

# Squawk Talk

Magazine for Bird Lovers  
Sept 08



## BIRD MART

*September 20<sup>th</sup> 9AM  
to 5PM*

It's that time again, and if you are thinking, "Gee, we were just there", you are right. It's only been 4 months ago that we had our Spring Mart, but what the smart bird lover should be thinking is,

***"I better stock up!!!"***, because it is a whole 9 months until the next mart.

This means the toys that cost \$4 that you missed are now \$12, the seed that was \$30 at the mart is now \$50 in the store, and the cage that you really did need and didn't buy.... Well, you get the idea so I don't really have to rub it in. Bird Marts are great deals and I have learned to stock the cupboard full of

everything I need to fend through the winter.

This year will be my first attempt at breeding, so I am mindful of those other



**You can never stock-up too much at the Bird Mart!**

items that I might not normally pick up; syringes will come in handy if I hope to double clutch (*much like the Olympics, I am going for the triple!*). I know I need extra food containers that I can hang off my cages, and I don't know about you, but I certainly am ready for water bottles. Going from cage to cage every morning at the crack of dawn... well, it's for the birds.

Along with seed, I am always on the lookout for good deals on pellets. I have gotten some great deals and have learned the importance of talking to each mart vendor to see what they have and for how much. In a \$3.60 gallon of gas world, I am actually dropping more at the marts and saving more in the long run.

***BRING FRIENDS!  
BRING FAMILY!  
BRING YOURSELVES!  
And take home  
EVERYTHING YOU  
NEED!***

*Sept General Meeting:  
Learn Toy Making  
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# BIRD & REPTILE MART

Sept 20th 9-5



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LAST CHANCE UNTIL MAY 2009, SO STOCK UP NOW!!

And while you're there... don't forget to pick up a few birds! You always need more birds!

## REPTILE MART



**Visit our Kissing Booth!**

**September 20<sup>th</sup> 9am - 5pm**

Two marts in one!!! What a deal.

This will be the third mart that we have had reptiles. They are a good mix and show you just how many people in the community enjoy a wide range of exotic pets. Snakes, turtles, frogs, lizards... you know all those cuddly critters! Have you hugged your iguana today?

They too need such things as heat rocks, aquariums, heaters, lights, crickets, and my personal favorite

“Pinkies”. If you haven't had a pink; you are really missing out. No, I didn't eat one, and no Andrew Zimmer (Bizarre Foods) didn't either (but I am sure he probably would), and finally, no a little birdie didn't, but probably might. I did watch a snake though, and I am pretty sure he utterly enjoyed himself.

So, if birds aren't enough to get you to the mart... come and watch feeding time in the reptile section!!

## RAFFLE TABLE

Every mart across the country has one, all sorts of goodies are clumped into piles and everyone has a chance to be a winner for



**We appreciate your donations!**

as little as a dollar. Mart raffles are important to the clubs and often are the only thing that ensures a club breaks even for the cost of holding a mart. Club members spend a lot

of time throughout the year asking for donations for the raffle tables.

Even marts goers have come to learn of the importance of raffle tables as a way to recycle the supply of things that sounded good at the time, only to find out they couldn't be used later.



**Our Grand Prize is a hand-fed Baby Quaker Parrot that is just as sweet as can be.**

The month before each mart, our club president mans the Petco table each Saturday at the corner of Saratoga and Staples. In addition to the great outreach she performs, she also has grand prize ticket sales, collection point of raffle items and membership on the agenda. If you have something you are willing to donate, you can drop it by, bring it to the mart or stop at the club's meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. We will gladly accept your gracious

donations and really appreciate them!!

Ever wonder where all that stuff comes from? Our vendors! The people who

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come to give you the very best deals in town are also our greatest long-time supporters. Nearly every vendor who walks through the door brings a bag of goodies for the raffle tables. They know that clubs keep door prices low, table prices low, and do everything possible to ensure they have a good day at the mart. We thank all our vendors, manufacturers such as Zupreem and Dr Foster &

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Smith, club members and

mart goes for the generous donations they provide at every mart.

## Select the right bird for you and your family

By Don J. Harris, DVM

Exotic birds can be delightful pets—just ask



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any of the millions of companion bird owners throughout the world who enjoy a rewarding and satisfying relationship with their feathered friends. Creating a long-lasting positive relationship with your bird may be the result of choosing the right bird

for you and your family in the beginning.

