



# Alaska Bird News

## October 2007

Jennifer Slaughter - Editor

Volume 18 Number 10

This issue is FREE

October 2007

### How to . . . Make a Hanging Cube

Courtesy of Leanna Rein (As seen at the seminar)

This is a fun hanging toy that birds of all sizes will enjoy. The sections of the cube are meant to be chewed and replaced. I like to use aged wood branches that have the bark intact. I cut several extra sections as 'standbys' so the sections can quickly be replaced. This toy is meant to be explored, chewed and destroyed.

#### Materials Needed:

- 12 lengths of wood - the diameter should be appropriate to the size of your bird.
- 12 wood screws
  - Small cube- use 3/4"
  - Medium cube- use 1 1/4"
  - Large cube- use 2 1/2"
- 4 eye hooks
- 2 lengths of rope or jute
- 1 carabineer
- 1 hook for hanging



#### Instructions:

1. Cut the 12 lengths of wood to the appropriate length:  
Small Cube- 10"  
Medium Cube- 12"  
Large Cube- 16"
2. Screw 4 lengths of wood end-to-end to form a square. Make another second square. Then, using the remaining 4 lengths of wood, attach each remaining section vertically at each corner to form the cube.

*(How To . . . Continued on page 10)*

### The 2007 Companion Bird Seminar

The 2007 Companion Bird Seminar was held on Saturday, September 22, 2007 and featured Dr. Scott Ford, an avian board certified vet.

Thank you to Dr. Ford for your presentation, which was informative and a good time was had by all. Thanks go out to the attendees and to all of the volunteers who made this year's seminar happen!

Special thanks go to Frontier Business Systems who provided a place for the seminar, as well as space to display our raffle and silent auction items!

Although Dr. Ford practices in California, he makes several trips to Alaska during the year. If you would like to learn more about Dr. Ford or are interested in a visit with him and your bird, you can contact him from his website [www.alaskabirddoc.com](http://www.alaskabirddoc.com).

### Membership Reminders!

October's meeting will focus on holiday safety.

### The ABC Store Now Open!

The ABC store at Cafe Press is now open offering t-shirts, sweatshirts, coffee mugs, and more!

Visit The ABC website [www.alaskabirdclub.org](http://www.alaskabirdclub.org) and click on The Club Store on the left menu.

### New Number for the Club

The number, **868-9070** rings to voicemail and will allow members & non-members to leave messages for the club.

### 2007 Membership Survey

The 2007 Membership Survey is available online and on page 6.

Give us your feedback on what you would like to see for 2008. Return your survey by 10/31/07 so we can tally the results and present them before the end of the year.

### Board Nominations for 2008

Interested in volunteering on the Board? Now's your chance. Nominations happen in November with voting at the December's meeting.

## 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

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**Lost/Found-Rescue Committee: Amber O'Neill**

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If the regular place that you picked up your copy of the Alaska Bird News is out, you may be able to locate a copy at one of the other outlets.

**All Creatures Veterinary Clinic**

Mi 7.4 Palmer-Wasilla Hwy  
376-7930

**Alaska Mill & Feed**

1501 E 1st Ave  
276-6016

**Alaska Pet-ography**

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

**Animal Food Warehouse /  
PetZoo**

Mile 37.7 Parks Hwy Lp, 12046  
Business Blvd, 7941 Brayton Dr,  
901 E Dimond Blvd 357-3663  
622-2966/522-8006/ 344-2966

**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

**Valley Feed & Seed**

16946 N Eagle River  
694-2980

**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

### 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.

Serendipity Adult Day Services  
3550 E 20th Ave.

(Doors open at 6:30 to socialize)  
7:00pm - 9:00pm

# President's Perch

## Holiday Preparations- Keeping Your Parrot Safe, Sound and Stress Free

The next few months are a festive season for many people and there are plenty of new activities and objects to get your bird's attention. By preparing and planning ahead, you and your birds will have a fun, stress-free and hopefully accident-free holiday season. Even if you think you have 'bird-proofed' your home, now is the time to take a fresh look from a bird's prospective.

