

Sawawk 'n Talk



**Gateway Parrot Club Meeting
Sunday, February 18, 2018, 1:00 p.m.
Varieties Bird Store
Valley Park, MO**

**Guest Speaker, Marc Ancrenaz
Two Borneo Bird Conservation
Programs:
Hornbill and Swiftlet Recovery**

We will be welcoming Marc to our meeting in February to talk about two species of birds in Borneo. The area is threatened by rapid development and he will discuss ways for wildlife and people to cohabit peacefully in the same environment. The conservation approach has been faced with many challenges but has led to some major successes that give hope for long-term survival of these and other species.

Come join us for a fun Sunday afternoon:

**Program
Food
Fellowship
Raffle
Meeting**



February 2018

Chirps from the President's Perch

We've welcomed in a New Year and will also be seeing some changes. Please make special note of the meeting time change.

Our Meeting times have been moved forward to 1:00. This change was necessary in order to allow all of Varietees' employees to get home at a time better suited for their lives. We are very grateful to Varietees and their staff for providing such an excellent meeting place AND the opportunity to shop on a Sunday. Thank You!

I missed the Reptile Exploration last month. The photos were spectacular and the turnout fantastic. I hope you all enjoyed the adventure as much as the photos indicated. We are all "bird people" but learning about and enjoying other Species is a great way to expand our horizons.

This month, thanks to Heidi Helmuth, we welcome Marc Ancrenaz who will share with us his knowledge and information of the Borneo Conservation Projects for Hornbills and Swiftlets. As many of you already know, Conservation of Endangered Species is a topic very close to my heart. Hornbills are so very specialized in their breeding and habitat needs and are unfortunately rapidly becoming extremely endangered. Marc will be able to share first hand knowledge of these birds and their needs.

The Fair Planning Committee held a special meeting this week to start the organization of our 2018 Fair. If you haven't already volunteered to help at the Fair, please consider and add your name to the list.

See you all Sunday February 18th at 1:00.

Georgia Fletcher



Gateway Parrot Club

******* Special Announcement *******



It is necessary that the Gateway Parrot Club permanently change the monthly meeting start time from 2:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. beginning with the February 18th meeting. Please mark your calendars.

February Program (Heidi Hellmuth)

Our February speaker is Marc Ancrenaz, co-founder of HUTAN-Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Programme in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo, which started in 1998. This area is a hotspot for biodiversity but is threatened by rapid development. HUTAN's goal is to identify ways for wildlife and people to cohabit peacefully in the same environment. Over the years, the KOCP community-based conservation approach has faced with many challenges but also led to some major successes that give hope for the long-term survival of wild orangutans, elephants and other species. During his presentation, Marc will share information about two of HUTAN's bird-focused programs – with hornbills and swiftlets.

Hornbills - In March 2012, HUTAN started to conduct monthly surveys of the eight hornbill species present in the Lower Kinabatangan. Data are collected six times per month from a boat along a fixed stretch of the Kinabatangan River and include group size and structure as well as nesting site locations. This monitoring aims at understanding migration patterns, existence of specific breeding seasons and other information that will support a sound management strategy for these hornbill species.

In order to improve the chances of long-term survival of the most threatened Kinabatangan hornbill populations, HUTAN has initiated two complementary approaches to increase the number of available nesting sites: (1) "Repairing"

natural tree cavities that had been used in the past by breeding hornbill pairs, and (2) Building artificial hornbill nest boxes.

Swiftlets - Beginning in December 2009, HUTAN and the Sabah Wildlife Department have working together to develop a recovery program to ensure the recuperation and the long term conservation of the edible nest swiftlet populations in the area.

Swiftlets are found throughout the Indo-Pacific region, building their edible nests in limestone caves. These nests are an important constituent of traditional Chinese medicine. Over the last decade, illegal harvesting of bird nests, indiscriminately destroying eggs and nestlings, caused a drastic decline in the swiftlet populations. The aim of this project is to combine conservation benefits with economic proceeds to the community by hiring local citizens to guard and protect several cave systems with nesting populations of swiftlets.

