

Northwest Bird Club Newsletter

August 2008

PURPOSE

To join together people who share a common interest in keeping and breeding exotic birds in captivity. To educate our members and the general public in the best care, keeping, maintenance, and breeding of their birds. To support bird conservation. Together we can make a difference.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Great turnout at the last meeting. And what yummy refreshments. I'm sorry it was so hot at the club house. I'm not sure why the air conditioning wasn't working. Thanks for staying and struggling through it. I hope, Donna, that your dad was all right after you took him home.

Thanks you Sabra for donating a DVD to the club library on Avian Disease Prevention. We may be able to watch it at one of our next meetings. And if anyone else has an educational avian VHS or DVD they'd like to share, not necessarily to donate, it would be welcomed.

Please, please, please sign up to help at the Bird Mart. And start putting up the advertising fliers wherever you go. We also need lots of Silent Auction and Raffle items. Don't be afraid to go out there and let people know that you are proud of the NWBC and what it's for. It's really easy to go to a restaurant, coffee drive thru, pet stores, etc. and present the paper work about the Bird Mart. Most of the time people are more than willing to donate. Once you've done it a couple times, it just gets easier, and sometimes fun.

Don't forget the picnic on Aug. 3rd at Sharon Holscher's. What a gracious person to allow everyone to come to her house. That's a lot of work setting up tables and chairs and all the other things. I know you wouldn't accept set up help, Sharon. But if you want, I'm sure enough people would be willing to help put things away at the end. This is a potluck to remember with all you chefs out there.

See you at Sharon's. Stay cool.

Pres. Helen Miller

SEE YOU THERE!

Annual Club Picnic

August 3, 2008 @ 12:30pm

At Sharon & Dan Holscher's Place

(See enclosed directions)

REMINDER!!!

GET OUT AND GET THOSE DONATIONS FOR THE BIRD MART AUCTION!

No one getting donations = No donations = No income for our club

NO INCOME FOR OUR CLUB limits the impact that we could have on the bird community and aviculture in general!

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Importance of a Quality Diet
by Laurella Desborough
Article from : birdmag.com
(article used with permission from author)

Buy Smart and Clean Well

Do you purchase seeds, seed mixes or pellets from open bins in pet or feed stores? Open bins may receive unwanted germs from the dust particles in the store. Dust particles from hamster and rat cages, as well as from bird cages, may end up in food bins. Customers' hands and clothing can deliver viral particles and germs from their birds at home. Toys and perches from bird marts also need disinfecting before use. Fresh fruits and vegetables from the grocery store need a thorough washing and rinsing, since they have been handled by many different hands, from the pickers in the fields to the clerks in the store. *E. coli* is ever-present, as is other bacteria, such as Enterobacter. Young companion birds are especially vulnerable to heavy bacterial contamination of foodstuffs since their abilities to deal with large amounts of bacteria is much less than that of older birds.

Removing Pesticides from Foodstuffs

Cleaning foodstuffs to remove pesticides and chemical residue is very important for exotic birds, since a bird's ability to tolerate pesticides is much less than that of humans. We have historical evidence of the dangers of pesticides, most notably DDT, dioxin, vinyl chloride, CFCs, chlordane and benzene. Recent information about the ever-present chemicals in our environment is not encouraging. Forty million tons of over 11,000 varieties of organochlorines are produced annually; we and our birds are breathing, eating and drinking these materials daily. These pesticides are so widespread that they are even found in the Arctic. High levels of organochlorines are associated with a high incidence of cancer. In order to reduce the risks associated with these chemicals, we need to carefully clean the fruits and vegetables we provide to our birds.

Fat and Unhealthy

A combination of a high-fat diet and lack of exercise can lead to an untimely demise for companion and breeding birds. Most parrot-type birds enjoy their food and relish sunflower and safflower seeds, as well as peanuts, French fries and pizza. Providing birds with an overly rich diet can lead to poor feather condition, excessive body fat and eventually fatty liver disease, thus shortening the life of the bird. There have been cases of pet Amazons with folds of fat hanging from their sides, many cockatoos with fatty tumors and even a fat Eclectus female that weighed more than 1,000 grams! Sometimes doting owners do not understand they are killing with kindness.

