



ALASKA BIRD NEWS

May 2010

Lin Westgard, Editor

Volume 22 – Number 05

Available on-line at www.alaskabirdclub.org
Dedicated to all the current and future parrot owners of Alaska



(Ama-too? or Cocka-zon?)

Wanted: Human Companion

Introducing Diego (cha cha cha)

Single, green male seeks loving, attentive, cuddling, generous female. Looks like an Amazon, acts like a Cockatoo.



Human females preferred, no birds need apply.

Hi There! I'm 50 years young and am seeking a gentle spirit to watch tv and snuggle with. I have spent much of my life as a snuggly "baby" and until 2005 still preferred being spoon-fed. But I have grown greatly in the past 4 years. I now enjoy eating on my own, including fresh fruits (apples in particular), veggies, cheerios, scrambled eggs, waffles, and bean burritos. However, I still turn up a disgusted beak at pellets and "bird" food. I get very excited when the food is almost done, and often urge the chef on with motivating whistles and wild chatter.

I am fully flighted, but don't ever fly. I mostly like to sit in laps or hang out on the cage. I plucked my tail feathers in my younger years, or they were broken by being in a very small cage, and now that they have returned, they are small, twisted and stunted. I'm still cute, though (wink-wink).

I am very gentle with women, and typically apprehensive of men. After 4 years I have learned to tolerate another amazon, that I currently live with, but really would rather hang out with my own kind (people). Little birds make me crazy, especially if they're flighted. And when I feel crazy I let you know in a LOUD way. I'm not suitable to live in an apartment because I'm so LOUD.

I adore being held, petted and attached to my special lady as often as possible. I have learned to rip up toys and now enjoy baths, although pedicures are still a bit stressful.

If you are looking for a snuggle bug to share your meals and movies, or to just hang out with, look no further. I'm your man (cha cha cha). *Read more on how to adopt Diego on Page 4.*

CLUB INFORMATION

The Alaska Bird Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit incorporated in the State of Alaska. It meets the first Tuesday of every month at Serendipity Adult Day Services in Anchorage at 7:00pm. Location: 3550 East 20th Ave (off of Northern Lights Blvd & Nichols St).

The mailing address is:

THE ALASKA BIRD CLUB
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*You can e-mail the Alaska Bird Club at:
akbirdclub@yahoo.com*

*Or visit our website:
www.alaskabirdclub.org*

We welcome any comments, articles or any ideas for the club or the newsletter. Current issues and extra copies of previous editions of The Alaska Bird News are available at the monthly meetings.

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The following locations have copies of our newsletter if you need extra. We have also noted the clinics that have avian vets by the ✪

ANCHORAGE:

Alaska Mill & Feed
1501 E. 1st Ave.
276-6016

Alaska Pet-ography
9130 Elim St.
868-1680

✪ Chester Valley
Veterinary
Dr. Thomas
1571 Muldoon Rd.
333-6591

✪ College Village
Animal Clinic
Dr. Basler
2036 E. Northern Lights
274-5623

✪ Hillside Pet Clinic
Dr. Bluestone
2101 Abbott Rd. #1
344-7913

Petco
8621 Old Seward Hwy

✪ Pet Emergency
Dr. Doty
2320 E. Dowling Rd.
274-5636

✪ The Pet Stop
Dr. Riley Wilson
1921 W. Dimond Blvd.
522-1006

The Pet Zoo
901 E. Dimond Blvd.
344-2966

✪ VCA Alaska Pet Care
Dr. Frederickson
3900 Lake Otis Pkwy
562-PETS (7387)

VCA Alpine Animal Hospital
12531 Old Seward Hwy
345-1515

VCA E. Anch Animal Clinic
2639 Boniface Pkwy
337-1561

EAGLE RIVER:

✪ Ravenwood Veterinary
Clinic
Dr. Cuthbert
11525 Old Glenn Hwy
694-9665

The Pet Zoo
12046 Business Blvd.
622-2966

WASILLA:

All Creatures Veterinary Clinic
Mi 7.4 Palmer- Wasilla Hwy
(907) 376-6016

The Pet Zoo
1481 E. Parks Hwy
357-7335

PALMER

Far Country Animal Hospital
2701 N. Liahona Dr.
Palmer
(907) 746-7297

North Star Animal Hospital
840 S. Cobb St.
(907) 746-7387

Palmer Veterinary Clinic
Mi 39 Glenn Why
(907) 745-3219

The Pet Zoo
10201 E. Palmer-Wasilla Hwy
746-0056

FAIRBANKS:

