



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

April 2012  
Volume 15 Issue 4

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING DATES :

APRIL 15<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday

APRIL 21<sup>st</sup> ----- BIRD FAIR

MAY 20<sup>th</sup> --Third Sunday OPEN HOUSE

JUNE 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
- 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 734-422-5981

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 –

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.

### MEMBER UPDATE

As of the writing of this newsletter we want all of our readers to be aware that Charles Dixon is scheduled to undergo surgery on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Please keep Charles in your thoughts and prayers as we all wish him a complete and speedy recovery.

We also want to offer our condolences to Jim Hager whose mother recently passed away.

### FEATHERED MEMBER UPDATE

Baby the Sulphur Crested Cockatoo that adopted Henry Jedrzejek and gives us our reports every month had what appeared to be a stroke at the bird show on May 20<sup>th</sup>. He is recovering after receiving vet care and hopefully will be returning to our meetings again soon.

## 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.



### 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:

I think that Mother Nature has finally lost her mind and I mean that whole heartedly. We went from the high seventies to almost a week of the eighties. Then we were cruelly jolted back to reality with lows in the twenties and highs in the forties. We even had tornados in March how crazy is that? It is almost as crazy as how time is flying soon it will be bird fair time.

I do know one thing that I never worry about; help for the fair, we have that in spades and then some. Everyone does a spectacular job before during and after the fair and that makes it easier for all of us. Remember this meeting is to finalize all the stuff for the fair that has to be done so please attend and if you can't then just call me and I will fill you in. As always I want you to remember anything you can do and anytime you can help is appreciated more than you know. So do not feel that you are tied into hours any time you can help out is great.

Also don't forget we have turned our meetings into a pot luck so bring a dish or dessert and be prepared to eat well. I love our meetings they are so well attended but they are so much fun with all the bird talk that goes on and the birds that attend with their pet humans. All have a great time and the guests attending love seeing all the birds, I do too. Remember the meeting is moved up a week because of the fair it will be April



15<sup>th</sup> so mark your calendars. Let us keep our fingers crossed for good weather for the fair and let's be ready to have fun. That I don't have to worry about you guys make everything we do a blast so I just have to say it **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!!!!**

Until Next Time

Your Prez

Dave



Voice of the Veep

Last month's

meeting was without a doubt another stellar affair. This is both because of the great food and because of you our members.

Our bird fair is now only days away and we need all hands on deck for any help you can give. The set-up will be on Friday April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM and we need as many helpers as we can get. When you arrive plan on entering through the double doors on the west side of the building. The school does not want us to park on the grass or any unpaved area so we have to park along the curb or in the parking lot just to the north. We have to leave the area by the double doors clear for the unloading of cars and trailers; once your car is unloaded please remember to move it to make room for other people to unload.

The morning of the fair parking for members is on the south side of the building by the vendor entrance (the SE corner of the gym). Vendors will be unloading at both entry points the morning of the fair and we will need as much help as we can muster to assist vendors to unload and bring in their merchandise. Please make a mental note that any vendor who has birds must bring them to Dr. Cook the vet to have them checked; his table will be by the SE entrance. Our club has gained a reputation for our fair among the vendors as one of the nicest fairs in the area mainly because of the assistance our club members provide them from 6:30AM until their trucks and trailers are loaded back up for their trip home. There is nothing we would like more than to continue to impress our vendors by the helpfulness of our club. Please mention to every vendor you help unload that if they need something just ask a club member. Also tell all the vendors there will be club members available throughout the day to assist patrons to take merchandise they have bought out to their cars if they need help.

I don't know about you but I'm sure excited about our fair and our raffle. There are going to be some awesome items on the tables from parrot prints by Tim Marsh to a Large Parrot Playstand. I plan on getting my tickets in early and often!

Your Veep  
Steve



## MS Walk for a Cure

Our webmaster Celeste Markey is participating in this year MS Walk for a Cure on April, 29, 2012 and she needs your help. She is asking for donations to her team "Flock for a Cure" at the MS web site

[http://walkmig.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=WLK\\_MIG\\_homepage](http://walkmig.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=WLK_MIG_homepage)

Once you are on the MS page click on the donate/pledge button and locate Celeste's

team page by using her name "Celeste Markey" or her team's name "Flock for a Cure" at this point you will be able to make a tax deductible donation that will be credited to her team. Lets all team together to help her make her team goal of \$300.00!

If you can't access the above web address please open up a copy of this newsletter on line at our website. The hyperlink will be active and take you to the MS Walk donation site.

Dear Friends and Family,

Every hour of every day, someone is diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Walk MS helps raise critical funds that support cutting edge research, drive change through advocacy, facilitate professional education and provide programs and services to help people with MS move their lives forward. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is dedicated to moving us toward a world free of MS. I believe in the work they do. That's why I joined the movement and registered as a team captain for Walk MS and that's why I'm asking you to join me. The National MS Society is dedicated to creating a world free of MS but they can't do it without our help. It's faster and easier than ever to support this cause that is so important to me, so please join me today. Simply click on the link in the preceding message, do a quick search for my team name - Flock to a Cure and complete the short registration process. From there, you can utilize the convenient, easy to use online fundraising tools and help our team reach our goal of \$300. Your support will make a difference in the lives of people with MS. I truly appreciate your

support and look forward to fundraising and walking with you!

Sincerely, Celeste



## Rescue update

The rescue continued to have success on placing foster birds in new homes. This past month we placed two Pacific Parrotlets, one Cockatiel and a Sun Conure.

We also rescued a number of gently used cages which will be available at our bird fair this month. 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



### **Out and About with Pookie**

All of us that are members of Steve's home flock are in total agreement that the day of our club meeting is our favorite day of the month. While we're at the meeting we get to visit with all our other feathered club members, we receive extra snacks and goodies from the companion humans and I receive plenty of snuggles and kisses. There has been one disturbing trend at the past few

meetings; we, the African Grays have lost our standing as the most populous species in attendance. Yes sadly it's true and as painful as it is for me to admit this fact, the Macaw and Cockatoo contingencies have out numbered us the past four months. The bright note is however; all the feathered membership is stepping up in an attempt to unseat the Cockatoos from their position. The Eclectus members were numerous enough to challenge the Macaws and for the first time ever we had multiple Senagals, Caiques, Conures, Cockatiels and Pionus. In point of fact if they band together into a voting bloc they will out number all the big birds. Be forewarned we, the African Grays will not idly stand by for this diminishment of our deserved status. We will be stepping up to the challenge.

As enjoyable as the club meetings are the real reason we enjoy the meeting day of the month is because of the treats and goodies Steve brings home. Last month was no exception; Steve brought home one of the largest, chewable, multi-bird toy we have ever seen. Steve in his typical lazy manor brought JB, Sparky and I home, set us on our cages and promptly stretched out upon the couch for a nap. JB and Calvin ventured fourth into the kitchen inspecting all the nooks and crannies for snacks to purloin when "it" was discovered. They immediately relayed back to me, Sparky and Tyler that they had discovered the awesome new chew toy. It was about two feet tall wrapped in a plastic and contained about eight multiple toy parts. (Most companion humans would call it an eight roll package of paper towels.) All of us moved in to partake in the chewing of the toy. JB and Calvin clambered up to the top and started chewing down from the top. Sparky, Tyler and I started in on the bottom. It was beyond awesome! By the time Steve

awakened we had not only opened up the toy and separated it into its basic parts we had reduced more than have of the toys into little shreds of paper. These shreds were fluffy and spread with a slight flap of the wings; we had paper in the front room, all through the kitchen and down the basement stairs.

Steve's overwhelming excitement with our handiwork was obvious when he woke up; he shrieked with stunned awe! As Steve waded through the ankle deep mounds of paper towel pieces we all flapped our wings to stir up the pieces to show our handiwork. He was almost speechless with pride and awe. All he could do was speak in partial sentences things like; "Oh my" "Look at this" "It's in the basement" "I was only asleep for a few minutes." We could just tell he was as proud as a Peacock of what we did with the new toy. All of us agree that we can hardly wait until next months meeting.

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie

Avast ye Mates



## CAPTAINS CORNER

Greetings Mate's

I am lodging a protest with the EBIU (Exotic Birds International Union). Bet you didn't know we had our own union, well I am a card carrying member. So are the other parrots that come to the meetings and events and they back me one hundred percent on this one. It seems that many of

you are owned by other animals besides us, many by dogs and some (GASP) by cats still others by miscellaneous rodents and reptiles.

Well the reason for my protest is that there has to be (pardon the pun) a pecking order and birds should always be numero uno on that list. Now I admit it is hard competing with a dog they never have mood swings and are always eager to greet their pet humans. In fact it is nauseating the way they suck up to their pet humans I need a bucket whenever I see how they behave if you know what I mean. Then there is the cute factor especially during the puppy phase, Pleeeeeze give me a break. This was evident at the last meeting when an illegal animal was present and the way everybody reacted was enough to make me sick for a month. Now cats they are a different story cute when kittens but that cuteness soon gives way to the "I am master of this house attitude you must please me". At least birds don't behave like that, well most of us don't, well not all the time, oh, ok so we may behave like that from time to time so what! We can at least talk back lets see a dog or cat do that? I rest my case. We do not see reptiles or fish as a threat; anything that doesn't move for hours like a snake is boring. (Sounds like a cat doesn't it) As far as rodents go they are not too much to worry about, (can we say pet rat) I thought so.

Pookie and I are rallying the troops and we are going to stage a formal protest to put parrots where they should be. We just have to be careful with the parrotlets and keep them visible it is so easy to step on them and that does not make them happy. So parrots show your pet humans where you should be in the ranking and always remind them we parrots are **ALWAYS NUMBER ONE!!!!!!**



We get many phone calls some make us angry, others leave us scratching our heads but some on occasion make us laugh. This happens to be one that made me laugh I'll bet you do to. Now this is what happens when you have an elderly lady with way too much time on her hands. This is how it went.

Hello?

Is this the bird rescue?

Yes it is how can I help you?

Well I'm 81 years old and I keep a close eye on the neighborhood. (Translation: I've got nothing better to do but get in everybody's business, whether I should or not.) A new couple just moved in a couple houses down and they got themselves some highly illegal birds.

What do you mean by illegal?

One was blue and yellow with a long tail a real big one (Blue and Gold Macaw) and the other one was just as big but was red with a long tail (Scarlet or Greenwing Macaw). I need you to come and take these birds away from them and send them back to Africa where they belong!

Actually, those birds are not illegal to own.

Come on now, I have never seen normal people have anything like these birds, they must be illegal. Certainly no one in this neighborhood they're illegal I can just tell.

I'm sorry but it's perfectly legal to have those birds.

I knew I should have called the police instead of you I'm sure they can get these birds back to Africa where they should be. This was just a waste of my time.

And that's how my conversation ended with this neighborhood busybody. Makes think that the new couple in that

neighborhood is going to get a run for their money with her! I wish them luck they'll need it!

Dave



## BIRD FAIR

Our annual bird fair is upon us, April, 21<sup>st</sup> to be exact. 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. It is once again being held at Romulus High School on Wayne rd. just north of I-94. 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.

Help is needed the night before the fair, setting up tables and chairs (set up time is 7:30 PM). In the morning before the fair starts, holding doors open and assisting vendors move in (move in time is 6:30AM). 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, putting away the tables and chairs. Please plan on staying an extra 20 - 30 minutes to help with the final job of the day. There will be pizza after the final clean-up is finished.

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.

### **BITS from BABY**



Howdy all my feathered and non-feathered friends. This is your roving reporter Baby with the latest updates. I'm writing this report from my sick bed this month.

The attendance at the March meeting was another full house, can you believe it! There were eighty-two people there; of which seventy-one were club members and eleven were guests. Two of the guests joined our flock (THAT'S GREAT!!). We also had forty-seven birds there, eleven Cockatoos, nine African Grays, nine Macaws, plus eighteen other types of Parrots. I hear the food was great and everyone enjoyed the meeting.

April 1<sup>st</sup> was our first Senior Education Program at the Independence Village in White Lake. The gang showed up

and WOWED the folks there who said they did not know there were so many beautiful birds.

Our next meeting will be April 15<sup>th</sup>, one week earlier because of our own 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Fair April 21<sup>st</sup> (the feathered members do not get to go to the fair but our care givers tell us all about it.) Then two days later on April 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be doing an educational program at the American House in Westland on Joy Rd., three days after that another American House on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Royal Oak, Motor City Bird Breeders Show on April 28<sup>th</sup> and the next day April 29<sup>th</sup> an American House in Westland on Venoy Rd.

Hope to see you all at the meeting?

Till next month,  
Your friend Baby

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



## **RESCUE RANGERS**



Every now and then a call comes in that leaves the rangers gasping in disbelief and their heads spinning. This happened to be one of them. They were summoned to a quaint little burg in Michigan called Holly. Now this is a picturesque little place with rolling hills and beautiful scenery.

What had taken our heroes aback was the number of feathered friends they were rescuing, it was sixteen. Yes; sixteen assorted birds from a Bourke parakeet a Diamond Dove, two Parakeets and the remainder were Cockatiels. Well it couldn't be that bad could it? Ranger Dave just had to ask that question and jinx the whole rescue (can anyone say duct tape). As they pulled into the driveway it all looked nice and serene nothing suspicious or so it seemed that way. There were horses in a pasture the sun was shining birds were singing all seemed to be alright. They got out of the rescue mobile and as they approached the house they were greeted by a very large and grumpy tom turkey (no Tom was not his name it just means he wouldn't be called Tina anytime soon, got it?) Well he only got so close because ranger Steve threatened to invite him to dinner, as the main course. So he kept his distance. They went into the house and were taken into the bird room. This is where it becomes interesting.

All sixteen of the birds were free flighted in a back bedroom and the entrance of strangers caused all of them to fly willy-nilly about the room. It had shades of Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* written all over it. The rangers had to get to work before all the Cockatiel dander clogged their lungs and the dust being kicked up prevented them from seeing the birds. So with net and hands a flyin' they set out to capture and carrier all these birds. After about thirty-five minutes they caught the last of the birds and went about loading up carriers and cages and other stuff. Soon they were on their way to hit the open road once again.

They dropped off the dove at one foster home the Bourke went straight to its new home. The two Parakeets and the

cockatiels went home with ranger Steve but it wasn't long before all birds were adopted and quiet once again fell over ranger Steve's house. The Rangers were grateful that the Tom Turkey or the geese weren't part of that deal. Ranger Dave also vowed never to say "how bad can it be" (threats involving duct tape over ones mouth work wonders). So with another rescue under their belts they went home satisfied but realized that there will always be more to come and they would be there to answer the call for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!**

Stay alert and tuned in for our next thrilling adventure *Escapee in Canton!*

Anyone  
Interested?

One of our club members, Janet Onderchanin, has some baby parakeets she is offering for sale to nice homes. They were hatched on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> and have been handled every day since then. Their colors are white with blue pied. Their parents were; dad - blue & white pied, mom - lutino /yellow / green pied. Their wings have been clipped and they are sweet little birds.

She is asking \$15.00 each (with \$5.00 going to the club) but is willing to negotiate on this price. If for some reason the bird(s) don't work out she would like an agreement to return them back to her. She also may have 2 female cinnamon pied Zebra Finches that were hatched in 2005.

Anybody interested contact Janet at her home phone: (586)-772-0023 or her cell phone (586)-764-0863



# UP COMING EVENTS

April 15<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting at the Church  
Moved up 1 week because of bird fair

April 21<sup>st</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 23<sup>rd</sup> Senior Educational Program  
American House  
39201 Joy Road  
Westland, MI 48185  
Set-up at 1:00 PM  
Show at 2:00 PM

April 26<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
American House Royal Oak  
1900 N. Washington Ave.  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  
Set-up 1:00 PM  
Show at 2:00 PM

April 28<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\*\*\*\*\*

April 29<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
American House  
1660 S. Venoy Road  
Westland, MI 48185  
Set-up at 9:00 AM  
Show at 10:00 AM

May 17<sup>th</sup> Educational Show  
For Boy Scout Troop  
Farrand Elementary School  
41400 Greenbriar Lane  
Plymouth, MI 48170

Set-up at 6:00 pm  
Show starts at 7:00 pm

May 20<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting at the Church  
Moved up 1 week because of  
Memorial Day

June 8<sup>th</sup> Educational Show  
Quest Charter Academy  
24745 Van Born Road  
Taylor, MI 48180  
9:00 am Set-up  
10:00 am Show

June 9<sup>th</sup> Pet Adoption Fair  
Downtown Whitmore Lake  
Main Street in Whitmore Lake  
We have a 10' X 10' space  
Where we will be setting up our pop-up  
Times to be announced

June 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Dublin Community Senior Center  
685 Union Lake Road  
White Lake, MI 48386  
Set-up at Noon  
Show at 1:00 PM

July 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

July 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
American House Hazel Park  
777 East Woodward Heights  
Hazel Park, MI 48030  
Set-up 1:00 PM  
Show 2:00 PM

August 11<sup>th</sup>  
August 12<sup>th</sup> Pet Emporium Expo  
Washtenaw County Fairgrounds  
5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
No times or details at this time

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> Walled Lake Pet Awareness Day

At  
Walled Lake's Historic Lakefront District  
Ferland Street at E. Walled Lake Drive  
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

We will be setting up our pop-up before the event starts probably between 8:00 to 9:00 AM  
This will be updated as more details become available.



## 10 steps to a better relationship with your parrot

By Liz Wilson, CVT

\*\*\*\*\*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. Recent cancellations that have occurred at the last minute are: the Fall for Novi Pet Adoption Fair, and the Allen Park Animal Shelter Pet Adoption Fair.

- 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.

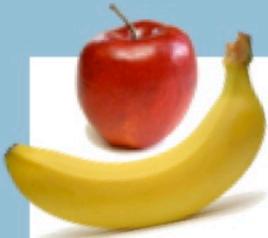
**7)** Socialize your parrot to family and trusted friends, thereby teaching it to adapt to the society in which it lives. It should be comfortable interacting with and being handled by other people. Do not allow it to become over-bonded to one person.

**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.

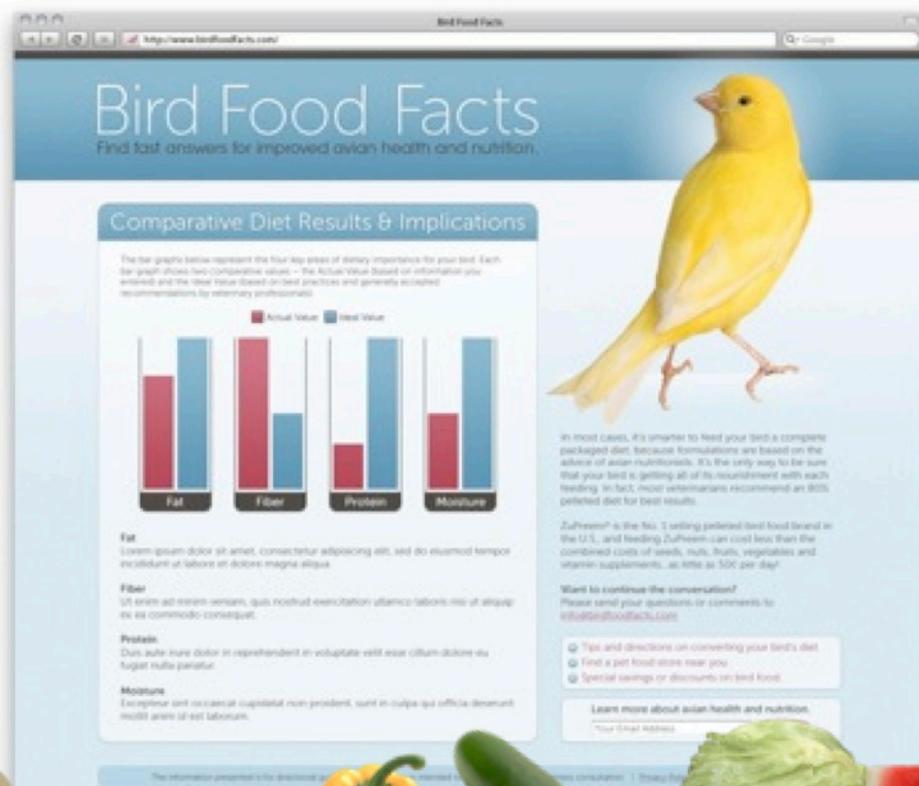
**10)** Accept your parrot for what it is, not what you want it to be. No matter how well trained it is, a healthy parrot may still be noisy messy and destructive because it's a parrot!

**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**



# 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.



**BITE ME BIRD TOYS**

Tony & Edie Riojas  
4593 Howell Rd, Otter Lake, MI 48464  
1-810-793-2093  
bitemebirdtoys.com

**NORTH BRANCH ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**ROOSE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

Kevin Roose, D.V.M. \* Karen Knight, D.V.M.  
509 W. Ann Arbor Trail \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-451-2870

**SPECIALTY PET SUPPLIES, INC.**

1449 W. Ann Arbor Road \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-453-6930  
Fax: 734-453-7127  
M-F 10-7:30 \* Sat 10-6 \* Sun 12-4

**WARREN WOODS VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

29157 Schoenherr \* Warren, MI 48314  
586-751-3350

**OAKLAND VETERINARY EMERGENCY GROUP**

1400 Telegraph Rd \* Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248-334-6877

Free discount card available to club members      Open 7-Days  
Ask about our birdie day spa treatment

**DISCOUNT PET & SUPPLIES**

Specializing in Exotic Birds & Cages  
1623 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI 48154  
734-513-6060

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

**SOUTHGATE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**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)

**MUGSHOTS and MOUSE PADS**

Species specific coffee mugs, mouse pads and other  
parrot  
paraphernalia

**Cheryl Hitter**

**734-422-2804**

\*Put your pet's picture on a mug or mouse pad\*



An easy and healthy alternative to messy newspaper!

Marty & Angie Crawford

248.438.6572

littlemancageliners@yahoo.com

little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com

Custom sizes up to 25" x 38" -

Square or Rectangle cuts

PayPal plus Shipping available - Priced for 100 sheets

White cover weight paper - Fresh clean cage everyday

Call or email us for your custom size

248.438.6572

littlemancageliners@yahoo.com

Visit us on

Facebook and Blogger!

little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com

UV LIGHTING, HEATERS, VITIMINS AND OTHER SUPPLIES for your BIRDS, FISH and REPTILES

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

[zoomed.com](http://zoomed.com)



MURALS  
AND OTHER  
CREATIONS  
BY MARY KAY PERVA  
734-207-0489



Veterinary Care Specialists

205 Rowe Road

Milford, MI 48380

248-684-0468

Open 24 Hours A Day 7 Days A Week



"Baby Parrots Raised in a Home for a Home"

Contact Kaylee at 734-301-0486

[www.kayleesparrotplace.com](http://www.kayleesparrotplace.com)

Specializing in Macaws, Greys,  
Amazons, and others.

Cages and Food at reasonable prices.



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

May 2012  
Volume 15 Issue 5

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING

#### DATES :

MAY 20<sup>th</sup> –THIRD SUNDAY Open House

JUNE 24<sup>th</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY

JULY 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– Marie Keehl 734-422-5981

Email – [mariekeehl@ymail.com](mailto:mariekeehl@ymail.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.

Our sympathy's go out to Lanah Harris on the loss of her Mother in law last month. I'm sorry this is so late but the editor of Bird Droppings sort of dropped the poop on this announcement. To Lanah we say "We are sorry for you loss."



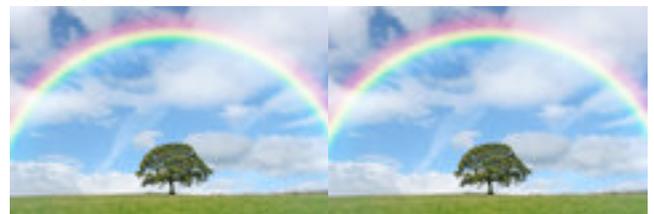
## Crossing The Rainbow Bridge

Sadly it must be reported that our club lost two feathered members last month. Ruby a female Voss Eclectus who owned Jason and Danielle Miller and Merlo a male Eclectus who owned Tanya O'Conner both crossed over the rainbow bridge.

