



ALASKA BIRD NEWS

September 2011

Lin Westgard, Editor

Volume 23 – Number –09

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

From The President's Perch

By Michael Stanton, President 2011,
The Alaska Bird Club

BEANS FOR BIRDS

A very catchy title for the Alaska Bird Club's Fall Chili Cook-Off challenge scheduled for 8th of October, a Saturday for members and immediate family members. With fall in the air and temperatures plummeting this is the perfect event to get some warm food in your gut and socialize with other Club members. This all-you-can-eat affair costs \$10.00 for adults and half-price for children under 12 years. Bird Club members have an opportunity to prepare and present their very best chili dishes and let club members vote on their favorites. If you think you've got a winning dish that's might get

rave reviews in Food and Wine Magazine, then send us an RSVP you'll be there with a crockpot full for the hungry masses. The ABC intends to serve during normal dinner hours at the Salvation Army Serendipity Center. Cornbread, crackers, coleslaw and non-alcoholic beverages would make nice side dishes included in the one price. The members will vote on the best chili prepared to determine a grand prizewinner and two runner-ups. Gift cards from Lowes in the amounts of \$50.00, \$25.00, and \$15.00 go to the respective winners. If you are interested in joining the Bird Club's fall social event as a member or chili chef, please RSVP care of the Alaska Bird Club web mail so we know the amounts of sides and beverages to provide.

Fall is rapidly approaching with as lit-

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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
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Adopt-a-Bird Chair Person: Open

Hospitality Chair Person: Open

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



Bird of the Month

Yogi

Written by Michael Stanton



A bare-eyed cockatoo. Hmmm! You certainly don't exactly see these strange little cockatoos exactly spilling out onto the sidewalks of Alaska. We acquired ours late last month and an unexpected acquisition at that. Yogi belonged to another bird lover acquaintance of ours who worked at a local box store in the valley. We met Yogi about 6 years ago where he went to work with his mom.

Over the years Yogi became a familiar sight and her Mom knew of reputation for bird care. We baby-sat Yogi at our home in our heated garage last summer. She felt immediately at ease with Bettie and I. A bond was developing. Later, we were asked if we would like to keep Yogi. Her mom was unable to spend the hours needed to keep Yogi happy due to changing home and demanding work conditions. We said yes.

A bare-eyed is very playful and can be somewhat comical. Yogi has a soft and slightly squealing but pleasant voice. With the bare eye patches she looks like a like a character out of a Charles Dickens tale. She is playful and loves scratches and preening of feather sheaths when molting. One of the most gently cockatoos I have encountered. Her diet is a lean one that includes Zupreem mixed pellets with a small amount of seed mix of the typed given smaller conures and cockatiels. Sprouted seeds and many types of veggies and fruits are eaten with relish.

A natural clown when given lots of attention and enrichment, Yogi has the freedom to stay or leave her rather large cage with a play top, with a preference to spend a fair amount of time perching on her swing. She likes dancing to most music, with a preference for country and good ol' rock and roll. Yogi is the ideal cockatoo, personality and behavior wise. She is not a screamer and stays busy playing with just about anything hanging in her cage.

Typical specifications: About 14" long, a New Guinea native, very good talker, and relatively quiet compared to other cockatoos. All white feathers with horn colored beak and black toenails. Small mounts of reddish-pink feathering between front of eyes and where the beak begins

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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Walnuts \$1.50 #



Call Michael at 315-5417
wmichaelstanton@gmail.com
\$.25 of every pound donated to the Bird Club !!

Website of the Month

[Www.bringing_birdie_homeV.mov](http://www.bringing_birdie_homeV.mov) (U-Tube)

Kaytee posted a video to help you get ready before you bring your new pet bird home. It is a good idea to research all your birds needs before you welcome them into their new environment.

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.

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

TBD - watch their website for updates!

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tle to promise us like summer. Preparing our companion parrots and our household for the confines of winter is essential for them and us. This is also the time of the year when many companion parrots are shifted out of their former households because they no longer wanted, appreciated or needed. It is the task of the Alaska Bird Club to try to prevent this if possible. Ninety percent of parrot problems have nothing to do with parrots-they're people problems. Our goals include helping folks to embrace solutions that allow their companion parrot to remain in their established household. Likewise, we must do all we can to encourage companion parrot owners to take responsibility for their birds' future, whether with

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The Association of Avian Veterinarians

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The Past, Present, and Future of Aviculture and the Pet Bird Industry

Susan L. Clubb, DVM, Dipl ABVP (Avian)

From: Aviculture and the Pet Bird Industry Today

To understand what is happening in aviculture, we need to understand what aviculture is. In the broadest sense, aviculture is the keeping, breeding, and caring for birds. Aviculturists can also be considered in broad terms to encompass a wide variety of avian enthusiasts including commercial breeders, hobby breeders, zoo keepers, pet owners, sanctuary and rescue groups, pet retailers, and veterinarians who provide health care. We are all interdependent on each other, but also with our network of pet stores, manufacturers, distributors, and suppliers of products needed to enhance our care of birds. In the present, we are facing recessionary economic pressures that are rocking the entire avicultural family as well as the pet industry to the core. Many observers report a decline in pet bird sales, especially since the initiation of the current recession.

