

Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 7, Issue 7

July 2007

Greetings from the Presidential Perch!

Summer is in full swing and July is upon us. I hope everyone had a fun and safe Fourth of July celebrating Independence Day.

I would like to thank everyone for showing up for the Toy Making Party. A total of 60 toys were made for this year's Fair. Thank you again for making it a success. I also would like to thank Dawn Breer for her help and assistance in making the toys.

I hope everyone is getting excited about our upcoming Fair at the end of August. We are still seeking volunteers. You may be called or emailed within the next few weeks to volunteer for a small block of time to help setup for the Fair or to help out during the Fair. Any time frame that you can volunteer will be greatly appreciated.

The July meeting will be the last meeting before the Fair, so be sure to attend. We still have important business to conduct as well as finalizing our plans for the Fair.

Dr. Jonathan Reyman is scheduled to be our guest speaker for our next meeting's Educational Program. You will want to come and hear him talk about the Feather Distribution Project, as well as his entertaining Avian Folktales.

See you at the Meeting. ---- Dave

Tidbits

Trey Shaffer

Donations – The June meeting was poorly attended. Maybe it was the fact it was a different week, maybe the weather. Whatever... Anyway, we were a couple people short of a quorum for official business. Therefore, voting for our donations will occur at the July meeting. This has been discussed in past newsletters, so no more here. The grant nominee information appears later in the newsletter.

The July meeting should be very interesting. Jonathan Reyman will be our guest. Dr. Reyman is an Anthropologist at the Illinois State Museum. I don't know what his "day job" really consists of, but he is a bird person. He has operated the Feather Distribution Project for over twenty years. You will find his discussion fascinating, how he collects/receives feathers from a variety of sources, like our birds, and gives, as in free, them to Native Americans of the Southwest. By providing feathers for traditional costumes and rituals, from domestic sources, Jonathan has helped reduce pressure on birds in the wild being channeled through a black market. Expect to hear interesting information about Indian traditions and costumes. Dr. Reyman is also interested in South American folklore involving birds and bird figures. It's probably part of that whole Anthropologist thing.

Barbara Heidenreich coming up – Be there, Sunday July 29, at the Humane Society of Missouri's auditorium at 6:00 PM. Barbara Heidenreich will talk about Positive Reinforcement in training animals. Barbara will make a presentation and answer questions. Admission will be \$20. Please plan to attend, and spread the word. This is not really bird-specific, though I believe Barb will use bird examples, so if you know someone interested in training any animal, dogs, horses, cats, pigs, husbands, wives... Let them know. OK, maybe not cats.

Potential new meeting day – Forget about it. Last month we discussed the possibility of moving to the second Sunday as a regular meeting day. As it turns out, that won't work with the Kirkwood Community Center resource availability. So we will stay with the, now traditional, third Sunday, with a few exceptions.

Fair coming – Next month. This issue has two articles from Yvonne Patterson, our featured celebrity. We **need volunteers** for the Fair.

Grant Nominees

Voting has been deferred until the July, 15. Here, for review, candidates are presented here, and on the website, in the order received.

Feather Distribution Project

The Project, operated for more than twenty years by Jonathan Reyman, collects feathers from a number of sources and redistributes them to Native Americans in the Southwest for use in religious ceremonies and traditional clothing and artifacts. Dr. Reyman has been our guest several times to explain the positive impact the simple act of saving our birds' feathers can have on Native Americans as well as reducing the incentive to capture wild birds just to harvest their feathers. Feathers are provided free of charge. Our donation will help offset operating expenses such as shipping costs.

World Bird Sanctuary

Our mission is to preserve earth's biological diversity and secure the future of threatened bird species in their natural environments. We fulfill that mission through education, captive breeding, field studies and rehabilitation. We maintain a parrot population as well as raptors, and have an Adoption Program, where GPC might adopt several parrots, thereby focusing a donation.