**Plants:** While firs and pines are not toxic, they have sap and sharp needles that can pose a hazard. Mistletoe berries are toxic and holly berries can cause GI distress. Poinsettias exude a milky substance that is an irritant. If you're not sure about whether a plant or tree is toxic please go to this site and check: [www.avianweb.com/toxicfoods.html](http://www.avianweb.com/toxicfoods.html).

**Decorations:** While Halloween may be fun for you and your kids- masks, knives, sticks, etc. may frighten your bird and stress them out. Birds may fly in terror at the sight of these unfamiliar or threatening objects. If you have a bird that enjoys greeting Trick-or-Treaters and love the excitement- be sure and put a harness on the bird or have the bird under direct hand control. Better yet, if your bird isn't a 'greeter' keep your bird safely enclosed in its cage. Birds are very attracted to colorful, sparkly decoration, including wrapping paper and ribbons. Don't burn wrapping paper or Yule logs in the fireplace, as the fumes are toxic. Yule logs contain chemicals that contain heavy metals such as lead, cop-

per, arsenic, barium and selenium. If your bird chews on these 'logs', they could experience heavy metal poisoning. Ribbon is not only an entrapment hazard, if ingested, could cause GI obstruction.

Flocking, snow spray, angel hair, and tinsel could also cause GI distress if ingested and also poses an entanglement hazard. Propellants that spray these products may use Freon that is toxic to birds. Twinkling lights, electrical cords and sparkly decorations invite your bird to taste. Scented candles are also hazardous to birds. Instead of using these items, try simmering herbs, cinnamon or other spices (keeping the pot covered, of course). Go GREEN! Experiment with natural paper products for wrapping paper. Set out the holiday candles, just don't burn them. For most birds, be aware that your holiday tree looks like a natural place to perch. Be sure to secure the tree to avoid it tipping over. Also be aware that the stagnant water in the tree base may have preservatives and be contaminated with bacteria.

**Cooking and Food:** Your birds will love the variety of foods typically served over the holidays but be cautious with foods and treats that are high in sugar, salt, and preservatives. Remember: no chocolate, caffeine, alcohol, or avocado. By all means, share your special foods with your birds- they will enjoy the variety! Be especially cautious when cooking- open pots of cooking, hot surfaces, punch bowls, etc.

**Open doors & windows:** After all that holiday cooking- who hasn't needed to air out the house and open a few doors and windows. Just remember to place your bird safely in its cage before opening up the house. Another common mistake that results in birds escaping is people stepping outside to get fresh air and forgetting that their bird is on their shoulder. I know one bird owner that hangs a screen across the doors over the holiday as a visual reminder to make sure the bird isn't on her shoulder.

**People:** Who doesn't love company? Well, maybe your bird does and maybe your bird doesn't. Most birds are picky about who they socialize with. As your bird's guardian, it is your responsibility to ensure that visitors know if, when and how to approach your bird, when it's okay for the bird to be out amongst the guests and when to put the bird away. Unfortunately, with too much eggnog and holiday spirits, guest may tend to get careless and not observe limits. Fingers poking into cages, offering food or drink that isn't bird safe, or just plain stressing the bird can result in unfortunate accidents. Plan ahead and avoid placing your bird in harms way.

Plan now and set the stage for a holiday season that will be fun, relaxing and safe!

Leanna Rein, President



### Board Meeting Info - Open to the public

The Board meets the last Saturday of every month at 11:00 AM at the Denny's on Northern Lights.

## The Alaska Bird Club'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.

# Captive Birds: A Hidden Crisis

## Wild at Heart

Whether captive bred or wild caught, exotic birds are not domesticated animals. Domestic animals are animals that have been bred for hundreds of years to live in the care of humans and are distinct from their wild ancestors. Birds commonly kept as pets are no different than their wild relatives — they are the native species of other countries.

Those who acquire birds as companion animals soon discover that parrots, including lovebirds, budgerigars/budgies (parakeets), and cockatiels, are noisy (vocalizing — squawking, chirping, talking — is an important part of any parrot's social communication), messy (birds eat continually throughout the day, dropping and discarding bits of food everywhere), and can be destructive (birds are instinctively programmed to chew and shred wood, whether it is a perch, toy, picture frame, or furniture; birds will also chew electrical cords, paper, and curtains).

