME to say the least and we have never received that kind of reaction before. Now I know that we are not really rock stars but for that moment we got a taste of how it would feel if we were. So now I guess its back to reality for all of us. Well just after I call my agent.

Cheers  
Captain Morgan



brains out for the last hour. Many people are surprised at how wonderful these little guys are and can be seen making a fuss over a cage of Budgies at a bird fair. So if you have been tempted but were not sure be careful because these little parrots can steal your heart in a really big way. You have been warned!!!



### Rescue update

There were three adoptions last month: two were failed fosters, Keeko and Willow both Timneh African Grays. The third was Kelly a Congo African Gray that went to his new forever home with toys, food and loving parents.

We are in need of members who are willing to foster rescued birds. The duties of a foster parent are four fold. You must be able to quarantine the rescued bird from your own flock (in case the rescued bird has an illness it could pass to your own birds.) You have to convert the rescued bird to a healthy (pellet) diet that includes fruits and veggies. You have to be willing to take the bird to the rescue vet (Roose Animal Hospital.) The vet bills and pellets will be paid for by the club's rescue. When the time comes that the bird is up for adoption you may have to have the prospective new owners come to your home to meet the bird and see how they interact with it. A portion of the decision as to whether the bird is going to the correct home will be up to the foster home. This is because you

will have the best judgment of the bird's personality and how it interacts with people.

We would like to extend a great big thank you to all of our club members for their support at the monthly club raffles and for the donations of food and toys. It is your participation that funds our rescue and allows us to send the adopted birds to their new homes with cages, toys and food. Our rescue could not do this without you. **KUDDOS** and a great big **THANK YOU** to everyone.

## Bird Center of Washtenaw County

### Wild Birds and Waterfowl Rescue

The Bird Center is a 501(c) (3) non-profit wild bird rescue. If you are contacted by anyone or have found a Songbird or Water Fowl that is in need of rescue please refer or contact the Bird Center. They have provided us with contact numbers  
Bird Center (Songbirds) 734- 761-9640  
Mallard Marsh (Water Fowl) 734-482-8187

#### **What to do when a bird needs help**

Fledgling birds should be left alone the parents are near and will take care of it.

If a baby has little or no feathers return it to the nest if possible.

Baby ducks, geese and swans walking with parents should be left alone.

If you have an injured bird of any type please contact the Bird Center or Mallard Marsh at the phone numbers listed above for instructions. Proper food, care

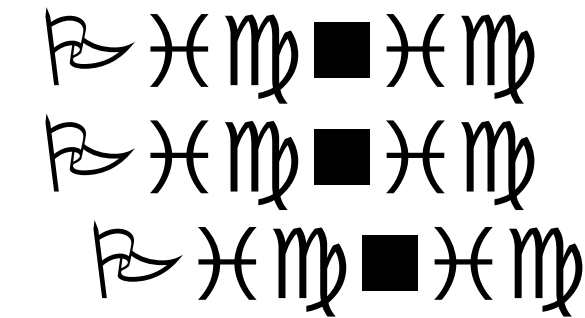
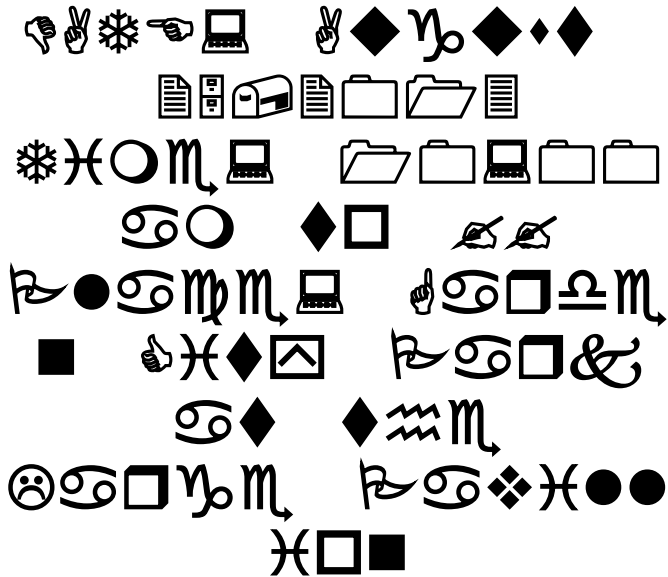
and handling are critical for the survival of an injured bird. The Bird Center will advise you on what to do and how to proceed. Some birds, such as Hawks, Owls, Herons, Cranes and Geese can cause injury to you even though you have the best intentions at heart.

More information is available at their website: [www.birdcenterwashtenaw.org](http://www.birdcenterwashtenaw.org)  
 Bird Center of Washtenaw County  
 2229 Needham  
 Ann Arbor, MI 48104



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**UP COMING**  
**EVENTS**

**As of**  
**May 19<sup>th</sup> 2013**

May 21<sup>st</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Brighton Gardens  
15870 Haggerty Rd.  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
2:00PM Set-up  
3:00PM Show

May 29<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program

Oaks of Woodfield  
5370 East Baldwin Dr.  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
2:00PM Set-up  
3:00PM Show

June 3<sup>rd</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Sunrise of Northville  
16100 Haggerty Rd.  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
12:30PM Set-up  
1:30PM Show

June 7<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Waltonwoods at University  
3280 Walton Blvd.  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
1:30PM Set-up  
2:30PM Show

June 8<sup>th</sup> Meet on Main Pet Adoption Fair  
Downtown Whitmore Lake  
Main Street in Whitmore Lake  
Runs from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Rain or Shine  
Set-up at 11:00 am  
We will be setting up our pop-up  
In a 10' X 10' Space

June 9<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Independence Village White Lake  
935 Union Lake Rd.  
White Lake, MI 48386  
12:00PM Set-up  
1:00PM Show

June 12<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Show

Redford Geriatric Village  
22811 W. 7 Mile Rd.  
Detroit, MI 49219  
1:00PM Set-up  
2:00PM Show

Aug 16<sup>th</sup> Noon to 8PM  
Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 10AM to 8 PM  
Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 11 AM to 6PM  
More details will be posted  
as they become available

\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

June 23<sup>rd</sup> Rainbow Feathers Bird Club  
16<sup>th</sup> Annual Bird Fair  
\$3.00 Adm. 10AM to 4PM  
VFW Post 345  
27345 Schoolcraft Rd.  
Redford, MI 48239  
10:00AM to 4:00PM

Sept 7<sup>th</sup> Society of Canary and Finch  
Breeders  
Bird Fair  
\$3.00 Adm. 9AM to 4 PM  
Livonia Elks Lodge #2246  
31117 Plymouth Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150

\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

July 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Show  
American House- Stone Building  
3741 S. Adams Rd.  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
12:30PM Set-up  
1:30PM Show

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Highland Hey Days  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 Fall Family Festival

July 31<sup>st</sup> Senior Educational Show  
Oakmont Sterling  
41155 Pond View Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
1:00PM Set-up  
2:00PM Show

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday  
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Sunday  
Livingston Road in Downtown  
Highland  
We will be arriving around 9:00 AM on  
Saturday to set-up and Tearing down on  
Sunday after the fair. (Show times are just  
estimates from last year.)

\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Aug 10<sup>th</sup> Pet Emporium Pet Fest  
Aug 11<sup>th</sup> Washtenaw County Fairgrounds  
5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
No Set-up times at this time  
Runs 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Both Days

Sept 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Stonegate Health  
2525 Demille Blvd.  
Lapeer, MI 48446  
12:00PM Set-up  
1:00PM Show

Ypsilanti Heritage Festival

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> Guardians for Animals



Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> Pet Expo  
 More information will be following  
 Our monthly meeting will have to be moved  
 to the 20<sup>th</sup> of October for this event.

**PET EXPO**

Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 11am to 8pm  
 Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 10am to 8pm  
 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 11am to 5pm

**Suburban Collection Showplace**

46100 Grand River  
 Novi, MI 48374

**We will be setting up on Thursday  
 Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> most likely around 9:00 am.  
 Please remember no birds will be allowed  
 through the front door.**

**\*\*\*\*\*2014\*\*\*\*\***

**Yes we truly have booked a show for 2014**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Library Educational Show  
 2014 Novi Public Library  
 45255 W. 10 Mile Road  
 Novi, MI 48375  
 6:00 PM set-up  
 7:00PM Show

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\***

There has been some confusion from  
 the loyal readers of Bird Droppings as to  
 which events they are allowed to bring their  
 own bird(s) to. As a point of reference and  
 for future information please we want  
 everyone to be aware that when you see the  
 line:

**\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\***  
 following or “Educational Show” preceding  
 an event listing it means we are attending  
 the event in an official capacity representing  
 our club and rescue. At these events all club  
 members are welcomed to bring their

feathered companions with them. Also  
 please note that our space is very limited at  
 some of these events but don’t let this stop  
 you from joining us, we will find a way for  
 you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy  
 the fun.

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\***  
**\*\***

**\*CANCELTION CONFUSION \***

A few of our scheduled events have  
 been canceled at the last minute by the  
 group staging the event. If you do not  
 regularly participate in the shows but plan  
 on attending please call Steve (734-513-  
 0030) to make sure the event is still a go.



**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:**

BRENT BEAVERS	JUNE 1
LIZ MONTANA	JUNE 1
JANIE LYNCH	JUNE 2
MIA LYNCH	JUNE 5
DANIEL JOHNSON	JUNE 6
SHERRY MADDREN	JUNE 6
JESSICA GREENWOOD	JUNE 7
JACLYN WARD	JUNE 11
MARYANN ROGERS	JUNE 14
SREEJITH PILLAI	JUNE 24
JASON MILLER	JUNE 25
JILL DOMEIER	JUNE 28
CARA WARD	JUNE 29



# Select the right bird for you and your family



By Don J. Harris, DVM

Exotic birds can be delightful pets—just ask any of the millions of companion bird owners throughout the world who enjoy a rewarding and satisfying relationship with their feathered friends. Creating a long-lasting positive relationship with your bird may be the result of

Choosing the right bird *for you and your family* in the beginning. This crucial first step is part of being a responsible pet owner, but it is often overlooked in the rush to acquire a new bird. Identifying what characteristics you want in a bird, and researching different species and their characteristics can go a long ways in helping establish a long and happy relationship. Rarely will one bird fit more than a few of the desired characteristics. You may acquire a bird and expect it to speak, only to eventually realize this particular species never talks. Others may discover that a large colorful macaw is also a large intolerably noisy creature. Many potential owners have expectations that cannot possibly be fulfilled by the species they choose. The best way to obtain the “perfect” pet is to first determine which characteristics are most important to you. Then shop for the bird that fits those criteria. Certain species arise as leaders in a variety of categories,

and this list can be used as a starting point in making your choice. Remember, there are always exceptions, so once you have narrowed down your decision to a particular species, look at the parents and gather information from the breeder about an individual bird’s behavior.

## **Appearance**

Finches, Macaws, Eclectus, Lories, Toucans

## **Speaking ability**

African Grey, Amazon, Mynah

## **Natural vocalization (song)**

Canary, Cockatiel

## **Intelligence**

African Grey

## **Social attributes**

Cockatoo, Budgie, Cockatiel

## **Small size**

Canary, Finch, Budgie, Lovebird, Cockatiel

## **Low maintenance**

Amazon and smaller

## **Cleanliness**

Most smaller species

Some bird owners may want to avoid certain “unpopular” characteristics like those listed below. Others may not see these same characteristics as undesirable. It’s up to bird owners to weigh all characteristics of a species or an individual bird to make the best decision.

## **Loud**

Macaws, Cockatoos

## **Messy**

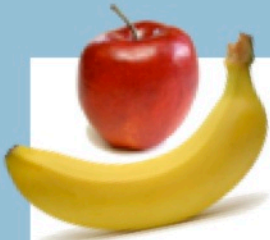
Macaws, Mynahs, Toucans

## **Aggressive**

Female Eclectus, Male Amazons

In the end, individuals interested in owning a bird should first decide what they expect from a pet bird. Once this question is answered, an appropriate species can be identified and researched. Only then can the potential for a long and mutually beneficial relationship be realized.

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# What are you really feeding your bird? Visit BirdFoodFacts.com to find out.

How nutritious is the food in your bird's food cup? To find out, visit BirdFoodFacts.com. This website offers an objective nutritional analysis based on protein, fat, fiber and moisture. Choose from hundreds of food items most common in a companion bird's diet.



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Frederick B. Shulak, D.V.M.  
17630 Twelve Mile Road \* Southfield, MI 48076  
248-557-7773

OAKLAND VETERINARY EMERGENCY GROUP  
1400 Telegraph Rd \* Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248-334-6877

ROOSE ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
Kevin Roose, D.V.M. \* Karen Knight, D.V.M.  
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734-453-6930  
Fax: 734-453-7127  
M-F 10-7:30 \* Sat 10-6 \* Sun 12-4

SOUTHGATE ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
Keith Cook, D.V.M. \* Elieen Cook, D.V.M.  
13697 Dix-Toledo Rd\* Southgate, MI 48195  
734-284-9122

WARREN WOODS VETERINARY HOSPITAL  
29157 Schoenherr \* Warren, MI 48314  
586-751-3350

ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTER  
24360 Novi Road \* Novi, MI 48375  
248-348-1788  
265 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. \* Rochester, MI 48307  
248-651-1788  
Both Locations are open 24 hours a Day  
7 Days a Week  
[www.theanimalemergencycenter.com](http://www.theanimalemergencycenter.com)

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This newsletter  
Devoted to pet bird  
Enthusiasts is  
Published monthly by  
The Rainbow Feathers  
Bird club of Michigan  
A 501(c) (3) club

June 2013  
Volume 16 Issue 6

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING

#### DATES :

JUNE 23<sup>th</sup> – BIRD FAIR  
JULY 28<sup>th</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY  
AUG. 25<sup>th</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY PICNIC

#### RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

##### Who we are and what we are about

- Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
- Support scholarships for avian vet students
- Yearly Bird Fair
- Club Library for members
- Grooming available
- Avian rescue/relocation programs
- Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
- Monthly newsletter
- Periodic Service projects
- Field Trips
- Educational Programs upon request
- Make-it-take-it workshops

And more.....

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

#### Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary – Beverly Sholar 313-492-5700

Email – [basholar@yahoo.com](mailto:basholar@yahoo.com)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Board of Trustees –

Mary Perva 517-618-7008

Stan Johnson 248-746-0520

Email- [mmisterjay@comcast.net](mailto:mmisterjay@comcast.net)

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email- [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)



**ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.**

Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

## EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Plafchan is now doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please send all items to him at 11021 Henry Ruff Livonia, MI 48150 or email to [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

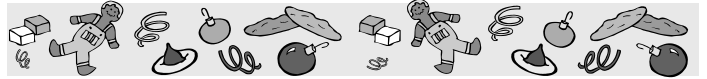
Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Anyone who wishes to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.

any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one.



### Monthly snack list

We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is two fold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and deserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!

## BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

- ❖ Ask owner's permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
- ❖ Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
- ❖ When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.



## CLUB WELFARE

. Please contact Jean Jedrzejek at 734-427-3187 or e-mail her at [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net) if you know of



## Crossing The Rainbow Bridge

### BINKY

Sadly we must report the loss of another feathered member of our club. Binky a White Bellied Caique who owned Susan and Charles Dixon crossed over the Rainbow on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Her passing was very sudden and unexpected; the night prior she was fine then in the morning it was obvious she was in distress. Binky was rushed to the emergency vet where she crossed over.

Binky was a regular attendee at the clubs bird shows and was known for her tap dancing ability and as the bird that followed

Susan home. Although her time with us was short she will always be remembered and loved.

A note from Susan:

Thank you so very much for all your kind words and condolences. Your tender words mean so much to me. Our vet called this morning as she had completed the necropsy on little Binky. The results are that she had an enlarged heart and a great deal of fluid had backed up into her abdomen which made it difficult for her to breathe. The vet thinks that she was born with this heart defect, and that there was nothing we could have done to prevent her premature death. When people are born this way, they need heart transplants, but they don't do that with animals. If there is any comfort in any of this, it's that at least I know that I didn't do anything to cause this terrible event, and that I could not have prevented it. She said that even if the fluid had been discovered a little earlier and she might have drained it, but that would have only prolonged the inevitable. She wouldn't have lived much longer. It was just one of those things that happen and we have no control over it. When people have this condition, it's called congestive heart failure.

I'm sending along the link to Binky's YouTube video in case you'd like to see it or watch it again (if you've seen it before). It's a little reminder of how much joy she brought into our lives. It always brings a huge smile to my face...even through my tears. She was such a joy!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YS-rxJ\\_3rDw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YS-rxJ_3rDw)

Love,

Susan/Mama/Nana

From the prez:



It seems that the weather cannot make up its mind between Spring, Summer or Fall; we have had a little of all three in one week! On one unusually cool night I sat in my chair I had Lily snuggled next to me, Captain was making his normal nightly sounds and I felt safe, content and that all was right with the world. It wasn't! A deadly tornado ripped through Moore OK, and in just about 40 seconds thousands of lives were changed, forever. It made me realize that many of my problems were trivial to say the least and that things can happen in literally the blink of an eye. It also made me realize that every day is a gift as well as the friends and family we love. Stuff can be replaced, disrupted plans can be rescheduled and the "small stuff" is nothing to obsess over. I began to think about the fair and how nervous I am about the change of venue, month and other changes we have had to make and how we have had to almost move Heaven and Earth to accomplish this. Then it hit me it was the word **WE!** We were doing this, we were pulling together to pull this off and we were going to make this a success. We, not I, me, her or him but we as in the club as in everybody and it made me think about all the things we have done taking a literal leap of faith and watching them be better than any one of us could have imagined. From the first time at the pet



expo, Highland Hey Days, Walled Lake Pet Awareness Day and the Pet Fest we have made great things happen. So **WE** is a very important word when having an event or in this case moving an event because I know we can do it. So as we approach the bird fair we will make it a success, we can smooth out the rough spots and we will be better next year but most important we can pull this off in grand fashion. History is a good indicator and if we all look back we know we can do it, we have done it before and we can do it again. This can happen because **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!**

Until Next Time  
Your Prez  
Dave



### **Voice of the Veep**

It's finally here! Yes our bird fair is on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and I hope that everybody is as excited as I am.

We need as much help as we can get from everybody both one the evening before the fair and the day of the fair. We are renting a U-Haul® truck and will be loading it up at my house on Saturday evening the 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you have any large items for the used cage sale or just want to help loading the truck be at my house about 5:00 PM. On the morning of the fair we will be at the VFW Post at 6:00 AM to unload the truck and set-up for the vendors. Vendors should start showing up about 7:00

AM and they need help moving their wares inside. During the day we will need help at the raffle table, at the bake sale table, at the front and back doors with admissions, assisting vendors and patrons taking purchases to their cars, after the fair helping vendors move out and anywhere that assistance might be needed throughout the day.

We are also going to have the bake sale table again, (it's always a big hit) so all of you wonderful bakers think of your tastiest treats.

Here is a listing of the best sellers from last year's bake sale.

- Lemon Bars
- Brownies
- Rice Krispy Treats
- Caramel Corn
- Choc. No Bake Cookies
- Choc. Chip Bar Cookies
- Oatmeal Cookies
- Choc. Parrot Lollipops

Any time you can give to assist will be appreciated make sure you wear your badge and be prepared to have a great time. This our first show at this hall so we not only want to have a successful fair but we want to impress the VFW Post with our club and our fair so we will be invited back for another fair next year. If you have any questions and wish to contact me feel free to call me at home, Steve (734) 513-0030.

Your Veep  
Steve



## TALES OF BUSTER BROWN

I was watching a Youtube video of Einstein, a female African Gray, entertaining a crowd. Even though it was quite entertaining, it was upsetting to me as well. The reason for my upset is simple. During the video Einstein was fed twenty-five sunflower seeds as a reward. Now that does not seem to be healthy for any parrot. I have been told that sunflower seeds should only be given about 3-4 a day. And, I do not want to starve Buster to do what I want him to do.

I have a few games for Buster, but I do not want to feed him to get him to do the tasks. I have been trying to get him to put plastic coins in a plastic bank, and put a ball in a basketball hoop on praise alone to see if it works. The basketball trick is a total bust. He likes to throw the ball off of the table so he can watch me go get it. He laughs, but I guess he thinks I need the exercise (true)! Now the bank is another story. He does a good job of getting the coins on top of the bank. However, the three holes are pretty small and it frustrates him. He will pace back and forth and walk away. I will clap and praise him when he gets the coin to the top of the bank. Now, I think he has given that task up, because now he will put the coins in my coffee cup. I guess he realizes

that the hole of the coffee cup was larger. He realized that the coffee cup hole was larger. He is right; again he has shown that he is the smarter one. Oh well, so much for that experiment. The good news is that I really think that he does enjoy the interaction,

Linda Brown



## Out and About with Pookie

Owning a companion human is not the easiest task to undertake. You need to establish trust and confidence between you and your companion human; as well as positioning yourself as the parrot that is dominate and in control. This subject is being brought up mainly because of numerous inquiries on this basic subject over the past months.

The first step a parrot must take when becoming a companion human caretaker and owner is to establish the pecking order of the new flock. You must

show your human that you are in control and the top bird in the tree. Companion humans are extremely perceptive and will sense any hesitation and fear on your part. The first time that your new human reaches into your cage is the perfect time to establish dominance; a gentle nip will allow you establish this dominance. A human that is afraid will flinch and remove their hand; this action will place you as the parrot in charge. Once you have determined that your companion human has an innate willingness to be the subservient member of your flock you can begin more intensive training.

One of the most important training steps is learning to share. You can use your new found position of dominance to teach you human to share their dinners, salty snacks, carry-out from the local fast food restaurant and anything else they might be dining upon. Once your companion human knows that they must share everything with you; they will start shopping and snacking with you in mind.

Another position of dominance and control is the shoulder of your companion human. The shoulder position not only allows you to dominate and control your human by sharing with them everything that they eat. You are in a perfect location to purloin food directly from their spoon or fork before the snack is eaten. This position also allows you to utilize one of the most effective training tools that we possess; poop! Poop is wonderful stuff and

companion humans a weird obsession with it. Poop on the floor and a human will stop what they are doing and pick it up. Poop on a shoulder and a human will set you down so they can pick it up or change their shirt. Poop on a chair, sofa or on a car seat will spur a companion human into a frenzy of obsessive cleaning behavior. You as the savvy parrot in control can utilize this knowledge to your advantage. Anytime you need access to something or want to divert you human's attention use poop.

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie





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SPECIAL BREEDER PRICING

roving reporter Baby with the latest update  
from the club.

May's meeting was the smallest I  
have seen in a very very long time. We only  
had forty people there, thirty- five members  
and five guests and two of them joined our  
flock. Our feathered members there were  
twenty- six. The Cockatoos had nine,  
African Grays had seven and Macaws only  
two. There were eight other types' parrots  
there.

Well gang in June we are off and  
running again with seven programs and one  
outside event set so far. We started on June  
3<sup>rd</sup> in Plymouth, June 7<sup>th</sup> in Rochester Hills,  
June 8<sup>th</sup> in Whitmore Lake, June 9<sup>th</sup> in White  
Lake, June 12<sup>th</sup> in Redford, June 13<sup>th</sup> in  
Taylor, and June 17<sup>th</sup> in Frankenmuth and  
will end June 30<sup>th</sup> in West Bloomfield.