Fun Pictures from our January Meeting

(Thanks to members who took these photos)



A Preview of the March Meeting



Gateway Parrot Club is excited to announce a very special speaker for our March 18, 2018 meeting, Dr. Susan Friedman. The subject of her presentation will be “Enhancing Learning and Welfare by Increasing Animals’ Control Over Outcomes.” The following is Susan’s biographical sketch:

Susan G. Friedman, Ph.D. is a professor emeritus in the Department of Psychology at Utah State University. She has helped pioneer the cross-species application of behavior analysis to animals, using the same humane philosophy and scientifically sound teaching technology that has been so effective with human learners. Susan has co-authored chapters on behavior change in four veterinary texts, and her popular articles have been translated into 14 languages. She gives seminars on animal learning at conferences, and consults with zoos around the world. Susan is a member of Karen Pryor’s Clicker Expo faculty, and teaches yearly hands-on animal training workshops with Steve Martin (www.naturalencounters.com). Susan was appointed to the F&WS Condor Recovery Team from 2002 – 2010, after which time the team was retired due to the success of the birds in the wild. She is the Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Committee of American Humane Association (AHA) Film and TV Unit,

and a member in good standing of ABAI, ABMA, IAABC and IAATE. Last year she was included on the Vet Tech College's list of "15 Animal Professors to Know." Susan's acclaimed on-line course, Living and Learning with Animals for behavior professionals, has provided even wider dissemination of effective, humane behavior change practices to students in over 35 countries (www.behaviorworks.org). And she shares fun videos with a science twist at facebook.com/behaviorworks.

Fair Update (Dick Grommet)

Preparations and planning have begun for this year's fair. Be sure to add the date to your calendar, Saturday, August 25th, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the Machinist's Hall in Bridgeton (same place as last year). We will need volunteers so please consider volunteering for a couple hours or more. Details to follow in upcoming months. Heidi Hellmuth will be scheduling the volunteers. Your help is greatly appreciated.

We are starting to collect items for the silent auction and raffle. If you have anything you would like to donate, please bring to parrot club or contact one of the board members. Your donation does not have to be bird related.

We also are going to be soliciting companies and organizations for donations to our silent auction and raffle tables. If you have contacts with restaurants, stores, organizations, etc. we would appreciate if you would ask them if they would like to donate a gift certificate or an item to our club for the annual bird fair. Dixie Danzeisen will be heading up this effort.

Grant Nominations

At our February meeting, we will be accepting nominations of nonprofit organizations to be awarded our yearly grants. This year we will be giving four grants of \$500.00 each. Come to the February meeting and nominate an organization.

The club members will vote on the nominations at the March meeting. Our annual fair provides us the opportunity to earn funds so we can give grants to

these organizations. Our focus is to promote education and to work toward conservation and the betterment of birds everywhere. Thanks for your thoughtful consideration of nominees.

Last year the following organizations were awarded \$500 grants:

- Wild Bird Rehabilitation (WBR)
- World Bird Sanctuary (WBS)
- St. Louis Avian Rescue (STAR)
- Missouri Wildlife Rescue Center (WRC)
- Association of Avian Veterinarians Research
- Saving the Blues (Blue-throated macaws)

John Tomasovic (1925-2018)

The St. Louis avian community has lost a wonderful person. John Tomasovic passed on January 11. He and his wife, Pep, have been members of Gateway Parrot Club for many years. Most of you knew him as a breeder of parrots and owner of Tomasovic Greenhouses and Nursery in Des Peres, MO. The club sends our condolences to Pep and her family.

The board voted to approve the purchase of a memoriam brick in his honor (with Pep's name on the brick also) from the World Bird Sanctuary where he was a lifetime member. We would like to thank members who contributed to this fund at the January meeting.

The brick will have a parrot symbol with the following words: "John and Pep Tomasovic, Thank you for your dedication to the avian community, Gateway Parrot Club and Varieties Bird Store.

General Meeting Information:

Come and enjoy the fun and bring a bird (as long as it is clipped). It's so enjoyable seeing all the different species of parrots and talking to other parrot owners.

