

# DENVER

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture (RMSA)  
P.O. Box 1106  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80034-1106



March 2014  
Issue

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture presents:

## Rocky Mountain Bird Expo 2014

May 10th 9am-5pm & 11th - 9am-4pm

National Western Complex

4655 Humboldt St. Denver CO 80216

Admission \$8.00 Children under 12 - FREE

Birds, Gifts, Crafts, Clothing,  
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Free Guest Speakers Each Day

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Denver CO 80216



Rocky Mountain Bird Expo  
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For more info  
303-456-0068



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**303-456-0068**



# President's Letter

In 2013 alone



March 2013

Hi everyone,

The holidays are over and it's time to start a new year. 2014 should bring out many new opportunities for our club and our members.

Speaking of new opportunities our spring Rocky Mountain Bird Expo is right around the corner. The dates for the expo are Saturday and Sunday, May 10th and 11th at the National Western Complex. Admission is \$8 for adults and children under 12 are free and the parking is also free.

Most of us, if not all of us are pet owners; we have our birds, dogs, and cats, all vital members of our families. Losing a pet can be one of the most traumatic things we remember in our childhood memories. Many of us can grieve for a pet loss as much as we would a family member loss. These pets become family members.

There are many "Animal Rights Groups" that are adamantly against us having any animals in our households. These groups are very large and represent themselves as only being concerned for the humane treatment of animals. The real goal of these groups is the eventual ban of any household pets and the end of use of all animals for any reason.

These Animal Right Groups are very strong financially and politically, they contribute to government offices and lobby politicians. These groups do not care that we strive to make our pets living conditions many times better than in the wild, how our education has helped us raise their life expectancy many years longer than in the wild or how we have helped save many pets ((from extinction with breeding programs. And one of the most disturbing facts is that these groups are almost entirely funded by the public (you and I) in donations.

These groups (PETA) have openly said such thing as:

- "We do not seek clean cages, we seek empty cages"
- "Our goal is not to improve the treatment of pets, but to end pet ownership completely"
- "We demand the complete end of use of animals as food"

PETA killed 1792 dogs & cats, 82 percent of all the animals it took in. In all this hypocritical animal rights group has euthanized 31,190 animals since 1998. PETA's facility is a "shelter" in name only, there is nothing "shelter" about it.

In 2005 PETA employees were arrested in North Carolina after killing adoptable pets and throwing the bodies into a supermarket dumpster. PETA has a 32 million budget and it is not used to find homes for any of those pets that they euthanized.

In a 2010 inspection records showed that 84 percent of those pets that PETA took in were euthanized within 24 hours. Between 2005 and 2013 PETA has adopted out less than 3% of the pets it took in.

Can you imagine what we could do with a 32 million dollar a year budget? It wouldn't be for celebrity photo shoots, and it wouldn't be used to euthanize 31000 pets. We could do our job and PETA's job better and without the loss of life.

The Humane Society of United States is just as guilty. Only one percent of its donations go to help shelters. Wayne Pacelle the HSUS CEO has received over 4 million in compensation in the last 3 years. But what do you expect from an animal protection group that allows Michael Vick to be their spokesman. The HSUS urged that all of Michael Vicks confiscated pit bulls be euthanized immediately, that none of them were adoptable. To date 47 of the 51 dogs rescued have found new homes, none of them found by HSUS. Now the man (Vick) that took his dogs, tortured, mutilated and drowned them in his swimming pool (the hard pool liner had gouges where the dogs were clawing to get out) is a spokesman for one of the most leading animal rights groups in the United States funded by the public.

We must stand up to these "Animal Rights Groups" and keep our rights to keep and live with our birds, dogs and cats. And most of all we need to stop supporting them and paying their six figured salaries.

PETA should stand for

"People Euthanizing Thousands of Animals

Eric



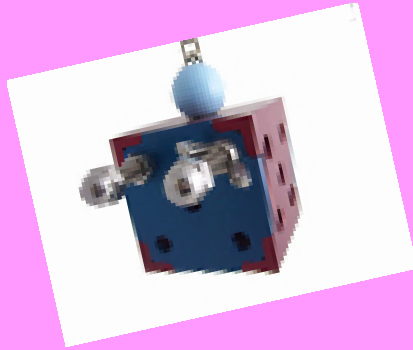


Our 50 yr old Yellow Naped Amazon, affectionately called “Greenie” but his given name is “Nick”. The only presentation that gives away his age, are his arthritic, constantly flaking skin, on his feet and toes. You would not be able to tell his age by his wonderful, uplifting spirit, and young attitude! He sings and makes wild calls all the time! Aaaarriiiibbaa! Yayayayayaya at the top of his lungs, and his little evil laugh, which is hilarious! When it gets to loud with flock or even us talking, he says loudly, “Oh, be quiet!”

We adopted Nick from RMSA about 3 years ago. He has ‘given’ us more, than we could ever reciprocate. His head and neck are preened 2-3 times weekly, since he cannot reach them. He gets foot care 2-3 times a week. He actually puts his foot out for me to apply Calendula-Echinacea-Hypericum cream (recommended by Dr. LaBonde). He now loves the touch, the baths, the cuddling (yes, we do cuddle with our Amazons) . Yes, we love adopting our birds, especially the older ones that need more work. As they realize they are in the right place, they blossom into the being God meant them to be! Bless all of our Avian friends!