Association of Avian Veterinarians Research

[AAV](#) is the American branch of an international organization devoted to, "Advancing and Promoting Avian Medicine and Stewardship." We would donate to their Research Fund. The AAV then allocates funds to individual projects as they see fit. For a list of projects they have funded since 1982, [follow this link](#).

Perfectly Precious Rescue & Adoption

An all volunteer rescue group established in 2002 in the St. Louis area to re-home all avian species, everything from Budgies to Macaws. Foster homes take in surrendered birds until a "forever" home can be located. Many arrivals are long overdue for vet checkups. This cost is often beyond our means. We hope the GPC will consider our group for a grant.

PEAR Tree Sanctuary

PEAR TREE Avian Sanctuary provides placement for unwanted psittacines. We rescue, rehabilitate, and adopt out relinquished parrots. In extreme cases we offer a permanent home. PEAR TREE offers parrot owners education and assistance with basic bird care, nutrition, and behavior issues.

HAPPE Parrots

Helping to adopt and place parrots everywhere (HAPPE) is in the process of becoming a non-profit incorporated parrot rescue. Our mission is to network with existing licensed rescues and foster homes to facilitate re-homing parrots throughout the United States. Our board is comprised of members of existing

rescues. Funds would be used for medical, food, and transportation expenses which are currently covered by out of pocket donations from volunteers.

Avian Health Network

Dr. Branson Ritchie, and associates at the University of Georgia, Emerging Diseases Research Group, research the cause and treatment of disease in companion birds, primarily Proventricular Dilation Disease, PDD. [Additional information on their website...](#)

Pekin Duck Fund

The Pekin Duck Fund was established to help aid and rescue domestic ducks, geese and swans, is an all volunteer group of dedicated individuals. Typically rescues occur at area parks and ponds. People buy babies and then release them to "the wild" after they grow out of their baby cuteness. [Additional information...](#)

Yvonne in Peru

Yvonne Patterson



Note: Look forward to seeing Yvonne and her birds at the Fair next month. Here is a travelogue on her recent trip to South America. There is a link, on the front page or our website, to this article, as Yvonne laid it out, on a larger page. It has a few more photos than included here, and they are in color.

In November/December 2006, I visited Bolivia and Peru. Because we are presenting bird shows at your bird fair (your club has the BEST fairs in the Midwest) thought you'd like to enjoy some photos.

Peru belongs to a group of 12 countries called "mega diverse" because all of them contain between 60-70% of all the biological diversity of our planet. And that is a good reason to travel and discover the secrets of nature hidden in the vast and plentiful rainforest, the freezing but beautiful Andean highlands, the dry but fertile coast belt; and the richest sea of the world, the Peruvian Sea region.



(Humboldt penguins at Islas Ballestas; these penguins breed in burrows they dig themselves in guano deposits)

Some naturalists state that a trip from the shore of the Peruvian sea to the highlands and then to the rainforest is similar to a journey from the equatorial line to the poles, going by all the natural regions of the Earth.

This is true, because Peru has 84 of 104 zones of life available in our planet (Holdridge) and 28 kinds of climate from a total of 32 (Thornwaite) in the Earth!



Andes from plane



wax-tailed leafhopper



green aracari chick

This explosion of life is protected in Peru by a system of more than 40 national parks and reserves that covers only 10% of Peru's area. Mammals, birds, reptiles, fishes and insects live in varied ecosystems with different weather conditions. Peru is considered the most diverse country for birds with more than 1700 species in the Amazon area alone. This country also owns the record of having the 3rd greatest mammal diversity and the 5th greatest plant diversity in the world. As it is known, a great part of the raw material for medicine is taken from the Peruvian tropical forests.



Andean people are very colorful and they weave their own clothes from alpaca or llama wool. They use plant parts and other substances, as our native Indians did, to create the colorful dyes for clothing.