While parrots are also sociable and extremely intelligent — they have been compared to human toddlers in the needs of their emotional and social lives but, unlike children, they never progress beyond the “toddler” level — confinement in cages can lead to neurotic behavior, excessive screaming, feather plucking, self-mutilation, and other destructive habits. Birds are meant to fly and to be with other birds. Very few people can provide for the special needs of exotic birds or comprehend the seriousness of a commitment for the life span of the birds, which depending on the species can be 20 to 70 years or even more.

Indeed, most of the thousands of birds sold each year by the pet trade go to buyers who do not have accurate expectations about living with a bird. Frustration, disinterest, or concern lead many people to minimize or abandon their responsibility of caring for their birds. Many birds spend their days isolated and confined to their cages. Others bounce from home to home as “owners” tire of them, and some are abandoned at local shelters and bird rescues, or set free to fend for themselves.

Most humane societies do not accept birds. Unlike abandoned cats and dogs, abandoned birds generally do not roam the streets as strays or establish feral colonies. Although unwanted exotic birds is a growing problem, it remains a hidden crisis.

## How Many Caged Birds?

A 1998 article appearing in the *Journal of the American Veterinarian Medical Association*, regarded as the most extensive demographic study of pet birds conducted to that date, estimated the U.S. pet bird population at 35-40

million. While this estimate of “pet” birds is lower than estimates for companion dogs and cats, the population of dogs and cats has remained relatively stable over time while “pet” bird populations have skyrocketed in recent years. According to the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC), there were 60.8 million cats and 52.1 million dogs in 1990, and 66.15 million cats and 58.2 million dogs in 1996. In 1990, there were 11.6 million “pet” birds and 40 million by 1996 — an increase of 244.8%!

## Captive Breeding

One of the most common assertions made by breeders is that captive breeding is necessary to keep parrots from becoming endangered. Breeding parrots in captivity is not going to save the species in the wild. Most birds are bred outside any official conservation program, and the vast majority of birds bred in captivity are bred for purely commercial purposes. Captive breeding fails to address the leading causes of wild bird population decline — habitat loss, pollution, and the pet trade. Moreover, captive release programs are nonexistent for most species and are largely unsuccessful in practice.

Breeding contributes to overpopulation since it results in breeding more baby birds for the pet trade. Breeding facilities often resemble nothing more than warehouses of birds for production purposes. Breeder birds are routinely placed with a mate in small cages with nothing more than water, food, and a nest box.

Many breeders and stores will sell unweaned baby birds, claiming that finishing the weaning process by the purchaser will “guarantee” a hand-tame bird. Nothing could be further from the truth. Building a nurturing relationship with a parrot begins when the bird, no matter what his or her age, learns to trust. The reality is that many birds who have not successfully completed weaning may not learn to eat on their own and can actually starve to death. Many baby birds suffer or die from physical injuries such as burned or punctured crops (stomachs) and infections from inexperienced hand-feeders. Unweaned chicks are sold because hand-feeding is labor-intensive; it is far more profitable to sell the chicks quickly despite the risks to the young bird.

## Giving Up a Bird

Since finding a qualified caretaker can be difficult and many bird rescues are overburdened with an influx of unwanted birds, people who wish to give up their birds are encouraged to consider other alternatives before making a final decision. An avian behaviorist or specialist, local bird club or avian rescues can be helpful in providing educational materials, advice, and referrals on bird care, housing, diet, behavior, and veterinary services. Sometimes a change in environment, diet or behavior modification can make all the difference in creating a happier living situation for a bird and his or her caretaker.

*(Captive Birds . . . Continued on page 7)*

## Bird of the Month

By bird club members, Ann Taylor & Greg Wilkie

Angel is a bare-eyed cockatoo (*Cacatua sauginea normantoni*) and one of four cockatoo species represented in Ann Taylor and Gregory Wilkie's flock. Angel was the most recent member of the flock, arriving in February 2005, shortly before Ann and Greg moved to Anchorage.

