



ALASKA BIRD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2009

HAPPY PRESIDENT'S DAY, GROUNDHOG DAY AND VALENTINE'S DAY!

Kathleen O'Keefe—Editor

Volume 20 Number 2

This Volume is FREE

February 2009

*Help us organize
special fun Fund
Raising events!*

*Come in and learn
about Disaster
Preparedness!*

*Next month -
Photo Contest -
Let's have a Pot Luck
to go with this event!*



Taha - Registered Delta Society Therapy Bird - she owns Pete

Bird of the Month -
A special Sun Conure

Presidents Perch - Kathleen O

Adopt-A-Bird Program -
Cindy W

How To Series - Diane R

Disaster Preparedness Form

Membership Application

Advertising

Photo Contest Rules

AAV Report

Frodo - A Special Sun Conure - Katie McMan

The sun conure originated from South America. Though I am sure they have some scientific name, I am unsure of it.

Frodo is my Sun Conure. I have had him for a little over a year now, and have been in love with him since I met him. I got Frodo from my friend's mother, who was traveling over Christmas, and needed someone to watch her bird. I had been interested in Sun Conures for a while, and my mom thought it might be the perfect 'birth control' technique to ruin my love for noisy birds. WRONG! When they brought Frodo to my house, I instantly fell in love with him.

I was heartbroken the morning I had to gather Frodo's belongings to give him back. When I had everything together, and was saying my goodbyes, the phone rang. It was my friend's mom on the other end saying that if I wanted to, and it was okay with my parents, I could KEEP Frodo... For free! After much consideration, my parents agreed to let me do a 'trial run' with him to make sure I was ready to take on the responsibility of a small parrot. I am guessing you have figured out that the trial run went well, because I still have my bird.

My friend's mom came to my house a while back to make sure Frodo was settling in well, and found him sitting on my shoulder. She was shocked, because he would only crawl around the cage for her. She was thrilled that her bird found a great home, and I was thrilled that I got to keep my baby.

Frodo has a wide vocabulary; it just depends on when he wants to talk. He has a knack for making me look like an idiot!

Frodo hangs out



Frodo is ready to begin the shower, just one more step!

This is the best way to eat a banana



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 Service in Anchorage. Meeting starts at 7:00pm.

Location: 3550 East 20th Ave (off of Northern Lights Blvd & Nichols St).

The Alaska Bird Club
PO Box 101825
Anchorage, AK 99510-1825
Phone: (907) 868-9070
email: akbirdclub@yahoo.com
website: www.alaskabirdclub.org

President: Kathleen O'Keefe

243-4675, e-mail: kok@woodscross.net

President Emeritus: Leanna Rein

868-7878, email: leannarein@hotmail.com

Vice President: Amber O'Neill

351-2762, e-mail: akamber@ak.net

Secretary: Kris Porter

694-8520, email: krisp@gci.net

Treasurer: Ann Gilley

441-1119, e-mail: annlynnbiz@ak.net

**Member-at-large: Karen Medkeff
854-0014**

e-mail: karen@medkeff.com

Sergeant-at-arms: Garry Wallen

e-mail: garry@sneakyparrot.com,

Adopt-A-Bird Director: Cindy Welbourne

(907) 357-2513 (Wasilla),

e-mail: welbourne@gci.net

Adopt-A-Bird Co-Director: Kathleen O'Keefe

243-4675 (Anchorage),

e-mail: kok@woodscross.net

Publications Director: VACANT

Seeking Volunteer

Bird News Editor: Kathleen O'Keefe

243-4675, email: kok@woodscross.net

Membership Committee: Ann Gilley

Webmaster: Garry Wallan

e-mail: depc@sneakyparrot.com

Disaster & Emergency Preparedness

Committee: Garry Wallan

e-mail: depc@sneakyparrot.com

Hospitality Committee: Marta Muth

336-2630

e-mail: marta_muth@hotmail.com

Lost/Found-Rescue Committee: Amber

O'Neill cell: 351-2762 e-mail: akamber@ak.net

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No Newsletter? Need Extra Copies of the Newsletter?