Ruby succumbed very suddenly to an unknown neurological disorder. She was and will forever be deeply loved by Jason and Danielle. To we say Ruby, soar high and free across the rainbow bridge, you will always be remembered and loved.

Merlo's reason for crossing is not known but it goes without saying he also will be missed by all of us. Merlo, you too, soar high across the rainbow bridge. You will be missed and forever loved.

To both 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.

## MEMBERS UPDATE

Charles Dixon is out of the hospital and is still recuperating from his surgery. We all continue to keep him in our thoughts and prayers for a complete recovery. See you again soon Charles!

# 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

by. 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 !



## 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  
prez :

the



Well before you hear it from anyone else, yes I did get a new bird and no it is not what most people would think. Our new

baby is a fourteen week old mostly white with a little blue violet in spots, Parakeet. That's right, a Budgie a sweet tame beautiful little Budgie. Now most people think of us as big bird people (Captain and Max) but there will always be a special place for those charming little guys that still draw ooohs and aaahs from Tammy and me at bird fairs.

Speaking of bird fairs we had one and it was a complete success. From the used cage sale to the very hard to resist bake sale and the even harder to resist raffle the vendors, club members and attending public had a great time. One of the best parts is that our attendance was up from last year so I hope this is a sign of things to come for our future fairs. I also cannot say enough about how the club members really pitched in. From set-up to tear-down and everywhere in between your presence was noticed.

Vendors raved about all the help they received coming in and going out and how happy our group seemed to be. Even the attending public saw how happy the membership seemed to be and how well we all got along. Well I had to be honest and tell them that it was not an act; what they saw was the real deal, I explained that this is how we are all the time and our meetings are even better. "Thank you" to the club does not say enough for once again going above and the call of duty; I truly do not know what the club would do without such an outstanding membership. You made our fair a success and you made me proud to listen to the vendors rave about our fair. So to the membership of Rainbow Feathers Bird Club and Rescue my deepest thanks for being the greatest group of people in the universe, because the world isn't big enough for the kind of thanks you guys deserve. **YOU GUYS REALLY AND TOTALLY ROCK!!!!!!!**

Until next time,  
Your Prez, Dave



## Voice of the Veep

Wow, what a month last month was. We had three educational shows, the Motor City Bird Breeders bird show and our bird fair. This may be the under statement of the month but, I'm tired.

Our bird fair was a resounding success and the reason for me saying this is because of all of you. Yes, the members of our club turned out on record numbers to help with the fair. I'm going to make an attempt to hand out accolades to everyone but if I seem to miss you don't worry you were still appreciated. Rosemary's efforts over the past year gathering raffle items and sending out letters to potential donors helped to make our raffle a success. To everybody that was at the school on Friday night, I thank all of you. The set-up was smooth and efficient and was completed in record time.

I also have to give a “high five” to the crew that was running the extension cords; you all did a great job. From the tunnel rats behind the bleachers to the cord tapers everything was perfect and believe me when I say “I couldn’t have done it without you”. The Bake Sale team also performed a wonderful job. They enabled us to have the most profitable bake sale ever and everything sold out; that has never happened before. To Sherry, Susan and Bev I say “Great Job.” To all the bakers I also say wow and yum; I can’t wait until next year. We incorporated a great idea this year that one of our members had suggested. This was to put up tables and chairs in front of the raffle for people to sit at and relax; the tables worked out great. They were used all day long and I believe they helped our raffle by giving guests a spot to sit. The clean-up and tear down after the fair was quick and completed efficiently in record time.

I spoke with many vendors during the day and every one of them was pleased with our club and the members. Every club member was polite and helpful to the vendors and they noticed. They all appreciated our help moving them in and assisting them out after the fair was over. To everyone I want to extend my thanks, all of you did an outstanding job at the fair. This is the reason why our club shines at an event like this, all of you the members. **GREAT JOB EVERYBODY!**

Your Veep  
Steve



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!!!

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

SPECIAL BREEDER PRICING



## Out and about with Pookie

This month's topic may be considered a bit edgy for some of my readers but please bear with me. The subject of this column is, companion human ownership. Companion humans are a very involved pet to own, from proper nutrition and exercise to providing stimuli and preventing self destructive behavior. Yes, a companion human is without a doubt not a pet for a first time human owner to have with little or no experience.

Companion humans are prone to sedentary behavior and will prefer to consume an unhealthy high fat diet if you allow them. You as the owner must train your human to be active and forage, this will help to keep them healthy. Foraging can be as simple as you hiding under cages, dressers or inside of cardboard boxes when your human is in a hurry to leave the house. They will scramble and search vigorously for you which will boost their metabolism and stimulate their senses. Another action plan to stimulate sudden movement is to join them on a couch or sofa for a nap. They will be lulled into a sense of security by your presence; just as your human starts to nod off you place a large juicy poop on them or next to them. This will result in a very sudden awakening as they attempt to not

Quality by Mother Nature  
Original Corn Bean Mix®: Noodles-n-Nuts®  
Rainforest Rice Puddin®: Pollypasta®  
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**

smear it all over themselves. This movement generally results in failure so by the time your human has cleaned himself and the couch he is no longer tired. If everything works as planned your human will now take you for a shoulder walk to the local pet store or if it's safe, to the neighborhood park for some fresh air and sunshine.

Another duty of being a companion human owner is exercise. Exercising your human is necessary and critical to their well being. One of the best ways to promote exercise is through play and movement. Toys for your human are very important because the movement and stimuli's provided by them assist in proper health and fitness. Some of the best human toys are located all around your home and cage. Pine nuts, the shells of pine nuts are great human toys they are small, hard to see and hurt like the dickens when stepped upon by a bare human foot. A human will derive hours of enjoyment and pleasure as he hops and bounces about the room trying to dislodge an offending husk from his foot. You can also chew wood moldings, door casings, cardboard and newspapers into the smallest bits possible. This action will assist your human in staying active and exercising. He will spend days repairing and replacing chewed wood so you can modify it again in the near future. Shredded newspaper and cardboard provides hours of pleasure for your companion human as they futilely attempt to vacuum up all the bits and pieces spread across the floor.

Please remember your companion human needs a proper diet low in fat with plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables while incorporating a regular regiment of exercise and stimulus. With proper care your human will provide you with many years of faithful companionship and comfort.

## Chirps and Squawks Pookie



### **BITS from BABY**

Howdy all my feathered and non-feathered friends. This is your not so roving reporter Baby with the latest updates. First of all I'd like to thank you for asking about me at the April meeting. I'm still on the mend and will have to send my report in from my sick bed for a while yet. Sorry I could not be with all my friends and I miss not going to the programs.

The attendance at April's meeting was slightly down from the last few meetings but still great and so was the food I was told. There were sixty-nine people in attendance, fifty-four members and fifteen guests. Two of the guests joined our flock (**WE MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT!!**). We also had forty-one birds there, ten Cockatoos, ten African Grays, six Macaws, plus fifteen other types of parrots.

The weeks after our April meeting just flew by with one event after another. We hardly had time to catch our breath. It all started on April 20<sup>th</sup> with the set up for our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Fair that was held on April 21<sup>st</sup>, everyone really worked very hard to make the fair a huge

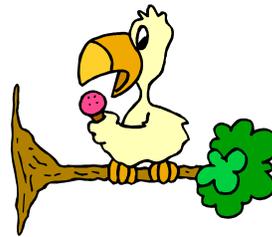


fans). Sorry about that now where was I, oh yes the unlikely place. What made this place so unlikely is that they did not own a bird rather a beautiful blue and white pied Parakeet (say that fast five times) took refuge in their home. As the Rangers approached the house nothing looked strange or sinister so they parked the Rescue Mobile and went to the door. Once inside they saw that the family had caught the bird in their hallway using a milk crate and peering through the top they saw this very lovely but very scared little Budgie. The rangers told them that many times, sad as it may be, because these guys are relatively inexpensive they are often times released into the wild to fend for themselves.

The Rangers went about what they thought would be a pretty easy rescue but the Budgie had other plans. As soon as the crate was lifted the minutest distance from the floor he made his escape. He flew throughout the house to the dismay of the homeowners and the Rangers but to the delight of the couple's two children. What made matter even worse is that the house had Cathedral ceilings that seemed about a thousand feet tall (well you chase a small F-16 with feathers around a house like that and we'll see how you do). The Keet would alight up high and the rangers would wave and jump to make him fly. He would land on the back of a chair and the rangers would stealthily approach. Rangers would dive, the Keet would dodge and the rangers would splat on the floor. Our heroes longed for a net but alas a net they did not have, towels were tried to no avail. This Parakeet was very adept at the game of "catch the bird" and the rangers were being wiped on the floor by this quick bundle of feathers. Finally the little bird had enough and became very worn out and ranger Steve made his move and stealthily scooped him

up and deposited him in the carrier. Ah, victory at last! So with bird in hand and none in the bush, at least not anymore, the rangers headed home. Because he was so beautiful he found a home right away and all was well. Still this was no time to let their guard down for there would be others in need of rescuing but they would be ready for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!**

Don't change that channel don't touch that dial and stay tuned for our next exciting adventure A Keet a Tiel and Wyandotte all in one.



### Editor's Note

Lately we have been having some problems with our newsletters being damaged during delivery. If this happens to you please contact the editor by phone or e-mail for a duplicate copy.



### Rescue update

For the first time in a long time we did not have any birds adopted to new loving homes last month. To be honest I can't remember when this last occurred. However the rescues have not only haven't abated but have increased dramatically. 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 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





# UP COMING EVENTS

As of  
May 17<sup>th</sup> 2012

●\*□□ ▽ ℞ □ ♦ □ □  
□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ ● □ □  
● ▽ □ ● □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ ● □ □  
℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □  
℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □  
□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □

□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □  
□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □  
□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □  
□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □

● □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □  
● □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □

□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □  
□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □

□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □  
□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □

□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □  
□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □

□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □  
□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □

□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □  
□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □

□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □  
□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □

□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □  
□ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □ ▽ ℞ □ □ □



May 17<sup>th</sup> Educational Show  
For Boy Scout Troop  
Farrand Elementary School  
41400 Greenbriar Lane  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
Set-up at 6:00 pm  
Show starts at 7:00 pm

May 20<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting at the Church  
Open House  
Moved up 1 week because of  
Memorial Day

May 30<sup>th</sup> Educational Program  
MediLodge of Milford  
555 Highland Avenue  
Milford, MI 48381  
Set-up at 1:00 pm  
Show starts at 2:00 pm

June 4<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Show  
Sunrise of Northville  
16100 North Haggerty Rd.  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
Set-up at 12:30 pm  
Show starts at 1:30 pm

June 8<sup>th</sup> Educational Show  
Quest Charter Academy  
24745 Van Born Road  
Taylor, MI 48180  
9:00 am Set-up  
10:00 am Show

June 9<sup>th</sup> Meet on Main Pet Adoption Fair  
Downtown Whitmore Lake  
Main Street in Whitmore Lake  
We have a 10' X 10' space  
Set-up at 11:00 am we will be setting up our pop-up  
Runs from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm Rain or Shine

June 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Dublin Community Senior Center  
685 Union Lake Road  
White Lake, MI 48386  
Set-up at Noon  
Show at 1:00 PM

June 24<sup>th</sup> Club meeting at church as usual

July 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

July 22<sup>nd</sup> Club meeting at the church as usual

July 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
American House Hazel Park  
777 East Woodward Heights  
Hazel Park, MI 48030  
Set-up 1:00 PM  
Show 2:00 PM

August 11<sup>th</sup> Pet Emporium Pet Fest  
August 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  
August 17<sup>th</sup> Noon to 8:00pm  
August 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00am to 8:00pm  
August 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00am to 6:00pm

We will most likely be setting up our pop-ups at about 7:00am on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> as we have done in years past. Tearing down on Sunday after the festival ends.

August 26<sup>th</sup> Club Picnic  
At Garden City Park under the large pavilion.

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> Walled Lake Pet Awareness Day at  
Walled Lake's Historic Lakefront District  
Ferland Street at E. Walled Lake Drive  
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

We will be setting up our pop-up before the event  
Set-up starts at 9:00 AM

## PET EXPO

Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 4pm to 8pm  
Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am to 8pm  
Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 11am to 5pm

### Suburban Collection Showplace

46100 Grand River  
Novi, MI 48374

**Please note that the dates for the Expo have been moved from November to September. This will be updated as more information becomes available. We have submitted our club's paperwork to attend.**

\*\*\*\*\*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. Recent cancellations that have occurred at the last minute are: the Fall for Novi Pet Adoption Fair, and the Allen Park Animal Shelter Pet Adoption Fair.



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

BRENT BEAVERS	JUNE 1
JANIE LYNCH	JUNE 2
MIA LYNCH	JUNE 5
DANIEL JOHNSON	JUNE 6
SHERRY MADDREN	JUNE 6
JESSICA GREENWOOD	JUNE 7
JASON MILLER	JUNE 25
BARBARA EMERY	JUNE 26
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.

This article was reprinted with permission from Zupreem®

**Make Nutritious Nuggets**

**80%**  
of Your  
Bird's Diet

*Veterinarians recommend feeding 80% high-quality nuggets so your bird gets the right balance of vitamins and minerals he needs every day.*

Switch Your Bird to a ZuPreem® Avian Diet Today

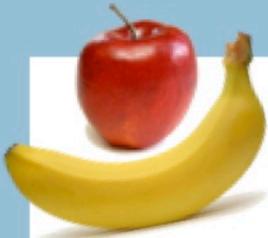
- **FruitBlend® Flavor** – Fun, fruity, colorful nuggets
- **AvianMaintenance™ Natural** – Wholesome nuggets with fresh ground veggies
- **AvianEntrées®** – 3 mixes with different nuggets, fruit and veggies

**Go to [ZuPreem.com/conversion](http://ZuPreem.com/conversion).**  
Let us help you get your bird on a healthier diet.

**ZuPreem®**  
ZuPreem.com 1-800-345-4767

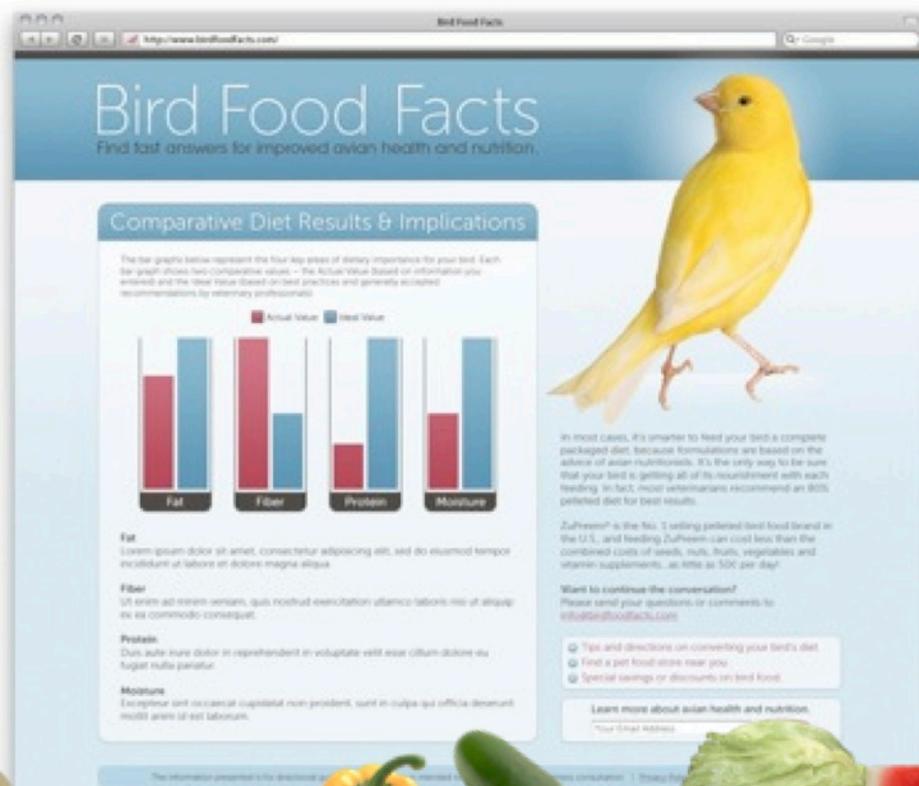
ZuPreem® and AvianEntrées are registered trademarks, and AvianMaintenance and FruitBlend are trademarks of Premium Nutritional Products, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2007 Premium Nutritional Products, Inc.





# 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.



**BITE ME BIRD TOYS**

Tony & Edie Riojas  
4593 Howell Rd, Otter Lake, MI 48464  
1-810-793-2093  
bitemebirdtoys.com

**NORTH BRANCH ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**ROOSE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

Kevin Roose, D.V.M. \* Karen Knight, D.V.M.  
509 W. Ann Arbor Trail \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-451-2870

**SPECIALTY PET SUPPLIES, INC.**

1449 W. Ann Arbor Road \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-453-6930  
Fax: 734-453-7127  
M-F 10-7:30 \* Sat 10-6 \* Sun 12-4

**WARREN WOODS VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

29157 Schoenherr \* Warren, MI 48314  
586-751-3350

**OAKLAND VETERINARY EMERGENCY GROUP**

1400 Telegraph Rd \* Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248-334-6877

Free discount card available to club members      Open 7-Days  
Ask about our birdie day spa treatment

**DISCOUNT PET & SUPPLIES**

Specializing in Exotic Birds & Cages  
1623 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI 48154  
734-513-6060

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

**SOUTHGATE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**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)

**MUGSHOTS and MOUSE PADS**

Species specific coffee mugs, mouse pads and other parrot paraphernalia

**Cheryl Hitter**

**734-422-2804**

\*Put your pet's picture on a mug or mouse pad\*



An easy and healthy alternative to messy newspaper!

Marty & Angie Crawford

248.438.6572

littlemancageliners@yahoo.com

little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com

Custom sizes up to 25" x 38" ·

Square or Rectangle cuts

PayPal plus Shipping available · Priced for 100 sheets

White cover weight paper · Fresh clean cage everyday

Call or email us for your custom size

248.438.6572

littlemancageliners@yahoo.com

Visit us on

Facebook and Blogger!

[little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com](http://little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com)

UV LIGHTING, HEATERS, VITIMINS AND OTHER SUPPLIES for your BIRDS, FISH and REPTILES

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

[zoomed.com](http://zoomed.com)



MURALS  
AND OTHER  
CREATIONS  
BY MARY KAY PERVA  
734-207-0489



Veterinary Care Specialists

205 Rowe Road

Milford, MI 48380

248-684-0468

Open 24 Hours A Day 7 Days A Week



"Baby Parrots Raised in a Home for a Home"

Contact Kaylee at 734-301-0486

[www.kayleesparrotplace.com](http://www.kayleesparrotplace.com)

Specializing in Macaws, Greys,  
Amazons, and others.

Cages and Food at reasonable prices.



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

June 2012  
Volume 15 Issue 6

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING

#### DATES :

JUNE 24<sup>th</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY  
JULY 22<sup>nd</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY  
AUG. 26<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 – Marie Keehl 734-262-2098

Email – [mariekeehl@ymail.com](mailto:mariekeehl@ymail.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!!

From the prez:



I think the song Hot, Hot, Hot by Buster Poindexter is the best thing to describe this crazy spring weather. We broke several records for high temperatures hitting the nineties in both April and May but this could be a good sign for us as we get into the summer event season. Many of our events are outside under the pop-up and the hope for nice weather is always on our minds.

One thing I do not have to hope about is having great meetings we have such fantastic meetings I look forward to them each month. We seem to always welcome new members who become old friends very quickly and prove that birds of a feather do indeed flock together. Of course we are all just crazy bird people as we were once described by a non-bird person but that's Ok with me. If we are crazy then please keep us that way. We have so much fun, we eat so

## 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

well and we enjoy each other's company so much if that is crazy then just continue to call me crazy. Speaking of crazy it's Bag-It Bingo time once more that goofy thing we do once a year to have fun and laugh till our sides hurt. Remember to bring an item something useful or nice, oh Ok silly, wrap it, bag it or get creative and conceal in any way you like then let the games begin. If you have never played this we will tell you how to do it and at this meeting stealing is not only allowed but it is encouraged (as long as it is a bingo prize). There will also be sign-up sheets for the following events; Pet Fest and the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival in August and the Metro Detroit Pet Expo in September so clear those dates for a busy but fun filled time. So I hope to see all of you at the June meeting for Bag-It Bingo remember stealing from the President should not be allowed but stealing from the Vice President is Ok. So come and have fun but always remember **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!**

Until Next Time  
Your Prez  
Dave



### **Voice of the Veep**

Things are completely out of control at my house and I'm at my wits end as to what I can do about it. Calvin, JB and Pookie have taken over my kitchen, family and living rooms. JB and Pookie have chewed holes in the cardboard boxes I use for recycling; they hide in the boxes lying in wait for me to enter the kitchen. There are actually a number of different spots that have been selected as stealth ambush sites; behind the dish towel

at the sink, under the chair by the television, under the desk at the computer, by the table in the living room and in the bathroom. If I don't have shoes on I must tread carefully. Walking into the kitchen or any of the above mentioned spots unarmed and unprepared usually results with attacks on my feet and toes. It's reached a point where I'm afraid to enter my own kitchen without arming myself with a small broom. There have been numerous occasions when I have been making something to snack on and have been viciously preyed upon. My only option when this occurs is to drop everything and run for safety, by the time I return with the broom all my snacks and treats are being devoured by Pookie, JB and Calvin. If I'm sitting in the family room watching TV and snacking JB clambers up the chair or my leg and starts tossing pieces of my meal on the floor where Calvin and Pookie are waiting. I've lost complete control of the inside of my house; there are only two ways I am able to dine in peace at home. One is to cage up all the birds and endure the crying, bellyaching and pellets being tossed at me while I eat. The second is to make up snack plates for all my birds so they can snack while I eat. Option two usually doesn't work too well though because they don't trust me and have to see what I'm eating. So I have to take the goodies I made for them set them next to my plate and let them eat off it while I try to protect my own snacks.

Remember, we are going to play Bag-it-Bingo this month at the meeting and this time I will be victorious! Bring a small inexpensive gift wrapped or placed in a paper bag that can be used by anybody. Don't worry if you can't or if you forget to bring one, there are usually extras so everyone will start with a gift; the trick, is ending up with a gift. We will allow every

person to select a gift from the table then we play bingo. Bingo winners are then allowed to “steal” a gift of their choice from anybody in the room that has not been purloined on that immediate round. You are allowed to amass as many gifts as you can, depending on the number of bingos you get. I reiterate; this year I vow to walk away with a gift!

