



# ALASKA BIRD NEWS

## June 2010

Lin Westgard, Editor

Volume 22 – Number 06

Available on-line at [www.alaskabirdclub.org](http://www.alaskabirdclub.org)  
Dedicated to all the current and future parrot owners of Alaska

### WHO LET THE BIRD OUT ?!?!?



It happens to the best of us.... Bird owners that have taken great pains to harness train our birds and to make sure all the doors and windows are closed when the birds are out. But sometimes, quicker than a blink of an eye, with a skillful flap of the wings, our bird escapes. Act very quickly. Grab your cell and keep your eyes on the bird and if you can't, take note of which direction they went and which way the wind is blowing. Call to the bird at all times. It's scared too! Call our team- 351-2762.

Here are some things you can do to help get him back. All these suggestions are something our Lost/Found-Rescue committee chairperson, Amber, has done time and time again. And she's getting pretty good at getting them back home to the comfort of your home.

**DON'T let the bird out of your sight.** Knowing where it is is 75% of the battle in a rescue. Put someone in charge of watching the bird, go get your cage, and put it in the bird's line of sight with the hope it will come down on its own. This is the time to use his utmost favorite treat and put it in the cage!

Even if you and the bird can see one another, remember that birds can have a hard time figuring out how to fly down. Try walking away - just a little ways - and **see if he will fly to your shoulder.** If you cannot locate him by nightfall, when they tend to tuck in and not move for the night, then start making flyers.

Make "lost parrot" flyers and post them all around the area and have people call you if they sight the bird. Tell your mail carrier, the neighborhood kids, and anyone who spends a lot of time outdoors in the area that you've lost your bird, and give them your contact info.

Call your Animal and Care and Control center with the information in case someone calls in about sighting an exotic bird. Post a Lost Parrot notice on [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org) and call the newspaper and place a lost bird ad (if you're in Anchorage, the Daily News offers a free week-long lost ad in the physical paper only, not online. The more you get the word out, the better.

**Be sure to call Amber** or another bird club board member immediately, because we will help you to the best of our ability, and we have resources and experience that will give you a much better chance of catching your bird.

**Put our lost & found number on your refrigerator so you don't have to go looking for it in your time of need.** (Animal control and Pet Emergency, as well as the Anchorage Police Department and the fire department have been given our number as well, in case someone calls them). APD and AFD probably won't come get your bird but we will come help as they deal in emergencies, not parrot rescues. But they will call us.

Remember that time is of the essence. Your bird is not used to living outdoors and will not survive long-term, due to weather, starvation, thirst, or predators wild and domestic.

Above all, don't lose hope. Keep in mind that birds have been found miles away from where they escaped, and up to a month after they flew the coop. We are constantly amazed with new and different scenarios. It's also important, if you lose sight of the bird, to get the word out in as many places as possible in case someone spots it. Parrots like people talking to them.

The most important time to think about an escape is now, when it's preventable. Trim wings, harness your bird, be sure to secure all doors and windows and make sure your screens are not loose. For help or advice on trimming your bird, please call either your vet or the bird club.

# 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  
P.O. BOX 101825  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1825  
(907) 868-9070

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**Vice President:** .....Amber O'Neill...351-2762  
**Secretary:** .....Amy Benefield...441-2699  
**Treasurer:** ..... Ann Gilley...441-1104  
**Member-at-large:** ..... Karen Medkeff  
**Sergeant-at-arms:** .....Garry Wallan  
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**Adopt-a-Bird Chair Person:** Amy Benefield  
**Hospitality Chair Person:** Anne Green  
**Membership Chair Person:** Ann Gilley

*You can e-mail the Alaska Bird Club at:  
[akbirdclub@yahoo.com](mailto:akbirdclub@yahoo.com)*

*Or visit our website:  
[www.alaskabirdclub.org](http://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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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

## Events !!



### The Alaska Bird Club's Chili Fest—May 2010

Thanks to all the members that attended this years chili fest and those that participated in the chili contest. This event raised over \$400.00 for much needed funds for the bird club.