Pick it up at any of the following locations:

All Creatures Veterinary Clinic

Mi 7.4 Palmer-Wasilla Hwy
376-7930

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1501 E 1st Ave
276-6016

Alaska Pet-ography

9130 Elim St (on Abbot
across from Fred Meyer)
868-1680

**Animal Food Warehouse Pet-
Zoo**

Anchorage - 901 E Dimond Blvd
344-2966
ER -12046 Business Blvd
622-2966
Palmer - 10201 E Palmer-Wasilla
Hwy 746-0056
Wasilla - 1481 E Parks Hwy
357-7335

Chester Valley Veterinary

1571 Muldoon Rd
333-6591

College Village

2036 E Northern Lights Blvd
274-5623

Hillside Pet Clinic

2101 Abbott Rd #1
344-7913

**Northern Lights Veterinary &
Laser Center Inc**

2002 W Benson Blvd
276-2340

North Star Animal Hospital

840 S Cobb St (Palmer)
907-746-7387

Palmer Veterinary Clinic

Mike 39 Glenn Hwy
745-3219

Petco

8621 Old Seward Hwy
365-5500

Pet Emergency

2320 E Dowling Rd
274-5636

The Animal House

219 E International Airport Rd
561-7387

The Pet Stop

1921 W Dimond Blvd
522-1006

VCA Alaska Pet Care

3900 Lake Otis Pkwy
562-7387

VCA Alpine Animal Hospital

12531 Old Seward Hwy
345-1515

**VCA Eagle River Animal
Hospital**

11710 Business Blvd.
694-3800

VCA E Anch. Animal Hospital

2639 Boniface Pkwy
337-1561





February 2009 - Let us all have a grand year and get our educational program stronger!

This month is: Adopt a Rescued Bird Month - This information was found on the Zupreem web site.

President's Perch - February 2009

We are already into the second month of the year with exciting ideas ready to present to the membership. We are researching areas we want to explore with bird care enrichment, training, and other venues for educational programs.

Join us before this months board meeting at Denny's on Denali. We are inviting people to join us to help plan when, where, and how to set up a "Keep Garry in the Cage" fun fund raising event. The meeting will take place an hour before the board meeting. The board meeting is open to the membership, so consider staying for the board meeting and find out how your board operates. Information about the board meetings can be found in this newsletter and on the web site.

Our volunteers have been taxed this month. Anchorage Animal Care and Control Center called us to rescue three birds whose owner had died. Special thanks

to Amber; our favorite investigator and mover and shaker, Cindy, Janice and others who helped in the background, on getting these birds into emergency foster care.

This month's meeting is about Disaster Preparedness. Garry is all set to use our new computer and projector to give the class. The one we purchased with the grant funds from Pet Finder's. Then, get your cameras dusted off and get ready for our annual photo contest. Still yet to be scheduled is the annual Chili Contest, summer picnic, toy making meeting, and training on other ideas, you as members tell us you wish to learn about. Reading Rendezvous will be coming up sooner then we know, so be ready to gather all your family, friends, small children, or people who are young at heart and join us for a fun filled day of enjoyment and just plain fun.

We need to prepare for our 11th Annual Companion Bird Seminar. Volunteers are needed to put together the packets that are handed out to attendees, folks to make name tags, take care of the auction items and fund raising tables. Maybe we can find someone able to get some items donated for door prizes. We will need help setting up and cleaning the area we use afterwards,

as well as helping people pack items in their cars they purchased at the auction. We are also looking for someone to design the flyer we use and get it printed and assist with distributing it all over the state.

A volunteer Publisher is also still being sought. Someone who can proof the newsletter, pick it up at the printer and get it to the editor's house for distribution, mail the envelopes and single copy newsletters mailed to members and businesses and perhaps take a stab at finding more advertisers. This person also ensures we get the current password for the AAV Report and assists the editor it areas assistance is asked for.

I've given you a lot to think about. So, with that, I will close for this month and look forward to seeing you at the monthly meeting!



Sinbad loves to "read" the paper

Remember - 8 1/2 x11 or 11x14 - printed on photo quality paper to enter the contest!

TABC's Mission Statement

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.

Board Meeting Info - Open to the public

The Board meets the last Saturday of every month at 12:00 PM

Denny's on Northern Lights.

Visit the Web Site at: <http://www.alaskabirdclub.org/> to view any day or time changes

How to Series... Diane Richards - Cooking for Birds - Kris P



Materials needed:

One stainless bell
Strews
Shredders
Chains
Beads
Wood
Jute Thread

Make up three strings of assorted items and thread them through the basket.

Add the stainless bell. Take the straws, squiggle several to add to the chains and then thread them through the basket

This is a quick easy toy to help, especially if your bird helps you.



Assemble all the pieces and tools needed



Clearly tons of fun and you get to practice your weaving techniques



The finished product will look similar to this - there are no rules as to how it has to look when you are finished!