You don't have to be a member to attend, but we would love to have you join. Meeting starts at 1:00 and it will be a full afternoon of meeting, socializing, eating, program, and raffle. For members who have not renewed their membership or who would like to join, please see Renee Davis, our membership chair person. She will be at the meeting to sign you up. An annual membership fee of \$20.00 includes your family (two voting members) and brings you our monthly newsletter by email. Thank you for joining and helping support the parrot community in St. Louis.

We meet at Varietees Bird Store, 60 Meramec Valley Plaza, Valley Park, MO. Varietees will be open in the afternoon so you can purchase bird food, supplies, toys, cages, play stands, etc.

We do have a raffle most months so if you would like to donate item(s), they are always welcome. They do not have to be bird related. We sell raffle tickets for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

At our February meeting, Chef Christine will be making shepherd's pie and for those who don't eat meat, she will be making a bean and pasta salad. For dessert, she is making hummingbird bundt cake. Bottled water and an assortment of soda will be available. Feel free to bring something to add to the

Gateway Parrot Club



Meeting Dates 2018:

February 18, Mark Ancrenaz, Borneo Bird Programs

March 18, Dr. Susan Friedman, Behavior Analysis

April 15

May 20

***June 10*, Melanie Allen, Hagen Group**

July 15

*** Meeting will be on 2nd Sunday**

buffet (snack, salad, dessert, etc.).

Membership Report (Renee Davis):

If you haven't already, please consider renewing your membership for 2018. You can do it online, at the meeting, or via snail mail. If you renewed at the August bird fair, then your membership will run through 2018.

GPC January Meeting Attendees:

Dick Grommet	Casey Uhlmeyer
David Kinkade	Terri Uhlmeyer
Cathy Timma	Sharon Wilkins
Renee Davis	Rosemary Wilson
Bryan Gilchrist	Billie Baumann
Carole Grommet	Angie Britt
Heidi Hellmuth	Nick Britt
Christine Kinkade	Kama Brown
Rick Ruderer	Nichole Domachowski
Pamela Alsop	Zoey Domachowski
Joerg Augustin	Jess Ellis
Megan Augustin	Carolyn Geitz
Jim Berk	Miriam Hannibal
Cindy Burquin	David M. Kinkade
Michael Cross	Lassie Kinkade
Dixie Danzeisen	Karen Latham
Steve Johnson	Lexie Lawson
Aubrey Kiener	Mary Slakb
Nancy Marron	Andrea Stoppelmann
Julie Morgan	Lucas Stoppelmann
Jessica Murray	Leslie Zheng
Sandy Newcomb	Eric, Eliza, Melea, Colin, Adrian, Emerson Smith
Beth Poll	Jessica, Jason, Tyler, Emma Dutton
Anna Uhlmeyer	Jack, Kim, Lucy Blankenship



Association of Avian Veterinarians

Advancing & Promoting Avian Medicine and Stewardship

January 2018 AAV Bird Club News Release

This article is for the use of member clubs only and is protected by U.S. Copyright laws. Use by any group or organization not currently enrolled in the AAV Bird Club News Release Program, is strictly prohibited. For longer articles, it is permissible for clubs to run as a 2-part article.

Birds of a Feather

By: Carol Hurst, LVT, CVPM, CVJ

Birds are unique in possessing a biological structure that helps them in every aspect of their life - feathers. A bird's feathers serve many functions including thermoregulation, hygiene, mate attraction and much more. Let's explore an overview of feathers.

Function

Feathers serve many purposes for birds. Flying, courtship/display, camouflage, thermoregulation and other more obscure uses.

The flying feathers are precise and strong and are made up of primary and secondary feathers. They need to be able to support upward lift and directional changes while in flight. There are birds (like the Ostrich) who have wings and wing feathers but who are unable to fly. Their feathers are not consistent with the structure needed to encourage flight.

One of the most interesting uses for feathers is display. These feathers appear to have no other function other than a flashy display meant to catch the eye of the opposite sex. These don't follow the normal structure of a feather. Common areas for display feathers are on the top of the head and the tail. Birds can also use these same feathers to intimidate potential aggressors.

A lot of birds are creatures of prey and having feathers that are suited to help them blend into their surroundings serves an important survival function. These colors can vary widely depending on the environment from a bright green bird in the rainforest to the subtle beauty of a duck on a lake.

