

Contact Information

We welcome your questions and suggestions...

Officers

President	Phyllis Cotton	(314) 427-3679
Vice President	Janet Draper	(314) 432-3019
Secretary	Dorene Olson	(314) 956-1310
Treasurer	Dave Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Membership	Carole Grommet	(636) 529-0026

Board Members

Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Nancy Marron	(314) 984-9524
Pat Seiler	(636) 462-4732
Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317
Debby Martin	(314) 968-0949
Larry Martin	(314) 968-0949

Committees

Education/Outreach	Dorene Olson	(314) 569-1310
Hospitality	Pat Seiler	(314) 462-4732
Librarian	Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Ways & Means	Larry Martin	(314) 968-0949
Website /Newsletter	Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317

Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 5, Issue 8

November 2005

Presidential Perch

Just a note to remind everyone of the upcoming nominations & club elections. Nominations for Officers & Board members will take place at the November meeting with the elections taking place in December before the Holiday Party. We look forward to your participation in these events.

I recently purchased a copy of Mark Bittner's movie, "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill", which will be donated to the GPC for the library AFTER the showing at our January meeting! For those of you that missed the viewing at the Tivoli Theatre, this is your second chance to see this remarkable documentary! Don't miss this great opportunity! Bring a snack to share & bring a friend!

Janet & I were in Chicago recently for the H. H. Backer Trade Show in Rosemont, IL. While we were there we visited The Refuge for Saving the Wildlife in Northbrook, and presented Rich Weiner with our donation of \$1,000 from the GPC's fair profits, for his rescue facility. Pictures are available on our website. They have approximately 60 large birds available for adoption, 22 of them are Cockatoos alone! It is really quite heart breaking and definitely funds very much needed.

Don't forget about our Holiday Party in December. We will have a gift exchange (\$10 limit), games, fun & food! If you have any suggestions for the party, or games to play, please let us know. Anyone wishing to participate in the gift exchange can bring a wrapped gift worth \$10. Please feel free to bring your favorite dish or snack to share. The dinner is "Pot Luck".

See everyone at the November meeting, I hope!

GPC Supports Rescue

We work all year long to learn more about our birds, to share that knowledge and to help our avian friends any way we can. Like many issues this sometimes comes down to money. Good intentions only go so far.

The All American Hookbill Fair is our large, annual, event for education, public outreach and fundraising. We would like to thank Rich Weiner, Director of *A Refuge for Saving the Wildlife*, for his seminar presentations at the Fair. Rich would not accept a speaker fee for his efforts, but did suggest a donation to the rescue organization he manages. Below is a photo of Phyllis Cotton and Janet Draper, presenting our check for \$1,000 to Rich.



Keep up the good work, Rich! If you would like more information about *A Refuge for Saving the Wildlife*, there is a link to their website on ours... If you would like to help similar organizations, we have a listing of rescue groups on our links page.

Mission Statement

Gateway Parrot Club

A not-for-profit organization

Established in 1988

Dedicated to the following goals:

- Bring people together in a friendly atmosphere in the interest of exchanging information on bird care and breeding.
 - Create interest in bird care and responsible breeding through monthly educational programs and annual bird fairs.
 - Reduce neglect, cruelty and abuse of captive birds through education and public outreach.
 - Educate the public, as well as ourselves, on the ever present danger of extinction in the wild.
-

the approved formats mentioned below. The presentation should indicate clearly what action is proposed and why it is appropriate based on the criteria above. Additionally the presentation should clarify what further discussion may be possible and the timeframe required for a decision. The presentation should be complete and detailed so as to minimize required discussion.

Discussion

Any discussion of the issue should be shared by all Board Members. Should questions be raised by any Board Member, that question and its answer should be communicated to all Board Members before voting.

Voting

At the appropriate time, each Board Member should register their vote, to the General Secretary, using one of the approved communication methods. As soon as voting is complete, the General Secretary will report the results, to all Board Members, indicating each Board Member's vote. Each Board Member will then confirm the correct representation of their vote to the General Secretary and the managing Officer.