Kim and Larry Anderson, RMSA members, involved with Adopt a Bird program

# Vendor Spot Light - Epic Bird Toys



Roy & Joyce Hughes started making bird toys in 1998 with Pat West at Creative Play Stations. Their toy making evolved into Epic Bird Toys in 2010 and has been going strong every since. Epic Bird Toys are a regular at our Rocky Mountain Bird Expos. Epic Bird Toys specializes in Acrylic and Manzanita toys.

Epic Bird Toys will be selling some of their product at the March 14th General Meeting, come and see them.

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# Upcoming Events

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**Friday evening, March 14, 2014** meeting will be at 7-9pm. We will have a showing of the PBS hour long documentary called, "**Parrot Confidential**", which is described below:

"Exotic beauty, outrageous intelligence and remarkably advanced language skills have made parrots one of the world's most popular pets. But unlike dogs and cats, parrots have not been domesticated. Their hardwired, ear-shattering squawks and unpredictable behavior are designed for the rainforest, not for captivity. An intense need to bond, complex emotional lives, and the ability to reach ages of up to 80-90 years, complicate the equation further. Sooner or later, some owners come to the conclusion that they have taken on a more difficult challenge than they can handle, and they turn to already overcrowded shelters and sanctuaries for help.

From the suburbs of our own country to the wilds of Costa Rica, parrot owners, rescuers, breeders and biologists involved in conservation programs, share their stories and the stories of their parrots in this bittersweet and unforgettable film about the difficulties and consequences of keeping and caring for parrots as pets." Allison Argo (Produced & written by her).

✈ Please arrive earlier than usual, so we can get the film started right away. If you are not able to get there by 7pm, please make a quiet entrance, if the movie has already started!

✈ We still plan on having AAB.

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✈ **Friday evening, April 11, 2014:** general meeting will be held at 7-9pm, at least for now. We know it is difficult for everyone to attend, since we are having the Bird Expo, starting the day after. Many will be helping set up over at the NWC for the Expo. We can discuss this with the general meeting held this coming Friday night. Normally it would be held a week before the May Expo, but we are unable to accommodate that this May Expo.

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✈ We are postponing the normally April held Cage Auction to **Saturday, August 23, 2014,** instead of having our yearly picnic. You may bring all of your cages you plan on donating for the auction to Westech Mechanical. More information in upcoming newsletters.

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✈ **EXOTIC BIRD EXPO: MAY 10TH AND 11TH, SATURDAY & SUNDAY:** *Lots of vendors, Silent Auction, Raffle, Educational Speakers, & Free Parking again! More information to follow!*

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**Tom Real: June 13, 2014 Speaker**—His topic would be about what the meanings are of the different feathers. He would bring a few dream catchers as gifts. He is just asking for donations of feathers. **More information to follow!**

## AAB update

The following birds will be up for adoption on March 2014, at the General membership meeting,

**4 Ringneck Doves, 3 White Doves, 2 Parrotlets, 2 Cockatiels, 2 Meyers Parrots, 2 parakeets, Blue & Gold Macaw, Blue fronted Amazon, Congo African Grey**

**Special Needs Birds (Will need approval from AAB manager to adopt): Congo African Grey (he needs special attention to feather regrowth)**

Many of the birds do not have cages, so please remember to bring a carrier for any of the birds that you ht be interested in adopting.

### ~ Adopt-A-Bird ~

#### AAB is RMSA's State-Licensed, PACFA-Qualified Cage Bird Foster / Adoption Program.

To qualify to adopt through RMSA, you must be a current member and have a completed AAB Questionnaire on file with the AAB Manager at least one month prior to applying for adoption. For more information, please contact the RMSA Info Line **303-456-0068** or [www.rmsabirds.com](http://www.rmsabirds.com).

### PACFA (Pet Animal Care Facility Act)

The **Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA) Program** is a State of Colorado licensing and inspection program dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of those animals in pet care facilities throughout Colorado. Facilities such as animal breeders, pet stores, and others are required by law to be licensed and inspected.

*Director—Kate Anderson, DVM*

Go to: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Agriculture-Main/CDAG/1167928256523>

Online registration and reporting forms to fill in and email to:

**Department of Agriculture**

**Animal Industries Division, 700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000, Lakewood, CO 80215**

**Phone: 1-303-239-4161**

**This is also the number you can call to register a complaint about anything having to do with the care of pet animals by entities required to be licensed by this State law.**

### RMSA Treasurer's Report

February 2014

Guaranty Bank

#### Last reported balance:

General	17,651.38
Raffle Fund	<u>3,895.01</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,546.39</b>

#### Deposits

General	540.40
Raffle	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>540.40</b>

### Checks Posted

General	(6,018.88)
Raffle	<u>(258.97)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>(6277.85)</b>

Credit Card Fees	(9.95)
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**7 payees** 1 R USPS 115.99 (postage). 2 R. Anaconda Printing 142.98 (NL printing). 3 NWSS 4,429.50 (Expo) 4. Denver Post Ad 119.20. 5. CenturyLink 47.27 (Phone). 6. L. Anderson 207.91 (flowers). 7. Coast to Coast (1,215.00 (November Expo Pipe & Drape).

### Balance as of March 9, 2014

General Fund	12,162.95
Raffle Fund	<u>3,636.04</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,798.99</b>

**Submitted by Larry Anderson,**  
**Treasurer**



# Why Birds Live So Long

by [Susan Orosz, PhD, DVM, Dipl ABVP \(Avian\), Dipl ECZM](#)

14th November 2013

Mature double-yellow headed Amazon parrot By William Warby



**B**irds are remarkably long lived for their body size when compared with mammals. Since birds have a higher metabolic rate, body temperature and a higher resting glucose than that of mammals, it is assumed the parameters of aging are increased. These metabolic factors should lead to a reduced, not increased, life span. The exceptional longevity in birds suggests they have evolved special mechanisms to protect them from rapid aging in the wake of their increased metabolic processes. How is it that they are able to do it?