Mt. McKinley Animal Hospital
800 College Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Bird of the Month

Rocket aka "*Rocky*"



Submitted by Bird Club member David Briggs

This is Rocket (Rocky for short). He's a Blue & Gold Macaw, hatched and raised here in Alaska. He came out of his shell on July 26th, 1997 and came home with me in November of the same year. I had him vet tested at VCA AK Pet Care by Dr. Jackie Frederickson to make sure he's a male. I finished hand weaning him (it took close to a year!) and he's been with me every since.

He makes a variety of different sounds, (bodily functions) whistles, and says quite a few words like: " H E L L O ", " H I ", " D A - A - V - I - I - I - D ! ! ! ! " " G ' B Y E " , "SEE YA LATER", "WHAT'RE YA DOIN'?" "WHAT'S THE MATTER?" "OH S@@@!", "GOOD MORNING", "GO POTTY", "TA DAA", "SQUEEKADOODLE". Oh! And he quacks like a duck, mumbles under his breath, honks like a goose, whistles for the dog and says "c'mere Mutley"(Mutley has since passed on) and then starts calling for the other dog, Sadie. His favorite foods are anything fresh that I'm eating and will share with him. He loves pasta and pizza crust, cheerio's, fresh veggies, whole wheat toast with peanut butter. When I give him something new or something he hasn't had in a while he'll look at it and ask "Is it good?" Then he'll taste it and if he likes it he'll say "MMMM GOOD"!!!

When I first brought him home he was just learning

to use his wings and all he wanted to do was fly. To curb this I had his flight feathers clipped which led to quite a few failed attempts to fly. It took almost 2 years for his feather to grow back in. I decided then that I would never clip his wings again. He is harness tolerant because he knows that once the leash is attached, he gets to go outside or even for a ride. I just recently replaced his cage with a new Kings Cage, model 405 which he watched me put together all the time asking "What're ya doing?" When his new cage was finished, I bridged the gap between the two cages with my arms and he made a beeline straight for his "new home" to check it out....and christened it in his own special way. He's always very curious about anything I'm doing and always tries to help....gets in the way when ever he can. This makes for prepping food for cooking very interesting at times.



Blue & Gold Macaws (*Ara Ararauna*) natural habitat is the Northern Region of South America covering Eastern Panama, Columbia, eastern & western Ecuador, Venezuela, Guyana, Northeastern French Guiana, Trinidad&Tobago,Brazil,Bolivia.

Average length from Cere to tip of tail is 32-35" with a wingspan of 41-45". The Average weight is 900-1200 grams and they can live to be 50-80 years old in captivity.

Editors note: For your bird to be considered for the Bird of the Month, please e-mail your story to akbirdclubg@yahoo.com

DIEGO - *Cont'd from page 1*

Diego has been rehabilitating in a past board members home for four years now and ready to venture out on his own to find his life-long home. The Adopt-A-Bird Program is a committee within the Alaska Bird Club that helps people adopt birds like Diego. When people are re-homing their parrots, it's often a very difficult, emotional decision and our committee members are there to help.

What we do is collect a registry of adoption applicants and help find a match for a bird that needs a new home. If you are interested in giving a parrot a second chance, we highly encourage you to fill out an Adoption Application, which can be found on our website at www.alaskabirdclub.org. You can fax this form in, mail it in, or scan and e-mail it to our general mailbox at akbirdclub@yahoo.com. Once this form is on file with us, then when we get information on a parrot that needs a new home, we scan the applications for people that have either listed a particular type species they are interested in, or a particular bird they are interested in that we post on Petfinders.com on the owners behalf. Then the owners often take it from there. They will make the decision on where and who their bird goes to. It can be a long process or a short process. Sometimes the match is instantaneous. Sometimes it takes a long time to find the right home or environment for the right bird. It's an interview process. But the reward for the process, is often a wonderful and bonding experience and a lifelong match is made.

