

Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 9, Issue 1

January 2009

Greetings From The Presidential Perch!

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. I wish everyone a Happy New Year. Our December Holiday Party turned out very well, and I think that we all had a good time. I would like to thank Christine and everyone who brought food and snacks for the party. It was all so good! I would like to thank Niki Shaffer for organizing, preparing, and conducting the games. And, I would like to thank Dawn Breer for providing her bird toys for the game prizes and holiday gifts.

The elections have taken place, and the results are in. Congratulations go to Phyllis Cotton and Trey Shaffer as they were re-elected to their offices of Vice President and Board of Directors, respectively. Congratulations also go to Pat Seiler and Jen Moore as new members to our Board of Directors. Jen is new to our Board of Directors, and I hope she will find it exciting and fulfilling. Pat has been on the Board before and I look forward to having her on the Board again.

I would like to thank Janet Draper and Suzanne Dohack for their time and valuable help as Board members. Janet has been a Board member for the past two years. She has also held the position of Board member in prior years, as well as the position of Membership Secretary and Vice President. Suzanne filled in as a Board member when the previous Board member resigned. She is also our current Ways and Means Committee person who also does the Ta-

ble Raffle. Janet and Suzanne have been good assets to the club and I'm sure that they will continue to be so.

I also want to thank all of you for electing me as your president for another two years. With the help of our current Officers and Board members, as well as the help from each one of you, I believe that the GPC can move in a forward direction to further the goals of our mission in the community.

I encourage everyone, that is able, to make the effort to attend the meetings and get involved. Your ideas and knowledge are needed to help move this club forward. We welcome all new members and hope to see you at the meetings as well. Our meetings provide an excellent time for club members to get to know each other and share their ideas, stories, and knowledge about their birds. Bring a friend! And, as always, birds are welcome to attend any of the meetings!

As we begin the New Year, we also begin the planning of our August Bird Fair. This year our Fair will be at the Dist. 9 Machinists' Hall on St. Charles Rock Rd. off of I-70. The fair dates are Sat. & Sun., Aug 29 & 30, 2009. Fri., Aug 28 will be the setup day.

Let's all help out where we can. We welcome any suggestions and new ideas. Please, give us your input. The Fair is a great way to promote the GPC Mission to bring together and educate the public about bird care, responsible breeding, and reducing bird neglect and abuse.

See you at the meetings! Dave

(Bring a friend)

Trey Shaffer

Eagle Watching – Mark your calendars for February 8! Details are being finalized. We will meet at the Kirkwood Community Center at 8:00 AM, consolidate vehicles and head to the Great Riverlands Area and Price lock and dam for eagle watching. We will then head up the River Road and take the Brussels Ferry across to Calhoun County for lunch at Wittmond's Hotel. After lunch, we head back to the ferry and head home with a stop at the Crocker and Springer Pottery shop/studio.

Dress in layers, appropriate for the weather. Bring binoculars and bird books. Lunch will cost about \$12 and an optional tour at the pottery studio, \$5. Donna Mount is coordinating. Please RSVP to her at (636) 386-5656. We may coordinate multiple starting car-pool points based on attendance.

Membership Renewals – This is the mild level of nagging that goes with January. Most of you are no longer officially members. Check the cover of this newsletter. Under the table of contents is the line that tells you when your membership expires. If it doesn't say 2009, send us your twenty bucks...

Gateway Parrot Club
1425 Silverleaf Lane
Saint Louis, MO 63146

Of course you can make the payment on the website using a credit card or PayPal. Both of which, by the way, have a service charge to the Club, so there is an option there to pay \$21, which will get the Club a full \$20. (Actually about \$20.13)

Show them the money – Nominations are open for grant recipients. Make sure to nominate any organization you feel worthy of our financial support. Submit nominations to Dave Kinkade by voice, email or snail mail, by January 31. Dave's phone number is in the contact section of the newsletter. Email is

President@GatewayParrotClub.org.

Postal address is in the Book Picks of the Month article. Please include a description of what the organization does. I will publish it in the newsletter and website.

January Meeting – Rachel Crandell will talk to us about Costa Rican rainforests and the Monteverde Conservation League. See the article below for some background.