Flying allows escape from predation. Data show that there is an increased life span in birds and in mammals that can fly. Recent data shows that those animals that

routinely undergo exertional exercise have longer life spans than those that do not. Birds have lower levels of oxidative damage in their mitochondrial DNA despite the increased energy required for flight. So what does this mean? These metabolic processes normally cause the release of free radicals and those bind to cellular components – particularly membranes. That causes the membranes to age and makes the normal processes of the membranes to malfunction or to perform less well.

But bird, particularly psittacines (parrots), live much longer than they are supposed to live! In fact the large macaws live on average four times their predicted life spans! Birds in general have a reduction in oxidative damage. This signifies that birds have lower levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS) or have developed strategies to reduce the damage associated with them. Birds also have a complex array of mechanisms to reduce damage from oxidative processes. For example, male quail show plasticity of the hypothalamo-pituitary-gonadal axis despite the reduced fertility associated with aging. If only we could do that when we age! White matter tracts in the CNS of passerines regrow neurons related to song seasonally, which defies current mammalian dogma. If we could understand how they regrow tracts in their spinal cord and brain, it could help stroke victims and those with spinal cord injuries.

## When Is A Bird A Senior Bird?

One concern that has been expressed is that old animals, including birds in the wild, simply die before they have a chance to show signs of aging. However, studies observing birds over time have

shown that is not true! So when we look at our companion birds, we then ask, “At what age are they considered geriatric?”

In one study, Drs. Dury Reavill and Gerry Dorrestein determined the following by looking at age vs. changes associated with aging in older birds. Small birds (budgies, lovebirds) were considered senior at > 6 years; cockatiels > 12 years; and Amazons, macaws, cockatoos and African Grey parrots > 30 years.

There are a number of conditions that clinicians have observed in companion birds as they age. Tumors are more common in senior birds, including pituitary tumors in budgerigars. Cataracts and retinal changes have also been observed in a variety of psittacines. Decreased range of motion and osteoarthritis also occurs. However, radiographic evidence of osteoarthritis is much more difficult to discern. Chronic renal and liver disease occurs as our parrot friends age. Gout occurs more often in older birds. When the kidneys begin to fail, uric acid can accumulate within joints or on the surfaces of organs. Endocrine diseases tend to be more common as birds age, with gonadal degeneration often reported. Atherosclerosis and increased pulmonary hypertension have also been documented. The most common species affected include blue-fronted Amazon parrots (91.4%), Congo African greys (91.9%) and macaws. The average age when atherosclerosis occurs is 12 years, with plaques primarily in the brachiocephalic trunk, along with the pectoral and carotid arteries. Interestingly, fatty changes are rare in the coronary arteries. These devastating changes are associated with high-fat diets and lack of exercise.



## Tips To Help Your Bird Age Well

So how then can we provide quality care to our parrots as they age? The first step is taking your senior bird in for a yearly exam by your avian veterinarian. The physical exam of the senior bird should include looking at the eyes for cataracts, determining the quality of feathering and, if there are skin changes, looking for lumps and bumps; palpating joints and determining if there is a change in mobility; if there is pain, auscultating the heart and lungs and taking a blood pressure and general palpation of the body. Additional diagnostic tests may be indicated in the individual patient.

How then can we support our senior feathered friends? Providing a good diet is the first step, one that offers balanced omega fatty acids to help with the quenching of oxidation from the free radicals. Foods should provide slightly increased levels of vitamin E and C, as these are used at a higher rate as animals age. Vitamin A and beta-carotenes are also important in maintaining the membranes of the body—from the respiratory tree to the intestinal tract and the tubules of the kidneys. Vitamin A is also important for support of the immune system. A functioning immune system helps stave off infections and reduce the incidence of tumors. Seed diets, on the other hand, are deficient in these vitamins. [NutriBerries](#), [Avicakes](#) and [Senior NutriBerries](#) have these important vitamins in them, and they are also balanced with the omega fatty acids.

[Senior Bird NutriBerries](#) also contain milk thistle, dandelion and ginger. These herbs are important for many of the organ systems. Milk thistle, or Saint Mary's thistle, is a plant indige-

nous to the Mediterranean region and is used for chronic hepatitis in people and may help our birds as well. It works by stabilizing cell membranes and stimulates protein synthesis while accelerating regeneration in damaged liver tissue. Milk thistle promotes wound healing and counteracts skin degeneration as an anti-inflammatory and by free radical scavenging mechanisms. Silymarin, the main component in milk thistle, has an anti-inflammatory and anti-arthritis effect in rats and increases bile flow and bile salt secretion.

Dandelion is a perennial herb and has been noted to increase bile production and enhance the flow of bile. The choline content of dandelion may act to improve liver function as well. Patients with severe liver problems (loss of appetite, low energy, jaundice and dyspepsia with deficient bile secretion) had a significant drop in blood cholesterol after 20 days of administration and their liver function tests improved. All of this would be of benefit to our senior birds.

Ginger is often used as a spice, but it is also a great medicinal herb. Ginger blocks nausea by reducing stimuli within the gastrointestinal tract. By inhibiting cyclooxygenase and lipo-oxygenase pathways, ginger inhibits both prostaglandin and leukotriene synthesis, thereby acting as an antioxidant. Ginger has been found to improve cardiovascular conditions and osteoarthritis, which are important to reduce those problems in senior birds.