In addition to being the most recent member of the flock, Angel is also the lightest, weighing only 320 grams [12 ounces]. She may be the lightest member of the flock, but has all of the personality of a Moluccan, or umbrella cockatoo in a compact size. Angel was hatched in April 1999, hand-raised, and socialized by Ronie Wheelwright [http://www.roiniesloveofbirds.com, Sandy, Utah]. Being hand-raised and an only bird in her previous home, Angel does not know how to be a "bird." Angel's curiosity about Ann and Greg's other cockatoo members in the flock allowed her to become quick friends with the two umbrellas. Allo-preening is a cockatoo social behavior that Angel did not learn during her hand-raising and socialization. Her umbrella friend quickly found out that Angel was not aware of cockatoo social customs, as she grabbed a beak-full of his feathers and yanked them out!

Angel has a big personality and a melodious voice, singing out, "Angel! Angel!" "Whatta gonna do with the pretty 'too?" "Angel play peek-a-boo with you!" among other playful phrases. Angel is fully flighted and a skilled aviator, knowing take offs, high-speed turns, and amazing landings on heads, perches, curtain rods, and her playtop. Ann and Greg are currently working with Angel to fly and land in a specific place on command. This is a fun game that Angel enjoys practicing throughout the week.

Angel learned to be extremely independent in her previous home, where she occasionally had to find food and water on her own. If left alone in a room, Angel can quickly get

into anything that appears to be a bag, box, or container that could hold food. One of Angel's favorite sounds to make is the ring of a cellular phone and she is quite good at it. So much so, that for the first few days she was with Ann and Greg; they went running to answer their cell phones when Angel "rang."

Cockatoos are the engineers of the avian world and Angel is a master engineer. Any item with bolts, nuts, carabineers, hooks, loops, or fasteners is quickly dispatched into its component parts in the bottom of her enclosure. Angel loves to untie simple knots of leather or cotton, spending hours untying each one and dropping the materials to the bottom of her enclosure. Tie square knots and Angel will use her sharp beak to snip through the leather or cotton and leave only tiny pieces that can not be reused for toy making.

Angel is a most-welcomed member of both the human and avian Taylor-Wilkie flock members.



Angel!! The bare-eyed cockatoo.

## 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

### All Creatures Veterinary Clinic

Mi 7.4 Palmer-Wasilla Hwy, Wasilla  
(907) 376-7930  
Dr. Cuthbert

### Palmer Veterinary Clinic

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

### 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

# The Alaska Bird Club Member Survey - 2007

## For 2008 Activities and Programs

Please list, in priority the types of information and/or training you would like to have offered at next year's regular membership meetings:

What club activities have you participated in or would like to participate in? Please list:

What do you like best about The Alaska Bird Club?

What suggestions for improvements would you like to make for the Board to consider implementing?

Please list your top 3 seminar topics you would like to have presented at next year's seminar:

Do you have a recommendation for a seminar presenter for next year? Please list suggestions:

What events or community projects would you like to see TABC participate in?

What fundraisers would you like TABC sponsor (i.e.: chili feeds, car wash, etc.) and for what causes (such as adoption/rescue, emergency services, etc.)?

Other comments or suggestions:

Please submit survey no later than 10-31-07 Surveys are also available online at: [www.alaskabirdclub.org](http://www.alaskabirdclub.org) and may be submitted electronically to: [akbirdclub@yahoo.com](mailto:akbirdclub@yahoo.com). Hard copy surveys should be mailed to:

The Alaska Bird Club  
P.O. Box 101825  
Anchorage, AK 99510

**Thank you for completing the survey and supporting the Alaska Bird Club!**

## Lead Paint in Chinese-made Bird Cages

From Sybil Erden, Executive Director "The Oasis" Sanctuary

None of this should be surprising, but now there is the threat of lead in cages made in China. See article on web here: <http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?S=7043217&nav=0RZF> to read more on this subject.

We have a bird here who had suffered from lead poisoning from a glazed bowl purchased at a BIRD-oriented pet store. Here at The Oasis we are sending in some expensive "bird baths" (made in China) for heavy-metal testing after some of our cockatiels became ill.