Channel 2 was on hand to record some of the fun. Here they are filming Rocky, our Bird of the Month, owned by David Brigs.

#### Winners:

1st Place - Garry Wallan

2nd Place— Lin Westgard

People's Choice Award went to David Briggs for his Chili-Mac.

Judges: Board Members Ann Gilley and Karen Medkeff stepped up to the plate!

1st place winner won a lovely spa basket, with over \$100.00 in spa coupons, a lovely pillow and face mask and other wonderful soothing items and a great book by Barbara Heidenreich entitled "The Parrot Problem Solver".

2nd place winner won a cooking basket, filled with the wonderful new rubber non-stick baking pans and other cooking related items.

Both items put together by Ann Greene.

People's choice won a MP3 Player (donated by Amy Benefield).

### 10th Annual Reading Rendezvous "Make a Splash - Read" Event

The Bird Club was also busy participating in this event that was May 15th. Filled with activity and a LOT of children, volunteers Amy Benefield, Janice and Eric Peterson, Amber O'Neill and Lin Westgard manned the Alaska Bird Club booth. On hand were feathers for children to touch and feel and our newsletters and other parrot related hand-outs to read. Both Amy and Lin were both pictured with Senator Mark Begich.



It was a great day with a little bit of wind, but all three birds did a fantastic job of posing and talking for the crowd.



The birds that attended were a beautiful female Eclectus named Pepper (Amy's bird), a beautiful Yellow Naped Amazon (Janice and Eric's bird) named Omar and a very vocal Umbrella Cockatoo named Casper.

## 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](http://www.alaskabirdclub.org)

Wonderful large cage for multiple budgies, Cockatiels, parrots or lovebirds. \$200.00  
32 x 21 x 62" Sandstone color.

(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.windowcollisions.info/](http://www.windowcollisions.info/)

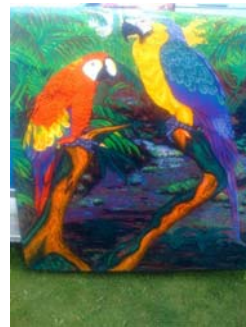
Birds and windows don't mix. To prevent wild birds from crashing into your windows, check this out. Apply the logic in reverse for inside flighted parrots.

## 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](mailto:akpeac@gmail.com).



Beautiful Parrot  
Area Rug  
in great Condition!  
Full Size  
Call Cindy at  
351-8687  
\$175.00

**PEAC**  
(Parrot Education & Adoption Center)  
[www.akpeac.org](http://www.akpeac.org)  
**929-BIRD**  
Seminar Schedule  
Advanced Registration Recommended

**June 17th 7-9:00pm CANCELLED!** Parrot Personalities

**July 15th 7:00-9:00pm** Understanding, Preventing and Resolving Parrot Behavior Problems.

Update: PEAC has their Leach Seed bags in!



# SUPERIOR BREEDING! QUALITY NATURAL FEED

at a cost less than seed, less clean-up & waste.

## SPECIAL BREEDER PRICING

1 (800) BIRD YUM Call Now!

INDUSTRY  
PIONEER &  
THE LEADING  
SOFT FOOD BRAND  
FOR OVER  
20 YEARS



### Appearance - Yummy & Fragrant? Our Costliest Ingredients?

1. PISTACHIO NUTS 2. CASHEWS 3. WHOLE NEW MEXICO BLACK CHILI PODS 4. BIGGER FRUIT PORTIONS 5. ONLY UNSULFURED FRUITS & VEGGIES 6. 4 KINDS OF PEPPERS INCLUDING WHOLE RED 7. PEACHES 8. SQUASH SEEDS 9. HEALTHY GARLIC 10. TANGY GINGER ROOT PCS. 11. FENNEL SEEDS 12. ORANGE PEEL 13. WHOLE CINNAMON STICK 14. ITALIAN DURUM SEMOLINA VEGETABLE PASTAS (COLORED BY VEGGIE CONTENT)

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 NO  
YES NO  
YES NO  
NO\* YES  
YES NO  
NO YES  
NO YES  
NO YES  
NO YES!