Our senior birds represent the fountain of youth compared with mammals, and we can help them live improved healthful lives along the way!



### About Susan Orosz, PhD, DVM, Dipl ABVP (Avian), Dipl ECZM (Avian)

Susan Orosz, Ph.D., DVM, Dipl. ABVP (Avian), Dipl. ECZM (Avian) Dr. Orosz is a board-certified specialist in avian medicine and surgery, both in the United States (ABVP, Avian) and in Europe (ECZM, Avian). She is known internationally through the advances made for the health care of birds, books and articles she has written, and her lectures to veterinarians and bird owners alike.

[View all posts by Susan Orosz, PhD, DVM, Dipl ABVP \(Avian\), Dipl ECZM \(Avian\) → http://lafeber.com/pet-birds/author/susan/](http://lafeber.com/pet-birds/author/susan/)

## From Windy City Parrot

Posted by Mitch Rezman on 7/2/2013  
to Newsworthy & Celebrity Birds



*Theodore Roosevelt Jr. with his parrot Eli in the White House conservatory*

Well I might have gotten my facts a little convoluted here. Tomorrow is after all Presidents' Day. (Was February 22). We know that at least one Macaw lived in the White House

Today we thought it would be appropriate to talk about all the United States presidents that have had birds in the White House.

**T**heodore Roosevelt (1901-1909) The Teddy Roosevelt-era White House was crawling with pets, including roosters and parrots. Once the president wrote to Joel Chandler Harris, author of the Uncle Remus stories, that he wasn't so keen on his son Ted's pet macaw, a Hyacinth named Eli Yale. "Eli is the most gorgeous macaw, with a bill that I think could bite through boiler plate, who crawls all over Ted, and whom I view with dark suspicion"

**A**lmost all of the 43 presidents, from George Washington to President Obama, have had at least one pet. Information is sketchy so we tried to aggregate all the facts we could find about presidential pet bird ownership

**G**eorge Washington (1789 -1791) Had Polly the parrot which was actually Martha's. George didn't like the bird - apparently the feeling was mutual and they kept a close eye on one another when in the same room

**J**ames Madison (1809 -1817) Dolly Madison owned a Macaw that out lived both of them. When British troops set fire to the presidential residence during the War of 1812, she heroically rescued the parrot as the fire was engulfing the White House.

**J**ohn Quincy Adams (1825-1829 ) Louisa Adams, wife of this president, known at the White House for her silkworms, also owned a parrot during her husband's term.

Andrew Jackson (1829-1837) Pol the African Grey parrot had bought as a gift for his wife Rachel. Unfortunately, Rachel died, and the President had to take care of Pol himself. Pol was taught to swear and screamed curse words at his funeral. The African Grey had to be ejected from the funeral ceremony when he started cursing in both English and Spanish, all learned from the president!

**Z**achary Taylor: (1849-1850) Had a canary Named Johnny Ty

**J**ames Buchanan (1857-1861) Had an eagle

**R**utherford B. Hayes (1877 - 1881) Hayes had four Canaries with clipped wings. It's said one regularly spent time between one of his cats paws (in a a good way)

**T**homas Jefferson (1891 - 1809) Had a Mockingbird he bought for five shillings from one of the slaves of his father-in-law John Wayles. In 1803 Jefferson paid \$10 and \$15 which was the going rate for the price of the "singing Mockingbirds". The person he bought them from saying the birds knew American, Scottish and French tunes and could imitate all the birds of the woods.

He took one of them to France where the bird learned more sounds that added to his American repertoire. Because the trip to Europe trip took a month the bird learned to imitate the creaking of the ship's timbers.

A memorandum book indicates that Jefferson had at least four mockingbirds, "Dick" being his favorite. He retired surrounded by his mockingbirds.

**U**lysses S. Grant (1869-1877) Had a parrot - not much else is known

**G**rover Cleveland (1885-1889 and 1893-1897) Had several canaries and mockingbirds belonging to Mrs. Frances Cleveland

**W**illiam McKinley (1897-1901) Had a Double Yellow Headed Amazon parrot named "Washington Post" who would finish whistling the songs McKinley started whistling like Yankee Doodle Dandy

**W**arren Harding (1921-23) Had a Canary named Bob

**C**alvin Coolidge (1923-1929) - Had Nip and Tuck, canaries , Snowflake a white canary, Old Bill a Thrush, Enoch a Goose and a Mockingbird, name unknown.

**J**ohn F. Kennedy (1961 - 1963) - Had Robin, a canary, Parakeets named Bluebell (after a famous racehorse) and Marybelle

**L**yndon B. Johnson (1963 - 1969) - Owned Lovebirds

[http://www.windycityparrot.com/Presidential-Birds\\_b\\_310.html#Uxqnu5utDhw](http://www.windycityparrot.com/Presidential-Birds_b_310.html#Uxqnu5utDhw)





# Psittacosis & Other Zoonotic Diseases

6th March 2014 by [Susan Orosz, PhD, DVM, Dipl ABVP \(Avian\), Dipl ECZM \(Avian\)](#)



A recent news story told of the sad passing of a young boy from rat-bite fever, which he contracted from his pet rat. While this is a disease in rats, the fact that his rat transmitted this disease to a human shows by definition that it was a zoonotic disease. A zoonotic disease is a disease that can be passed between animals to humans. Zoonotic diseases can be caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites and fungi. As pet bird owners, we all need to know about the zoonotic diseases of our birds so that we can guard against them— to keep both them and us healthy and happy!