If you wish to have any cages, bowls, toys etc tested follow these instructions:

1. For cage coatings, paint or powder coat, collect a sample scraped with a stainless steel blade, including the undercoating. For bowls and toys, send a piece of a suspect bowl or toy. The sample should be at least dime sized (20 mm).
2. Place sample in a plastic baggie or wrap in plastic wrap.
3. Ship regular mail to:

Louisiana Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab  
PO Box 25070  
Baton Rouge, LA 70894  
Phone: (225) 578-9777

You should have results available in 7-10 working days.

Make checks payable to "LAVMD"

Zinc testing \$ 30.00  
Lead testing \$ 32.00  
Both \$ 62.00

### Rainbow Bridge

Alex, the remarkable Congo African Grey partner of Dr. Irene Pepperberg, died on Friday, September 7, 2007. He was 31 years old.

The Alaska Bird Club expresses our collective condolences to Dr. Pepperberg and all the friends of Alex, parrot and human alike.

To read about Alex and, if you wish, to make a donation to continued research efforts, please visit the Alex Foundation website at [www.alexfoundation.org](http://www.alexfoundation.org).

*(Captive Birds . . . Continued from page 4)*

If the reality is that care can no longer be provided, it is imperative that the bird be placed in a stable, responsible, and loving home. A hasty decision can result in the bird ending up in the wrong hands, or being bounced from home to home, or being neglected, abused or abandoned. If you must find a new home for a bird:

- Do not place an ad in the newspaper or on the Internet. Many unscrupulous people look to buy or adopt free birds so they can turn around and sell them.
- Write an agreement for the adopter to sign. If for any reason they don't live up to their obligation, include a provision that the bird will be returned to you.
- Never place a bird with a breeder or anyone who wants to breed birds.

Ask for the assistance of an avian adoption service, local bird club, or avian rescue organization.

Reprinted Courtesy of the Animal Protection Institute, [www.api4animals.org](http://www.api4animals.org). View the article here: <http://www.api4animals.org/articles.php?p=176&more=1>

### Third Quarter Donations to The Alaska Bird Club. Thank you to everyone!



- ♥ JoAnne Sullivan - Medium size cage
- ♥ Keira Ekstroem - VCA coupon
- ♥ Robert Ekstroem - Creation and donation of the TABC banner
- ♥ Frontier Business Solutions - Printing
- ♥ Ship Creek Storage - Almost 2 weeks of free storage
- ♥ Pet Zoo - A bunch of cages, cage parts and stands, King's cage, \$800 worth of toys for \$66, another King's cage & a play stand.
- ♥ Cindy Welbourne & Jessica Wertsbaugh - For the cage washing event
- ♥ Billie Elmore - Various bird supplies
- ♥ Kurt Brehm - A medium sized cage
- ♥ Tina Burgan - Cages, play stand and bird supplies.
- ♥ Patrons to the Adopt-A-Bird program - \$75
- ♥ Kris Porter - Donation of 'human' food for our tree building event held in preparation for the seminar.
- ♥ SPCA - Donation of cages ([www.alaskaspc.org/](http://www.alaskaspc.org/))
- ♥ Bird TLC - Donations of cages & stand ([www.birdtlc.net/](http://www.birdtlc.net/))
- ♥ Linda Combs - Cash Donation to Adopt-a-Bird Program
- ♥ Burress family - Donation of a cage, stand, toys, food and supplies
- ♥ Duane Sersch, on behalf of Mary Lou - Cages, small bird swings, multiple feed dishes, toys & Manzanita perch

## The Adopt-A-Bird Program

If you would like to assist the Adopt-A-Bird Program or would like more information, please email [akbirdclub@yahoo.com](mailto:akbirdclub@yahoo.com) or call 868-9070 (voicemail)

Birds available for adoption\*\*:

