December 2009  The Coastal Bend Companion Bird Club and Rescue Mission seeks to promote an interest in companion birds through communication with and education of pet owners, breeders and the general public. In addition, the CBCBC&RM strives to promote the welfare of all birds by providing monetary donations for the rescue and rehabilitation of wild birds and by placing abused, abandoned, lost or displaced companion birds in foster care until permanent adoptive homes can be found.

November Meeting

Lots of good food at the November “feast.”

FIND OUT WHAT’S GOING ON WITH THE CLUB!

Check us out on Facebook. You can see pics of our events, meetings, as well as look at our beautiful pet birds. Don’t miss out!
REMEMBER . . .

Our November meeting which included a covered dish dinner was wonderful! Good food, time to visit with friends, admired new birds...what more could a club ask for. Our next meeting will be Thursday, December 17, 7:00 p.m. at the Galilean Lutheran Church on Cimmaron in Corpus Christi. I know it's hard to believe but it is already dues paying time again! That's right, the year is coming to an end and we are accepting payment for dues for 2010. We ask that each member complete a new membership form every year and this can be done easily by downloading the form from our website, completing and bringing it to our next meeting along with your dues or we have membership forms at all meetings. See you the 17th!

Marcia Schultz
gpbcp@intcomm.net

“JUST A BIRD”

From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a bird," or, "that's a lot of money for just a bird." They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a bird." Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a bird."

Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a bird," but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a bird" and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a bird" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a bird," then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise." "just a bird" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. "Just a bird" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of "just a bird" I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future. So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a bird" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. "Just a bird" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a bird" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a human."

So the next time you hear the phrase "just a bird." just smile, because they "just don't understand."

author unknown
GAG GIFT EXCHANGE FOR DECEMBER

There will be a White Elephant gag gift exchange at the December meeting. Participation is voluntary and the price limit is $15. We will draw numbers and you can open a new gift or steal one from someone else! Sounds like lots of fun!

Remember: Positions in the club will be opening soon. Think about taking a more active role.

BIRD FRUITCAKE

Many people give and receive fruitcakes during the holiday season -- and even though some don't seem to like fruitcake very much, it's a popular treat among our parrots and other birds! Check out this easy recipe for a bird-safe fruitcake variation that your feathered friend will love.

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 box 8.5 ounce Corn Muffin Mix
- 3 Eggs (Shells Optional)
- 1/2 cup Milk
- 1/4 cup Plain Yogurt
- 2 1/2 cups Mixed Fresh Fruit
- Chopped Nuts (optional)
- 1 tsp. Pure Vegetable Oil

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine dry mix with eggs and milk, stirring thoroughly until mixed. Use a blender or food processor to chop and blend fruit and nuts into small pieces. Stir fruit and nuts into cornmeal mixture, mixing well. Add yogurt and stir.

Set mixture aside and use 1 tsp. of pure vegetable oil to grease an 8x8 or 9x9 glass baking dish. Pour mixture into dish and bake for 20 minutes or until golden brown and cooked through.

After baking, cool the fruitcake thoroughly and cut into pieces sized appropriately for your bird. Leftovers can be wrapped and placed in the freezer to be thawed and served as needed.

www.about.com
PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR BIRD

During the holiday season we spend a lot of time taking pictures to remember the events of the year. Why not spend a little extra time making the pictures look really great?

Try multiple shots with different depth of field, angle, or a slightly different setting. Flip the camera and try a vertical shot. It may be helpful to get a shot of a bird with a really long tail.

Try using a natural background or blurring it out. The most important thing about backgrounds is what NOT to include. No protrusions sticking out at odd angles, and nothing that will appear to be growing from the birds head or any other body part.

Get down to your bird’s level or lower. These angles are more interesting and natural.

Try to eliminate use of the flash and offer your bird a favorite treat when setting up the shot.

Don’t “drown” your bird in light. It will make him looked washed out. Try using as much natural sunlight as possible.

A bird’s unique respiratory system causes its entire body to expand and contract whenever it breathes. Because of the vibration this causes, it can sometimes be difficult to get clear shots of birds. Couple this with unsteady hands and your photo shoot could end up a mess! Try using a tripod.