This crucial first step is part of being a responsible pet owner, but it is often overlooked in the rush to acquire a new bird. Identifying what characteristics you want in a bird, and researching different species and their characteristics can go a long ways in helping establish a long and happy relationship.

Rarely will one bird fit more than a few of the desired characteristics. You may acquire a bird and expect it to speak, only to eventually realize this particular species never talks. Others may discover that a large colorful macaw is also a large intolerably noisy creature. Many potential owners have expectations that cannot possibly be fulfilled by the species they choose.

### ALL BIRDS BITE!

The best way to obtain the



“perfect” pet is to first determine which characteristics are most



important to you. Then shop for the bird that fits those criteria. Certain species arise as leaders in a variety of categories, and this list can be used as a starting point in making your choice. Remember, there are always exceptions, so once you have narrowed down your decision to a particular species, look at the parents and gather information from the breeder about an individual bird's behavior.

#### Appearance

- Finches, Macaws, Eclectus, Lories, Toucans

#### Speaking ability

- African Grey, Amazon, Mynah

#### Natural vocalization (song)

- Canary, Cockatiel

#### Intelligence

- African Grey



#### Social attributes

- Cockatoo, Budgie, Cockatiel

#### Small size

- Canary, Finch, Budgie, Lovebird, Cockatiel

#### Low maintenance

- Amazon and smaller

#### Cleanliness

- Most smaller species

Some bird owners may want to avoid certain “unpopular” characteristics like those listed below. Others may not see these same characteristics as undesirable. It's up to bird owners to weigh all characteristics of a species or an individual bird to make the best decision.

#### Loud

- Macaws, Cockatoos

#### Messy

- Macaws, Mynahs, Toucans

#### Aggressive

- Female Eclectus, Male Amazons

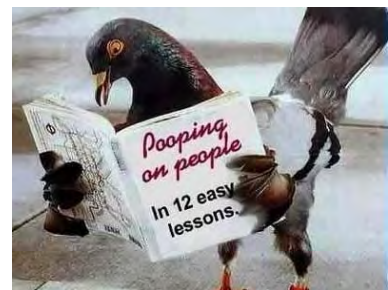
In the end, individuals interested in owning a bird should first decide what they expect from a pet bird. Once this question is answered, an appropriate species can be identified and researched. Only then can the potential for a long and mutually beneficial relationship be realized.

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## TRAINING YOUR BIRD

Just about everything I



**Go Potty!**

have ever read on training begins with mastering the step-up or up command. Getting your bird onto your hand and verbalizing your thoughts to your bird through repetition begins



the training process and after a few thousand “Ups” your bird will finally figure out what to do. But where do you go from there? Getting off your hand and going back to the cage tend to be the follow-on basic skills. Potty training or more specifically “poop on demand” tends to be overlooked quite frequently and is a basic trick that can make your life and your bird’s life a much more social experience. No, not hanging out in the bathroom at the local rest stop. Lets leave that to famous singers. Instead it gives you the confidence that your bird will be politically correct in public, at the neighbors’ house or on your carpet.



Training your bird to poop on demand is all about timing. You have to know his cycle, and once you

have understood that, you can move forward with training. Birds are smart. They enjoy your praise and are eager to please you. If your bird is on a 10 minute cycle or poops as you approach the cage, use these to your advantage and lavishly praise your bird every time it poops. Arrive at his cage just



before he would normally go, and wait for it.... wait.... wait.... As soon as he looks like he is starting, say the command word “Go Potty” (or what ever you plan on using in public). Once the dirty deed is done, lavishly praise but use **NO FOOD OR TREATS** as a reward. You don’t want your bird too interested or it might spur him to attempt to strain his bowels trying to get a reward.

This is not as hard as potty training a child or even a puppy. My Macaw is the second bird I have had potty trained and both birds caught on in a few days’ time.

Once your bird has an understanding of what you expect, continually reinforce him daily. Upon stepping up, lower him slightly over papers and give the command. If he doesn’t do it, he might not have to go. I have learned to read my bird. If he squats a bit, he is with the program. If he stretches up like he wants to get on my shoulder, he is telling me, not right now.

