

Birdy Bytes

Newsletter for the High Desert Bird Club of New Mexico



Volume 3, Issue 5

June 2010

Upcoming Events

June 16, 2010 – **Note, this month only! Change in regularly scheduled date.** Topic: Fancy Pigeons with Dan Davis. Monthly meeting at PHCC.

July 7, 2010 – Potluck and AFA Educational PowerPoint presentation. Monthly meeting at PHCC.

July 9, 2010 – Bird Friends Presentation. Cabezon Community Center, Rio Rancho.

July 20, 2010 – Bird Friends Presentation. Paradise Hills Community Center, ABQ.

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Words from the Prez

Hello Fellow Bird Friends,

Little did we know, but many of us have been breaking the law with our birds - only a misdemeanor- but the law is the law. Every time we left the state with our birds while going on vacation, we were about to break the law.

According to the NM Department of Fish and Game, a statute on the books for over twenty years states it is illegal to import into New Mexico any species listed on CITES (Conference for the International Trade of Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna) without an importation permit.

We have also been breaking this law when we go out of state to buy a bird, or to sell birds at an out-of-state bird mart and return home with those birds that did not sell.

The BIG question for me is why the sudden desire to enforce a law that no one has enforced before? We have been doing just fine without these permits. My opinion is that either this sudden change has its roots in the animal rights agenda, or the NM Department of Fish and Game is trying to raise money off our backs.

The NM Department of Fish and Game representatives have given me the following reasons:

1. 'The strict regulation or banning of the importation of endangered species will reduce the demand for them, so it will decrease smuggling.'
2. 'These species are potentially invasive and dangerous to our native wildlife.'
3. In response to my statement that the U.S. no longer imports birds from the wild: 'But, they came from the wild at one time.'

Continued on page 2

Words from the Prez Continued

4. 'The law is already on the books; we are just trying to clarify it and make it easier to comply with.'
5. 'I don't think that we can do anything about birds brought into the state prior to two years ago. However, you will need to come into compliance for all others.'
6. In response to how would I do that: 'You would need to get an importation permit for each bird and re-import them into the state.'

These statements only show how completely out of touch with reality the NM Department of Fish and Game are.

Please read or reread the Facts About the Exotic Bird Trade 2010, by Rick Jordan. We're reprinting it in this newsletter and posting it on our website:
www.HighDesertBirdClub.org.

Frankly, compliance with an outdated and nonsensical law should not be expected of us. We can and should respond to both the draft and the species list. Unfortunately our time is limited.

We must send our comments to letitia.mee@state.nm.us by the June 3, 2010, for consideration at the next commission meeting.

Sandi Brennan
Your HDBC President and
AFA State Coordinator



Nanday Conure

Facts About the Exotic Bird Trade 2010

By Rick Jordan

CITES Committee Chairman
American Federation of Aviculture, Inc.
PO BOX 91717
Austin, Texas 78709

The Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 now prohibits the importation into the United States of any CITES listed Parrot (Psittacine) except under very special exceptions such as Cooperative Breeding Programs. If imported under a cooperative program, specimens cannot be sold or transferred in commercial trade without specific permissions from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Virtually all specimens of parrots entering into interstate trade within the United States are now of captive-bred origins. Older wild-caught stock from the 60's, 70's, and 80's generally do not make good pets and are most often to be found in the hands of breeders. Since this genetic material is "rare" it is often documented and specimens are marked with leg bands or micro chips.

The United States Endangered Species Act (USESA) and the CITES Appendices are not the same. Species included on the CITES Appendices are often placed there to enhance the monitoring capabilities of exporting countries, and not necessarily because that species is rare or endangered in the wild. In fact, many Psittacine species now listed on the CITES appendices are not rare at all; some are even considered pest species in their native habitats.

Exotic bird breeding, and especially parrots, is a very successful industry within the United States. Proof of this can be seen by inspecting birds offered for sale in pet stores. Virtually all pet birds are now bred in captivity here in the United States and many wear "closed ring" leg bands or have been micro chipped for identification. Further proof to the domestication

Continued on Page 3

Facts About the Exotic Bird Trade 2010 Continued

successes of psittacine aviculture is the industry itself. The bird business including supplies, cages, food and livestock is a multi-million dollar industry.