### Competitive Products

Varies - Pellets dissolve into brown liquid  
- Costlier items deleted from most imitations.

- most

- in some

"

- often, i.e. coconut

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



SEE - [crazycorn.com](http://crazycorn.com) to find out why birds NEED more than seed!



## THE ALASKA BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

[www.alaskabirdclub.org](http://www.alaskabirdclub.org) e-mail: [akbirdclub@yahoo.com](mailto: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!!**

## Safe Wood for Parrots and Perches

Please note that this has not been prepared by a horticulturist or a veterinarian - but is the result of research. Every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy of the provided information, but even though the information is believed to be correct, the Alaska Bird News will not be liable for any mistakes or omissions; and no guarantee can be given as to the safety of any of the plants or accuracy of information, which is provided for reference only. Do your own research and be aware of the wood you are using.

### Cottonwood

### Birch

### Willow

### Poplar

1. Make sure the trees are clear of pesticides, road exhaust, parasites and other drift residue.
2. Especially for Birch, make sure the tree has not been treated for aphids - a common problem in Alaska.
3. You can bake the bugs out at a low temp in your oven. Research the web on how to do this.

Sources: Avianweb.com and birdsnway.com

### Meeting Information:

June 1st  
Regular Meeting Night  
7:00pm to 9:00pm  
Everyone Welcome!

2010 Companion Bird Seminar  
Discussion on Topics  
and Speakers

We can use all input, please join us!

## May's membership's meeting

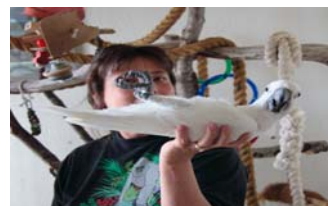
was the Chili Contest and June's meeting will be discussing our 2010 Companion Bird Seminar. Last year, Kris Porter did an excellent job on teaching foraging skills for parrots and how to make toys to enrich your parrots lives. We are still taking suggestions for who you'd like to see come to Anchorage! Some of the suggestions were Julie Weiss Murad of the Gabriel Foundation (Founder and President). Julie can speak on a lot of topics, but an event in April in Colorado, she went to The Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture and did an update on the Pueblo Flock (rescued macaws) and had a discussion of animal cruelty as it relates to parrots and other birds.

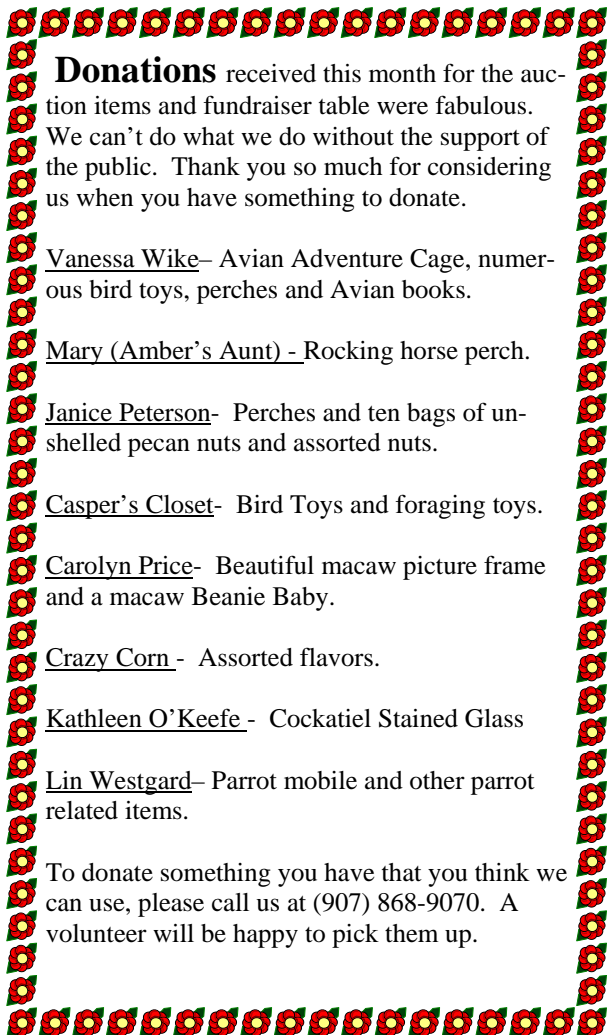
The other nomination was someone from the Phoenix Landing. They are a non-profit all-volunteer organization established to promote and protect the welfare of parrots, especially those with an extensive lifespan. Their objective seeks to improve the quality of life for all parrots.

