



THE FRONT PERCH NEWSLETTER

Returning to our favorite spot
on *The Front Perch* to gab with
you about:

- Current happenings at the aviary
- An aviary tour with Mark Pruden of *The African Grey Journal*
- Bird-focused poetry selection
- Sponsorship highlight
- Senior bird adoption stories
- Adorable & adoptable birds
- Ways to help our flock TODAY





WHAT'S UP AT THE AVIARY?

A few joyful little moments from around the aviary!

This summer, our team has been hard at work getting birds out for plenty of fun in the sun, giving cool mist baths, and preparing sponsorship updates.



CIRCE



TAFFY

Circe and Taffy are making great progress on trusting their primary caretaker enough to offer consistent step ups!



ED

ASTRO

Ed and Astro have been enjoying a summer bro-mance, hanging out in our outdoor enclosures and preening each other!



RICKY ROO

Team member Melissa made Ricky Roo some new protective pajamas that fit him perfectly!



A SPECIAL VISITOR: MARK PRUDEN!

Last month, we had the distinct pleasure of welcoming esteemed guest Mark Pruden, the face behind *The African Grey Journal*, along with his partner and talented videographer, Jaree! A Queens native, Mark made the journey all the way from New York to visit our aviary and dive into the mission and programs of The Gabriel Foundation.



During his visit, we explored the rich history of TGF and touched on a wide range of topics including adoptions, behavior, enrichment, diet and nutrition, medical challenges faced by birds in captivity, and the realities of operating a shelter with high overhead costs. Mark's background in aviculture, particularly as a breeder, led to a respectful and thoughtful discussion on breeding, a topic that falls outside the scope of TGF's mission.

Of course, no tour would be complete without stopping to meet many of our feathered (and a few furry) residents along the way! You can catch this engaging and informative interview by visiting Mark's YouTube channel or checking out his social media platforms below!



FIND MARK ON YOUTUBE & INSTAGRAM:
@theafricangreyjournal

Poetry Selection

Goldfinches by Mary Oliver



In the fields
we let them have—
in the fields
we don't want yet—

where thistles rise
out of marshlands of spring, and spring open—
each bud
a settlement of riches—

a coin of reddish fire—
the finches
wait for midsummer,
for the long days,

for the brass heat,
for the seeds to begin to form in the hardening thistles,
dazzling as the teeth of mice,
but black,

filling the face of every flower.
Then they drop from the sky.
A buttery gold,
they swing on the thistles, they gather

the silvery down, they carry it
in their finchy beaks
to the edges of the fields,
to the trees,

as though their minds were on fire
with the flower of one perfect idea—
and there they build their nests
and lay their pale-blue eggs,

every year,
and every year
the hatchlings wake in the swaying branches,
in the silver baskets,

and love the world.
Is It necessary to say any more?
Have you heard them singing in the wind, above the final fields?
Have you ever been so happy in your life?





SEARCHING FOR A SPONSOR:

Max the grey has recently joined our flock at the whopping age of 46! Max encapsulates all that we love about greys. He's funny, a talented mimic, loves a dance party, and wickedly smart (sometimes too smart!)

Despite all of Max's incredible traits, he also comes with some unique challenges that make him a less likely candidate for adoption, at least for now. Max hasn't been physically handled in many years, and he's made it clear he prefers it that way. This, combined with a developing cataract in one eye, means that building trust with him will take time, patience, and a gentle, specialized approach.

That's where sponsorship becomes so important. While Max may not be ready for a home of his own, your support helps us give him the high-quality care, enrichment, and individualized attention he needs to thrive right here with us. Sponsoring Max is a powerful way to be part of his journey, offering him stability and dignity while our team works to support him on his own terms.



BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY:

thegabrielfoundation.org/sponsor/



SENIOR BIRD ADOPTIONS THAT MELTED OUR HEARTS:



Previous senior Amazon adopters Mike and Boo left here with not one, not two, but three senior special needs Amazons! Mike and Boo traveled from out of state to visit with the candidates and when they couldn't pick one, they decided to adopt all three. Joining their flock are Michael, Buzzy, and Pita. We are so happy for this senior Amazon group as we know they are in good hands!



Gladys the Moluccan cockatoo is a very special girl—she is a blind senior who has arthritis which results in mobility challenges. Due to these considerations, our team was on the lookout for a family for Gladys who had experience caring for birds with similar care needs. Imagine our delight when Brittney and Logan—previous adopters who have a blind Senegal at home—fell in love with Gladys! Their visits with Gladys were jam-packed with head scratches, her unique version of dancing, and learning how to handle her with care. Once Gladys was cleared by our veterinary partners to head home, she was off to join her new flock!





ADORABLE & ADOPTABLE:

Picture this: you open your heart and home to Gabriel & Fairbanks... For years to come, these birdie besties share their skillful flight and energetic antics with you, filling your life with joy. Gabriel is a 28-year-old Goffin's cockatoo, and Fairbanks is a 30-year-old Lilac-Crowned Amazon. The strength of their bond does get in the way of making friends with other birds... so we would prefer they land in a home where they won't be expected to share a space with others.



These two have it all! They both step up nicely on a hand, get plenty of exercise through flight, and enjoy both human and each other's company. They go WILD for any kind of bath time. Gabriel demands to be directly sprayed with water until he is completely saturated. Our team would love to find a home where these boys can safely zoom around to their hearts' content through plenty of out-of-cage time with their new family! Does this dynamic duo sound like the right fit for you? Contact our team to learn more about Gabriel, Fairbanks, or our other adoptable angels today!



SUMMER VACAY COMING UP? BRING YOUR BIRDS TO RANCHO PAPAGAYO, OUR BIRDIE HOTEL!

Your beloved feathered family member will enjoy:

- Attentive care from our experienced staff
- Optional access to safe outdoor enclosures
- The company of other avian vacationers
- Ample enrichment
- Our fresh, quality diet or familiar food from home

MORE INFORMATION AT:

thegabrielfoundation.org/services/boarding/



HELP TGF TODAY!

- Donate large newspapers and recyclables that we can use for toy making! We'll accept old books, toilet paper/paper towel rolls, paper egg cartons, or unused paper goods like colorful paper plates, treat cups, and cupcake liners! Nothing foiled, waxed, or dirty! We also accept towels.
- Sign up to be a sponsor for our beloved flock!
- VOLUNTEER! We currently could use help with husbandry, toy making, food preparation, or weeding around the property. The birds would love to see you!



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THANK YOU FOR READING