Vitamins

"If a little bit is good, a lot must be better." This commonly held idea is especially dangerous when it comes to vitamins. The knowledgeable bird owner provides an excellent diet, including a variety of fruits and vegetables, selected cooked foods, sprouted seeds and pellets. Adding vitamins to an excellent diet is dangerous. Pellets contain vitamins; if you are feeding pellets, you do not need to add additional vitamins. Many seed mixes have been treated with a vitamin coating; and many special bird treats also contain vitamins. When a bird ingests vitamins from all these sources, a chemical imbalance, or even vitamin toxicity, can occur. There have been cases where birds overdosed with vitamins have seizures and other cases where the birds exhibit repetitious muscle spasms of the feet or wings.

Some birds with chemical imbalances become feather pickers and when the diet is corrected, the feather picking stops. Avian medical researchers have written papers on the topic of vitamin toxicity. Vitamin use should be noted, monitored and never treated casually. Manufactured vitamins are man-made chemicals and not the same as those found in raw foods. At present, there are no formal established standards for recommended vitamin dosages for psittacines. Most research in this area has been performed on chickens and may or may not have relevance for exotic birds. Therefore, vitamin use requires caution and common sense. Check with your avian veterinarian before you add vitamins to a well-balanced diet for your birds.

Birds Are What They Eat

Often said about the foods humans consume, "you are what you eat," can also be said about the foods our companion and breeding birds eat. Not only is the health of the individual bird dependent in great part

upon a proper diet, but the fertility of eggs, the viability of the embryos and the health of future youngsters are dependent upon the basic good health of the two parent birds.

Different species require different diets. It is incumbent upon the diet manager for the birds to research the needs of the species, and make every effort to provide companion birds and breeding birds with what they need. Each seed, vegetable, root, tuber, fruit and leafy vegetable provides a unique combination of vitamins and minerals; that is why variety in the diet is so important.

Providing manufactured pellets as an addition to the diet of psittacines is practiced by many bird breeders. Pellets are designed to provide as close to what is deemed to be a balanced diet for psittacines as possible. Extensive research was conducted at the University of California at Davis by Tom Roudybush, professor Dick Grau and their colleagues on the nutritional needs of psittacines. It is of interest that the studies carried out at UC Davis on the orange-winged Amazon diet during the breeding season indicated that the birds were more productive when fruits and vegetables were provided in addition to pellets.

The Department of Avian Sciences at UC Davis publishes the *Exotic Bird Report* quarterly. This seven-page report contains excellent information on exotic birds including nutrition, behavior, development, nest box design, genetics and exotic bird studies on the neotropical parrots. The report is sent to those who contribute funds to the Psittacine Research Project, Department of Avian Sciences, UC Davis, 95616-8532, USA. Write for further information or visit the Psittacine Research Project's web site at <http://etx.ucdavis.edu/avs/avspstitt.htm>

Soaked and Sprouted Seeds

Many bird farmers provide a variety of soft foods, including soaked and sprouted seeds and legumes, leafy greens, fruits, and vegetables. Sprouted seeds have undergone changes that increase the available nutrients. If you suddenly find your seeds are not sprouting, check with your supplier. You may discover the producing company is sterilizing the seed to prevent sprouting as a means of stopping the potential use of the seeds by other grocers. You may have to request your supplier to find another source of seeds that are not sterilized.

Cleanliness of Bird Foods is Imperative

Packaging, handling, storing and preparing foodstuffs for birds can impact their health. Most successful bird breeders are already utilizing effective ways to safely handle foods for their birds. The question is whether or not the breeders are informing their clients of critical aspects of food purchasing, preparation, storage and handling. Recent cases of *E. coli* contamination of ground beef, *Salmonella* contamination of chicken and other bacterial contaminants in fruits give cause for concern. How many pet owners chop their birds' fruits and vegetables on the same cutting board used to cut up chicken or fish without properly cleaning and disinfecting it with a chlorine solution? Bacteria live in the tiny cuts in plastic and wood cutting boards, and can be transferred from the board to the chopped foods prepared for the birds. A wise move is to purchase a cutting board specifically used to prepare foods for birds. If bird food is prepared in the area where meats are handled, use chlorine bleach on all work surfaces.