The most important zoonotic disease with our parrots is psittacosis, also called parrot fever. While it gets its name from the word parrot or psittacine, it may be transmitted to humans from other types of birds, including turkeys, pigeons and wild birds. Birds in the parrot family, or psittacines, that are more commonly associated with transmitting the disease include macaws, budgerigars (parakeets) and cockatiels. Avian chlamydiosis, the form of the disease in birds, can occur in canaries and finches but is infrequently diagnosed. The disease is caused by a bacterium called *Chlamydophila psittaci*. It is like a cross between a virus and a bacterium, as this bacteria replicates inside of cells, rather than outside, so the standard tests of gram stains and culture do not work for finding it.

Because psittacosis can be spread by birds in the parrot family, it has been occasionally found in pet-store workers and those who have purchased an infected bird. It may also be found in farmers and slaughterhouse workers who process turkeys. Many of the large pet store chains are concerned about the transmission of this disease, so they test the incoming birds for it. The most common technique for testing is through polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing. This type of testing amplifies any *Chlamydophila* genetic information in a

sample if it is present, allowing it to be detected even at low levels. It is important to discuss the testing of your bird with your veterinarian, because the manner in which samples are collected, the type of samples collected and the lab that is used can all influence the results.

### **Psittacosis in People**

Human infection with *C. psittaci* usually occurs when a person inhales the organism that has been aerosolized from dried feces or respiratory tract secretions of infected birds. Other means of exposure include mouth-to-beak contact and the handling of infected bird's plumage and tissues. Even brief exposures to birds or bird waste can lead to symptomatic infection; therefore, certain patients with psittacosis might not recall or report having any contact with birds. The onset of illness typically follows an incubation period of five to 14 days, but it can be longer. The severity of the disease ranges from a mild, non-specific illness to a systemic illness with severe pneumonia. Some people have died from this disease, but if there is knowledge of exposure and the correct antibiotic is used, the person usually regains health. In humans, the symptoms are fever, headache, chills and sometimes pneumonia. Some people may only experience mild flu-like illness, or show no illness at all. A nonproductive cough is usually present and can be accompanied by breathing difficulty and/or chest tightness.

As the disease progresses, weakness and inability to clearly think sets in. If you experience these symptoms, let your doctor know that you have birds and you may suggest that he or she consult with an infectious disease expert. Often, your doctor may not understand the level of testing in our birds that has a high degree of accuracy, and they may simply suggest that you get rid of your birds. However, companion birds are currently thought to pose a low risk to immune-compromised persons. Appropriate testing of your birds and then not exposing them to birds that have not been tested helps cut down the potential incidence of you or your bird catching this potentially life-threatening disease!

## Psittacosis in Birds

In our psittacine birds, the usual incubation period of *C. psittaci* ranges from three days to several weeks. However, active disease can appear with no identifiable exposure or risk factor. Signs of avian chlamydiosis are non-specific and include lethargy, anorexia and ruffled feathers. Other signs include serous or mucopurulent (mucous with pus) ocular or nasal discharge, conjunctivitis, diarrhea and excretion of green to yellow-green urates. Severely affected birds may become anorectic (lack of appetite) and produce sparse, dark green droppings, followed by emaciation, dehydration, and death. Whether the bird has acute or chronic signs of illness or dies, this depends on the species of bird, virulence of the strain, infectious dose, stress factors, age, and extent of treatment or prophylaxis.

Our companion birds may show a variety of signs depending on the species. Commonly, budgies (or parakeets) and cockatiels may show respiratory or GI signs, but not both, when they have this disease. The larger parrots — including macaws — tend to show GI and respiratory signs. While cockatoos are less susceptible, they can be affected as well; lovebirds may not show any signs but be found dead in their cage. It is important to have these birds tested after death so that family members that may have been exposed are notified and appropriately medicated. Psittacine birds that are tested while apparently healthy or not and are found positive or highly suspicious for the disease are usually medicated for 45 days and then retested to make sure that they are cleared of the infection. It is important to work closely with your

avian veterinarian to reduce exposure and infection of this disease.

## Other Zoonotic Diseases

There are a number of other potential zoonotic diseases that as a bird owner you should be aware of. Salmonella can be transmitted by birds, particularly pigeons and doves. Avian tuberculosis has been found in some of our parrot species, but it is often the human that transmits the disease to the parrot instead of the other way around! Avian influenza, particularly the H5N1 strain, has had a lot of press but so far, with good monitoring of the wildlife and the poultry in the USA, there have been no cases reported. Canada just recently reported a case of a traveler from China to Canada who was confirmed to have the disease. A more important problem that is not infectious is allergic alveolitis in people. Those people have a hypersensitivity reaction to the feather dander of their birds. Species of birds that are known to more commonly create this problem are African greys, cockatiels and cockatoos.

While these diseases can be a serious threat, understanding them, including how to test and eradicate them when possible, helps reduce possible exposure and infection. Let's all learn how to play safe.

