

W.A.E.S.

Wasatch Avian Education Society

May: 2019

President's Message

Dear All:

Last month's meeting went well, but not as planned. I gave our speaker detailed instructions for her presentation about dark skies and migration a month in advance, and started trying to check in with her again 8 days before the meeting. She didn't respond, and we decided to bring some parrot videos along just in case.. We ended up watching the parrot videos and they were excellent. A few days later our speaker responded that to me she had had a medical emergency, and she apologized profusely, and said she had a substitute for our May meeting to discuss lights, dark skies, and bird migration. Her substitute will be Lucila Fernandez, who is the Conservation Outreach Biologist at the Tracy Aviary, and I am looking forward very much to her presentation on dark skies, for real this time! I hope to see you all there.

Lucila Fernandez says the presentation will covers basics about bird migration, explain why they rely on dark skies, compare what is expected and what is experienced (light pollution), introduce the Salt Lake Avian Collision Survey, and concludes with a series of "do's" and "do nots" to help visualize best practices for homes and businesses.



Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day—May 11, 2019

Monthly Meeting

May 11, 2019

7:00 pm

**Salt Lake County
Complex**

2001 S. State Street

Room N1100

(North Building)

Our meetings are free and open to the public. Come meet other parrot enthusiasts.

Refreshments & Raffle Table

Come see what our volunteer

Flock is all about.



Adoptions

Two adoptions of WAES birds took place recently.

Cairo, a Congo African Gray, was adopted by Melissa and Mark Chitty.

Einstein, a Jenday conure, was adopted by Wanda Bennett.

Congratulations to all!

QUARANTINE & NECROPSY...WHY?

We all love our parrots. Getting a new pet bird is exciting and scary at the same time. You wonder if they will love you, if they will thrive in your home. You ask yourself if you and your newbie will be compatible. For some of us bringing the bird into the home is a first-time experience. For others, it will be an addition to our flock. What are the first steps to take? Get a cage? Check. Get proper food and toys? Check. You may be scouting out an area in your home for the cage which is great, but what about the new bird's health? Here the first step when obtaining a new parrot is Quarantine.

What is it, and why is it so important? Quarantine is the practice of separating the incoming parrot from other birds. If you have no other birds, your home is effectively the quarantine area. If you do have other parrots at home, your new bird (regardless of where it came from) should be separated from the rest of your flock in a different airspace. If that is not possible, at least place your new bird as far away from the others as possible. When feeding, feed your birds first, the new one last. Take care to not expose your shoes, clothing, hands etc. to your current pet(s) during and after handling the new bird. It is not that difficult if you find a system. Quarantine for a minimum of 30 days, 60 days if you can. The reason to quarantine is disease. Even if your new bird looks healthy, the bird may be carrying bacteria or viruses that could easily spread to the rest of your flock which may only display itself later on. While the bird is in quarantine you can visually check for his health. Observe his poop, blood in droppings, diarrhea, nasal discharge or eye discharge, heavy breathing and possibly seizures. Make sure your bird is eating. Some birds will not eat the first day or two while adjusting to their new environment. Do not panic prematurely.

Veterinary care and testing are important. Starting with a health record, having a baseline is a best practice. Taking your new buddy to an avian veterinarian can detect some illnesses or verify that the parrot is healthy. You wouldn't want your current birds exposed to diseases such as PDD, Aspergillosis, Chlamydia and other diseases. Birds hide their illnesses, so follow through to protect your flock. Your avian vet can detect health issues with a blood test, which most veterinarians will do at first. A visual exam and your input on his behavior can tell more. Ask your veterinarian whether your species of bird is prone to certain illnesses. Go to the vet prepared. If you take care of your new bird for this short period during quarantine, you will ensure a happy future for both you and your flock. It is your responsibility as a pet owner.

Necropsy goes hand in hand with Quarantine. What is necropsy? It is an autopsy on a non-human, used commonly for animal autopsies. Just as we take care to quarantine in the beginning, many of us seek closure when a loved one passes. America can be a throw-away society but if you love your bird, and it passes away, wouldn't you want to know why? Most people do not necropsy their bird but it is important to know what your bird died from for many reasons.

When can you bypass a necropsy? If your bird is quite old, you may wish to opt out of necropsy. If you previously had your bird to the veterinarian and you are fully aware of a particular illness, such as heart disease, liver disease, cancerous tumors, well, then, you already know and are prepared for his demise. Some birds may have been a carrier of a particular disease, not showing it from the beginning. If you do have other birds, having the necropsy done may prevent the spread among your flock if caught early.

Far too many birds die young. A lovebird should not die at 2-5 years old. A macaw should not die at 8-10 years old. If there was no accident causing the death, we should question why the bird died and without a

necropsy you will never be able to determine what happened. Even if a bird falls from its perch and breaks its neck, do you really know why he fell? Did it have a seizure? Heart attack? A necropsy could determine that. As we all know, we are responsible for what we keep. Choosing to cohabit with a long living bird requires that we care for their medical, mental and physical well-being. Taking these steps beginning to end ensures safety for your other birds and closure for you.

Elise Negrin lives in Western NC with her Congo African Grey Gringo. She has been educating within parrot clubs for nearly 25 years. She is the founder of PSPB.club and MVPSNC.club.

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