In recent years, the number of active avicultural facilities has continued to decline across the country. Reasons for the decline are varied but include too much work, static prices of birds while expenses rise, poor production, hard work, the high costs of land sufficient for facilities, zoning pressures, and pressure from humane groups.

As older aviculturists retire without interested young people to mentor, we are losing a valuable knowledge base. While the science of aviculture may be recorded in the literature, the “art” of aviculture is endangered.

As a result of declining retail sales, breeders having declining orders from retailers turn to internet sales, close down nest boxes, or sell off breeding stock. Without bird sales, support industries including feed manufacturers, suppliers of caging, bedding toys, and avicultural supplies and products, etc are also affected over time.

Another disturbing trend which has been developing since passage of the WBCA is the loss of species diversity in American aviculture. Obviously the laws of supply and demand mold our industry as any other. Species which are not popular and don't sell well are sold off, or held without nest boxes. Species that become so common that the prices crash are not held back for future breeding stock. Species which don't adapt well to aviculture eventually age and are lost by attrition. There is little financial incentive to maintain many species in US aviculture unless a particular aviculturist chooses to do so solely for non-financial reasons. As a species becomes uncommon or disappears completely, future aviculturists will have no recourse to replace them due to difficulties of imports of stock under the WBCA, finding healthy stock abroad, and financing such a venture which might not be financially viable. Some species never adapted sufficiently to captivity to develop sustainable, multi-generational, breeding, and genetically diverse captive populations and will be forever lost to US aviculture.

The next regulatory hurdle we will soon face will be the implementation of regulations for birds under the Animal Welfare Act. Depending on the extent of these regulations, this change could have a big impact on aviculture.

Factors other than purely economic are also contributing to the decline in birds sales. Media and the internet are leading the way. Misinformation and negative information abounds on the internet. Reports of overpopulation abound but are poorly documented. Stories of hoarders, abuse, neglect and confiscation are widely circulated while stores of wonderful, loving bonds between birds and their owners are ignored. Rescuers and breeders are often at odds with each other. Sanctuaries that do not allow adoption remove potentially adoptable birds as a source for companion birds. The concept of “Birdy Mills” is especially damaging to our industry.

Many species live a decade or more after their reproductive capability has declined. A glut of older birds from breeding farms will need homes. If the industry is fragmented and unable to support itself, what will become of these retirement-aged birds?

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them or a new household. It is not enough to simply desire a parrot; there is more to that than just desire. Nurturing, caring, loving, socializing, feeding and general well being of a companion parrot goes beyond a cage to sleep in and bowl of water and a bowl of food.

The parrot is not a domesticated creature. It is a wild animal being assimilated into a non-habitat environment. When we bring a parrot into our home, our entire household dynamics change and must, and I emphasize must one more time, revolve around this unique non-mammalian creature gifted with flight. Our reward for such an endeavor is a remarkable relationship between birds and human that exists with no other creature on the face of this planet.

Our special guest speaker for October meeting comes from The WildBird Rehabilitation Center located on The Parks Highway, Wasilla. Ms. Merle Stewart. She will be bringing a special little owl and perhaps a falcon or other feathered raptor. I met Merle and her owl companion one summer afternoon at Ravenwood Vet Clinic. She explained that the AWBRC'S mission is similar to ours-education outreach by creating "an awareness of the important ecological niche that Alaska's wild birds fill in our ecosystem by providing informative, factual presentations using live birds." If you want to see some very special birds, come to next membership meeting. Thank you, Merle.

A final word on recruiting new members-: Carpe diem. Seize the opportunity when you encounter another parrot lover, enthusiast, or owner in your day-to-day meanderings. Grab 'em and bring them to the next meeting or the Chili feed. We have a great club, we have great experience, we have a great love for our companion parrots-share that enthusiasm during a chance encounter with another person who likes birds also. This past holiday I had two encounters with persons who have and love parrots. They want to come to our next meeting. That's all it takes. Good luck and see you around at the next meeting or fundraiser.

P.S. Our bird of the month for September, are Michael Stanton and Bettie Smith's recently adopted bare eye cockatoo, Yogi. See our bird of the month column.

ADOPTION APPLICATION
The Alaska Bird Club, Adopt-A-Bird Program

The Adopt-A-Bird Program is available to everyone who meets the criteria identified in the Adopt-a-Bird Program's Policy and Procedure. The committee will share your contact information (name, e-mail address and phone number) with people relinquishing the type bird you list below when one becomes available. **Please be VERY specific in the types of birds you would consider adopting.** Send your questions to akbirdclub@yahoo.com or call us at (907) 868-9070.