Since the passing of the Wild Bird Conservation Act in 1992, and the subsequent successes of captive breeding, smuggling of wild parrots (the main threat of disease to our domestic poultry businesses) has virtually stopped "INTO" the United States. Statistics of confiscated parrots along the US/Mexico border remain very low since 1992, some years in the single digits.

There are NO permits required from the Federal government or virtually any State government, to own, possess, or keep as a pet, any species of bird/parrot now listed on the US Endangered Species Act or the CITES Appendices, providing it was legally imported into the US. The internal US regulation of ESA listed species is limited to interstate commerce only, gifts and free transfers do not require any federal permits. The US internal commerce of CITES listed species is not regulated whatsoever by our federal government if the species is not also listed on the USESA list (currently approximately 20 species of Psittacines).

Most States do not regulate the import of parrots into their State. New York and New Jersey both have a leg band law requiring all imported birds to be "closed" leg banded, indicating they are captive bred within the United States. Hawaii has a "permit" system through their internal agriculture department that only requires a phone call before shipping into the State as does Montana. Florida requires a State Registration of breeders and dealers who plan to import or sell birds internally. This is a \$50 a year registration for parrots.

Virtually all feral colonies of Psittacines within the United States can be traced back to a "large" release of wild birds. Most were introduced by accident during the times when these species were being imported as wild caught into the U.S. (Prior to 1992). Interestingly, research demonstrates that all

colonies of "domesticated" species such as cockatiels and budgies seem to die out after only two years. It appears that these species have lost their ability to survive in the wild. In southern Texas, a few feral colonies of Mexican Amazon parrots still survive today. However, it is interesting to note that these colonies are established in the area where the shipments of confiscated smuggled birds were usually taken for disposal or sale, by USDA, to the general public. All of these colonies have a history that can be traced back to before 1990.

Of the 332 extent species of Psittacines, approximately 100 of them are now commonly kept and bred within the United States. Furthermore, no wild-caught blood lines are being imported for these commonly kept species, not even under the exemptions of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992. It is interesting to note that all commonly kept species (pet trade) of parrots are now bred to multiple generations in captivity in the U.S.

Today, on an international level, Japan, South Africa, and other parts of non-EEU Europe are the largest consumers of wild parrots taken from the wild. Although the US was historically one of the largest importers of wild taken birds, they are now an example of how government can make a major contribution to conservation of wild animals and birds destined for the pet trade. Today the parrot trade within the United States consists of virtually all captive-bred parrots, bred by our own small businesses, and our hobbyists.

Note: Care must be taken not to confuse "propaganda" with "fact" when researching the pet bird trade within the United States. Many historical statistics are being touted as current data by some animal rights and animal welfare organizations. These "out of date" statistics are being used as fund raisers and are often taken out of context or used to prove a point that is no longer valid since the U.S. is no longer an importer of wild parrots.

Bird Club Biz

High Desert Bird Club of NM
P.O. Box 67855
Albuquerque, NM 87193
www.HighDesertBirdClub.org

Bird Rescue Hotline: (505) 554-0804

Monthly Meetings

First Wednesday of each month unless otherwise announced.

Meeting time: 6:45 PM – 8:45 PM

Location:

Paradise Hills Community Center
5901 Paradise Hills Blvd. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114

Club Officers

President: Sandi Brennan
Vice President: Anna Sloan
Secretary: Marion Beal
Treasurer: **Open**

Committee Chairpersons

Advertising/Publicity: Jerry Tuttle
AFA Delegate: Betty Hall
Bird Expo: **Available**
Bird Rescue: Sandi Brennan
Education: Trina Hatcher
Fundraising: **Available**
Hospitality: Stephanie Calkins
Library: Betty Hall
Membership: **Available**
Newsletter: Jennifer Catron
Raffle: Betty Hall and Rochelle Schwalb
Website: Jennifer Catron

Treasurer's Report as of 5/25/10

Beginning balance	\$2,014.21
Revenue	\$163.50
Expenses	\$46.40
Ending balance	\$2,131.31

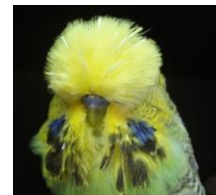
The High Desert Bird Club of NM is a 501(c)(3) educational, public charity recognized by the IRS.

Membership Requirements

Any person interested in cage birds who agrees to support the objectives in the HDHC By-Laws is eligible for membership.