After you have your bird’s timing down and you have offered the initial opportunity to go potty, keep that clock ticking in your head. If he didn’t initially go, offer every couple minutes until he goes, then start the clock.



In the beginning, until you get used to it, you might want to find a spot every quarter to half interval and make the offer. Once the deed is done, the clock starts all over again.

After nearly 2.5 years of training, my Green-Wing Macaw, *BUDDY*, will actually hold it until I pick him up and take him to a

place to use the facilities. In the four years I owned my Mollucan Cockatoo, *PRIS*, I never once had to change my shirt!

## Indian Ringnecks



Indian Ringnecks

Trying to find the right bird can be a difficult task, especially when such a vast array of our feather friends is so readily available. Very small birds such as finches attract buyers who are more interested in looking than in touching. Larger birds require considerable more space,



money, and commitment than we often have time to

give. So choosing a bird is important, and if interaction with your companion parrot is high on your list, then you just might want to take a close look at the Indian Ringneck.

At about the size of a conure with a tail more like a macaw, these medium small birds have huge personality, a vocabulary that can reach 250 words, and come in more colors than the latest fashion trends.



**All the colors of the rainbow, Vocabulary up to 250 words.**

Ringnecks do not bond with their mates, often being paired together just a couple weeks before they begin to breed and can even be switched between clutches to produce varying color combinations.

Ringnecks are prolific breeders and can double or triple clutch in a breeding season if the babies are pulled and hand fed. A typical clutch ranges from

three to seven birds. If a female tolerates its mate, the pair may be left together throughout the year, if not then boys in one cage, girls in another

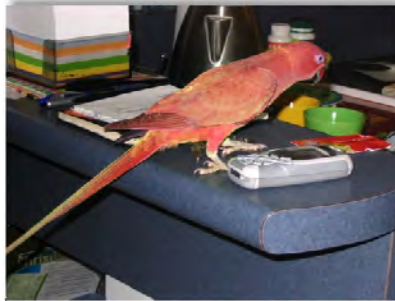


for the remainder of the year.

One of the more famous, if not the most famous

Indian Ringnecks is AJ, a green 18 year old who was given to its owner by none other than Johnny Carson. AJ's predecessor AXL was scheduled to be on the Carson show back in 1990 when he was crushed in the hotel room after a person rolled over on him while sleeping. Over the past 18 years, AJ has managed to master several tricks earning him TV spots on more than a dozen TV shows and write ups in numerous publications. When AJ isn't talking, you might find him playing dead, doing somersaults, bowling, shooting hoops or even golfing. AJ is

certainly active and enjoys the fame.



I have noticed, most people seem to overlook the Indian Ringneck at the Bird Marts. I contribute a lot of this to people's lack of understanding of what they are looking at. Often you see two big cages crammed with birds, looking more like a chicken coop than the unique companion parrot



you want to love. Failure to see these birds for the unique individuals they are is often the result, and the loss is certainly yours.

Interested? Here are some things to consider: Look for a bird that has been hand raised, is young and friendly. These birds can

revert back to their wild nature if not handled daily. Prices of these birds vary greatly with the dealer. They also vary greatly with the color of the bird, so ask for the price list. A normal green (Same color as AJ) tends to be the least expensive. Prices can range from \$75.00 to \$10,000.00 depending on the color mutations.

## How to find an avian veterinarian

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By Don J. Harris, DVM

One of the first responsibilities you have as a pet owner is obtaining quality medical care for your bird. The process of finding a qualified veterinarian, who is educated, trained and experienced in treating birds, is often more difficult than you initially might think. Perseverance



and some good common sense on your part can result in finding a veterinarian who is skilled in treating your bird.

Here are some methods you can use.

### Yellow Pages

While this may be the easiest method, an ad in the yellow pages does not necessarily qualify the practitioner to treat your bird. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) allows the term "specialist" by only those veterinarians who have fulfilled certain



defined criteria in that specialty. Beyond that, yellow page ads can reflect marketing skills more than veterinary competence.