- Sidney – A 20 year old female **Congo African Grey** is looking for a foster family who is willing to adopt her.
- Tikki Bird - **Cockatiel** - Fully flighted male that needs a home where he can get 'out of cage' time.
- Friday is a 7 year old **Umbrella cockatoo**. Only an EXPERIENCED cockatoo enthusiast will be considered.
- Mr & Ms Tiel (**cockatiels**) were found walking along the road near University Lake on May 19, 2007.
- Phoenix & Pedra are beautiful **cockatiels**. The adoption fee for this pair is \$70.00.
- Rocky – A friendly **Cockatiel** approximately 10 years old and lives in Fairbanks.
- Precious and Pooh are a very friendly pair of **Budgies** (parakeets). They have grown up in the company of a finch (separate cage of course) and would like to make sure he gets adopted into the same family.
- Baby is a 15 year old **finch**, who has spent the last 4 or 5 years living with 2 Budgies (parakeets - above)
- Angel is a 12 year old Blue Front **Amazon**. She (that's a guess) talks up a storm. She is pals with Bailey, a Meyers parrot. THEY MUST BE ADOPTED TOGETHER.
- Bailey is an 11 year old **Meyers** parrot. Bailey seems to prefer men. Bailey has been pals with Angel since he was a baby, so they will need to be adopted together.
- Gypsy is a very frightened female Lutino **cockatiel** who has taken to plucking most of her feathers out. She lives with Guy, a normal grey male cockatiel. They are both very frightened of people.

\*\*Please view the full descriptions of these birds on the PetFinders website [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).

See more descriptions and/or pictures of the birds listed at [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com). Our site is AK27 or just select the state AK. If you are interested in adopting a bird, please fill out an adoption application on The Alaska Bird Club's website: <http://www.alaskabirdclub.org/adoptabird.htm>

### A BIG Thank You!

**Sonja Hill** for transporting a bird to Fairbanks.

**Keira & Fred Ekstroem** for responding to a family's emergency call to remove their bird supplies.

The Alaska Bird Club's Recommended Care of Pet Birds booklet is FREE and available for download on our website: [www.alaskabirdclub.org](http://www.alaskabirdclub.org). Follow the link on the left marked Bird Care, click Downloads and then select "The Recommended Care of Pet Birds" in a PDF, HTML, or Word format.

Please feel free to download/print as needed.

The Alaska Bird Club is looking for people who purchased the **Northern Lights Coupon Book**. Specifically the Veterinary discounts:

**VCA Veterinary Discounts**

**VCA Microchipping**

If you do not plan to use these, please consider donating them to the club.

### The Parrot Enrichment Activity Book

Check out The Parrot Enrichment Activity Book. It's 53 pages of information and ideas for enriching your birds lives! The PDF is available on these two websites: <http://www.calgaryparrotclub.ca/files.html> & <http://www.onafricanwings.com/>

It will soon be accessible from The Alaska Bird Club's website too!

### Fundraiser Table

Thanks to all of our donors of the September Fundraiser table!!

**David** - Garden Loon wind ornament

**Susan** - Copper flower pot bug & hand made hot pad set

**Kathleen** - Carrot jar and 3 glass pear dishes

**Diane** - Bear cup and toy

**Jen** - Cribbage game and toys

**PetZoo** - 2 sheer guard covers

**Rayma** - Corks

Bring any donations you may have to the monthly meetings for added fun.





## Classified Ads

There is a \$5.00 monthly fee for both members and non-members. Current members who pay for a classified listing will receive a free identical website listing for free. The monthly fee must be received before the newsletter goes to print.

Send to PO Box 101825, Anchorage, AK 99510.

Classified listings must be no more than 10 total lines.

Email Jennifer Slaughter with your ad [birdabode@gci.net](mailto:birdabode@gci.net).

### From The Canary Loft

Canaries - Beautiful Male & Females American Singers.

Many colors to choose from. Males- \$50- \$75 & Females

\$30- \$40. Cockatiel bonded Pairs and Spares

Mutations (Lutenos, Pieds, and Whitefaces) - \$50 each

2 Hen Princess of Wales Parakeets.

May deliver birds to your area.

Rhea 373-0880 Wasilla [rhea@mtaonline.net](mailto:rhea@mtaonline.net)

### 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](mailto:akpeac@gmail.com).

### Website to consider:

Check out **The Alaska Bird Club's new Online Store!** Now you can order exactly what you want in the size and color that works best for you and it will ship to you're home!

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

### Caution:

Avocado pits *or* flesh, cherry pits or any kind of fruit pit, chocolate, foods containing caffeine, or alcohol. These can kill your parrot!