Don't forget the most important  
date of all June 23<sup>rd</sup> THE RAINBOW  
FEATHERS BIRD CLUB 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
BIRD FAIR!!! I cannot attend this great  
event but will get my info about it from the  
Duke so I can report on it.

We may get a break in July with just  
two programs set so far???

So catch your breath when you can guys!!

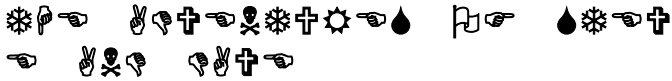
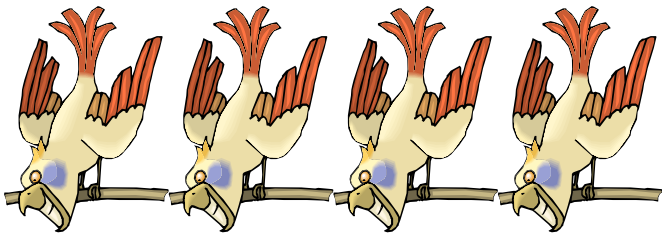
Till next month  
Your friend  
Baby

><><><><><>



**BITS from BABY**

Howdy all my rainbow  
feathered Friends, this your



# RESCUE RANGERS



Once again the rangers were off this time to Lincoln Park to rescue a poor little Lesser Sulphur Crested Cockatoo. Now as named go there seems to be a common theme among the Too's they are either called Snowy, Snowball, Snowflake, Angel, Casper or Baby. The most popular of all names being Baby. Well this little guy was called Baby and he had to be re-homed because of an allergy that one of the owners had developed to the bird. This is not uncommon with the Cockatoo's being a member of the dust bird family. When the rangers arrived they found a very animated (Ranger Steve calls it psychotic) Cockatoo in a corner cage. Now corner cages while being an excellent idea for space saving are a pain in the neck (now would I say the other place just south of the neck) to clean. There he was Baby put in the corner a very happy and beautiful bird. So without much drama they put baby into a carrier, which he was not too fond of, and they were off. Baby did not stay in foster care for too long for he was a sweetie and was soon off to his forever home. There was joy in Rescueville

tonight for Baby had found his home but there was no time to slack off for there were more birds that needed the assistance of the Rangers. So off again they would soon be on another mission to rescue a poor feathered creature because they are **THE RESCUE RANGERS!!!!!!**

Stay glued to this channel for our next thrilling installment Sad Jack in Roseville!



## UP COMING EVENTS

June 20<sup>th</sup> 2013

- June 23<sup>rd</sup> Rainbow Feathers Bird Club  
16<sup>th</sup> Annual Bird Fair  
\$3.00 Adm. 10AM to 4PM  
VFW Post 345  
27345 Schoolcraft Rd.  
Redford, MI 48239  
10:00AM to 4:00PM
- June 30<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
American House-  
Regent Street Assisted Living  
4460 Orchard Lake Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
2:00 set-up  
3:00 Show

July 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Show  
American House- Stone Building  
3741 S. Adams Rd.  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
12:30PM Set-up  
1:30PM Show

July 31<sup>st</sup> Senior Educational Show  
Oakmont Sterling  
41155 Pond View Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
1:00PM Set-up  
2:00PM Show

Aug 10<sup>th</sup> Pet Emporium Pet Fest  
Aug 11<sup>th</sup> Washtenaw County Fairgrounds  
5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
No Set-up times at this time  
Runs 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Both Days

Ypsilanti Heritage Festival  
Aug 16<sup>th</sup> Noon to 8PM  
Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 10AM to 8 PM  
Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 11 AM to 6PM  
More details will be posted  
as they become available  
\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Sept 7<sup>th</sup> Society of Canary and Finch  
Breeders  
Bird Fair  
\$3.00 Adm. 9AM to 4 PM  
Livonia Elks Lodge #2246  
31117 Plymouth Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150  
\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Highland Hey Days  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 Fall Family Festival  
11:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday  
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Sunday

Livingston Road in Downtown  
Highland  
We will be arriving around 9:00 AM on  
Saturday to set-up and Tearing down on  
Sunday after the fair. (Show times are just  
estimates from last year.)  
\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Sept 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Stonegate Health  
2525 Demille Blvd.  
Lapeer, MI 48446  
12:00PM Set-up  
1:00PM Show

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> Guardians for Animals  
Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> Pet Expo  
More information will be following  
Our monthly meeting will have to be moved  
to the 20<sup>th</sup> of October for this event.

### **PET EXPO**

Nov.15<sup>th</sup> 11am to 8pm  
Nov.16<sup>th</sup> 10am to 8pm  
Nov.17<sup>th</sup> 11am to 5pm

**Suburban Collection Showplace**  
46100 Grand River  
Novi, MI 48374  
We will be setting up on Thursday  
Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> most likely around 9:00 am.  
Please remember no birds will be allowed  
through the front door.

**\*\*\*\*\*2014\*\*\*\*\***

**Yes we truly have booked a show for 2014**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Library Educational Show  
2014 Novi Public Library  
45255 W. 10 Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48375  
6:00 PM set-up  
7:00PM Show

**\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\***

**\*\***

There has been some confusion from the loyal readers of Bird Droppings as to which events they are allowed to bring their own bird(s) to. As a point of reference and for future information please we want everyone to be aware that when you see the line:

**\*\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*\***

following or “Educational Show” preceding an event listing it means we are attending the event in an official capacity representing our club and rescue. At these events all club members are welcomed to bring their feathered companions with them. Also please note that our space is very limited at some of these events but don’t let this stop you from joining us, we will find a way for you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy the fun.

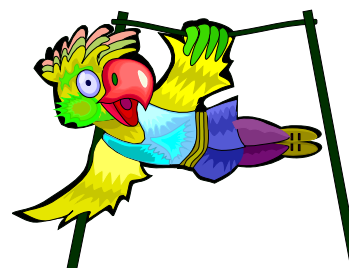
**\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\***

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***\*CANCELTION CONFUSION \****

A few of our scheduled events have been canceled at the last minute by the group staging the event. If you do not regularly participate in the shows but plan

on attending please call Steve (734-513-0030) to make sure the event is still a go.



**BIRD SHOWS**

Through out the year we contract shows and outdoor events. Educational senior shows are at different independent and assisted living homes and nursing homes. Educational shows are at schools and libraries. These are one day events and normally take about three hours. Outdoor and indoor fairs can be two to three day events that last up to ten hours in a day. If the event is outdoors we set up a pop-up canopy with screened in sides.

We want to invite all of our new members to consider joining us at these fund raising venues. If you’re not sure about bringing your own bird that’s OK we always need help even if it’s only for a few hours. If you have never done one of our educational shows they are a lot of fun and are very well received. Come and join us for a good time.





## BAG-IT-BINGO

Next month is “Bag-it-Bingo” month and “Bag-it-Bingo” is a blast.

For those of you who haven’t experienced this event it’s easy; just bring an inexpensive gift wrapped in a paper bag (like something from a dollar store or a re-gifted item). We

then play Bingo for the wrapped gifts, but you can’t open them yet.

After all the bags and gifts have been picked bingo winners get to start “stealing” gifts from other winners, When this ends we open our surprises at the same time, some of them will be very nice and some of them turn out to be zonks. Which one will you get? Be sure to join us for a great time.



### RESCUE UPDATE

We had several successful adoptions this past month. Two African Grays; Kelly & Casey, Buddy a Green Cheeked

Conure, A covey of Canaries and two Senegal parrots.

We’re looking for foster help; any of our members that would be willing to become a foster home please let us know. We need foster parents that would be willing to foster small bird, Budgies, Cockatiels, Love Birds, etc. We also need foster homes for medium to larger size parrots also. Please contact Dave, Tammy or Steve at a meeting to let us know you’re willing to help.

We here at Bird Droppings want to thank all of the members of our club for supporting our rescue. It is your participation in the monthly meeting raffles, our annual bird fair and all the adoption events that allows us to fund the rescue. Thank you one and all without your help and participation we couldn’t do it.

## Getting the skinny on Fatty Liver Disease



She doted on her Cockatoo giving it everything a bird could want or for that matter desire. She paid no attention to the lime green

droppings or the fact her Cockatoo wanted to sleep more than usual. Until that morning when she woke up to find her beloved companion dead on the bottom of it’s cage. A necropsy revealed it had died of Fatty Liver Disease. Although the bird was only six years old it had succumbed to a short life of a poor diet of Sunflower, Safflower seeds, Peanuts and other fatty foods.

What exactly is Fatty Liver Disease? To put it simply it is when a bird receives a diet so high in fat the liver is simply overwhelmed and can no longer function as it should. Some of the symptoms are bright green droppings, rapid overgrowing and softening of the top beak, lethargy and plain obesity. Sometimes a bird shows no symptoms at all but is just an apparent healthy overweight bird. If caught in time it can be reversed by being seen by a certified avian vet. A vet can prescribe the proper

treatment. Birds that need to be watched are susceptible to this disease are Amazons, Cockatoos, African Grays and Cockatiels. A diet of pellets, fresh veggies and some seed used only as a treat can help your bird lead a long and healthy life.



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

CRAIG PERDUE	JULY 6
ALEXANDRA PATTON	JULY 8
DON BOUGENOY	JULY 10
PATRICIA FULLERTON	JULY 13
HUSTON BOUGENOY	JULY 14
HENRY JEDRZEJEK	JULY 16
CHERYL HITTER	JULY 18
BEVERLY SHOLAR	JULY 18
SUSAN GOODEN	JULY 19
PAULA PASEK	JULY 19
GABRIELLE GOODEN	JULY 20
NICHOLAS MARKEY	JULY 20
BARBARA SWANTNER	JULY 24
SUSAN DIXON	JULY 30
EDWARD PROSZKOWSKI	JULY 31
PATRICIA WATSON	JULY 31

## Avast ye Mates



## CAPTAINS CORNER

Well I just found out that I can't go to the bird fair and I am not happy. It does say bird fair does it not and that should mean it is for birds. Oh no it is for humans and we the feathered members have to sit this one out, the nerve. They say it is for our safety, to keep us from being birdnapped but I think there is more to this than that. I believe that they are keeping things from us again and that they want all the good stuff for themselves. Pookie and I are going to get to the bottom of this because it is just not fair. Why should they enjoy themselves without us especially at an event that is labeled bird fair? Do you see human anywhere in the title? Well do you? I didn't think so. Also what do they do at this event that we can't go? I'll bet they embarrass us to the point that we would deny knowledge of exactly who they are. Even worse they may of all things (GASP) dance, oh the horror. I have seen my pet human dance and it aint pretty! Maybe is good we don't get to go to this one. Nah, Pookie and I think there is more to this than meets the eye and we will get to the bottom of this so keep an eye out for our findings!!!

Cheers  
Captain Morgan

# WI THOUT

## WARNING!



I was asked to put this in our news letter from the distraught owners of a Timneh African Gray, here is their story. It was midday and they had gone to the family room at the back of the house and opened the cages to both their birds a 7 year old Timneh Gray and a Blue Front Amazon. The Amazon climbed to his favorite spot on the top of his cage the Gray flew over to his playstand in front of the window wall. The window wall was his favorite place to be and watch the outside birds as they came and went. That day they both went to their perspective places and all were happy. Suddenly there was a crash at the window wall and this sent the Gray on an erratic panicked flight down the hall into the living room (something he never did on his own). As they watched him fly past them it was seconds later when they heard the sickening thud from the living room. They rushed into the living room and found him behind the loveseat with his head at a very unnatural angle. As he was picked up from the floor they knew he was gone but what had caused this? It was a cat; he saw the bird and made a bee-line for him crashing into the glass as

he jumped to get the bird. This startled the bird causing him to do something he had never done before, fly into the living room and straight into the large oval mirror. This was also the first time something like this had ever happened in seven years. He was trying to get away from the cat, (which was never see or heard from again) and did something he had never done before. They were both heartbroken and took the Amazon for a wing clipping the next day. They asked me to put this in our newsletter as a warning that what one thinks can never happen to them, can and will, usually without warning.

Dave



# Consider these factors before you purchase a bird



By Don J. Harris, DVM

Purchasing a new bird is an act that requires much forethought and planning. Some potential bird owners research a new car purchase with far more diligence than they do a new pet. But, because some parrots live as long as 50-60+ years, impulse buying may have repercussions that last for decades—much longer than a new car. Here are a few aspects to consider when purchasing a bird.

## **Does this particular bird fit your lifestyle?**

Does the species enjoy a busy and noisy environment with a lot of people interacting, or would it do better in a quieter more isolated environment? If it is a large species, is there enough space in your home for a large cage?

## **How much time can you devote to a pet?**

Does the species demand a lot of care and attention? Is it a “high maintenance” species that needs a lot of one-on-one interaction, or is it happy to be left alone for periods of time?

## **Does this bird have the pet characteristics you want?**

If it is important to you that your bird talks, choose a species with high speaking ability, such as an African Grey, Amazon or Mynah. If cleanliness is important, check out a smaller species. If intelligence is

important, you can't beat an African Grey.

## **What is the average life span of this species?**

Life spans range from 10-60+ years, depending on the species. Do you want a bird that may outlive you?

## **Where are you purchasing your new bird?**

Was it bred locally? Is the breeder available for questioning? Is the dealer in a fixed location where you can locate him or her should you need follow-up advice or if a problem arises?

## **Is there a guarantee?**

Be suspicious of anyone who doesn't offer some assurance of the bird's health.

## **What are the nutritional needs of this species?**

Certain species of birds have special nutritional needs. Can you meet them?

## **What kind of diet is the bird currently eating?**

Is the bird already eating a balanced diet or will it

need to be converted to a new more nutritious one?

Older birds on seed diets can be difficult to convert, but may encounter health problems if not switched.

## **Is the bird healthy?**

There is no way to answer this without a complete post-purchase veterinary exam. Schedule an exam with your avian veterinarian immediately after purchasing your new bird. Don't wait.

## **Is your home ready for your new bird?**

Is the caging suitable? Is it situated in the correct location in the home? Are the perches arranged correctly? Are there toxic plants or substances harmful to birds in the household that may need

to be removed? If your new bird is joining other birds in your family, do you have a plan on how to quarantine the new bird until you have a post-purchase veterinary exam?

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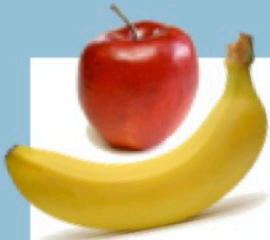


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This newsletter  
Devoted to pet bird  
Enthusiasts is  
Published monthly by  
The Rainbow Feathers  
Bird club of Michigan  
A 501(c) (3) club

July 2013  
Volume 16 Issue 7

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING

#### DATES :

JULY 28<sup>th</sup> - FOURTH SUNDAY  
AUGUST 25<sup>th</sup> - FOURTH SUNDAY  
PICNIC  
SEPT 22<sup>nd</sup> - FOURTH SUNDAY

#### RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

##### Who we are and what we are about

- Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
  - Support scholarships for avian vet students
  - Yearly Bird Fair
  - Club Library for members
  - Grooming available
  - Avian rescue/relocation programs
  - Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
  - Monthly newsletter
  - Periodic Service projects
  - Field Trips
  - Educational Programs upon request
  - Make-it-take-it workshops
- And more.....

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

#### Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary – Beverly Sholar 313-492-5700

Email – [basholar@yahoo.com](mailto:basholar@yahoo.com)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Board of Trustees –

Mary Perva 517-618-7008

Stan Johnson 248-746-0520

Email- [mmisterjay@comcast.net](mailto:mmisterjay@comcast.net)

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email- [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)



**ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.**

Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

## EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Plafchan is now doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please send all items to him at 11021 Henry Ruff, Livonia, MI 48150 or email them to him at [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Those wishing to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.

## CLUB WELFARE

Please contact Jean Jedrzejek at 734-427-3187 or e-mail her at [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net) if you know of any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one



### Monthly snack list

We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is two fold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and deserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!

From the prez:



Well the bird fair is over and I just have to say this, **YEEEEEEHAAAAAAAAAW**, it was better than even I could have **EVER** imagined! All the help we had was wonderful even though the set-up time was short you guys really stepped up and got things done. Used cages unloaded, raffle set-up and vendors moved in like greased lightning. The hall was full and people came through the door, this was my main concern getting the public into the fair and they came. The raffles got set-up in record time and we were able to start selling tickets shortly after one raffle finished. The vendors and the club members as well as the public loved the food at the

## BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

- ❖ Ask owner's permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
- ❖ Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
- ❖ When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.



hall it was fantastic we actually cleaned out the concession stand of everything but pop and water. The gentleman running it, (and I do mean running literally too) was amazed that he sold out. Even though we only had two months to get this together after cancelling our April date it all came together and that was because the efforts of the club itself. All of you pitched in and got the word out and were there when we needed you, this is why we were able to pull it off. There is only one complaint I have and that is, I only won one thing from the raffle, I mean its not like I didn't buy tickets but there I was left out in the cold again. Oh well I'll just try again next year. Anyway I just wanted to say thank you for the great job all of you did at the fair. There are those who can't help at the fair but they support our monthly raffles and the club in other ways all through the year. Believe me when I say, this also helps with the fair whether you realize it or not everything every club member does helps us make everything we do a success. From the fair to the many other events we do the club participation all years is critical to making every event a success. So give yourselves a big high five for a job well done. **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!!!**

P.S. July is the bag-it-bingo meeting bring something conceal it any way you want and be prepared to have fun. Maybe this year somebody else can be the target, I won't give you any suggestions but Celeste or Steve are good substitutes, just sayin'.

Until Next Time  
Your Prez  
Dave



Voice of  
the Veep

It was no small feat but we succeeded! Our bird fair was last month and it was a resounding success; due in no small part to all of you, the club members. From the evening prior to the fair to the day of the fair everything went smoothly. In spite of the fact we had less than three months to get the word out about the date and venue change, it was a very successful fair.

Thank you to everybody who helped load the U-Haul® truck Saturday evening, the crew that showed up at 6:00 am to unload the truck and set up the raffle. To all of you that assisted during the day and after the fair moving vendors out and breaking down; we want to extend a thank you. We also have to give accolades the JCAP (Junior Civil Air Patrol) troop that was there from dawn to finish and all their help. Special Thanks should go to Annette and Patrick Ballard for arranging the JCAP crew to be there.

The VFW Post was also quite impressed by our fair and surprised slightly by our appetite (the snack bar sold out of

everything.) Things went so well we have secured the hall for next year on the same date. Doing this will allow us to promote the fair for an entire year, rather than two months; hopefully increasing public attendance. The VFW post also said they will be more prepared for the large appetites of the bird fair.

Thank you and congratulations to everyone.

Remember we're playing Bag-it-bingo this month so come to the meeting and be prepared to have a good time

Your Veep  
Steve



## BIRD SHOWS A BIG HIT

We have recently staged many senior educational shows at numerous retirement communities and senior centers. Our club received many accolades and smiles from the residents and other guests in attendance. We also want to say "thank you" to the retirement homes for the generous donations to our rescue for staging the shows

Our bird shows are lots of fun and great fund raisers for our rescue. If you have never attended one of our shows

come and join us and see what all fun is about. Even if you can't bring your bird you can still assist us with the show, everyone is welcome.



## Out and About With Pookie

There have been many discussions and much consternation between the research, editorial and opinion departments here at Bird Droppings lately. These issues have all been about toys; the different types, which are the best, the most fun, the most challenging? The answer that we have arrived at is; there is no one single correct answer but there were many conclusions.

The Cockatoos and Macaws on staff looking into "indestructible Acrylic Toys" determined that there was no such thing as an indestructible toy. They did approve of the acrylic foraging toys, especially when they were full of tasty treats. The African Grays, Amazons, Eclectus and other similar sized parrots preferred chewable toys that they could shred. Smaller parrots also enjoyed toys that are easy to shred; the ones that were mentioned most often were newspaper and cardboard boxes. I personally have to agree with this assessment; an empty cardboard box is one of the best toys made.

Sparky, JB and I have located and claimed a multitude of empty boxes scattered around

our home. The empty ones in the back rooms are my favorites they originally came with computers or other merchandize but were stored by Steve just in case they were needed for something. Well, we needed them for ourselves. Wiggling around to the back sides of the boxes we chewed bird sized access holes in the boxes and can now use them as hiding spaces. These spaces are used to enhance Steve's foraging experience when he needs to locate us in a hurry. Hiding quietly inside of a box while Steve is running around the house in a panic is an excellent way for him to enjoy the healthy activities of bending, lifting and exploring. JB likes to stealthily sit inside of boxes and charge out and attack bare feet and socks. It is always delightful to watch Steve dancing across the room while doing a fast foot shuffle. We know he enjoys these activities because he has enclosed other treasures inside some of the boxes. Some of the things we've found inside of the treasure boxes are pellets, Nutriberries®, cardboard and Styrofoam blocks. Styrofoam can be chewed into little pellets and scattered around like snow and has some of the best toy properties. It's hard to pick up, it sticks to just about everything and has a half-life longer than most radioactive materials. Styrofoam scattered about the kitchen will continue to be found for months after it was chewed.

Don't be afraid to chew into that cardboard box on the floor; it's great fun and rewarding.

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie



## Rambling with Rambo

Hi all my fine friends.

Before I start this month's Ramblings, here is a note from Michael.

I wish to offer all of you non-feathered friends a sincere Congratulations, and Thank You. Congratulations on the Amazing Job you all did at our annual fair. You all pulled together, worked hard, and made this year's annual Bird Fair a success. There are too many of you to thank individually. So, please know I'm speaking to each of you personally. I also want to offer a warm sincere "Thank You" to everyone, for making me feel welcome. This is the first of our events I've spent the entire day working with all of you. And I want to offer a special, sincere "Thank You" to very special person who was happy to tell everyone about me. This person makes me feel like family. You know who you are. All of you ALWAYS make me feel welcome and wanted. It truly was fun to be with you all. All the excitement made the day fly by. While I was working the admission's desk, I saw all our visitors leaving happy. Many commented about how wonderful the fair was. I saw many, many young people – children – ecstatic

over seeing the colorful birds, and thrilled about having their faces painted. The Spider Man face was awesome. There were even some birds I have never seen before. Ok, so now onto this month's Ramblings.

What happened? My column was not in the last "Bird Droppings". Did I forget to send it? Was it that bad? Ok, no problem! I will just resend it. This way I can tell you how much Michael enjoyed the fair.

I've been thinking about our adventures, and outings. Think about the different places our humans take us. Some of you get to go more places than others. Some of you are much more willing to go out with your people than others. I hate my travel box. So I'm not as willing to go out, as some of you.

Maybe if I had a different travel box, or a leash, I would be more willing to go with Michael. He has been talking about getting these for me. He said I really need a travel size cage. Also, with a travel size cage, I can go out in the sunshine.

Hey look what just arrived at the door. It is a NEW travel cage. Oh wow, it is one of those big fold up cages. Oh, I like this. It has lots of room and I can see out. Daddy put it together, and took me out on our deck. We hung out there for a little while, in the warm sunshine, and then came in. When Michael brought me in, he sat this cage down, and opened the door. Hey wait a minute. I like new cage. I want to play in here for a little while.

Oh yes, I was talking about our adventures. Most of these are fun, once we get there. Our meetings are always fun. I have to tell you what happened at our last meeting. Daddy thought he could trust me to stay out of trouble, while he went outside for my play stand. When he opens my box, I usually sit there up of it, and wait for him. Well not this time. As daddy was going toward the door, I was squawking my head off. I decided to hop down onto the floor, and go after him. Before I could get in any trouble, or get hurt, Miss Lanah came to my rescue. I stepped up onto her finger real nice. Then I bit her hand. "I'm sorry I hurt you. I do not know you. You scared me. But I did let you put me back on my box."