### Association Rosters

Many pet owners check association rosters for qualified veterinarians. For example, the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP) is a veterinary certifying organization that requires



its members to prove competence in order to belong. Within ABVP, there is the “Avian Practice” category of



specialization. Veterinarians who complete this certification process are recognized by the AVMA as true specialists. These individuals are identified by the title ABVP, Avian Practice, DVM behind their names. Generally, bird owners can trust these practitioners to provide competent care for their birds.

### Pet Suppliers' Recommendations

Pet retail stores or breeders will often recommend a veterinarian they work with on a regular basis. Their recommendations may be based on positive experiences with this particular veterinarian's care and treatment. On the other hand, pet suppliers occasionally have relationships with veterinarians based on

discounted services in exchange for referrals. While this business relationship is not in itself bad, bird owners should be advised to verify the veterinarian's credentials.

### Word-of-Mouth Recommendations

This is one of the best ways of finding a competent avian veterinarian. If a veterinarian's own clients are making recommendations, there must be a reason why. Unfortunately, these



personal recommendations are not always available, especially if you recently moved into the area and don't know anyone to ask.

### Colleague

Recommendations this is probably the best and most consistently reliable method, but it demands a little sleuthing on your part. Here are the steps you can follow:

- Identify and call veterinarians in the yellow pages who DO NOT claim to be avian specialists.

- Call to ask if they will see your bird. If they agree, thank them and move on.

- If they decline, ask whom they would recommend.

- Continue this process until you get enough answers to

form a consensus. The veterinarian whose name was recommended the most often is the veterinarian most recognized by his colleagues for competence with exotic birds.

Congratulations!

Through hard work and some common sense, you [CW1] may have found just the right veterinarian for you and your bird.

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ZuPreem is committed to the advancement of knowledge regarding avian husbandry and nutrition. Working together, ZuPreem and bird clubs with similar interests can support high-quality avian health in our worldwide community.

## BUYING A BIRD

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"I'll take the red one!" That's exactly what I said when I bought my pick-up, but not necessarily something you should decide on without kicking the tires, sizing up the seller and asking lots of

questions. Buyer beware is always a prudent method when buying birds. My first purchase of two birds I planned on breeding consisted of more wrong information than right. I was told I was purchasing two baby female birds. It wasn't until nearly a month went by that I realized one was a lot thinner than the other. Not due to diet, but due to what appeared to be a nest injury which resulted in a collapsed rib cage.

Surprise! But of course it didn't end there. Two years later... Surprise! The females turned out to be males!

When purchasing a bird, decide what you want and stick with your plan. If you want a pet, no matter how cheap the breeder is, it will be many things, but pet it won't. I once had a Timmeh African Gray, Bronco, that I tried to tame. The price was dirt cheap. The man said, "Sure, with a little patience, you can tame him down". Owning that bird reminded me very much of the movie of a robin feeding a worm to its young, except the baby was my hand, the worm was my flesh as it was being torn from my hand by a Bronco that would never be tamed.



Babies depend upon their breed and how you treat them grow up to make wonderful pets. (Baby parrot yes, baby hawk no!). Daily interaction with your companion parrot coupled with a positive environment and healthy diet are key to successful



relationships. That doesn't mean that you can't get older birds, it just means that you may have to work more with older birds to work though any previous issues and loss of trust.

Breeders know birds. If you ask a question, your breeder should give you a fairly detailed and logical answer. If they know nothing of the bird they are selling you, it might not have been raised by that person. Know who

you are buying from and trust your instincts.

*LOW PRICE DOES NOT MEAN LOW QUALITY BIRD*

It can and often does mean GREAT DEAL and good deals are all what marts are about.

Cleanliness; Cages should be clean. Look at the bottom of the cage. Yes, you will see some bird droppings (they do tend to do that), but you don't want to see week old piles piercing skyward through the grates looking like Mount Everest. You don't want to see filthy water, old food, or any sort of mold.

