



ALASKA BIRD NEWS

March 2011

Lin Westgard, Editor

Volume 23 – Number 03

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

Grammar errors in this poem are artistic and not actual mistakes. Permission to use the poem in newsletters and other not for profit publishing is allowed but please leave the wording as is and give credit to me.

The Less Than Perfect Bird

By Lynda Lewis

The less than perfect bird sat alone in her cage. Watching the perfect birds leave each and every day. She was bedraggled and straggly, older then her years. She never had an owner who showed her love or care.

The beautiful conures, the big grand blue and gold, these birds were leaving and oh, the stories that they told. They were going to a place called "home" where they would spend their lives. Life would be happy for them, no more would they know strife.

Not that life in the rescue was bad. I was happy , I was loved. But I could not help but wonder what I was missing out of.

The one day the rescue lady looked at me and sighed. She called the vet, he took blood and brought the lady aside. He said to her things do not look good, she might not have a year. The rescue lady with a tear said this is what I feared.

The rescue lady held and kissed me. She said you may not find a home. But I will be with you, you will not die alone.

Then one day a woman came in and passed the perfect birds by. She pointed at me and said this one has caught my eye. The rescue lady sighed and said, this one is not so great. She is plucked



Indian Ringnecks—Tiko and PJ

and sad, a short life is her fate. But the woman took me home and showed me so much love. Good food and happiness , like manna from above.

Then one day the woman called the rescue and cried, her sweet little less than perfect bird had died. The woman buried me in a little grave and told me I was so loving and so brave.

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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

President:Michael Stanton...315-5417

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Member-at-large: Herb Lewis

Sergeant-at-arms:Garry Wallan

Editor:Lin Westgard

E-Mail: westgard@gci.net for article information

Adopt-a-Bird Chair Person: Open

Hospitality Chair Person: Jody Brien

Membership Chair Person: Open



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
1571 Muldoon Rd.
333-6591

🌟 College Village
Animal Clinic
Dr's Basler & Nicholson
2036 E. Northern Lights
274-5623

🌟 Dimond Animal Hosp
Dr. Doty
562-8384 (24 hour)

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

Petco
8621 Old Seward Hwy

Pet Emergency
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.

🌟 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



Calling for 2011 Volunteers!

The Alaska Bird Club is seeking
volunteers for the following
positions on the perch:

Newsletter Editor - Create the Bird News with current events, past meeting information and avian care articles and be a writer! It's great fun to produce this newsletter and training will be provided. This position has sub-volunteers that help distribute, mail and get it out to the public. Should be familiar with Microsoft Publisher and Adobe Acrobat.

Adopt-A-Bird - Administrative volunteers needed. This program is one of the strongest assets of the Alaska Bird Club and offers a tremendous amount of help for people that must re-home their parrots and for those that are wonderful enough to consider adoption over buying a bird. Help is needed to handle the logistics of a bird once it is placed into the program (helping facilitate the relinquishment and adoption) by helping with paperwork and interviewing. This is probably the most rewarding position in the program. Adopt-A-Bird chairperson, Amy could certainly use the help. It's a long process to find the perfect home and we need help!

Update: A big shout out to Karen Medkeff and Krista Jeppsen! Karen stepped up to the plate for Secretary and Krista stepped up for Treasurer! Thank you!!

Volunteering can be a very rewarding experience and helps birds throughout Alaska. Board of Directors meet once a month. Come join us and make a difference!

HEAD'S UP! PLEASE READ!

PET (Pet Emergency Treatment, Inc) on E. Dowling Road no longer has an avian vet on staff for after hours.

Dr. Doty, a long time avian vet has moved to **Diamond Animal Hospital & Emergency Services**, located at 2545 E. Tudor Rd. Their phone number is 562-8384 and is open 24 hours. Update your records! In a panic, when you really need it, it's hard to remember phone numbers. Write this number, along with your primary avian vet's number on your hospital carrier. And remember, in the event you can't get in right away to see an avian vet, keep your bird warm and drinking and eating. Line your hospital carrier with a towel and place a heating pad under the carrier (not inside the carrier) for warmth. Keep the bird calm and quiet until you can get into see your vet.