Your Veep  
Steve

## **\*Special Thanks\***

THIS IS A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE BIRD FAIR. FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO HELPED SET-UP. WITH ALL THE HELP, WE EVEN HAD THE FIRST RAFFLE SET-UP FRIDAY EVENING SO WE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO IT ON SATURDAY MORNING. I ALSO KNOW THAT THE VENDORS WERE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF ALL THE HELP TOO. TO ALL OF YOU THAT HELPED ALL DAY WHERE EVER AND WHENEVER YOU WERE NEEDED, AND ALL THE EXTRA HANDS THAT SEEMED TO MAGICLY APPEAR WHEN IT WAS TIME TO SET-UP FOR THE NEXT RAFFLE. ALSO, TO THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE TEAR DOWN AFTERWARD. EVERY BIT OF HELP WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

WITH SINCERE THANKS,  
TAMMY CAROL



### **Out and About with Pookie**

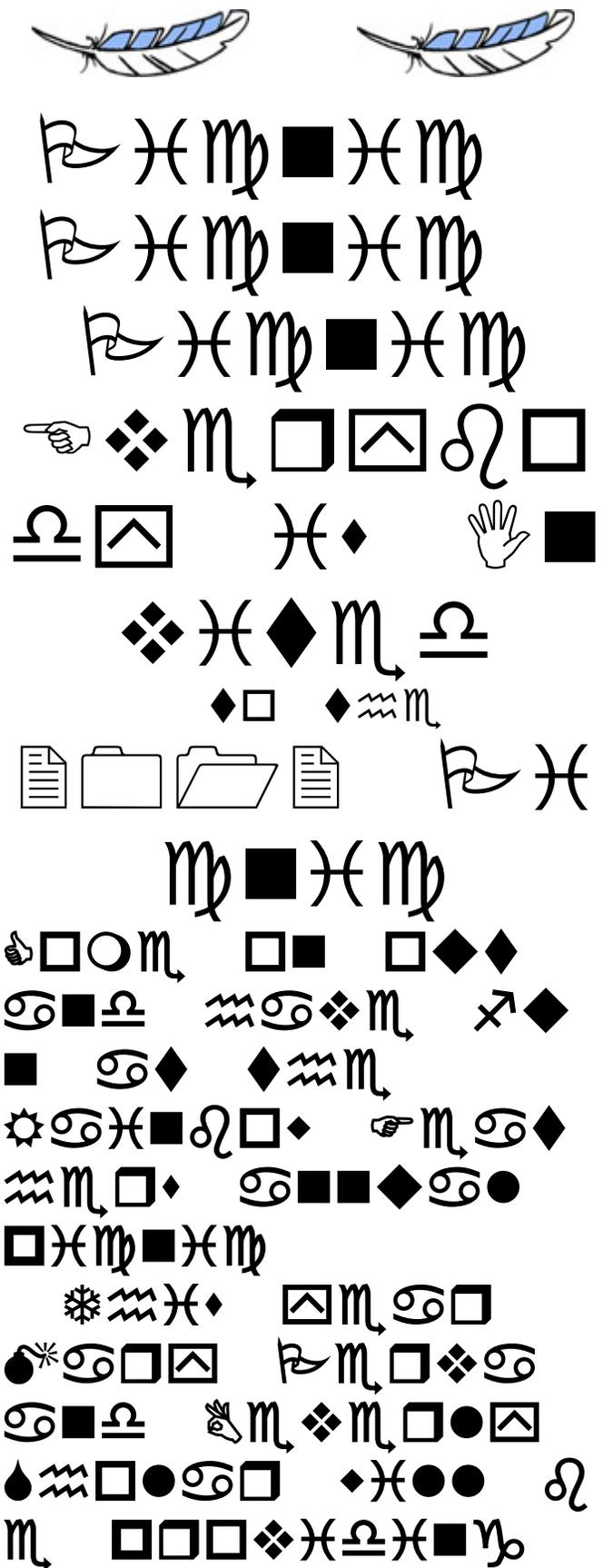
Steve has simply been out of control these past few months. Not only has he been neglecting his well being and diet he has been ignoring us also. We used to be included in the sharing of all of his treats and snacks as well as going for walks in the park. I have to admit that we are still included in trips to senior independent and assisted living communities but our exclusion from his snacks and goodies have prompted drastic action on our part. What have we decided to do?

I will tell you. We, JB, Calvin, Sparky and I have decided to initiate operation kitchen take over. This is a plan to help Steve reform his diet and improve his overall health. While my main duty is to pester him as much as possible as he sits at his computer or watches TV in the family room. I do this by nibbling on his ears and removing his glasses from his face. He will then set me upon the desktop where I proceed to pester and chew upon his stuff at will. Including mouse and monitor wires, and if he lets his guard down the keyboard is fair game. If you've never played with a computer keyboard you have to try it; they pop apart quickly and are impossible to reassemble. Disassembly of the keyboard causes Steve to travel to the local computer store to purchase a new one; of course he takes me along for the ride while getting him out of the house! When he sets me back on the floor I nibble at his feet and toes. While I'm in the back room with him, Calvin and JB go to work in the kitchen. They take up positions by the doorways, chew hiding holes in the cardboard recycling boxes or stealthy hide behind the towels hanging by the sink. When Steve walks in to “our” kitchen we strike! Nips at his stocking feet put him off balance, as he tries to dodge JB Calvin lays land mines made of poop that he steps in. So Steve now has poop socks and

has to leave to put on clean socks; when Steve exits the kitchen JB takes up his spot inside a box by the door while Calvin positions himself at the other door toward our cages. When Steve returns with clean socks and paper towel to pick up poop, Calvin turns and heads toward our cages and JB strikes again! This time he nips at his feet preventing his procurement of unhealthy salty snacks. Steve sometimes grabs a small broom to fend of JB's attack as he whisks at JB, Calvin and I move in and assist from the rear. This is usually when Steve cedes the room and retreats into the living room or family room. If our ploy was properly planned and executed Steve will have dropped his salty snacks on the floor and we are able to clean them up for him.

This improves his health in two ways he doesn't devour the unhealthy food and he benefits from the additional exercise of jumping, dodging and running out of the kitchen. There are times when he feels he must assist us in cleaning up the mess in the kitchen but usually a combined effort by the three of us will convince him to back out of the room to allow us to clean up on our own. Once we have finished snacking and cleaning the kitchen we all head back to our own cages. This gives Steve the opportunity to obtain a healthy snack of fresh fruit which he willingly shares with all of us. This provides Steve with exercise, stimulation and a nudge in the direction of eating healthier.

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie



ኃጋጋጋ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ  
ጸገገገ

ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ  
ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ  
ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ  
ጸገገገ

ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ  
ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ

ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ

ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ

ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ

ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ

ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ

ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ

ጸገገገ ጸገገገ

ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ

ጸገገገ

ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ

ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ

ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ ጸገገገ



Quality by Mother Nature  
Original Corn Bean Mix®: Noodles-n-Nuts®  
Rainforest Rice Puddin®: Pollypasta®  
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



**BITS from BABY**



Howdy all my feathered and non-feathered friends at The Rainbow Feathers Bird Club meetings and programs. I do miss seeing everyone and thanks to all of you who ask Duke for updates on how I'm doing. I'm feeling better every day since I have Charlie living across from me and keeping me company. HE SURE LIKES TO TALK.

Well back to the report on May's meeting. The attendance was sixty members and four guests who jointed our flock. Not a bad turnout for it being such a beautiful day. There were a total of thirty-nine birds at the meeting, five Macaws, eight African Grays and eight Cockatoos, plus eighteen other types of Parrots.

We had one education program on May 30<sup>th</sup> at the Medi-Lodge in Milford for the people staying there and the director told us that it was the most people they ever had ever shown up for one of their programs.

There were four programs set for June. The first one we did was on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Sunrise Senior Home in Northville, on June 9<sup>th</sup>; Meet on Main Pet Adoption Fair on Main street in downtown Whitmore Lake, and one on June 12<sup>th</sup> for the Quest Charter Academy in Taylor (this is a return visit to Quest). The activities director's say that everyone seems to enjoy our programs the most out of any of the other ones that they have. We still have one program left to do on June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Dublin Community Senior Center in White Lake. All the feathered and non-feathered members that do these programs really do a great job for our Club. Keep up the good work you guys and gals!!

At the Meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>, we will be playing our yearly game of bag-it-bingo, hope everyone can come since we always seem to have a great time doing this.

I hope to see you all soon?

Till next month  
Your friend  
Baby

><><><><<>>



**SUGAR AND  
DOUBLE THE  
SPICE  
THAT'S VERY  
NICE**

Hi everyone. I've missed writing to you but it was all my humans fault. First she took sick for awhile. We were lucky to get our cage cleaned and fresh food each day. Then she got well and had to euthanize her 17 1/2 year old dog and she really went bonkers over that. She ended up sick again. Then she had to go for surgery on her eye. So things have been hectic here.

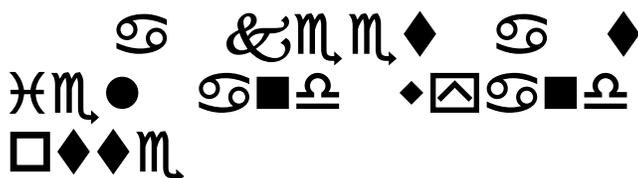
In other news, (bird news) We have two new finches. One is named Cinnamon and the other Spice, like my brother. But the human has renamed her Sweetie because she is sweet and very tame. She sits on the human's finger and when her hand goes into the cage Sweetie fly's over and sits on it. When they first came she put them in the cage with us because she knew they were totally healthy and they are. But

my cage mates did not want to add anyone to our flock. I hate to admit it but we were mean to them both and they were timid and afraid so that allowed us to be even meaner. If they would have fought back they would have seen us back off but these two are just so sweet. So the human gave them a big cage all to themselves in the same room with the cockatiels and the parakeets and they have lots of company. They also have toys and swings and get talked to a lot. They also have a machine that plays bird songs for them. We don't have that downstairs but we get to watch TV so that is just as good. Life is beautiful and we are all happy. Hope this newsletter finds all birds and humans happy and healthy.

Spice



# RESCUE RANGERS

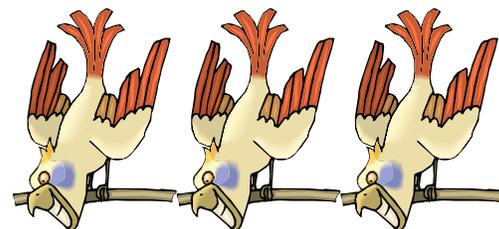


Well it was an ordinary day when the call came in and the Rangers were off to

Wyandotte Michigan. This is a downriver city. Why? Because it is located down on the Detroit River (Ok, I'll keep my day job). Anyway they were going to pick up one Parakeet and one Cockatiel for the reason, and they get this a lot, they no longer had time for the birds. The Rangers were glad they called because so many people see these guy's as disposable meaning they were bought cheaply and letting them out the door is one of the main ways they are disposed of. This is sad but it is true. So the Rangers arrived at the house and were pleased to find that both birds were in very nice cages (which is not always the case). Both birds also appeared to be in very good health and were beautifully colored. The Parakeet (Budgie) was yellow and green and the Cockatiel was grey and white. So as fast as you can say

supercalifragilisticexpialidocious (spelling does not count for this one) they were off with birds in carriers cages in car and smiles on their faces. Both of these birds did not stay in foster long they were adopted out quickly due to their beautiful colors and winning personalities, happy, happy, joy, joy. Their celebration would be short lived because there are still more cage birds to rescue and it was their duty because they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!**

Stay tuned for our next riveting adventure Royal Oak Cockatiels. Until next time Ranger Fans!!





# UP COMING EVENTS

## As of June 20th

June 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Dublin Community Senior Center  
685 Union Lake Road  
White Lake, MI 48386  
Set-up at Noon  
Show at 1:00 PM

June 24<sup>th</sup> Club meeting at church as usual

July 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

July 22<sup>nd</sup> Club meeting at the church as usual

July 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
American House Hazel Park  
777 East Woodward Heights  
Hazel Park, MI 48030  
Set-up 1:00 PM  
Show 2:00 PM

August 11<sup>th</sup> Pet Emporium Pet Fest  
August 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  
August 17<sup>th</sup> Noon to 8:00pm  
August 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00am to 8:00pm  
August 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00am to 6:00pm

We will most likely be setting up our pop-ups at about 7:00am on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> as we have done in years past. Tearing down on Sunday after the festival ends.

August 26<sup>th</sup> Club Picnic  
At Garden City Park under the large pavilion.

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> Walled Lake Pet Awareness Day at  
Walled Lake's Historic Lakefront District  
Ferland Street at E. Walled Lake Drive  
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

We will be setting up our pop-up before the event  
Set-up starts at 9:00 AM

### **PET EXPO**

Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 4pm to 8pm  
Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am to 8pm  
Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 11am to 5pm

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

**Please note that the dates for the Expo have been moved from November to September. This will be updated as more information becomes available. We have submitted our club's paperwork to attend.**

### **\*\*\*\*\*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. Recent cancellations that have occurred at the last minute are: the Fall for Novi Pet Adoption Fair, and the Allen Park Animal Shelter Pet Adoption Fair.



### **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**

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 turn out to be zonks. Which one will you get? Be sure to join us for a great time.



### **RESCUE UPDATE**

We had six successful adoptions this past month. A Jenday Conure, a Cockatiel, a Military Macaw, two Parrotlets and an African Gray

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
DON BOUGENYOY	JULY 10
PATRICIA FULLERTON	JULY 13
HUSTON BOUGENYOY	JULY 14
HENRY JEDRZEJEK	JULY 16
ERICA SCHLOSS	JULY 17
CHERYL HITTER	JULY 18
BEVERLY SHOLAR	JULY 18
SUSAN GOODEN	JULY 19
PAULA PASEK	JULY 19
GABRIELLE GOODEN	JULY 20
BARBARA SWANTNER	JULY 24
RUSTIE SCHLOSS	JULY 27
SUSAN DIXON	JULY 30
EDWARD PROSZKOWSKI	JULY 31
PATRICIA WATSON	JULY 31

Avast ye Mates



## CAPTAINS CORNER

Greetings to all I  
hope all is well with you  
because I have a bone to

pick with our pet humans and it is in regards  
to who takes top billing at the programs.

Now it make us all so mad that they take all  
the credit (talk about angry birds well we are  
several angry birds) they being our pet  
humans. We all go to these programs but do  
they come to see Tammy, Bev, Cheryl,  
Steve, Dave, Brent or Ken certainly not.

They come to see us after all it does not say  
“Human Program” when they list it, it says  
**BIRD PROGRAM**. Who in their right

minds would come if it was only the humans  
especially my pet human Dave, nobody  
that’s who it would be so very boring and  
talk about disappointing, really!!! Although

when you look at his head it does have that  
certain eggy feel to it, but I digress. They  
come for our bright colors and winning  
personalities, we are the stars. I mean even  
when we try to disrupt things by letting one  
loose (I really hope I don’t need to explain  
what that means) it still goes on like nothing  
happened at all. In fact they laugh, really. I  
mean who would want any one of them?

Well, I did get it from a good source that  
Brent was hit on at one of the programs  
thanks Cracker for that bit of information.  
Please Pookie has been griping about this  
forever to no avail so I will join in her fight  
to get proper recognition for the real stars of  
this outfit. We all will take up the cause to  
get what we deserve, **TOP BILLING**. So

to all the birds get your Blackbirdies ready  
to receive information about just what we  
will do about this deplorable turn of events.

We are ready and we will prevail have no  
doubt!!!!

Cheers  
Captain Morgan

## WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT???



It seems that at  
every event we do  
people have some  
strange ways of  
describing their birds  
the feathers on their

birds and what some people say out loud  
well it just boggles one’s mind. Here are  
some examples.

I love the different colors of fur that  
the birds come in. (Said at last year’s pet  
expo)

How often do you have to trim the  
nails on their paws? (Never, birds do not  
have paws.)

I don’t have parrots just two conures a  
Green Cheek and a Sun Conure. Those are  
parrots you know. No they’re not they’re  
Conures.

While looking at the feather display  
one man told his wife it must have hurt  
those birds to get those feathers, they  
probably were not too keen on having them  
pulled out. (Reading is fundamental he  
should have read the explanation on the  
display)

Did you have to go to the Rainforest  
to get these birds?

What do you do when you are done  
with them? Do they go back to the zoo?

This one is my all time favorite and yes we have heard this many, many times: I've had my bird for six years. Oh what kind is it? It's a green bird. What kind of green bird? You know a green bird. This person had the bird six years and could not even tell me what kind of bird it was. This is a true story and you could insert a different color for green but the results are still the same. Many people after owning a bird for years still cannot tell us what kind it is really scary if you ask me.

These are just some of the crazy things we have heard in just the past year and with all the events we have I am sure there will be more to add to the list!

## 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?

This article reprinted with permission from Zupreem®



**Why Home-Cooked Foods May Not Meet Your Bird's Nutritional Needs**

*If you are feeding your bird the same foods you cook for yourself, how do you know he is getting the correct balance of nutrients? After all, his nutrition needs are different from yours.*

**Take the guesswork out of feeding your bird. Offer him healthy balanced ZuPreem® nuggets.**

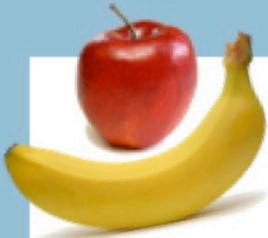


- 21 Vitamins & Minerals
- Naturally Preserved
- Great Taste
- Complete & Balanced

See all ZuPreem® Avian Diets on **ZuPreem.com** and choose the right one for you and your bird.

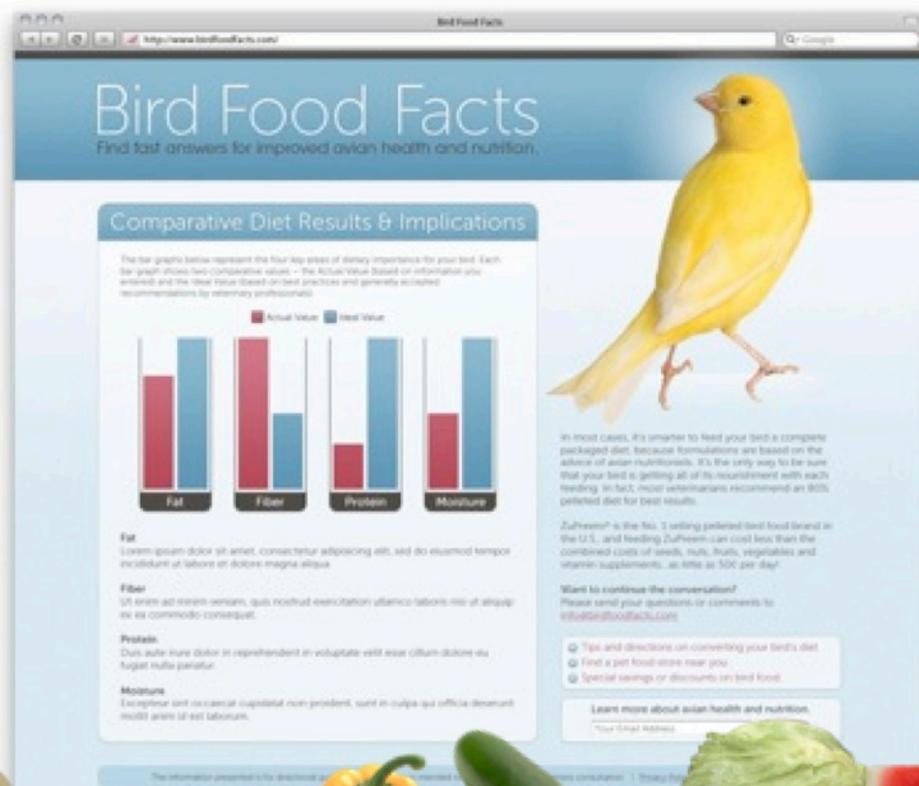
**ZuPreem.com** **ZuPreem®** 1-800-345-4767

ZuPreem® is a registered trademark of Premium Nutritional Products, Inc.  
© 2007 Premium Nutritional Products, Inc.



# 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.



**BITE ME BIRD TOYS**

Tony & Edie Riojas  
4593 Howell Rd, Otter Lake, MI 48464  
1-810-793-2093  
bitemebirdtoys.com

**NORTH BRANCH ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**ROOSE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

Kevin Roose, D.V.M. \* Karen Knight, D.V.M.  
509 W. Ann Arbor Trail \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-451-2870

**SPECIALTY PET SUPPLIES, INC.**

1449 W. Ann Arbor Road \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-453-6930  
Fax: 734-453-7127  
M-F 10-7:30 \* Sat 10-6 \* Sun 12-4

**WARREN WOODS VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

29157 Schoenherr \* Warren, MI 48314  
586-751-3350

**OAKLAND VETERINARY EMERGENCY GROUP**

1400 Telegraph Rd \* Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248-334-6877

Free discount card available to club members      Open 7-Days  
Ask about our birdie day spa treatment

**DISCOUNT PET & SUPPLIES**

Specializing in Exotic Birds & Cages  
1623 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI 48154  
734-513-6060

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

**SOUTHGATE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**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)

**MUGSHOTS and MOUSE PADS**

Species specific coffee mugs, mouse pads and other  
parrot  
paraphernalia

**Cheryl Hitter**

**734-422-2804**

\*Put your pet's picture on a mug or mouse pad\*



An easy and healthy alternative to messy newspaper!

Marty & Angie Crawford

248.438.6572

littlemancageliners@yahoo.com

little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com

Custom sizes up to 25" x 38" ·

Square or Rectangle cuts

PayPal plus Shipping available · Priced for 100 sheets

White cover weight paper · Fresh clean cage everyday

Call or email us for your custom size

248.438.6572

littlemancageliners@yahoo.com

Visit us on

Facebook and Blogger!

little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com

UV LIGHTING, HEATERS, VITIMINS AND OTHER SUPPLIES for your BIRDS, FISH and REPTILES

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

[zoomed.com](http://zoomed.com)



MURALS  
AND OTHER  
CREATIONS  
BY MARY KAY PERVA  
734-207-0489



Veterinary Care Specialists

205 Rowe Road

Milford, MI 48380

248-684-0468

Open 24 Hours A Day 7 Days A Week



"Baby Parrots Raised in a Home for a Home"

Contact Kaylee at 734-301-0486

**[www.kayleesparrotplace.com](http://www.kayleesparrotplace.com)**

Specializing in Macaws, Greys,  
Amazons, and others.

Cages and Food at reasonable prices.



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

July 2012  
Volume 15 Issue 7

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING

#### DATES :

JULY 22<sup>nd</sup> - FOURTH SUNDAY  
AUGUST 26<sup>th</sup> - FOURTH SUNDAY  
PICNIC  
SEPT. - 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
  - 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 – Marie Keehl 734-262-2098

Email – [mariekeehl@ymail.com](mailto:mariekeehl@ymail.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!!

## 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 a feathered member last month. Diego a Peach front Conure, that was rescued and adopted by the Greenwood family. He crossed early on June 27<sup>th</sup> of what appeared to be a neurological disorder. We offer our sympathies to Pat and Mark Greenwood. To Diego we say soar high and fly free on the other side of the rainbow bridge. You will be missed and forever loved.

To the Greenwood's 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:



I never thought I would say this but I WANT IT TO RAIN!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It has been so hot and dry that I can almost harvest my front and back lawns for hay. I don't even want to know how much water I have gone through to keep my flowers alive. Even though it has been so hot it could still be far worse we could get too much rain like our neighbors in Florida who have been flooded out so I still count my many blessings. There is only one thing I hope for and that is this heat breaks before we have to do our outdoor events. Now I know that these are "tropical birds" and they should enjoy the heat but they (the birds) enjoy air conditioning as much as we do. Plus they are as wimpy when it comes to the sweltering heat as many of us are. So I am putting in my order for some 75 to 80 degree days for the Heritage Festival as well as the other outdoor events we have. Look in the coming events for a complete listing that grows all the time. Another thing I am proud to say I did not go away empty handed at the annual bag-it-bingo and what I got was a nice bird toy so somebody was not on their toes and missed me during the stealing rounds. Oh well, better luck next

year. That was fun and everybody had a blast and that is what it is all about having fun. Also the All American Family Pet Expo is now in September and coming up on us fast and we have agreed to sell the tickets for the discounted price and the prize drawing. I hope to have them by the next meeting so start thinking who you might sell them to. I never worry about club participation you guys always come through and do the club proud because of this we have a stellar reputation. This is because of you the members of the club who work so hard to make every event we do a success and it is in spades. Also our flock keeps growing and we welcome all of our new flock members or as we affectionately refer to ourselves fellow birdbrains we are glad you came and joined us. So we will have a busy couple of months with many events plus our picnic in August so keep checking and if you can join us we have a blast at them all. As always **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!**

Until Next Time  
Your Prez  
Dave



Voice of  
the Veep

Bag-it-bingo is always a fun meeting and last month was no exception. It was a meeting with lots of tasty food and bingo but there was one small problem. Once again I returned home from the meeting, bag-it-bingo gift less. Sometimes I do believe there is a big sign on my forehead that says "take my gift" because this now makes four years in a row that I returned home gift bag bare. 😊 Have I succeeded in making all of you feel guilty? 😊 Well don't; weather you take a gift home or not, the fun is the playing of the game.