Also avoid asparagus, eggplant, cabbage, caffeine products, junk food, milk & cream, raw potato, and rhubarb (including the leaves).

**REMEMBER:** Teflon and other non-stick finishes (like a self-cleaning oven, or some irons and hair dryers) are deadly to your bird. Do not take chances. Bird deaths have been recorded when nonstick cookware was used even at low temperatures.

Consider replacing all Teflon & other non-stick items in your home - even if not used around your birds. If it's not good for them is it really good for us ?



## August/September Treasurer's Report

August was a moderate month for Bird Club income. We had a few early reservations for the Seminar. We do have a couple adoptions of birds with vet bills, so monthly payments are coming in on those.

We do not have the final totals for the Seminar as we are waiting for copies from Dr Ford on his expenses. The preliminary numbers look good. Our silent auction alone brought in over \$450.00, the raffle table brought in approximately \$500.00, and the Seminar itself brought in just over \$1,000. Exact numbers will be announced at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Copies of the Monthly Treasurer's reports are always available at the meetings.

Thank you all for your generous support of the Club.

Cindy Welbourne



Treasurer

## Leach Seed & Nuts Orders

The Alaska Bird Club is now placing orders for Hookbill 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 Hookbill 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.

## *The Bird Man* of Anchorage

- hand fed baby birds
- books and advice
- cages, toys, and food
- supplies

Mark Lyke, Owner  
(907) 346-2008  
phone/fax  
[Birdman@gci.net](mailto:Birdman@gci.net)



**Nutrition 1-A IQ\* TEST**  
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**CRAZY CORN**

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**★ Healthiest Brown Rice - only whole grains. Asian Rice Stick Noodles?** YES NO  
**★ 6 Types of Beans plus Soybeans?** YES NO  
**★ 5 Fun Pasta Shapes?** YES NO  
**★ Cook Daily?** \*every 1 - 4 months NO\* YES - most  
**★ Generously Handpacked? Handful of Banana Chips - Scoop of Pistachios, etc.** YES NO  
**★ Dyes?** NO YES - in some  
**★ Ethoxyquin?** NO YES "  
**★ Sulfites?** NO YES - often, i.e. coconut  
**★ Fancy Packaging?** NO YES!

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## Bird News From the Secretary, Susan



Leanna opened the meeting at 7 PM by giving acknowledgements to several members for helping to prepare for the seminar, cage cleaning, to Keira for her efforts ordering the club pins, Cindy for finding the D&O Insurance Agency, and to Kris Porter for donating human food for the cage cleaning event.

Leanna then gave the treasure's report and the Adopt-A-Bird report for Cindy. Amber then gave the report for the Lost/Found-Rescue committee. Jen reported on the Publications committee, followed by Garry's reports for the website and Emergency Preparedness, and Susan's reports for the Membership and Hospitality Committees.

Leanna then presented the Lost/Found-Rescue Policy and Procedure for review and the vote for approval. The Lost/Found-Rescue Policy and Procedure passed unanimously.

Leanna gave the following announcements:

- The seminar registrations are on the back counter.
- October's meeting will be about Holiday Safety and companion birds.
- November will be covering Handling Techniques for cage bound birds, hormonal, and bonded with other birds, and the nominations for the 2008 Board, elections to be held in December.

Member surveys are on the website. Please take the time to fill it out to aid the board identify activities that are important to you the members.

Tonight's topic was an open forum discussion on Screaming and Plucking, the possible causes and possible solutions. Two hand-outs were also given.

The program was followed by the Fundraiser Table.

The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

(How to . . . Continued from page 1)

3. Insert an eye hook at each corner of the top square.
4. Run a length of rope through the eye hooks on each side and knot securely. The length of the rope is based on how far from the ceiling you'd like to hang the cube.
5. Insert a hook into the ceiling. Due to the weight of the medium and large cubes, you will want to insert the hook into a stud to prevent it from pulling out of the sheetrock.
6. Clip the carabineer to the 2 ropes.
7. Hang the cube by the carabineer.

**See website for additional how to photos.**



## THE ALASKA BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM 2007

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: \_\_\_ Sunshine 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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