Here is a little recipe for you to try with your birds - submitted by Kris P

Vegetable Egg Pancake

Ingredients:

1 Egg
2 Tablespoons chopped greens (kale, mustard, turnip or collard)
1 Tablespoon grated carrot
Dash of cayenne pepper
Red Palm Oil or Coconut Oil

Directions:

Beat the eggs in a bowl then add the vegetables and cayenne pepper, mixing well.
Heat oil in frying pan (Do not use Teflon).
Pour in egg mixture and cook over medium heat until the bottom of the pancake is set and browned.
Turn and cook until browned on the other side.
Remove to a plate, cool to room temperature and cut into bite size pieces.

Note: You can buy frozen chopped greens and have them on hand to use in this recipe, just thaw

Need proof? Here is a discriminating bird eating his fill.

them first before adding to egg mixture. Natural



Adopt-a-Bird Program - Cindy Welbourne

The Adopt-A-Bird Program was very busy this year. We still have several large bird placements that have not been finalized. We hope to have this resolved before the end of the 2nd quarter of the year.

Overall we placed 105 birds into qualified homes. Most of the placements were owner re-homes, where the owner makes the decision as to where their bird is placed. However, we have extended our scope of home inspections to include owner re-homes. We have made ourselves available to accompany owners and offer our opinions on the suitability of adopters and their situation. Most re-homing owners have been very receptive to this idea and we will continue this service.

We have recently added Janice Peterson to our Committee. Janice comes with experience and lots of new ideas to help improve our Program. She also has the commitment to jump in and help when needed.

We are currently working on a very special emergency placement situation involving a death of a bird owner. At this very moment we are working diligently at finding emergency placement homes which will allow us a few days to make the Foster home placement. There will be an update at the next meeting.

Here is the breakdown of bird adoptions by Species

Amazons	1	
Budgies (parakeets)	7	
(still have 2 pair available)		
Caiques	2	
Cockatiels	17	(still have 20 left)

Cockatoos	4
Congo African Greys	1
Conures assorted	2
Doves	7

(we are no longer accepting doves into the program due to lack of proper foster homes and our inability to re-home in a timely manner)

Eclectus	1
Finch	10
Lorikeets	1
Lovebirds	3
Macaws large	1
Mini Macaws	2

(in foster / possible adoptions homes)

Quakers	0
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(Still have 2 in program, waiting for owners to make a decision)

Thank you to the Pet Zoo's rescue program. Their generosity and that of their patrons has enabled the Adoption Program to purchase needed foods and supplies for foster birds.

Thank you to all who have helped out in the previous year with this very busy and vital program.

Cindy



This Amazon is from a previous re-homing and she now steps up when asked by the person she owns. Thus birds' buddy is a Meyers.

Club Meeting Information

First Tuesday of each month. Be sure to join us!

We love hearing about your birds, but we ask that you do not bring them to the meetings; unless they are our Feature Bird of the Month, or are participants in special programs.

Serendipity Adult Day Services
3550 E 20th Ave.

(Doors open at 6:30 to socialize)

7:00pm - 9:00pm

RAINBOW BRIDGE

It is always with sadness when we lose one of our avian buddies.

Many organizations share brief moments of time and fond memories in a section such as this. If you have a beloved avian companion you wish to be mentioned in our newsletter please email your information (photo optional) to Kathleen at kok@woodscross.net

Rules for the Photo Contest

Enter in One of Four Categories!

Pictures can't be manipulated in any manner other than cropping. Red eye reduction is allowed.

- ☺ Juvenile - ages up to 18
- ☺ Beginner - ages 19 and up - just getting into the hobby of photography
- ☺ Amateur - ages 19 and up - and have never sold a photo
- ☺ Professional - ages 19 and up - and have sold photos

Photos may be either digital or film.

Photos MUST be printed on photo quality paper to be entered.

Photos can be either -

8 1/2 x 11 or 11 x 14

Ribbons will be handed out in each category down to third place. There will be a Grand Prize for People's Choice - vote early - vote once.

Photographs should be as current as possible, but please, no entries over five years from the time they were taken.

Photos must have a bird in them - people in the photo with the bird are optional.

Judging is to be provided by David Jensen of Alaska Pet-ography (see add on the last page). David has been a strong supporter of our annual contest and it is always delightful to visit with him. We appreciate him for volunteering to be the judge of this contest every year.

Come into Serendipity early to get your photos hung and enjoy visiting with us. Bring some snacks or beverages and we will have a delightful spontaneous pot luck to go with the photo contest. Contact Marta M and let her know what you would like to

bring.

The real purpose of our photo contest? Being able to share our birds with everyone without exposure to untested birds.