Daddy was back soon to protect me. This was an interesting little adventure. This is the first time I ever stepped up onto someone's finger.

Let's get back to those other adventures we have. It's also great fun visiting those children, and sad old people. And think about our Bird Shows, and upcoming Special Bird Fair. BUT, there is always the chance our people will be taking us to THAT PLACE!! You know the one I mean. Yes that one, THE VET'S OFFICE. Daddy is playing some music. The song is something about a guy who thinks he's a "Free Bird." Now picture this, the sight of a big Macaw playing an 'air guitar', the Grays pounding the (air) drums, the cockatoos screaming the words – "Won't you fly free

bird..”, while the rest of us are dancing. That would be a real sight. Imagine the noise we would make. Everywhere Michael goes he shows my picture. He was at the bank the other day. Every time he shows my newest picture, the girls there tell him to bring me in and visit them. That would be fun. He does take me into the pet store. WOW, look at all those toys, and all that food. So while I’m looking outside, daddy is looking at a magazine. WHAT IS THAT? A travel magazine!!

Oh no, I see that look in his eyes. What crazy wild idea is he thinking now? He turned his face to me. I can’t believe what I’m hearing. “Rambo, we could take a little overnight trip together. We could go camping. Really now, what is stopping us? You will be safe in your outdoor cage. Besides, mother won’t have to watch you. She can go away, and so can we. We have wasted too many beautiful days at home. What do you think about this, Rambo? Daddy can get you a new leash.” I’m thinking, “You are out of your mind. Parrots don’t go Camping.” Then daddy says, “Sure we can. We’ll take a little overnight trip. It will only be 2 or 3 days. Think how much fun it will be. You can meet new people. They will love your colors, and antics. And, you will probably be the only parrot in the campground.” I think to myself, “Ok, it would be fun to see those people’s reaction, when I start my morning ‘Wake Up’ screeching. What would they think about my morning “Squawk, Squawk,

Squawk, Good morning, I’m hungry, Good morning, Good morning, I’m Hungry?” “I still say, Michael, you’re out of your mind. I’m sure our friends will also think so. Daddy his gone mad. Just because he wants to have new adventures, don’t include me.”

Since daddy is going new things lately, and I now have a travel cage, he may actually make me go camping. For a long time Michael has been talking about doing something called Base Jumping. “Daddy, have you gone insane? Whatever that is, it sounds scary. I will stay on solid ground with Mommy, thank you.”

Wow, the thought of all this excitement has me worn out. I need a nap. I hope you all enjoyed this crazy ‘tail’. So all my friends,

Remember, have fun,  
be good, and as always  
Macaws Rule  
Rambo.





## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

LEO FENNELLY	AUG. 7
JEAN JEDRZEJEK	AUG. 9
KATHE COTE	AUG. 14
LINDA MCCARTHY	AUG. 17
PAM PEMBERTON	AUG. 17
CHARLES BIEBUYCK	AUG. 18
SUSAN JENISON	AUG 20
SUSIE JANKOWSKI	AUG. 26
JORDAN MANAA	AUG. 27
MOLLY CHINERY	AUG. 28



## DON'T FORGET THE PICNIC!

Next month is our annual picnic at Garden City Park, Cherry Hill and Merriman. Enter the park from Cherry Hill and follow the road around until you see Dave and Tammy at the large pavilion. Remember we are moving the location of our picnic from the pavilion on the north side of the park to the large pavilion at the east end by the restrooms.

The Club is providing the meat and everyone is to bring items to pass and your own beverage (there will be a cooler with water and ice.) It is also recommended that you leave your pets at home for this event unless they are used to being outside in the wind and weather. Wings' being clipped is a must and smaller lighter birds should stay home, we don't want any accidental fly offs. The picnic is from 10ish until we're tired of each other's company.



## BITS from BABY

Howdy all my Rainbow Feathered Friends, this your roving reporter Baby with the latest update from the club.

Well June was a busy one for us with nine programs. July is going to be a snap with only three. We all need to catch our breath and now is the time to do it gang.

THE RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BIRD FAIR was a great big success with all who attended, club members, visitors and vendors alike. Thanks for all the help gang you all did a great job. I wish I was able to be there but Duke told me all about it.

That's all for now, more to come next month.

Till next month,  
your friend  
Baby

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# BAG-IT-BINGO

This month is “Bag-it-Bingo” month and “Bag-it-Bingo” is a blast.

For those of you who haven’t experienced this event it’s easy; just bring an inexpensive gift wrapped in a paper bag (like something from a dollar store or a re-gifted item). We

then play Bingo for the wrapped gifts, but you can’t open them yet.

After all the bags and gifts have been picked bingo winners get to start “stealing” gifts from other winners, When this ends we open our surprises at the same time, some of them will be very nice and some of them may turn out to be zonks. Which one will you get? Be sure to join us for a great time.



# RESCUE RANGERS



This rescue was different than the rest because of its location; it was a pet/fish/nursery/ gift shop in a city called Roseville. They were called to pick up a Blue and Gold Macaw named Jack. Now Jack was left there by his former owner and the store owners and personnel could not

handle Jack or even go near him they were all afraid of him. Of course he knew this and had a field day intimidating everyone that got within the proximity of his cage. As they were introduced to him he gave Ranger Dave a strange look as he lifted his hand and ordered him to step up. So unnerved by his actions he could do nothing but comply but then something else happened he began to scratch his head, something he had not had for a while and he liked it. All were amazed but Ranger Steve, (knowing birds one knows that sometimes all they need is love, wow, great title for a song don’t you think) and Ranger Steve knew. He could tell by Ranger Dave’s pained expression that his nails were beyond sharp and they both noticed his one wing wasn’t right. They said it was injured a while ago but this would turn out not to be the case. So with bird safely squared away they were off and during a routine wing trimming they noticed the real problem with his wing. He had a large growth under his wing that he had been picking at so off to the vet he went. Jack underwent surgery to have the growth removed and all went well. Now like many of our stories that have a happy ending, this one doesn’t have one. About two and a half weeks later jack crossed the Rainbow Bridge to a better existence. One where he would be able to fly freely and receive the kind of treatment he got for the last two and a half weeks of his life for eternity. Now both the Rangers hope to see Jack again but this time he will look like he should have when they picked him up and see a happy magnificent Blue and Gold Macaw. I am sure they will and he will give them a big thanks for caring so much and being who, they are **THE RESCUE RANGERS!!!!!!**

Stay tuned for our next exciting adventure Shades of Gray in Dearborn!!!

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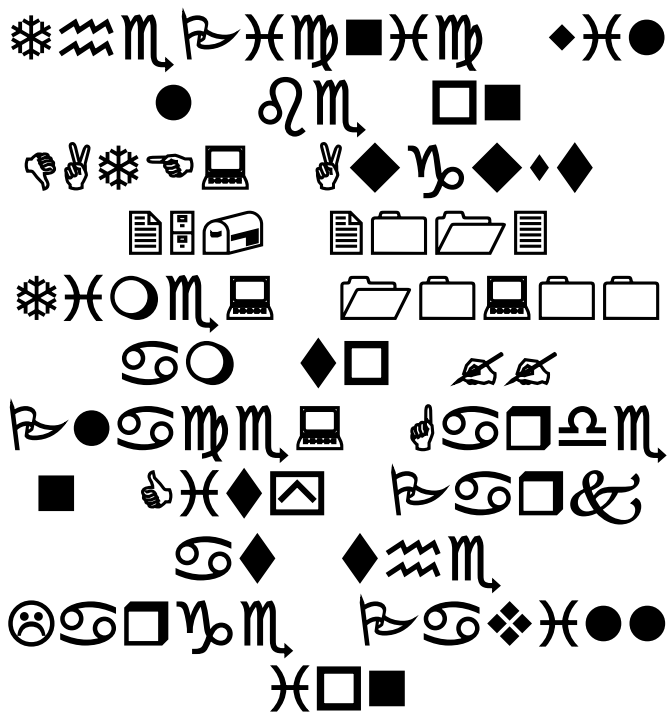
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Rainbow Feathers has monthly bird etiquette but many have asked me if we have anything that addresses people behavior. I researched and found that many clubs do have something like this and many have a Sergeant of Arms, (which we really do not need). So I asked and one of the club members came up with this and I thought it was very good.

- Treat all club members and visitors with respect.
- Refrain from spreading rumors, hurtful or negative things.
- The monthly meetings are the proper place for voicing suggestions or concerns.
- If you have an idea please tell us, everything we do has come from club members and every idea has value.
- There is not one club member who is of more value than another we are all important members of the club.
- Be mindful that you are our club's representative and that your words and actions reflect on the club as a whole.
- Finally as with any organization no one is entitled to create dissention among the club members.

This is only because we are growing and many have asked me what the "people rules" are at the many events we do. Many of us call this our bird club family or as I like to call us "a

pleasantly insane group of people”. Hey, we have birds so we have to be a little nuts, right? So let’s continue the great thing we have now and in the future.



### Rescue update

It's been another successful and busy month for our rescue efforts. This month we found new homes for a Sun Conure, Cockatiel, Cockatoo and an Eclectus. All of these birds went to their new homes with cages, food and toys.

Everyone in our club should be proud of themselves. It is your donations and participation in the club's monthly raffles and events that have made our rescue the success that it is. Kudos and thanks to all of you for your help, keep up the great work.

### **\*RESCUE PROCEDURE\***

There is a proper procedure for turning a bird into the rescue and we must do our best to follow it. Any time a bird is to be surrendered to our rescue Dave, Steve, Tammy, Mary or Stan must be contacted first so proper arrangements can be made. Rainbow Feathers Bird Club and Rescue can not take responsibility for any birds that have not followed this procedure. If you have elected to take in someone’s unwanted bird or if you have been offered a “free” bird please be aware that you will have to assume the full cost of veterinary care yourself.

### Avast ye Mates



### CAPTAINS CORNER

Well it seems that our pet humans need a lesson in weather 101 and that is **PAY ATTENTION TO THE BIRD!!!!!!!** I say this because at the program in Frankenmuth they clearly ignored all the signs that we were giving. Many of us were to put it mildly a little worked up. Some of us wanted to stay in the safety of our carriers while others were very antsy and some were overly docile. These were warning signs that the weather was about to go wrong very quickly. Boy were we right!! My pet human got an alert on that primitive thing he calls cell phone to a Tornado warning for the area. That put them into high gear Sparky and J.B. thought they were part of the Indy 500 as we were loaded into the vehicles and they took off. Now I could not see but I heard plenty about the sky and the odd colors and how the clouds seemed to be getting low. They just missed the hail and fury of the storm and I do mean just. Even Stella (Mother Nature to the rest of you) was dumbfounded at how they ignored the signs we gave off. I had to remind her that after all they were human and it takes a little longer to train them than most animals. So now a mass squawk has gone out over Squawker, (like Twitter but a little louder) to start educating them now so something like this does not happen in the future. It’s going to be a challenge but we can train all of our pet humans but be persistent and some day they can say goodbye to the Weather Channel

Cheers  
Captain Morgan



## TALES OF BUSTER BROWN

Other than getting lost, there is another issue concerning Buster

Brown. I am not psychiatrist, however, I believe Buster to be an obsessive compulsive neurotic personality. He obsesses about the destruction of objects and it is next to impossible to get his attention away from the object of his obsession. Or he has a huge oral fixation. Some will say that he is only trying to prove that he can make a nest out of anything to show that he is a good provider to his flock. Who knows?

I will take him back to his cage to get him away from the object of his obsession; but, in his pigeon-toed waddle manner he will quickly find his way back. I made an effort to put an old sweater or towel by my recliner which I call "the babysitter" to divert his attention away. However, this works for short periods of time. The good news is that the object of affection/obsession changes periodically. First, there was a piece of molding in the kitchen that I could not keep him away from destroying. He gave that up after a large slice of the wall was missing. Next it was the kitchen rugs. That ended after destroying three rugs. This obsession stopped with the purchase of the fourth rug. I don't think he liked this rug because of the black background. Or maybe after three he was ready to move on due to boredom. Next came his incessant banging

on the door that leads to the garage. This could last for hours at a time. He is tireless!! Then he started chewing on the sofa. No matter how many times he is put back on his cage, he will go back time- and-time again with a look that says "you can't stop me". To be fair, not all of his obsessions are destructive. He will go into the study and crawl up the chair and watch for hours the people and the cars going by from my front window. Another obsession to tell, Buster will go into my bedroom and stare for hours at the bed as if it is the monolith from 2001 A Space Odyssey. The most recent behavior is the turning on and off of his TV that is mounted behind his cage. When he does this he will laugh and say that he is so funny. Maybe he is bored and needs to get more involved with club activities. Oh well, what will be the next obsession? Time will only tell. As, I always say, I love him anyway!

Linda Brown

## WHAT A PROGRAM!!!



We have done many programs all one has to do is look at the list of events but this one will stand out as a little more adventure than we would have liked. It started out like any other day humid and warm but nothing looked threatening so it was a good day to go to Frankenmuth for a program. This is one of the better places to do a program they have a nice room on the lower floor with plenty of space to not only stage the birds

but for those attending the show. As usual the room was full and the crowd was very receptive to the birds, in short they loved it. Now it was time to pack up and head for home. Well the first load was put into the car and all seemed to be ok when suddenly I got a weird alert sound on my phone. As I walked into the door way I brought it up and it said; a tornado warning has been issued for your area take cover now. Tammy and I got downstairs and informed Steve of this message so with our last load and Steve all packed up we went out to our cars. Steve quickly pointed out the very ominous wall cloud that was bearing down on the area and the sky was deep purple, almost black, and green and turquoise and thunder rumbled in the sky. That is when the tornado sirens went off, then Steve and I saw the funnel that dropping from the sky. It was time to go. We had to drive back through downtown Frankenmuth as the storm bore down on us; people were looking skyward rather than taking cover as we drove hurriedly back to I-75. You could see the clouds lowering and the sky became darker, that is when the rain started. We were very lucky as we drove south we finally exited the storm and could breathe a sigh of relief. In Frankenmuth they had golf ball size hail that cracked windows, windshields and covered the streets. It was a very intense for a while and I hope we do not repeat it anytime soon!



## UP COMING

## EVENTS

- July 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Show  
American House- Stone Building  
3741 S. Adams Rd.  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
12:30PM Set-up  
1:30PM Show
- July 31<sup>st</sup> Senior Educational Show  
Oakmont Sterling  
41155 Pond View Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
1:00PM Set-up  
2:00PM Show
- Aug 10<sup>th</sup> Pet Emporium Pet Fest  
Aug 11<sup>th</sup> Washtenaw County Fairgrounds  
5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
No Set-up times at this time  
Runs 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Both Days
- Aug.12<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Independence Village  
Of  
Grand Ledge  
4775 Village Dr.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837-8107  
12:00PM Set-up  
1:00PM Show
- Ypsilanti Heritage Festival  
Aug 16<sup>th</sup> Noon to 8PM  
Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 10AM to 8 PM  
Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 11 AM to 6PM  
More details will be posted  
as they become available  
\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Sept 7<sup>th</sup> Society of Canary and Finch  
Breeders  
Bird Fair  
\$3.00 Adm. 9AM to 4 PM  
Livonia Elks Lodge #2246  
31117 Plymouth Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150  
\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Highland Hey Days  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 Fall Family Festival  
11:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday  
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Sunday  
Livingston Road in Downtown  
Highland  
We will be arriving around 9:00 AM on  
Saturday to set-up and Tearing down on  
Sunday after the fair. (Show times are just  
estimates from last year.)  
\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Sept 17<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Independence Village  
Of  
Brighton Way  
7700 Nemco Way  
Brighton, MI 48116-9442  
12:00PM Set-up  
1:00PM Show

Sept 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Stonegate Health  
2525 Demille Blvd.  
Lapeer, MI 48446  
12:00PM Set-up

1:00PM Show

Sept 21<sup>st</sup> Educational Show  
White Lake Township Library  
7527 Highland Rd.  
White Lake, MI 48383  
10:00 am Set-up  
11:00 am Show

Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> Senior Show  
American House East II  
18760 13 Mile Rd.  
Roseville, MI 48066  
12:00PM Set-up  
1:00PM Show

Oct 5<sup>th</sup> Motor City Bird Breeders  
Bird Fair  
\$4.00 Adm. 10AM to 4:30PM  
Madison Place  
876 Horace Brown Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> Guardians for Animals  
Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> Pet Expo  
More information will be following  
Our monthly meeting will have to be moved  
to the 20<sup>th</sup> of October for this event.

**PET EXPO**  
Nov.15<sup>th</sup> 11am to 8pm  
Nov.16<sup>th</sup> 10am to 8pm  
Nov.17<sup>th</sup> 11am to 5pm  
**Suburban Collection Showplace**  
46100 Grand River  
Novi, MI 48374

**We will be setting up on Thursday  
Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> most likely around 9:00 am.  
Please remember no birds will be allowed  
through the front door.**

## **\*\*\*\*\*2014\*\*\*\*\***

**Yes we truly have booked a show for 2014**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Library Educational Show  
2014 Novi Public Library  
45255 W. 10 Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48375  
6:00 PM set-up  
7:00PM Show

### **\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\***

There has been some confusion from the loyal readers of Bird Droppings as to which events they are allowed to bring their own bird(s) to. As a point of reference and for future information please we want everyone to be aware that when you see the line:

**\*\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*\***

following or “Educational Show” preceding an event listing it means we are attending the event in an official capacity representing our club and rescue. At these events all club members are welcomed to bring their feathered companions with them. Also please note that our space is very limited at some of these events but don’t let this stop you from joining us, we will find a way for you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy the fun.

### **\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\***

**\*CANCELTION CONFUSION \***

A few of our scheduled events have been canceled at the last minute by the group staging the event. If you do not regularly participate in the shows but plan on attending please call Steve (734-513-0030) to make sure the event is still a go.

### **\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\***

## **How to find an avian veterinarian**

By Don J. Harris, DVM



One of the first responsibilities you have as a pet owner is obtaining quality medical care for your bird. The process of finding a qualified veterinarian, who is educated, trained and experienced in treating birds, is often more difficult than you initially might think. Perseverance and some good common sense on your part can result in finding a veterinarian who is skilled in treating your bird. Here are some methods you can use.

### **Yellow Pages**

While this may be the easiest method, an ad in the yellow pages does not necessarily qualify the practitioner to treat your bird. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) allows the term “specialist” by only those veterinarians who have fulfilled certain defined criteria in that specialty. Beyond that, yellow page ads can reflect marketing skills more than veterinary competence.

### **Association Rosters**

Many pet owners check association rosters for qualified veterinarians. For example, the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP) is a veterinary certifying organization that requires its members to prove competence in order to belong. Within ABVP, there is the “Avian Practice” category of specialization. Veterinarians who complete this certification process are recognized by the AVMA as true specialists. These individuals are identified by the title ABVP, Avian Practice, DVM behind their names. Generally, bird owners can trust these practitioners to provide competent care for their birds.

### **Pet Suppliers’ Recommendations**



Pet retail stores or breeders will often recommend a veterinarian they work with on a regular basis. Their recommendations may be based on positive experiences with this particular veterinarian's care and treatment. On the other hand, pet suppliers occasionally have relationships with veterinarians based on discounted services in exchange for referrals. While this business relationship is not in itself bad, bird owners should be advised to verify the veterinarian's credentials.

### **Word-of-Mouth Recommendations**

This is one of the best ways of finding a competent avian veterinarian. If a veterinarian's own clients are making recommendations, there must be a reason why. Unfortunately, these personal recommendations are not always available, especially if you recently moved into the area and don't know anyone to ask.

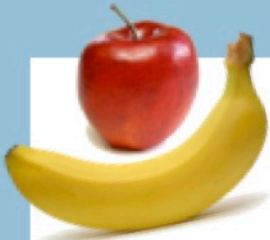
### **Colleague Recommendations**

This is probably the best and most consistently reliable method, but it demands a little sleuthing on your part. Here are the steps you can follow:

- Identify and call veterinarians in the yellow pages who  
DO NOT claim to be avian specialists.
- Call to ask if they will see your bird. If they agree, thank them and move on.
- If they decline, ask whom they would recommend.
- Continue this process until you get enough answers to form a consensus. The veterinarian whose name was recommended the most often is the veterinarian most recognized by his colleagues for competence with exotic birds.

Congratulations! Through hard work and some common sense, you may have found just the right veterinarian for you and your bird.

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# What are you really feeding your bird? Visit BirdFoodFacts.com to find out.

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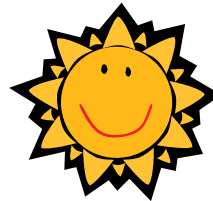
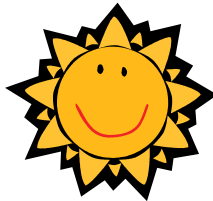
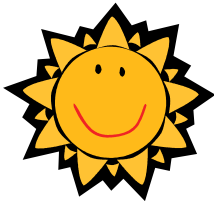
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This newsletter  
Devoted to pet bird  
Enthusiasts is  
Published monthly by  
The Rainbow Feathers  
Bird Club of Michigan  
A 501(c) (3) club

August 2013  
Volume 16 Issue 8

# Bird Droppings



## UPCOMING MEETING

### DATES :

AUGUST 25<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday-Picnic

SEPT 22<sup>nd</sup> ----- Fourth Sunday

OCT. 20<sup>th</sup> ----- Third Sunday

## RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

### Who we are and what we are about

- Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
- Support scholarships for avian vet students
- Yearly Bird Fair
- Yearly Pet Expo
- Club Library for members
- Grooming available
- Avian rescue/relocation programs
- Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
- Monthly newsletter
- Periodic Service projects
- Field Trips
- Educational Programs upon request
- Make-it-take-it workshops

And more.....

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

### Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary – Beverly Sholar 313-492-5700

Email – [basholar@yahoo.com](mailto:basholar@yahoo.com)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Board of Trustees –

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

E-mail [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)

Mary Perva 517-618-7008

Stan Johnson 248-746-0520

Email- [mailto:mmisterjay@comcast.net](mailto:mailto:mmisterjay@comcast.net)



**ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.**

Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

# EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Plafchan is now doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please send all items to him at 11021 Henry Ruff, Livonia, MI 48150 or email them to him at splafchan@twmi.rr.com

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Those wishing to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.

any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one.



## Monthly snack list

We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is twofold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and desserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!

From the prez:



Well goodness sakes alive I actually got two count em two things from bag-it-bingo. How did that happen? Somebody is slipping but that's ok. Wasn't Bag-it-bingo fun and there are always some things that really make the rounds. I like to have a meeting where we just have fun it makes the club much more fun. Speaking of fun by the time you get this we will have already done two events The Pet Fest and the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival but fear not there are more to come so keep looking in the upcoming events. One event that is now up in the air is the Pet Expo it seems that the Suburban Collection Showplace will be taking it over so we do not know what will happen with that but keep reading the newsletter and all should be straightened out. We invite any club members to come to any of the events we do they are always a lot of fun and are a good

# BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

- ❖ Ask owner's permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
- ❖ Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
- ❖ When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.