Next month our club is participating in two adoption events as well as numerous educational shows. If you have never joined us at an adoption event you should consider attending. August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> we will be at the Pet Emporium Pet Fest being held at the Washtenaw County Fairgrounds. August 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> we will have our pop-ups at the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. In September we will be in Walled Lake for a one day event and at the Pet Expo in Novi for a three day event. I know many of you have joined us with past events but to our newer members I ask that you should consider joining us even if it's only for an hour or two during the day. Some of us will have our birds with us but if you're not comfortable bringing your own parrot we can always use extra help talking to the visitors at our booth. I promise, you will enjoy yourself tremendously and will have a lot of fun. You have to be careful though, because you will probably have such a great time you won't want to miss another event.

Our web site is back up and up to date so you can always get the latest changes in our show schedule there or you can call me (Steve) for information.

Your Veep  
Steve



## Club Shirts

We are trying to get another order together for club shirts, so that we have them for the Bird Fair in May. Tammy will be taking orders until the July meeting, so they can be available for pick-up at the August meeting (picnic.) Anyone who would like a shirt and can't make the meeting (picnic), 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.



## 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

Now that summer is here Steve has begun to include us in his journeys to the park, farmers markets, festivals and carnivals. It is so much fun meeting young children receiving skritches and scratches while enjoying their smiling faces. There is a common question or statement that often

gets asked or opined that absolutely drives me insane. This question has also come to me in letters to the editor here at “bird Droppings”. It comes from both non-companion bird owners and companion bird owners. Now I can understand why a non-bird owner might think this way but someone who has companion parrots should know better. OK I’ll stop teasing you and let you in on what I’m getting all worked up about.

We live here in southern Michigan just west of Detroit; the state of Michigan is surrounded by water and gets very hot and humid in the summer time. Why is this significant? Allow me to pontificate by reiterating some of the things I hear while being out and about. “Wow they (us parrots) must like this weather because they’re tropical”, “At least you don’t have to worry about them in this weather like you would in the winter.” You get the gist, most everybody I meet during our outings seems to think that just because my ancestors lived in a tropical rain forest that I enjoy hot humid weather. When this statement comes from a non-companion parrot person I politely correct them and explain. It’s when I hear this from a companion parrot owner that my feathers get ruffled and my dander get puffed up. To those of you that know African Grays we do have dander! Like this heat and humidity? No! No, I don’t like this heat and humidity; my ancestors may have lived in a

rainforest but I don’t. I live in an air conditioned climate controlled environment that is maintained at a comfortable sixty-nine to seventy-two degrees year round. It’s warm in the winter and cool in the summer and we just like humans have to become used to heat and humidity. If Steve takes us out on these warm humid days he has water for us to drink. When we’re going to be in the park for a longer period of time he brings a fan operated misting bottle with water in it. When we attend outdoor festivals that last all day long he brings battery operated fans as well as water misters.

Please don’t assume that your companion parrot likes the heat and humidity they need lots of water and a spot to get a cool breeze or a nice damp misting when it’s hot outside. If you don’t make preparations for your feathered companion in the heat they can suffer heat stroke just like a human can. The sad part is that when you notice they have heat stroke it is most likely too late to save your feathered friend. Please prepare for the heat when you’re outside in the summer with your companion parrot.

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie



Many times  
when we do events I

can tell when Captain Morgan needs a time out. His posture and his demeanor change along with the pinning of his eyes and rapid head movements tell me he needs a break. The problem is many who are not familiar with Macaws cannot read those warning signs and end up getting nipped. Another thing many birds do not like is to be startled this usually comes from someone moving too fast at the bird or coming from behind the bird when they do not expect it. This happened at an event when a little girl asked if she could pet Captain and very quickly stuck her hand in his face. This startled him causing him to give a warning nip, (if it was aggressive it would have been a WHOLE lot worse than what it was). Even her sister said loudly “you scared him!” Many times when someone has been bit by their birds they have done something to bring it on themselves and I am included in this. The fact of the matter is that we need to be very diligent about educating the public as well as ourselves as what signs to watch for. Some birds like Amazons many times will give a loud and clear warning that they do not want to be messed with but some are more subtle but the results will still be the same and with varying degrees of pain. There are also those birds that are easily excitable like many Cockatoos when things get crazy so do they. I have had many people tell me that when things start to get revved up in their homes so do their Cockatoos and if they are on the floor watch out for your toes. So Mr. or Mrs. Cockatoo has to go away until all calm down and all parties are less excited, (this has saved many

a toes from an overly playful Cockatoo). Many of us can read our birds like a book and know when it is time for a little calm down time. The moral to this story is watch body language and if a bird has been placed back on his play stand ask before you proceed to interact with that bird. This will save you from a possibly painful situation.

Dave



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

ANNE BOLANDER	AUG. ?
LEO FENNELY	AUG. 7
JEAN JEDRZEJEK	AUG. 9
KATHE COTE	AUG. 14
NADIA MINKH	AUG. 14
DON HARRIS	AUG. 16
LINDA MCCARTHY	AUG. 17
SUSAN JENISON	AUG 20
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 feathered and non-feathered friends I got some good news. YIPPEE!!! The Vet said I can try going to one of the programs this month, as long as the program is during the week in case I need to see him after. So our second program on July 18<sup>th</sup> I'll give it a try.

Well the June meeting was a lot of fun for all playing Bag-It-Bingo. Too us feathered members it looks a little confusing but it was fun watching everyone taking a gift and then someone else takes it when they call bingo. We had a total of sixty-three

people, fifty-four members and nine guests with three of the guests joining our flock. There were a total of thirty-three birds at the meeting, six Macaws, seven African Grays and nine Cockatoos, plus fourteen other types of Parrots. I hope to be at the July meeting.

July is one of our busiest months with five Education Programs. We have three the third week alone. July 15<sup>th</sup> was an encore at the Waldenwoods in Canton, three days later on July 18<sup>th</sup> another encore at the MediLodge in Milford( I'll be there at my first program in mouths), and again in three days on July 21<sup>st</sup> an education show at the White Lake Township Library in White Lake. The feathered and non-feathered members enjoyed doing the programs as much as the audience enjoyed seeing all the beautiful exotic birds.

We still have two programs to do, one July 27<sup>th</sup> at an American House in Hazel Park and on July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Sunrise Assisted Living in West Bloomfield.

Keep up the GREAT work you guys and gals!! You make the programs special for all young and elderly folks that attend our shows.

I hope I'm back for good!!

Till next month,  
your friend  
Baby

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



sweet as they were beautiful. Also both went together so they were not separated and never would be. What joy what bliss a happy ending but they could not revel for long for there were other birds to rescue and as long as they existed our Heroes could never rest for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!**

Stay tuned for our next exciting installment Oh NO! It's Friday.

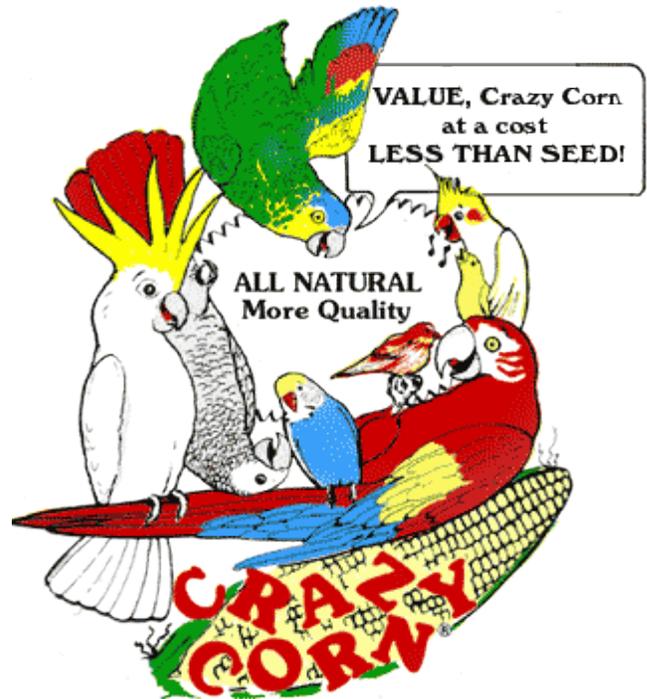


# RESCUE RANGERS



Once again the call came in and the rangers were off to the hamlet of Royal Oak. (Hamlet sounds much more interesting than city, don't you think?) This time it was to pick up two Cockatiels. The circumstances went like this; this person was losing their home and needed to place the birds for they were not sure where they would end up but all of the prospects nixed bringing the birds with them. So the rangers were lead in the house through a maze of packed boxes and those waiting to be packed; down the stairs to the basement and over to the birds. Both birds were beautiful but seemed lonely. This person explained that through all the commotion the birds got placed down in the basement so they would be out of the way and sometimes the light was not turned on because they forgot. So both of these beauties were scooped up placed in carriers and whisked off to the foster home. There they would not stay long before they would find their forever home for both were as

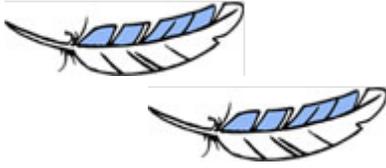
Quality by Mother Nature  
 Original Corn Bean Mix®: Noodles-n-Nuts®  
 Rainforest Rice Puddin®: Pollypasta®  
 Kung Fu Yum®  
 For Birds of all Sizes



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**



℞ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ

℞ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ

℞ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ

☞ ✦ Ǝ □ ▽ Ǝ □

Ω ▽ Ǝ ✦ ☞ □

✦ Ǝ ✦ Ǝ Ω

✦ □ ✦ Ǝ

☞ □ ▽ □ ☞ Ǝ Ǝ

Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ

☞ □ Ǝ □ □ ✦ ✦

☞ Ω Ǝ Ǝ ✦ Ǝ ✦

□ ☞ ✦ ✦ Ǝ

☞ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ □ ✦ ☞ Ǝ ✦

Ǝ Ǝ □ ✦ ☞ □ □ ✦ ☞

□ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ

☞ Ǝ Ǝ ✦ □ Ǝ Ǝ

☞ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ □ ✦ □

☞ Ω ☞ Ǝ ✦ ✦ □ □

☞ Ǝ □ □ Ǝ ✦ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ  
Ǝ □ □ ✦ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ  
Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ ✦ ✦ □ □ Ǝ Ǝ  
Ω ✦

☞ Ω ☞ Ω ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦  
□ Ǝ ✦ ✦ Ǝ □ □ Ǝ  
Ǝ Ǝ ✦ □ Ǝ Ǝ ✦ ✦  
□ ✦ ✦

☞ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ ✦ Ǝ  
☞ Ǝ Ǝ □ □

☞ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦  
☞ ✦ Ǝ Ǝ □ □

☞ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ  
☞ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ

☞ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ  
☞ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ

☞ ✦ ✦ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ  
☞ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ

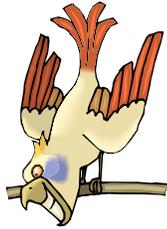
☞ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ  
Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ

℞ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ

℞ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ

℞ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ Ǝ





## Odds and ends



### Rescue update

It's been another successful and busy month for our rescue efforts. This month we found new homes for two Parrotletts and a Goffin Cockatoo. 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

Greetings to all I hope that you are surviving this very hot start to summer but wait summer started in March this year didn't it? Anyway I am here to blow off some steam about a trend that not only do I find disturbing and downright totally annoying but my other feathered compatriots do too. That is sticking your hands, face or other body part in our faces it can be flirting with disaster. I have had people come up to me with their palms out like I'm going to sniff it like a dog, excuse me do I remotely resemble a dog. I don't think so. So rather than sniff it I think I will just give you a parrot version of a Gibb's Slap but rather than the back of your head it will be a finger and I have got five to choose from. (Ok so one technically is a thumb just work with me on this) We cannot and will not be treated like (UGH) dogs it is a tad bit degrading if you ask Pookie, Angel, J.B., me and any number of parrots. Now don't get me wrong I like dogs they clean up my pellet mess and keep my pet humans occupied so I can get other things done. The only drawback is that they are a lot harder to train than a pet human and their potty manners are not shall we say the best in the world. (Again, I know we go whenever we want and wherever we want so you got a problem with that?) Anyway, let us not forget that we are Parrots not dogs or cats so next time you expect me to sniff your hand let's just say it won't be pretty. Treat us like the superior beings we are and there will not be any problems at all. It is easy

and it won't cause anyone any pain, if you know what I mean.

Cheers  
Captain Morgan



## UP COMING EVENTS

July 15<sup>th</sup> Educational Show  
Waldenwoods of Carriage Park  
Assisted Living Building  
2000 Canton Center Road  
Canton, MI 48178  
(Behind Meijer's off Canton Center RD.)  
1:00 PM Set-up  
2:00 PM Show

July 18<sup>th</sup> Educational Program  
MediLodge of Milford  
555 Highland Avenue  
Milford, MI 48381  
Set-up at 1:00 pm  
Show starts at 2:00 pm

July 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

July 22<sup>nd</sup> Club meeting at the church as usual

July 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
American House Hazel Park  
777 East Woodward Heights  
Hazel Park, MI 48030  
Set-up 1:00 PM  
Show 2:00 PM

July 30<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Sunrise Assisted Living  
7005 Pontiac Trail  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
Set-up at 12:30 PM  
Show at 1:00 PM

August 11<sup>th</sup> Pet Emporium Pet Fest  
August 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  
August 17<sup>th</sup> Noon to 8:00pm  
August 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00am to 8:00pm  
August 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00am to 6:00pm  
We will most likely be setting up our pop-ups at about 7:00am on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> as we have done in years past. Tearing down on Sunday after the festival ends.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Sunrise Assisted Living  
7005 Pontiac Trail  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
Set-up at 12:30 PM  
Show at 1:00 PM

August 26<sup>th</sup> Club Picnic  
At Garden City Park under the large pavilion.

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> Walled Lake Pet Awareness Day at  
Walled Lake's Historic Lakefront District  
Ferland Street at E. Walled Lake Drive  
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
We will be setting up our pop-up before the event  
Set-up starts at 9:00 AM

## PET EXPO

Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 4pm to 8pm  
Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am to 8pm  
Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 11am to 5pm

### Suburban Collection Showplace

46100 Grand River  
Novi, MI 48374

**Please note that the dates for the Expo have been moved from November to September. This will be updated as more information becomes available. We have submitted our club's paperwork to attend.**

\*\*\*\*\*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. Recent cancellations that have occurred at the last minute are: the Fall for Novi Pet Adoption Fair, and the Allen Park Animal Shelter Pet Adoption Fair.

# 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:

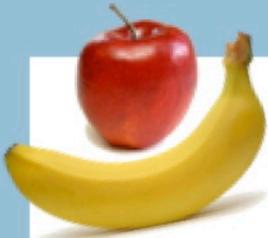
- Identify and call veterinarians in the yellow pages who

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.

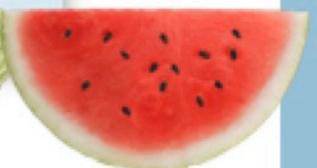
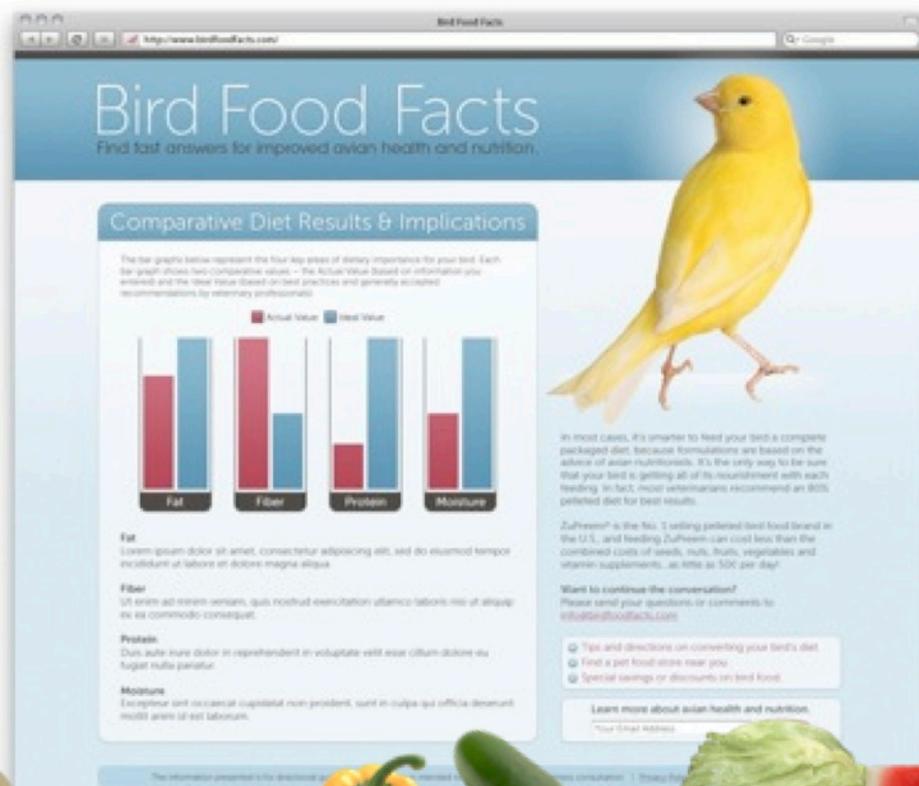
Congratulations! Through hard work and some common sense, you may have found just the right veterinarian for you and your bird.

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.



**BITE ME BIRD TOYS**

Tony & Edie Riojas  
4593 Howell Rd, Otter Lake, MI 48464  
1-810-793-2093  
bitemebirdtoys.com

**NORTH BRANCH ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**ROOSE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

Kevin Roose, D.V.M. \* Karen Knight, D.V.M.  
509 W. Ann Arbor Trail \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-451-2870

**SPECIALTY PET SUPPLIES, INC.**

1449 W. Ann Arbor Road \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-453-6930  
Fax: 734-453-7127  
M-F 10-7:30 \* Sat 10-6 \* Sun 12-4

**WARREN WOODS VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

29157 Schoenherr \* Warren, MI 48314  
586-751-3350

**OAKLAND VETERINARY EMERGENCY GROUP**

1400 Telegraph Rd \* Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248-334-6877

Free discount card available to club members      Open 7-Days  
Ask about our birdie day spa treatment

**DISCOUNT PET & SUPPLIES**

Specializing in Exotic Birds & Cages  
1623 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI 48154  
734-513-6060

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

**SOUTHGATE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**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)

**MUGSHOTS and MOUSE PADS**

Species specific coffee mugs, mouse pads and other parrot paraphernalia

**Cheryl Hitter**

**734-422-2804**

\*Put your pet's picture on a mug or mouse pad\*



An easy and healthy alternative to messy newspaper!

Marty & Angie Crawford

248.438.6572

littlemancageliners@yahoo.com

little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com

Custom sizes up to 25" x 38" •

Square or Rectangle cuts

PayPal plus Shipping available • Priced for 100 sheets

White cover weight paper • Fresh clean cage everyday

Call or email us for your custom size

248.438.6572

littlemancageliners@yahoo.com

Visit us on

Facebook and Blogger!

[little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com](http://little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com)

UV LIGHTING, HEATERS, VITIMINS AND OTHER SUPPLIES for your BIRDS, FISH and REPTILES

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

[zoomed.com](http://zoomed.com)



MURALS  
AND OTHER  
CREATIONS  
BY MARY KAY PERVA  
734-207-0489



Veterinary Care Specialists

205 Rowe Road

Milford, MI 48380

248-684-0468

Open 24 Hours A Day 7 Days A Week



"Baby Parrots Raised in a Home for a Home"

Contact Kaylee at 734-301-0486

[www.kayleesparrotplace.com](http://www.kayleesparrotplace.com)

Specializing in Macaws, Greys,  
Amazons, and others.

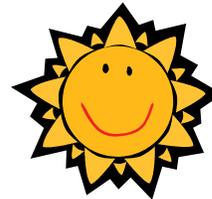
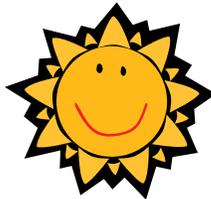
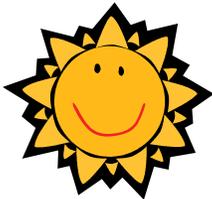
Cages and Food at reasonable prices.



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

August 2012  
Volume 15 Issue 8

# Bird Droppings



## UPCOMING MEETING

### DATES :

AUGUST 26<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday-Picnic

SEPT – Pet Expo no Meeting

OCT. 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
- 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 – Marie Keehl 734-262-2098

Email – [mariekeehl@ymail.com](mailto:mariekeehl@ymail.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](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.

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:



It is just crazy to think that we have a meeting where over 50 people attend and we think of it as a light meeting. What is even more amazing is that we can name those who usually attend but didn't last month. That is a good thing, it shows that we are all in tune with each other and miss those who don't attend.

Another thing is the weather; hot and dry seems to be the norm. I've baled my lawn as hay and cheer every time it rains. No, rainy days and Mondays don't get me down well maybe Mondays but I will take the rain any way I can get it these days. During the last rain I swear I could hear my lawn and flowers cheering and I may have even seen them dance but it went right back to desert conditions. I am hoping that this

## 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

heat calms down because we have a couple of outdoor events coming up and some picture perfect days would be greatly appreciated. Our guys tend to get a little uncomfortable in the heat and the birds don't do well either. So for the Heritage Festival, Pet Fest and any other outdoor events we have let's do the perfect weather dance shall we? Also we need you to be signed up for these events especially the pet expo and pet fest and if you still want to come but didn't sign up just call Tammy or I and we will add you to the list. Our August and September are proving to be quite busy so if you have never done an event like this join us we have a blast (and carnival food). I also hope to have the tickets to sell for the pet expo at the pet fest. So to the best members in the world come joins us you will never be the same just look at me. On second thought don't do that I don't want scare anyone away, just come and have fun. As always **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!**

Until Next Time  
Your Prez  
Dave



### **Voice of the Veep**

Greetings everyone!

Hope all of you are managing to remain cool during these hot and steamy summer days. For the most part I have been hibernating inside of my air conditioned home as much as possible. The month of July and the month of August have been insanely busy for our club. We

had multiple senior educational shows and library shows in July and although I'm writing this article in early August every weekend in this month is busy. We have the Pet Emporium Pet Fest on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> the Heritage Festival on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and out picnic on the 26<sup>th</sup>. If it's not too late you should plan on joining us at all of these events. The picnic will be a pot luck open house and we will have invited many people that we had met at the aforementioned events to join us. So plan on getting to the picnic early and staying late there will be food, fun and games with prizes. We will be under the large pavilion in Garden City Park located on the Northeast corner of Merriman and Cherry Hill and remember if you bring your bird make sure their wings are clipped and be aware that there may be hawks and other types of wild birds around. If you do bring your bird bring a carrier that you can put him in if necessary.

My house has been in a complete uproar this past month. Apollo, Nada's African Grey has been staying at my house the past few weeks while Nada has been on vacation. Apollo has gleefully fallen in with a den of thieves at my house. He and JB, Calvin, Pookie and Sparky have been a flock of delinquents. Apollo joined right in with the rendering of a 20 pound bag of pellets into a scattered mess in my kitchen and living room. He was with JB on top of the foster Cockatiel's cage gleefully watching while I failed in my attempts to nab the

cockatiel while avoiding a floor covered with pellets. He assisted JB in chewing a hole through a piece of Styrofoam I use to block my basement stairs and followed JB into the basement.

I fear Nada is going to be very upset with me because she dropped off a sweet well behaved African Grey Parrot. What she picked up may well be an unruly juvenile delinquent. There is no doubt in my mind that sweet Apollo has been corrupted by JB, Calvin, Pookie and Sparky. I hope Nada can forgive me for what my den of thugs and thieves have changed sweet and snuggly Apollo into.