(See Dr. Susan Orosz's info on page 9)



## RMSA Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 9, 2014  
Start 8:58 a.m. Westech Mechanical

### IN ATTENDANCE

Eric Nelson - President  
Kim Anderson - Membership  
Larry Anderson - Treasurer  
Valerie Layman - Trustee  
Bear Twyman - Trustee  
Trish Welter - Education  
Sharon Cox - AAB  
Nancy Brown - Trustee  
Warren Benbridge - Vice President  
Dianna Bravo-Secretary

### ABSENT

Kaley Johnson  
Paul Pigon  
Lisa Holt

- Totals for the Expo will be available at the next meeting. Expenses include venue, billboard, cc charges, advertising, silent auction items, setup and breakdown, help, pipe and drape.
- We want to have name tags for board members and members.
- To get the raffle license we need a list of names and email addresses of people who will be participating in the raffle games.
- See [windycityparrot.com](http://windycityparrot.com) to see 350 parrot species displayed over the next 90 days.
- Newsletter and postage will be paid out of the raffle fund because it is considered education.
- trailer was emptied from the Expo into the storeroom. Storeroom currently has 3 cabinets. We may take out two cabinets and replace them with shelves.

### TAXES- Larry Anderson

- US Bank account is complete.
- Guaranty Bank needs to be done.
- Accountant does RMSA as a nonprofit for free.
- Back up copy of taxes will be on a flash drive.
- Banker boxes from storeroom can be scanned into electronic format.

### EVENTS

- May Expo –Held at National Western Complex, Mother's Day Weekend.
- 30-40 vendor packs will be sent out.
- Advertising poster 13 x 19, glossy, color.
- Mike - photographer who went to Bath event has pictures of our people who went.
- Cage Auction - 3 months to collect items for auction. We want to be more selective about items we accept for auction. After the last auction all cages were gone through and all junk was disposed of. We will be having Cage Auction instead of our picnic. Next board meeting we will decide on a date. (August 23, 2014, Saturday)

### PUBLICITY

- Dianna will sort through slips from the November Expo and make a list of emails and which advertising drew the most attendees.

### EDUCATION - Trish Welter

- Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald from Alameda East has been on Animal Planet and is a stand up comic, would be a great speaker at one of our general meetings not yet booked.
- Dr. Joanie Edwards DVM.
- June is Tom Real with the Dreamcatchers. Save and collect all available bird feathers to gift to him when he comes in June, as the general meeting's speaker.
- Dr. Marc Davis  
there was a vet that had an inspirational presentation about beak reconstructive surgery  
John Braesenle - paintings, speaker  
library: goal is 2 dozen books, and a librarian.  
we want to know what members consider to be 3 most critical bird titles  
we could also have DVDs included in the library for check-out

### AAB - Sharon Cox

- Webster: African Grey special needs  
2 parrotlets  
2 parakeets (must stay together)  
2 Meyers (must stay together)  
3 white doves  
tan ringneck doves  
Sunny: special needs Amazon  
Cesar: blue and gold macaw in rehab  
Scooter: Severe Macaw ready for adoption but still touchy (needs to be touched a lot)  
Sparky: Blue Front Amazon approx. 17 years old (needs to be touched a lot)  
Dept. of Agriculture license is not for AAB, it is for the Expos since we have so many birds in one place  
the list of volunteers able to help with pick-ups will be emailed to Sharon by Kim  
home inspections need to be restarted. Johnny can get a team to delegate the inspections to. Volunteers will be recruited at the general meeting.
- Whoever does home inspections needs to report to Sharon.
  - Sharon keeps a spreadsheet of adoptions and they will be eventually scanned.

- There was a home inspection group database
- people who relinquish birds are sad and whoever picks up the birds need to represent the club with caring and understanding  
club retains ownership of birds for one year.  
AAB money will be announced with Treasury report.  
Meeting adjourned at 11:15am

Submitted by Dianna Bravo Secretary

General Meeting Notes, Friday February 14, 2014

**Westech Mechanical**

- ◆ *Members were asked for suggestions for speakers they might be interested in hearing.*
- ◆ *Board asked members for volunteers interested in assisting with home inspections. Anyone interested please see Sharon Cox and Johnny McManus.*
- ◆ *Everyone is asked to be collecting feathers to gift to Tom Real when he comes to speak in June about the meanings of feathers in the Native American dreamcatchers that he makes.*
- ◆ *Guest speaker was Andy Hall, MBA, CPBT-KA. Certified Profession Bird Trainer and Behavior Coach with AvianWise. “*
- ◆ *“The field of animal behavior and training has been at the forefront of Andy’s interest since beginning his work with raptors in 1994. He has studied and worked with some of the world’s most knowledgeable and talented trainers and behaviorists. Much of his work has been with birds, and they comprise most of the 200+ species of animal that Andy has worked with. Working with free flighted birds taught him the importance of monitoring the environment, closely watching the body language of the animal and how to effectively use positive reinforcement and coercive-free strategies while working with animals.” (AvianWise.com)*
- ◆ *Andy spoke about the 2014 International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators conference which he attended in Dallas, Texas. He was so excited to share the groundbreaking research that his fellow trainer/educators shared about bird behavior and how interested this international community is in sharing what they are learning with avian enthusiasts and zoo patrons around the world. These are the people who design our experiences in zoos and wild animal parks.*
- ◆ *For more information on Andy’s report about the conference, visit <http://avianwise.com/category/events/iaate.org> is a resource of information and has a section for companion parrots.*



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**Andy Hall**  
MBA, CPBT-KA  
Certified  
Professional  
Bird Trainer