## CLUB WELFARE

Please contact Jean Jedrzejek at 734-427-3187 or e-mail her at [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net) if you know of

experience all around. Also before I forget we have secured the hall for next year's fair and it will be the same Sunday as this year's fair was I believe it falls on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2014. Boy it seems that summer is really flying by its August already and soon the Christmas ads will start I am not ready for that. I will keep looking forward to the meetings and the events they are always so much fun and the good time we have shows to everyone. So let us enjoy what is left of our summer and I hope to see you guys soon. **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Until Next Time  
Your Prez  
Dave



### **Voice of the Veep**

Whoo-Hoo!! I was successful in actually winning a prize in the bag-it-bingo game last month; this is the first time in three years. My victory was due to strategic playing and stealthy maneuvering at the end of the game. (Wink, wink) Either way it was a lot of fun; I hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

There have been some new faces the senior shows this past month. Members attending for the first time were Linda Brown; Michael Gyarmati and Rambo; Janie, Joe and Mia Lynch (their Cockatoo was also there but I don't remember her name, please forgive me.) Joe and Mia were naturals at showing the birds to the seniors and we hope to see them at future shows. Remember everyone is welcome and you don't have to bring your bird to a

show to help out there is always plenty to do and many ways to assist.

This month is our annual picnic at Garden City Park on the corner of Merriman and Cherry Hill. Our club will be under the large pavilion, just follow the road inside the park until you see us toward the East end of the park. Dave, Tammy and I should be there about 10:00AM to set-up and the picnic usually lasts until about 5:00PM. The club is supplying the burgers and hotdogs and will be charbroiled by "grill master" Dave. If it is possible please try to bring a picnic type dish to share. Your birds are welcome but please remember that we are outside so trimmed wings are a must and because we are outside there WILL NOT I repeat NOT be any wing trimming done in the park on this day. Neither I nor Tammy desire to be the cause of a fly off so under no circumstances will we attempted to trim wings at the picnic. If you desire to bring your bird get the wings trimmed before you arrive.

The weekend before the picnic is the Heritage festival in Ypsilanti everyone is invited to join us and it is a lot of fun. You don't have to bring your bird to this event if you don't want to there is plenty to do and we can use all the help we can get.

See you at the picnic.

Your Veep  
Steve

# Ypslianti Heritage Festival

As most of you know we are putting up a pop-up at the three day festival. This will be our fifth year doing this multi-day outdoor event under a pop-up. We have two spaces this year one for us to meet and greet the public. The second is for a quiet spot for the birds. Even if you didn't sign up to help, come to the festival and visit our booth. It's sure to be a good time.

The festival runs from Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> to Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> noon till 8PM on Friday, 10AM till 8PM on Sat, and 11AM till 6PM on Sun.

SEE YOU THERE!



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## Out and About with Pookie

Angry, upset, aggravated, mad or simply PO'd; it's very difficult for me to express my feelings about some events that occurred last month. Needless to say I have arrived at the conclusion that there are some humans that simply should never own a companion parrot much less any type of pet. Please allow me to elaborate about what has me so upset.

Last month Steve took Sparky, JB and me to numerous farmers markets and an art fair at a nearby park; while there we were visited by many humans and for the most part had a wonderful time. Now all of you know that I lead an alternative lifestyle; I am a feather picker, a birdie nudist. Most people think I'm a baby or a young bird and when this happens Steve explains why I have no feathers. Then, up walks this "self-proclaimed expert" who proceeds to spew a flurry of vicious visceral ranting about how I've been abused and mistreated. The conversation then moved to how Steve should be arrested and I should be put to sleep because of what he had done to me. Steve was very polite and withheld his ire far better than I ever could have. He attempted to explain my history and medical issues when I was a young bird however this person was not going to be dissuaded from their opinion and even professed any animal with issues should be

destroyed. Thank goodness Steve is far more intelligent than this person.

There are many companion parrots in this world that are not perfect, many that are pickers for emotional or medical reasons. Some will stop picking on their own and some will be like me and decided to live what I like to call an alternative lifestyle. The problem is very prevalent although not always obvious; for example there are two foster African Grays at our house right now. One of them is fully feathered and is mean as a snake; he bites, growls, and lunges at anyone who tries to pick him up. The other Gray is as sweet as a kitten but she is plucked and looks quite ragged. Every prospective new parent that comes by to interview the birds gravitates to the fully feathered bird and gets bitten then says they'll have to think about adopting. No one seems to call back.

There are many parrots that need new loving forever homes that aren't perfect, they just need a companion human that will give them a chance. I simply don't understand how so many humans can be this obtuse. There are some wonderful companion parrots out there that just need to be given a chance. Remember my favorite motto; Nudity it's a choice not a problem, life is good when you dare to be bare.

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie



fair. Michael said he had a wonderful time, even without me there.

We have not gone camping yet. I have had a couple of little adventures. Daddy took me to that place. YES, That Place. This was actually a pleasant experience this time. Michael took me in for a pedicure. He also wanted to ask Dr Cook a few questions. Daddy wanted him to cut my claws shorter than normal. He said the back ones are getting a little curly or something like that. Also, my wing feathers have grown out. He said I'm flying too well for his comfort. Can you believe it? I was actually nice to Dr Cook. I sat on his hand real nice, for a while. I was real nice while he worked on me. And, I let him hold me again after my "flight test". I did NOT bite, or run away. Is it possible we are becoming friends?

Well making friends is an adventure. Remember how scared, or just plain nervous you were at your first club meeting. There were all these new faces. All these crazy people want to get close to us. Some even want to hold us. And while we superior beings can tell who deserves the privilege of holding us, meeting so many new friends at one time is a little overwhelming. But! There is always that one person, be they feathered, or not, that we know instantly will be a friend for life. And this always leads to future adventures we can look back upon with a smile. Think about the things we do with friends. We talk, we laugh, we cry together, and friends get us into trouble sometimes. Of course, they are always the instigator. None of us ever do bad things on our own. I feel like all of you are my friends. From the first time we met I felt at home. I knew we were all one big happy family. I always feel welcome when we are together. So thank you, I love you all. Now think about how different our life is after meeting each other. We have new friends. This

gives us others, both feathered, and non-feathered, to spend time with. And since meeting y'all, I am totally different. I'm so much happier. Since daddy socialized me, I now like being around others. Yes, before meeting all of you, I was a mean little thing. Michael told me, and mommy, he is much happier since meeting all of you. Going to the meeting is the highlight of his month. He tells everyone what interesting people, and our pet humans, we are.

It is another beautiful Saturday morning. Now that my wings are trimmed, I can be outside, without my cage, sitting with daddy, of course. The sun is warm. The soft breeze feels good. And all the outside critters are happy, and getting along. All the other birds are having their morning meal in peace. Have you ever noticed those outside birds don't talk? I've heard that crows can learn to talk. Have you humans ever tried to teach a finch, or other small bird, to talk? Well we parrots, with our infinite intelligence, do talk. Have you ever noticed that outside birds, except Doves, never walk? They hop. We Parrots, again with our infinite wisdom, save energy by walking. Well actually, most of us Strut Our Stuff. Remember that old song? "She told me to, WALK THIS WAY, TALK THIS WAY. WALK THIS WAY, TALK THIS WAY, JUST GIMME A KISS, LIKE THIS. "WOW that describes us parrots! We certainly are Full of Ourselves. And we want everyone to know it.

Well, I'm sending this the day before our July meeting. I'll let you what adventures I have before our next gathering. Michael has gathered a few travel guides. Let's see what he gets me into. Well, my little, though superior, brain is full of things to talk about. However, I will save these for when we get together at the next meeting, or future columns.



so does it make sense to you now? You know both gray just different shades, oh forget it and read on please. They came into the home to find two very healthy and happy birds but the owners could no longer spend the time with them that they considered adequate, Ranger Steve Forced himself to foster the two birds, (yeah right it's a gray are you nuts) so off to Ranger Steve's they went. Once the birds were vet checked and ready they were both adopted. Oh happy Day. Now do you get the title Shades of gray Cockatiel, African Gray both shades of gray. Well I spelled it out for you I can't do much more but the Rangers do for there are still birds to rescue and tirelessly (well almost) they do their duty for they are **THE RESCUE RANGERS!!!!**

Stay glued to your mailbox for the next exciting installment 2 Lovebirds, 2 Parakeets and a Nanday in Albion.



Avast ye Mates

## CAPTAINS

### CORNER



Greetings and salutations I hope you are having a great summer I

surely am and I have found a great source of amusement right under my beak. It seems that my pet human has a sort of dilemma; whenever he talks on the phone they always think he is either a woman or his wife. I can hardly hold it in when he makes or receives a phone call and gets either Tammy or Mam. The look on his face is pure exasperation sometimes even after he tells them his name they still don't get it. They will say that is a funny name for a woman and the bird room explodes with hoot and hollers and cackles. When he leaves Buttons does the perfect impersonation of him on the phone then Georgie will say yes mam sending us all into spasms of laughter. I know it is not nice to make fun of someone but he is such an easy target, in fact his video entitled That Crazy Voice has gone viral on Birdtube. After all as Pookie, Sparky, J.B., Sunny, Mr. Finnegan and Rambo have put out over Squawker (like Twitter but louder) our pet humans are the greatest source of entertainment. Now they can't help it that they are how they are it must come from the breeding. Anyway if my pet human reads



this before I can get to Pookie its curtains for both me and the article. So here goes and bombs away hope you get this Pookie!!!!

**Cheers  
Captain Morgan**

## **TALES OF BUSTER BROWN**

As you know, we are always so proud when our feathered buddies talk to us. They let us know what they want at times with words. For example, Buster will say “I want to come out”, “grapes”, “let’s watch TV” or “I want to go outside”. And nothing will warm the cockles of your heart (whatever cockles are) than for them to say “I love you”. But words are not the only things that he will imitate. Some sounds are funny, some are irritating, and some are just plain embarrassing. Buster will imitate the smoke alarm with its shrill squeal. Now that is very irritating. He imitates the sound of the microwave perfectly. This makes get up and go to the microwave. Well, I am at least getting more exercise. Sometimes I think someone is opening a coke can, but it is just Buster having fun. It is amazing how he can hit perfect pitch. He imitates my horrible laugh which makes me laugh and him laugh even louder and longer. This can go on for fifteen minutes at a time with me

laughing so hard that there are tears in my eyes. He imitates my coughs and sneezes a couple times a day. When this behavior first started, I took him to the vet. She just chuckled. Now for the embarrassing sounds. He imitates burps and the toilet flushing. He especially likes to do this when company is visiting. Buster often repeats things he hears on TV. He will say “He went to Jared’s” He sings the Who song from CSI (off-key that is). He still whistles the tune from Boston Legal, even though that series ended years ago. The last thing, Buster has an excellent ambulance sound. Every time I hear an ambulance, I say a quick prayer for the person, a habit I have had for years. Well, I guess that Buster has succeeded in making me pray a little more. Oh well, I love him anyway.

Linda Brown

## **NOT SO COZY HUT!!!!**



This is a tale of warning for all bird owners, now there are frayed toys that we can see and replace but what about we can’t see? Well this involves a Cozy Hut, Snuggle hut or Sleepy Hut, I have seen all the different names and I am sure there are more but you know what they are. In

case you don't they are the fabric triangular bird hideaways that many people hang in their birds cages and the birds seem to love them. Many of them are made with two pieces of fabric on each side to make them soft and comfy. Here lies the problem. While you can see the outside just fine the inside remains hidden and if you do not inspect them on a regular basis tragedy can strike. This just happened not so long ago to a couple who lost their Sun Conure because he got tangled up on the frayed inner layer of its Cozy hut. He strangled himself because he panicked and continued to wrap the threads around his neck. They sadly found him tangled on the inside of the hut and were too late. So if you use these please check them inside and out to prevent a tragedy like this!

Dave



**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

DANIELLE MILLER	9/1
SREEJA MURALIDHARAN	9/6
SUE WILHELM	9/8
WILL SOPHA	9/10
MALINA PASEK	9/12
MATT COPIJA	9/17

MOE MANAA	9/18
SHERYL COPIJA	9/23
JEFF COTE	9/23
CELESTE MARKEY	9/25
MARY PERVA	9/27
JENNIFER NICHOLSON-FARIS	9/29

**CLUB T-SHIRTS**



Good news! Tracy Hilka who is Bella

Embroidery is now going to make our club shirts. The price for t-shirts, including our logo embroidered on it, is \$10.00 for sm. to Xl and \$12.50 for 2xl to 5xl. These are Gildan brand #8000 50/50 t-shirts, there are lots of colors.

What you do is go to her website.

[www.sportswearcollection.com/bellaemb](http://www.sportswearcollection.com/bellaemb)

Then type Gildan in the search box (this will put you on the Gildan page).

Look down the page and find Gildan DryBlend 50/50 T-shirts #8000

Click on the icon and this will open the page with all the colors and sizes.

Choose your size and color(s) and add it to your Cart.

On the cart page there is a place for comments when you place your order, in this box tell Tracy you would like your shirt embroidered with the

Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Logo

When she receives your order she will send you a PayPal® invoice

In a short time you will receive your new club shirt in the mail.

If you don't have internet access or a PayPal® account you can contact me, Steve Plafchan and we'll figure out a solution to get you a shirt.

She has many items available (hats, tote bags, etc.) that she can put our logo on if you wish. She has given us a catalog full of things you can order, all the prices are retail and she receives a wholesale price so you will have to talk to her about pricing. (IE prices will be less than what's listed in the catalog.)

your assistance, donations and participation in our monthly raffles.

Thank You Thank You Thank You



## UP COMING EVENTS

As of  
August 15<sup>th</sup> 2013

### Ypsilanti Heritage Festival

Aug 16<sup>th</sup> Noon to 8PM

Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 10AM to 8 PM

Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 11 AM to 6PM

More details will be posted  
as they become available

\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*



### RESCUE UPDATE

There were a number of adoptions this past month; Lulu an Eclectus, two Sun

Conures and two Cockatiels went to new forever homes All of these birds went to their new homes with a good health report from the vet, and were on a pellet food diet.

Our thanks again go out to all of our club members for making the rescue the success it is. We couldn't do it without

Sept 7<sup>th</sup> Society of Canary and Finch  
Breeders  
Bird Fair

\$3.00 Adm. 9AM to 4 PM

Livonia Elks Lodge #2246

31117 Plymouth Rd.

Livonia, MI 48150

\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Highland Hey Days

Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 Fall Family Festival

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Sunday



Livingston Road in Downtown  
Highland  
We will be arriving around 9:00 AM on  
Saturday to set-up and Tearing down on  
Sunday after the fair. (Show times are just  
estimates from last year.)

\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Sept 17<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Independence Village  
Of  
Brighton Way  
7700 Nemco Way  
Brighton, MI 48116-9442  
12:00PM Set-up  
1:00PM Show

Sept 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Stonegate Health  
2525 Demille Blvd.  
Lapeer, MI 48446  
12:00PM Set-up  
1:00PM Show

Sept 21<sup>st</sup> Educational Show  
White Lake Township Library  
7527 Highland Rd.  
White Lake, MI 48383  
10:00 am Set-up  
11:00 am Show

Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> Senior Show  
American House East II

18760 13 Mile Rd.  
Roseville, MI 48066  
12:00PM Set-up  
1:00PM Show

Oct 5<sup>th</sup> Motor City Bird Breeders  
Bird Fair  
\$4.00 Adm. 10AM to 4:30PM  
Madison Place  
876 Horace Brown Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> Guardians for Animals  
Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> Pet Expo  
More information will be following  
Our monthly meeting will have to be moved  
to the 20<sup>th</sup> of October for this event.

**PET EXPO**

Nov.15<sup>th</sup> 11am to 8pm  
Nov.16<sup>th</sup> 10am to 8pm  
Nov.17<sup>th</sup> 11am to 5pm

**Suburban Collection Showplace**  
46100 Grand River  
Novi, MI 48374  
**We will be setting up on Thursday**  
**Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> most likely around 9:00 am.**

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## How to manage your bird's excessive territoriality

By Liz Wilson, CVT



In the wild, a parrot's territorial instinct is extremely strong, because he must protect his territory from invasion. You may also see

this territoriality in action in your companion bird. When your bird drives everyone away from his turf, he is exhibiting excessive territoriality, and if unchecked, this behavior can become a

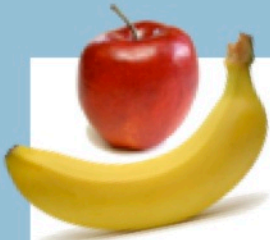
serious problem that threatens your bird's future as a companion animal. Some bird enthusiasts feel parrots should be allowed to be territorial around their cages, but most behavior consultants disagree. It is also not fair to assume that your bird must be at your every beck and call, coming out for interaction whenever it suits your schedule. Just as children are allowed privacy in their own rooms, parrots should have the right to decline human interaction. Experienced caretakers recognize this through careful observation of psittacine body language, and they respect a bird's privacy by not approaching during these times.

Excessively territorial companion parrots act like they outrank everyone in their flocks. To resolve this misunderstanding, you should establish nonaggressive controls by patterning your bird to respond to simple commands like "up" and "down." Daily training sessions should happen in a neutral room, or in an area the bird doesn't consider his own, and on a neutral perch such as the back of a chair. Once the bird is responding to commands, you can start moving the training perch slowly out of the neutral area and into the area of your bird's cage. By moving a few inches at a time and then working again on the commands, you can make certain your bird responds correctly. Then, praise him for his good behavior. Once in view of your bird's cage, training may become more difficult, but with patience and consistency, most birds will respond again to the commands. When the cage is finally reached, you can step the bird into it with the "down" command, then immediately pick it up with the "up" command. Repeating this several times will teach your parrot that the commands also work in and around his cage. Repeat this process on the cage top and on any other of your bird's favorite hangouts. Once your bird is trained, and he wants out of his

cage, he must step onto the hand when you say “up.” Do not just open the cage door and let him come out on his own, or he might conclude that he is in control again. Continue to use the commands every day, to remind him that the rules are still in force. By following these easy training techniques and handling your parrot in a firm, loving, unaggressive and consistent manner, you can keep control of your headstrong bundle of feathers and maintain a mutually loving relationship.

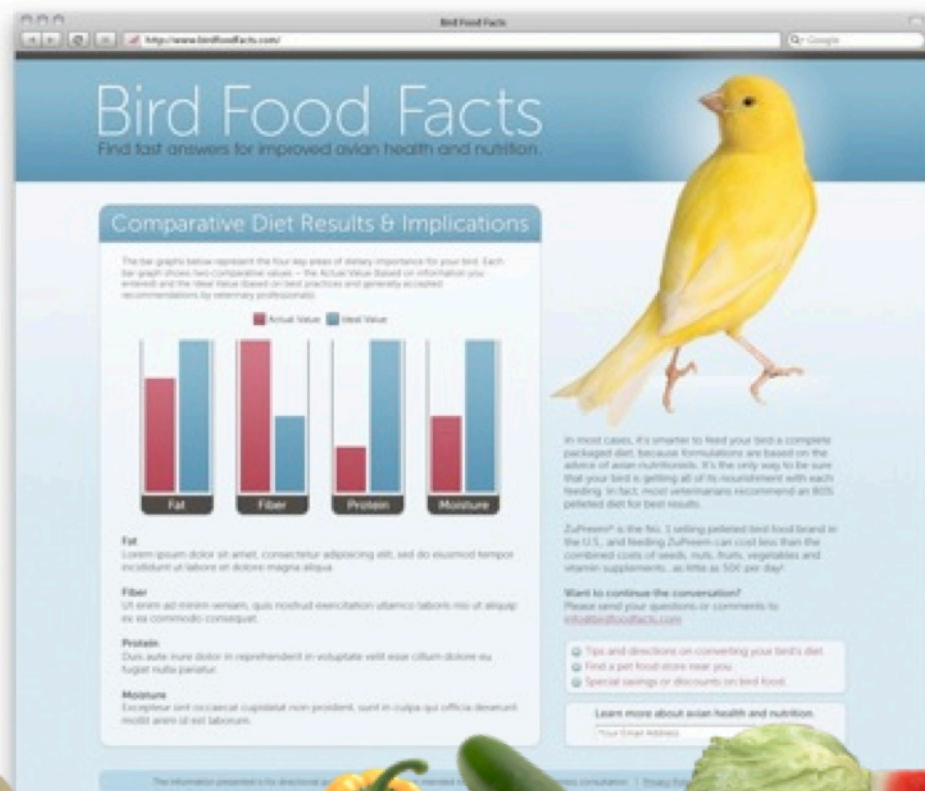
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This newsletter  
Devoted to pet bird  
Enthusiasts is  
Published monthly by  
The Rainbow Feathers  
Bird club of Michigan  
A 501(c) (3) club

September 2013  
Volume 16 Issue 9

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING

#### DATES :

SEPT. – 22<sup>nd</sup> Fourth Sunday

OCT. 20<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday

NOV. Pet Expo- No Meeting

#### RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

Who we are and what we are about

- Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
- Support scholarships for avian vet students
- Yearly Bird Fair
- Yearly Pet Expo
- Club Library for members
- Grooming available
- Avian rescue/relocation programs
- Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
- Monthly newsletter
- Periodic Service projects
- Field Trips
- Educational Programs upon request
- Make-it-take-it workshops

And more.....

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

#### Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary – Beverly Sholar 313-492-5700

Email – [\\_basholar@yahoo.com](mailto:_basholar@yahoo.com)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Board of Trustees –

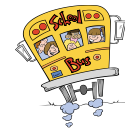
Mary Perva 517-618-7008

Stan Johnson 248-746-0520

Email- [mailto:mmisterjay@comcast.net](mailto:mailto:mmisterjay@comcast.net)

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

E-mail [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)



**ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.**

Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

## EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Plafchan is now doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please send all items to him at 11021 Henry Ruff, Livonia, MI 48150 or email them to him at [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Those wishing to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.



## CLUB WELFARE

Please contact Jean Jedrzejek at 734-427-3187 or e-mail her at [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net) if you know of any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one.



### Monthly snack list

We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is twofold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and desserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!

## BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

- ❖ Ask owner's permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
- ❖ Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
- ❖ When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.

From the prez:

Can you believe it two absolutely beautiful weekends in a row, how great is that! The Heritage Festival was a roaring success the weather was picture perfect and we made a record amount in donations. Thanks to all who helped out and made it a total success. If you were there you know how crazy





things got and how incredibly busy we were all weekend. It was so much fun and everyone loved us including our neighbors on all sides and we loved the Gelato Truck so it was a win-win situation all around. Oh yeah we made \$1013.85 in donations so good job everyone. Now on to the picnic the day once again was perfect and I couldn't have asked for a better company and better food. We all ate then we ate again and then we ate again just enjoying the day it was great. Time marches on and soon the Highland Hey Days in September will be upon us as well as a pet expo in Madison Heights, and the Family Pet Expo at the Suburban Collection Showplace in November. Along with the various programs it will be very busy. I never worry because I know that because of the members of this club that every event will be a complete success and the public will get to see us shine. That is because that is what we do best and believe me the people notice and are drawn to our booths at the events we do, Disney has nothing on us as far as happiest place on earth goes. Maybe they could get a few pointers, what do you think? Any way keep posted for more upcoming events and we hope to see you there as always remember **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!!!!**

Until Next Time,  
Your Prez,  
Dave



## Voice of the Veep

Thank You to everybody that assisted us at the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival last month. Special thanks have to be expressed to Tom and Ken with their assistance setting up Friday morning. Saying Thank You to the Greenwood's doesn't truly do justice to how helpful they were all weekend; I wouldn't have survived with my sanity intact without all of them. Faith was the photographer for souvenir pictures, Jessica was my handler for JB and Sparky, Mark was bringing in customers by wearing the sandwich board, Joe and Pat picked up any slack when someone needed a break. There is no intention to ignore Susan and Charles; Beverly and Ken; Tom and Marie all of them were there all three of the long days and their help was appreciated.

