

Squawk 'n Talk

April 2017

Does your parrot have Spring fever?

Come to our April meeting to learn about hormonal changes in parrots. Answers to many questions that parrot owners have will be discussed (nesting, aggression, egg laying, regurgitation, learning how to identify behavior, what owners can do to get them through this period, etc.)

***Gateway Parrot Club Meeting
Sunday, April 23, 2017, 2:00 p.m.***

Varietees Bird Store

Valley Park, MO

Speaker:

Lisa Rose

***(past President of GPC and owner of
Parrots Treasure)***

Come join us for a fun afternoon:

Speakers

Food

Fellowship

Raffle

Meeting



Chirps from the President's Perch

Please make note of the meeting date for April. It is NOT on the usual 3rd Sunday of the month. Due to scheduling conflicts, Lisa Rose was only able to be there on the 23rd to talk with us on the subject of "Does Your Parrot Have Spring Fever". Lisa will be discussing potential behavior issues with seasonal hormonal parrots. If you have specific questions, please send them by email to me at imjoesmom@me.com or post

them to the Face Book Gateway Parrot Club (GPC) page. That way we can try to address your specific topics if time allows.

It's very rewarding to know that Gateway Parrot Club is able to be financially supportive of bird related non profits. Our checks for \$500 to each of the six organizations voted on by our members present at last months meeting are ready to send out:

1. Wild Bird Rehabilitation (WBR)
2. World Bird Sanctuary (WBS)
3. St. Louis Avian Rescue (STAR)
4. MO Wildlife Rescue (WCR)
5. Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV) Research
6. Saving-The-Blues (Funding nests for Blue Throat Macaws in the wild)

Our focus is to promote education and to work toward conservation and the betterment of birds. Each of these organizations share the same goals. My thanks to our members for making such great choices.

The registration and hotel information about the AFA Annual Conference in Tucson, Arizona, is posted on the www.afabirds.org website. Take a look and give serious thought to attending. Three full days of educational seminars, fun networking opportunities, even paint your own parrot (on canvas) sessions. The day before and the day after also offer special tours to two local sites with venues catered specifically to parrot lovers. Free Flight sessions have also been scheduled that will give you the opportunity to see several parrots flying around the resort grounds. Tucson AZ in August temperatures have made many groan because of the heat but take my word for it, you will be having such a good time, you will not even be aware of the outdoor midday temperatures.

My special thanks to Brian and Diane. Their photos and information at the March meeting about the native birds who migrate through our area was fascinating. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did.

See you at the meeting on April 23rd,

Georgia

INFORMATION FROM THE PERCH.....

Below are a couple pictures of Brian Prather and Diane Bricmont's presentation at the March meeting:



Grants (Dave Kincade)

At the March 19th meeting, the membership voted to give grants (donations) to the following organizations. Each of the following organizations will receive a \$500.00 grant for a total of \$3,000.00:

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

NEW PROJECTOR (Dick Grommet)

Most of our speakers use visuals during their presentations that require the use of a projector. The projector that we have been using for approximately 15 years was outdated . As we all know, equipment is updated frequently so ours was overdue for replacement. The board approved the purchase of a new projector and we now have an updated model for presentations. The clarity is much improved along with the brightness of the image, plus other updates.

Meeting Dates for 2017

We apologize for changing the date of our April meeting. Even though we state that we meet the third Sunday of every month, there are several months where it is necessary to make changes. Please check our website (gatewayparrotclub.org) for the dates.



Association of
Avian Veterinarians

Advancing & Promoting Avian Medicine and Stewardship

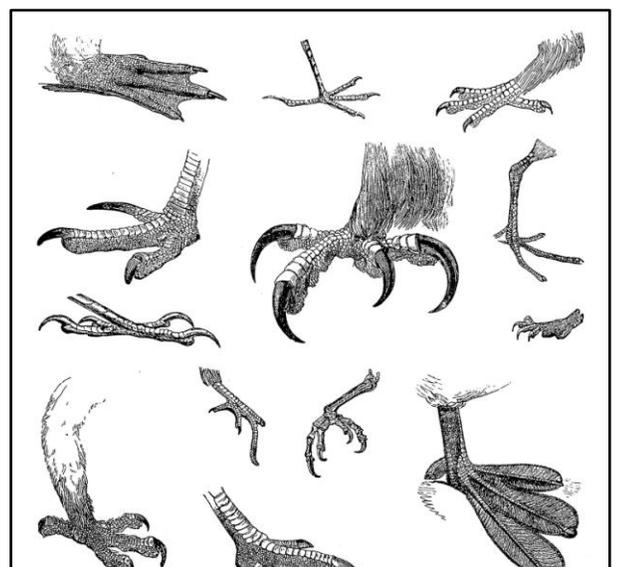
February 2017 AAV Bird Club News Release

