

Wasatch Avian Education Society

The Utah Exotic Bird Club
Resources • Educate • Rescue

Affiliated with the
American Federation of Aviculture

June 2013

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

June Speaker **EARTHWINGS**

Baby Barn Owl and Free Flighted Cuddles

June 8, 2013

**Salt Lake County Complex
2001 So. State, Room N 1100**

Salt Lake City

7:00 pm

President's Message

June is upon us and so far it looks like it will be a nice month. School is letting out and it's time for vacations. Just make sure that if you are going out of town, you have a plan for your birds. Let's try to help out each other by making sure that our feathered friends are being cared for. I am sure that we all will be willing to work together so that we can have some time to have a vacation.



Speaking of working together, I would like to say thank you for everyone's hard work with the new rescues that we have been receiving. The birds seem to be doing really well and are happy to be with their loving foster homes. Let's keep it up and make sure that we do everything that we can do to educate and share with others, as I know there are so many others who would love to share their homes and lives with these wonderful birds.

I am excited about our meeting this month because we have our friend Eric McGill with Earth Wings coming to visit again. It is always a pleasure to see Eric and his amazing birds, and it seems that he has a brand new edition to his family of bird ambassadors. We get to meet the 7 week old baby (Yeah!! Baby) Barn Owl "Summit". Eric has also decided to bring "Cuddles" the Severe Macaw that he adopted (we are so glad that Cuddles has gone to such a great home). Make sure to tell everyone about the meeting because we will be having a great time.

See you there, *Heidi Shelton-Grimes*

www.wasatchavian.com

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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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My Bird Is Messy. Can You Help?

by *WindyCityParrot.com*

Birds in the wild crack nuts and eat fruit, dropping seeds to the ground. Season after season, new trees and shrubs grow around the canopy trees the birds are living in. A bird eats an egg filled fish in a large lake in Illinois in the fall. The bird flies to Indiana and poops the undigested fish eggs out in a half acre man-made lake on a farm in Indiana. The next spring, the farmer is miraculously harvesting fish in his own private lake. Now I want you to walk over to your cage. Look your bird in the eye and say, "Hey, this is not the rain forest, trees will never sprout from the floor, fish will never propagate in your water dish, could you stop flinging your seeds and pooping in your water dish now?"

That's the best way I know how to teach your bird to not be so messy. Wait, that didn't work? Wow, I'm sorry, but thank you for playing. Much like taking a winged animal that would normally cover, via flight, 5 to 10,000 acres a day, restrict them to a few hundred square feet, then we're surprised the animal exhibits, quote, "behavior" problems. Your bird doesn't give a parakeet's fart you installed your own kitchen floor plank by plank in a week long project from Home Depot. So I'll say this once, "BIRDS ARE MESSY!" Now let's deal with it, shall we?

There are three legs of the "Mess Equation": cleaning the cage, cleaning the area around the cage (or where the bird travels in your home), and cleaning the bird. To keep things short, we are going to focus on cleaning the cage today. A great offense starts with a good defense, so we want to take steps that will help protect the cage and the areas around it, and make it easier to clean.

You can protect any floor from the droppings under any bird cage with an office chair mat or sheet linoleum. Linoleum is cheaper, you can usually get it cut to fit almost any size cage, and it is cheap enough that you can keep an extra piece in storage. Office chair mats are pricier but you can choose them based upon the type of floor you have, and they can also be quite easily used to protect walls behind and on the sides of the cage.

Newspaper can be a bird keeper's best friend. It's safe for your birds, it's plentiful and cheap, and is primarily used in the tray of the birdcage. Some people with smaller cages will stack a number of sheets cut the size of the cage tray so they can just remove a layer or two daily. We're not big fans of tray bedding, regardless of the material (nut shells, pine shavings) because we feel it can rust out a metal tray prematurely, and it holds bacteria and moisture which promotes mold. You also cannot check your bird's droppings daily for changes. Because of the bird's respiratory system, the last thing we want is your bird to be near mold. If you want to take bird cage sanitation to the next level, check out T3 anti-microbial birdcage liner from Prevue Pet. T3 Cage Liner utilizes a patented process developed by Agion®. The liner is an anti-microbial protected paper, treated on one side to inhibit the growth of odor-causing bacteria.

If you're not already doing so, try putting a folded piece of newspaper on top of the bottom grate of the birdcage to help keep it cleaner because it's far away the dirtiest part of the cage. Put the newspaper under your bird's food dish (perhaps something heavier and ceramic) and you're solving two problems. Put the food on the bottom of the cage, instead of halfway up the cage wall where much more waste will go flying onto the floor or into the tray below. Whether you have a dome top or a play top cage, if your bird tends to go towards the top of it, throw a piece of newspaper on the tray of the play top or directly over the dome top portion of the cage. You'll be scrubbing less poop & food particulate off metal.

A couple of unique but inexpensive products that have become top sellers on our website are the Tidy-seed feeders and bird cage door skirts. To wrap things up for the day, we would like to recommend an essential accessory no birdcage should be without and that's a Lixit bird water bottle. I know this comes as a shock, but sometimes birds will dunk their food into their water dish and even poop into the water bowl. The food particulate isn't too bad, but you don't want your bird's drinking water holding bacteria created from feces. Lixit water bottles simply solve this problem.

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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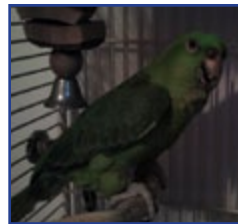
Rescue Me...

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

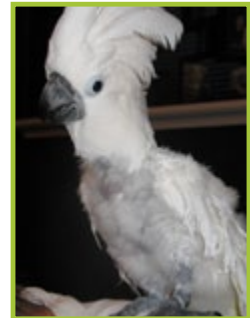
www.wasatchavian.com



Scooby Doo
G2



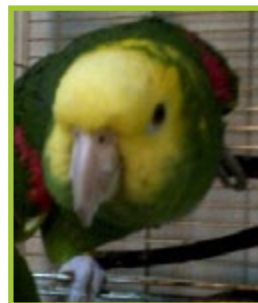
Caesar
YNA



Molly
U2



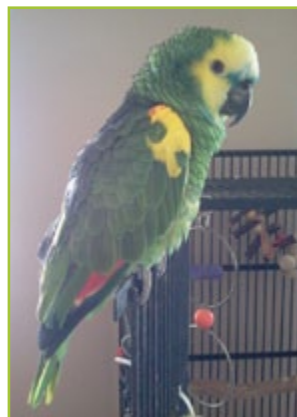
Spirit & Petey
NC Pair



Edo
DYH



Samson
U2



Figaro
BFA



Bird
BCC

More Birds

Photos Coming Soon

Beaker
U2

Alex
CAG

Juniper
Female Eclectus

Citron
Senegal

Gus
Quaker

Cleo
M2



**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.




ZuPreem is a registered trademark of Purina Animal Health. © 2011

Events

June 8, 2013

June WAES Meeting

July 13, 2013

July WAES Meeting

August TBA, 2013

WAES Annual Picnic

August 7-10, 2013

39th Annual AFA Convention-Raleigh, NC

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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