An Aviary Manual for Bird Sitters

by Laurella Desborough

Article from birdmag.com (article used with permission from author)

Most bird breeders and keepers have no problem remembering and doing all the tasks related to the care and feeding of their birds, servicing cages and equipment, and cleaning their facilities. However, there are times when the principal keeper will be away from the facility due to conferences, travel, illness or other reasons. When this happens someone else must care for the birds. Since there are many important details to this task, it is extremely useful to have an instruction and information manual prepared. This manual becomes a guide and resource document for the interim bird keeper. Whether the owner is away for a couple of days or for several weeks, having such a written manual is extremely helpful.

Preparing the Aviary Manual

One must consider what information is essential for the person substituting for the owner. Certainly, the first consideration is the food service: what is to be fed, where is it stored, how is it prepared, how much is served, how are the food bowls cleaned, along with serving the food. What protocols are followed in term of

maintaining the health integrity of the aviary birds? If there is more than one set of aviaries or buildings or if birds are set up in several different locations, is there a method for disinfecting the service person's feet, hands and clothing? What disinfectant is used? How is it prepared? Where is it stored? Are there special clothes or boots worn for this work? How are the aviaries cleaned? Are they cleaned daily, weekly or different levels of cleaning at different times? Where are the cleaning supplies and equipment located? Is some sort of log maintained on the aviary? Will the interim service person be utilizing this log? All of these questions should be addressed in the aviary manual.

Preparation should include dividing the various activities or topics into different sections. Suggested sections would be Food Service, Aviary Cleaning, Bird Identification and Cage Location, Important Phone Numbers, Supplies and Storage, and, of course, how to reach the owner. One might also include a bird log that indicates when a particular bird left the aviary, whether it was sold, died or took a trip to the vet. In order to make the manual easy to use, each section should include simple sentences separated for easy reading, written in large capital letters and accompanied by the appropriate photographs. The purpose of the aviary manual is to assure that the birds receive excellent care and the bird sitter can avoid serious problems. With careful planning, the aviary manual will provide the guidance and information needed by the service person.

Important Phone Numbers

Of course, the bird breeder will want to leave phone and fax numbers where he or she may be located in an emergency or just to answer basic questions. In addition, information on the avian veterinarian's phone number and hospital address should be included. It may be helpful to include the phone number of one or more nearby trusted bird breeder friends who are knowledgeable about the collection and could provide assistance in an emergency. A close friend or family member's phone number and location may also be helpful. Although the bird breeder may not expect the service person to order foods for the birds, having these numbers in the manual, along with the phone numbers of other service providers, is very handy.

Bird and Aviary Identification

Important information to keep in the manual includes bird identification and cage location data. This makes it easy for the service person to correctly identify a bird or cage when discussing the birds over the phone with the absent owner. Information on special care, such as hens sitting on eggs or potential problem birds, should be included in the manual. Any information that the breeder feels is important to convey to the interim service person should be included. It should be recognized that everyone does not remember the spoken word and everyone does not remember what they have read. When the information is written down and readily available, the information is readily accessible when memory fails.

Photographs

Using photographs in the aviary manual will help clarify instructions for the service person. For example, how much food is routinely served? Written instructions accompanied by a photograph are very valuable in making the information more easily understandable. Inexpensive simple-to-operate cameras are available which make it less costly and very easy to provide this helpful addition to the aviary manual.

Additional Benefits

Not only is the aviary manual extremely useful for the service worker, it can also be useful when the bird breeder discusses problems with the avian veterinarian. An aviary manual is a handy resource for the bird breeder when ordering supplies, performing an annual review of the operation including cost analysis and when planning for the future. It requires work to plan and assemble an aviary manual. However, the clear and detailed information in an aviary manual provides greater assurance that the birds will be well cared for during the short or long period when the bird breeder must be absent from the facility.

NWBC Annual Bird Mart

October 4th & 5th, 2008

At the Josephine County Fairgrounds ~ Grants Pass, Oregon

To make this fundraiser a success we need every member to contribute their time & energy!