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Little Birdy Feet

By: Carol Hurst, LVT, CVPM, CVJ

The anatomy of a bird's foot is fascinating. Depending on the species, the foot can serve many purposes from grasping to swimming, climbing or running. A typical bird foot has four



toes. Many species have less, but none have more than this. Species such as rheas, cassowaries, emu and many waders such as diving-petrels, auks, some woodpeckers and one passerine species have only three functional toes.¹ Birds that climb, wade, run or use their wings to swim under water also have three toes. The ostrich is the only species that has two toes.

In 'Birds: Their Structure...' the function of the bird foot is broken into three types: grasping, walking/wading and swimming. Bird feet have adapted specifically to accommodate major life functions. For grasping feet, the toes are freely mobile and strong. For walking/wading, the toes are partially or completely webbed, which allows for both swimming and walking on soft surfaces. Likewise, "swimming feet" are completely webbed.

The bird's foot is often the first thing that comes in contact with the environment, whether this be water, soil, plant matter, or prey. Disorders that affect a bird's foot can vary greatly. Bacterial or viral afflictions can cause lesions, abrasions or abscesses associated with the skin on the feet. A common bacterial infection of the footpad that can lead to such abscesses is called Bumblefoot. Other lesions can be caused by leg-band necrosis, malnutrition, nutritional deficiencies, gout, trauma, toxins, external parasites, or self-mutilation.² Birds can also have a variety of abnormalities in the formation of the bones of the legs and feet resulting in deformities that can compromise the integrity of the leg. Causes for these abnormalities can range from vitamin deficiencies or certain types of infection that result in nutritional deficiencies. Calcium specific deficiencies can cause the bones to become brittle or soft which can result in fractures.

For our captive birds, environmental factors can play a big role in foot health. Feet getting trapped by toys or other unsafe cage accessories are common causes of injury. Toxic chemicals such as cleaning solutions that are not suitable to use around birds can create chemical burns (among other more serious disorders). Improperly placed leg bands (or even properly placed bands that get caught on an item in the cage), can create injury to the bird's foot. Birds that are kept outdoors can be susceptible to injury from insect bites or frostbite (if proper temperature controls aren't observed).

To promote good foot health in our captive birds, high-quality nutrition is the first place to start. Sanitation is also a very important factor. Anything the bird perches on should be frequently cleaned and sanitized since these areas can become contaminated with droppings. Examine any toys or accessories in the cage frequently for disrepair or wear. Any toys with strings or other loose pieces should be either trimmed or replaced as these can become twisted around toes or ankles, causing constriction injuries. Always provide protection from the elements and ensure that enclosures/cages are kept not only clean, but also dry. Lastly, inspect your bird's feet routinely for any abnormalities.

1. Birds: Their Structure and Function by A.S. King, J. McLelland
2. Manual of Avian Practice by Agnes Rupley, DVM, DABVP-Avian

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 2:00 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. It does not have to be bird related. We sell raffle tickets for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Chef Christine will be preparing glazed ham, rolls, potato salad, pasta salad, and a cake for the buffet. Feel free to bring something to add to the buffet (snacks, salad, dessert, etc.).

Membership Report (Renee Davis)

Welcome new members:

Jim and Shannon Anderson
Kathy and Katie O'Neal
Anita Woods

GPC March Meeting Attendees:

Georgia Fletcher
Dick Grommet
David Kinkade
Cathy Timma
Carole Grommet
Heidi Hellmuth
Christine Kinkade
Rick Ruderer
Tracy Schwarztrauber

Penny O'Grady
Kathy O'Neal
Katie O'Neal
Beth Poll
Shawn Poll
Pat Seiler
Gerry VanDerHeide
Deborah VanDerHeide
Michelle Vrbka

Cindy Burquin
Dixie Danzeisen
Janet Draper
Ginny Feikert
Dan Fogarty
Dave Guiot
Elizabeth Guiot
Esther Hermann
Al Marks
Janet Marks
Edwin Massie
Julie Morgan
Jane Mueller
Sandy Newcomb

Jim Anderson
Shannon Anderson
Diane Bricmont
Katie Moravel
Katherine Mueller
Richard Mueller
Bryan Prather
Alex St. John
Julie Anne Wheat
Anita Woods
Don
Judy
Thomas
Bryan Gilchrist