Membership Dues

\$20.00 Individual
\$30.00 Household
\$15.00 Junior (17 or younger)
\$15.00 Senior (60 or older)
\$25.00 Senior Household



English Budgerigar

Dues are required and payable in January of each year or at a quarterly pro-rated amount upon joining the Club.

Newsletter Policy

Birdy Bytes is issued on a monthly basis. Content from members is encouraged. Content deemed obscene, inflammatory, overtly personal, copyrighted without permission to republish, or insufficiently bird-related may not be published at the discretion of the newsletter Editor.

Newsletter Advertising Policy

Any individual or business that supports HDHC through the donation of money, goods, or services may have a near business-card sized ad published in the newsletter for three months for no cost.

Members may have a text-only ad of up to 50 words for no cost. Ads run for two months and may be renewed for two-month increments. Members are responsible for contacting the newsletter Editor to renew their ad.

Advertising space may be purchased. A half-page ad costs \$25 for six months. Additional ad sizes and corresponding rates are pending.

Newsletter Editor reserves the right to accept or reject any advertisement based on the appropriateness for *Birdy Bytes*.

To submit content for *Birdy Bytes*, contact Jennifer Catron, Editor, at jrcatron@Q.com, or (505) 235-2803. Thank you.



Meeting Presentations

June Meeting

Our June monthly meeting date is changed to **June 16, 2010**. Our meeting place, the Paradise Hills Community Center, will be closed for maintenance on our regularly scheduled meeting date.

Fancy Pigeons with Dan Davis is our topic for this month. Fancy pigeons come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and coloration.



Satinette Pigeon

Dan is an experienced pigeon breeder and will bring a few birds to the meeting as examples of fancy pigeon diversity.

Some are even built for speed and compete in races covering hundreds of miles. Join us in learning about the diversity of pigeons, their care, and pet potential.

May Meeting

Our May meeting presentation was a DVD, *Understanding Parrot Body Language*, by Barbara Heidenreich.

This DVD gives you tips and information on how to recognize bird behavior by body posture and actions. Some information is even species specific showing and describing differences in postures common to amazons compared to cockatoos.



Rose-Breasted Cockatoo

If you were unable to attend the May meeting or would like to view this DVD again, it is part of the HDBC library and available for check out by members. For more information, contact Betty Hall, Club Librarian, at (505) 977-2953.

If you have some suggestions or ideas for future presentations, please forward information to Anna Sloan at Anna@abqparrots.org or Jennifer Catron, jrcatron@Q.com.

Hospitality Table



Do you like snacks? Do you like to share? HDBC invites you to share some snacks at our hospitality table at each monthly meeting. Everyone is encouraged to bring snacks when they can. We're very informal about who brings what and when. Donations are always welcome.

Thank you for your contribution and support.

Raffle Fun

Want a chance to win cool birdy stuff? HDBC hosts a raffle at most monthly meetings. Ticket prices are:

50 cents for each ticket
\$5.00 for 12 tickets
\$10.00 for 24 tickets

Raffle prizes are member supported. Donations of bird-related items are always welcome and encouraged. Bird-related items include bird toys, accessories, art, literature, or bird services like help with cleaning. One free raffle ticket for each donated item is given to the donor.

If you have any questions about the raffle or what to donate, please contact one of the raffle chairpersons: Betty Hall at 977-2953, or Rochelle Schwalb at birdqueen7@netzero.net.

Support HDBC. Donate some prizes. Buy some raffle tickets. Have some fun!

Education

Bird Friends Presentations

Trina Hatcher is coordinating presentations for children about pet birds. Topics include why parrots are important in the wild, basic bird care, and bird behavior. A question and answer period follows each presentation.

The following locations are scheduled for a Bird Friends Presentation.

Cabazon Community Center

Date: Friday, July 9, 2010
Time: 10:00 AM – Noon
Audience: Children ages 6 – 14
Location: 2307 Cabazon Blvd.
Rio Rancho

Paradise Hills Community Center

(our meeting place)

Date: Tuesday, July 20, 2010
Time: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
Audience: Children ages 5 – 12
Location: 5901 Paradise Blvd. NW
Albuquerque

We need volunteers to help with these presentations. Members with well-socialized birds that are comfortable around children or crowds are encouraged to participate. Also needed are volunteers to help set up and break down, or assist with the presentation.