Message from the Editor

I can't believe that summer is almost over! It has gone by so fast! I had my second shoulder surgery on June 11th. It wasn't as bad as the first one...thank goodness! On July 28th I get to stop wearing my sling....and start going to physical therapy (I can hardly wait – yeah right!).

Matthew and Emily have been helping me with the aviary – don't know what I would have done without them! I have several new baby bourkes and a few scarlet chested parakeets....and LOTS of red factor canaries. I hope I can sell them at the Bird Mart. Emily and I are going to Washington DC this November – for her 8th grade trip. I went with Matthew a couple years ago..it was lots of fun, but tiring! We're counting our pennies (and many dollars!) and adding them up for this long awaited trip.

Don't forget about the club picnic! It's Sunday, August 3 @ 12:30 pm at the Holscher's place. It's always a lot of fun to visit with other members. Many of the members that come to the picnic aren't able to come to our regular meetings....so who knows...you might make a new friend!

It's only about 12 weeks until our bird mart! We need everyone's help in getting donations! Many of the donations are bird related – but they don't have to be! Go to your favorite pizza place, ice cream parlor, garden place, grocery store....or any place that offers a service...and ask for a donation (what's the worst that could happen?). Maybe you have a "talent" or hobby you could donate. Make something or buy a gift certificate and donate it....use your imagination! We need everyone's help to make our yearly bird mart a success!

Don't forget to call me (541-776-5851) or e-mail me if you want to continue to get your newsletter by mail! I've only had a handful of members contact me. At the last meeting we decided to mail out the newsletter this month and next....to give members more time to contact me, or you won't be getting a newsletter. The September newsletter is the last one that will be mailed.

I hope to see you at the picnic!

Sabra Scotton
Editor

Sabra@northwestbirdclub.org

Mark Twain once said, *"She wasn't refined, yet, she wasn't unrefined...she was the type of woman who had a parrot"* (that's me!)

~ REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS ~

If you want to continue to receive the newsletter by mail you must contact Sabra and let her know!

You can contact her by phone or e-mail.

Phone: (541)776-5851 or e-mail: Sabra@northwestbirdclub.org

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU
WHO HAVE
AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!**

3rd Annual Photography Contest

Sponsored by
Northwest Bird Club

Winners will be determined
by ballot voting on Saturday during the

Northwest Bird Club's Annual Bird Mart

Being held at the
Josephine County Fairgrounds
(Flower Building)

OCTOBER 4TH & 5TH, 2008

Saturday - 10am - 5pm

Sunday - 10am - 4pm

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There will be winners in 3 categories:

Pet Bird ~ Wild Bird ~ Game Birds/Poultry

(prizes will be awarded in each category)

WINNERS WILL BE ON DISPLAY SUNDAY DURING THE BIRD MART

ENTRY FORM FOR NORTHWEST BIRD CLUB PHOTO CONTEST

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Street Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Category being entered: Pet Bird: _____ Wild Bird: _____ Game Birds/Poultry: _____

Brief description of subject: _____

MAIL ENTRIES TO: NWBC Photography Contest
c/o S. Scotton
1365 Kings Hwy
Medford, OR 97501

*There is a \$5.00 entrance fee for EACH photo entered in the contest (SIZE: 8"x10") - DO NOT MAT
ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY: September 20th, 2008 ** (NO LATE ENTRIES ALLOWED)

*Photographs will not be returned (unless self addressed & stamped envelope is enclosed with entry)

*If the winner isn't present at the bird mart - they will be notified by phone/e-mail. They will have 5 days to claim their prize.

Annual NWBC Picnic

WHEN: Sunday, August 13th
WHERE: Dan & Sharon Holscher's Place
15024 Antioch Rd.
White City, Oregon
Phone number: 826-8687
(just in case you get lost...)