Please consider adopting first before buying. And if you are new to birds, please consider joining the Alaska Bird Club and get familiar with the different species so you can get an idea of what kind of species might fit your environment or commitment level. Then we highly encourage you to take advantage of another organization, not affiliated with the

Alaska Bird Club, called PEAC (Parrot Education and Adoption Center), the Anchorage Chapter. They offer wonderful educational classes on parrot education monthly, right here in Anchorage. We list their classes monthly on page 5.

If you are a person re-homing your parrot, or you are a family considering adopting, please remember that parrots should be considered a life-long commitment, with only the most extreme of conditions that would make you consider re-homing your parrot. They form emotional attachments and rely on you for care. And in return, they can give you hours of entertainment and years of loyal dedicated companionship.

If you are interested in Diego specifically, please contact us at 868-9070 or at akbirdclub@yahoo.com. If you'd like to see the other birds in this program that are up for adoption, visit our website at www.alaskabirdclub.org and follow the link to the Adopt-A-Bird program and then "Adoptable Birds".



There is always a match for someone

Check out the Alaska Bird Club's Website!

Find out about our latest Lost and Found Birds, our birds that are available in our Adopt-A-Bird program and other various articles and videos. Advertise your un-wanted cages via newsletter and website! See what's up and coming and stay in touch!
www.alaskabirdclub.org

Bird Toys, Supplies and Food
Cage Enrichment Consultations
Toy Making Parties
Basic Bird Care Instructions
Custom made bird toys
(907) 868-8058



REMEMBER: Teflon and other non-stick finishes are deadly to your bird. Do not take chances. Bird deaths have been recorded when nonstick cookware was used even at low temperatures.

Website of the Month

www.thegabrielfoundation.org

The Gabriel Foundation is a 501©(3) avicultural and veterinary affiliated parrot welfare organization promoting educational outreach, conservation, rescue, rehabilitation, adoption, long-term foster care and sanctuary pertaining to the needs of parrots everywhere. Located in Colorado.

Parrot Behavior Consultations

Need help with any of the following?

Aggression
Excessive screaming
Inappropriate vocalizations
Feather Destructive Behaviors
Diet
Environmental Enrichment

Contact Karen Webster
to schedule your consultation today:
929-BIRD (2473) or akpeac@gmail.com.

ALASKA MILL AND FEED

Alaska Mill and Feed gives Alaska Bird Club Members 10% off any bird related items!

Located at 1501 E. 1st Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 276-6016

PEAC

(Parrot Education & Adoption Center)

www.akpeac.org

929-BIRD

Seminar Schedule

Advanced Registration Recommended

May 18th 7-9:00pm The Naked Parrot - Feather Destruction Behavior in Parrots

June 17th 7-9:00pm Parrot Personalities

Update: PEAC has their Leach Seed bags in!



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INDUSTRY
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Appearance - Yummy & Fragrant?
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Healthiest Brown Rice - ONLY WHOLE GRAINS. ASIAN RICE STICK NOODLES.

6 Types of Beans plus Soybeans?

5 Fun Pasta Shapes?

Cook Daily? *every 1 - 4 months

Generously Handpacked? Handful of Banana Chips - Scoop of Pistachios, etc.

Dyes?

Ethoxyquin?

Sulfites?

Fancy Packaging?

YES
YES!
D
E
L
E
T
E
D
YES
YES
YES
NO*
YES
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO

Competitive Products

Varies
NO
- Pellets dissolve into brown liquid
- Costlier items deleted from most imitations.
NO
NO
YES
NO
YES
NO
YES
YES
YES
YES!
- most
- in some
"
- often, i.e. coconut

- **RAPID CHICK DEVELOPMENT**
- **EAGERLY FED & EATEN**
- **CHICKS SELF-WEAN**
to healthier broad nutrition



SEE - crazycorn.com to find out why birds NEED more than seed!



THE ALASKA BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

www.alaskabirdclub.org e-mail: akbirdclub@yahoo.com phone: 868-9070
Non Profit Club EIN# 92-0134866

The Alaska Bird Club's mission is to promote responsible avian ownership through education and when possible, to provide rescue and adoption services for abandoned and unwanted birds in communities across Alaska.