I would not have been able to survive the weekend if it hadn't been for Faith and Jessica. All I had to be concerned with was printing pictures. In all the years and events we have done souvenir photos we have never done so many. Never have I used over one-hundred-fifty photo folders in the past. This year We used up the two-hundred folders I had by the end of Saturday and on Sunday I had to give out photos without folders.

The weekend prior to the Heritage Festival was the Pet Fest, a two day event in Ann Arbor. We also have a number of events that will take place before you

receive this newsletter but haven't occurred yes as I'm writing this. There are four senior shows, a bird fair at the Elks Lodge in Livonia, an educational show at the White lake Library and the Highland Hey Days in downtown Highland Michigan. Most of these events will have occurred by the time this newsletter reaches you.

This brings me to the next item: I need more help! A collating crew is going to be needed at this meeting to assemble packets of club information. I will be bringing all the printed materials, staplers and empty boxes so we can assemble five-hundred packets of information.

Your Veep  
Steve

## Ramblings from Rambo



Well Uncle Steve wants me to shorten up my column. Can you believe that! So here we go. Speaking of going, both of the fairs were awesome; the Pet Fest, and Heritage Days. I was there EVERY DAY. I never met so many people before. There were so many people who wanted to hold us. There were so many stories from bird lovers. And there were many, many people that wanted a picture of us. We did let

them be in the picture to hold us up. And so many of our people gave me treats. They think this will bribe me into letting them hold me. I did let Charles hold me, sort of. And, needless to say there were some strange people at these places. I had a sign next to my perch. It told people to stay back, I Bite. This sign then told all about me; my name, age, species, where I'm from, and that stuff.

I was much more adventurous during these outings. I rode on daddy's shoulder, while we took long walks around the parks. Hey, the other night I let him take me out in the front yard. We went to the street and visited a friend of his. He said I will have to wear my leash, while walking the neighborhood. There are too many dogs, and cats, and squirrels. We even have some chickens by my house, really. And we live in town. Who would have ever thought I would be doing this with him. I still will not let anyone else hold me. I was nice to all the other birds, at these outings.

By the last day, we were all worn out. Dave was ready to fall over. Of course, Uncle Steve was as energetic, and talkative as ever.

The only thing happening at home I that Daddy went away for a few days. He went on vacation with Miss Beverly, and her family. Daddy said he saw all these African animals; lions, and tigers, water buffaloes, oh my. So we were not at the annual picnic. I was good for Mommy. But, one day I was

alone. She went on an all-day golf adventure.

The only other thing that happened around here was this. Daddy made me take a bath; a real bath, not my usual splashing in my dish. I hate getting wet. He said I stink. He also said this will help with my itchy skin. That was a traumatic adventure for both of us. I do look better, and smell better.

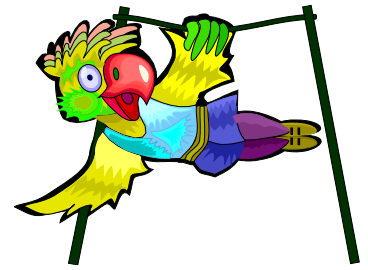
What else has happened around here? Several of our people said they like my big play stand. So, they want daddy to make one for them. With each one he is finding a better design. He finished one, and is working on the others.

I guess that does that for this month. So this month's column was shorter. Of course, the fairs were so much fun. I could go on and on. I could tell you about the crazy people, the food – it was awesome, and how excited everyone was to have their picture taken with us. I could tell a hundred stories about these 5 days. But I'll end this month's column by saying this. If you haven't been to one of our events, please come join us. You will have lots of fun. And tell you human They Will also Have Fun. So, remember, Have Fun, Be Good, and Remember Macaws Rule.

Rambo

## PET EXPO

Here is tentative Pet Expo information; the hours are being transferred from last year's Expo:  
**Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 11am - 8pm**  
**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 8pm**  
**Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 11am-6pm**



The Suburban Showcase has taken back the operation of the pet expo this year. So we are not sure what the policy is going to be on how many free vendor badges will be allotted to us. The club will be getting parking passes for you if you have signed up to work. If you are scheduled to work and have to pay an admission to enter or park your car keep your receipts and the club will refund your admission and parking fees. **YOU MUST HAVE YOUR RECEIPTS!** Entrance to the expo as a club member means you plan on working at least three hours at our booth. If you intend to shop and look around plan on arriving early or staying over after your scheduled work times please.

We do know that no birds will be allowed through the front door; **if your bird is going to attend we must get you a pass to enter in the rear doors.**

If you signed up to work and haven't heard any details feel free to call Tammy 734-422-5981 or Steve 734-513-0030 for last minute information

**For those of you who want to look around at the Expo, you can come early or stay after your scheduled time. The schedule will be as follows; Set-up is Thursday 9am-6pm, we will be arriving at 9am to set up. Friday's show schedule 11am – Noon, Noon-3pm, 3pm-6pm, 6pm-**

8pm, Saturday's schedule is 10am - noon  
 noon-3pm, 3pm-6pm and 6pm to 8pm.  
 Sunday's schedule is 11am-1pm, 1-3pm  
 and 3-6pm, and after it closes we will be  
 needing help to clear out our space.

Tammy

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SPECIAL BREEDER PRICING



**Out and About with Pookie**

Last month I was ranting about the myopic thinking of prospective human companions when it comes to adopting those of us that lead alternative lifestyles. The adoption issue is more than just our lifestyle choices the major issue is some sort of stigma about adopting and I don't understand this. We (meaning our club) have been at many pet fairs and outdoor festivals this summer with two purposes in mind.

First is to demonstrate the benefit of adoption and how wonderful it is to take in a companion parrot to your home and give it a second chance. The second is to help our club's rescue by soliciting donations that will aid us in veterinary costs as well as costs involved with housing, care and feeding of the rescued flock. We have been very successful in raising funds by being the sweet and cuddly birds that we are. Our willingness to pose with the public for pictures and hop up on hands and shoulders has made us (the feathered members) objects of desire that everyone wants to adopt. Our failure is in changing the preconceived notion that the only way you can have a parrot bond with you is to raise it from a baby to bond with you. Even after people are told that all of us were

rescued and are now in second, third or even fourth homes the normal retort is; “Well you were just lucky.” Then comes the line that is the most irritating; “everyone knows that baby birds are the best way to ensure a parrot is sweet.”

At one festival our club recently attended there were over fifteen feathered members present and every one of us could have been adopted on the spot more than once. Yet after three days of wooing the crowd and praising the virtues of adoption we were unable to find one single home for a needy parrot. This is a sad fact and I just don’t understand how humans have arrived at this incorrect notion.

Maybe it’s because some humans think of parrots as disposable pets or they simply don’t understand what wonderful companions we parrots are. Believe me when I say; if you’re willing to put forth the effort in rescuing and adopting a homeless parrot the joy you can receive will be tenfold. To ever body I plead; consider adopting a homeless parrot you just might be surprised and find a companion for life. If you can’t adopt you can support your local rescue, believe me they need your help.

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie



## Bits from Baby

Howdy all my rainbow feathered friends, this your roving reporter Baby with the latest and greatest club news.

August had two multi day events that had great weather and all that attended had a lot of fun, Thanks for all the help team. We also had one senior show miles from home in Grand Ledge. I slept on the way back home so the ride seemed short.

Our club picnic was great as usual but without any games this year, but we still had a lot of fun. Members were coming and going so we did not get a count of either the feathered or non-feathered members.

Hang on to your hats and feathers everyone because here comes September with two events and six programs to do.

Oh yes and don’t forget the 22<sup>nd</sup> is our club meeting.

God bless, till I see you all at the meeting,

Your friend Baby,



## RESCUE UPDATE



The adoption side of our rescue was about average this month. There were four adoptions; Two African Grays, Casey and Crystal and two Cockatiels. They all went to their new

homes with cages, toys, and food thanks to the generosity of you, our club members.

The rescue side has been very active also. I can't divulge what birds are in the rescue right now, however I will say if you are interested in adopting a larger bird contact a member of the board to find out what is available we just might have that special bird you've been waiting for.



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

CHUCK JAMIESON	OCT. 1
TAYNA O'CONNOR	OCT. 1
KEVIN BOLTON	OCT. 10
NADA JURISICH-FONTANA	OCT.11
ISABEL FONTANA	OCT. 11
JEFFERY PASEK	OCT. 12
MARC WILLIAMS	OCT. 13
BRIGETTE FELIX	OCT. 15
JOSEPH GREENWOOD	OCT.17
STEVE PLAFCHAN	OCT. 17
JAN HARTZ	OCT. 21
OLIVIA	OCT. 23
BARRY SCHOENFELNER	OCT. 24
CAMILLE JOHNSON	OCT. 26
FAITH GREENWOOD	OCT.30
SHARON SCHOENFELNER	OCT. 31
CAROL STAMM	OCT. 31



Avast ye Mates



## CAPTAINS CORNER

Well the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival was a squawking success and as always we were the hit of the whole festival. It seems that my public speaking (some would call screaming but they don't speak Macaw) was drawing them in. Plus Sparky, J.B., Winnie, Boogie, Mr. Finnegan, Princess, Lucy, Sidney, the three Cockatiels, (their names escape me) Phoenix, and that lady African Gray (brain farted her name too) and of course yours truly the Captain worked their tail feathers off pleasing the often times crushing crowd. One woman even called me the Brad Pitt of the parrot world that shows her good taste. Yes everything was great but one thing and it took all I could do not to give this guy a good thrashing, now really do I look like the Fruit Loops bird? I mean my beak is not longer than my body and besides that that is a Toucan not a Macaw. He was not the only one who did it a couple of others called me a Toucan too. I have nothing against them they are spectacular birds but we look nothing alike. The worst insult is when Sparky and J.B. were called of all things (uuuggghh)

Pigeons. Also that really dumb question, which one of these is parrots? reared its ugly face one more time. There were some bright spots when a couple of six year olds actually knew that I was a Macaw and all the birds there were Parrots. Other than that a good time was has by all except those of us who are too young for the beer tent you must be 21 and I am only 18, oh well in a few years maybe. A good time no it was more like a party and we were the guest of honor. I guess you could really say I was with my peeps at the Heritage Festival, literally. Ok and some really cool pet humans as well!!!

Cheers  
Captain Morgan



Wow it is hard to believe that it is September already the kids are back to school and the seasons are changing very quickly. With that brings those fall holidays that we love Halloween and Thanksgiving. Now we may love them but many of our birds do not simply because of all the strange things going on. Halloween with its costumes can downright send a bird into fit of terror worthy of the best scary movie and then there are the other hazards the decorations. Lit candles, fake spider webs, and many other things that ooze, smoke or mist can be dangerous to our feathered kids. Plus the biggie the candy we give out to the trick or treaters. Chocolate is so poisonous

for all pets and the darker it is the more toxic it is. Also the wrappers can pose a hazard as well so keep them away from all pets. Now let us move on to Thanksgiving. First if you are hosting a big dinner the extra commotion can really stress out a bird if they are not used to it. Then there are those hot pans, dishes and pots that look inviting to a bird to come a check out. Also there are in some houses decorations that look pretty tempting to a bird but can really hurt them especially lit candles with their flames and hot wax. So it is important we keep our birds safe during these fall holidays and get ready for the two winter ones.



There have been many, to be nice I will call them honest mistakes, but you will see them as what they really are. I'll just leave it at that. Here are some of the things that have been put on paper that will make you laugh and shake your head in disbelief.

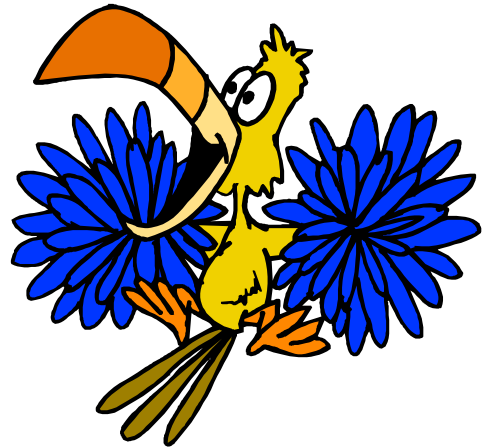
- 1) One person was looking for a Cockotool. Is that a bird that looks more like a Swiss Army Knife?
- 2) A Macall. Is that something you can do with your Mac Computer?
- 3) Maybe you would like a Macow. Is that the cows that supply beef for McDonalds?

- 4) Or a Latino Cockatiel is more your liking. Do they come from south of the border?
- 5) Could anybody find me a Sunned Connor? I won't even go there!
- 6) Hey, what about a Peed Cockatiel? EEEWWW!!!
- 7) What about a White Capped Penious, anybody, it got awful quiet out there.
- 8) Could you imagine a Molecan Cockatoo? That image is just wrong!
- 9) Since voting is around the corner let's find an Elected Parrot. He's got my vote.
- 10) How about an Electric Parrot, absolutely shocking!
- 11) Sir I am still looking for your Red Butted Parakeet?
- 12) No I don't have a Princess of Whales Parakeet, will any other royalty do?
- 13) You want a cannery that sings, sounds more like a job for a real estate agent.
- 14) Finally, you say you are looking for an Amazine Parrot in my book I think they all are amazing!!!

Yes these are some of the things that have actually made it on paper and I'll bet there will be a whole lot more to come.

Remember it is our job to educate them to

the proper names of these parrots. Just don't let them see you laugh, OK.



## Upcoming Events

Sept 17<sup>th</sup>                      Senior Show  
 Independence Village  
 Of  
 Brighton Way  
 7700 Nemco Way  
 Brighton, MI 48116-9442  
 12:00PM Set-up  
 1:00PM Show

Sept 20<sup>th</sup>                      Senior Show  
 Stonegate Health  
 2525 Demille Blvd.  
 Lapeer, MI 48446  
 12:00PM Set-up  
 1:00PM Show

Sept 21<sup>st</sup>                      Educational Show  
 White Lake Township Library  
 7527 Highland Rd.  
 White Lake, MI 48383  
 10:00 am Set-up  
 11:00 am Show



Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> Senior Show  
American House East II  
18760 13 Mile Rd.  
Roseville, MI 48066  
12:00PM Set-up  
1:00PM Show

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> Guardians for Animals  
Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> Pet Expo  
Madison Place  
876 Horace Brown Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
Sat 10:00 AM to 5:00PM  
Sun 11:00 AM to 4:00PM

Oct 5<sup>th</sup> Motor City Bird Breeders  
Bird Fair  
\$4.00 Adm. 10AM to 4:30PM  
Madison Place  
876 Horace Brown Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071

**Our monthly meeting will have to be moved to the 20<sup>th</sup> of October for this event.**

\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Show  
Glacier Hills Senior Living  
1200 Earhart Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
9:00AM Set-up  
10:00AM Show

**PET EXPO**

Nov.15<sup>th</sup> 11am to 8pm  
Nov.16<sup>th</sup> 10am to 8pm  
Nov.17<sup>th</sup> 11am to 5pm

**Suburban Collection Showplace**

46100 Grand River  
Novi, MI 48374

**We will be setting up on Thursday Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> most likely around 9:00 am. Please remember no birds will be allowed through the front door.**

Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> Buddy Program  
Program for Handicapped Children  
Grace Church  
220 Bogie Lake Rd.  
White Lake, MI 48383  
11:30 AM set-up  
12:00 Noon Show

**\*\*\*\*\*2014\*\*\*\*\***

**Yes we truly have booked a show for 2014**

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Show  
Oakmont Manor  
41255 Pond View Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
1:00PM Set-up  
2:00PM Show

April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014 Library Educational Show  
Novi Public Library  
45255 W. 10 Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48375  
6:00 PM set-up  
7:00PM Show

**\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\***  
**\*\***

There has been some confusion from the loyal readers of Bird Droppings as to which events they are allowed to bring their

own bird(s) to. As a point of reference and for future information please we want everyone to be aware that when you see the line:

\*\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*\*

following or “Educational Show” preceding an event listing it means we are attending the event in an official capacity representing our club and rescue. At these events all club members are welcomed to bring their feathered companions with them. Also please note that our space is very limited at some of these events but don’t let this stop you from joining us, we will find a way for you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy the fun.

\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*  
\*\*

***\*CANCELATION CONFUSION \****

A few of our scheduled events have been canceled at the last minute by the group staging the event. If you do not regularly participate in the shows but plan on attending please call Steve (734-513-0030) to make sure the event is still a go.



# RESCUE RANGERS



Here we go again on another adventure only this would take the Rangers

to Albion Michigan. Where is Albion you say? Well, it is where Albion College is at everybody knows that. Anyway they were off to pick up a gaggle of small birds two Lovebirds, two Parakeets (Budgies for you purist) and an, oh so quiet (quiet? Surely you jest) Nanday Conure. They drove what seemed to them like forever until they reached Albion. How did they know it was Albion they saw the college of course but they would drive to the outskirts of Albion far past the city and college so no frat parties for them! Well it seemed that the house did not exist the house number was non-existent and so they turned around several times (big surprise there huh?) until Ranger Dave decided to take a chance. So with Ranger Steve riding shotgun they went to a house that kind of fit the description they were given but it was minus a house number. As they approached their moods were lightened by the sound of Lovebirds. Surely this must be the place, oh what ever will we do if it is not they exclaimed. They would not have to find out it was indeed where they were supposed to be. So they entered and saw all the birds gathered up in their cages in the room they had entered and all appeared to be in beautiful shape. Catching them to go into the carriers was easy until they got to the Nanday Conure he had other plans and going into a carrier was not on his schedule for this day so after running around inside his cage then outside of his cage (thank goodness for clipped wings) eventually he succumbed to their wishes. So with birds and cages safely packed away the headed home driving once again through Albion (where the college is) getting on the freeway and finally home. Eventually all found good loving homes and everyone was happy but the Rangers had no time to lollygag they had other birds to rescue and adventures to go on

for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Stay tuned for a lesson in birdie biology in the next adventure titled I Only Started with Four!



## **Establishing Control with Nurturing Guidance**

**By Liz Wilson, CVT**

Nurturing guidance is a training concept developed by Sally Blanchard, and it is critical to enjoying cohabitation with a parrot. Without it, a parrot is often unclear as to his position within his human flock. Genetically an exotic bird is a wild animal, whether domestic-bred or not, and he understands little about cohabiting with people. With patient teaching and guidance, he can learn how to be a good companion. Nurturing guidance is established by teaching and using basic commands. By setting these parameters, a parrot will have a better understanding of what is expected of it.

The first command is “Up,” which means step onto my hand. The second command is “Down,” which means step off my hand onto an inanimate object (like a perch). This is not a directional command. Onto the hand is up, off the hand is down. Teaching these commands requires a neutral room and a neutral perch. Ideally, the bird should have no experience with either the location or perch. This minimizes

distractions and maximizes learning. Lessons should be short and upbeat, held once or twice a day for 10-15 minutes. Make sure you are relaxed before you begin, and smile and be patient. Under NO circumstance is aggression acceptable. Training a parrot is like teaching nursery school. You must keep your student involved or it won't learn. Sessions should be fun, not boring or frightening. Simply put, behavior modification uses positive reinforcement for good behaviors and no reinforcement for bad behaviors. Instead, misbehaviors are ignored. If the parrot follows a command, smile and praise the bird. If it doesn't, ignore the transgression and repeat the command, pushing gently at his legs with the side of your hand. If you don't expect him to behave, he won't. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCE is aggression allowed with parrots. If approached with respect and love, parrots learn quickly and happily. Aggression begets aggression and is absolutely unacceptable. Experienced parrot behavior consultants agree that allowing a parrot to shoulder is asking for trouble. In this position, you cannot see a bird's body language, so you don't know if he's getting frightened or upset. You also can't anticipate and prevent a bite—and you DON'T want to be bitten in the face. If you follow these guidelines and use these commands clearly and consistently, life with your parrot should improve immensely.

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This newsletter  
Devoted to pet bird  
Enthusiasts is  
Published monthly by  
The Rainbow Feathers  
Bird club of Michigan  
A 501(c) (3) club

October 2013  
Volume 16 Issue 10

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING

#### DATES :

OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup> – THIRD SUNDAY

NOVEMBER- PET EXPO NO MEETING

DECEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup> - FOURTH SUNDAY

#### RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

##### Who we are and what we are about

- Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
- Support scholarships for avian vet students
- Yearly Bird Fair
- Club Library for members
- Grooming available
- Avian rescue/relocation programs
- Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
- Monthly newsletter
- Periodic Service projects
- Field Trips
- Educational Programs upon request
- Make-it-take-it workshops
- Non-perishable food contributions to local soup kitchens

And more.....

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

#### Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary – Beverly Sholar 313-492-5700

Email – [basholar@yahoo.com](mailto:basholar@yahoo.com)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Board of Trustees –

Stan Johnson 248-746-0520

Email- <mailto:mmisterjay@comcast.net>

Mary Perva – 734-207-0489

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email – [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)



**ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.**

Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

## EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Plafchan is now doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please send all items to him at 11021 Henry Ruff, Livonia, MI 48150 or email them to him at [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Those wishing to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.



## CLUB WELFARE

Please contact Jean Jedrzejek at 734-427-3187 or e-mail her at [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net) if you know of any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one.



### Monthly snack list

We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is twofold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and desserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!

## BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

- ❖ Ask owner's permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
- ❖ Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
- ❖ When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.

### !!!!!!! NEWSLETTER DELIVERY CHANGES!!!!!!!

Due to our increased costs in printing and delivery of our monthly newsletters we are looking to institute some changes. What we want to do is start sending our monthly newsletter to all of our members via their e-mail. The newsletter will be in a Microsoft Word<sup>®</sup> format and will be an attachment to an e-mail; it will also be accessible on our web site. From either of



these sources you would be able to print the newsletter or just read it. This change will enable our rescue to save about \$300.00 per month in printing and mailing costs.

Our target for effecting this change is going to be March or April in 2014: however there is a problem, more than half of our members do not have a valid e-mail address on file with Tammy. We need to have everybody to send Tammy or Steve your name and e-mail address so we can update our list of e-mail address prior to instituting this change. Send your e-mail address to [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net) and [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com) please remember to keep it updated if you change it.

We know there are some members that don't have a computer or don't have an e-mail address; we will continue to send all of you your monthly newsletter via snail mail (US Postal Service) but we need to know who you are. Please make an effort to notify Tammy that you have to have postal delivery of your monthly newsletter. If you don't tell us you have to have postal delivery of the newsletter we will assume e-mail is ok.

Veterinary offices and other special recipients will also continue to receive a printed copy of our monthly newsletter.

**DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE!**

From the prez:



Boy is this year flying by here it is October already and fall is in full swing, it seems like a few days ago we were at the Heritage Festival. The other thing that tells me that we are leaving the summer far behind is all the catalogs we are getting with three holidays in them, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas nothing like rushing the seasons as if they didn't go by fast enough. Soon we will be at the Guardians for Animals Pet Expo for two days and then the Novi Pet Expo at Suburban Collection Showplace for three days so we all better get some rest. Now at the Guardians for Animals Pet expo we only have a 10 by 10 foot space so it will not be as large and seeing that this our first time doing it we'll see how it goes. Whatever happens we will have fun and be a huge hit. Well the Highland Hey Days did not go as planned the morning of the set up it was 37 degrees and much too cold to have the birds out so Steve and I were bird less and that felt weird but thanks to Susan and Charles Dixon we did get some birds when the weather warmed up. Sunday was even worse with it being chilly so that Captain, Sparky and J.B. spent all their time in the car staying warm. Then it started to rain off and on till one vendor frantically began to tear down about an hour and a half before the end telling me that a whole lot of rain was coming. So we did the same just as the rain began but before the downpours arrived. Maybe next year the weather will cooperate but it was set up much nicer and

was bigger. Still we had fun and were still a hit. So we invite everyone who would like to join us at one of these events to do so you will have fun and that's what it is all about having fun because it radiates out to the public in attendance. We always put on a good show at these events and everyone and I do mean everyone has a blast. That is because we have the best, most dedicated, fun loving and slightly crazy (but in a good way) members in the world. I've said it before and I will say it again **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!**

Until Next Time  
Your Prez Dave



### **Voice of the Veep**

This is usually the newsletter where I recap how many shows, festivals and educational programs we've participated in over the past spring and summer. Unfortunately I was not able to come up with an exact count. This past year has been our club's most active by far so the best I was to do was form an estimate. My estimations are thirty-two, one day, educational shows at schools, libraries and senior centers. There were six multi-day pet fairs for a total of fourteen days. This gave me an estimate of about forty-six days spent by members of our club between April and October that were spent supporting our rescue. To everybody that

helped out at an event I say THANK YOU! To our newer members and others I say you should consider joining us at an event, they are a lot of fun. Even if you don't want to bring your companion bird or are hesitant to do so don't be concerned. There are always things we need assistance with.

The Meeting this month has been moved up to the third Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup> to allow Dave and I to participate in the Guardians for Animals pet expo in Madison Hts. We have a very small space at this event so we have to be cautious about inviting everyone to join us at this show. We are also encountering some confusion with the people that are staging this event and aren't sure if the event on or has been canceled as of this printing. Please call me (Steve) at 734-513-0030 to ensure there is room for you at our space or if the event is still being staged. Sadly at this moment we don't know and haven't been able to contact anybody to find out. Hopefully we will know more definitively at the club meeting.

Always check the Upcoming Events tab on our website for the latest information on shows and events that are scheduled. Everyone; we need valid e-mail addresses for all of our members because we hope to switch to e-mail delivery of our newsletter by March or April of next year. The newsletter will be in a Microsoft Word<sup>®</sup> format. Anyone who does not have an e-mail or cannot open Word documents or wants to have snail mail delivery (US postal

service) you have to let me or Tammy know. Switching to e-mail delivery will save our rescue/club about \$300.00 per month or about \$3500.00 per year. This money will be much better served funding vet and food bills for the rescue.

Your Veep  
Steve



### **Out and About with Pookie**

Sometimes you just can't win for trying to do the right thing. I've been staying home the past few months from all the shows and events that our club and feathered members have been participating in. While I've been home assisting with the acclamation of the newly rescued Grays at our home; especially with the ones that are leading an alternative life style. What has Steve and the other companion humans in our club been doing: claiming all the glory, taking all the credit, pushing all the feathered members out of the way and under the cage papers. This will not stand! After receiving all the reports from my feathered compatriots about the shenanigans our human companions have been engaging in I am not only angry but determined to stop it.

Our club has been the top venue at the fairs and festivals and our humans are claiming all the credit and taking all the rewards. They had absolutely nothing to do

with our success and popularity! Not one single visitor to our booth wanted a souvenir picture with Dave, Steve or any of the human club members sitting on their laps. They wanted pictures with us; JB, Sparky, Captain Morgan, Finnegan, Phoenix, Boogie, Cracker, Rambo, Chrissie, Whinny, Princess, Angel and Lucy; in short the feathered members. Well, this travesty is coming to an end right now. My absence from the shows and festivals is over. My duties with the rescued birds have been completed and I will be returning to straighten out our wayward human companions.

To Dave and Steve I am issuing a fair warning your lives of boasting and bragging about the wonderful accomplishments at the fairs is over! No longer will either of you be able claim credit for our cuteness. Be prepared to once again start hearing things like; she's so cute, it's just a baby, I just want to snuggle with her fuzzy little butt and can I take her picture. Steve believe me when I tell you nobody but nobody, wants to snuggle with your fuzzy butt! JB and Captain Morgan tried to carry the torch while I was away but simply succumbed to pressures beyond their control. JB has never been able to say no to a French fry and Capt. Morgan can't turn his beak away from a cashew but I will be correcting these problems. Nobody, not one single person, wants a souvenir photo with you Steve so be prepared to be

humbled! The days of boasting and bragging for Steve and Dave are numbered!

Until next month  
Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie



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SPECIAL BREEDER PRICING



Yes once again it is time again for those wonderful yearly gems that come so freely at events. So as long as people keep talking I will keep on writing.

Yes we have done several outdoor events and those crazy comments just keep on a commin' here are some more gems.

Ypsilanti Heritage Festival

1) WOW! But where are the parrots they said there would be parrots here.

2) These birds are so nice, are they drugged?

3) How do you get the colors so vibrant? Do you paint them? How do you do it?

4) My Blue and Gold is twice HIS size yours is small.

5) Are those fancy pigeons? (Referring to Sparky and J.B.)

6) LOOK!!! It's the Fruit Loops bird, it's a Toucan I have never seen one up close. (Didn't have the heart to tell them that Captain was really a Macaw)

### Pet Fest

- 1) What do you do with them when you're done here? Where do they go? Back to the zoo?
- 2) These birds belong back in Africa where they can live free! (Funny some came from South America)
- 3) Can you de-squawk the big parrots they would be too noisy for me otherwise.
- 4) How often do they have to get their shots?
- 5) A Pigeon with a red tail? (Sorry Sparky)
- 6) What do you do with them when they die? (Too creepy for me)

Yes that is some more of the crazy things we are asked or really off the wall statements we hear and with two more events I am sure there will be more. Oh boy I can hardly wait!!!!



# RESCUE RANGERS



It seems that every now and then a call comes in that would test the patience of a saint and this happened to be one of them. They got the call about rescuing SOME Zebra Finches and they were asked if they took them seeing they were not Parrots. They told her yes we rescue all cage birds no matter how big, no matter how small we rescue them all (hey great slogan they need cards printed up) sorry got side tracked. Anyway, they thought some meant five or six but she then told them Eighteen, are you kidding, seriously eighteen of them the Rangers exclaimed and then she added "I don't know how this happened in eight months". Well you see you had two boys and two girls' two nests and since Zebra Finches breed like mice, the birds did, Oh yeah there might be kids reading we'll skip the birds and the bees especially the birds for now. So they went off to wrangle finches. When they arrived they found two flight cages full of darting, beeping Zebra Finches and they seemed to know something was up and they didn't like it. Catching the first one was like shooting fish in a barrel a swoop of the net bagged the two or three to put into the carriers. You could even catch them with your bare hands but it soon got harder as their numbers went down in the cages and up in the carriers. The last few

seemed to know that they would be caught and did everything a two inch bird could do to not let that happen. Darting behind stuff in their cages under food and water dishes and just taking advantage of their speed to elude capture. They didn't realize they would tire before the Rangers and soon all were caught and on their way to another home. This home had a giant finch flight that covered one wall and soon all eighteen of them were once free again flying and beeping happily. Happy endings for all but soon another call would go out and they once again would be on the road rescuing those poor birdies for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!!!**

Stay tuned for our next fantastic adventure Fuzzy but Loveable in Brighton!



## Odds and ends

- The gifts for our Christmas exchange should have a \$5 maximum. Now's when the bargains are if you want to start looking around for items.
- Start asking businesses for donations for our raffle tables for the bird fair. They do not need to be bird related.

## RESCUE UPDATE



The adoption side of the rescue saw activity last month. We found new forever homes for two Cockatiels, two Lovebirds and a Moluccan Cockatoo named Peaches. He went to his new home with cage, toys and food.

Again we want to extend our "THANKS" to you, our club members for your generous donations and participation in our monthly raffles. It is your generosity that makes our rescue the success that it is. Thank You!



## TALES OF BUSTER BROWN

This is a tale of Buster Brown the Destroyer!! One Friday afternoon as I was enjoying a great novel, I heard a loud pop and then my electricity in my kitchen went out. I checked the breakers and was able to get one side of the kitchen to work after I pushed the reset button. However, the other side did not turn on. So I ran a cord to the other side for the refrigerator. At that point I had to call for an electrician. The next day the electrician came and had to replace the socket with the reset button. He could not determine what had caused

the issue. So I paid him \$116 and sent him on his way. What had been worrying me was that Buster had gone to his cage the day before and said three times "I'm so sorry". So that day I went into the freezer and a bag of peas dripped on my head. At that point, I knew that the refrigerator had died. A friend of the family came by and said that the wires had been chewed. Of course, he thought that it was a mouse, but I knew it was Buster the Destroyer. I knew it was him because I have swept up some cardboard recently that was on the back of the refrigerator. I was totally amazed that he had not shocked himself to death. I was glad that I had a refrigerator in the garage and that my Mother was able to take some of my frozen foods. The end result was that it cost be about \$1,100 dollars for this issue. But I am grateful that Buster is still alive!! I only can hope that he goes back to chewing on rugs, baseboards and my shirts. Oh well, I love him anyway.

Linda Brown



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS: to

NANCY KEENAN	NOV. 1
RIDGE BOUGENOU	NOV. 2
SHERYL DEGREGORIO	NOV. 9
MARY ANN KENNE	NOV. 9
BOB GRUSZCZYNSKI	NOV. 12
RICHARD DEKEYSER	NOV. 13
JONI GRUSZCZYNSKI	NOV. 13
PATRICK MCCARTHY	NOV. 13
JOE LYNCH	NOV. 13
JACOB PASEK	NOV. 17
JANET ONDERCHANIN	NOV. 19
FRED GORLITZ	NOV. 20
ARIANA PASEK	NOV. 25
DORTHY MUELLER	NOV. 28
KATHY WAGNER	NOV. 30



## Bits from Baby

Howdy all my Rainbow Feathered Friends, this is your very tired roving reporter Baby with the latest and greatest club news.





It's fun watching that old squirrel play out there. I just remembered. The last time I was outside, that old squirrel came up on the deck real close to Daddy, and me. Then he jumped up on our chair. He started chewing and tearing up the cushion. He really chewed and dug at it. When I squawked at him, he just looked up at me. Then he went back to work on it. After getting a big mouth full, he jumped down, and ran up the tree. I'm glad our people have a nice warm house for us. We really have things good.

The other day, I was watching TV with Michael. There was this show on the parrots of Nicaragua. There were these flocks of big green parrots flying off to find food and water. They landed along this place where all the other animals were drinking. Some of these parrots were nibbling at the mud. I guess they get their vitamins, and minerals that way. Daddy has been busy working on some play stands. He asked mommy to buy him some Big tools. She didn't say 'Yes', but she didn't say 'No' either. So along with taking me places, he is staying busy. I'm all for him making things for you, and things for me. He is working on several projects right now.

He told me that now he has a little money to buy the materials to start these. He might have one, or two completed, by time you get this issue of Bird Droppings.

Michael said he skipped going to a concert so he could do this for us. I really

appreciate him doing this. However, he does deserve some play time without me, or mommy. I certainly do keep him occupied. I want to be with him all the time. Of course, I want lots of attention. I let him know that I want food, or water. He has to type with one hand to do this.

Out by my house, or on the play stand, I will call him and say "Hungry, Hungry." I sure do eat a lot. Ah, but in his room, I grab his ear, this is how I tell him. I also grab his ear if I he's on the phone, or has not scratched my head in a while. Well, I'll tell you more next time. As always, Have Fun, Be Good, and remember

Macaws Rule.

Rambo.



## Upcoming Events

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Show  
Oakmont Manor  
41255 Pond View Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
1:00PM Set-up  
2:00PM Show

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> Guardians for Animals  
Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> Pet Expo  
Madison Place  
876 Horace Brown Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
Sat 10:00 AM to 5:00PM  
Sun 11:00 AM to 4:00PM

Our monthly meeting will have to be moved to the 20<sup>th</sup> of October for this event.

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> Senior Educational Show  
Waldenwoods at Twelve Oaks  
27495 Huron Circle  
Novi, MI 48377  
2:00PM Set-up  
3:00PM Show

### **PET EXPO**

Nov.15<sup>th</sup> Noon to 8pm  
Nov.16<sup>th</sup> 10am to 8pm  
Nov.17<sup>th</sup> 11am to 5pm

#### **Suburban Collection Showplace**

46100 Grand River  
Novi, MI 48374

**We will be setting up on Thursday**

**Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> most likely around 9:00 am.**

**Please remember no birds will be allowed through the front door.**

Nov.23<sup>rd</sup> Senior Educational Show  
Sunrise West Bloomfield  
7005 Pontiac Trail  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
Noon set-up  
1:00 PM Show

**\*\*\*\*\*2014\*\*\*\*\***

**Yes we truly have booked a show for 2014**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Library Educational Show  
2014 Novi Public Library  
45255 W. 10 Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48375  
6:00 PM set-up  
7:00PM Show

**\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\***

There has been some confusion from the loyal readers of Bird Droppings as to which events they are allowed to bring their own bird(s) to. As a point of reference and for future information please we want everyone to be aware that when you see the line:

**\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*** following or “Educational Show” preceding an event listing it means we are attending the event in an official capacity representing our club and rescue. At these events all club members are welcomed to bring their feathered companions with them. Also please note that our space is very limited at some of these events but don’t let this stop you from joining us, we will find a way for you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy the fun.

**\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\***

**\*CANCELTION CONFUSION \***



Avast ye Mates



## CAPTAINS CORNER

Well our last outdoor outing was to say the least a bust. It was the Highland Hey Days and I have to say I was a bit miffed at Mother Nature. Stella (only her good friends can use her first name) promised me that the weather would be perfect and even though she was taking the Planetary Cruise (6 planets in 7 days) she made sure all would go smoothly. Well it did not go smoothly at all Saturday the first day of the Hey Days it was 38 degrees on the morning of the set-up and I couldn't even go I would have froze my tail feathers off. The Sunday the second day it was cold then rainy basically miserable and I stayed in my moving accommodations until my other pet human took me home. What a crummy two days that was but at least my pet human cares enough about me to keep me well. So when Stella got back I asked her, what happened? She did some digging and just as I suspected those dirty smelly and very sneaky Ground Hogs messed with her plans for those two days they changed the parameters so we would get frozen out and then had to pack up early because of rain heading our way. I tell you Stella (Mother Nature) was so angry she could have changed them into Naked Mole Rats but she didn't. You see they have their time

on the second of February also known as Ground Hog Day so predict all you want, do or don't see your shadow, it won't matter either way you'll be wrong because you don't mess with Stella, I mean Mother Nature!!!!

Cheers  
Captain Morgan



## Five methods for converting your bird to a healthier diet.

By ZuPreem Staff

*For years, companion birds have been fed a diet comprised primarily of seeds. However, new research shows a diet with a high percentage of seeds does not provide even the minimum nutrient levels your bird requires. Because seeds are not consistent in nutrient levels, many seeds are deficient in calcium and have excess levels of fat. A diet high in seeds may lead to obesity and other nutritionally related diseases. Avian nutritionists recommend a diet like ZuPreem® Avian Maintenance™ should make up at least 85 percent of an adult Bird's meal. If your bird currently eats primarily seeds, you may want to consider switching to a diet that ensures the proper consumption of nutrients and*

*will promote a healthier longer life for your bird.*

### **Which method is best for you and your bird?**

There are many methods for converting your bird to a new diet, and your avian veterinarian can help you decide which method may work best for you and your bird.

#### **1. Interval feeding**

For 20-30 minutes three times a day, offer 50% seeds along with 50% new diet in the same bowl. The bowl should only be 1/4 full using this method.

Remove all uneaten food from the cage after each feeding and check to see how much of the old and the new diet the bird is eating. If the bird is eating some of the new diet, reduce the amount of seed and increase the amount of the new diet at each feeding until you are feeding only the new diet. This method assures your bird will not starve, but should still be hungry enough to begin experimenting with the new food. This process may take several days or several weeks, depending on your bird.

#### **2. Ten-day gradual method**

Over a 10-day period, fill the food dish 1/4 full several times a day maintaining the following proportions of the old and the new diet.

#### **3. Remove seeds until later in the day**

Starting at bedtime, remove all seeds. In the morning, put fresh portions of the new diet in the cup. Leave the new diet in the cage until mid- to late afternoon. Then feed the bird's previous diet for the rest of the day. Repeat this process for several days or until the bird is

consuming the new diet. Then offer only the new diet at all feedings.

#### **4. Back and forth method**

Starting at night, remove all food from the cage. In the morning, put the new diet in the food cup. Let the bird experiment with the new food, perhaps sampling one or two nuggets. Then after an hour, remove the nuggets and feed the old diet. Repeat the process throughout the day—new food for an hour, then the old diet. During the next 4-5 days, repeat the process but lengthen the time the new diet is in the cage, before offering the old diet. During the following week, keep extending the time the new diet is in the food cup, until you eliminate the old diet altogether.

#### **5. Total new diet**

In the wild, birds often do not have options. They eat seeds one season, fruits the next, consuming what is available. Many authorities believe that some birds are able to make an abrupt transition because they recognize the new unfamiliar shapes as food and adapt relatively easily. Great care should be taken to confirm that your bird is eating enough of the new diet to maintain weight.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Old Diet</b>	<b>New Diet</b>
Day 1	90%	10%
Day 2	80%	20%
Day 3	70%	30%
Day 4	60%	40%
Day 5	50%	50%
Day 6	40%	60%
Day 7	30%	70%
Day 8	20%	80%
Day 9	10%	90%
Day 10	00%	100%

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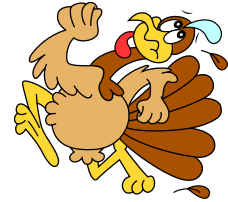
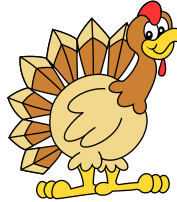
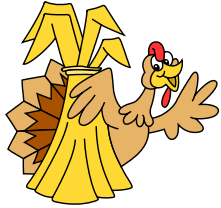
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This newsletter  
Devoted to pet bird  
Enthusiasts is  
published monthly by  
Rainbow Feathers Bird  
Club of Michigan  
A 501(c) (3) club

November 2013  
Volume 16 Issue 11

# Bird Droppings



**UPCOMING MEETING DATES :**  
**NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> – PET EXPO**  
**NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER**  
**DECEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY**  
**JANUARY 26<sup>th</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY**

## RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

### Who we are and what we are about

- Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
- Support scholarships for avian vet students
- Yearly Bird Fair
- Club Library for members
- Grooming available
- Avian rescue/relocation programs
- Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
- Monthly newsletter
- Periodic Service projects
- Field Trips
- Educational Programs upon request
- Make-it-take-it workshops

And more.....

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

### Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary – Beverly Sholar 313-492-5700

Email – [basholar@yahoo.com](mailto:basholar@yahoo.com)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Board of Trustees –

Mary Perva – 517-618-7008

Stan Johnson 248-746-0520

Email – [mmisterjay@comcast.net](mailto:mmisterjay@comcast.net)

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email – [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)



**ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.**



Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

## EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Plafchan is now doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please send all items to him at 11021 Henry Ruff, Livonia, MI 48150 or email them to him at [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Those wishing to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.



## Monthly snack list

We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is twofold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and desserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!



## CLUB WELFARE

Please contact Jean Jedrzejek at 734-427-3187 or e-mail her at [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net) if you know of any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one.

## BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

- ❖ Ask owner's permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
- ❖ Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
- ❖ When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.

## !!!!!!! NEWSLETTER DELIVERY CHANGES!!!!!!!

Due to our increased costs in printing and delivery of our monthly newsletters we are looking to institute some changes. What we want to do is start sending our monthly newsletter to all of our members via their e-mail. The newsletter will be in a Microsoft Word<sup>®</sup> format and will be an attachment to an e-mail; it will also be

accessible on our web site. From either of these sources you would be able to print the newsletter or just read it. This change will enable our rescue to save about \$300.00 per month in printing and mailing costs.

Our target for effecting this change is going to be March or April in 2014: however there is a problem, more than half of our members do not have a valid e-mail address on file with Tammy. We need to have everybody send Tammy or Steve your name and e-mail address so we can update our list of e-mail address prior to instituting this change. Send your e-mail address to [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net) and [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com) please remember to keep it updated if you change it.

We know there are some members that don't have a computer or don't have an e-mail address; we will continue to send all of you your monthly newsletter via snail mail (US Postal Service) but we need to know who you are. Please make an effort to notify Tammy that you have to have postal delivery of your monthly newsletter. If you don't tell us you have to have postal delivery of the newsletter we will assume e-mail is ok.

Veterinary offices and other special recipients will also continue to receive a printed copy of our monthly newsletter.

**DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE!**

From the prez:



It sure has been very busy for our club and it doesn't seem like it is going to let up any time soon. With the programs and events we have been hopping all year and soon it will be time For the Novi Pet Expo and we can use all the help we can get. For those of you who couldn't make the Guardians for Animals Pet Expo you missed a great event. It was well organized and just a lot of fun with the raffle, silent auction and 50/50 drawing and the interaction with the other rescues there made it a wonderful two day event, we are looking forward to next year. I even won not once but twice at the Sunday raffle. It is so very nice to be with a group of like minded people who understand everything you go through because even though you might be involved in different species the stories are still the same and stupid (the only term I can think of that fits) people are everywhere. Not only for getting an animal without doing the research but for having unreal expectations because of something they have heard or read. Many animals end up in rescue situations for literally dumb reasons that baffle and make many involved in rescue want to shake some sense into some people. It is the ones who do the homework and thoroughly research an animal and make the right decision that keep all of us going, fortunately they outnumber the "I want an animal for \_\_\_\_\_ fill in the blank but make sure it makes no

sense or is really stupid. It is great to be around so many kindred spirits and have so much in common despite the different animals we rescue. Also remember there is no meeting in November because of the Novi Pet Expo, we will be there all three days and it is always a blast I can't wait. I would like to take this time to thank the membership for all you do to help us do these events be it supporting the club by way of buying monthly meeting raffle tickets or helping out at the events everything you do helps us so if you think you don't do anything think again you do more than you realize and the club is very grateful for all everyone does. So on to the Novi Pet Expo we go and I know it will be awesome because **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Until Next Time  
Your Prez  
Dave



### Voice of the Veep

My birds are completely out of control; or maybe I should say I have lost all control and my Parrots are in total control. It started last month when I learned a little known fact about my CO (carbon monoxide) detectors.

Being a conscientious companion parrot owner knew that if I ever had a problem with my furnace or gas stove that resulted in a CO leak my parrots would probably succumb to the CO gas first. This

being known I installed CO detectors in my home; one in the family room and one in the basement. Last month both of my CO detectors started beeping at 3:00 am in the morning. Sheer panic ensued at this time. Awakened from a deep sleep by the glaringly loud **BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP** I jumped out of bed opened the doors and turned on fans to get fresh air into my home. Erstwhile checking my flock to make sure they were all ok; while they were all looking back at me like I was some sort of a nut job. Feeling sure I had sufficient air to dissipate any of the dangerous, odorless and colorless CO gas I removed one of the offending CO detectors from the wall to shut it off. At this time I read a label embossed on the back of the unit that simply stated said; "This unit has a seven year effective life span at which time it will emit a continuous intermittent beep to notify you that it is time to replace the unit." It did not tell me that this would occur at 3:00am and scare the beejeebers out of me. So I removed both detectors, took out their batteries, closed the doors and went back to bed feeling everything was fine. Oh how wrong I was!