Communication

Communication in these matters should be fast, convenient and verifiable. In order of preference, communication may include:

- Email
- Website discussion page
- FAX
- Face to face or telephone
- Postal mail

Reporting

Besides notification stipulated above, in the section titled, Voting, the issue will be recapped in the next regular Board Meeting, becoming part of the proceeding, with an emphasis on explaining the need for acting outside regular meetings. Similarly the issue should be brought to the attention of the membership in the next General Meeting, and in the next issue of the newsletter.

Tidbits

Trey Shaffer

I really enjoyed my first visit to the World Bird Sanctuary and was pleasantly surprised at both the facility and attendance. There is a lot going on out there. More, I'm sure, than I saw in my walk-through. And, by the way, most of it is volunteer-powered, so if you would like to learn more and see it from the inside, give them a call.

We had a semi-productive board meeting as we huddled around our table at the open house. It was good that we were interrupted by visitors interested in the Club. Appearing at public events, like the WBS open house is one way the GPC contacts the public.

These events are traditionally staffed by members, usually board members, and our physical presence usually consists of a table and a collection of the Club's printed materials.

We would like to enhance our presence at these events. There are three areas for attention; and we can use your help. We would like to have a display surface; for lack of a better term, a trade show booth. This would be some form of back drop, either self-supporting or easy to secure. The second area is content. We need something to put on the back drop to clearly identify the Club and offer information about our mission. Also in the content area is the collection of materials/literature we display or hand out. The third area is personnel. We want to make it simple for any Club member to represent the Club, not just the "old timers."

This will involve suggested topics or "talking points" and answers to typical questions asked at these first encounters. Mike Brown was a guinea pig last weekend. We asked him to take notes on his time in the booth. Also on the human side, we would like all this to be easy to handle and transport.

What can you do? Everybody can offer suggestions for content. What did you want to know before you joined the Club? What did you want to know in the first years you cared for birds? What do you want to know now? On the physical side, if you have experience with or access to the backdrop and/or the graphics that will probably go on it, let us know.

Mark Bittner Update

Two pieces of information about Mark's activities...

First, the movie, *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*, is now available on DVD, and probably VHS. The Club has ordered a copy, and it will be shown at the January meeting. After that it will be available from the library for borrowing. If you would like your own copy, it is available at the usual, competitive outlets or directly from the publisher, Pelican Media. From Pelicans website, you can also order signed posters and T-Shirts.

www.pelicanmedia.org/store.htm

Second, Mark is still fighting the good fight for the birds. Taking a page from Gandhi, Mark put himself between some trees, on Telegraph Hill, and the workmen about to cut them down. Apparently there were three trees targeted for removal. One was cut down. Mark stepped in to protect the two remaining. The birds were scared away for a while but returned. The future prospects for the other trees is unclear. The following link will take you to a Google search of available stories about Mark, where you should find the latest about Mark, the book, the movie, and the trees...

http://news.google.com/news?num=10&hl=en&ie=ISO-8859-1&lr=&as_ft=i&as_filetype=&as_qdr=all&as_dt=i&as_sitesearch=&tab=wn&q=%22Mark+Bittner%22&scoring=d

Proposed Bylaws Change

The following addition to our bylaws will be proposed for a vote at the November meeting...

Actions Outside Meetings

The Club may, from time to time have need of acting between regularly scheduled meetings. While these occasions are rare, an established process should govern decisions regarding such actions. For transparency, this procedure clarifies communication protocols and reporting of such decisions.

Roles

Any member may raise an issue by contacting a Board Member or Officer. Once raised, the issue should be brought to the attention of an Officer, preferably the President, in the following order:

- President
- Vice President
- General Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Secretary

That Officer will then be responsible for managing activities surrounding the issue.

The General Secretary will be responsible for receiving, counting and reporting votes on the matter.

Appropriate Actions

The issue should be clearly defined. The proposed decision should be within the authority of the Board. There should be a clear reason the action is required prior to the next regular Board meeting. The action should not be controversial or require a special meeting for clarification or discussion.

Announcement

The Officer managing the issue will present the issue, in a uniform manner, to all Board Members. This presentation should be through one of

veloped. Sigh!! So much for good manners. To reduce tension, we added a basket which Mozart uses for a surreptitious snack.