WARNING: 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. This includes looking at ALL non-stick surfaces (irons, bread making machines, waffle makers, etc). Also be aware that using the self-cleaning option on your oven can also be deadly and to remove birds to be safe.

Meeting Information:
April 5th, 2011
7:00pm—9:00pm

Toy Making!
Using Paper Products. Join us!
Bring sisal rope/towel tubes

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

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wmichaelstanton@gmail.com
\$.25 of every pound donated to the Bird Club !!

Website of the Month

[Www.onthewingonline.com](http://www.onthewingonline.com)

Car-Toons! Breed specific decals made of white outdoor vinyl and are easy to apply to the outside of your rear car window. Several breeds to choose from with prices ranging from \$2.00 to \$5.00.

Parrot Behavior Consultations

Need help with any of the following?

Aggression
Excessive screaming
Inappropriate vocalizations
Feather Destructive Behaviors
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Contact Karen Webster
to schedule your consultation today:
929-BIRD (2473) or akpeac@gmail.com.

Comfy Clawth Blankets for Birds

See www.comfyclawth.com for Alaskan made bird blankets that can be used to train your parrot to be toweled in a safe and comfy environment.

birdieblankets@comfyclawth.com

P E A C
(Parrot Education & Adoption Center)
www.akpeac.org
929-BIRD

Seminar Schedule
Advanced Registration Recommended
(note new starting time!)

April 12 6:30—9:00pm
Wild About African Greys

THE ALASKA BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PO Box 101825 Anchorage, AK 99510-1825
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 _____

Type of Companion Birds you live with and their names:

How would you like to receive your newsletter?

US Mail ____ E-mail ____ Web ____ At membership meeting ____

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!

(Continued from page 1)

Then my soul took flight to the heavens up above. I flew right to the angels and told them of the love that I was given in my very last year. I asked when they saw the Big guy to whisper in his ear about the wonderful people who gave me such good care.

So that's the end of my story and I thank the stars above that this less than perfect bird experienced perfect love.

Dedicated to Buzzy, Sunny, Sylvie (less than perfect birds who have passed on) and the people who share/shared their lives with less than perfect birds. To take in a bird who is plucked and not healthy with no expectations other than to give the bird a good, love filled life is one of the most wonderful things you can do!



Quaker Parrot– Daisy

- Lynda Lewis

ADOPT-A-BIRD UPDATE - AVAILABLE BIRDS

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

Two Cockatiels. Each cockatiel has personalities of their own and needs some love and care.

Two flock bonded Sun Conures - these guys can be loud! Must enjoy that! They come together as a pair.

Rose Breasted Cockatoo - Probably would be best with a male as the primary care taker.

Goffins Cockatoo - Experienced only, funny and wonderful cockatoo, but should not live with children.

An Umbrella Cockatoo, age unknown. This male Umbrella will require an experienced bird owner and a home visit/inspection is required prior to adoption.

A Blue Front Amazon - Does not care for children. Will do great in a loving and patient home.

African Grey - This little gal needs some TLC. She's plucked, but very beautiful in spirit.

Derbyan Parakeet—Loves music and is an escape artist. He will need some TLC, but is a fun bird.

Princess of Wales Parakeet– Skittish but friendly. Two years old, Female (DNA sexed) Also vet tested.

Contact the bird club at akbirdclub@yahoo.com if you are interested in adoption or fill out the adoption application located on our website at www.alaskabirdclub.org.

Bird of the Month!

Submitted by Bird Club member and past and present Board of Director, Amber O'Neill

Most bird people have certain parrots to which they relate. You know, a species you've always liked, are familiar with, and "get." You figure you're a "(macaw/amazon/budgie/your-bird-here) person" for life. That's where I was. I was a Pionus person, until a sweet little Congo African grey named Twiggy fell into my lap.