Here is some information on the Monteverde Conservation League, MCL. Our guest at the January meeting will be Rachel Crandell, founder of the Monteverde Conservation League US.

Mission

Monteverde Conservation League US, Inc., founded in April 2002, was formed primarily to support the work and programs of the Monteverde Conservation League (MCL) in Monteverde, Costa Rica which owns and maintains 54,000+ acres of the Bosque Eterno de Los Niños (Children's Eternal Rain Forest). Our goal is to aid the MCL and other organizations in their efforts "to support the conservation and rehabilitation of tropical ecosystems and their biodiversity."

Background

Swedish school children started a worldwide effort in 1987 by sending money to Monteverde, Costa Rica to purchase rain forest and protect its priceless natural treasures forever. Today children from 44 nations have helped The Children's Eternal Rainforest become the largest private reserve in Costa Rica, 54,000 acres. MCL is committed to protecting this biodiversity, and encourages you to partner with them in preserving more rain forest.

Recent Success Story!

Yuber Rodriguez, interim director of MCL, just announced, on Thursday, December 18, 2008, the Monteverde Conservation League signed a contract to buy Olger Badilla's 115 acres and add it to the permanent protection of the Children's Eternal Rainforest. This beautiful, pristine forest touches the BEN (El Bosque Eterno de los Niños) and is a critical addition to the preserve as it protects the headwaters of a significant river. Following is a letter from Yuber to MCL members.

Dear Friends,

On the visit to Olger Badilla's farm, we were able to mark the area of the property using GPS, showing that its northern border is completely adjacent to that of the BEN. Its southern and eastern borders are marked by the Aranjuez River, which indicates that some of its principle springs are located on this property. With the acquisition of this area we will obtain a better definition of the borders of the BEN through natural markers (i.e. the river), as well as block the intrusion of hunters and other dangers to the BEN. Also,

with the formalization of this transaction, we will be able to lower the asking price for the land. The negotiated price is \$1,250.00 per hectare (it is the lowest offer received in the last year).

This property is located within the Bell Bird Pacific Slope Corridor, and the farm has 100% forest coverage. The first photograph shows the purchased land behind Olger Badilla (center) with two of our Forest Guards at the property's access site. The second photograph shows a view from Olger Badilla's farm over the springs of the Aranjuez River. This negotiation could potentially strengthen the relationships between the BEN and its neighbors, and will also fortify the borders of the protected area.

Sincerely...

Yuber Rodríguez S.

Monteverde Conservation League

Grants

Trey Shaffer

We will again spread our wealth based on member nominations and voting. We did this last time, for the first time, and it worked well, so here's how it will work...

The Board allocated a total of \$3,000 to fund six grants of \$500. Nominations are open, until January 31, 2009, so think about people, programs and/or organizations we should support financially. We have not established strict criteria for nominees, but they should be bird-related and within the focus of our mission statement.

Send your nomination to our President, Dave Kinkade. Dave's email address and phone number are listed in the contact information toward the end of the newsletter. You can also use postal mail, to the address listed in the librarian's article. Please give us the name of the organization and contact information for the organization, and yourself. Also, please include a short description of the nominee and their activities. You may also have the nominee submit a description of their activities.

I will post the information on our website as we receive it. I will include information available at the time in the January newsletter.

As mentioned, nominations close January 31. I will have the final list in the February newsletter. We will vote for recipients at the February meeting. Each active member, present at the February meeting can vote for six recipients. At this moment, we have four nominees:

- The Feather Distribution Project
- Monteverde Conservation League
- World Bird Sanctuary
- AAV Research Fund

I can think of some others... so get those nominations in. I will list nominees in the order received, so there might be a small benefit of nominating early...

The Guardians Of The Tower

By Real Macaw Member Joan Collins

My daughter Jane recently visited London, and returned home with an interesting story for me. Nine Ravens are living in the Tower of London. During the Monarchy in 1660, Charles II's Royal Decree stated that there should always be six Ravens at the Tower, and as this legend goes that if there aren't, the Monarchy will fall. The Raven Keeper, Derrick Coyle, is the current Raven Master. Most of the time he wears a blue uniform, but for ceremonies he has a red and gold uniform with a small Raven's head patch on his right sleeve. The Ravens eat 170g of raw meat a day, plus bird biscuits soaked in blood. At 6:30 in the morning the Ravens are let out of the cages they live in at night, so the foxes don't get them. They run and flap to the Raven Master who calls "Morning Thor" - "Good morning" comes a fast reply from Thor. The Raven Master throws a piece of raw liver to Thor and says "This one's for you" and Thor replies "This one's for me". Despite their having one wing clipped, some Ravens do get away. Raven George was dismissed for eating the television aerials, and Raven Grog was last seen outside an East End pub. There are always a few extra Ravens kept on the grounds, so there will always be six to guard the Tower as the Royals decreed. The end!