Each day the “fids” are placed on the tree for longer and longer periods. When they’ve shared with no squabbles we praise and make over them and reward them with head scratches. Each day food is placed on the tray and when they’ve eaten for a little with no quarreling lots of praise is forthcoming. The Manzanita Tree is really a clever way to maximize limited space. New toys can be rotated in, and lots of things to shred can be hung from the branches and everybody learns to share. When Mozart seems to be a little bored, I simply move the tree to a different spot (it’s on wheels) and now there are new things to look at!

Other ways I can keep Mozart entertained on the Manzanita Tree is to encourage him to forage. For instance place a treat in a paper cup, paper towel, empty envelope or other nontoxic item and twist or crush it closed. Then punch a hole in it and hang it from the tree. Another idea is to do the same thing using a flour tortilla.

Or I could just cover his little treat dish with a paper towel to make him fling it off to get his treat. When he’s figured that out, I could tape the paper towel to the edge of the bowl so he would have to tear it off to get to the treat.

All in all Mom’s birthday present was a huge success. Alpha Bird only hopes the next birthday wish won’t be quite so expensive!

Calendar of Events

November 20	Regular meeting First Aid – Avian Flu Nominations for office
December 18	Holiday Party Elections for office
January 15	Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill
February 19	Regular meeting

It’s a long URL. If you are reading this online, you can open the page by Ctrl-Clicking on the link, or highlighting it, copying it and pasting it into your browser’s address window.

Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better

Debby Martin, Mozart & Ginger

Mozart and Ginger cockatiels are frequently in competition. Mozart was first to the flock and Ginger (according to Mozart, a lame second) joined us several years later. Ginger loves Alpha Bird, Larry, and Mozart loves Beta Bird, Debby, so all is well... usually. They view each other with mutual disdain. However, recently as they juggle for position on their new Manzanita Tree, wing flapping is becoming more frequent and prolonged. It’s interesting to watch as each rises to tippy toes and flaps like mad. I know they are trying to “psych” each other out, but wing flapping is very good aerobic exercise for them – improves muscle tone and cardiovascular condition. Poor cardiovascular condition is a factor in foot and toe disorders.

Encourage your bird to flap its wings as much as possible. Make sure there is enough room in their cage to spread its wings without banging the sides of the cage. Arrange toys to encourage exploration and climbing. Dangle rawhide with tied treats or cheerios from the top of the cage to encourage your bird to cling and nibble. Tie fruit or cheerios to the ends of perches and branches to encourage exploration. Swinging from a toy will often tempt birds to flap their wings. Mozart, who has a grip of iron, sits on my hand each day and we play “airplane,” flying around the room swooping and diving – he loves it and flaps for all he’s worth. Ginger doesn’t have a strong grip so we haven’t tried it yet. If you’re not sure your bird can manage “airplane,” try any activity over the bed or other soft surface so no accident can occur.

Alpha and Beta Bird watch carefully to make sure “competition” doesn’t escalate to “altercation.” The shared Manzanita Tree is very large so each bird can carve out his own space and not feel crowded. They are never left together unsupervised. We make sure each one gets his own “one on one” time each day so they can feel special. We never let them climb on each other’s cage – a sure path to missing toes! And we try and watch body language to warn of bad moods; hissing, flared tail etc. Slowly, but surely,

they are learning to share the space. Now, if they can just learn to share alpha and beta birds' shoulders!

Rainbow Bridge

Author unknown

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When a bird dies that has been especially close to someone here, that bird goes to the Rainbow Bridge. At the Rainbow Bridge, there are meadows, hills, and beautiful trees of all kinds where all our special friends can fly and climb, hang and flap, hop and run, jump and play, squawk and squeal and sing together.

There is plenty of good food, including grapes and peanuts, ice cream and cheese, spaghetti and especially lots of pizza. There is crystal clear water in brooks and springs are filled with water as well as every kind of delicious fresh fruit juice.

One warm spring even runs full of the coffee they can now drink their fill of without hearing a single no-no. There is a lot of glorious sunshine and sweet warm rain when they want it and our friends are warm and comfortable and totally at peace.

All the birds that had been ill or old are restored to health and vigor and to their natural incredible beauty. Their feathers shine, their wing feathers are whole and their eyes gleam once again with vitality. Those who were hurt, maimed, ignored, or broken-hearted are made whole again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days gone by.