Sharon's Directions:

From I-5: Take exit 33 (Central Point) – go East, turn left onto Table Rock Road – continue on Table Rock Road past Touvelle Park. Turn right at Touvelle Tavern (Modoc Road), you can only go right. Follow that past the Table Rock Park where the kids climb to the top of the hill. The first road after that is Antioch, turn left (you can only go left). Follow that all the way to the stop sign (Rainey's Market and gas station on the right). Keep coming up Antioch for a mile and a half. Just after Dodge road, Antioch starts to curve to the left and there is a big gravel road that goes off to the right. Take the gravel and we are the first house on the right. I will get Dan to put balloons and a sign on Antioch so it should be easy to find.

NOTE: This is POTLUCK. The club will furnish chicken, drinks, plates, cups, utensils etc.

MEMBERS NEED TO BRING EITHER A SALAD OR DESSERT

(Sharon has some seating, but if you have a lawn chair you could bring that too!)

JUST A REMINDER....

Every member that is able to help with our annual bird mart October 4th & 5th needs to contact Sharon Holscher

Phone: 541)826-8687

She'll direct you to the person that still needs help!

The following long time club members haven't been feeling well...keep them in your thoughts and prayers! You might want to send them a card or give them a call.

Gaylee Oakes
1109 Oakgrove Rd
Medford, OR 97501

Pauline Foster
c/o Hearthstone
2901 E. Barnett
Medford, OR 97504

Northwest Bird Club Classified Ads

Classified Ad Pricing

(Your Ad will also be included in the monthly newsletter)

(Line Ads are free for members)

Line Ads for non-members: \$5.00 per month ~ \$27.00 for 6 months ~ \$55.00 for 1 year
BOX AD - Includes a box outline to make your ad stand out from the rest - \$7.00 per month
DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ADS FOR THE NEWSLETTER, is the 16th of each month.
(Let me know if items in your ad sold so I can take them out of the classified)

DISCLAIMER: The Northwest Bird Club makes no warrantee as to the health, condition, or availability of any birds advertised in this newsletter.

FOR SALE: Unsexed Bourke Parakeets (Rosey split/yellow- \$75.00 & Normal split/yellow \$ 50.00). I also have 3 HAND FED Bourkes (2 Rosey split/yellow - \$125.00 & 1 Normal split/yellow - \$100.00). Scarlet Chested Parakeets (unsexed - \$75.00). Red factor canaries (unsexed) - \$45.00 each. Contact Sabra @ 541)775-5851 or Sabra@northwestbirdclub. *

FOR SALE: ' Old English Game' Bantam chickens. Also cages available! 18" round cage (48" high) 20" round (72" high), and 2 cages that are: 32" high (nice decorative type). Contact Harold Fitzsimmons (541) 779-0115 from 8 am to 7 pm. ***

FOR SALE: 2008 Hatching Button quail...ready now... blueribn@mcsi.net or call . Contact - Marvin and Davila Papst.. (541)679-8870 ***

FOR SALE: Raza Espanola Canaries \$75.00 each Bourke Parakeets, Rosey \$75.00 unsexed Normals split/Rosey \$50.00 all born during the winter 2007/2008 Both parents have yellow in their background. Orange Cheek Waxbill Finches \$30.00 each or \$175.00 for all seven (sex not sure) Contact Ann Valencia (541) 826-4133 valenoa@yahoo.com ***

FOR SALE: 3 healthy, sweet, loveable, hand fed Lilac Crown Amazon babies. Born mid April. Asking \$700.00 each. Call Cyndie @ 530-459-3601 evenings**

FOR SALE: American Singer Canaries (yellow & orange). Parents are from California \$40.00 & \$50.00 Call: Dave @ 541)227-3755 **

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ADS - ETC. Is the 16th of each month
(Let me know if items in your ad sold so I can take them out of the classified)

REMINDER: If you are a member in good standing your ad will be run in the newsletter for 3 months.
The * at the end of your ad indicates how many months your ad has been listed in the newsletter.

REMINDER

At our monthly meeting we hold a "Raffle"...this has always been a fun part of the meeting. It seems that every meeting we have fewer items on the table....

This is just a reminder for everyone that attends the meeting to bring an item (new or used) for the raffle table.

(It's fun to have bird related items, but anything is great!)

So....before the next meeting look through your closets and find some "treasures" to bring for the raffle!

Good Luck during the raffle!