Finally, make sure your bird is having a good time. Reward him with your attention and treats while you’re trying to get that perfect shot.

www.birds.about.com

www.birdboard.com

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

(for bird-lovers)

On the 12th day of Christmas my true love gave to me:

12 Quakers calling
11 Greys a’picking
10 Eggs a’hatching
9 Suns screaming
8 Meyers moulting
7 Canaries singing
6 Nandays squawking
5 Wooden swings
4 Cockatiels
3 Cherry Heads
2 Rosy Bourkes
And a cute little blue budgie . . . .

By Lisa Mason

HOLIDAY HAZARDS

We are all so busy during the holidays it’s easy to forget about the safety of our birds.

Try to keep your birds away from the tree. Pine and Fir trees are not toxic but the needles from the pine trees and even some artificial trees can be sharp and if swallowed can cause damage. Cedar contains irritants that should be avoided.

Keep an eye on the ornaments. Birds are naturally attracted to things that glitter and sparkle. A bite to a wire can cause birds or electric shock resulting in death. Ornament hangers can cause cuts, scrapes and puncture wounds.

Brightly colored ribbons and wrapping papers are an irresistible draw for curious beaks. At first you might think it’s okay to let the bird chew up the paper or play with the ribbon, but the inks could be toxic.

Make sure your birds do not have access to alcohol during parties and gatherings. Alcohol is toxic to birds.

Watch your visitors. They could innocently give your bird something that is toxic.

Keep tabs on the stress level. Your birds sense your stress. Make time for play and regular routine during the holidays. Try to keep your schedule as close to normal as possible.

www.birds.about.com
www.parrotpassionsuk.com

ILIÉ’S CHRISTMAS DIARY

December 10th - I have a great family.
They’ve brought a huge green tree into the
house. Smells great. I can only imagine it’s a new addition to my play gym in the bird room. Can’t wait to get out of my cage and do some climbing and chewing.

**December 12th** - This family really loves me. They’re hanging all kinds of toys on that tree. There’s sparkly things and shiny things. I can’t wait!

**December 14th** - They haven’t moved the tree into the bird room. I’m confused. They light it up every evening but they don’t let me out to play on it. I scream and scream, even after they cover me up, but they just won’t let me out. I even grumbled to the cockatiels, but they didn’t care. They had honey sticks and millet to keep them occupied. They’re so easily entertained!

**December 17th** - I’ve taken to trying to escape from my cage whenever someone opens the door. I want to play on that tree. I tried to get the Rosy Bourke to go with me, but I couldn’t talk her into it. She doesn’t like to break the rules. I don’t know what they’re waiting for! My escapes don’t work though. Mom is faster than I am and she just scoops me up and puts me back in my cage.

**December 19th** - They hate me. My family has put this wonderful chew toy right in front of me and they just want me to look at it. I think I’ll start biting and see if I can distract them and get to the tree. I let Jellybean the Quaker in on my plan, but he just laughed at me. I think Mom gave him extra sunflower seeds this morning to keep him on her side.

**December 21st** - Biting didn’t work. I’m down, but I’m not beaten.

**December 23rd** - All my biting and screaming and escaping has gotten me moved back into the bird room with no tree. I screamed all the way through Mom’s favorite TV show, threw wet pasta on the walls, and barked like the dog for a solid hour- all to annoy them. Now I’m being punished and can’t even see my beautiful chew toy.

**December 25th** - Mom came in this morning and had a long talk with me. She put me on her shoulder and told me she didn’t know what was going on with me, but it was Christmas and she hoped I liked my present. Then she hung a huge wooden toy filled with nuts in my cage. Can’t wait to chew through that wood and get to those treats! What tree????????

Lisa Mason

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**Have a Merry Christmas- spend it with some great friends!**

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**CHARITIES FOR CONSIDERATION**

Here are a list of charities and their websites for consideration for your holiday giving, or for our club later on. Feel free to check them out and let us know what you think.
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<th>Amazona Society (TAS)</th>
<th>National Parrot Rescue And Preservation Foundation</th>
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<td>American Eagle Foundation</td>
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<td>American Federation Of Aviculture</td>
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<td>Amigos De Las Aves USA</td>
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<td>Bird Endowment</td>
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<td>Bird Lovers Only Rescue Service</td>
<td>The California Wildlife Center</td>
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<td>Houston Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals</td>
<td>The Gabriel Foundation</td>
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<td>National Animal Interest Alliance</td>
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Amazons were once prevalent in the Caribbean, but now two species are extinct and others are seriously endangered. For example only about seventy Puerto Rican Amazons remain on the Lesser Antilles and in the Dominican Republic there's only about fifty Imperial Amazons left because of plantation building and hurricanes. The Red-Tailed Amazon, Yellow-Headed Amazon and Green-Cheeked Amazon are just some of the other Amazons currently listed as endangered.