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 fourth 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. 17<sup>th</sup> to Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> noon till 8PM on Friday, 10AM till 8PM on Sat, and 11AM till 6PM on Sun.

SEE YOU THERE!

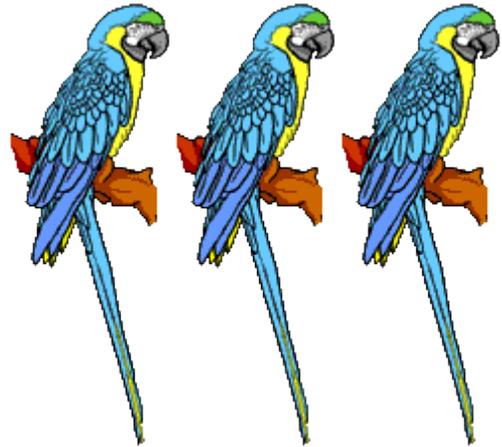
## PET EXPO UPDATE

We need everyone who is planning to work the expo to sign up. A new company has taken over 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; as of this writing details are being worked out as to how members are entering with their birds. 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



## Cooked Cockatiel Anyone?



This has certainly been a hot summer not only for us but our companion animals as well. We need to take extra precautions to ensure their safety and well-being when the mercury soars. Some send their brains on vacation instead and here is one such call.

Is this the bird rescue?

Yes it is how can I help you

It's my bird he's barely alive

What is the problem?

I put him on our deck this morning, he loves this, but I forgot about him. (About six hours) and I think he got overheated. What do I do?

Get him into the cool house and call a vet I can't help you I'm not a vet!

Will he die?

I can't say.

So I should take him to the vet?

Yes! The sooner the better!

I don't know what happened to this poor bird but I would probably guess he didn't make it. From the way his condition was described to me it did seem pretty hopeless. So please let's continue to educate people to be smarter when it comes to all their companion animals and maybe we can cut down on episodes like this.

Dave

Quality by Mother Nature  
Original Corn Bean Mix®: Noodles-n-Nuts®  
Rainforest Rice Puddin®: Pollypasta®  
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



## Out and About with Pookie

Sometimes it seems that the more you try to bond with and train your companion human the further from your goal you become. All of my loyal readers are probably aware of our extensive efforts to help keep Steve, our companion human, on a healthy lifestyle. This would include good food with lots of fruit and vegetables, exercise and plenty of stimulation. This includes but isn't limited to foraging, exercise and other types of stimulation. Well, sadly it must be reported that in spite of all our vigorous efforts and diligence we have failed.

It's been very hot and humid in the state of Michigan this summer and Steve has used the weather as his excuse to become even lazier and more slovenly. He avoids taking us for car rides, trips to the park, farmers markets, carnivals and festivals. All of our standard summer adventures have been decreased tremendously because he says it's too hot or too humid for us. That's not the issue! The problem is Steve would rather loll about on the couch sipping iced tea and munching on salty snacks instead of

taking us out to a festival to meet our fans and interact with the public

A good friend of ours, Apollo (CAG), stayed with us for two weeks while his mama went out of town he was appalled by our apparent inability to get Steve off of the couch. He spurred all of us into action to get Steve moving. On the second day of his stay he joined JB, Calvin and me in the kitchen while Steve napped on the couch; this is where we set up the first foraging challenge for Steve. Apollo chewed through the cardboard box that our 20 lb. bag of pellets was being stored in. Into the box he went followed by all three of us, once inside of the box we went to work on the pellet bag. By the time Steve moved off the couch the four of us had pellets and cardboard shreds from one end of the house to the other. Steve was overwhelmed with excitement and joy as he bounded up and down in the kitchen as the pellets under his feet crunched and crackled. Apollo scampered into the living room and on to a foster Cockatiel's cage with JB where they released the foster bird and watched Steve hop and jump from pellets under his feet while attempting to catch the flighted foster bird. While they had Steve occupied in the front room Calvin and I discovered an awesome new toy in the kitchen which we proceeded to reduce to itty bitty green pieces of stiff cloth. The toy had fallen from the counter to the floor during the above ruckus; Steve called the toy his money clip we called it awesome fun.







Most people thrill at the thought of Friday after all it's the end of the week the gateway to the weekend. Many times I don't have to be me till Monday when it's back to work but Fridays are special. However, this Friday happens to be the name of a little green and red female Lovebird, a Peach faced Lovebird to be more accurate in this case.

That is what the Rangers went to pick up in the city of Wayne Michigan a sweet little Lovebird, sweet like a Pit Viper. This Friday was not the gateway to fun and frolic but to the gates of Hades. This little Lovebird could make Eagles tremble in fear and could bring the king of beast to its knees. That is precisely why Friday was being re-homed. Now Tuesday it's so called friend was staying but Tuesday was a male and sweeter than an Angel's song plus he was the blue side so he was staying put. Now before you start puzzling over the names it was very simple the little girl who owned these birds named them after the days of the week they were bought on so that is explanation on the names. Even in the carrier this little green Peachfaced Lovebird was trying to get at one of the rangers. She

was out for blood and it didn't matter Dave or Steve she was just in the mood to do some damage. Our Heroes were smarter than that and wrapped the carrier in chain-mail inserted into a bullet proof box with a sophisticated alarm system to warn them if Friday escaped. Thankfully that did not happen and Friday was being fostered at Ranger Dave's house leaving Ranger Steve to breathe a sigh of relief. Luck was on Ranger Dave's side for someone wanted a bird they could just look at and loved Friday's deceptively innocent color scheme. So even before the newly adoptive parrot parents had pulled out of his driveway he was doing the happy, happy, Joy, Joy dance. Alas his happy dance would not last long for there were other birds (not as mean as Friday) that needed to be rescued and they were up to the task for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!**

Stayed tuned and come with us next time as we track down that Wiley character Wyandotte Sam.

Avast ye Mates **CAPTAINS**

**CORNER**



Well it is still hot and that is just putting it mildly I can't believe that we seem to go above ninety way too much for my taste. That brings me to my topic about being a "tropical bird". I don't know how



**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

DANIELLE MILLER	9/1
ANGIE CRAWFORD	9/2
BEL DALIDOWICH	9/3
SUE WILHELM	9/8
MARTY CRAWFORD	9/10
WILL SOPHA	9/10
MALINE PASEK	9/12
MATT COPIJA	9/17
JEFF COTE	9/23
MELISSA BATES	9/25
CELESTE MARKEY	9/25
KATHY MOUNSEY	9/25
SANDRA CLAFTON	9/26
ROSEANN KEENAN	9/26
MARY PERVA	9/27
JENNIFER NICHOLSON-FARIS	9/29

many times I have heard the birds must really enjoy the hot weather being tropical and all. Whoa, while we may be “tropical birds’ we are Michigan tropical. Confused, I will explain in simple terms, (Pookie and I have realized that we must simplify things for our pet humans). Most of us were not born in the rainforest but in the United States so while we may look tropical give us air conditioning, cool breezes and a cold drink and we will show you how tropical we are. If you still don’t get it ok, how about I put it this way what if we took our pet humans and sat them outside in the heat not necessarily the sun but the heat. Well they would be whining up a storm, “it’s hot, I’m thirsty, I’m sweaty, can we go in now anyway you get the picture. I am still trying to get my pet human to move to Hawaii where the temperature is always in the upper seventies to low eighties. A trade wind gently blows, basically it is perfect and I could get my big shot on Hawaii 5-0 don’t you think I’d be perfect I’m good looking and I can hang loose with the best of them. Ok, I’m not quite sure where the Hawaii 5-0 bit came from, maybe wistful thinking. Any way it goes like this we may look tropical but that doesn’t mean we can take this hundred degree weather any better than you can. So let us all stay indoors and have a cool drink. Oh look, Hawaii 5-0 is on book em Davo.

**Cheers  
Captain Morgan**



**RESCUE UPDATE**

There were a number of adoptions this past month; Rickey and Nala, Umbrella

Cockatoos. Meeka & Molly, both blue & Gold Macaws, Morpheus a cockatiel and a Senegal also 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

your assistance, donations and participation in our monthly raffles.

Thank You Thank You Thank You



## UP COMING EVENTS

August 11<sup>th</sup> Pet Emporium Pet Fest  
August 12<sup>th</sup> Washtenaw County Fairgrounds  
5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
We will be setting up inside a fairground building about 8:00 AM Saturday and tearing down Sunday after the Pet Fest concludes  
Runs 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Both Days

Ypsilanti Heritage Festival  
August 17<sup>th</sup> Noon to 8:00pm  
August 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00am to 8:00pm  
August 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00am to 6:00pm  
We will most likely be setting up our pop-ups at about 7:00am on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> as we have done in years past. Tearing down on Sunday after the festival ends.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Sunrise Assisted Living  
7005 Pontiac Trail  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
Set-up at 12:30 PM  
Show at 1:00 PM

August 26<sup>th</sup> Club Picnic  
At Garden City Park under the large pavilion.

Sept. 8<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 8<sup>th</sup> Highland Hey Days  
Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 2011 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.  
\*\*\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*\*\*  
\*Note: Dave & Steve will be at Highland and Tammy and Henry will be at the Canary and Finch bird show in Livonia on Sept.8<sup>th</sup> .

Sept 12<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Lourdes Nursing Home  
2300 Watkins Lake Road  
Waterford, MI 48328  
1:30 PM Set-up  
2:30 PM Show

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> Walled Lake Pet Awareness Day at  
Walled Lake's Historic Lakefront District  
Ferland Street at E. Walled Lake Drive  
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
We will be setting up our pop-up before the event  
Set-up starts at 9:00 AM

### **PET EXPO**

Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 11am to 8pm  
Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am to 8pm  
Sept.23<sup>rd</sup> 11am to 5pm

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

**Please note that the dates for the Expo have been moved from November to September. This will be updated as more information becomes available. We have submitted our club's paperwork to attend.**

\*\*\*\*\*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. Recent cancellations that have occurred at the last minute are: the Fall for Novi Pet Adoption Fair, and the Allen Park Animal Shelter Pet Adoption Fair.

## 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

Make Nutritious Nuggets

**80%**  
of Your  
Bird’s Diet

*Veterinarians recommend feeding 80% high-quality nuggets so your bird gets the right balance of vitamins and minerals he needs every day.*

Switch Your Bird to a ZuPreem® Avian Diet Today

- **FruitBlend™ Flavor** – Fun, fruity, colorful nuggets
- **AvianMaintenance™ Natural** – Wholesome nuggets with fresh ground veggies
- **AvianEntrées®** – 3 mixes with different nuggets, fruit and veggies

**Go to [ZuPreem.com/conversion](http://ZuPreem.com/conversion).**  
Let us help you get your bird on a healthier diet.

**ZuPreem®**  
ZuPreem.com 1-800-345-4767

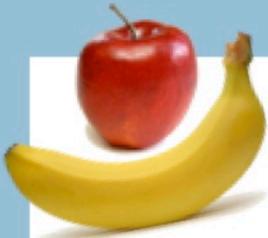
ZuPreem® and AvianEntrées® are registered trademarks, and AvianMaintenance and FruitBlend are trademarks of Prismatic Nutritional Products, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2007 Prismatic Nutritional Products, Inc.

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

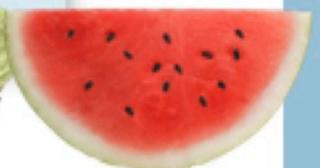
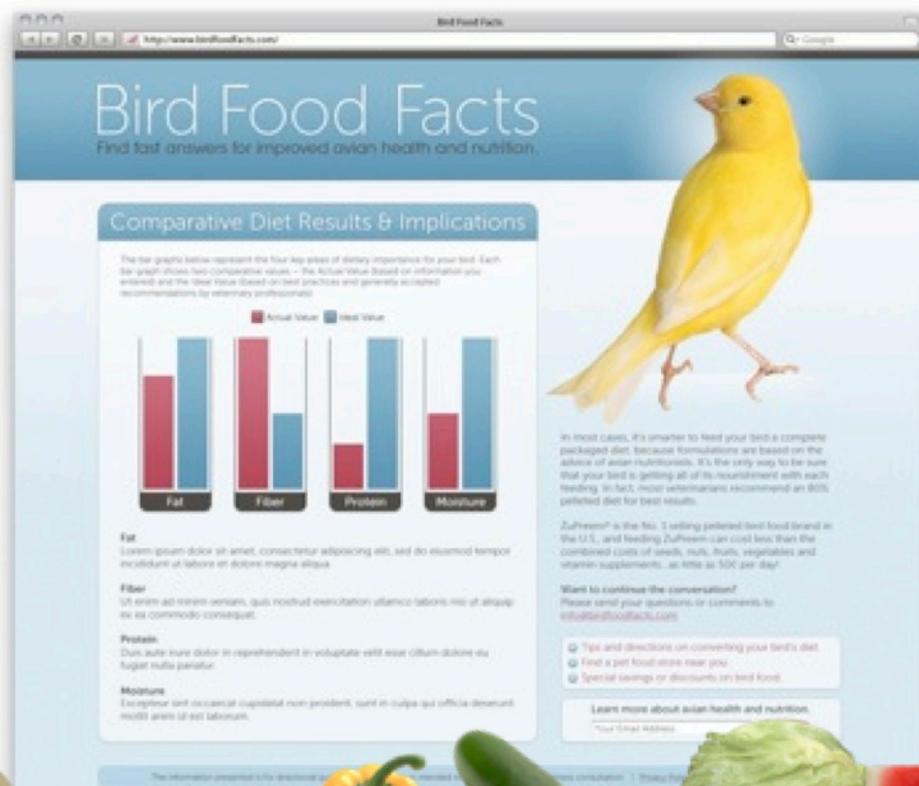
bird into it with the "down" command, then immediately pick it up with the "up" command. Repeating this several times will teach your parrot that the commands also work in and around his cage. Repeat this process on the cage top and on any other of your bird's favorite hangouts. Once your bird is trained, 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.

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.



**BITE ME BIRD TOYS**

Tony & Edie Riojas  
4593 Howell Rd, Otter Lake, MI 48464  
1-810-793-2093  
bitemebirdtoys.com

**NORTH BRANCH ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**ROOSE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

Kevin Roose, D.V.M. \* Karen Knight, D.V.M.  
509 W. Ann Arbor Trail \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-451-2870

**SPECIALTY PET SUPPLIES, INC.**

1449 W. Ann Arbor Road \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-453-6930  
Fax: 734-453-7127  
M-F 10-7:30 \* Sat 10-6 \* Sun 12-4

**WARREN WOODS VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

29157 Schoenherr \* Warren, MI 48314  
586-751-3350

**OAKLAND VETERINARY EMERGENCY GROUP**

1400 Telegraph Rd \* Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248-334-6877

Free discount card available to club members      Open 7-Days  
Ask about our birdie day spa treatment

**DISCOUNT PET & SUPPLIES**

Specializing in Exotic Birds & Cages  
1623 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI 48154  
734-513-6060

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

**SOUTHGATE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**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)

**MUGSHOTS and MOUSE PADS**

Species specific coffee mugs, mouse pads and other parrot paraphernalia

**Cheryl Hitter**

**734-422-2804**

\*Put your pet's picture on a mug or mouse pad\*



An easy and healthy alternative to messy newspaper!

Marty & Angie Crawford

248.438.6572

littlemancageliners@yahoo.com

little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com

Custom sizes up to 25" x 38" •

Square or Rectangle cuts

PayPal plus Shipping available • Priced for 100 sheets

White cover weight paper • Fresh clean cage everyday

Call or email us for your custom size

248.438.6572

littlemancageliners@yahoo.com

Visit us on

Facebook and Blogger!

little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com

UV LIGHTING, HEATERS, VITIMINS AND OTHER SUPPLIES for your BIRDS, FISH and REPTILES

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

[zoomed.com](http://zoomed.com)



MURALS  
AND OTHER  
CREATIONS  
BY MARY KAY PERVA  
734-207-0489



Veterinary Care Specialists

205 Rowe Road

Milford, MI 48380

248-684-0468

Open 24 Hours A Day 7 Days A Week



"Baby Parrots Raised in a Home for a Home"

Contact Kaylee at 734-301-0486

[www.kayleesparrotplace.com](http://www.kayleesparrotplace.com)

Specializing in Macaws, Greys, Amazons, and others.

Cages and Food at reasonable prices



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

September 2012  
Volume 15 Issue 9

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING

#### DATES :

SEPT. – Pet Expo No Meeting

OCT. 28<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday

NOV. 18<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 – Marie Keehl 734-262-2098

Email – [mariekeehl@ymail.com](mailto:mariekeehl@ymail.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:

What a busy weekend the Labor Day Weekend was and all my plans for a relaxing weekend went down the tubes. First we had the bird rescue in Hamtramck and that was a little more than fishy if you ask me. Six of us went ready for anything and never made into the house. She had boxed up the fifteen remaining birds, (all budgies) but maintained that the Cockatiels had all been



stolen. When we transferred the Budgies to proper carriers we found that one had died somehow in the box so we came home with fourteen. One of these poor little guys had a hurt leg and the other is severely splayed legged. All appear to be in good shape but are having a tiny bit of a hard time adjusting to being caged for the first time in their lives and having clipped wings. I would like to thank Tammy, Alison, Annette, Janet and Steve for coming along even if it turned out to be a little anticlimactic.

I would also like to thank Bev, Brent and Ken for accompanying Steve and me to the Great Lakes State Fair to try and sell tickets and promote the All American Pet expo. It was a long but good day and we sold 33 tickets to add to those we have already sold so things are coming along. Now about the picnic; was it not a simply beautiful day, we had great food and great fun. I would like to thank Mary Perva and Bev Sholar for getting great prizes and organizing the games they were a blast. I now realize that I am not as coordinated as I thought I was but that seemed to be a running theme for a lot of the games I played. Fun was had by all fantastic job guys. Now September is shaping up to be another busy month with the Highland Hey Days on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, the Finch and Canary Clubs Bird Fair on the 8<sup>th</sup> (we are splitting up for those two events). The Walled Lake Pet Awareness Day on the 16<sup>th</sup> and the All American Family Pet Expo on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> we do not have a free weekend in September at all. I am not worried about these events because

wherever we go we make an impression a very good impression so let's show up and be ready to have some fun. Once again I have to say **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Until Next Time,  
Your Prez,  
Dave



## Voice of the Veep

Wow, what a month it was for our club in August; between the fairs, pet adoption events and educational shows we barely had a chance to catch our breath. The first thing I feel I must convey to everybody is thank you so much for all the assistance we received. I truly believe that without the help from all of the club members I would have collapsed from exhaustion. However our jam packed schedule is not over. As of the time I'm writing this column (early September) there are about ten days of events yet to do this month.

It's Pet Expo time! The Pet Expo is this month I hope that everyone who intended to bring their birds to the event has signed up with Tammy because there will not be any birds allowed through the front door during the expo. All club members who want to bring a bird with them have to come to the vendor's

entrance at the rear of the expo center. To all of our newer members that have never been to an event like this allow me to say; "It's a blast." Don't feel you must bring your companion bird with you to join us at the expo; there is plenty to do even if your bird isn't with you. We need help watching the parrots that are there, assistance taking and printing souvenir photographs, helping with meeting and greeting the people enjoying the expo, cleaning duties and any other issues that may occur. All of these needs don't preclude the fact that you will enjoy yourself tremendously.

The picnic last month was a blast; I must give kudos to everybody that brought something to share, what a feast we had! Complements must also be extended to Mary and Beverly for the great job they did on the games. From the games themselves, the execution, coronation and prizes they did an awesome job. There was no attendance sheet at the picnic so unfortunately we have absolutely no idea how many of us were in attendance. My personal gut feeling is that this was the largest gathering ever for a picnic. There were no hamburgers or hotdogs left and very little in the way of side dishes and goodies. There is one more small detail that must be mentioned; when the games committee coordinator tells you not to leave your cell phone or shoe in your scavenger hunt bag, heed her advice. One of our members threw his cell phone in the trash after the hunt and didn't realize it

until after the pavilion trash cans were emptied by the city. Oops! I don't want to embarrass this fool so his name is being withheld by request.

P.S. (His initials are Steve the V.P.) ☺

Your Veep

Steve

## Tales from Buster Brown



I am owned by a nine and one-half year old African Gray named Buster Brown. My family is always asking about the latest "Buster" story so I wanted to share some of them with the club.

Buster is the first I have had the pleasure of sharing my life with and I had always believed that parrots just repeated what they heard. Buster has taught me otherwise; this amazing creature not only understands the words but knows that words have meanings and outcomes. He knows that "good morning" and "bon jour" are said in the morning, and that "night night and sweet dreams" is said when I put the cover on his cage. He knows that choice is the difference between stepping up and getting a towel wrapped around him to make him do what is needed.

With so many stories it is difficult for me to know where to start so I will start with the cleaning of his cage. He has become

more territorial of his cage as he has gotten older; when he bites or pokes he knows that he will hear from me “That’s not nice, you are mean or be gentle boy.” As I was cleaning perches he tried to bite my hand. As I removed the grate he tried to bite my hand again. This was new behavior for him and he also asked me “What’s up?” I told him I was cleaning his cage. He then started saying things like “You are mean Buster Brown that is not nice, you go back and what are you doing?” Next I heard “What’s up?” I told him I was taking a break from my attack bird, he looked at me and said “S\*\*t”; I must not have been working fast enough for him. (Thank goodness this is the only bad word I use.) Since this day when ever his cage is being cleaned he is on the play stand in the study. To be fair after I had finished he said “I’m so sorry.”

We had visitors from out of town staying with us and Buster kept asking them “Do you want to watch TV, let’s watch TV.” The next thing I know they bought Buster his own 15 inch flat screen TV and mounted it behind his cage. Buster now watches TV and comments all day long.

We lived in Texas and friends of ours taught him to say (in a Texan accent) many things including “Help, help get me out of here” because they thought it would be funny. Well one day Buster was outside on our deck by my neighbor’s fence while I was inside the house making dinner. Suddenly the police were swarming all around my house; my neighbor had called 911 telling them someone was in trouble inside my home. Of course Buster wouldn’t

say a word when the police were here. That phrase might not have been the best thing to teach him. ☺

Linda Brown



## **Ramblings from Rambo**

Hi gang, my name is Rambo I’m a 19 1/2 year old male Hans Macaw. Last month I attended my first meeting and had a wonderful time meeting everybody. My companion human, Michael, told me I was very well behaved and enjoyed snacking on some almonds a lady I had never met before offered me. I took them from her nice and gentle and didn’t try to bite her. For me this is quite unusual because I normally won’t allow anyone to get close to me let alone feed me. I was having so much fun I even allowed a young girl to have me step up on her hand. I didn’t lunge or snap at her and even let her put her finger next to my feet. She was very special because I have never let any stranger get this close to me before.

The food at the meeting was great I even snuck a few bites for myself when my human wasn’t looking. It was a lot of fun seeing all the different bird species at the meeting; I especially enjoyed meeting the Toucan. I never knew a bird could have such a big beak!

There is other news I want to share with everybody; I recently received a new

house full of new toys and it's HUGE! Well maybe not huge but it's taller and it has an apartment down below. There is enough room for me to have a buddy and for Michael to store food and stuff below.

Everybody at the meeting was so friendly and got along with each other and all the other parrots treated me and each other with the same respect. I look forward to seeing all of you again.

Rambo

Editor's Note:

Linda and Michael are new members to our club and I want to thank them for the entertainingly wonderful stories. As a person that is owned by an African Gray I know she has many more tales to tell and we're all looking forward to hearing them.

I also want to thank Michael for his entertaining story from his Hans Macaw Rambo. I'm sure I speak for all the loyal readers of Bird Droppings when I say we look forward to Rambo's next adventure.

Also I must apologize to Michael because this is the second story submitted by him. The first one was turned into a bird toy by Pookie and was chewed into itty bitty pieces rendering it unreadable.