We are a statewide 501(c)(3) [non-profit] educational club. All money collected as dues is used to provide educational training and activities to assist people in caring for companion birds. Our main activities include convening educational monthly membership meetings, producing a monthly newsletter, offering an annual seminar featuring experts in avian care and managing a website. Additionally, The Alaska Bird Club manages a statewide Adopt-A-Bird Program offering placement referrals, emergency/foster care and rescue services. The Alaska Bird Club also has a Lost/Found-Rescue Committee that aids in the rescue and capture of lost birds. There are numerous other activities and services that The ABC offers. You do not have to attend the meetings to be a member.

MEMBERSHIPS:

Membership is due annually, and runs from January 1st—December 31st. (rate discount of 50% applies to members joining in August and later). New members receive membership packets and free newsletter mailings.

_____ Single: \$20.00 _____ Family: \$25.00

Mail Payment and Form to:

The Alaska Bird Club, PO Box 101825, Anchorage, AK 99510

Name(s): _____
Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail Address _____

Care to share what kind of parrots you live with? _____

How would you like to receive your newsletter?

US Mail ___ e-mail ___ Pick-up at membership meeting ___ Website ___

Would you like to be listed on a registry that is available to other members? Yes ___ No ___

Would you be interested in carpooling from the Valley with other members? Yes ___ No ___

Would you like to be on a committee? Yes ___ No ___ and if so, do you have a preference?

Adopt-A-Bird: ___ Lost/Found-Rescue Committee ___ Hospitality Committee: ___

Membership Committee: ___ Educational Committee: ___ Seminar Committee: ___

Emergency Services Committee: ___ Other: _____

The Bird Club uses e-mail as the preferred method of communication. Do you wish to be included on this mailing list or not? Yes ___ No ___

Comments: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

What's for Dinner?

Parrots *need* good food to thrive in our homes. Rally with your bird friends and have a cooking Sunday afternoon and prepare for the week. Here are some ideas on cookbooks and nutrition:

Phoenix Landing Press has a wonderful cookbook titled Nourish to Flourish A Healthy Cookbook for Parrots that is compiled by Ann Brooks. See their website at <http://phoenixlanding.org/books.html>.

Another superb DVD available can be found on Parrot Enrichment's website at :

<http://parrotenrichment.com/products.html>.

It's called Feeding Our Parrots Well with Pamela Clark, CVT and Kris Porter (local Alaskan author). Pam explains parrot nutrition, demonstrates her salad recipe and quinoa pilaf recipe and also explains in detail how to convert a hard core seed junkie to eating a quality pellet and fresh vegetables. She shows how to sprout successfully, and Kris shows people how to make a quality bird bread and incorporate toys into bird bread.

Meeting Information:

**May 4th - Chili Cook Off Contest
(Membership Drive and Fundraiser)**

**Held on Regular Meeting Night
7:00pm to 9:00pm
Bring your family and friends!**

**\$10.00 per person and
\$15.00 per family
(for all you can eat chili!)**

April's membership's

meeting had the wonderful opportunity to hear Dr. Lorelei Cuthbert of Ravenwood Vet Clinic (Eagle River) speak about basic bird care and what you can do at home when your parrot is injured. She brought in some wonderful props and demonstrated various methods of how to contain your pet for the trip into the vet. She stressed how important it was to prepare for this and recommended a CD by Barbara Heindreich from Good Bird, Inc. called Training Your Parrot for the Veterinary Exam. She also went through a basic First Aid kit that all parrot owners should have on hand that contains the basics.... Styptic powder, vet wrap, blunt nose scissors, antiseptic wipes, etc. Do your homework on what you should have ready, dependent on what kind of parrots you have and have it in plain site, ready to go. She also explained a carrier (devoid of perches, but with soft towels and some towels ready to set inside to prop the bird up depending on the injury) and explained the heating process (lay a heating pad underneath the carrier) when trying to warm a bird and watch the heating lamps—make sure they are far away from the bird and not too hot.

We also had a Standing Rule vote and it passed by the majority vote, so the Standing Rules will be modified in regards to Bird of the Month and Bird Club events. Once this is ratified, the changes will be listed on the website.

The fundraiser table was fun, with lots of items brought in by generous donors.