The birds, depending largely on age, may be sleeping, nestled in a pack or doing back flips. Lack of activity in itself means little. Eyes not clear,

discharge in nostrils, extra thin around the ribs could all be indications of a bird who is unhealthy. This mart we have the honor of having Dr. Tim Tristian of Oso Creek Animal Hospital who will do a walk through the mart beforehand, giving the birds the once over. While



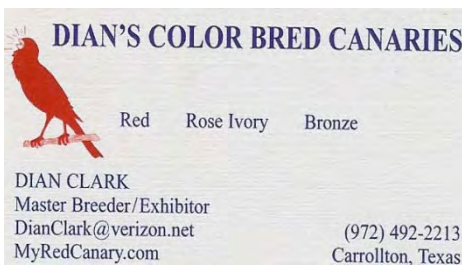
only a cursory inspection, Dr. Tim is well respected in his field, and able to point out anything that looks amiss. No matter what a bird looks like today, diet and environment can turn a good bird into a sight to behold. Contrary to belief,

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man does not live by bread alone nor bird live by seed alone.



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Food and water should be present in a cage. This rule is good for any birds who have weaned. Unweaned birds that do not even have baby food in their cages are very young and still have to be hand fed and taught to eat solid foods. Babies who do have food and water present are closer to weaning and are being taught to play (eat) **Will be at the Sept 20th Mart!**

and drink. Many vendors do not sell unweaned birds. Some will to sell them to experienced hand feeders. If you are not experienced at hand feeding a bird, despite the best intentions, it can be a recipe for disaster. I have a friend who recently lost two Macaw babies and two Quaker babies to a slight draft in the room. If you have problems, what do you do? **CALL THE BIRD CLUB FOR HELP or GET THE BIRD TO THE VET IMMEDIATELY!** Birds

are 50 times more frail than human babies.

## BUYING EVERYTHING ELSE

If it's not the car, it's the accessories. Once you buy a bird, you have to house it, feed it, and enrich its life. First things first, your house or apartment is your home. The cage is home to your bird. Your stuff is in your house and his stuff is in his. Set these rules from the start and the potential will be less for the splintering of your china cabinet. With that said, you don't want to live in a shoe box and neither does your bird. In a nut shell, bigger is better! Go big off the bat and you won't be feeling guilty and having to buy a second cage in 10 months to house your bird. When buying a cage, ensure your bird can flap its wings and crawl around freely. Next thing to consider is food. Seed is a supplement and needed as PART of a diet. It should not be the sole source of nutrition unless you purchased a turkey and are planning on fattening him up for Thanksgiving. Pellets are

an excellent source of vitamins and should be given as the main part of a birds diet.

Feeling green? Me too, and I bring home bags of fresh veggies and fruit from the store each week. I spend an hour cutting and jarring portions for morning and evening feedings for 4 days at a time. I still add pellets, nuts and seed to my birds' diets. While the grocer will provide the produce, the bird mart is the best place I have found to stock up on my birds' nutritional needs.

Next think about perches. Thinking perfectly round plastic? No way, Jose! Look for hard woods and cement. You want to ensure your bird has numerous surfaces of varying sizes, textures and shapes.



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**HAND-FEEDING BIRDS FROM CONURE TO MACAW**  
*By Helga Wilson*

<http://www.parrothatch.com>

When it comes to hand feeding baby birds there are several things that need to be done before you can start. First, get all materials together that you will need so that when those precious little things are ready, you will be too.

### You will need:

- **syringes**
- **pipette or eyedropper**
- **a heating pad**
- **clean towels**
- **an aquarium** (I use the 10 gallon size)
- **bedding for the bottom of the aquarium**

Choose your bedding so birds won't have something to chew on; something that won't harm your baby or babies. We use old cotton towels that we place on the bottom off the aquarium, then place several layers of paper towels on the top. It works well and soiled paper towels can be removed at each feeding. The cotton towels can be washed and reused.

You will also need to get a screen top (my husband makes tops for me out of aviary wire). Use the wire top to support a cotton towel placed over part of the aquarium to keep any curious birds out of the aquarium. Furthermore, it will keep heat in the aquarium. Only partially cover the aquarium so air can



still filter in normally to prevent the baby from overheating and suffocating.

You can purchase aquariums from any local shop that specializes in wet pets. Sometimes you can find tanks very cheap if they have a leak. The pet shop can no longer use them for fish and it makes no difference to us if they leak, since we aren't using them to hold water.



**Awwww..... what cute little babies!?!?**

You will need some feeding syringes appropriate to the size of your bird. I never use a syringe larger than 35 cc, since the larger syringes are too hard to work with. Best syringe sizes are from 12 cc to 35 cc.