No sooner did I get back in bed when the beeping started again? Jumping up I ran into the kitchen to check the CO detectors they were still on the counter with the batteries removed. The beeping was coming from Pookie, Sparky, JB, Calvin and Tyler; and there was no way to remove

their batteries. Ever since I have had to endure the beeping of CO detectors from my entire flock at all hours of the day and night. When I eat and don't share BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, when I go to bed BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, when I try to ignore them BEEP, BEEP, BEEP. I can't get any peace and quiet anymore, I've lost all control.

Remember there isn't a meeting at the church this month because of the Pet Expo: come and join us in Novi, I promise you will have a great time.

See you at the Pet Expo  
Your Veep  
Steve



**Here is Pet Expo information; the hours are different from last year's Expo:**  
**Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, Noon - 8pm**  
**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 8pm**  
**Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 11am-5pm**

The Suburban Showcase has taken back the operation of the pet expo this year. So we are not sure what the policy is going to be on how many free vendor badges will be allotted to us. The club will be getting parking passes for you if you have signed up to work. If you are scheduled to work and have to pay an admission to enter or park

your car keep your receipts and the club will refund your admission and parking fees. **YOU MUST HAVE YOUR RECEIPTS!** Entrance to the expo as a club member means you plan on working at least three hours at our booth. If you intend to shop and look around plan on arriving early or staying over after your scheduled work times please.

We do know that no birds will be allowed through the front door; **if your bird is going to attend we must get you a pass to enter in the rear doors.**

If you signed up to work and haven't heard any details feel free to call Tammy 734-422-5981 or Steve 734-513-0030 for last minute information

**For those of you who want to look around at the Expo, you can come early or stay after your scheduled time. The schedule will be as follows; Set-up is Thursday 9am-6pm, we will be arriving at 9am to set up. Friday's show schedule Noon-3pm, 3pm-6pm, 6pm-8pm, Saturday's schedule is 10am - noon noon-3pm, 3pm-6pm and 6pm to 8pm. Sunday's schedule is 11am-1pm, 1-3pm and 3-5pm, and after it closes we will need help to clear out our space.**

**Tammy**

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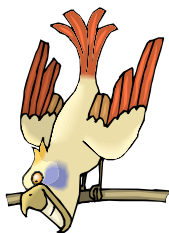
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SPECIAL BREEDER PRICING



Odds and ends

- The gifts for our Christmas exchange should have a \$5 maximum. Now's when the bargains are if you want to start looking around for items.
- Start asking businesses for donations for our raffle tables for the bird fair. They do not need to be bird related.



**Upcoming Events**

**PET EXPO**

Nov.15 <sup>th</sup>	Noon to 8pm
Nov.16 <sup>th</sup>	10am to 8pm
Nov.17 <sup>th</sup>	11am to 5pm

**Suburban Collection Showplace**

46100 Grand River  
Novi, MI 48374

**We will be setting up on Thursday  
Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> most likely around 9:00 am.  
Please remember no birds will be allowed  
through the front door.**

Nov.23<sup>rd</sup> Senior Educational Show  
Sunrise West Bloomfield  
7005 Pontiac Trail  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
Noon set-up  
1:00 PM Show

**\*\*\*\*\*2014\*\*\*\*\***

**Yes we truly have booked a show for 2014**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Library Educational Show  
2014 Novi Public Library  
45255 W. 10 Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48375  
6:00 PM set-up  
7:00PM Show

**\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\***

**\*\***

There has been some confusion from the loyal readers of Bird Droppings as to which events they are allowed to bring their own bird(s) to. As a point of reference and for future information please we want everyone to be aware that when you see the line:

**\*\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*\***

following or “Educational Show” preceding an event listing it means we are attending the event in an official capacity representing our club and rescue. At these events all club members are welcomed to bring their feathered companions with them. Also please note that our space is very limited at some of these events but don’t let this stop you from joining us, we will find a way for you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy the fun.

**\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\***

**\*\***

***\*CANCELTION CONFUSION \****

A few of our scheduled events have been canceled at the last minute by the group staging the event. If you do not regularly participate in the shows but plan

on attending please call Steve (734-513-0030) to make sure the event is still a go.



**BEWARE of  
NEGHIBORS  
BEARING  
GIFTS**

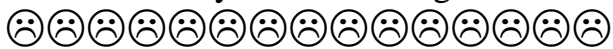
It was an innocent gift presented with the best of intentions and received by me with graciousness and gratitude. They were grown over the summer months in the garden of my neighbor’s co-worker. The tender seedlings were lovingly fertilized and cultivated all summer to produce a bounty of fruits which appeared on my back porch one sunny afternoon. I opened the mysterious bag to be awarded with the surprise of crimson, orange and green along with a note suggesting that my birds might enjoy snacking on these freshly grown fruits. Would my birds enjoy habanera peppers? Of course they would, although a habanera is quite hot to a mere human a parrot is immune to their toxic effect and can snack on them like we snack on apples.

The next morning I handed out the succulent treats to the entire flock. Sparky nibbled with a bit of trepidation, Mo tossed her pepper onto the floor then retrieved it and dined. JB, Tyler and Pookie had absolutely no misgivings about eating the peppers they devoured theirs and begged for more when they finished. A request to which I responded immediately by rewarding them with additional peppers. By now their morning snack was over and we all had things to do that day I had errands to

run and my flock had paper to shred and toys to chew.

The remainder of our day would be best described as uneventful until about seven in the evening. I was stretched out upon the couch to watch television when Pookie let me know she wanted to join me to get some scratches and snuggle, so I brought her over to join me. She nuzzled next to my cheek and started giving me birdie kisses as she always does when she snuggles. I, of course, kissed her back.

My lips started to tingle, and then they started to burn. I rubbed my lips and they started burning worse so I rubbed them some more. Inadvertently while doing this I rubbed my nose which started my nose burning, and then I sneezed. The sneezing caused my nose to start burning worse which caused me to sneeze more; then, my eyes started to water. So what is a natural reaction when your eyes are watering? You rub them....BIG MISTAKE; BIG, BIG MISTAKE! My eyes now started to burn and swell shut. It was just about now that it hit me, the peppers, Pookie was still toxic from the peppers. Over eight hours had gone past since the birds had their treats and the toxins were still upon them! Poor Pookie, she just wanted to snuggle and I was pushing her away and she didn't know why. There I was washing the peppers off of my face and hands with burning lips, a burning nose, eyes swollen shut, sneezing and crying. Poor little Pookie just couldn't understand why she was being shunned.



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

CHERYL BRATCHER	DEC. 1
LINDA WAGNER	DEC. 3
PATRICK BONSE	DEC. 13
ROBERT GONZALEZ	DEC. 13
LINNEA NICHOLSON-FARIS	DEC.13
ANNETTE BALLARD	DEC. 14
JOCELYN TOTZ	DEC. 16
ANITA WISNIEWSKI	DEC. 16
ELIZABETH GLADSON	DEC. 17
MELODY STAMM	DEC. 18
ROBERT OSENKOWSKI	DEC. 28

## I'm Sick.....



I'm sick can I give this to my birds? That is one of the most asked questions I get at this time of year hands down. Now as we all know rule of thumb is that if you are sick you stay home and avoid groups of people so you do not spread what you have or pick up a secondary infection. This is just common sense but what about

your birds; can you give them your cold or flu? In most cases we can not share illnesses with our feathered kids, (except for a couple the main one being Psittacosis or Parrot Fever in humans). This however doesn't mean that you shouldn't be more careful around your birds. When ever I get sick I limit face time with my birds which means I do not do my normal snuggling and cuddling just as a safety measure and I constantly wash my hands. I just do not like to take chances with my bird's health and I know we are all that way. Another thing that has everybody concerned is the Swine Flu they have had turkeys that have contracted this virus but exotics have not. So remember if you do get sick stay home and take care of yourself even if it means missing church or even a bird club meeting. We want you healthy, happy and your birds too.

Dave

## **Out and About with Pookie**



Stimulation and activity are critical to the health and wellbeing of your companion human. We all know this to be true, however providing new challenges to

stimulate and motivate you're human becomes increasingly difficult as time progresses. Steve had become immune to our tactics or has developed methods to thwart our best efforts for his health. No matter how often Tyler rang the cow bell, how determined JB and Calvin were to steal his salty snacks nor how determined Sparky and I were to prevent him from lying upon the sofa; we failed. Steve had fallen back into his unhealthy and slovenly ways.

We were becoming very concerned and it didn't seem to matter what we tried we were failing; then out of the blue the answer to our problem presented itself to us. It was a steady and quite high pitched irritating beep from multiple sources in the middle of the night. There was beeping in our room and a beeping from down in the basement. What was more amazing was Steve's reaction to the beeps. He ran around the house, opened doors, ran downstairs then back up, into the front room, into the back bedroom, opened windows and turned on fans. He then picked up each and every one of us and gave us a snuggle and a scratch. All of this occurred in the middle of the night when he rarely emerges from his bed. JB was the first to notice his reaction to the beeps and brought this to mine and Sparky's attention. After Steve closed the doors and windows and went back to bed we tested our theory.

JB started with the first chorus of beeps, I followed with muffled beeps like they were in the basement. Tyler, Sparky



and Calvin then chimed into the medley. It was spot on and perfect Steve was up in a flash running into the kitchen where he picked up the detectors he had removed and looked at them quizzically. We knew what he must have been thinking; “the batteries are out how can they go off?”

We’ve been making Steve stay off the couch and keeping him on the move for the last month. Whenever he leaves the room or sits down to snack we all start beeping and the only time we stop is when he shares with us; the rest of the flock. I know he appreciates the concern we have for his wellbeing giving him the opportunity to forage and be active.

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie



Comedian Larry White from the Blue Collar Comedy Tour coined this phrase and boy is it true. There are

times you just have to give up and just shake your head in disbelief here are some of those times.

At the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival one woman chastised me for what can only be described as a bang your head against the

wall reason. She was incensed that we would let that man (Steve) try to pass Pigeons off as parrots. She was not sure how he got the ones tail that red but everyone knows that those are Pigeons. I tried to explain they that they were African Gray Parrots and she came back at me with the statement, “Parrots are not gray those are obviously Pigeons and the fact that you would try to pass them off as Parrots is just wrong, you should realize that people are not as stupid as you might think”. Well what I was thinking I could not say out loud and unfortunately you are that stupid. She continued that she knows what Pigeons are and cannot be fooled. This was one fight that I had already lost so I let this one go but it does make good stuff for the news letter.

At the Motor City Bird Fair a man approached and wanted to buy Sparky, J.B. and Captain Morgan. He was quite insistent that he wanted to buy them and would not take no for an answer. After several minutes and going from Steve to me he walked away but I did notice he took one of our business cards. A few days later he called saying that he needed directions to our houses because Steve told him he could buy all three birds and needed to come get them. I told him that Steve would never do that and he did not have enough money in the world to buy any of those birds. The kicker is that we put out signs that state that these birds are just examples of birds that come into the rescue and are not up for adoption. I guess with some reading is not a fundamental as it should be for some people.

My all-time favorite happened at the Pet Expo last year when the woman walked up to our booth and with an air of authority states, “Parrots are green and while these birds are beautiful there is only one parrot here” (Mr. Finnegan). Well Ruby the female Solomon Island Eclectus was right next to Mr. Finnegan who is; yeah you guessed it, the male. Sometimes it just makes your head spin and with to Pet Expos to go I will be keeping my ears open for more of these little gems that make these events so very interesting!



I won't tell you what he did, GA-RO-O-S.  
\*{author's note to editor: this is supposed to be a drawn out gross.}  
J B got hurt. Someone dropped him, and he broke a feather. This was one of those blood feathers. He started bleeding. What a mess. Luckily, Uncle Steve, JB's daddy, was right there to fix him up. After this Uncle Steve made him rest up for a little bit.

Daddy and I were watching TV the other day. I saw something that got me thinking. Parrots are Hook bills, right? So there must be these HUGE parrots up in Alaska. Yes, eagles have hooked bills. So, they must be parrots. Well, they do. As big and strong as these birds are, we are still superior to them. WE CAN TALK, and WE CAN TRAIN OUR PEOPLE.

Speaking of training our people, I have Michael trained to hold me while we eat breakfast. Yes, I get my Corn Chex. He gets whatever I allow him to have. Another thing I'm training Michael to do is this. He is left handed. I'm teaching him to type with his Right hand only. He's getting pretty good at this. I insist on sitting on his left forearm. And, he better stop every few minutes, to scratch my head. I can still get to his ear.

Last time I told you I'm having some beak problems. Well, after doing research, and asking Dr Cook, we found my problem. I just need some extra vitamins. Hey, I hate vegies. But, I do Love some fruit. Blue berries are yummy. Oh and they are SO messy. They stain everything dark blue.

## Rambling with Rambo



Well, I only went to two events this month, or was it three. The most memorable was the Motor City show.

This one was interesting. A little bit of everything happened at this one. We had the usual bird show spectators. There were some really nice people. They wanted to adopt one of our rescued friends. There were some unusual people and there were some downright weird people. And, I do mean really WEIRD. This guy was so weird,

Speaking of Dr Cook, they have a new vet there. She is really nice. She gave me a cracker; a real cracker, not one of those doggie biscuits. Michael told me the doggie biscuits are actually not too bad, but not good. For real, he has eaten them, when I would not. I told you, he does some weird stuff.

Here is a closing thought. A Mr. Train, or Twine, or something like that. He must have been thinking about our people. He said, "She was not quite what you would call refined. She was not quite what you would call unrefined. She was the kind of person that keeps a Parrot."

There are more stories next time.

Always be good, have fun and remember  
Macaws Rule!!!  
Rambo

the 3<sup>rd</sup> at Waltonwoods at Twelve Oaks in Novi, the 6<sup>th</sup> at Regency at Grand Blanc in Grand Blanc, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at Sunrise in West Bloomfield.

Now this one I really look forward to all year, The Pet Expo in Novi. This is a three day PPAARRTTY from the 15<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>. It's hard to tell you guys how much fun we all have there. I get to go to this event and sit on Duke's shoulder all most all day and meet all kinds of people and kids; not to mention all our club members both feather and non-feather that come to help. We all have a great time and cannot wait till the next one!!

October's meeting was smaller than normal with only fifty people of which forty-six were members and four guests, one guest joined our flock. There were six Macaws, five African Grays, five Cockatoos, and eleven other types of parrots. I and the three regular African Grays were not at the meeting this month but will be at the next one in December.

God bless, till I see you all at the Pet Expo,

Your friend Baby

>< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< ><

## Bits from Baby



Howdy all my Rainbow Feathered Friends, this is Baby your roving reporter with the latest news from the last club meeting. I was not at the meeting in October but as usual

Duke told me all that happen there so I could tell everyone about it.

Well so far November is a little calmer then last month with only two education programs before the Pet Expo and we have one after. November starts off on





# RESCUE RANGERS



Fuzzy Wuzzy *was* a bear and I do mean was in this case he was a bird and he happened to live in Brighton Michigan. Well this fuzzy also happened to be (if you guessed Cockatoo you guessed wrong) he was a Congo African Gray. Now he adhered to the life style Pookie so readily adheres to and that is life is without a care when you dare to go bare! Yes and bare he was just a ball of fuzzy down feathers and a few tail feathers but he had a great personality. He was outgoing and loved life lived in an alternative way he did not know that he was fuzzy and he did not care. To the Rangers he was beautiful in his own way but to his owners he was not so pretty. They were at their wits end trying to get him to stop and they tried every type of remedy on the market to no avail. So they felt their only alternative was to give him up. Well Pookie and I think bald is truly beautiful and cannot see what the fuss is all about. Some don't look at it that way fortunately the Rangers do and they took this little bundle of fuzz and were off with him. It was not that long until someone came to visit him and fell head over heels in love with this dynamic ball of fuzz and scooped him up and took him home. They would soon report back that he was a great talker and as

the Rangers suspected the life of the party. Everyone that met him fell in love with him and he had a home that loved him for the great bird he was not for what he looked like. Hooray, another happy ending but the next call had already come in and another bird needed the assistance of our heroes and they would gladly oblige for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!!!**

Don't touch that dial (OK you have a remote and don't know what a dial is just don't touch it) and stay tuned for our next exciting adventure A Bunch of Mixed –Up Lovebirds in Commerce!



Avast ye Mates



## CAPTAINS CORNER

I have noticed that there is a chill in the air and the trees are starting to put on a

spectacular show for all of us to enjoy. I tell you what those crazy humans always put on a show and sometimes it can be very, not spectacular but downright bizarre. I mean look at the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival for starters if we changed our plumage like those wacky humans changed their appearance we would all be crazy. First of all if we show that much skin we are called pluckers but what do you call a human? There was a lot of skin showing and some of them needed to be covered up. We parrots do not need to go and put all sorts of hardware on our bodies. Some of these people better watch out during a thunder storm they very well could attract lightening. Also what is up with these things they call tattoos I have seen some that a five year old with a Sharpie could have done better. Then there were those that were covered literally from head to toe, OUCH!! This phenomenon is seen at all the events we do while the majority of the humans look no different than our pet humans some really push the envelope into the realm of the weird. I almost forgot to mention the rainbow colors of hair we have seen and all I can say about that is wow!! Purple, blue, lemon yellow, neon green, clown red and all combinations of the latter have paraded past us. It makes all of us parrots laugh because if they think it looks good they seriously need a mirror. The only ones who can pull off the rainbow look are well, we parrots. We did it first and we do it best there's no doubt about it. Still humans have to "Express themselves" and while that's OK do they have to do it in public. Of

course it is great entertainment for all my parrot friends and myself. So with one event behind us and one more public event to go I am sure we will have a lot to laugh at. So Pookie will have her camera ready to post pictures on Birdbook and Squawker (Like Twitter but louder) and then all our parrot friends will have a good laugh!

Cheers  
Captain Morgan



### Rescue Update

Our rescue continues to be active. We have adopted to new homes: a Green Wing Macaw, Clancy; a Moluccan Cockatoo, Peaches; and two Sulfur Crested Cockatoos, Lucky and Freddy.

All these birds went to their new homes with cages, food and toys. Thanks to all of you, our generous club members. It is because of your support and participation in our monthly club raffles and your donations that help to make our rescue the success that it is. Keep up the great work, our thanks to all of you.

# A bird's droppings can be an early indicator of illness



By Don J. Harris, DVM

Because birds are excellent at hiding illness, your bird's dropping may be one of the early indicators that your bird is sick. There are three components to your bird's

droppings—the stool component, the urine component and the uric acid component. Changes in any of the three components should be taken seriously and may indicate your bird is sick. Any abnormal signs demand the immediate attention of your veterinarian.

## 1. The stool component

The stool comes from the gastrointestinal tract and is usually a greenish rope or blob. This portion of the bird's droppings is highly influenced by the bird's diet and can radically vary with a change in diet. For example, beets can make the stools red, while blueberries may turn the stools purple. Colorants in some commercial diets can also change the color of the stools. Color changes are often irrelevant, but bird owners should be concerned if the stools become black or have a strong or unusual odor.

## 2. The urine component

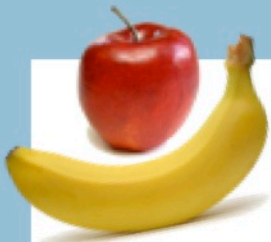
The relatively clear, watery urine portion is produced by your bird's kidneys. The amount of water in your bird's droppings is directly influenced by the water content of the foods your bird eats. Wet stools, however, should become drier with dry foods. Large amounts of water persistently present in the droppings could be a sign of serious disease and you should consult your avian veterinarian.

## 3. The uric acid component

The white/cream colored uric acid portion of your bird's droppings is a very important indicator of health. This part of the droppings should without exception be white or near white in color. Changes to lime green, bright yellow, mustard brown, pale brown and brick red are common signs of very serious illness. Any change from normal should be investigated immediately. Establish a normal benchmark in your bird by observing and keeping a record of the number, volume, color and consistency of your bird's droppings. This can be very helpful later if you notice a change.

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# What are you really feeding your bird? Visit BirdFoodFacts.com to find out.

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BY **MARY KAY PERVA**

**734-207-0489**



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This newsletter  
Is devoted to pet bird  
to enthusiasts is  
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A 501(c) (3) club

December 2013  
Volume 16 Issue 12

# Bird Droppings



UPCOMING MEETING DATES :  
DECEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY  
JANUARY 26<sup>th</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 23<sup>th</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY

## RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

### Who we are and what we are about

- Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
  - Support scholarships for avian vet students
  - Yearly Bird Fair
  - Club Library for members
  - Grooming available
  - Avian rescue/relocation programs
  - Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
  - Monthly newsletter
  - Periodic service projects
  - Field Trips
  - Educational programs upon request
  - Make-it-take-it workshops
- And more.....

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

### Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary – Beverly Sholar 313-492-5700

Email – [basholar@yahoo.com](mailto:basholar@yahoo.com)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Board of Trustees –

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Email – [mmisterjay@comcast.net](mailto:mmisterjay@comcast.net)

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email – [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)

Mary Perva – 734-207-0489



**ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.**

Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

# EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD



Steve Plafchan is now doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please send all items to him at 11021 Henry Ruff, Livonia, MI 48150 or email them to him at [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.) A business membership may be required to run an ad multiple times or for a business.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

## Monthly snack list

We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is twofold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and desserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!



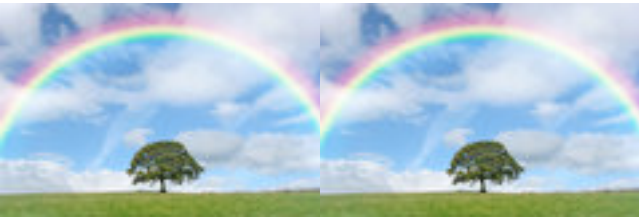
## Crossing The Rainbow Bridge

Sadly we must report the passing of two feathered members of our club. Bobbie a Cockatiel who owned Susan and Charles Dixon crossed last month. Bobbie was a rescued bird that was about seventeen years old and was Charles's best buddy. Rudy a Green Cheek Conure also crossed over due to a traumatic accident. Rudy owned Annette and Patrick Ballard; his crossing was very sudden and unexpected

Fly high Bobbie and Rudy! Fly free! Over the rainbow bridge you will be so very missed but forever remembered. To Bobbie and Rudy we dedicate the following verse.

## BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

- ❖ Ask owner's permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
- ❖ Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
- ❖ When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.