In June's meeting, we are going to be discussing the 2010 Seminar speaker, where we vote on who we'd like to see come to Anchorage and speak to our bird club members and will be open to the public. In the past, we have had wonderful speakers like Sally Blanchard, Layne Dicker, Bonnie Kenk, Susan Friedman, Sybil Erden, Liz Wilson, Dr. Lisa Paul, Dr. Scott Ford, local toymaker and author Kris Porter and the late Ken Globus.. All are wonderful speakers from organizations or are renowned parrot behaviorist. So far for this year, we have had three speakers nominated: Julie Weiss Murad with the Gabriel Foundation and a speaker from the well-known website www.mytoos.com and another speaker was nominated from the Phoenix Landing. If you have any other presenters you'd like to see come to Anchorage, please go to our website at www.akbirdclub.org and submit your nomination from the link right on the front page—the Seminar Speaker Nomination Form. This is a wonderful opportunity to let us know who you'd like to see and what you'd like to learn about.

Thank You!

EDIBLE FLOWERS

Get that garden going with flowers your Parrots can eat and enjoy!

Carnations (*Dianthus Caryophyllus*). Red, pink, and white blossoms with clove taste.

Chamomile (*Chamaemilum nobile*) Daisy-like flowers with a slight hint of apple flavor. Especially good for parrots when calming influence is needed.

Chives (*Allium Schoenoprasum*) The lavender-pink pom pom flower is actually composed of many small florets. Flowers have a mild onion flavor.

Daisies (*Bellis Perennis*) Yellow and white flowers with a light mint or clover flavor.

Dandelion Flowers (*Taraxcum*) Small yellow blossoms have honey flavor when picked young. Older flowers can be slightly bitter. Also the dandelion leaves are an excellent source of nutrition.

Elderberry Flowers (*Sambucus spp*) Sweet tasting flowers.

Gladiolus (*Gladiolus spp*). Has lettuce texture and flavor.

Hibiscus flowers (*Hibiscus Rosasinensis*) One of the more favorite flowers of most parrot species.

Marigolds flowers (*Tagetes Signata Pumila*) Citrus flavor.

Sunflowers, Roses, Tulips, Butterblossom squash flowers, Zucchini flowers, Violets.

Nasturtiums. Check out on-line for more detailed information on flowers and flower safety. Not all flowers are safe!

Safety First ! Some important pointers to follow when including flowers into your birds' diet:

1. Be aware that flowers grown commonly here in the US are not the same as those found in native habitats. Use common sense, veterinary guidance, research, keen observation and intuition.
2. Use small amounts at first and watch for any affects.
3. Never purchase from a store, must be organic (best rule of thumb is to grow them yourself). No nursery flowers as they can contain pesticides and other fertilizers not good for birds.
4. Only use flowers that you are certain about their identities. When in doubt, don't.



Income:

Please remember to renew your membership to remain on e-mail broadcasts and newsletter mailings.

Expenses:

The Alaska Bird Club had minimal expenses in the month of March. We had storage fee expense, post office box renewal and stamps for the newsletter.

And Thank You to Frontier Business Systems (a branch of Konica Minolta) for the printing of this issue.

Needed:

The bird club is collecting donations for its fundraising tables and seminar silent auction items. To arrange a pick up or drop off, call Lin at 229-9295 or 868-9070.

PRESIDENT'S PERCH—FROM LIN WESTGARD

May 2010

Hi Everyone! Just a few meeting updates: May membership's meeting is a Chili Contest—bring your favorite recipe in and we'll put it to test. Winners will be announced at the end of the meeting. This is a fundraising event and \$10.00 per person will be collected. These funds help us with all our committees and other Bird Club expenses. One of our major expenses is the veterinary expenses for our Adopt-A-Bird program and our storage fees, which house many cages that are available for the parrots in need, when they need them.

In June we will be discussing our 2010 speaker nominations. Go to our website and let us know who you'd like to have come up to Anchorage and then come to June's meeting to hear the presentation and then vote.

Thank you! And take care of yourselves and your flock.

More *Alaska Style* from David Jensen Photography

Visit David's website at: www.alaskaportraits.com

9130 Elim Street Anchorage AK 99507

868-1680 Office 34PpP30 Fax

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Meet the personalities behind the cameras!

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David

868-1680 david@alaskaportraits.com

David Jensen has been our volunteer judge for our Photography contest every year at the Alaska Bird Club for five years now.



Photo by David Jensen



The Alaska Bird Club
P.O. Box 101825
Anchorage, AK 99510

Place
Stamp
Here