It is best to use a syringe with at least a 1/2 inch long smooth tip, preferably a one piece syringe or one with a locking tip. If you feel you need a longer tip on the syringe, use a latex feeding tube rather than a tube extension. Never cut the latex feeding tube longer than the distance from the bird's beak to the middle of its crop. Make sure the feeding tube is securely fixed to the syringe. Recheck syringe and tube periodically. Birds can hang on to the tube and remove the tube from the syringe and swallow it. You are in big trouble if this occurs, as it will require surgical removal by a vet! I therefore only use feeding tubes on very hard to feed birds or very sick birds that have to be force-fed, or when I feed in public to prevent any accidental drowning of a bird if it gets distracted by strangers during feeding.

Once you have your materials ready, you can begin the feedings. When I first remove the babies from their nest, they are at least 2-3 weeks old. I place them right into the aquarium with the heating pad set to medium,



or into a brooder set between 85 to 92F. If the babies are younger than 2-3 weeks, then I will put them into a small basket lined with paper towels and set the basket inside the brooder. (If you do not have a brooder, an aquarium will do.) I keep each clutch in one basket or bucket. This way they can cuddle together to keep each other warmer and hold their heads up on the side of the bucket.

Although there are several good brands of hand feeding formula on the market, I prefer to use Kaytee Exact. I have found that Kaytee blends well, and being a bit coarser, it works better than other brands of formula. If you are hand feeding birds other than Macaws, use the 8 % fat content formula. Remember if you are hand feeding a Macaw they require a higher fat content hand feeding formula of 12 % fat content. Make sure you have the right % of fat content formula for the bird you are

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hand feeding.

- You should always place the formula in the dish first and then add water.
- Never heat formulas in a microwave it may have hot spots.
- Never reheat.
- Once formula is prepared, dispose of leftover formula.

Formula should be mixed with hot water and should have the consistency similar to that of instant pudding or gravy. Be consistent with the formula. Watery formula can cause diarrhea. On the other hand, if too thick, it can stay in the crop and harden, or cause choking, or bring on a sour crop.

Most birds like their formula on the hot side. If formula is too cold the bird will refuse to eat. Keep only one to two days' dry formula supply in a canister. I recommend you freeze any excess formula in your freezer until ready to use. This way you always have fresh formula and your chance of contamination is much less. Formula will spoil in very hot climate.

You can purchase hand feeding formula from a pet shop or pet supply in one pound cans or 5 pound packages. In emergencies you can make your own formula by grinding up some bird pellets. Only in extreme emergency - if nothing else is available - some of the better brand dog food pellets can be used with a little peanut butter added. However, there is a chance for bacterial contamination.

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Wild Delight

Soaked monkey biscuits run through a blender also will work. Add just a small amount of peanut butter to give better flavor and more protein. There is however also a chance of bacterial contamination.

### Feeding:

1. Heat water to 110 F (if not sure, heat water to where it is too hot for your fingers.) Pour over the formula then stir with a spoon until you have a gravy-like substance. Wash your hands well with soap and water. Place one of your fingers in the formula and check temperature.

ALWAYS check to make sure the formula is not too hot! Temperature of the formula at feeding should be at 107 F. Check with a

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food thermometer or finger test.



--Temperature check without thermometer: Formula should be hot to your finger and get it red, but should not burn you. If you can count from # 1 to 30 with your finger submerged in the formula without getting burned, it is just right to feed.

2. Place the bird in front of you on a towel facing you.
3. Fill your eye dropper, pipette or syringe



with food.

4. Place the head of the bird between two of your fingers (index and middle finger in a V position so you can lock the head in between those fingers.) Use your thumb to pry the beak open.
5. Once the beak is open, insert the full pipette or eye

dropper into the bird's mouth above the tongue. Slowly squeeze the food into the bird's mouth. Refill and repeat until bird's crop is full.

Just a small, additional explanation on hand feeding:

Make sure that you put the syringe (pipette) into the beak on the baby's left side - your RIGHT side - aim it toward the back of the throat, across the tongue at a slight angle to the left (your left). You will want to feed the formula slowly and watch the baby carefully as he will stop (pause) drinking the formula to take a breath. If you keep feeding the formula when he is trying to take a breath, he will inhale the formula and this can kill your baby.