This praying mantis is one of my favorite insects shot with a Nikor macro lens. Being bird people you will appreciate this fact: Brazil nuts (macaw favorites) are spread mostly by a small mammal called the agouti. Upper

right (see web) shows a Brazil nut pod probably opened by a macaw or agouti; this pod weighed 5-6 pounds. There are several nuts inside the pod which grow in sections. When these have dropped from trees, men have been killed by it hitting their head. On the topic of trees, I heard 3 trees fall. I can tell you the answer to 'if a tree falls in the forest does anybody hear it' because the first time I heard one fall it was like a VERY big gun being shot. The next 2 times I heard a loud CRACK as the trunk broke, then could hear it crashing down on other trees.



The awesome birdlife (woodcreeper on web) and interesting facts that accommodate them are fun to learn about; i.e. did you know that wasps have symbiosis with some birds? For instance, the oropendolas and caciques both have oriole-shaped nests and their main predators are snakes and monkeys. Wasps will build their nests next to one of these nests and guard it from the predators, so they can have the egg shells after the chicks hatch. The wasps never bother the birds nor do birds bother them. Another interesting fact is that if a primate is threatening the nests (one oropendola male services 15 females so there will be several nests in the colony; and the caciques are colony nesters with many nests in a tree) the oropendolas will fly off a distance and imitate the distress call of a juvenile monkey, which send the predators back in the direction they came.

Photos on web: yellow-rumped cacique; russet-backed oropendola; Patagonian conuresza1

What I failed to mention, is something I've been hearing about wild caught Patagonian conures in Argentina, which I was told is true. The locals capture them and bleach their feathers yellow using hydrogen peroxide then sell the birds to unsuspecting buyers as yellow macaws. I'm certain the term 'macaws' was improperly used and instead they are more likely sold as golden conures. If you know your conure species, there is no confusing them as the body type is much different; the Patagonian's are long and sleek-bodied being the largest of conures, and the golden's are smaller and are more stout. As if bleaching these wonderful birds' feathers wasn't bad enough (thoughts of peroxide in these birds' eyes are getting to me) the birds die within 21 days after the peroxide kills their liver.

Whitewater rafting (Class IV & V) on Urumba River was quite exciting ~ this river runs south to north all the way to Machu Picchu. Fortunately it was the beginning of the rainy season so the rapids weren't as bad as they surely are now that the rainy season has set in. Apparently many people lose their lives on that river each year. The energy levels of the Inca ruins in Peru are just phenomenal. That evening, after being on the river that day, left me feeling better than I have felt in years... It was super energizing.

Note: (Picture on web, white water river scene) Graphic to left shows eucalyptus trees on riverbank, which are native to Australia. Peru imports fast-growing eucalyptus that depletes nitrogen from soil to support gold mine structures and other building materials.

Peruvian families all raise their own guinea pigs and they considered a delicacy in Peru. The shaman also uses the guinea pigs in their healing sick people. With a shortage of doctors and medi-

cines Peruvian people still use ancient healing properties of plants, trees and other substances. Since I used to make my living growing flowers for others, learning about these botanical cures was extremely fascinating.

Please check out some older photographs taken in the tropics on the website's "Photojournalism" page by visiting <http://www.wings-of-love.com>.

Dinosaur Bone

**68-MILLION YEAR OLD DINOSAUR DRUMSTICK
REVEALS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP TO BIRDS**

Yvonne Patterson



An April 13, 2007 USA Today report by Dan Vergano states that a recent discovery of traces of flesh in a Tyrannosaurus Rex bone ties the King of the Dinosaurs to modern-day species and, scientists say, heralds a "milestone" shift in paleontology.



Geneticist John Asara, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, co-leader of a team reporting on the finding preserved inside this dinosaur bone states, "Based on the small sample we've recovered, chickens may be the closest relatives (to T. Rex)", followed by frogs and newts.

The team unearthed a T. Rex buried underneath 60 feet of cliffside rock in Hell Creek, Montana. Because the dinosaur was entombed in sandstone, which prevented contamination, the scientists extracted a few grams of material from its thick thighbone, and forwarded the bone powder to Asara's lab. There it was ground down to about a billionth of a gram of material, suitable for inspection with a high-tech mass spectrometer generally used to precisely diagnose cancer genes inside tumors.