Events like these are fun and rewarding. It's a great opportunity to inform and teach children about parrots and pet birds in general. If you'd like to help, please contact Trina at (505) 891-1466 or hatchsparrotplace@msn.com.



Bucket of Baby Sun Conures

Membership Support

HDBC depends on your support. One of the easiest ways to show your support is to become a member.



Major Mitchell's Cockatoo

Membership dues helps HDBC fulfill Club charter objectives to educate members and the general public in the best care, keeping, maintenance and breeding of caged birds. In addition to supporting bird conservation and fellowship, funds also support the HDBC bird rescue, foster and adoption program.

Membership benefits include:

- Subscription to the Club newsletter Birdy Bytes.
- Early notification and the opportunity to adopt birds received through the HDBC rescue.
- Access to the Club library to check out bird-related books and DVDs.
- Fellowship with others interested in companion birds.

Membership dues begin each calendar year and are prorated on a quarterly basis. Membership classification and annual dues rates are listed under the **Bird Club Biz** section of each newsletter. Membership information is also contained in our Club Constitution and By Laws posted on our website: www.HighDesertBirdClub.org.

For everyone who has joined HDBC or renewed their membership, thank you! If you're not a member, join today and support a good cause. It's all about the birds.

HDBC Bird Rescue, Foster, and Adoption



Only ONE, hand-fed, Lutino Lovebird is left and available for adoption. Her name is Candy, she's about 4 months old, hand-fed, fully weaned, and will make a good pet.

If you're interested in adding a new feathered friend to your family or know someone who might, please contact Sandi Brennan at (505) 281-7729.

Adoption fees apply in accordance with HDBC Bird Rescue Policy. The HDBC bird Rescue Policy, adoption applications, and other bird rescue forms are posted on our website at www.HighDesertBirdClub.org.

Completing a Birdy Basics class is part of the adoption process and requirement. The first class will be scheduled soon. Class dates, times and locations will be announced in both *Birdy Bytes* and on our website as soon as possible.

Classified Ads

Handfed Birds: Conures: \$100-\$400; Severe Macaws \$800. Hand-made bird toys and Avitech products. Ten percent of your purchase price will be donated to HDBC. Please call Sandi Brennan at 505-281-7729.

For Sale: New and used breeder bird cages. Five flight cages (32"x22"x37") with sturdy rolling stands \$30 and up. One stainless steel, dome-top parrot cage (40"x30"x72") \$450 obo. All cages are priced below wholesale. Two male Quaker Parrots, bonded pair \$250 obo. Available soon: hand-fed baby Lovebirds and two male Cockatiels. Please call Betty Hall at 505-977-2953.

Members may post a text-only classified ad, of up to 50 words, renewable in two-month increments. See **Bird Club Biz** section for newsletter advertisement policy.

AFA in Brief

AFA IN BRIEF (Abridged)
May 2010
Editor - Carol Lee



36th Annual AFA Convention,
The Magic of Birds!
August 4-7, 2010 in St.
Petersburg, Florida Hilton St. Petersburg -
Bayfront,
333 First Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida.
(727) 894-5000.

Registration for the 2010 AFA Annual Convention has begun. You can find an application available online at www.afabirds.org. Contact for the AFA Annual Convention is Jamie Whittaker at: bjwbird1@earthlink.net. Don't miss the early bird registration deadline - June 18, 2010.

For a preliminary list of speakers at the 2010 AFA Convention, go to: www.afabirds.org.

Two Exciting Conferences in the Canary Islands

In September 2010 there will be two conventions at the famed Loro Parque in Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain. The 1st International Convention on the Conservation of Psittacidae and The 7th International Parrot Convention, Plus 3 additional workshops. AND Visits to "La Vera," the Loro Parque Fundacion Breeding Facility.

The Loro Parque Foundation International Parrot Conferences are held every four years. Attendees from around the world will experience seasoned speakers on such subjects as breeding, keeping, and conservation of parrots. Convention attendees have a three day access to the world's largest parrot exhibit, Loro Parque. For more information, click on <http://loroparque2010.homestead.com/> and contact Janice Boyd (jboyd46@charter.net).