Birds have 3 holes in their mouths - one in the roof of their mouth, one in the middle of their tongue and one in the back of the throat on the left hand side (as you look at them). The holes in the roof of the mouth and the tongue are for breathing - the one in the roof of the mouth goes into the upper respiratory tract (snarers, upper

sinuses). The hole in the tongue goes into the lower respiratory tract (lungs). Normally, while eating, these holes are closed. The hole in the rear left hand (the bird's right) side



is the esophagus and leads to the crop and intestinal system. Make sure you have a firm grip on your babies. Healthy, hungry babies sometimes will have strong feeding responses. They pump sometimes very strongly. A firm grip will prevent injuries.

Understanding your bird's anatomy and how it works may help you in hand feeding. Remember to go slowly and watch your baby. He'll tell you what he needs (air or more



food).

6. Count the number of pipettes or eye droppers or the amount of cc in the syringe required for the bird to be full. Check time of feeding, write it down, and also record when bird or birds have emptied their crops. This will aid you while hand feeding. It is important to know how many hours elapse before the bird will require the next feeding. If you keep a record of your formula intake & the time elapse between feedings, it will aid you in recognizing any problems that may come up during hand feeding. If you are consistent with your formula preparations, you will know how much to feed the next time the baby is hungry. Formula intake may have to be adjusted up or down in cc several times until you get it just right.

Good record keeping will help you on the way to a healthy baby. Furthermore, it will alert you very quickly of any problems you may have. One of the problems of hand feeding babies can be a slow crop, which is a crop that does not empty out on time. Most breeders call this a sour crop. There are several



conditions that can be the cause of a slow crop.

**a)** Overfeeding or feeding a baby while there is still food remaining in the crop. If you feed too much formula, reduce the formula intake somewhat at the next feeding. If this was the case the baby should empty out the next time normally.

**b)** You made the formula too heavy & it set up in the crop. Try feeding some liquid like Pediatric Electrolyte, apple juice, or baby spinach & massage the crop to dissolve some of the set up material in the crop. After the crop is totally empty, at next feeding, feed a small amount of yogurt. This will give the baby some good bacteria & aid with the baby's digestion.

**c)** The baby may have a bacterial

infection. Sometimes a sour crop is a secondary problem to a much larger problem. If the problem of a slow crop persists, consult with a vet as soon as possible. Your baby's life may be in jeopardy. Most of all, remember that overfeeding will kill. Never feed babies unless their crops are totally empty. Baby's crop must be completely empty at least once every 24 hours. A baby must always be empty at first feeding in the morning. This is one of your most important things to remember. Do not kill your baby with kindness. Overfeeding can be deadly for your baby.

As the baby grows it will require more food intake, so you need to increase the amount of formula offered until it enters weaning stage.



7. Repeat process when empty again.  
**Important! AGAIN do not feed any baby birds until crop is totally empty.**

8. **Remember:** non-weaned birds do not have much body temperature of their own so they need to be kept warm. I recommend babies be kept in a brooder or a heated aquarium at a minimum of 85F degrees. Depending on the babies' age the temperature should be between 85F and 92F for very small babies. If you do not have a heated aquarium, you can place the aquarium the babies are in on a heating pad. Make sure you have a thermometer placed in the aquarium to maintain proper temperature so babies won't get too hot or too cold. This is very important. If babies get too cold their digestive system will slow down. If they get too hot they will suffocate. Always maintain temperature consistency in the brooder or the aquarium, whatever you use; it is very important.

Most of all, remember you are holding your baby or babies' lives in your hands.

*We would like to feature a Breeder each month. If you are interested, please contact us. Send us the story on how you got started and where you are heading and some photos of your aviary!*



Membership is up!!!

Attendance at the meetings is down !!!

Gas prices are coming down!!!

Let's get attendance back up!!!

Sept 18<sup>th</sup>, come join us!



# BIRD & REPTILE MART



Sept 20th 9-5



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## **CBCBC GENERAL MEETING**

### **CBCBC & RM General Meeting minutes 8/21/2008**

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.

**President** - Joan welcomed everyone and recognized visitors and new members.

**Secretary** – Jim B. asked members to review the minutes from the June meeting and recommend any corrections. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written and passed.