The annual photo contest has grown with the amount of entries and we are hoping to see a lot more entries over time.

All you really need to do to enter is just have fun with your birds. Keep a camera handy and get them so used to it they just look over and have limited reaction to the flash of light or the noise of the shutter.

There are no restrictions as to the brand of camera. You can use a disposable 35mm or up to a fancy professional quality film or digital camera.



Some dogs are just plain curious



Let me help you with that newspaper



No - we don't spoil birds!



Doves love height



Some photos just are - you are the one who decides what is going to qualify for entering into the contest. Get your photo paper and ink and get started printing today!



Leach Seed & Nuts Orders

The Alaska Bird Club is now placing orders for Hook Bill Cuisine and other items. Place your order at the next bird club meeting and it will arrive in time for the next monthly meeting.

****Note:** The Hook Bill Cuisine and other nut and seed products are not intended to be your birds sole food, it is designed to be a supplement to pellets, fruits and vegetables.

Conservation and Natural History of Wild Parrots in Peru

Donald J. Brightsmith, PhD
Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center, Department of
Veterinary Pathobiology, Texas A&M University,
College Station, TX 77843-4467, USA.

Parrots are notoriously difficult to study in the wild due to their lack of territorial behavior, long distance movements, vocalization behavior, and canopy dwelling nature.¹ As a result, detailed studies of entire parrot communities are rare²⁻⁴. However, natural history information is important for understanding and conserving this highly endangered family.⁵⁻⁸ To effectively conserve parrot populations in the modern landscape, we need detailed knowledge of their diets, nesting, seasonal abundance, and movements. My research teams have studied parrot and macaw nesting (7 years), soil consumption (7 years), seasonal changes in abundance (3 years), and tree phenology (2 years) in lowland forests of southeastern Peru at the Tambopata Research Center. A total of 19 parrot species of 14 genera were recorded. Parrot soil consumption, abundance, and nesting show large seasonal variations. Flower and fruit abundance also vary seasonally in this area of tropical moist forest. While there is much variation in each data set, annual patterns are broadly repeatable. Fruiting and flowering are lowest at the end of the wet season and peak in the early wet season. Parrot breeding peaks during the season of highest food availability, with smaller species nesting earlier than larger species. The annual peak in clay lick use is apparently driven by 2 different phenomena: increased lick use by local birds during breeding season, and an influx of nonbreeders.

Breeding birds apparently increase lick use because they are feeding clay to their nestlings. Why nonbreeders should congregate near the lick is unclear, but could be related to an increase in general food supply.

Parrot abundances are lowest at the site around the end of the wet season, when food is least abundant. This suggests that many species may make regular seasonal movements in and out of the area. Studies are underway to determine the

movement patterns on blue and gold macaws (*Ara ararauna*) in this region. The data collected during this study provide basic natural history information useful in determining the driving forces behind the natural history patterns of a hyper-diverse parrot community. This information is useful in managing and conserving populations of psittacine birds in the long term.

References

1. Beissinger SR, Snyder NFR. *New World Parrots in Crisis*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press; 1992.
2. Roth P. Repartição do habitat entre psitacideos simpátricos no sul da Amazônia. *Acta Amazonica*. 1984;14:175-221.
3. Marsden SJ, Fielding A. Habitat associations of parrots on the Wallacean islands of Buru, Seram, and Sumba. *J Biogeogr*. 1999;26:439-446.
4. Marsden SJ, Whiffin M, Sadgrove L, Jr PG. Parrot populations and habitat use in and around two Brazilian Atlantic forest reserves. *Biol Cons*. 2000;96:209-217.
5. Bennett PM, Owens IPF. Variation in extinction risk among birds: chance or evolutionary predisposition? *Proc Royal Society London B*. 1997;264:401-408.
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8. Masello JF, Quillfeldt P. Chick growth and breeding success of the burrowing parrot. *Condor*. 2002;104:574-586.

Release #1, January, 2009. The Association of Avian Veterinarians welcomes membership from veterinarians with an interest in avian medicine. Annual meetings and a quarterly journal provide a format for the latest in avian medical information. Is your veterinarian a member? Individuals wishing to subscribe to the Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery may write to: AAV - P.O. Box 811720 Boca Raton, FL 33481

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<http://www.cafepress.com/akbirdclub/>



These are just a few of forty-four plus items available with the Alaska Bird Club Logo.



Look for Alaska Bird Club and enjoy your shopping experience.



Find an avian vet and have your birds checked annually

The following list of Clinics have vets, which indicated an interest or a specialty in avian care. This is not a complete list, but to help you find an avian vet. Ask your vet if they are experienced in bird care and if not find one that is.