The other nomination was someone that is instrumental in the creation of the popular website My-Too.com ([www.mytoos.com](http://www.mytoos.com)). It's a fascinating website, dedicated to potential cockatoo owners and warning them of how hard it really is to own the larger of the cockatoos. As of this article, I was unable to reach anyone from this website. So if anyone can get through and can come up with contact information, forward that information to the bird club at [akbirdclub@yahoo.com](mailto:akbirdclub@yahoo.com).

Other ideas for speakers include Avian vets to speak on general bird care and/or emergency care, like Dr. Lisa Paul that does seminars. Another group are bird behaviorist like Sally Blanchard, Dr. Susan Friedman, Steve Martin, Barbara Heidenreich, etc. Another topic might be trick training, or a hands on workshop like Cockatoo Downs ([www.cockatoodowns.com](http://www.cockatoodowns.com)). Bird club members Kris Porter and Janice Peterson are both attending this event. It's extensive and we could certainly try and do a shorter and less complex version of this event, which is why we need your input!

So please plan to attend this membership meeting, Tuesday June 1st from 7:00-9:00pm. It would be great to have your input.





**Donations** received this month for the auction items and fundraiser table were fabulous. We can't do what we do without the support of the public. Thank you so much for considering us when you have something to donate.

Vanessa Wike- Avian Adventure Cage, numerous bird toys, perches and Avian books.

Mary (Amber's Aunt) - Rocking horse perch.

Janice Peterson- Perches and ten bags of unshelled pecan nuts and assorted nuts.

Casper's Closet- Bird Toys and foraging toys.

Carolyn Price- Beautiful macaw picture frame and a macaw Beanie Baby.

Crazy Corn - Assorted flavors.

Kathleen O'Keefe - Cockatiel Stained Glass

Lin Westgard- Parrot mobile and other parrot related items.

To donate something you have that you think we can use, please call us at (907) 868-9070. A volunteer will be happy to pick them up.

# TREASURER'S REPORT



**Income:**

Our Chili Cook-Off generated over \$400.00 and thanks to the Lost/Found-Rescue Committee, a very thankful bird owner that had their bird recovered donated \$100.00. Also we had another donation of \$100.00 by a member of the general public for coming to his aid when in need.

**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 Konica Minolta company) for the printing of this issue. [www.fbsalaska.com](http://www.fbsalaska.com) Selling copiers to Alaskans for over 20 years.

**ADOPT-A-BIRD UPDATE AND AVAILABLE BIRDS**

Mealy Amazon- 50 yrs old. Needs (preferably a woman), dedicated to his care that doesn't have any other parrots.

Three sets of Cockatiels. Each set has personalities of their own and needs some love and care.

Three Conures- all separate. One Sun Conure, one Half-Moon Conure and one that is not identified. A reminder: Conures will need experienced bird owners.

Blue and Gold Macaw-6-7 years old. He's gentle and kind, but still a macaw. Only experienced bird owners will be considered.