Macaws are also suffering. There are now 16 living species of macaw, although one of these, the Spix's macaw, is teetering on the verge of extinction with just one individual bird left. In fact over half of macaw species are now on the endangered species list and seven other species are at risk of being added to the list unless trade in wild-caught birds is regulated.

Macaws are often considered to be the largest of flying parrots. Their long tails certainly add to their length, but if weight is taken into account too then cockatoos often weigh more, making them larger. The largest macaw, the hyacinth macaw, can easily reach a meter in length and a captive-bred adult bird may weigh as much as 1,250 grams.

The hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) is a handsome bird, deep cobalt blue in color, with a golden eye ring and bill base. It is found in Brazil and easternmost Bolivia, where it lives mainly on seasonally flooded grassland. Unfortunately, it is becoming a rarity, with fewer than 3,000 birds left in Brazil, where it feeds on nuts from the palms *Suagrus commosa* and *Attalea funifera*. This decline is mainly due to a reduction in the numbers of palm trees and to incessant poaching by illegal traders. Hyacinth macaws can fetch a good price in the illegal pet trade and are also hunted for food. In addition their feathers are used to make Indian head-dresses and decorative pieces to sell to tourists. The Foundation for the Preservation of the Hyacinth Macaw was set up in 1991 to try to save these magnificent birds from extinction.

Cockatoos are not regarded as true parrots, belonging to the family Cactuidae rather than Psittacidae. These crested birds have strong bills and blunt tails and eat grubs. They sometimes invade tree plantations where they can damage trees as they search for grubs in rotten wood. The salmon-crested cockatoo from Indonesia is on the endangered species list and the Leadbeater's cockatoo (Major Mitchell's) is becoming endangered as the western Australian bush becomes settled. The red-tailed black cockatoo is threatened with extinction.
Meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm

Opening: Joan welcomed new visitors who stood up and introduced themselves.

**Officer Reports:**
Secretary – minutes were approved as written

Membership – Marcia reported we currently have 33 family, 33 individual, 11 lifetime/honorary and 6 commercial memberships.

Treasurer – Sherrie Long reported a balance of $20,327.64

Mart Director – date of the next mart is May 29, 2010

**Committee Reports:**

Web Master – site has had over 20,000 hits

Rescue – Frankie, the white and gray cockatiel is still in rescue

Hospitality – Our December meeting will feature a gift exchange. There is a $15 limit on the gifts. Members are encouraged to participate, but are not required to do so. Those who choose to participate will draw a number and then when it is their turn, decide whether to open a gift or “steal” a gift that has already been opened by someone else.

**Old Business:**

Club shirts can still be ordered. Payment is required at time of purchase. See Belinda Wait to order.

**New Business:**

- We will hold the drawing for $100 at the December meeting.
- Elections for officers will be held at the December meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:21

Members enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal of turkey, ham and various side dishes while they visited with each other.
Raffle was held
CBCBC & RM Board Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2009 (December board meeting)

Members present: Joan Latham, Marcia Schultz, Jim Harmon, Debbie Clanton, Sherrie Long

Meeting was called to order at 7:09
Joan apologized for calling the meeting a week early, but due to deadlines imposed by the IRS we needed to meet to finalize the request for nonprofit status and some signatures were needed from board members.

Officer Reports:
Vice President – nothing to report

Secretary – minutes from November board meeting were approved as written. Secretary also officially gave her resignation.

Membership – totals are still the same as reported at November meeting. An email will be sent to members reminding them that memberships will need to be renewed in January and that dues are now being accepted for next year.

Treasurer – As of November 30 the club has a balance of $19,944.29 in the bank.

Committee Reports:
Rescue – Frankie the cockatiel is still in rescue. We have not received any applications for adoption for her.
Webmaster – links to organizations that are not nonprofit have been deleted due to the IRS requirements.
Newsletter – absent
Hospitality – Joan will be at Petco on Saturday, December 12 from 1:00 – 5:00.

Old Business:
- Elections will be held at December meeting
- The December meeting will include a gift exchange and refreshments.

New Business:
- none

Meeting Adjourned at 8:44
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Note: Cindy is in Paris for 2009
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Pop Quiz: When is the date of the next bird mart?

- May 29th, 2010
- 05-29-2010
- 29 May 2010
- 2010-05-29