From the Real Macaw newsletter, December 2008.

From the AAV PDD

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Clinical Management of Psittacine birds Affected with Proventricular Dilatation Disease

Susan L. Clubb, DVM, Dipl ABVP (Avian); Mary Jo Meyer

Abstract: Proventricular Dilatation Disease (PDD) is a devastating disease, with enormous implications to the health of individual birds, flocks, aviaries, and owners of affected birds. PDD can be hard to diagnose, take many forms, and have a very long incubation period. Crop biopsy is a simple and safe screen procedure with limited risks. While crop biopsy has a high false negative rate, it is an effective diagnostic tool. Other helpful tests include radiographs, endoscopy, and hematology and chemistry profiles. An exceptional test for live birds is fluoroscopy, but this is rarely available to private practitioners. With patience, perseverance, prolonged therapy, and attention to correction of secondary problems, many birds affected with PDD can be returned to health.

Proventricular Dilatation Disease (PDD) is a devastating disease for affected birds. It is also psychologically and financially devastating for their owner/caretaker. Management of cases requires difficult decisions, initially euthanasia or long-term management. The diagnosis of PDD in an avicultural collection can have devastating financial effects on aviculturists. Counseling as well as establishing a long-term management plan are important aspects of veterinary care. Clinical management of birds affected with PDD often becomes a flock management problem because so many owners of psittacine birds have multiple birds. Other alternatives for affected birds might be to place them in a rescue center that handles birds with PDD, or placement of the bird in a home with no other birds.

The social implications of a PDD diagnosis can also be devastating. Owners may be shunned from bird club functions or social interaction with other bird owners, or find it impossible to find a pet sitter. Counseling for owners needs to include the fact that PDD can be hard to diagnose, take many forms, and have a very long incubation period. We have found visually healthy birds that were positive for PDD on crop biopsy. Waiting for the classic clinical signs such as vomiting or passing whole seeds will reveal only the

tip of the iceberg. The bird owner should be encouraged to assess the disease status of his or her other birds, considering each bird individually.

To be in denial and avoid checking other birds in the home is placing them at risk. In our experience, early diagnosis can enhance therapeutic outcome. Mates of birds that succumb to PDD should not be automatically euthanized. These birds may have natural immunity to the disease and may be the best future breeders for an avicultural community hard hit by PDD. In consultation with your client, develop a treatment and control plan.

Encourage your client to make the commitment not to bring more birds into the home, placing them at risk, or transfer exposed birds to others without disclosure. Therapy can be monitored by periodic physical exam, monitoring body weight, repeated radiographs, and evaluation to detect secondary infections. Monitoring by repeated crop biopsies is very useful. A potential complicating effect can be the presence of remnants of suture in follow-up crop biopsies. The presence of this foreign material can result in inflammation that might not be easily distinguished from inflammation associated with the disease.

If monitoring by radiography, the composition of the diet must be considered, especially if the bird was initially eating a primarily seed diet at the time of diagnosis and is later changed to an extruded diet. In my experience, birds eating a primarily formulated or extruded diet tend to have a relatively dilated gastrointestinal tract as evident by radiography that can complicate evaluation.

Birds affected with PDD often ingest foreign bodies, especially pieces of wood. These materials may then be passed in vomitus or feces. The bird may be ingesting these materials in an attempt to provide relief from intestinal discomfort. These birds may need toys, perches, and cage accessories that cannot be chewed and ingested and may benefit from high fiber vegetables to fill this need.

With patience, perseverance, prolonged therapy, and attention to correction of secondary problems, many birds affected with PDD can be returned to health. Life expectancy at this time cannot be predicted. Unfortunately, until specific testing for the etiologic agent(s) is possible, the long-term prognosis is impossible to predict.

