

Wasatch Avian Education Society

The Utah Exotic Bird Club
Resources • Educate • Rescue

Affiliated with the
American Federation of Aviculture

July 2013

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P.O. Box 651701
Salt Lake City, Utah
801-424-2589

July Speaker Dr. Scott Echols



Stress-reducing Handling Techniques for Parrots

July 13, 2013

Salt Lake County Complex
2001 So. State, Room N 1100
Salt Lake City
7:00 pm

President's Message

Happy July everyone, and what a July it's been so far.

In the last month, there have been some new faces to the group who have shown their excitement about being part of the great service that we provide to our feathered friends and our community. I can see that there are a lot of people who really care about our cause, and I cannot wait to see what is to come.

Another very exciting event that is happening in July is our monthly meeting. The reason I say this is because our good friend, Dr. Scott Echols of Parrish Creek Veterinary Clinic (www.parrishcreekvet.com), is coming to speak at the meeting. Being a past president of the Association of Avian Veterinarians, he is one of the most up-to-date authorities on the care of exotic birds. He will be giving a lecture to the Utah Veterinarian Association called "Stress-reducing Handling Techniques for Parrots." In this lecture, he is covering handling, restraint and grooming procedures in a specialized fashion to reduce stress to our birds, and he has agreed to bring this information to us. All I can say is WOW. This will be a wonderful educational experience that I am sure all of us will appreciate.

Please keep in mind that we will be having our board meeting at 5:30 PM, and the monthly meeting will follow at the normal time of 7:00 PM. As always, bring others with you to the meeting, so that we all benefit from the knowledge of our speakers.

Heidi Shelton-Grimes

www.wasatchavian.com

2013 WAES BOARD

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WAES is a proud member and supporter of the AFA, and many WAES members are individual AFA members. AFA Members receive: quarterly publication-The WatchBird, member rates for AFA courses and AFA Convention. AFA Protects the rights of bird owners, provides education, supports conservation.

Please visit:

**www.afabirds.org
Join AFA today!**

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Does Your Bird Think You're His Mate? Uh, Oh!

by Madeleine Franco

Part 1 of a 2-Part Article- Emphasizing Ways to Keep Your Bird

If your bird thinks you're his mate, resist the temptation to be flattered, as this could encourage or exacerbate feather-destructive behavior. However, he may pluck for other reasons, and the reasons are many. Attention to the following "rules of conduct" could lessen your bird's tendency to pluck or engage in inappropriate sexual behaviors and may also help you avoid a nasty bite.

1. Be sure that your bird gets plenty of rest, particularly during his molt. Molting is a stressful process, with which birds often lose patience. When they are tired, birds are less able to cope, and they may resort to excessive preening.
2. Place your bird's cage in a location that allows him to have at least one safe corner. Help him feel safe in his own home. Logically, preening prepares your bird's feathers for flight. Fear and anxiety can cause him to want to keep himself in a state of constant readiness, and over-preening may result.
3. Recognize that a hand-raised bird may not know what preening is, what it does, or how it is supposed to feel. He does know, however, that growing feathers is an uncomfortable process, and if he plucks out the offending feather, the discomfort goes away, at least temporarily. Try to keep your bird as comfortable as possible during any time during which he is replacing lost feathers.
4. If you clip your bird's wings, be sure that there are no sharp edges protruding into the sensitive skin under his wings. Many a bird has launched as a career plucker following a poorly executed wing clipping.
5. Know that a bird's self-mutilation can be a life-threatening habit. Consult with your veterinarian if your bird takes his feather destructive behavior to the next level and begins mutilating his body.
6. Cover your bird's cage only for sleeping. Do not allow her to spend time in a dark cage for numerous hours other than for sleeping.
7. Bathe your bird often. Do a little research on the climate and weather patterns of the region to which your bird is indigenous to give yourself a better understanding of how often might be often enough. Keep in mind that some birds consider bathing a form of recreation, and provide frequent opportunities for such birds. If your home has a sodium-based water softening system, try bathing your bird with distilled water. However, distilled water should never be used as your bird's drinking water due to its lack of trace-mineral content.
8. Try to socialize your bird as much as possible, with other birds, if possible, and with other people. A one-person bird is NOT optimal, and while some birds flourish as singles, birds are flock animals by nature. If your pet bird seems lonely and you do decide to get another "bird for your bird," be aware that most often a buddy rather than a mate will fit the bill. Of course, any new bird should be quarantined for at least 30 days, and preferably 45 - 60 days, and birds must be introduced to each other gradually.

Part 2 of this article will be posted in September.

Copyright © 2010 Madeleine Franco, all rights reserved. Madeleine Franco is an award-winning business writer/presenter and founding president of the Southern Nevada Parrot Education, Rescue & Rehoming Society (SNPERRS). She is an avicultural hobbyist who tends a flock of approximately 30 non-breeding, highly platonic and interactive pet parrots. Madeleine is the owner/operator of Premium Pine Cones, LLC (www.premiumpinecones.net), specializing in remedies, toys and diversions for parrots that pluck but would like to kick the habit.

ALPHABET SOUP

What the letters mean:

BFA
Blue Fronted Amazon

BGM
Blue & Gold Macaw

BCC
Blue Crown Conure

CAG
Congo African Grey

DYH
Double Yellow
Headed Amazon

GCC
Green Cheeked conure

G2
Goffins Cockatoo

LCA
Lilac Crown Amazon

M2
Moluccan Cockatoo

MM
Military Macaw

JC
Jenday Conure

NC
Nanday Conure

OWA
Orange Wing Amazon

Q
Quaker

SC
Sun Conure

SM
Severe Macaw

SIE
Soloman Island Eclectus

U2
Umbrella Cockatoo

YCM
Yellow Collared Macaw

YNA
Yellow Naped Amazon

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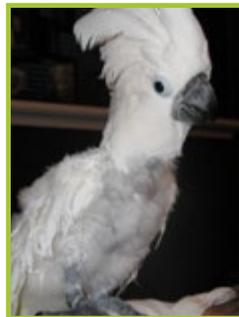
Rescue Me...

For more information about each bird, the
WAES Adoption Application and to join WAES,
visit us online:

www.wasatchavian.com



Scooby Doo
G2



Molly
U2



Samson
U2

Adopted
Bird
Gus
Alex



Edo
DYH



Caesar
YNA



Pretty Bird
YNA



Figaro
BFA



Spirit & Petey
NC Pair

More Birds
Photos Coming
Soon

Beaker
U2

Juniper
Female Eclectus

Citron
Senegal

Cleo
M2

Dax
MM



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

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




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Events

July 13, 2013

July WAES Meeting- Dr. Scott Echols

August 7-10, 2013

39th Annual AFA Convention-Raleigh, NC

August 24, 2013

WAES Annual Picnic-Bring Salad or Dessert

Tanner Park: 2760 S. 2695 E. (Heritage Way), SLC

1-5pm, Birds Welcome with Supervision

September 14, 2013

September WAES Meeting

September 21, 2013- Strut Your Mutt

Liberty Park, Salt Lake City



Please visit our web site for more events, membership, and information www.wasatchavian.com

WAES Newsletter will be distributed electronically unless otherwise specified.

Please contact Board Member Audrey Hollaar to report your current e-mail address or request a black and white mailed copy.

If you have a story, photo, poem or anecdote to share we'd love to include you in our WAES Newsletter.

Please send submissions to ccc@syptec.com

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