  
IATCB  
International Avian Trainers  
Certification Board

720-509-9738  
Andy@AvianWise.com  
AvianWise.com

**2014 RMSA Board Members, HV Committee Co-Chairs, & AFA Representatives**



**Eric Nelson  
President**



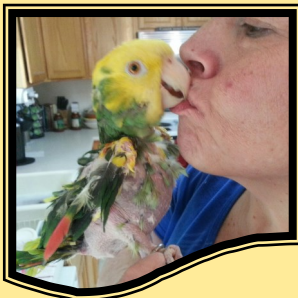
**Warren Benbrook  
Vice President**



**Trish Welter  
Education Manager**



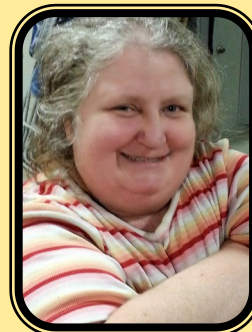
**Sharon Cox  
Adopt a Bird Manager**



**Kim Anderson  
Membership Manager  
Co-Editor Newsletter**



**Larry Anderson  
Treasurer, AAB &  
Co-Fundraising Manager**



**Nancy Brown  
Trustee**



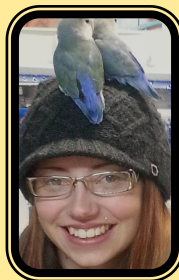
**Lisa Holt  
Publicity & Outreach  
Manager**



**"Bear" Twyman  
Trustee & Games Manager**



**Paul Pigon  
Co-Fundraising  
Manager**



**Kaley Johnson  
Co-Fundraising  
Manager**



**Valerie Layman  
Trustee**



**Dianna Bravo  
Secretary**

*All of these positions will take full commitment to RMSA, "Education, Conservation and Preservation Fellowship with others interested in birds". We are a team of dedicated volunteers, that make decisions that are best for RMSA as a group, not for us as individuals. As officers, this is a forum to lay the problems and offered solutions, on the table. These positions necessitate coming to the scheduled meetings regularly, implementing your responsibilities & communicating in a timely manner. The end product, if we don't, affects our overall success & how we are viewed. We strive to think "out of the box" for new ideas to make us an exemplary Society.*



Membership meeting Friday,  
March 14th @ 7:00pm @  
Westech Mechanical

**Q-Z** Please bring food for snacks! Something warm would be nice, especially with this cold weather!

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month at Westech Mechanical, 4755 Fox Street, Denver.

DIRECTIONS to Westech Mechanical for Monthly General Membership Meeting

- Coming from the east of I-25—Take I-70 W just past I-25 to the Pecos Street Exit, which is on the right-hand side of the highway.
- Coming from the west of I-25—Take I-70 E to the Pecos Street Exit, just before I-25.

The rest of the directions are the same, coming from either direction:

- You will be turning north toward Pecos Street from I-70, but before you go even a tenth of a mile, you will take a hairpin right turn onto 48th Avenue, heading east.
- You will go up and over a bridge/overpass (do not go down the road to the right of the entrance to the bridge/overpass).
- After you go down the other side of the bridge/overpass, you will see the Quality Inn and The Village Inn to your right on the frontage road that parallels 48th. Turn right at the stop sign just before the overpass.
- Turn right in front of the Quality Inn, onto the frontage road, which will mean you are heading west again. You will pass The Village Inn on the left.
- Go down the frontage road to the second street on the left—Fox Street.
- Turn left, go down a block. Westech Mechanical is on the right hand side , #4755.



## Membership Update

**Please prorate your due date for May 1st of whatever year you would like to pay to.**

**(Business & Vet) \$60.00 will be prorated at \$5.00/month**

**(Family/Dual) \$30.00 will be prorated at \$2.50/month**

**(Individual) \$25.00 will be prorated at \$2.08/month**

**(Senior and Junior) \$10.00 will be prorated at \$0.83/month**

✂ ***If your due date has not been for May 1st., prorate it to May 1st. May 1st is coming up pretty quickly, so keep in mind about renewing your membership! The prorated monthly rates are in red above.***

✂ **Please complete the membership form (even for renewal) & return completed with check to:**

**RMSA,**

**PO Box 1106,**

**Wheat Ridge, CO 80034-1106**

*Kim Anderson, Membership Coordinator*



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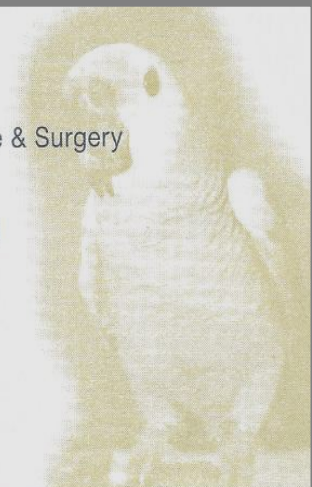
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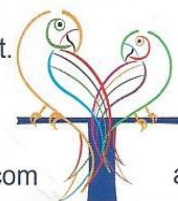
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# Classified Ads

Canaries for sale. Special price for club members. All colors. Call Anna at 719 634 6404.  
Thank you.

## Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture Newsletter

This is the official publication of the Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture. It is published monthly. All rights reserved unless otherwise authorized in advance by the Newsletter Editor. RMSA is a pending 501 (c)3 non-profit organization.. Contact us at 303.456.0068 or go to our website, [www.rmsabirds.com](http://www.rmsabirds.com) to learn more about RMSA and what we can do for you and your birds!

## Submission for Publication Deadline:

**March 28, 2014**, for the next month's issue. Submit ads in Word or .jpg file format. Not responsible for the visual quality of .pdf or .gif files.

**Reprints:** Original articles & drawings may be reprinted if credit is given to the author/artist and to RMSA Newsletter. Only original items may be reprinted.