Release #5, May 2006. The Association of Avian Veterinarians welcomes membership from veterinarians with an interest in avian medicine. Annual meetings and a quarterly journal provide a format for the latest in avian medical information. Is your veterinarian a member? Individuals wishing to subscribe to the Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery may write to: AAV - P.O. Box 811720 Boca Raton, FL 33481.

Book Picks of the Month

Christine Kinkade

Here are the library picks for this month. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have a book request, and I will bring the book to the next GPC meeting. A complete listing of books and videos can be found on the GPC website (www.GatewayParrotClub.org).

The Bird Watcher's Handbook by Laura O'Biso Socha
Written in an appealing style, this handbook offers something for everyone from amateurs to seasoned birders. The book answers questions such as: "What kind of bird is that?", "What is it doing?", "What does it eat?", "Why is it singing like that?" & "Where does it go in the winter?" A few illustrations. (182 pages).

Mynahs by Otto von Frisch
Experts answer your questions about the care of mynah birds, including feeding, behavior, health, breeding, and much more. Informative, even for young pet owners. More than 50 color photos and drawings. (72 pages).

Bird Owner's Home Health & Care Handbook by Gary A Gal-lerstein, DVM
This book gives readers all the essential information needed to properly care for their birds in all situations, such as housing, general care, feeding, bird anatomy, what to do for accidents & illnesses, diseases, taming, and training. (292 pages).

Parrots and Related Birds by Henry Bates & Robert Busenbark
An informative book about the health, care, keeping, housing, and feeding of parrots. Also includes information on taming, talking, and the diseases of parrots. Types of parrots featured include Lories, cockatoos, macaws, conures, parakeets, lovebirds, and Parrotlets. Several B&W photos and some color photos. (543 pages).

GPC members can check out any of these featured picks at this month's meeting. Please note that some books are quite old and some of the information may be a little outdated. Please keep this in mind when reading the books.

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 [Libra-](mailto:Libra-rian@GatewayParrotClub.org)

rian@GatewayParrotClub.org, and I will bring them to the next 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!

Recipe - Fruitcake

From the Birds 'n Ways website

Posted by: Carolyn Jo
July 7, 2001

Ingredients

- 1 Large, ripe banana
- ½ Cup nut butter (peanut, almond, cashew, etc)
- Combine:
- 1 ½ cups whole wheat flour
- ½ cup soy flour
- 1 cup quick cooking oatmeal
- ¼ cup wheat germ (raw or toasted)
- 2 Tbs. baking powder
- 2 cups finely chopped dried fruits - raisins, golden raisins, currants, prunes, apricots, apples, pears, peaches, figs, cranberries, dates - whatever's on hand

Prepare

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
- Mash banana with nut butter, set side.
- Combine dry ingredients, coating with flour.
- Add 1 cup unsalted nuts (optional).
- Stir bananas and nut butter adding fruit/flour.
- Add 2 1/2 cups unsweetened apple juice.
- Mix, pour into greased and floured glass baking dishes
- Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted in middle comes out clean. Cool and turn out onto plate and cut into squares. Freeze.

2009 Schedule

January 18d – Rachel Crandell
February 15 – Grant Selections
March 15
April 19
May 17
June 14 (Second Sunday)
July 19
August – All-American Hookbill Fair
September 13 (Second Sunday)
October 18
November 15 – Nominations for office
December 13 (Second Sunday) Elections and Party

Our Mission

The Gateway Parrot Club, Inc. is a not for profit organization established in 1988 to:

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.

Contact Information

We welcome your comments and suggestions...

Officers

President	Dave Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Vice President	Phyllis Cotton	(314) 427-3679
Secretary	Cathy Wendler	(636) 586-0604
Treasurer	Nancy Marron	(314) 984-9524
Membership	Niki Shaffer	(314) 853-5323

Board Members

Jim Berk	(636) 586-1445
Dawn Breer	(636) 464-8085
Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Jenn Moore	(636) 795-4384
Pat Seiler	(636) 462-4732
Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317

Committees

Education	Who? You?	
Hospitality	Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Librarian	Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Ways & Means	Suzanne Dohack	(636) 734-4527
Website Newsletter Public Relations	Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317