The team suspects the dry sandstone, combined with the thickness of the T. Rex bone, allowed some faint measure of preserva-

tion, only about 1% of the purified sample's collagen, the ribbon like tissue found in ligaments, tendons and bone lining inside the thighbone.

Other Ancient Avian Findings from Mongolia

Two new raptor species were recently unearthed in Mongolia, including one which ranks among the smallest non-avian dinosaurs ever discovered. The new raptor species were detailed in recent issues of American Museum Novitates, an American Museum of Natural History in New York (AMNH) science publication.

One of the raptors, Tsaagan mangas, was slightly larger than a turkey and its skull is one of the best preserved Dromaeosaurid skulls ever found. Dromaeosaurs were agile, bipedal dinosaurs that lived in Asia and the Americas during the Cretaceous period. They were closely related to birds and many of them are even known to have had feathers.

Note from Yvonne: As I've researched the Cretaceous period (\pm 80 million years ago), I read that the climate was very warm and there was no ice at the poles. Sea level was much higher than today and large areas of the continental crust were covered with shallow seas. Sediment cores show that tropical sea surface temperatures may have been 53° warmer than at present, while deep ocean temperatures were as much as 68° higher than today's.

The skull of Tsaagan has expanded cheek bones and slight differences, in the shape and positioning of skull cavities, that set it apart from all known Dromaeosaurs, said Alan Turner, a paleontologist at the AMNH who described both new species.

Tsaagan, whose name means "white monster," lived about 80 million years ago, during the latter part of the Cretaceous era. It lived about 20 million years before Tsaagan and was probably much smaller, about the size of a small raven. It closely resembled another microraptor, a feathered bird-like dinosaur discovered in China; scientists think it coasted between trees on two sets of wings.

Recipe of the Month Bean, Rice, Veggie Mix

Posted by: Karen - zachariasenk@ripon.edu

This mix is basically just a mixture of various grains, beans, and vegetables. It may seem complicated, but it really isn't. You can make up a big batch and freeze it into serving-sized pieces. It is very nutritious. The squash seems to be the favorite part and also probably the most nutritious.

- 2/3 cup mixed dried beans (the kind sold for bean soup)
- 1/4 cup birdseed
- 1/4 cup cracked corn
- 1 very large acorn or butternut squash (about 3 cups cubed)
- 1 small apple
- 2/3 cup cooked pasta
- 2-3 large leaves collard greens
- 1/8 cup almonds
- 1/8 cup alfalfa pellets
- 1/3 cup grapes, peaches, or other fruit
- 1 or 2 tbss chili powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 3 tbs parmesan cheese
- 1 packed cup cooked rice
- 1 package frozen green peas
- fruit juice

Soak the beans, cracked corn, and seed in a bowl of water overnight. Then boil the beans, seed, and corn for 20 minutes or so, until cooked. If you're using the microwave, make sure to use plenty of water. They absorb a lot while cooking.

Remove the core and seeds of the apple and cut into a few pieces. Cut the squash into cubes. Squash seeds do not need to be removed, they are very nutritious. Boil the apple and squash for 10 to 15 minutes or until very soft and mushy. The squash skins can be pulled off and discarded.

Combine beans, corn, seeds, squash pulp and seeds, apple, pasta, collard greens, almonds, alfalfa pellets, fruit, chili powder, cinnamon, and cheese in a food processor. This may overflow the food processor and might need to be done half at a time. Process until ingredients are well-mixed and chopped up a little.

Stir in cooked rice and thawed peas. Add fruit juice to achieve a nice consistency. Freeze into serving sized pieces. Makes about 60 ice-cube sized pieces (a good meal size for cockatiels, quakers, small conures, etc).