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AFA in Brief Continued

Submission of an Application for U.S. First Breeding Awards (AVY Award)

The nominee must agree and abide by the following: U.S. FIRST BREEDING AVY AWARDS

1. Nominations for a First Time Breeding must be within the past five years (exceptions are permitted by committee ruling).
2. Nominees must have bred the species for a First Breeding within the (50) United States.
3. The person nominated does not have to be a member of the AFA.
4. Each nominee must submit an article on the avicultural details of the First Breeding, which will be submitted to the AFA Watchbird. The editor of the AFA Watchbird will form an article for publication if all relevant facts are included.
5. Nominations may be submitted by the breeders of the First Breeding or by any other individual or Affiliated Club.
6. Nominees for a First Breeding must establish that the young of the U.S. First Breeding are completely weaned and self-sufficient before submitting the nomination. Birds that are not weaned before nomination deadline (due to late hatching dates in that calendar year), should be nominated the following year after self-sufficiency has been proven.
7. Confirmation of First Breeding nominations will be verified through the AFA Awards Committee.
8. Nominations for First Breeding Awards will be published in the AFA Watchbird to aid in their confirmation.
9. Scientific names will be used from Maron, Boch & Farrand Jr.
10. Only identifiable subspecies will be given recognition. Subspecies of an avian species that has already been bred in the U.S. will not be awarded unless there is sufficient documentation on both the species previously bred, and the subspecies nominated, provided that there is little difference. The AVY Awards Committee will make the final decision.
11. Nominations must be submitted by December 31st of the nominating year. The award will be presented at the AFA convention the following year, which will allow the Awards Committee time to confirm the First Time Breeding.

Nomination Requirements for First Breeding Awards

Nominees must submit a completed copy of the Breeding History questionnaire. Nominees must submit photographs of both weaned young and of the parent birds for the purpose of documentation and species identification. Nominees must submit a name, address, and phone number, of a witness other than the breeder. Confirmed nominee must submit a completed article for publication in AFA Watchbird.



Federal Register Announcement from USDA indicates that they will propose rules (laws) for the shipping of birds in commerce in August 2010.

Animal Welfare Regulations and Standards for Birds

Legal Authority: 7 USC 2131 to 2159
Abstract: APHIS intends to establish standards for the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of birds other than birds bred for use in research.

Timetable: Action Date FR Cite NPRM 08/00/10
NPRM Comment Period End 11/00/10
Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required: Yes
Agency Contact: Gerald Rushin, Veterinary Medical Officer, Animal Care, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection

Service, 4700 River Road, Unit 84,
Riverdale, MD 20737-1234
Phone: 301-734-0954
RIN: 0579-AC02

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HDBC is affiliated with the American Federation of Aviculture

Bird Tales

From the Beaks of Birds By Jennifer Catron

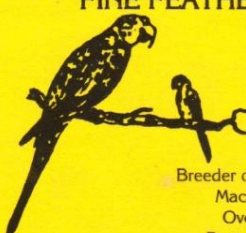
Parrots communicate with us like no other pets can. They learn to say our words and speak our language. Sometimes, those words are strung together in meaningful phrases. Parrots seem to know what words to say and when to say them.

Riley, my Goffins Cockatoo, sensed I was having a really bad day. He sidled over to me and said "Is everything all right?" Like many parrots, he can pick up on human moods. Somehow he knew to use those words. He has asked that question a few more times over the years, and especially during times of stress for me or for him. I truly believe he understands those words have a calming effect after he says them.

Do you have a story about a parrot that seemed to know what words to use at the most appropriate, or inappropriate, time? Send me an email with your story about what your parrot said and the special meaning it had. I'll publish the highlights in subsequent issues of *Birdy Bytes*. Keep the story clean, no potty-mouthed parrot stories, please! Let's share some stories from the beaks of our birds.

Email me at jrcatron@Q.com. Thank you.

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977-2953



Ventana Animal Clinic

Linda M. Contos, DVM 5747 Calle Perro NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114
John E. Heidrich, DVM Phone: 505 792-3700
Fax: 505 792-3708



**Macaw & Cockatoo Rescue
of New Mexico**

505-994-0505

Anna@abqparrots.org www.abqparrots.org



**Friends of the
Community**

RioRanchoChat.com
Your portal to Rio Rancho events and resources.
Free websites for groups that help others.
Yard sale pickup - 504-0356



Dan Davis

King of Monkeys
Wings
Gopher Beauty
Monkeys
Nuts

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