Thanks  
Steve



## PET EXPO

Well it's finally here the Pet Expo in Novi has arrived; the dates and hours are:

**Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 11am - 8pm**  
**Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10am - 8pm**  
**Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11am-6pm**

A new company has taken over 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

Quality by Mother Nature  
 Original Corn Bean Mix®: Noodles-n-Nuts®  
 Rainforest Rice Puddin®: Pollypasta®  
 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



## Out and About with Pookie

These past two months have been very hectic for us; between the fairs, festivals and educational shows Sparky, JB and I have barely had enough time for ourselves. I don't know if any of you saw the video posted on the internet but it was a complete travesty. The interviewer showed up on the second day of the Pet Fest, the one day I had to take off, to interview Sparky, JB, Angel, Binky and Mr. Finnegan. What happens; well that camera hog Steve stole the entire interview. Yes, JB and Sparky did manage to snatch a few cameos but there was Steve out front blabbing away. If you simply listened to him you would get the impression that it was him and the other companion humans that the guests were coming to visit. It wasn't; there wasn't one single Pet Fest attendee that was there to see our companion humans. They were there to see me, and the rest of the feathered members. There was not one single person in the crowd that was fawning over us that wanted to hold Steve, Dave, Beverly or Charles. No they wanted to hold us the birds. The visitors to our booth wanted pictures with of me and the other feathered members sitting on their hands,

arms and laps; we were the stars not our companion humans. But when media people show up with video cameras and microphones who jumps out in front? That publicity hog Steve, that's who. The sad thing is this wasn't an isolated incident; the same problem occurred at the Heritage Festival in Ypsilanti, at the State Fair in Novi and at the Hey Days in Highland. I'd be willing to bet that there wasn't one single child that wanted a picture of themselves with Steve sitting on their laps. In fact I'd be willing to say that if he tried to sit on an eight year old child's lap he'd probably get arrested; at the very least the parents of the child would have him arrested.

One thing is for certain and all of the feathered members agree to this assessment, this has to change. The Pet Expo is just a few days away and if we, the feathered members and stars of the show don't attain top billing and the recognition that is deserved by us there will be a revolt. We are making our contingency plans aimed at thwarting our humans from trying to claim the spotlight.

Stand tall and face forward to support your right to be recognized my feathered friends. We are the stars of the Rainbow Feathers booth; we are the ones that draw the crowd. We must fight for our right to be appreciated!

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie



## Bits from Baby

Howdy all my feathered and non-feathered friends. Duke told me I missed a good time at our club picnic in August. The food was like a royal banquet. You name it and they had it there! Maybe it was better I had to stay home so I would not eat too much and have a relapse. I'm doing well and don't want to miss any of the programs we have coming up.

September is the busiest month this year with seven events. There are two multiple day events, starting Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> Tammy and Duke were in Livonia at the Society of Canary and Finch Breeders Bird Fair while the rest of the gang were at The Highland Hey Days on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. On Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> we did a Senior Education Program at the Lourdes Nursing Home in Waterford and Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> The Walled Lake Pet Awareness Day at the Historic Lakefront District. Then the Grand Daddy of them all! For three days from Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> thru the 23<sup>rd</sup> the Pet Expo, at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. This one even I get to have fun with the GANG. LETS PARTY! On Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> we'll be doing a Senior Educational Program at Canterbury on the Lake in Waterford and the next day Adopt - Your-Pet- Meet-Your-Vet at the Veterinary Care Specialists in Milford.

Then on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> What Do You Geek? At the Highland Township Public Library in Highland. There will be other groups and

people showing off their interests, hobbies and passions.

The Feather and Non-feather members always do a **GREAT JOB AT EVERY EVENT.**

Till next we meet in October at the Meeting,

Till we meet again, God Bless.

Your friend Baby,



Granddaughter was overwhelmed with birds. The rangers recruited extra help and arrived with nets and carriers in hand to rescue the birds. Well the owner claimed that the home was broken into and all the Cockatiels were stolen; all the rescue crew was able to retrieve was fourteen Parakeets already in a box. The owner would not allow the rescue crew into or even near the home. We were met in the back alley where the Budgies were surrendered. To say there was something fishy in this situation is being polite.

All I can say is that we tried; the rescue rangers want to thank Tammy, Janet, Allison and Annett for their help.



### RESCUE UPDATE

The adoption side of our rescue was fairly active this month. There were four adoptions; Two African Grays, Keekee and Crystal,

Two Cockatiels and Ernie a Mexican Red Head Amazon. 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.

We don't normally talk about recent rescues but this one should be mentioned. If you didn't see the story on the television news: there was a home in Hamtramck with an unknown number of Parakeets and Cockatiels free flighted in the house. The owner had passed away and the



### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

- CHUCK JAMIESON OCT. 1
- TAYNA O'CONNOR OCT. 1
- EDITH RIOJAS OCT. 7
- ANGELA KEENAN OCT. 9
- NADA JURISICH-FONTANA OCT.11
- ISABEL FONTANA OCT. 11
- JEFFERY PASEK OCT. 12
- 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  
FAITH GREENWOOD  
SHARON SCHOENFELNER  
CAROL STAMM

OCT. 26  
OCT.30  
OCT. 31  
OCT. 31



Avast ye Mates



### CAPTAINS CORNER

Greetings to everyone feathered and non-feathered I hope all is going well for all of you. As you know we have just done two big events The Pet Fest and The Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. I must say they were great fun but there is **STILL** one thing that gets to me worse than an itch I cannot scratch, misidentification.

What is it with people that they constantly get what we are wrong! I mean is it so difficult to ask what we are instead of making an insanely wrong guess. For example I was called of all things a Toucan not once but about four times. Do I remotely look like anything that would go on a cereal box? Do I need a beak job or something? How can you confuse me with a Toucan it just boggles the mind. Then Sparky lit up like a Fourth of July fire work when someone referred to her as a Starling, the nerve. All through these events people got it wrong I wanted to say that I was a

goat and see how far that got. The other thing that made all of us see red was the question. “Are these Parrots?” What do you think we are Canadian Geese, Canaries, hey how about Loon’s because we think most of the people were loony anyway? I have to congratulate Sparky and J.B. on holding their composure when they were told they looked like Pigeons. How much ruder can someone get? They were lucky both of them didn’t give them an “I’LL GIVE YOU PIGEON COMEUPPANCE.” I know I would have! Anyway, we are coming up to some other big events so to the attending public can I ask one small favor of you? Please get it right so you don’t have to get Gibb slapped up the back of your heads! Don’t know what that is watch NCIS to find out.

Cheers  
Captain Morgan

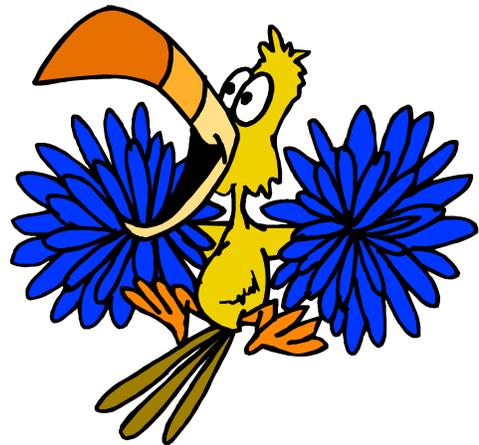


There have been many, to be nice I will call them honest mistakes, but you will see them as what they really are. I’ll just leave it at that. Here are some of the things that have been put on paper that will make you laugh and shake your head in disbelief.

- 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 12<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
 Lourdes Nursing Home  
 2300 Watkins Lake Road  
 Waterford, MI 48328  
 1:30 PM Set-up  
 2:30 PM Show
- Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> Walled Lake Pet Awareness  
 Day at Walled Lake's Historic  
 Lakefront District  
 Ferland Street at E. Walled Lake Dr.  
 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
 We will be setting up our pop-up before the  
 event .  
 Set-up starts at 9:00 AM

## **PET EXPO**

Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 11am to 8pm

Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am to 8pm

Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 11am to 6pm

### **Suburban Collection Showplace**

46100 Grand River

Novi, MI 48374

**We will be setting up on Thursday**

**Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> most likely around 9:00 am.**

**Please remember no birds will be allowed through the front door.**

Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> Senior educational program

Canterbury on the Lake

5601 Hatchery

Waterford, MI 48329

2:00 PM Set-up

3:00 PM Show

Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> Adopt -Your-Pet

Meet-Your-Vet

Veterinary Care Specialists

205 Rowe Road

Milford, MI 48380

10AM to 2PM

Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> What Do You Geek?

Highland Township Public Library

444 Beach Farm Circle

Highland, MI 48357

11AM to 3PM

10AM set-up

This will be similar to an outdoor event but will be inside their conference center room.

There will be other groups and people showing off their interests, hobbies and passions.

Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> Eisenhower Center

3200 East Eisenhower Parkway

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

11:30 AM Set-up

12:30 PM Show

Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> Senior Educational Program

American House

25250 Eureka Rd.

Taylor, MI 48180

1:30 PM Set-up

2:00 PM 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. Recent cancellations that have occurred at the last minute are: the Fall for Novi Pet

Adoption Fair, and the Allen Park Animal Shelter Pet Adoption Fair.



# RESCUE RANGERS



Now there have been many famous Sam's we have Sam Cooke, Sam Jones, Sam Addams, Yosemite Sam and Sam Sam the Baker Man but this Sam was a little less famous in fact he was not famous at all. This Sam resided in the city of Wyandotte and had belonged to the gentleman's father. Now this Sam was not abused tortured or neglected in fact he had a good life but things had started to change for this guy. His owner had received an upgrade at his job (promotion to say it the old fashioned way) and would be traveling more and could not spend the time he needed to with Sam. He wanted Sam to be loved and cared for, what is that, oh what is Sam? Sorry. Sam is an Orange winged Amazon, now on with the story. As I said he just wanted Sam to find a good home where he would be loved and cared for and he knew the Rangers were the right men for the job. So after loading his spacious cage into the Rescue Mobile and then Sam himself they were off to the foster home. Now Sam would never leave his foster home (imagine that a failed foster parent, now where have I heard this before?) and be sassy and happy. So Sam was happy, his former pet parent was happy, the new pet

parent was happy and the Rangers were happy. Boy, that's a lot of happy people to end this happy story, but there were still more birds that need a happy ending and they would not stop until they all had one for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!!!!!!!**

Stay tuned for our next thrillingly exciting adventure Déjà vu Times 3 in Canton.



## 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.

This article reprinted with permission from Zupreem®





# It's only **NATURAL** to be excited...

It's here! ZuPreem Natural Premium Daily Bird Food has more of the whole grains, vegetables and fruit both you and your bird are looking for. You will love that ZuPreem Natural offers complete nutrition in every bite. Available in four nugget sizes. ZuPreem is recommended by veterinarians and fed by top breeders. Made in the USA.



Be the first to try the **NEW** ZuPreem Natural Premium Daily Bird Food!  
Visit your local Pet Specialty store or check out [ZuPreem.com/new](http://ZuPreem.com/new) for more information

®/™ are marks registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and are trademarks of Premium Nutritional Products, Inc. All rights reserved. © 2011 Premium Nutritional Products

**BITE ME BIRD TOYS**

Tony & Edie Riojas  
4593 Howell Rd, Otter Lake, MI 48464  
1-810-793-2093  
bitemebirdtoys.com

**NORTH BRANCH ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**ROOSE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

Kevin Roose, D.V.M. \* Karen Knight, D.V.M.  
509 W. Ann Arbor Trail \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-451-2870

**SPECIALTY PET SUPPLIES, INC.**

1449 W. Ann Arbor Road \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-453-6930  
Fax: 734-453-7127  
M-F 10-7:30 \* Sat 10-6 \* Sun 12-4

**WARREN WOODS VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

29157 Schoenherr \* Warren, MI 48314  
586-751-3350

**OAKLAND VETERINARY EMERGENCY GROUP**

1400 Telegraph Rd \* Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248-334-6877

Free discount card available to club members      Open 7-Days  
Ask about our birdie day spa treatment

**DISCOUNT PET & SUPPLIES**

Specializing in Exotic Birds & Cages  
1623 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI 48154  
734-513-6060

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

**SOUTHGATE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**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)

**MUGSHOTS and MOUSE PADS**

Species specific coffee mugs, mouse pads and other  
parrot  
paraphernalia

**Cheryl Hitter**

**734-422-2804**

\*Put your pet's picture on a mug or mouse pad\*



An easy and healthy alternative to messy newspaper!

Marty & Angie Crawford

248.438.6572

littlemancageliners@yahoo.com

little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com

Custom sizes up to 25" x 38" ·

Square or Rectangle cuts

PayPal plus Shipping available · Priced for 100 sheets

White cover weight paper · Fresh clean cage everyday

Call or email us for your custom size

248.438.6572

littlemancageliners@yahoo.com

Visit us on

Facebook and Blogger!

[little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com](http://little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com)

UV LIGHTING, HEATERS, VITIMINS AND OTHER SUPPLIES for your BIRDS, FISH and REPTILES

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

[zoomed.com](http://zoomed.com)



MURALS  
AND OTHER  
CREATIONS  
BY MARY KAY PERVA  
734-207-0489



Veterinary Care Specialists

205 Rowe Road

Milford, MI 48380

248-684-0468

Open 24 Hours A Day 7 Days A Week



"Baby Parrots Raised in a Home for a Home"

Contact Kaylee at 734-301-0486

[www.kayleesparrotplace.com](http://www.kayleesparrotplace.com)

Specializing in Macaws, Greys,  
Amazons, and others.

Cages and Food at reasonable prices.



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

October 2012  
Volume 15 Issue 10

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING

#### DATES :

**OCTOBER 28<sup>th</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY**

**NOVEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>- THIRD SUNDAY**

**DECEMBER 16<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
- 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 – Marie Keehl 734-262-2098

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

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.

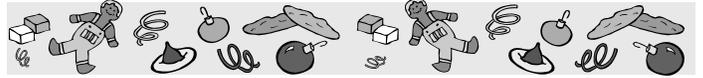
Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

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.

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.

### Member update



### 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.



## CLUB WELFARE



## Crossing The Rainbow Bridge

Sadly it must be reported that our club lost two feathered members last month. Pixi a Parrotlett that truly owned Beverly Sholar and Cecil a Timneh African Gray that owned Sandra Kempisty crossed over the rainbow bridge last month.

Pixi was rescued many years ago and was an absolute joy in Beverly's life. She enjoyed snuggling in Beverly's hair and following her around the house from room to room. Although Pixi was only

three inches long she had the personality of a parrot the size of a Macaw. Pixi, you will be forever remembered and missed by all of us that knew you. Cecil was loved dearly by Sandra for over thirty years. The loss of his familiar whistles and spunky personality will leave a hole in Sandra and Ed's hearts. There are no words that can be offered that will help their human companions cope with the pain.

To both Pixi and Cecil we say "soar forever and free on the far side of the rainbow bridge. You will never be forgotten." To Beverly, Sandra and Ed 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:



Well I am still basking in the afterglow of the pet expo and it was absolutely fantastic!!! We had such a turnout of club members manning the booth that I am still amazed. The one picture that Bev took shows just how many members were there; it is on her Facebook page and I am sure you will be impressed. We also made a big impression with the attending public they were awed, amazed and left speechless at the ability to not only see these magnificent creatures up close but being able to hold them as well. Even the organizer of the event and his staff received great reports about our club from the

Your Prez Dave

attending public. Also three cheers to our very own Celeste for being the runaway winner of the pet look-a-like contest. Hey I got twenty-nine votes and Brent got twelve so let's hear it for the birdbrains. Also to the set-up crew Bev, Henry, Steve, Ken and Brent (yes I was there too) our booth was the best decorated and most impressive in the whole expo, just don't ask Bev, Steve and me to blow up an inflatable palm tree, (it gets a little goofy, I'll just leave it at that). Also thanking Tammy for ordering additional decorations and having them shipped overnight to make our booth a standout. All in all it was an exhilarating, crazy, busy, exhausting but well worth the effort and so much fun three days. So thank you to all who were there to help us out and to those that couldn't but supported the club and our presence there in other ways it all comes together to make one memorable event so once again thank you.

Speaking of events do you realize that we have not had a free weekend since the beginning of August? It's true! We have been at some event or function and the last will happen as this newsletter goes to print the I Geek program at Highland Library the last one for a while. So as I continue to try to recover from the pet expo thank you to everyone who makes it possible for us to do these events without the clubs support (and I mean that in every way possible) we could not do these things. So to the best club members in the whole universe **YOU GUYS TRULY ROCK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Until Next Time



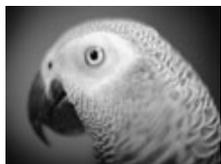
### Voice of the Veep

This past summer has been our busiest in my memory. A brief recap of the summer from June 1<sup>st</sup> until September 30<sup>th</sup> shows that our club was involved in thirty different events. This includes educational shows, fairs, festivals and adoption events for a total of thirty-five days. That is just an astounding amount of events to be involved in and it could not have been accomplished without the support of all of you, our members. The support of our members was most evident at the pet expo this year; we had many first time participants and I'm sure they had a great time. The one detail I don't have is what our club received in the form of donations for doing all of these events but I am sure it's substantial. The events haven't ended just because summer is over, I know we have booked at least eight more Senior Programs in the months of October and November. So to everybody that has joined us I say thank you and to anyone who hasn't I say you should consider joining us at an event; it's a blast.

On a separate note and totally different subject; I have a huge problem. My house is out of control, I've lost any semblance of order and balance with my birds. JB and Calvin have become a pair of

delinquents who have taken over my kitchen and will not allow me to eat a meal in peace. Pookie has discovered a hiding spot somewhere in a back room and I can't find it. It seems that whenever I have to be someplace at a specific time she can't be found. Being at such a loss for solutions I attended a seminar in Ann Arbor dealing with avian health and behavior with the hopes I could solve the issues I have at home. What I did learn was quite interesting and somewhat depressing at the same time. Quite simply put: I'm the one being trained. Pookie, JB and Calvin have complete and total control over my life. They are influencing what I eat, when I eat, what I do, when I can leave the house, when I have to be home and how long I can leave for. This probably doesn't come as a big surprise to most of you. All of us with companion parrots know our birdie buddies rule the roost!

Your Veep  
Steve



### **Out and About with Pookie**

Steve recently returned home after attending a one day seminar provided by a local rescue group. There were two main speakers one was an avian veterinarian who is also a specialist in

nutrition and diseases; the second was a behaviorist who specialized in modifying undesired behavior issues. There is only one comment I have to make on these subjects. "Thank goodness Steve is not the sharpest pencil in the box."

After spending an eight hour day listening to the "human" avian experts giving advice on what he should do to alter our diet and behavior he returned home. His poor little companion human brain was so full of great advice about altering our diet and behavior he was unable to comprehend what was actually occurring. He never realized that he was living with seven true avian behaviorists and nutritionists. The main difference is we are parrots and in case some of you haven't noticed parrots are members of the avian species. This has enabled me, Sparky, Tyler, Calvin, Misimo, Squeak and JB to continue with Steve's training. The beauty of this situation is quite simple, Steve returned home thinking he was the trainer when in actuality he was the trainee.

I have had wonderful success in altering many of Steve's undesirable dietary habits; please note that the following examples are only a small portion of my successes. Carry out food such as pizza; he no longer orders pizza with icky things like mushrooms, onions and peppers but orders pizza with extra spicy pepperoni. Burgers and fries he now purchases an extra-large fry and shares with us before he serves himself. He has also learned that foraging is

beneficial to his greater wellbeing and mental attitude. He has learned that searching throughout the house for us when he is in a hurry to be somewhere is good for him and his health. Rather than having us sit on top of our cages and being easy to find we now hide in different spots allowing Steve to accelerate his heart rate and exercise his legs and body as well as his mind. Hiding under beds and dressers as well as going down the basement stairs and blending in with the dirty laundry has given Steve the enjoyment of foraging and the stimulation of discovery.

He didn't need to attend a seminar staged by human avian specialists; he lives in a house with a flock of true avian behavioral modification experts. Fear not Steve, I will continue to modify your diet and behavior to enrich all of our lives.

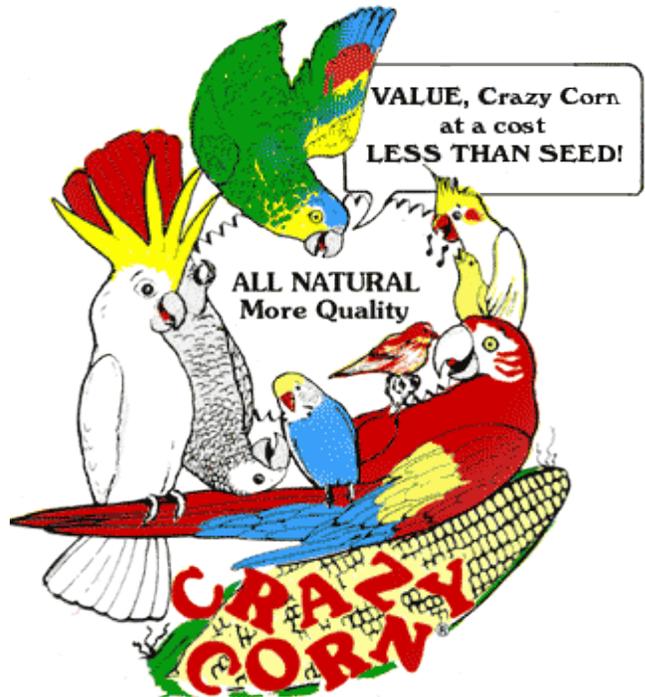


Until next month  
Chirps and Squawks

Pookie



Quality by Mother Nature  
Original Corn Bean Mix®: Noodles-n-Nuts®  
Rainforest Rice Puddin®: Pollypasta®  
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



**BLAH, BLAH,**

**BLAH.....**

Yes once again it is time again for those wonderful yearly gems that come so freely at the pet expo. So as long as people keep talking I will keep on writing. Here they are!!!!

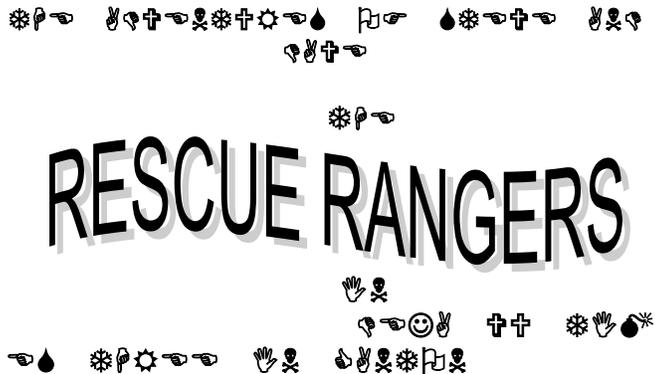
- 1) I am sooo disappointed I thought there would be some parrots here. All there is are birds here. (Ok did I miss something I thought we had parrots I, I'm confused!!!)

- 2) Honey, don't get too close to that bird it will eat your face off!  
(Well Maybe part of your face Sparky or Ruby could never eat a whole one.)
- 3) You're the smallest guy here but you have the biggest bird. Oh, that came out totally wrong I didn't mean how that sounded. (Why I thank you.)
- 4) Go real slow or they will attack you. (I might attack you for going so slow!)
- 5) What would he do if I put my finger in his mouth (referring to Captain). (Well gosh I don't know maybe give you a little something to remember him by.)
- 6) Those African Grays sure look evil. (Well I'm sure you don't look to good to them either.)
- 7) So you went to Africa and got all these birds. (Sure on my last safari.)
- 8) Finally my personal favorite; so you are the bird club people? Yes we are. You all look so normal! (I don't know what she meant but I can assure her looks can sure be deceiving.)