Recipe from the [Birds n Ways website](http://www.birdsnways.com), www.birdsnways.com

Book Picks of the Month

Christine Kinkade

I have decided that there will be no Library Picks for the months of July, August, and September because, after the July meeting, we won't be meeting again at the Kirkwood Community Center until October. August is our GPC Bird Fair, and in September we will be meeting at the World Bird Sanctuary. Library Picks will resume in October.

If you have a book that needs to be returned to the Library, please return it at the July meeting.

A complete listing of the GPC library is available on the GPC website www.GatewayParrotClub.org. If you wish to check out any of these, or any of our books, please contact me prior to the next GPC meeting by phone (636) 343-8097, or email at Librarian@GatewayParrotClub.org, and I will bring them to the meeting.

All books checked out should be returned at the following GPC meeting. If that is not possible, please return the books by mail to Christine Kinkade, 2412 Angela Dr., High Ridge, MO. 63049-2848.

Happy reading!

Christine

Critically Endangered Puerto Rican Amazon Parrot: A Veterinary Overview

Antonio Rivera, DVM, Fernando Nunez-Garcia, MS; Ja-fet Velez, MS; Wilfredo Abreu, FT; Pablo Torres, MS; Ricardo Valentin, MS; Sandra Viscal, DVM

The Puerto Rican Amazon (Amazona Vittata), a 30-33 cm, 250-300 gram red-fronted, green parrot with white eye rings, is the last endemic psittacine that inhabits the Caribbean National Forest (CNF) known as El Yunque on the island of Puerto Rico. There were an estimated 2,000 individuals in 1930. By 1967 only 24 birds remained in the wild. In 1975, only 13 birds were in the Luquillo Mountains. Extinction was eminent, and a captive breeding program was instituted. The first captive bird was raised in 1979.

Thanks to an aggressive protective program, there has been a decline in habitat loss, nest robbing, hunting.

Currently, in the Luquillo Mountains within the Caribbean National Forest only one wild flock of approximately 40 individuals exists. Two captive populations are held in two separate aviaries, one group at the CNF managed by the USFWS and the other at Rio Abajo State Forest in Utuado. A second flock of captive-raised Puerto Rican Amazons is to be released in 2006 in the Karst region in the mountains of Utuado at Rio Abajo.

During the last 36 years, these efforts have concentrated on gaining a better understanding of the breeding biology and requirements of this species as well as on the management of the habitat, the wild population, and the establishment and management of a captive population.

Routine veterinary input at both facilities was achieved through frequent aviary visits to both aviaries. Improvements to the aviary hospital are constantly done, with the purpose of providing the birds better medical care. Time is spent with aviary personnel, aviculturist and field biologist.

This article from the AAV archive, without their usual disclaimers

2007 Meeting Schedule

Dorene Olson is our Education and Program chair. She is looking for our input on suggestions for topics and speakers. Please let Dorene, or any Board member what interests you and what you think will make the meetings more interesting.

Date	Topic
July 15	Feather Distribution Project, Avian folktales
July 29	Barbara Heidenreich – Special Event At Humane Society
August 25-26	Annual Fair
September 16	Special program at WBS!
October 21	TBA
November 18	TBA – Nominations for offices
December 16	Elections – Holiday party

Contact Information

We welcome your comments and suggestions...

Officers			
	President	Dave Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
	Vice President	Phyllis Cotton	(314) 427-3679
	Secretary	Dorene Olson	(314) 956-1310
	Treasurer	Nancy Marron	(314) 984-9524
	Membership	Jennifer Cira	(636) 527-5889
Board Members			
		Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
		Carole Grommet	(636) 529-0026
		Mandy Baumgartner	(314) 842-4191
		Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317
		Janet Draper	(314) 432-3019
		Niki Shaffer	(314) 432-4890
Committees			
	Educa- tion/Outreach	Dorene Olson	(314) 956-1310
	Hospitality	Pat Seiler	(636) 462-4732
	Librarian	Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
	Ways & Means	Suzanne Dohack	(636) 734-4527
	Website /Newsletter	Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317