

W.A.E.S.

Wasatch Avian Education Society



Happy May to All,

This little guy sure seems to be an unhappy fellow. Why? Many of us have had a foster bird or a new bird in our homes that reflects this attitude. If you haven't, just hang around us for a bit more – YOU WILL!

Here's how parrots function: when you move them from home to home, they grieve for their people, their flock. It's not like giving a dog a new home. After a short time, a dog will often be overjoyed with attention; they tend to recover much faster emotionally. Parrots are built to function in flocks, and those flocks are like family. They depend on social bonds for security. With each subsequent new home (a parrot has, on average, *seven homes in the first five years of its life*), it becomes harder for a bird to trust and move on. They remember their past experiences.

Understand that you are your bird's best friend, in some cases, only friend. They look to you for their daily care and companionship. Imagine what it must seem like to your bird to be suddenly dumped in a strange place. Looking at this from a bird's perspective, it's a little unreasonable for us to expect that all of them will just accept what must seem like abuse.

A bird that has been moved from home to home (with maybe even a pet shop thrown in somewhere along the line) may have experienced traumatic events that can cause ongoing stress, long after the event has occurred. Separation anxiety or loss of a mate can trigger stress severe enough to cause a parrot to starve itself. Loud noises or situations that trigger a fight or flight response also cause the body to be in a state of stress that may impact health and wellness.

The first thing you should remember when trying to "befriend" your bird is that he is technically still a wild animal. It doesn't matter if he was hand-raised or taken from the wild, parrots still possess their natural instinct, and are genetically bound to act on it. This is why they can't help the noises they make, or the fact that they tend to shy away from human presence. Don't push the bird too hard in trying to win its affection. Take small steps, and focus on building trust.

Talking to your parrot is a good way to start a connection. In the wild, birds are very vocal creatures; they communicate with each other in a series of shrieks and clicks. They are very sociable, flying around in large groups foraging for food. In talking to the bird, you build on his need to communicate with other beings. Studies have shown that birds are able to associate words with value, and you could even teach him a thing or two while you're bonding. Make eye contact and try not to startle him. Also, be sure the bird has a good grip on your arm or fingers before making any sudden movements.

Constant interaction is essential for the bird to develop familiarity with you. If he associates you with sudden, loud noises and bright lights, he will remember that the next time, and you'll have even more trouble trying to get him out of his cage.

Patience and acceptance can make the difference in a bird's life that will be paid back as we see the new member of our household turn into a happy bird.

Geri Driggs, WAES President

Monthly Meeting

May 12, 2018

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.

May Speaker : Richard Nowak of Avian Sanctuary and Protection (ASAP)



Richard Nowak is founder of the Avian Sanctuary and Protection Agency. He has cared for birds since 1972 as a hobby, and started rescuing parrots and other birds in the 80s.

Domestic birds such as chickens, ducks, geese, pigeons, peacocks, and turkeys often die or are euthanized at shelters because they are abandoned or not properly cared for. The same fate also applies to many injured invasive wild birds and sometimes parrots. The primary objective of the Avian Sanctuary and Protection is to provide an alternative for the public to relinquish such birds that may have no future for potential care, or which may become invasive or disruptive to our natural environments. Many of the birds can then be rehomed.

ASAP provides many other services including education about caring for or controlling captive birds, rescue, recovery or removal of birds or finding injured birds. Richard also gives educational presentations to classroom groups for students to learn about birds and their natural requirements, whether they are domestic or wild visitors to the community. ASAP has also been instrumental in conducting annual city park pond clean ups.



Richard will bring a live turkey, a peacock, doves and of course, a few parrots to introduce to us. He strives to make the experience fun and educational as well as instilling the importance of protecting the natural environments in our urban areas and throughout the world. Please join us for a thoroughly entertaining and informative evening of birds!



June WAES Meeting 6/09

Does your bird like to join you for a ride in the car? Next month we will be making **birdie car seats**!! The car seat will make for a safer riding experience for both driver and bird, and is applicable for birds both large and small.

Materials and instruction will be available.

There will be a small fee for the materials, but the knowledge is free!



New birds this month:



Check out this very cute pair!!
Poe, green-cheeked conure and Haste-
maker, budgie are a bonded pair, about
4 years old. They are friendly and flight-
ed. They come with a cage and carri-
er. Vet check pending.

For all adoptable or fosterable birds,
please visit our website:

www.wasatchavian.com

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