So another pet expo has come and gone but there will always be these gems at every function we do. Stay tuned for more in the future.

birds hoping to stop a fourth visit in its tracks. Happy day they accomplished their mission and the house was now bird free, dog free well that not our jurisdiction but birds are so off they went to their foster home. Well they wouldn't stay in foster care long and soon they were happily going to there forever home. This moment of bliss would only be a fleeting moment for there are other birds to rescue and they would not stop until every bird has been rescued and found its new forever home for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS !!!!!**

Stay glued to whatever you are glued to for our next sensational story The Gift that Stopped Giving.



Well they say that good things come in threes but not when it comes to bird rescues and this would be the third and final strike. The Rangers found themselves going to Canton Michigan. Now this really doesn't really seem odd for they had gone there a number of times on rescue runs but this one would be different very different. What made this one so very different is they had been to this residence not once but twice before. This one would make it three (cue the eerie music). What? No budget for eerie music OK well then hum it to yourselves. Anyway back to our story. This time it would be two Cockatiels and a Budgie. As they pulled up to the house a resounding "this place again" echoed through the Rescue Mobile (hey it's a big vehicle). Yes it was that place again but now they would get the cage that was strange empty their first visit and simple gone the second plus the Cockatiels and the Budgie (Parakeet). The Rangers serendipitously (ten dollar word) looked and listened for any more

## RESCUE UPDATE



The rescue was slower this month both in rescues and adoptions. There was only one adoption last month; Mooch a Double Yellow Head Amazon. 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!



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.



## TALES OF BUSTER BROWN

Buster and I had our first Pet Expo experience. It was such an enjoyable afternoon. I was amazed at the interest of people who do not have birds and the young children who were interested in holding a bird. The awe in their little faces was a pleasure to behold. Proud parents took many cell-phone pictures. I also enjoyed how people were so open about their experiences with their birds. They had some great stories. I brought Buster because he needs socialization. I have been his only handler. I think that all the people and loud music from the dog show next-door stressed-out Buster. He sat so close at my elbow. He had a look on his face as if to say "how could you do this to me" or "what kind of torture is this"? He did spook once and fluttered to the ground. Tammy was right there to pick him up. He stepped up on many other members without biting. Thanks to the members, I think that he has really improved. After about an hour or so, Pookie, Sparky and JB let Buster use their

perch in the back. I thought he would settle down, but he looked like he was watching a tennis match. Buster was out in the crowds a great deal and I think overall he did very well. I introduced Buster to pretty Sparky but he just turned away. I guess that she was too old for him. I decided that 3 ½ hours was enough so we headed home. Once there, Buster went on his perch, stuck his head on his back and slept for over 3 hours. I guess he was totally worn out. All and all, it was a great time!

Linda Brown



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS: to

NANCY KEENAN	NOV. 1
CODY EASTEP	NOV. 7
SHERYL DEGREGORIO	NOV. 9
MARY ANN KENNE	NOV. 9
BOB GRUSZCZYNSKI	NOV. 12
RICHARD DEKEYSER	NOV. 13
JONI GRUSZCZYNSKI	NOV. 13
JOE LYNCH	NOV. 13
JACOB PASEK	NOV. 17
JANET ONDERCHANIN	NOV.19
ARINA PASEK	NOV.25



yourself and your birds safe, silence in this case is more than golden.

Dave



## Upcoming Events

Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> Senior Educational Program  
American House Regent Street  
4460 Orchard Lake Rd.  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
2:00 PM Set-up  
3:00 PM Show

Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
American House East 1  
17255 Common Rd.  
Roseville, MI 48066  
12:30 PM Set-up  
1:30 PM Show

Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> Educational Show  
Community Indoor Picnic  
Winds Club House  
41280 Southwind  
Canton, MI 48188  
1:00 PM Set-up  
2:00 PM Show

Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> Senior Educational Program  
American House  
25250 Eureka Rd.  
Taylor, MI 48180  
1:30 PM Set-up  
2:00 PM Show

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program

Waldenwoods at University  
3280 Walton Blvd.  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
2:00 PM Set-up  
3:00 PM Show

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
American House East 2  
18760 13 Mile Road  
Roseville, MI 48606  
12:30 PM Set-up  
1:30 PM 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 \***



*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%

This article reprinted with permission from Zupreem®



# It's only **NATURAL** to be excited...

It's here! ZuPreem Natural Premium Daily Bird Food has more of the whole grains, vegetables and fruit both you and your bird are looking for. You will love that ZuPreem Natural offers complete nutrition in every bite. Available in four nugget sizes. ZuPreem is recommended by veterinarians and fed by top breeders. Made in the USA.



Be the first to try the **NEW** ZuPreem Natural Premium Daily Bird Food!  
Visit your local Pet Specialty store or check out [ZuPreem.com/new](http://ZuPreem.com/new) for more information

®/™ are marks registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and are trademarks of Premium Nutritional Products, Inc. All rights reserved. © 2011 Premium Nutritional Products

**BITE ME BIRD TOYS**

Tony & Edie Riojas  
4593 Howell Rd, Otter Lake, MI 48464  
1-810-793-2093  
bitemebirdtoys.com

**NORTH BRANCH ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**ROOSE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

Kevin Roose, D.V.M. \* Karen Knight, D.V.M.  
509 W. Ann Arbor Trail \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-451-2870

**SPECIALTY PET SUPPLIES, INC.**

1449 W. Ann Arbor Road \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-453-6930  
Fax: 734-453-7127  
M-F 10-7:30 \* Sat 10-6 \* Sun 12-4

**WARREN WOODS VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

29157 Schoenherr \* Warren, MI 48314  
586-751-3350

**OAKLAND VETERINARY EMERGENCY GROUP**

1400 Telegraph Rd \* Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248-334-6877

Free discount card available to club members      Open 7-Days  
Ask about our birdie day spa treatment

**DISCOUNT PET & SUPPLIES**

Specializing in Exotic Birds & Cages  
1623 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI 48154  
734-513-6060  
<http://www.discountpetandsupplies.com/>

**SOUTHGATE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**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)

**MUGSHOTS and MOUSE PADS**

Species specific coffee mugs, mouse pads and other parrot paraphernalia

**Cheryl Hitter**

734-422-2804

\*Put your pet's picture on a mug or mouse pad\*



An easy and healthy alternative to messy newspaper!

Marty & Angie Crawford

248.438.6572

littlemancageliners@yahoo.com

little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com

Custom sizes up to 25" x 38" •

Square or Rectangle cuts

PayPal plus Shipping available • Priced for 100 sheets

White cover weight paper • Fresh clean cage everyday

Call or email us for your custom size

248.438.6572

littlemancageliners@yahoo.com

Visit us on

Facebook and Blogger!

[little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com](http://little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com)

UV LIGHTING, HEATERS, VITIMINS AND OTHER SUPPLIES for your BIRDS, FISH and REPTILES

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

[zoomed.com](http://zoomed.com)



MURALS  
AND OTHER  
CREATIONS  
BY MARY KAY PERVA  
734-207-0489



Veterinary Care Specialists

205 Rowe Road

Milford, MI 48380

248-684-0468

Open 24 Hours A Day 7 Days A Week



"Baby Parrots Raised in a Home for a Home"

Contact Kaylee at 734-301-0486

[www.kayleesparrotplace.com](http://www.kayleesparrotplace.com)

Specializing in Macaws, Greys,

Amazons, and others.

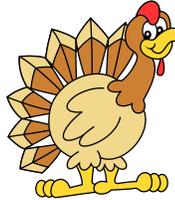
Cages and Food at reasonable prices.



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

November 2012  
Volume 15 Issue 11

# Bird Droppings



**UPCOMING MEETING DATES :**  
**NOVEMBER 18<sup>th</sup> – THIRD SUNDAY**  
**DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> – THIRD SUNDAY**  
**JANUARY 27<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 – Marie Keehl 734-262-2098

Email – [mariekeehl@ymail.com](mailto:mariekeehl@ymail.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.

From the prez:



I hope everyone got through "Frankenstorm" without any trouble or loss of power. I was amazed at the how strong the wind was at the peak time it seemed to blow constantly without stopping. Still, it could have been much worse than what it was; just think of those states that got snow by the foot and

even here in Michigan some places got a lot of snow. Even worse were those that took a direct hit and are now in the process of an expensive and truly messy clean-up. So I guess we were pretty lucky.

Now on to other things like that huge meeting we had and all the incredible food plus we had new members join our ever growing flock, how cool is that? Also it was nice to see Ed and Sandy back as well as Barb, we really missed you guys welcome back. I have to also congratulate Steve our V.P. The grays finally won the battle of the birds having the highest number there. Well at least this time! Another thing is our meeting for November is now on the third Sunday instead of the fourth because of Thanksgiving. One thing I am thankful for is that the programs and the events are slowing down and I can finally get other things done, plus catch my breath. Another is my family and friends and the last is the fantastic club I belong to. You guys always make each meeting a total blast and fun is had by all and for that I thank you. So as we enter the Thanksgiving holiday let us be truly thankful for all the good things we have. See you at the next meeting **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Until Next Time  
Your Prez  
Dave

### **Voice of the Veep**

After not having a meeting at the church since July it was nice to return to



some normalcy, it was also nice to see everybody again. There were many guests (about twelve) and many members we haven't seen in a long time. This is a good time to welcome our guests and members; I'm pretty sure everyone had a good time. Our meeting this month and next month are being moved to the third Sunday of the month, this is because of Thanksgiving and Christmas, so mark your calendars you don't want to miss a meeting.

The attendance at the meeting was about seventy-eight people, I'm not sure what the feathered member count is exactly. We will have to get the exact counts from Baby's article later in this newsletter. There was an attempt to alter the rules that govern the official bird species count at the meeting. This attempt was put forward by executive order issued by one of our club officials. Sadly the club membership objected to this attempt to pad the African Gray bird count so the feathered member count will remain one count per parrot of each species. If you're not aware who attempted this coup of the bird count, I'm not at liberty to disclose his name but his initials are Steve Plafchan!

There was panic at my house one day last month; I lost one of my birds! Yes, JB vanished. Every morning I open all my birds' cages so they can come out, stretch their wings, explore and visit with each other. After about four or five hours I had to leave the house so I started searching for all my birds to return them to their cages. Pookie is usually the tricky one to find, but

I'm wise to her hiding spots, I found her under a bedroom dresser. JB however was nowhere to be found. The search began; I looked in the kitchen, bathroom, living room and both back bedrooms; no JB! Redoubling my efforts the kitchen was re-searched spending extra effort to look inside of boxes and bags, no JB! This extra effort was extended to the remainder of the rooms in my home, still; no JB! By this time my heart rate was elevated, sweat was beading upon my brow and panic was setting in. Calling, whistling, clucking and searching on my hands and knees yielded no results. It was then I thought the basement so down the basement stairs I went. Whistling and calling I searched under and around all the clutter in my basement still no JB; at this point I was in a complete panic and emotional meltdown. As I started up the stairs I heard his wolf whistle! Turning about I whistled back but he was nowhere to be found? Another whistle! Then I saw him when he blinked and moved his head, he was sitting on top of a pile of laundry in the middle of the floor in plain sight. The top of the pile was a gray t-shirt with a gray bird on it blending in perfect camouflage. If I didn't know better I'd swear he did this purposely to send me into a panic.

See you at the meeting  
Your Veep  
Steve

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



The Industry Pioneer of Quality  
Broad Natural Low Fat Nutrition®

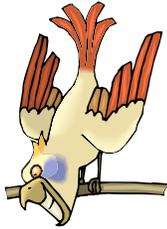
**All at a Cost Less than Seed**

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



## 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

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
 American House East 2  
 18760 13 Mile Road  
 Roseville, MI 48606  
 12:30 PM Set-up  
 1:30 PM Show

Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
 Oakwood Adult Daycare  
 3601 Pelham  
 Dearborn, MI 48124  
 12:30 PM Set-up  
 1:15 PM Show

Feb. ??<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\*\*\*

**\*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  
NEIGHBORS  
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
VERNON CLAFTON	DEC. 9
ANTHONY GERMANO	DEC. 10
PATRICK BONSE	DEC. 13
LINNEA NICHOLSON-FARIS	DEC.13
ANNETTE BALLARD	DEC. 14
JOCELYN TOTZ	DEC. 16
ELIZABETH GLADSON	DEC. 17
TORI SCHLOSS	DEC. 25
THERSA MULLINS	DEC.27

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



## 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

Steve has been all excited these past few months because of his attendance at multiple seminars. These seminars have primarily been about avian behavior and nutrition all with the intent of altering our actions and dining habits. We (Sparky, JB, Calvin, Tyler, Misimo and I) have used his absence to our own advantage by attending our own seminars.

We enlisted the aid of a specialist, an expert in Ninja stealth and blending tactics. Not only have we been trained in the basic use of these tactics but we have been extensively trained in how to use them to alter Steve's lifestyle so he can benefit from our efforts. One of the best examples I can cite to you is our training in the use of blending to attain stealth and virtual invisibility. This training has enabled us to increase Steve's mobility and heart rate.

There is no doubt that our companion human Steve would rather lay upon the sofa consuming salty snacks rather than sharing with or making tasty treats for us. One of the best Ninja tools we have employed is the art of blending. I use it in the bedroom and bathroom and JB has used it extremely effectively in the basement. Allow me to set the stage for you; imagine Steve is on the couch watching TV being his typical selfish self. I proceed into the bedroom and locate a dark corner under a dresser where the shadows allow me to vanish into the dark corner. When JB is in position to snatch the snacks I knock over something to make a noise, Steve runs to the room to see what happened and he finds nothing. Now he worries about me so he starts searching for me; however I am stealthily blending so even if he looks at me I have attained Ninja invisibility. JB, Sparky and Calvin use this time to purloin the snacks from Steve. Removing these snacks from him aid his health by not allowing him to eat them. JB increases Steve's heart rate by slipping silently down the basement stairs and taking a position atop of the laundry pile at the

bottom of the stairs. It is no surprise that Steve's favorite t-shirt color is gray, so when JB climbs on the laundry he blends perfectly. He then waits until Steve is rushing around the house looking for us because he has to leave; at this time JB cannot be found. Steve will now start to panic and feverishly start searching all the room at a faster and faster pace increasing his heart rate and raising his blood pressure as panic sets in. When Steve figures out JB is in the basement and heads down the stairs JB employs his Ninja stealth blending talents. He remains completely motionless and becomes invisible on top of the pile of dirty laundry. Using this tactic Steve will run up and down the basement multiple times providing him with exercise and stimulation.

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie



## **Rambling with Rambo**

(Please note this article intentionally rambles all over the place)

Well gang, let's start with this. I would really like to hear some of your stories. I'm sure all of you have many interesting "tales" for us to enjoy. We all know that parrots and Toucans lives are never boring. We all keep our humans' lives interesting with our antics. Pookie is always creating adventures for Steve; so come on gang let's submit some stories for the rest of us to enjoy. With that

being said let me tell you about some of my recent adventures.

Last time I was telling you about my new house; not only was the move scary, I was determined that there was no way I was spending that first night there. Daddy received a nice bite from me as I told him this. On the second night he held my wings shut and put me into the new house, he did reward me with a peanut for being a good bird and going inside.

The peanut brings another thing to mind; I've been put on a diet, something about my cholesterol level. Now I only receive healthy things for treats, some of them are OK but most of them are yucky. I'm a real picky eater. Dad took away my sunflower seeds over a year ago, now I only get a peanut a day- if I'm real good. Oh yes! I was talking about my new house.

This new house has multiple units and Daddy does all the maintenance so this place may be considered a condominium. There are several things I'm beginning to enjoy about my new home. The water dishes are great! They are those stainless cups that are held on by a ring. Removing them and throwing them on daddy's hardwood floor, watching him clean up the mess and then he fills them up with special filtered water. Then when he's finished and leaves the room I dump them all over again; we have so much fun playing this game I know daddy enjoys it because he never yells at me.

I had a big adventure this month. My wing feathers have grown back in so I can have all sorts of adventures. I was standing on top of my new cage surveying my kingdom when I saw mommy entering through the back door. Now was my chance to give her a good scare. She's totally afraid of me so I decided to land on her shoulder. As I flew at her she quickly shut the big

door to the outside. Would I really go outside? This would be very dangerous; there are many scary things out there. There are large silver birds that are louder than Capt. Morgan and my Cockatoo friends oh, and a big cat! Well, I wouldn't be so mean to land on mommy so I flew downstairs to daddy's workshop landing on a nice sunny spot on a table. Oh look! Dad is making new toys I hope they're for me. Dad came running down the stairs to get me because I'm not allowed down there, now he keeps the door shut.

I better stop here I've rambled enough for now.

Always be good, have fun and remember

Macaws Rule!!!

Rambo



## Bits from Baby

Howdy all my feathered and non-feathered friends. The year is almost over and we're still receiving requests for more programs. We did a senior education program November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Waldenwoods at University in Rochester, MI and then one a week later at an American House in Roseville MI. and just hot off the wire there will be one on November 26<sup>th</sup> at the Oakwood Adult Daycare in Dearborn MI. I think this was our busiest year to date. I'd like to thank the entire membership for all their help throughout the year. You all deserve 3 cheers (Hoorah! Hoorah! Hoorah!). KEEP IT UP GANG!

Well the October Meeting was another great success. There were seventy-eight people in attendance of which fifteen were guests six of them joining our flock. The feathered members numbered forty-three in all. The African Grays lead with ten, Macaws seven, Cockatoos six and four Eclectics, plus sixteen other types of parrots.

Till next we meet in November at the Meeting,

Your friend Baby

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



# RESCUE RANGERS



Well it was off to another rescue but this was one that shouldn't have happened. It was one of those well intentioned but severely misguided acts that the Rangers have all too often seen the unwanted gift. Especially with the Christmas season fast approaching it is the worst of the worst ideas but it continues to happen way too often. A well meaning relative bought a little Budgie

as a last ditch gift for the child's birthday and the child really did not want it. So the mother made a call to the Rangers hoping to have them come and get this poor little bird. When they arrived they found a Parakeet in a cage not big enough for a Finch and basically just fed and watered. It was living a sad life up until now the Rangers took this sad little Budgie and whisked it away to a bigger cage and the life it should have had all along. Being a pretty little Parakeet it found the right home right away. Let this be a lesson to all those who think that this is a good idea when in a bind to get someone a gift; **IT IS THE WORST IDEA IN THE UNIVERSE!!!!!!** Live animals are not gifts to be given as a last resort or as a surprise but need to be wanted and loved for their whole lives. So let this be a lesson to all if you are thinking of doing this I will make sure Santa brings you coal. Anyway the Rangers will keep up their pursuit to rescue all birds that need rescuing for they are **THE RESCUE RANGERS!!!!!!**

Stay focused and tuned for our next thrilling adventure The Two in Northville.



Avast ye Mates



CAPTAINS



the Congo Grey (Sparky) that the guy had at your booth.

No, none of the birds at our booth were up for adoption.

Sure they were, he told me I could get him when I was ready all I have to do is meet the bird. I just need his phone number to get things started.

I know for a fact he would never adopt any of his birds they are not up for adoption so I will not give you his number.

Two days later he called again saying hi I need to get in touch with the guy that had the Grays.

Why?

He told me I could adopt the one he called Sparky.

You do realize that you already called me and the answer is still no. So please do not call me again!!

The second involved a woman who wanted to buy Charlie. Here's how this went.

Hi I am \_\_\_\_\_ from West Bloomfield and I want to buy that Moluccan Cockatoo and don't worry I have money!

I'm sorry but Charlie is not for sale.

But I already ordered a cage for him online; he'll go great in my new Florida room.

You do realize that this is a living creature not furniture. What happens when you change your décor and he no longer matches? Bottom line he is not for sale, we are done here!

She calls back a few days later still trying to buy Charlie.

Look I want that bird. Give me a price! I want that bird!

Go buy a baby if you want one that bad but he is not for sale

He is so peachy colored and I now have the cage in my Florida Room, so how much?

Charlie is not for sale!

What do I do with this cage I can't return it!

Put plants in it. I have to tell you that I would not even adopt you a Parakeet, go buy your conservation piece someplace else. I'm hanging up now.

Still she calls back a third time.

Look I still want that bird and I will sue you and your club for misrepresentation if you don't sell it to me.

Go ahead the club could use the money.

What?

We had signs posted all over our booth stating that these birds were already adopted and were examples of what comes into the rescue. Besides we bought Charlie from two women. So go ahead sue I'll counter sue you and we will see who wins. For the last time Charlie is not and will never be for sale. Goodbye!!!

Both of the individuals have not called back I hope they got the message, but you never know. Like comedian Larry White says; "You can't fix Stupid"



Rescue  
Update

Our rescue  
continues to be active. We  
have adopted to new  
homes: a Green Cheek

Conure, an Umbrella Cockatoo, Two

African Grays, Two Amazons and a Cocktiel.

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 makes 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.

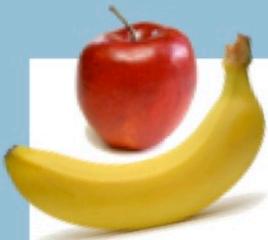
Wet stools, however, should become drier with dry foods. Large amounts of water persistently present in the droppings could be a sign of serious disease and you should consult your avian veterinarian.

### 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.

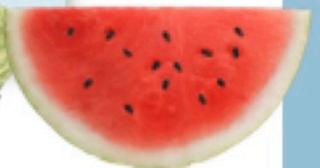
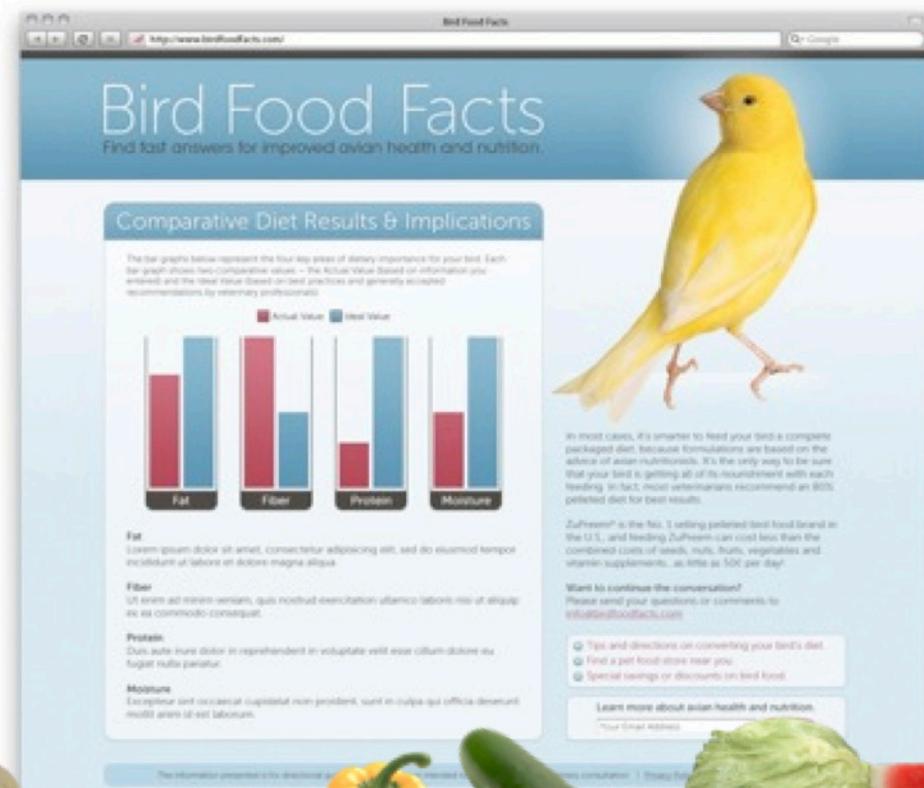
This article reprinted with permission from Zupreem ®





# 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.



**BITE ME BIRD TOYS**

Tony & Edie Riojas  
4593 Howell Rd, Otter Lake, MI 48464  
1-810-793-2093  
bitemebirdtoys.com

**NORTH BRANCH ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**ROOSE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

Kevin Roose, D.V.M. \* Karen Knight, D.V.M.  
509 W. Ann Arbor Trail \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-451-2870

**SPECIALTY PET SUPPLIES, INC.**

1449 W. Ann Arbor Road \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-453-6930  
Fax: 734-453-7127  
M-F 10-7:30 \* Sat 10-6 \* Sun 12-4

**WARREN WOODS VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

29157 Schoenherr \* Warren, MI 48314  
586-751-3350

**OAKLAND VETERINARY EMERGENCY GROUP**

1400 Telegraph Rd \* Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248-334-6877

Free discount card available to club members      Open 7-Days  
Ask about our birdie day spa treatment

**DISCOUNT PET & SUPPLIES**

Specializing in Exotic Birds & Cages  
1623 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI 48154  
734-513-6060

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

**SOUTHGATE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

Keith Cook, D.V.M. \* Elieen Cook, D.V.M.  
13697 Dix-Toledo Rd\* Southgate, MI 48195  
734-248-9122

**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)

**MUGSHOTS and MOUSE PADS**

Species specific coffee mugs, mouse pads and  
other parrot  
paraphernalia  
Cheryl Hitter

734-422-2804

\*Put your pet's picture on a mug or mouse  
pad\*



An easy and healthy alternative  
to messy newspaper!