The birds are happy and content, except for one small thing: they each miss someone very special to them who had to be left behind when the bird returned home. Still they all fly and play happily and safely and noisily together: even the grouchiest greys and orneriest senegal, the tiniest finches and the grandest macaws

But the day comes for each bird when he suddenly stops and looks far into the distance. His body freezes and his bright eyes are intent as he watches and listens in silence. Suddenly he begins to fly from the group, soaring over the green grass, his wings flapping harder and harder!

You have been spotted - and he shrieks to you and then calls your name and his own and cries again and again, as he rushes to-

our certificates for completing the class, they gave me three extra ones made out with the baby Senegals' names. My babies were the first birds ever to graduate from United's travel school!

One of the babies went to live with a good friend of mine, but I kept the two oldest. The boy was named Apollo, after United's reservation service, and the girl was named Covia, after the company that runs the reservation service. It always hurts to lose a sweet little pet bird, but Covia was special. I'll miss her.

The Manzanita Tree Sharing Space

Debby Martin

Ginger and Mozart knew the exact present Mom should have for her birthday – a beautiful Manzanita Tree filled with lots of toys, ladders, baskets, and rope perches – a fantasy land for many happy hours. Careful coordination was required with Larry, Alpha Bird, for finding the perfect tree at the Bird Fair. Mozart could just see himself perched on the tree's highest point – stately – proud – in beautiful feather – and ALONE with no pesky girl birds about. Ginger could just see herself serenely snacking on the food tray, unhurried, un-hassled, with time for a quick preen and ALONE with no grumpy hyper males around.

They were in luck – Mom thought it sounded like a great present – I've always wanted a Manzanita Tree! It is very nice and Roxanne of Roxanne's Exotic Birds made all the special adjustments Ginger and Mozart ordered. But Ginger and Mozart forgot one thing: Mom and Alpha Bird would insist everyone share the tree! Oops! Mozart, being the oldest, was introduced to the tree first. He found the branches a little slick at first but was soon scooting up and down the ladders and finding the perfect high perch. Ginger was next – this was tricky. We placed Ginger a little lower than Mozart, but she quickly overruled that and moved up to an equal position on the sisal rope – Mozart ignored this blatant power move.

Now for the feeding tray sharing venture. Mom carefully divided the food into two absolutely equal portions and placed it at opposite ends of the feeding tray. For about two minutes all was fine and then much hissing, fluffing, displaying and beak snapping de-

A Senegal With A Diploma

Cliff Patterson

It is with great sadness that I report the passing over the rainbow bridge of the first little baby Senegal that I ever raised. Covia was a sweet, loving little bird, and she will be missed greatly.

I still remember the anxiety I felt as I pulled my first clutch of fuzzy little baby Senegals from the nestbox for handfeeding. I had hand-fed cockatiels before, but never a real parrot. It was an exciting summer for me, because in addition to the first clutch of baby quakers, I had just fulfilled a lifelong dream and opened a travel agency.

Then I got a letter from United Airlines telling me that I had been accepted for a travel agent's class, and I was to report next week! What would I do with my babies? They couldn't go all day without their lunch feeding, and it was too far to make it back home during my lunch hour.

I figured out a plan. I got a camcorder case and one of those small plastic aquariums with a lid with a small light in it. I put the aquarium in the case, lined it with a soft t-shirt, and zipped it almost shut. I quietly carried it with me like a brief case, and put it under my desk at United and plugged it in so the light would keep them warm. Then during the lunch break, I would go into the men's room, plug in a small water heating cup, feed the babies, wash up, and be sitting innocently at my desk when class resumed. I thought I was so clever, solving the problem like that.

Things never go as you plan, of course. One day the second week I was horrified to hear a baby begin to make the begging noise. I unplugged the light to quiet her, but she only got louder. Then they all chimed in! All heads in the room turned towards me, and the teacher began approaching me. Busted!

The teacher asked me what that noise was, and I told her the truth. I even showed her a baby as I began picking up my things to leave. Surprise, surprise! She thought he was the cutest little thing she had ever seen, and insisted that from now on I feed the babies right in class during lunch so everybody could watch. Here I expected to be kicked out, but instead became the most popular person in class.

The biggest surprise came on the last day of class, however. As the teacher and an official from United came around handing us

wards you. When you and your bird finally meet, you cling to each other in joyous reunion, knowing you will never be parted again.