Two pairs of Parrolets. They are bonded and must go together. They need homes ASAP- owner is leaving town rather soon.

**PRESIDENT'S PERCH-FROM LIN WESTGARD**

June 2010

A HUGE thank you for the members that came to the Chili Cook Off. And special thanks to Anne Green, for organizing the prizes and the wonderful food spread in addition to coordinating all seven of the chili entries! Ann Gilley and Karen Medkeff were our judges for 1st and 2nd prize and the members voted the People's Choice award. David and Candi brought in "Rocky", a beautiful blue and gold Macaw who was our star in our spot on Channel 2's presentation on the Bird Club. Thanks to everyone, this was a fun evening.

- 1st Place Chili Winner - Garry Wallan
- 2nd Place Chili Winner- Lin Westgard
- Peoples Choice Award - David Brigs

Come join us in June to discuss who you might want to bring to Alaska for our 2010 Annual Seminar.

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



# Bird of the Month

## "Monkey"

*Submitted by Bird Club Member and Board Member,  
Karen Medkeff*



### **Monkey is a Quaker Parrot, or Monk Parakeet.**

He was one of Amber's foundlings from the Lost/Found-Rescue Committee on a frigid November afternoon several years ago. When he let Amber and Garry catch him, the poor thing was so cold he couldn't even hold a cracker. My late husband Jeff and I had taken care of many creatures, from cats and dogs to squirrels, but never birds. Amber asked if we could foster Monkey, and that was it for us.

Monkey latched on to Jeff and didn't like to be apart from him, and whoever lost him never came forward, so we decided to make the foster a permanent adoption.

He likes to sing along with songs, his favorite being Peter Gabriel's "Shock the Monkey." He is very talkative and very teachable, having picked up many words and phrases

in the time we've had him. He speaks in a lower man's register and also in a higher woman's voice. Some of his phrases are: I love you, give kiss, what a good bird, as well as the typical hello and goodbye. I'm also teaching him a few tricks. I got him when he was 6 years old and he has been a learning sponge ever since.

He has been a wonderful ambassador at work, teaching many to not be afraid of birds and to learn some normal avian behaviors. I even had one client that leaves his wife at the front desk to come back where Monkey's cage sits. Monkey, of course, loves the attention.

Recently he has been introduced to rescue work. Another Quaker was lost in town, so we borrowed a little bird backpack and wandered around with Monkey. Once the lost Quaker made some noise, Monkey would talk back and help keep the other bird engaged in conversation. It was a successful rescue and Monkey seemed to like being out and talking with another Quaker.

Quaker Parrots originated in South America, mostly Argentina. They usually live 15-30 years. They survive very well in temperate zones and build large stick nests that can get as big as a small car. The wild population in Brooklyn, New York has lessened the population of wild pigeons. The parrots are preferred as the feces from pigeons destroy the brownstone structures while the parrot feces do not.

They can be prone to fatty liver disease, so diet is important. They should not be fed an all seed diet, but should have a mixture of seed, pellet and fresh foods. Monkey loves to share my fruits and vegetables. They are fearless little birds that will defend their territory against the largest of threats, even chasing dogs and cats. Due to this, be aware of the area when letting them free of their cage. And they love bathing. I always have a big bowl of water available for Monkey. He loves to splash around in the water and even loves to take showers.

Note: For your bird to be considered for the Bird of the Month, please e-mail your story to [akbirdclubg@yahoo.com](mailto:akbirdclubg@yahoo.com)

## More *Alaska Style* from David Jensen Photography

Visit David's website at: [www.alaskaportraits.com](http://www.alaskaportraits.com)

9130 Elim Street Anchorage AK 99507

868-1680 Office 34PpP30 Fax

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Tour our Studio: Meet the Paparazzi See the Jensen Zoo

Catch David in action.

# David

868-1680 [david@alaskaportraits.com](mailto: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