Twiggy's previous owners took a five-week vacation to Peru and we were asked to watch her while they were away. They'd had her for about a dozen years. Twiggy took to my boyfriend, Jody, right away, and decided he was her personal monkey slave of choice. She didn't bite him once, and where he was, that was where she wanted to be. She amused and delighted us with her antics and banter. A little shyer than Junior, my bronze-winged pionus, at first, she sat and watched, making a comment here and there, but WE had to go to HER... even for head scratches! She's a very picky eater so we've been working to get her weight up. When she wants to be intimidating, she fluffs her feathers out until she's practically perfectly spherical. I can't help but laugh about the fact that she looks like a caricature, one of the projectiles from the Angry Birds videogame.

African Greys are notorious for their talking ability, and Twiggy exemplifies this. Her favorite thing to say seems to be "Merry Christmas!" whistling the S's. She also says: Happy Easter; Happy New Year; Hello; 'bye birdy!; be quiet! no squeaking!; be careful; see ya later; wanna come up?; and one curse word when she sees someone using tools or carrying something big or she drops something on the floor (followed by "sorry!"). She holds and entire one-sided phone conversation



Twiggy, Congo African Gray

complete with phone effects and does a train scenario with steam engine, whistle, and bell... actually, she impersonates a person impersonating a train. It's difficult to remember all the things Twiggy has uttered, and I'm pretty sure there are a few I haven't yet heard.

When Twiggy's former owners came back, we were put in the awkward position wherein the bird didn't seem to want to leave. Often, this sort of mindset happens when someone leaves a bird for a while. The bird gets a little mad at his or her human because (in the bird's mind) he or she has been cruelly abandoned, left forever, thrust into the void and DON'T EVER DO THAT TO ME AGAIN! This crankiness is usually temporary, and within a day to a week the parrot has forgiven its human and is back to normal life.

About a month after we gave her back, a call came in: this is a really hard call to make, but I think it's time to find the bird another home. Did I know anyone who would be a good match? Well,

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President's Perch



Submitted by: Michael Stanton, President 2011, The Alaska Bird Club

DNA testing is relatively inexpensive (usually under \$30) and you don't have to leave your home to do it. With most do-it-yourself kits, you have the option of going to a lab's website or have the results mailed. DNA samples are derived from feathers or a 1-drop blood sample, which you then mail in. Check the advertisements in a reputable bird magazine (e.g., there are several listings and displays in Bird Talk Magazine, etc.). So, please get that testing done-it will be good for your bird, good for you, and your vet will love you. I will attempt to get DNA sample kits from several labs with info sheets so you may become familiar with mail-out DNA testing.

***** Adoptions: re-homing, and foster care are synonymous with the Alaska Bird Club's mission of educating and assisting the public and Alaska parrot lovers/owners. The task has been challenging for board, committee and volunteer members. We still need more volunteers to spend a few hours each month with these daunting tasks. Many of your current board, committee, and Bird Club member volunteers have put in an in-

credible amount of time for the benefit of parrots and their owners. You can make difference contributing a few hours a month-your rewards are helping those who need humans to understand a parrot's need for food, warmth, shelter . . . and most of all, love. Sign up for that committee!!!

***** This month I am challenging each paid family/individual member of the Alaska Bird Club to recruit new paid members-there will be a gift card for most recruited in first, second, and third place. If you know someone who has a feathered pet or just loves parrots, here is your big chance to enrich our community with more members. You must keep track of your recruitments and prizes will be awarded on total number of single and/or family memberships (no, you cannot count 15 people in a family membership as 15 members)-it is the total of each single and/or family signed up memberships. I am awarding the prizes at the May membership meeting. Do it for the birds.

Good luck all!

- Michael

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Twiggy fit right into our home during those five weeks, and that combined with the fact that Jody had been asking after Twiggy constantly the whole time, led me to open our home to this cool African grey. We've had her for a couple of months now, and she's a lot of fun. Her previous people are welcome to come over for visits, to see her and to make sure they passed her on to the right people. We were happy to keep them involved in Twiggy's life as much as they wanted to be.

- Amber O'Neill

Editors Note: If you are interested in your bird being the Bird of the Month, please e-mail us at akbirdclub@yahoo.com. Include a picture and story about the parrot that owns you.



More *Alaska Style* from David Jensen Photography

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

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(907) 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

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