Marty & Angie Crawford

248.438.6572

[littlemancageliners@yahoo.com](mailto:littlemancageliners@yahoo.com)

[little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com](http://little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com)

Custom sizes up to 25" x 38" -

Square or Rectangle cuts

PayPal plus Shipping available - Priced for 100 sheets

White cover weight paper - Fresh clean cage everyday

*Call or email us for your custom size*

248.438.6572

[littlemancageliners@yahoo.com](mailto:littlemancageliners@yahoo.com)

Visit us on

Facebook and Blogger!

[little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com](http://little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com)

UV LIGHTING, HEATERS, VITIMINS  
AND OTHER SUPPLIES for your BIRDS,  
FISH and REPTILES

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[zoomed.com](http://zoomed.com)



MURALS  
AND OTHER  
CREATIONS  
BY MARY KAY PERVA  
734-207-0489



Veterinary Care Specialists

205 Rowe Road

Milford, MI 48380

248-684-0468

Open 24 Hours A Day 7 Days A Week



"Baby Parrots Raised in a Home for a Home"

Contact Kaylee at 734-301-0486

[www.kayleesparrotplace.com](http://www.kayleesparrotplace.com)

Specializing in Macaws, Greys,  
Amazons, and others.

Cages and Food at reasonable prices.



This newsletter

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

December 2012  
Volume 15 Issue 12

# Bird Droppings



**UPCOMING MEETING DATES:**  
DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> – THIRD SUNDAY  
JANUARY 27<sup>th</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 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
  - 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@ymail.com](mailto:mariekeehl@ymail.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 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 another feathered member of our club. Peaches the Peach Faced Lovebird owned Jill and Dale Domeier for over twenty years and will leave a hole in both of their hearts. Peaches crossed over the rainbow bridge very suddenly and without warning on November 4<sup>th</sup> 2012.

Fly high Peachie! Fly free! Over the rainbow bridge you will be so very missed but forever remembered. To Peaches 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.



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  
Rainbow Bridge*

From the prez:



I cannot believe how fast the year has gone by like greased lightning but only faster. One thing that made it fly like an F-15 is all the events and programs we did throughout the year especially all the outdoor events we got invited to. Now remember when your moms used to say go outside and play it is a beautiful day well I think they would be proud of us the way WE played outside. Making people smile or gasp at the beauty or marvel as they held a parrot, many for the first time. Hearing the laughter as J.B. perched on someone's head or as Captain did his eagle impersonation hearing how beautiful he was. How people were wowed by Sunny and how such a small bird could be so stunningly gorgeous, Of course we had our share of "Seriously" moments that left us bewildered but make great reading in the news letter. My all time favorite is "Is this the bird group, you all look so normal" I can assure her there is not one thing normal about us we have birds! The greatest thing is all the fun we had and how many commented that we were the most fun group they have ever seen. I really like to look back on the hysterical laughter at something said that did not come out quite right or the many hugs shared by the members or the fact that this behavior that seems so normal to us leaves others totally amazed. I want to keep people amazed like that now and

forever and I don't think that will be hard to do. All the participation by the member at all the events and programs is a gift that I get all year round. Seeing our club grow and thrive is another. So as we enter this Season of Light let us look at the true gifts we have that require no wrapping, no money but are priceless and are so easy to give. Those are the gifts of love and friendship and they are worth more than any gift in the universe. So to all my friends I would like to wish you all the joys the season will bring and thank you for being the gifts in our (Tammy and I) lives. **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR, YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Until Next Time  
Your Prez Dave



### **Voice of the Veep**

This has been an amazing year for our club and our rescue. The participation of our club members has been more than outstanding this past year. First participation in our monthly club raffles has shown your over whelming support for our rescue both by donating items and purchasing tickets. Second the number of events and shows our club has both attended and staged has increased to an all-time high this past year. We staged more educational shows, participated in more fairs, festivals and pet adoption events than any year past. Most importantly is the increase of participation in these events by

our members is great; we have seen more new faces at the shows than any past year. I encourage all of our newer members to plan on joining us at an event in this next year; I promise you will have a wonderful time. This next year promises to be even more eventful and fun filled. I know this because the requests have already started coming in for events next year in September and November; when requests show this early you know our club makes a good impression.

This month our meeting is on the third Sunday and we're having our annual Christmas raffle. We all bring a nice inexpensive wrapped gift and they are raffled off just like a monthly raffle (remember all the proceeds help our rescue and vet bills.)

Next month we will be having our annual elections and our annual dues need to be paid. I want to make a note to our many new members who joined our club within the past six months that your dues are not due until January 2014 but please check with Tammy if you're not sure.

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:

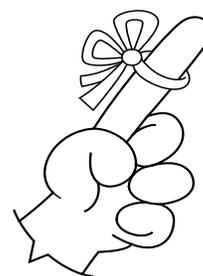
**PRESIDENT:** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club, see that the bylaws are enforced, call such meetings as are needed, and be responsible for the execution of all motions passed by the members. The President shall also be public relations administrator and liaison between the Club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

Our dues are due in January. 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.





## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

to:

NAOMI RENTFROW	JAN. 5
TOM POKRYFKY	JAN 9
PAM KNUDSON	JAN. 13
CHARLES DIXON	JAN. 18
LOVEY QUESNEL	JAN. 27
SARA SCHUBRING	JAN. 27
SHAE FENNELLY	JAN. 28
JEAN DEKEYSER	JAN. 30
SANDRA KEMPSTY	JAN. 31



### **Rambling with Rambo**

I had a great time at the last meeting but when it was time to leave I didn't want to go; I hate that travel box!

When daddy went to put me in it I ran up his arm and hid in the hood of his coat. I'll have to remember this; it was a good place to hide. When he did get his hand in the hood to catch me I flew off over his head but like most of you my wings are trimmed short so I didn't get very far. In fact I landed directly into some lemon cake, face first. Although it was tasty cake it sure

made a mess on my face. Daddy cleaned me off and put me into the travel box.

My pet human is spending way too much time on his computer. He keeps saying things to me like "Oh Rambo look at this" and "Rambo that is so cool" so I must be learning a few things. Did you guys know there are 365 species of parrots with hundreds of sub-species; so says Dr. Forshaw. I also learned there is a pie that can't be eaten; something about 3.141 slices equaling something??? Well it is fun sitting on dad's shoulder while he plays on the computer.

He also lets me watch TV put on Sponge Bob, the Road Runner and Wiley E. Coyote. I've also seen a talking Gecko, oh please, talking lizards everyone knows only Parrots are smart enough to talk. Where was I? Oh yes Sponge Bob and watching him started me thinking. Our humans are real lucky to be owned by us. We help our humans eat healthy, I didn't say we succeeded but we certainly help. Even though mommy complains about the cost of a good pizza (she won't eat a \$5.00 one) daddy and I love them. I also get them to buy those expensive organic fruits and vegetables and love sharing them.

Something else we do for our humans is assist in keeping the house clean. I know you're saying "no way" but it's true. They have to dust more often or it piles up; see what a great service you Cockatoos do. They have to make an extra effort to keep the kitchen clean; if they didn't there would be spaghetti and spots all over the counter and curtains. Floors too we poop often and

anywhere, so the floor gets scrubbed more often keeping it cleaner. We also do a big service for you ladies in the bathroom; we make men put the seat down to prevent us from falling in!

I've found a new toy and a great way to make a mess. My cage is different than most of yours, the bottom grate is in two pieces. I've found that if I work at it I can lift and move the grate and get to the paper liner underneath and it is fun to shred it into a lot of little pieces.

Mommy has started playing with me again (I've really missed that). I've told all of you she's afraid of me and had stopped letting me wrestle with her sleeve. A couple of weeks ago I jumped up on it and didn't bite her, she was very surprised and called out to daddy 'Mike he got up on my arm.'" She wasn't scared she was happy and went to show him. I hopped onto his shoulder and snuggled in for a nap.

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)

Rescue contacts CONTINUED

Steve Plafchan  
734-513-0030  
[splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)



## Out and About with Pookie

There has to be a slight change this month from my normal jovial and uplifting column. This month there are serious issues for not only my companion human but for all of our companion humans. This is December and our humans will soon be celebrating Christmas and New Year and these two holidays are wrought with dangers for our beloved companions

There are many poisonous and toxic plants and foods that are brought into a holiday household and it is inherent upon all of us to look out for our humans so they are not harmed. Poinsettia plants are very popular with our humans as a decorative display, the leaves of a Poinsettia are toxic not only to parrots but to humans as well. They look very pretty and the bright red leaves are quite inviting but under no circumstances should you allow your human to chew upon or ingest the leaves. You also have to be very cautious around the Christmas tree that most humans like to set up and decorate. Some of the decorations are made of glass and covered with sparkly glitter and in spite of how tasty they may look do not allow your human to lick the

## STORIES OF BUSTER BROWN



I know that some of our members have met Buster and know that he has some socialization issues. I assure you that it is totally my fault. You see, Buster came to live with me totally unexpectedly. I was sitting outside on my deck in my Texas home with some work associates when I saw movement in my peripheral vision. I went to investigate and saw a bird that had fell from his nest. As luck would have it, it was a friend that has three Macaws checked it out with me. She saw the hooked bill. So we put the bird in a shoe box and took him to a breeder she knew. I was asked if I had seen a different bird around, and I said that I saw a gray bird that had made a nest in my live oak tree. Three months later the breeder called and told me to come get my bird. It was a surprise since I thought I gave the bird to her. As an aside, I found the breeder and the fire department helped to retrieve his mother. Of course, my Irish Catholic family believes that God sent me my Buster.

So you know now that I am a first time mother of a feathered child. As all first time parents, I have made numerous mistakes. How do you get them to eat their vegetables? How do get them to do what you want them to do? Is potty training possible? How can you discipline without hurting their skittish nature? What is the

sparkles; they are not edible. You also have to be aware of the tinsel that is hung on a tree; it is normally made of foil or plastic. If your human attempts to munch on the tinsel it has the ability to choke them and get stuck in their throat. It could also become wound around their legs causing harm and injury. So even though the tree is pretty and inviting your companion human may come to harm by playing in and around it. There are also many tasty looking treats and snacks that are put out in the open during the holidays; some of them are very dangerous not only for parrots but for humans as well. The most dangerous is chocolate; chocolate is put out in dishes on tables, in cookies and cakes. **DO NOT EAT CHOCOLATE** in any size, shape or form. Not only is it dangerous for parrots it is also harmful for dogs, cats and most any pet. It's not particularly healthy for companion humans either bur regardless of this fact for some inane reason they still ingest it.

There are some things that appear at the holidays that are healthy and good to eat; one of the best is the raw mixed nuts in the shell. Walnuts, pecans, hazelnuts, Brazil nuts, almonds and filberts these are not only safe for your human to eat but are actually good for them too.

So to all my faithful readers and fans I encourage you to have a safe, happy and healthy holiday and remember; don't let your companion human or the other parrots in your home chew on Poinsettia leaves.

Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie

best diet? I how do I get him to not eat my rug? Questions go on and on!!

Another story of first time parent ineptitude, I took Buster into the shower at my Texas home and it worked out good. However, when I moved to Michigan, Buster fell on the shower track and cut himself from neck to lower chest. He needed surgery. Again, I felt like a first time and inadequate parent. Let me tell you it was a challenge to get his medicine in him twice a day. I had to buy twice the amount because I wasted so much. I have become a very over-protective parent; Buster has gone to the vet probably more than any other bird. When he acted differently, he goes to the vet. When his poop changes he goes to the vet in addition to his twice a year visits, We'll all in all, he seems well adjusted (a miracle). So I guess I am still in training after more than nine years.

Linda Brown



## Rescue Update

This has been a busy month for adopting rescued birds to new families and for rescues.

We have sent nine birds to new forever homes during this past month. Five Canaries all of them went to the same home. Bo an Umbrella Cockatoo, Keiko a Timneh African Gray, Boulder and Poppy both Congo African Grays were all adopted to new loving forever homes.

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

Greetings and happy holidays to you all! Yes once again it is that most wonderful time of year, or so I'm told. Pookie and I have been B-mailing each other and we just do not see why humans get all gushy and smushy at this time of year. Yeah I know all that peace on earth and goodwill toward men thing but why just at Christmas? Why not all year long? Who knows! Another thing they bring out this thing they call a Christmas tree but all us birds see is the world's biggest array of toys to destroy. I dare any of us birds to go near it you'll see what happens and oh the noise they will make, it is indescribable. Why torture us with this thing that looks like birdie paradise but is off limits, some things I'll never understand. Then there's the food, and lots of it. Cookies, cakes, pies and other delectable goodies that once again are off limits to the birds they contain chocolate or other things that are bad for us. Why isn't it bad for the humans? I think they just want it all for themselves. Now I thought it was supposed to be the season of giving to those

we care about what about us? Don't we rate as being cared about don't we deserve some sort of, WHOA, are those cashews? Hey he's coming my way with a huge bag all for me really, oh boy I love cashews they are my most favorite thing in the whole world! I'm in heaven, yummmmy! Now what was I saying? Oh well have a very blessed and merry Christmas and a happy New Year and may you be surrounded by all good things this holiday season!!!

Christmas Cheers  
Captain Morgan



Quality by Mother Nature  
Original Corn Bean Mix®: Noodles-n-Nuts®  
Rainforest Rice Puddin®: Pollypasta®

Kung Fu Yum®  
For Birds of all Sizes

ALL NATURAL  
More Quality

VALUE, Crazy Corn  
at a cost  
LESS THAN SEED!

**CRAZY CORN**

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



**Warning:  
African Grays**



# RESCUE RANGERS



Well it was a normal day as they made their normal way in the normal rescue mobile to the normal city of Northville. Now rescues for our heroes are rarely “normal” but this one would have no surprises. The rangers have seen their share of totally bizarre rescue situations from hoarders to those who are absolutely looney tunes so to have one so mundane was welcome relief. Once at their location in Northville they would rescue two Cockatiels supposedly one male and one female. As they arrived at the house everything seemed to be in place and nothing weird or strange just normal. They went in and saw the two birds in a nice cage (shocker) and very well kept. It was a case of the wife developed allergies to the birds after a medical treatment and it left them unable to keep the birds. As they looked at the birds they soon realized that one of them needed a name change for they were both boys and that made everyone laugh. So with a few tears the birds were put into carriers and taken into foster care. They were exceptionally sweet Cockatiels and soon found their forever home. Another happy ending, (sigh). Alas this bliss would not last long for soon the call will go out again and the Rangers once again will be off to do their duty to retrieve and rescue unwanted cage birds for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



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

- Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
Oakwood Adult Daycare  
3601 Pelham  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
12:30 set-up  
1:30 show
- Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> Senior Educational Program  
University Living

Stay right there for our next thrilling and fascinating installment New Home Needed in Walled Lake.

2865 South Main Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
1:00 PM Set-up  
2:00 PM 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. Recent cancellations that have occurred at the last minute are: The Fall for Novi Pet Adoption Fair and the Allen Park Animal Shelter Pet Adoption



## **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

**Make Nutritious Nuggets**

**80%**

**of Your  
Bird's Diet**

*Veterinarians recommend feeding 80% high-quality nuggets so your bird gets the right balance of vitamins and minerals he needs every day.*

Switch Your Bird to a ZuPreem® Avian Diet Today

- **FruitBlend™ Flavor** – Fun, fruity, colorful nuggets
- **AvianMaintenance™ Natural** – Wholesome nuggets with fresh ground veggies
- **AvianEntrées®** – 3 mixes with different nuggets, fruit and veggies



**Go to [ZuPreem.com/conversion](http://ZuPreem.com/conversion).**  
Let us help you get your bird on a healthier diet.

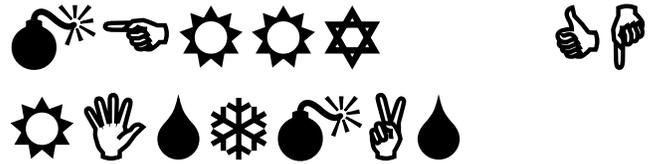
[ZuPreem.com](http://ZuPreem.com)

 1-800-345-4767

ZuPreem® and AvianEntrées® are registered trademarks, and AvianMaintenance and FruitBlend are trademarks of Premium Nutritional Products, Inc. All rights reserved. © 2007 Premium Nutritional Products, Inc.



A Cracked Christmas Carol  
By Dave Carol



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

(IS A BIRD THAT TWEETS)

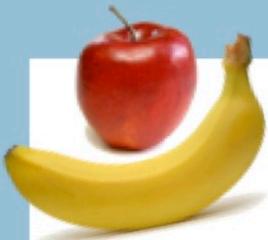
BASED ON ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS  
(ARE MY TWO FRONT TEETH)

All I want for Christmas  
Is a bird that tweets a bird that tweets  
A bird that tweets  
Gee if I could only get a bird that tweets  
Then I could teach it Merry Christmas  
I don't think I'll ever say  
Sister Susie sittin' on a thistle  
There's one thing that'll make me smile  
It's a bird that whistles!  
All I want for Christmas  
Is a bird that tweets a bird that tweets  
A bird that tweets  
Gee if I could only get a bird that tweets  
Then I could teach it Merry Christmas!  
I know I will never say  
Sister Susie sittin' on a thistle  
But that one thing that'll make me smile  
Is a bird that whistles!  
Oh, all I want for Christmas  
Is a bird that tweets a bird that tweets  
A bird that tweets  
Gee If I could only get a bird that tweets  
Then I could teach it Merry Christmas!  
And a Happy New Year too!  
(My sincere apologies to the original Dave)



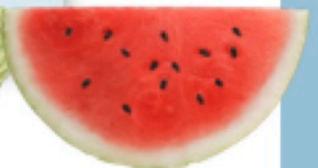
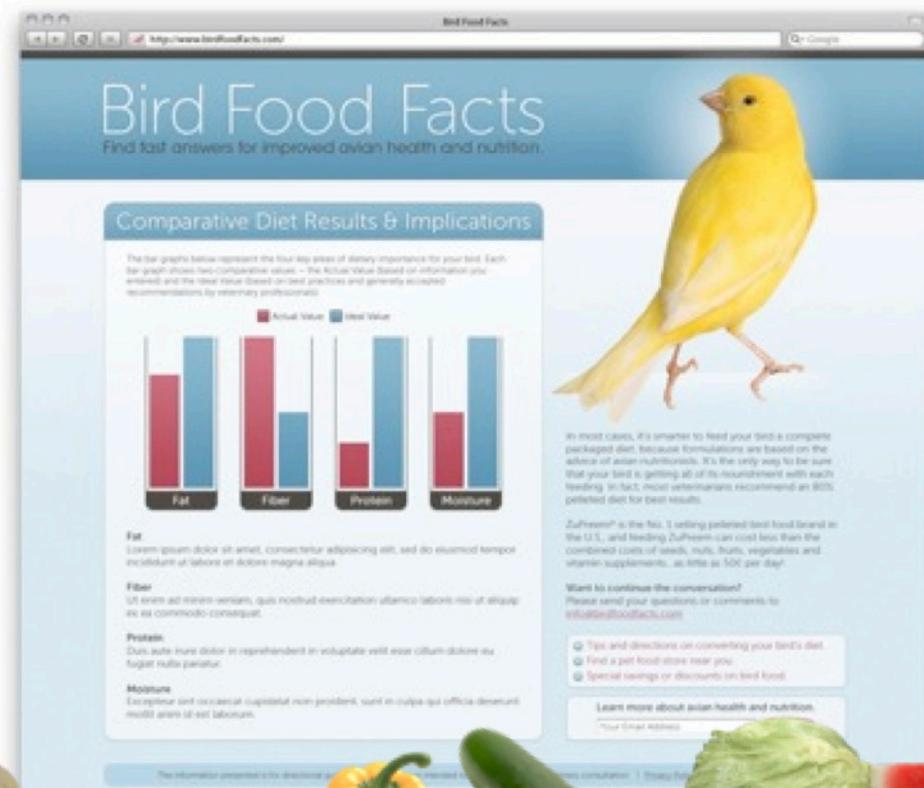
HAPPY NEW YEAR!





# 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.



**BITE ME BIRD TOYS**

Tony & Edie Riojas  
4593 Howell Rd, Otter Lake, MI 48464  
1-810-793-2093  
bitemebirdtoys.com

**NORTH BRANCH ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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

**ROOSE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

Kevin Roose, D.V.M. \* Karen Knight, D.V.M.  
509 W. Ann Arbor Trail \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-451-2870

**SPECIALTY PET SUPPLIES, INC.**

1449 W. Ann Arbor Road \* Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-453-6930  
Fax: 734-453-7127  
M-F 10-7:30 \* Sat 10-6 \* Sun 12-4

**WARREN WOODS VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

29157 Schoenherr \* Warren, MI 48314  
586-751-3350

**OAKLAND VETERINARY EMERGENCY GROUP**

1400 Telegraph Rd \* Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248-334-6877

Free discount card available to club members      Open 7-Days  
Ask about our birdie day spa treatment

**DISCOUNT PET & SUPPLIES**

Specializing in Exotic Birds & Cages  
1623 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI 48154  
734-513-6060

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

**SOUTHGATE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

Keith Cook, D.V.M. \* Elieen Cook, D.V.M.  
13697 Dix-Toledo Rd\* Southgate, MI 48195  
734-248-9122

**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)

**MUGSHOTS and MOUSE PADS**

Species specific coffee mugs, mouse pads and  
other parrot  
paraphernalia  
Cheryl Hitter

734-422-2804

\*Put your pet's picture on a mug or mouse  
pad\*



An easy and healthy alternative  
to messy newspaper!

Marty & Angie Crawford

248.438.6572

[littlemancageliners@yahoo.com](mailto:littlemancageliners@yahoo.com)

[little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com](http://little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com)

Custom sizes up to 25" x 38" •

Square or Rectangle cuts

PayPal plus Shipping available • Priced for 100 sheets

White cover weight paper • Fresh clean cage everyday

*Call or email us for your custom size*

248.438.6572

[littlemancageliners@yahoo.com](mailto:littlemancageliners@yahoo.com)

Visit us on

Facebook and Blogger!

[little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com](http://little-man-cage-liners.blogspot.com)

UV LIGHTING, HEATERS, VITIMINS  
AND OTHER SUPPLIES for your BIRDS,  
FISH and REPTILES

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[zoomed.com](http://zoomed.com)



MURALS  
AND OTHER  
CREATIONS  
BY MARY KAY PERVA  
734-207-0489



Veterinary Care Specialists

205 Rowe Road

Milford, MI 48380

248-684-0468

Open 24 Hours A Day 7 Days A Week



"Baby Parrots Raised in a Home for a Home"

Contact Kaylee at 734-301-0486

[www.kayleesparrotplace.com](http://www.kayleesparrotplace.com)

Specializing in Macaws, Greys,  
Amazons, and others.  
Cages and Food at reasonable prices.