Please submit this application to the committee by one of the following methods:

- E-mail: akbirdclub@yahoo.com
Mail: The Alaska Bird Club, P.O. Box 101825, Anchorage, AK 99510-1825.
Fax: (907) 257-9971
By Hand: Bring to our membership meeting; first Tuesday of every month at 3550 E. 20th Ave., Anchorage 7:00PM

Any family/household/individual who has previously relinquished 3 or more birds to the Adopt-A-Bird program will not be eligible to adopt through the Adopt-A-Bird Program.

LIST THE SPECIFIC TYPES OF PARROTS IN WHICH YOU ARE INTERESTED:

Adoption Fees: Extra Small- \$10.00, Small- \$35.00, Medium- \$50.00, Large- \$100.00, Extra Large- \$150.00, Extremely Rare- \$200.00

Are you 18 Years old or older? [] Yes [] No

YOUR NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Cell- _____

Phone Number(s): Home: _____ Work- _____

What is the best time to contact you? _____ Preferred method of contacting you would be via: _____

Do you consider yourself knowledgeable on bird care? [] Yes [] No Is this your first bird? [] Yes [] No

Species of birds you now own: _____ How many total? _____

Name of your avian vet? _____ How often do you vet check? _____

Diet your bird(s) _____

Are you interested in a companion pet or a breeder bird? _____

Would you consider adopting a bird with behavioral or health issues? [] Yes [] No

Are you aware of the type commitment a companion parrot takes? [] Yes [] No

How many hours per day would you have to provide direct care to this bird? _____

Briefly tell us why you would be a good home for any bird: _____

Are all members of your family willing to take part in the care of this bird? [] Yes [] No

Are any members of your household under the age of 12 years old? [] Yes [] No

How many other pets are in the home and what kinds? _____

Are you available for emergency placement if needed? [] Yes [] No

(If "Yes," please submit an Emergency Placement Application as well. Home inspection is required)

Have you read and understood the Policies and Procedures for the Alaska Bird Club's Adopt-A-Bird Program? [] Yes [] No

Do you agree to pay the associated adoption fee (listed above) once you adopt a bird from this program? [] Yes [] No

The Alaska Bird Club will keep this application on file. It is your responsibility to keep your application current and notify us of any changes to the information on this form. As birds become available for adoption, each application will be reviewed and your name and number will be given to relinquishing owners of the type species of birds you have listed. Please review the Adopt-a-Bird Policy and Procedure as there are limitations to the numbers of birds that a family may adopt through this program. An interview and/or home visit with the Adopt-a-Bird staff or the person relinquishing a bird might be required with some adoptions. The Alaska Bird Club strongly encourages you to vet check and quarantine any new bird coming into your home and that you get a release of ownership from the current bird owner. We would also like you to make this decision seriously as birds need lifetime homes. They have very strong emotional attachments that should be taken into consideration. Moving, Divorce, Children are all things birds can and should endure with you. We also highly recommend that you attend our educational meetings held monthly on the welfare and care of companion parrots. www.alaskabirdclub.org The Alaska Bird Club assumes no responsibility for the quality, health or training of any birds placed in this program. In addition, the Alaska Bird Club, its officers and members cannot be held liable for any damage or illness brought about by a bird placed or bought via the referrals submitted to this program.

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As aviculture dies, so will our ties to conservation. Without knowledge of a species, there is little interest in preservation or protection of wild populations. Financial support for conservation as well as enhancement of aviculture techniques and collection of important biological data will be insufficient.

One major positive trend which developed within the last decade is the emphasis on behavior modification using positive reinforcement. Training techniques that previously were used only in shows and zoos are now becoming mainstream. Attendance at training seminars resembles attendance in years past on avicultural techniques and avian medicine. The emphasis of replacing unacceptable behaviors with acceptable ones is a powerful tool against relinquishment of pet birds based on behavioral problems.



Audrey



Chako



Addie—Adopted!

Adopt-A-Bird

*"Many have forgotten this truth, but you must not forget it. You remain responsible, forever, for what you have tamed." -
Antoine de Saint-Exupery*

Available Birds up for Adoption

Audrey—Male Umbrella Cockatoo

Addie- Male Standard Gray Cockatiel - ADOPTED!

Chako- Male Galah Cockatoo (aka Rosebreasted Cockatoo)

Coming in: B&G Macaw, Military Macaw, ISC Cockatoo and an African Grey.

If you are interested, please e-mail ahbirdclub@yahoo.com

When you reach out and help re-home a bird you "step-up" to a new level,; whether you adopt or volunteer. Please contact Lin Westgard if you can help a parrot through the process. 868-8058 or Westgard@gei.net

More *Alaska Style* from David Jensen Photography

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

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



Photo by David Jensen



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