Plumulaceous feathers are perfectly suited to help keep warmth trapped against the bird's body. The contour feathers help to keep birds dry. These feathers help to roll liquid off of the body. Being waterproof is essential to a bird's survival and if each feather isn't working in harmony it can potentially result in detrimental effects.

There are also some birds that possess feathers that appear to have no use. There are feather tufts on the top of the Great Horned Owl's head that seem to serve no function.

Structure

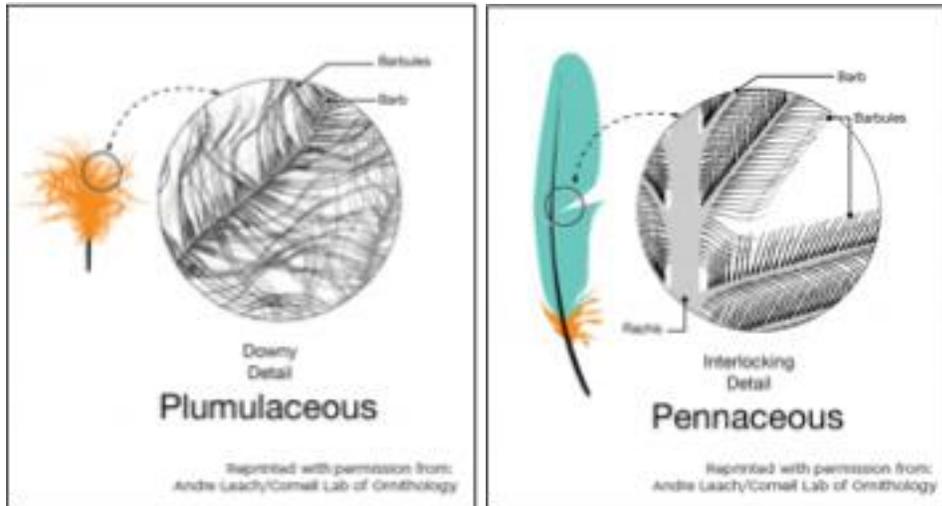
If we oversimplify the structure to paint a picture of the different parts, we start with the image of a tree.

On a feather, the tree's "trunk," or rachis, extend into "branches" which are called barbs. Each barb has several "leaves" called barbules. Each barbule has hooks that connect it to nearby barbules. These hooks are called barbicules or hooklets and give the appearance of the soft part of the feather being sticky when you run a feather through your fingers. These barbicules are strong and able to withstand the pressures of flight. The calamus is the very base of the feather that attaches to the bird itself. If you look at the different kinds of feathers, modifications in these parts explain a little bit about the function.

- more -

Birds of a Feather Continued

There are two main types of feathers, plumulaceous and pennaceous. The plumulaceous have more flexible barbs and longer barbules. These types of feathers are the downy, soft feathers that trap air close to the body to help keep them warm. The pennaceous feathers have the structure described above. The interlocking barbicules help them to be waterproof and aid in flight.



The wing, down, tail, contour, semiplume, bristle and filoplume feathers all work harmoniously to help serve the functions that a bird needs.

Feathers are made of keratin, which is a protein that is also found in hair and nails.

Care

There are many diseases that can affect feather health. Mites, bacteria, fungi, stress, and injury are among a few potential problems birds can encounter. Considering that each feather has a specific structure that lends to a specialized function, a disruption can cause a variety of problems.

Birds employ preening to keep their feathers in tip-top shape. This behavior serves to help them inspect, clean and groom the feathers. Some birds have a powder down feather that produces particles that break off from the barbules. This powder helps to waterproof and condition the feathers. The majority of birds possess a sebaceous (oil) gland called the uropygial gland that also aids in waterproofing the feathers. Birds distribute this substance along the feathers while engaging in normal preening behavior. Through periodic molting birds replace their feathers.

Overview

Feather structure and function is complex and more detailed than this article can provide. There are many great resources that go into extensive detail about coloration, structure, and function (a few are listed below).

Sources:

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/feathers-article/>

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/all-about-feathers/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feather>

<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=15+1829&aid=2776>

###