**Treasurer** – Aurora reported the club had a beginning balance of \$12,034.16, income of \$257.00, expenses of \$513.21, leaving a total balance of \$11,777.95.

**Vice President** –Marcia stated she would like to solicit some of the larger corporations in Corpus Christi to put their support behind our club and volunteered her husband Butch to assist her on this endeavor.

**Hospitality** –There were no public outings scheduled for the club since last months meeting. The PETCO “Meet and Greet” will be on August 30, Sept. 6, and Sept. 13 from 12:00 to 5:00. Contact Joan if you would like to help man our table with your bird or stop by and lend some support.

**Bird Mart** –The fall Mart will be held on Sept. 20 so we need to begin focusing on bringing that event together. Vendor response has been very strong and only a few tables are still available. Tickets for the Grand Prize, a Quaker Parrot with cage are available for sale by club members. Tickets are \$2.00 ea. or 6 for \$10.00. Contact Joan if you would like tickets to sell or flyers to distribute.

**Rescue** –We currently have a White Pionus for adoption. He has been affectionately named “Stinky”. Any member interested in adopting “Stinky” should attend the Sept.18 general meeting where they can meet him in person.

**Newsletter** – Editor Position still open. Jim H has been doing a great job as interim editor.

**Old Business**- The Board will schedule a special meeting in Oct. to begin addressing the club by laws.

**New Business** – Possible new Mart locations were discussed in the event we out grow the location we are currently using.

Pampered Pets will be moving from its current location to McArdle St. across from Burlington Coat Factory.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00

**THANK YOU** to all our members that brought their birds to the meeting for the KORO commercial shoot to promote the Bird Mart. It always makes it a colorful and fun event.

**REMEMBER TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS AND SUPPORT YOUR CLUB**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

### CBCBC & RW Board Meeting Minutes September 4, 2008

**7:15 p.m.** - Meeting called to order by Joan Latham. Members present were Aurora, Joan, Jim B., Jim H., Debbie C, and Marcia. Also in attendance were members Laverne and Paula

**Secretary** – Minutes from the August Board meeting were reviewed, and accepted as written.

**Treasurer** – Aurora reported the club had a beginning balance of \$11,777.95, income of \$259.00, expenses of \$401.13, for an ending balance of \$11,635.82.

**Vice President** –Marcia stated her husband Butch has begun contacting some of the larger Corpus Christi corporations about putting their support behind our organization.

**Rescue** –A white Pionus named “Stinky” is available for adoption and applications are being accepted.

**Newsletter**-Jim H. is currently producing the newsletter however the club and Jim are still looking for someone to take over as newsletter editor.

**Website**- Jim H. will be sending out news releases via the internet to promote the Sept. 20 Bird Mart to many of South Texas media groups. Jim is also planning on giving the website a makeover after the Mart.

**Hospitality** –The next “Meet and Greet” event will be Saturday Sept. 6, and Sept. 13 at PETCO from noon to 5:00 p.m. Because the Bird Mart is approaching fast Joan would like to hold meet and greets every Saturday until the 20<sup>th</sup> of September.

**Bird Mart** – Hard to believe it’s only a few weeks away. All of the vendor tables are spoken for. Ads in local papers have been placed. Fliers and raffle tickets are printed and ready to be distributed. A Quaker parrot along with a cage was donated to the club and will be the Grand Prize. Tickets are \$2.00 ea. or 6 for \$10.00 and are available for members to begin selling. The KORO ad was filmed at the August 21 general meeting starring many of our member’s birds and is currently being aired on that station. Lori Schwar and Chad Clanton will be appearing on Domingo Live on Sept 14 with their Macaws. Volunteers are needed to help with set up the Friday before in addition to the day of the Mart. Contact Joan about pitching in.

**Old Business** –The board will conduct a special meeting to address by laws after the Mart.

**New Business** –The board made and passed a motion to purchase a LCD TV for the grand prize in next springs Bird Mart. Come to the General meeting and let us know what you think.

The Board is looking at May 15-16 as the date for the spring Bird Mart.

The Board would like to hear from the membership on ways to boost attendance at the monthly meetings.

Deryl and Elke will be putting on a demonstration on bird toys at the Sept 18 general meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