VCA Alaska Pet Care

3900 Lake Otis Pkwy, Anchorage
(907) 562-7387
Dr. Jackie Frederickson

College Village Animal Clinic

2036 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage
(907) 274-5623
Dr. Jon Basler
Dr. Pam Bluestone
Dr. Pam Tuomi

Pet Emergency & Treatment Inc (PET)

2320 E Dowling Rd, Anchorage
(907) 274-5636
Dr. Kathy Doty

Chester Valley Veterinary Hospital

1571 Muldoon Rd, Anchorage
(907) 333-6591
Dr. Thomas

Palmer Veterinary Clinic

Mi 39 Glen Hwy, Palmer
(907) 745-3219
Dr Ronald Williams

Ravenwood Veterinary Clinic

16743 Coronado Rd, Eagle River
(907)694*9665
Dr. Lorelie Cuthbert
Dr. Cathy L Hawn

North Star Animal Hospital

840 S Cobb St, Palmer
907-746-7387
Dr. Teresa Beck

Peninsula Veterinary Services

48213 Funny River Rd, Soldotna
(907) 260-5850
(907) 252-7806 Cell
(Will do "barn" calls)
Dr. Nybakken

Mt McKinley Animal Hospital

800 College Rd, Fairbanks
(907) 452-6104



Birds of the Month Needed

Is your bird interested in being the next bird of the month? If so, contact Kathleen O'Keefe at kok@woodscross.net and we will reserve a spot for them.

They will get to make a guest appearance at the membership meeting the month they are featured!

Prepare for Disasters - Set up a basic avian emergency kit today

*Instructions: Use this list to supply your avian emergency kit. **Check off items as you obtain them and before you know it, your kit will be complete!** Don't forget to rotate your supplies every 6 months to keep them fresh. Also, remember to add any additional items that may be unique to your bird's needs.*

General Supplies:

Carrier- complete with perches
Food & water dishes
Blankets & towels
Newspapers
Paper towels
Duct tape
Large trash bags
Ziplocs
Wire & pliers
Emergency light
Hot water bottle
Water- enough for 7-10 days
Liquid detergent
Household bleach
Waterless hand cleaner
Charged cell phone
Harness
Spray bottle
Scrub brush
Waterproof matches
Favorite toys
Batteries
Whistle

First Aid:

Avian First Aid Book
Medications- 7-10 day supply
Alcohol & Betadine
Cornstarch/Flour/Kwik Stop
Q-tips & cotton balls
Gauze bandages
Popsicle sticks (tongue depressors)
Vet Wrap & micropore tape
Eye irrigation solution or contact lens saline
Eye dropper
Magnifying glass
Sterile saline
Pediasure
Scissors
Needle-nosed pliers
Hemostats & tweezers
Hot packs (aka Hot Hands)
Neosporin ointment
Aloe Vera (100%)
Emergency light- head mounted
Exacto knife
Nail trimmers
Sewing thread or suture material

Food: (at least 7-10 day supply)

Pellets/seeds/nuts
Canned fruit/beans/veggies
Croutons
Trail Mix
Dehydrated fruits/veggies
Baby food- veggies/fruit
Dry cereal
Spoons
Wash cloth
Can opener
Treats

Records: (Store in a waterproof bag)

Current photo with name of bird on back
Emergency contact number
Vet and emergency vet contact info
Band numbers
Microchip number
Medical records
Contact list of animal shelters
History (Parrot Profile) on each bird
Written care directions for each bird
Contact list of relatives or friends to care for birds



FUNDRAISER TABLE

Kathleen O' - perches
Crazy Corn - food
Mary - earrings & toy making items

Remember to bring items in for the Fund Raiser Table. This is one of the ways the Adopt-A-Bird Program raises funds to continue operating. These funds are also used to purchase the Hospitality funds each month.

THE ALASKA BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM 2009

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 ___ pick-up 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 ___

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

Advertising Rates For The Alaska Bird Club News

Full Page \$50.00 per month
Half Page \$30.00 per month
Quarter Page \$15.00 per month
Business Card \$7.50 per month

For further information about advertising, email akbirdclub@yahoo.com

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Anchorage AK 99507

868-1680 Office
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Dust off your camera, catch your bird in active poses, enter one of three categories and enjoy sharing tips and ideas with professional photographer, David Jensen

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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 over three years now.

His dynamic personality and talent for capturing the spirit of your pet is amazing.



The Alaska Bird Club
PO Box 101825
Anchorage, AK 99510