

W.A.E.S.

Wasatch Avian Education Society

February 2020

**President's message:**

I am very excited about our February meeting. First of all, it will be our 26th anniversary, we came into existence in February 1994. A lot of public interest clubs don't last anywhere that long, and we should be proud of what we have accomplished in that time. Especially the thousand or so birds that have passed through our rescue program and found forever homes. I am also excited that one of our favorite speakers is returning, thanks to the outstanding efforts of our VP Sophia Blankevoort, who is in charge of finding speakers. **Dr. Evan Buechley** has spoken to us a few times in the past several years, and he returns for our February 8th meeting. He is a avian researcher at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, specializing in vultures. He will expand his topic for our next meeting; he says "I'll present on the "State of the World's Raptors", including an overview of the conservation status, ecology, and research on all raptors worldwide." His previous lectures to the WAES have been very popular, and I urge all of you to come and hear this fascinating expert speaker.

See attached flyer for more information.

Chase Kimball

President, WAES

**Please note:** There will be a board meeting beginning at 6:30 preceding this month's meeting. All board members please attend.

**Monthly Meeting**

February 8, 2020

7:00 pm

**Salt Lake County**

**Complex**

2001 S. State Street

Room N1100

(North Building)

Our meetings are free and open to the public.

Come meet other parrot enthusiasts.

Refreshments & Raffle Table

Come see what our volunteer

Flock is all about.

**Am I a "Know it All"?**

By Elise Negrin

Advance to Social Media, which is now this generation's 'go to' place for information. Or is it? Like many people I have opinions which are based upon prior experience and education with the best of the best people in the parrot world. For that, I consider myself quite fortunate. It's a daily onslaught of supposed knowledge primarily on Facebook, which is where I derive my ideas from. Much of the information to new parrot owners is good but there are administrators who a lot of the time are the ultimate "know it alls". Dare say something they disagree with and you get chastised without mercy. I never profess to know everything, in fact most of us, even supposed experts do not know everything. What the top line experts will tell you is that they do not know it all.

As for me, I consider myself an accomplished parrot slave. I have been quite successful whether it is working with a bird dumped upon me then finding him the proper home or keeping him in my own flock. I have always been aware of my limitations, and I have had as many as 8 birds at one-time. Now I have only one bird, my African Grey. I enjoyed mostly large birds having had Macaws come my way. I have learned a lot as an active member of a few great parrot clubs. I have met many professionals in all fields of ornithology and received educational information from each one, which I take into consideration within my limits.

Therefore, when there is an administrator or a know it all on Facebook, and I make a simple comment I surely do not appreciate being lambasted online.

I follow the rule of common sense. I believe in this way, and it works. Every day I see what I perceive as careless behaviors on social media whether it is photos or comments. Bad things that professionals will tell you are no good. For example, there are people who Free Fly their birds. The people who I know that do this are very careful, with lots of training prior to the Free Fly. I would never attempt this as it is not in my realm, but I do believe those birds are happy. They have the best of both worlds, captive and freedom safely.

BUT... People take their birds outside without a harness and those birds are not Free Flight trained. This is not within my common-sense realm as birds in general are not loyal. They will fly away if they choose or get spooked and fly away without benefit of trained recall. I feel quite sad when someone loses their bird because most captive birds have not learned how to survive outside. If this has happened to you and you got your bird back, consider yourself very lucky. Then there are those people (primarily women) who are lonely. Those are the 'potato chip' people who cannot have just one or two. What happens is good intentions go astray. Some of these people cannot afford to do this, but they believe they are 'saving' the birds. I am not trying to be a "Know it All" here, just stating what I see. Then they become a Rescue or Sanctuary without truly considering their financial situation. Most fail to Quarantine, which is a factor that is utmost important (IMHO) to all the birds new and existing health. I have asked some if they do quarantine and they say yes, only to post on Social Media that day or the next a picture of them with their new charge and all their existing birds in the background. Now you know who you are, and you lied. Quarantine for 15 minutes is NOT quarantine. Go ahead, call me a "Know it All", I am stating facts. Facts that are common sense. If you do not quarantine or are not careful about the birds in your care; if you cannot afford vet care and become overwhelmed to have to ask for food and toys for your birds, you are not doing any of the birds a favor. You simply make it more difficult for the reputable rescue groups to come in and handle your mess when you are no longer able. I am aware of a few rescue groups that are fantastic. They are few and far between. In closing, I will list a few of the COMMON SENSE things anyone must consider:

1. QUARANTINE 30 days minimum. New bird should not share airspace with other birds. Care for all your birds first, then the newbie. Then change clothing/shoes, etc.
2. NEVER, ever drive with your bird loose in a car. NEVER. A carrier or box of some sort is necessary. If you think nothing will happen, you are wrong. It takes one time to regret.
3. DO NOT leave multiple birds out unsupervised. Birds are not civilized and will defend their territory. This can lead to horrible accidents.

There you have it, Information from this "Know it All" for 2020. It is my opinion that those types mentioned in this article will read it and laugh. I will not laugh when they become overwhelmed. I will feel sad that they did not use common sense to begin with.

#### **New birds:**

WAES took in two birds in the last month - a Goffin's Cockatoo named Stevie, and a cockatiel named Percy. Please visit our adoptable bird page to see all of our current birds.



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www.wasatchavian.com





# Wasatch Avian Education Society (WAES)

## > Save the date!

### February 8th 2020

**Guest Speaker:  
Dr. Evan Buechley**


Dr. Evan Buechley—a postdoctoral researcher of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center—will be presenting on the "State of the World's Raptors" including an overview of the conservation status, ecology, and research on all raptors worldwide. He will also highlight some of HawkWatch International's project working to address key global conservation priorities.


#### What is the WAES?

An organization that rescues birds and parrots and educates the community about them.

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month and are free to attend.



wasatchavian.com 

Salt Lake County  
Complex 2001 S.  
State, room N1100   
(North Building) Salt  
Lake City, Utah

7:00 pm 