# Rainbow Bridge together!

## The Rainbow Bridge

*Just this side of heaven is a place called  
Rainbow Bridge.*

*When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here,  
that pet goes to  
Rainbow Bridge.*

*There are meadows and hills for all our special friends so they can run  
and play together. There is plenty of food and water and sunshine,  
and our friends are warm and comfortable.*

*All of the animals that have been ill and old are restored to health and  
vigor, those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong  
again, just as we remember in our dreams of days and times gone  
bye. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing;  
They miss someone very special to them who had to be left behind.*

*They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly  
stops and looks into the distance,...*

*The bright eyes are intent; the eager body quivers. suddenly she  
begins to break away from the group, flying over the green grass,  
her wings carrying her faster and faster YOU ~*

*have just been spotted, and when you and your special friend meet,  
you cling together in joyous reunion ~*

*never to be parted again. The sweet sounds of happy tweets play your  
ears; your hands again*

*caress the beloved's head, and you look once more into the trusting  
eyes of your pet,*

*so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart ~*

*Then you cross ~...the*

## !!!!!!! NEWSLETTER DELIVERY CHANGES!!!!!!!

Due to our increased costs in printing and delivery of our monthly newsletters we are looking to institute some changes. What we want to do is start sending our monthly newsletter to all of our members via their e-mail. The newsletter will be in a Microsoft Word® format and will be an attachment to an e-mail; it will also be accessible on our web site. From either of these sources you would be able to print the newsletter or just read it. This change will enable our rescue to save about \$300.00 per month in printing and mailing costs.

Our target for effecting this change is going to be March or April in 2014: however there is a problem, more than half of our members do not have a valid e-mail address on file with Tammy. We need to have everybody send Tammy or Steve your name and e-mail address so we can update our list of e-mail address prior to instituting this change. Send your e-mail address to [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net) and [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com) please remember to keep it updated if you change it.

We know there are some members that don't have a computer or don't have

an e-mail address; we will continue to send all of you your monthly newsletter via snail mail (US Postal Service) but we need to know who you are. Please make an effort to notify Tammy that you have to have postal delivery of your monthly newsletter. If you don't tell us you have to have postal delivery of the newsletter we will assume e-mail is ok.

Veterinary offices and other special recipients will also continue to receive a printed copy of our monthly newsletter.

### DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE!

From the prez:



All I can say is **WOW** and that doesn't even begin to express everything about the pet expo. It was a great experience and an equally great expo. We entered into it with a little apprehension seeing how the person who took it over just last year handed it back over to the Suburban Collection Showplace at the last minute. Well they pulled it together and did a great job. The crowds were the biggest they have had since 2008; the donations reflected that over 500 dollars, but it was the people running it that made it the fantastic event it was. We even got on Fox 2 Morning Show for a **LIVE** interview. Yeah, Steve and I for three minutes on live TV scary thought but it went better than we could have ever hoped for and we made sure Tammy was in the background with Charlie. What made the Novi Pet Expo the success it was came from the club itself. We had more than enough help setting up and tearing

down and to man the booth but it was the way we handled the crowds that impressed the vendors around us. We once again took the title of happiest place on earth away from Disney. Everyone left smiling, laughing and amazed that they got to not only see but get up close and personal with birds they don't even see in zoos. Everyone did a stupendous, great, fantastic and stellar job. We did so well we have already been asked to come back next year and they lowered the price, **YAY!** So thanks to the club and I mean everyone in the club even if you could not be there in person your support through the year helps us do these events; so everyone helps support us in our efforts and that is appreciated more than you can know!! We are now in the Holiday Season and it can be a time of great stress for many but if we truly focus on the true gifts we have around us not just at Christmas but 365 days a year it put things in perspective. Sometimes the greatest gift cannot be wrapped and placed under the tree they come from the heart such as friendship, laughter and the love of family, the true gifts of not only Christmas but the whole year. So I hope this season finds you in that place where you are surrounded by these wonderful gifts and you have a Merry Christmas and a joyous, healthy and prosperous New Year. **YOU GUYS TRULY ROCK!!!!!!!**

Until Next Time  
Your Prez Dave



### Voice of the Veep

It's hard to believe that another year has passed us by.

This past year was without a doubt the most event filled year we have ever had. There were about forty educational / senior shows; four multi day shows that totaled ten days and five single day shows. What I think is most amazing about this is all the help and participation by our members. A good example of this was the Pet Expo last month, we had more help setting up and tearing down than ever before. This doesn't even mention all the members that were at the expo and helped us meet and greet the public. Everyone keep your eyes on the upcoming events for the next year because if our schedule maintains this pace it will probably be busier with more events than last year. If you've never joined us please plan on attending an event during the next year it's a lot of fun and I promise you will have a great time.

Remember this month's meeting is an open house as well as having our Christmas raffle, so please try to bring a dish to share for our pot-luck and a small wrapped gift for the raffle. All the money from the monthly raffles goes back to the rescue to help us cover vet bills and other costs.

Merry Christmas to Everyone  
and a Happy New Year  
Your Veep  
Steve



## Annual elections

The annual elections will be held at our January meeting. We will be voting on a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustee. Any member in good standing is eligible to fill any one of these offices. To help you decide who you think would best fill these offices, the following is a brief guide to their duties:

**PRESIDENT:** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club, see that the bylaws are enforced, call such meetings as are needed, and be responsible for the execution of all motions passed by the members. The President shall also be public relations administrator and liaison between the Club and all other groups.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** The Vice President shall assume the President's responsibilities in the absence or disability of the President, keep constantly informed of Club activities, and shall be responsible for special programs and social events.

**SECRETARY:** The Secretary is responsible for minutes at all general membership and board meetings, reads minutes of previous meetings when requested, keeps a file of all minutes, shall provide copies of minutes for each board member upon request, is responsible for all member notices, and is responsible for all correspondence, both incoming and outgoing.

**TREASURER:** The Treasurer collects all dues and records all moneys belonging to the Club, disburses same under the direction of the President, deposits the funds of the Club in the



Good news! Tracy Hilka who is Bella Embroidery is now going to make our club shirts. The price for t-shirts, including our logo embroidered on it, is \$10.00 for sm. to XI and \$12.50 for 2xl to 5xl. These are Gildan brand #8000 50/50 t-shirts, there are lots of colors.

What you do is go to her website.

[www.sportswearcollection.com/bellaemb](http://www.sportswearcollection.com/bellaemb)

Then type Gildan in the search box (this will put you on the Gildan page).

Look down the page and find Gildan DryBlend 50/50 T-shirts #8000

Click on the icon and this will open the page with all the colors and sizes.

Choose your size and color(s) and add it to your Cart.

On the cart page there is a place for comments when you place your order, in this box tell Tracy you would like your shirt embroidered with the

Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Logo

When she receives your order she will send you a PayPal® invoice

In a short time you will receive your new club shirt in the mail.

If you don't have internet access or a PayPal® account you can contact me, Steve Plafchan and we'll figure out a solution to get you a shirt.

She has many items available (hats, tote bags, etc.) that she can put our logo on if you wish. She has given us a catalog full of things you can order, all the prices are retail and she receives a wholesale price so

you will have to talk to her about pricing. (IE prices will be less than what's listed in the catalog.)



## **\*RESCUE PROCEDURE\***

There is a proper procedure for turning a bird into the rescue and we must do our best to follow it. Any time a bird is to be surrendered to our rescue Dave, Steve, Tammy or Mary must be contacted first so proper arrangements can be made. Rainbow Feathers Bird Club and Rescue can not take responsibility for any birds that have not followed this procedure. If you have elected to take in someone's unwanted bird or if you have been offered a "free" bird please be aware that you will have to assume the full cost of veterinary care yourself.





## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

to:

TOM POKRYFKY	JAN 9
PAM KNUDSON	JAN. 13
CHARLES DIXON	JAN. 18
LOVEY QUESNEL	JAN. 27
SARA SCHUBRING	JAN. 27
SHAE MARDEN	JAN. 28
JEAN DEKEYSER	JAN. 30
SANDRA KEMPSITY	JAN. 31



### **Rambling with Rambo**

Well, all my fine friends be you feathered or not, that time of year has come again. Yes its Christmas time again.

It is that time when all us birdies get new toys, and treats. I need not say all good birdies. There is no such thing as a bad bird. There are only humans who don't understand all the things we do for them. For example: they don't appreciate our efforts to refinish Grandma's antique rocking chair; or when we tell them it's time to remodel the living room. That old base board is looking shabby. They just don't appreciate us telling them they need a new laptop computer; when we chew off the keys, or scratch up the screen. Their old one is way outdated.

The Pet Expo at Novi was great. We all had a great time. I was happy to see so many of you there. The more of you that

show up, the more people enjoy seeing our many colors and talents. We certainly put on a good show for them this time. Those little humans were so happy to pet and hold us. Hey get this. I was nice. I don't remember biting anyone. This time I let some people put their finger up to my face without hurting them. They really wanted to hold me. Michael still doesn't trust me with strangers. I even talked to people this time. I stayed on my play stand while Daddy setup our stuff; my food cups, his chair, his drink, and put away my travel box. Hey friends, here is another thing. I am now WILLINGLY going into my travel box. I no longer think I'm going to the vet, every time.

Those of you that were not there missed some GREAT food. Michael said those were the best hot dogs he ever had. They were even better than that place in Toledo, Tony Packo's. I agree. And, those big soft pretzels, yummy. Yes, I really had a great time.

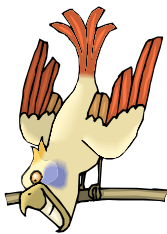
This time Michael and I stayed after the show to help put away all the tables, signs, and other stuff. Now that was a lot of work. But with so many of us there, it went real fast. We were packed, and out of there in less than 45 minutes. So friends, even the cleanup was kind of fun. Naturally, we birds get to stand there and supervise the activity, as we should.

Oh yes, I almost forgot. It sure was fun telling those children I know when it is bed time. They just look mad when I say "We

know when it is bed time. I tell Michael it is my bed time. Sometimes I want to go to bed early.” This really gets to those kids. There is one thing I must point out to some of you. Some of you have been missing our meetings. This upsets me. Why? Because, I miss you, just seeing you there makes me happy. All of you really are special to me, especially you young people. I tell everyone how kind, loving, and caring you all are. I’ve told you before how the girls at the bank always ask about me. Last time Michael was there they asked if he takes me out in the winter. I’m sure they did not mean outside in the yard. Well, they were really impressed when Daddy told them about all our activities; pet fairs, educational events, and other things. They were also happy to hear how friendly I’m getting. I have to thank all of you for this.

Well gang, as always, be good, have fun and remember “Macaws Rule”

Your buddy  
Rambo



## Odds and ends

- **Rescue contacts** – These are the main contacts for the rescue, and from here we have several foster homes. Please refer all questions concerning the rescue to the following:

Dave and Tammy Carol  
734-422-5981  
[sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Steve Plafchan  
734-513-0030  
[splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

- **Donation**- We received an unexpected donation last month. It was a \$200.00 donation in honor of Wanda Hrobak whom we helped with her birds over the past ten years. She passed away and one of her wishes was that our rescue be the recipient of donations in her honor. We want to thank Wanda for her thoughtfulness and extend our sympathies to her Daughter and friend for their loss. Thank You!



## Out and About with Pookie

As many of you know (or may not know) last month was the Family Pet Expo in Novi, MI and we were one of the star groups in attendance. All of the feathered members of our club stood tall and wowed the people in attendance. We were also on the local television morning show for a lengthy interview Saturday morning. If you are interested in viewing a portion of this interview go to the Facebook® page of the “Novi Pet Expo” and scroll down. You will see a picture of Captain Morgan (B&G Macaw) and his companion human Dave; clicking on the picture it will take you to a short video.

We were very successful about conveying the message of adoption as a viable option for anyone with a desire to have a companion parrot and showing how awesome rescued parrots can be. There were some uphill battles that were incurred during the expo however; there was

another person that was spreading many false rumors about parrots while he staged his show. Some of the things that were said that we had to dispute and dispel were;

To get a parrot to bond with you, they must be raised as a hand fed baby.

Parrots don't like to hang upside down or lay on their backs.

Rescued parrots don't make good companions.

Always wear gloves when holding a parrot to prevent injury.

A parrot can never be trained to be trusted not to bite.

These are just a few of the false statements that visitors to our booth were told by the "other" show that we had to dispel and show as false. We then would explain that all of us at the expo were rescues or second and third owner parrots and the visitor would be astounded how friendly we were.

There is no doubt our booth was one of the most popular destinations at the pet expo. People were able to hold and view parrots many of them had never seen to getting a souvenir photograph with up to ten parrots on them to take home; our booth was the destination of the weekend. Contrary to what you might hear from Steve and Dave they were not the reason for our success at the expo it was all of the feathered members. There was nobody that wanted a souvenir photo with Steve sitting on their lap (UGH! That is an awful vision.) So please don't listen to those two

glory hogs, talk to the companion parrots, the true stars.

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie



Rescue Update

This has been a slow month for adopting rescued birds to new families and for rescues.

We have sent one bird to a new forever home during this past month. Goofus a Jenday Conure was adopted to a new forever home.

We want to thank everyone for their participation in the raffles and for their donations to the rescue. It is the support of our members that allows us to take rescued birds to the vet and find them new homes with cages, food and toys. Your continuing support is what makes our rescue and club the success that it is

THANK YOU

Avast ye Mates

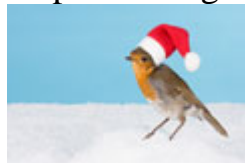


**CAPTAINS CORNER**

Hello everyone I am still on cloud nine about the Novi Pet Expo it was a roaring success all of

my feathered friends out did themselves. Oh alright and their pet humans weren't bad either but what a great three days. On Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> Sparky, Ruby, J.B., Charlie and I even got to be on TV and of course our pet humans were there too but we stole the show. One problem they were asking our pet humans all the questions so at the end I had to get **MY** two cents in. Now I will translate what I said it was; "Come to the Novi Pet Expo and see the coolest things with two wings". It must have worked because many came because they saw us on TV. It was a great event and a good time was had by all. I only have one complaint and that is why did my pet human act so goofy and drag me into it? He was dancing around to When you Wish Upon a Star with me in tow I was mortified then I found out it was videoed OH NO!!!!!! I certainly glad I was not with him when he and Scarlett's pet human started singing Girls Just Want to Have Fun. Humans what are ya gonna do about em? Anyway with all that nutty stuff it still was a great event. Now it is Christmas time and all good birdies thoughts turn to peace on earth and goodwill towards all plus Pookie and Sparky's killer New Years Eve party what a night that will be I can't wait. So to all my feathered and non-feathered friends I wish you all the Merriest of Christmas's and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Christmas Cheers  
Captain Morgan



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**RESCUE RANGERS**





Off again the rangers go to Commerce Michigan where every street is named Commerce, (you think I'm kidding go there and you'll see). They were going to a care facility that took care of Alzheimer's patients and they had three Lovebirds that needed to find a home. It seemed that the incessant chatter was beginning to bother the patients that lived there and they needed to find a home pronto. So when the rangers arrived they found one Peachfaced Lovebird in a cage all by himself and they knew it was a male, (he was not evilly possessed like female Lovebirds are) and actually he was quite nice. It was the other two that had them stumped. In a large cage were two very beautiful quite large Lovebirds, they looked like no other type of Lovebirds the rangers had ever seen. They had an inkling that they were hybrids (Peachfaced and Fischer crosses) so they packed them up and were off much to the gratitude of the facilitator of the home. Yes their inkling was confirmed they were hybrids. The normal Peachfaced Lovebird found a home quickly but the hybrids they were not so sure of. Miracles do happen and the hybrid pair (both males) found a home where they are living in a flight with other male Lovebirds appreciated for their beauty. A happy ending for all but it would not be long before the call would go out again and the Rangers would be off to do what they do best rescue the needy or unwanted cage birds for the are **THE RESCUE RANGERS!!!!!!!**

Stay tuned for our next riveting adventure A Truly Fancy Fellow.



We are raffling off grab-bag gifts at the December potluck meeting. Items are to be nice (not tacky), about \$5 in price, and wrapped in a paper bag or wrapping paper. This is a fun activity and a great fund raiser for the rescue program at the same time.



## Upcoming Events

# UP COMING EVENTS

As of  
Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 2013

Jan 28<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
American House Taylor  
25250 Eureka Rd.  
Taylor, MI 48180  
1:00 PM Set-up

2:00 PM Show

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Library Educational Show  
Novi Public Library  
45255 W. 10 Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48375  
6:00 PM set-up  
7:00PM Show

June 22<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Feathers Bird Club  
17<sup>th</sup> Annual Bird Fair  
\$3.00 Adm. 10AM to 4PM  
VFW Post 345  
27345 Schoolcraft Rd.  
Redford, MI 48239  
10:00AM to 4:00PM

Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Stonegate Health  
2525 Demille Blvd.  
Lapeer, MI 48446  
12:30 PM Set-up  
1:30 Show

\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*  
\*\*

There has been some confusion from the loyal readers of Bird Droppings as to which events they are allowed to bring their own bird(s) to. As a point of reference and for future information please we want everyone to be aware that when you see the line:

\*\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*\*

following or “Educational Show” preceding an event listing it means we are attending the event in an official capacity representing our club and rescue. At these events all club members are welcomed to bring their feathered companions with them. Also please note that our space is very limited at

some of these events but don’t let this stop you from joining us, we will find a way for you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy the fun.

\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*  
\*\*

**\*CANCELATION CONFUSION \***

A few of our scheduled events have been canceled at the last minute by the group staging the event. If you do not regularly participate in the shows but plan on attending please call Steve (734-513-0030) to make sure the event is still a go.



**Bloodwork is important in a post-purchase veterinary exam**

By Don J. Harris, DVM

All too often a bird owner with a recently purchased bird either does not take the bird to a veterinarian for examination, or if they do, the most important part of this exam is not preformed. What is crucial in a post-purchase evaluation is the bloodwork. Because birds are great at hiding physical signs of illness, blood testing is mandatory in assessing the health of avian patients. The veterinarian may scrutinize a bird and look for any physical abnormalities, but even the healthiest looking birds can be hiding disease. Sometimes, blood tests are the only way to accurately uncover hidden health problems. Many illnesses display no external signs until the end when the bird is at death’s door. By then, it is often too late to resolve the problem.

Most problems can be addressed if detected early, and bloodwork is the key to early detection. Bird owners should ask that blood tests be performed on their bird, even if the veterinarian doesn't suggest it. In fact, if a veterinarian doesn't discuss lab tests in the face of avian illness, another veterinarian should be sought. If the results are negative, the owner will have peace of mind knowing the bird is healthy. If the results suggest a problem, action can be taken to treat the condition. Bloodwork can also provide a baseline that can be helpful in future evaluations of your bird.

I recently became aware of a pet owner who took her bird to a veterinarian for a post-purchase exam. The veterinarian checked over the bird, did a culture of the bird's throat and vent, and recommended bloodwork. The new bird owner decided not to do the blood tests. Everything appeared okay—until the bird died two days later. A necropsy showed the bird had *Aspergillus* fungus throughout its abdomen. Had the new owner consented to blood tests for her bird, the fungus would have been detected. Possible conditions or diseases that may be diagnosed through a complete blood analysis include:

- Infections
- Parasites
- Reproductivity
- Malnutrition
- Metabolic disorders such as liver or kidney disease
- Vitamin deficiencies such as Vitamin A deficiency

Bloodwork is the veterinarian's first and most important tool in evaluating patients. It is an internal view of the bird's overall health. Depending on the results of the initial bloodwork, other diagnostic tests may be warranted to fully diagnose the extent or the cause of any abnormality

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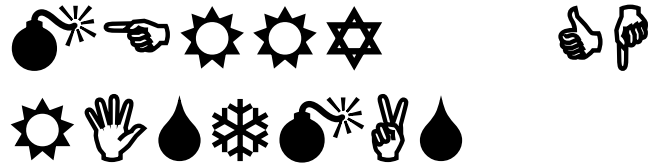
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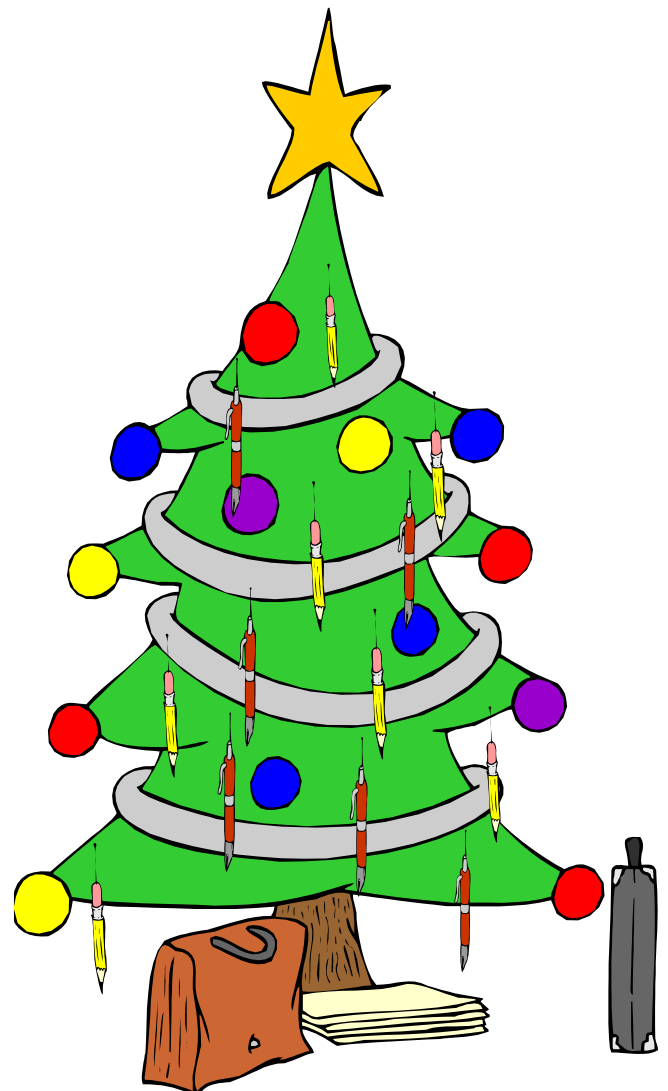


A Cracked Christmas Carol  
By Dave Carol

**Ring that Christmas Bell**

(Sung to the tune of Ring those Christmas Bells)

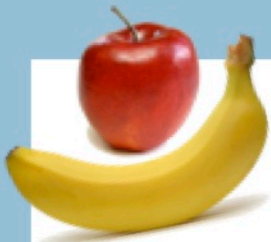
Ring that Christmas bell, Ring that  
Christmas bell  
While it chimes we'll have a happy time I'll  
ring that Christmas bell  
Mom and Dad bought me a big cow bell  
And I know I have to ring it well  
Cause its Christmas time so all can tell  
I'll ring that Christmas bell  
Ring that Christmas bell, Ring that  
Christmas bell  
While it chimes we'll have a happy time I'll  
ring that Christmas bell  
It's a cowbell so big and bright  
For me to ring on Christmas Night  
So I practiced hard to get it right  
I'll ring that Christmas bell  
Ring that Christmas bell, Ring that  
Christmas bell  
While it chimes we'll have a happy time I'll  
ring that Christmas bell  
So in my cage I'll be on Christmas night  
Ringing till Santa is in sight  
While outside the snow is falling light  
I'll ring that Christmas bell  
Ring that Christmas bell, Ring that  
Christmas bell  
While is chimes we'll have a happy time I'll  
ring that Christmas bell



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**







# What are you really feeding your bird? Visit BirdFoodFacts.com to find out.

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Keith Cook, D.V.M. \* Elieen Cook, D.V.M.  
13697 Dix-Toledo Rd\* Southgate, MI 48195  
734-284-9122

WARREN WOODS VETERINARY HOSPITAL  
29157 Schoenherr \* Warren, MI 48314  
586-751-3350

ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTER  
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248-348-1788  
265 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. \* Rochester, MI 48307  
248-651-1788  
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7 Days a Week  
[www.theanimalemergencycenter.com](http://www.theanimalemergencycenter.com)

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