Your face and your fingers and even your toes are covered with beak nibbles and soft ecstatic kisses. Your hair is preened by that special beak, and his head bends under your fingers to invite your touch. Your hands again find their way under beloved wings, to caress the downy softness beneath.

You look once more into the trusting eyes of your companion, so long from your physical life on earth but never for an instant absent from your heart. Your tears of joy are gently brushed away by those beloved wings and feeling immersed once more in total contentment and love, you and your beloved companion cross the Rainbow Bridge together.

Thanksgiving Dinner... with Your Macaw

Editor's note: I'm usually very careful to document material's source and secure permission to publish. In this case, my bad, I forgot who sent this in. Please remind me and I will credit you next month...

Menu

- Turkey
- Stuffing
- Corn Pudding
- Green Beans
- Sweet Potatoes
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Cranberry Sauce
- Hot Rolls
- Relish Tray
- Pumpkin Pie w/Whipped Cream
- Coffee

Get up early in the morning and have a cup of coffee. It's going to be a long day so place your Macaw on a perch nearby to keep you company while you prepare the meal.

Remove Macaw from the kitchen counter and back to the perch. Prepare stuffing. Remove Macaw from the edge of the stuffing bowl. Stuff turkey and place it in the roasting pan. Remove Macaw from the edge of the pan. Have another cup of coffee to steady your nerves.

Remove Macaw's head from the turkey cavity and re-stuff the voided area. Prepare relish tray; remember to make twice as much so that you'll have a regular size serving after the Macaw has eaten his fill.

Remove Macaw from the kitchen counter. Prepare cranberry sauce; discard berries accidentally flung to the floor. Peel potatoes. Remove Macaw from the edge of the potato bowl. Arrange sweet potatoes in a pan and cover with brown sugar and mini marshmallows. Remove Macaw from the edge of the pan and replace missing marshmallows.

Brew another pot of coffee. While it is brewing, clean up torn filter and old grounds from around the pot. Pry coffee bean from Macaw's beak. Have another cup of coffee and remove Macaw from the kitchen counter.

When it is time to serve the meal, place the roasted turkey on a large platter, cover beak marks with strategically placed sprigs of parsley. Put mashed potatoes into serving bowl; re-whip at last minute to conceal bite marks and talon prints. Place pan of sweet potatoes on sideboard; forget the presentation as there is no way to hide the areas missing marshmallows. Put the rolls into a decorative basket. Remove Macaw from the side of basket along with beaked rolls; serve what's left.

Set a stick of butter on the counter to soften -- think better of it and return butter to the refrigerator. Wipe down counter to remove mashed-potato toe tracks. Remove Macaw from the kitchen counter and cut the pie into serving slices. Wipe whipped cream off Macaw's beak and place large dollops of remaining cream on pie slices. Whole slices are then served to guests, beaked-out slices reserved for host & hostess. Place Macaw inside cage and lock the door. Sit down to a nice, relaxing dinner with your family... accompanied by plaintive cries of "Want dinner!" from the other room.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

The Stolen Ones

Debby Martin

Mozart and Ginger and I were reading the "Front Perch," which is a newsletter from *The Gabriel Foundation* and Mozart pointed out something that might be of interest to the Club members. In the United States, birds cannot be imported thus saving many wild parrots from being poached. I thought that was the law in European countries also. But apparently not (Mozart says I am hopelessly naïve – he's right I guess). According to the article "If Only They Could Talk" by Tony Juniper parrots are being trapped, maimed and die in horrendous numbers. The export market methods of capture and transit result in the death of between 40 to 70 percent of all parrots captured *before they've even left their home country* – and more die during international shipment. The article listed some very specific things you can do to help stop this. You can find the full article at www.thegabrielfoundation.org.

Write to British Prime Minister, Tony Blair (10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA) and encourage him to follow up on the Labor Party's pledges to end wild bird imports.

Support the campaign to end Europe's unsustainable harvest of wild birds by wearing the new "TradeBand" wristband. You can find this at the Gabriel site (link on our website.) I hope to purchase some of them to put on the raffle table at our club meetings.

Sign the petition to end the trade in wild birds at www.worldparrottrust.org/trade/tradeform.htm

Mozart and Ginger send their thanks for anything you can do to help these poor parrots whose lives and health are being stolen from them.