## Classified Line Advertising:

FREE to RMSA members. Take advantage of this member benefit! Ads run for two months unless written request is made to extend the ad. Newsletter submission deadlines apply.

**Non-Members:** \$3.00/20 words for two months. Ads that are family friendly, non-bird related, as well as bird-related, are welcome. To continue your member ad, notify the

editor by the deadline.

## Print Advertising:

**RMSA does not invoice**—prepayment must accompany all non-member classifieds and all print advertising. Continuation of non-member classified ads and any print advertising is contingent on written notification to the editor by the newsletter deadline for the issue in which the ad is to be continued, accompanied by the required payment. RMSA accepts PayPal on its website for your convenience.

## ALL PRINT AD ART AND BUSINESS CARDS MUST BE CAMERA-READY ORIGINALS FOR BEST REPRODUCTION.

Email file to [fitformylife@aol.com](mailto:fitformylife@aol.com) or call 303.456-0068 to arrange for faxing or USPS mailing.

## Ad Type

## Per Issue & Per Year

Business Card	\$5.00	\$60.00
1/4 Page	\$15.00	\$180.00
1/2 Page	\$25.00	\$300.00
Full Page	\$50.00	\$600.00
Centerfold	\$100.00	\$1,200.00

**(Disclaimer:** RMSA and the RMSA Newsletter Editor do not assume any responsibility for advertiser's claims or for the quality of the advertiser's products or services. The Newsletter Editor reserves the right to decline to publish any ad or article that does not support the goals of RMSA or for which the required payment has not been received by the submission for publication deadline.

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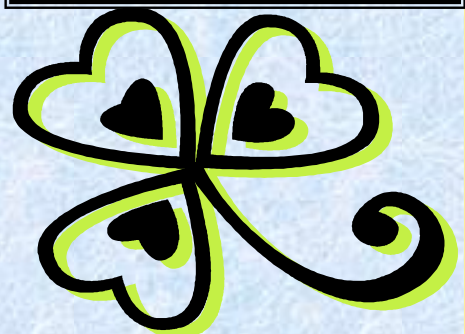
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**NOTE: Ads must be resubmitted every two months. Please remember to let the Editors know if you have sold the items in your ads, or if you wish them to be kept in the newsletter another 2 months. Thank You.**



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOCIETY of AVICULTURE**  
**P.O. Box 1106, Wheat Ridge, CO 80034-1106**  
**303-456-0068**     [www.rmsabirds.org](http://www.rmsabirds.org)

**Membership Application & Renewal Form**

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please add me to the RMSA Announcements email list \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no  
 Hard Copy (black & white) \_\_\_ or color email pdf \_\_\_ of monthly RMSA newsletter.  
 Types of birds owned or raised? \_\_\_\_\_

*RMSA works for you and aviculture through education, conversation, staying politically updated on avian issues, and conservation. Also, RMSA has fellowship with others, learning new and better methods of caring for our birds*

**Annual Dues:** (Enclose check or money order payable to RMSA for the appropriate amount:)

- \_\_\_ Individual \$25 per year  
Benefits: newsletter and one vote
- \_\_\_ Dual/Family (2 people/household) \$30  
Benefits: newsletter and two votes
- \_\_\_ Junior (17 years of age and under) \$10  
Benefits: newsletter
- \_\_\_ Senior (60 years +) \$10  
Benefits: newsletter and one vote
- \_\_\_ Business Member \$60 per year  
Benefits: two newsletters, one vote, a double size ad in the newsletter for one year, listing in business member column in the newsletter
- \_\_\_ Veterinary Member \$60 per year  
Benefits: two newsletters, one vote, a business card size ad in the newsletter for one year, listing in veterinary member column in the newsletter.

To adopt birds from the RMSA Adopt a Bird program, a questionnaire must be filled out and on file with the AAB Manager.

\_\_\_ I would like to receive an AAB Questionnaire.

I am interested in helping in the following areas:  
(Please check at least 2 and you will be contacted)

- \_\_\_ Show/Mart volunteer  
\_\_\_ Show/Mart planning  
\_\_\_ Publicity/advertising  
\_\_\_ Education  
\_\_\_ Club photography  
\_\_\_ Historian  
\_\_\_ AAB/fostering  
\_\_\_ Library  
\_\_\_ Newsletter  
\_\_\_ Website  
\_\_\_ Hospitality

I would be interested in information on: (check all that apply)

- \_\_\_ The Basics of Feeding  
\_\_\_ Basic Bird Anatomy  
\_\_\_ Avian Diseases  
\_\_\_ Household dangers/poisonous plants  
\_\_\_ Signs and symptoms of illness  
\_\_\_ Cage and play gym size and set up  
\_\_\_ Appropriate toys for different species  
\_\_\_ Problem behaviors (screaming, biting, feather Chewing/plucking, etc.)  
\_\_\_ Avian obesity  
\_\_\_ Quarantine  
\_\_\_ Other, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign : \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





Rocky Mountain  
Society of Aviculture  
P.O. Box 1106  
Wheat Ridge, CO  
80034-1106

**Please Note:** *All due dates are being transitioned to May 1st of every year. Please check your due date located above your address label. If there are changes or updates to your contact information, call 303-456-0068 or email Kim Anderson (Membership) [fitformylife@aol.com](mailto:fitformylife@aol.com)*

## Upcoming Events 2014

See page 6 inside newsletter!

General Club Meetings 7:00 p.m. 2nd Friday of each month  
Westech Mechanical • 4755 Fox Street • Denver CO 80216 •  
303.762.9894