



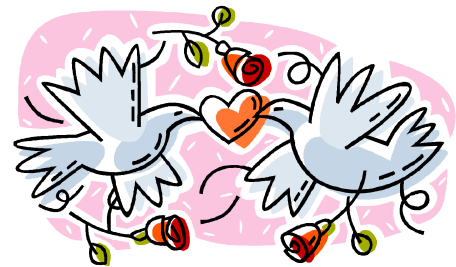
Let's have some fun!

At the February 8th meeting, we will be making bird toys. Specifically, we will be making foraging toys. In order to keep birds occupied and mentally stimulated, we can make or buy toys to hide treats in. For the meeting, please bring supplies to make foraging toys, such as: paper, cardboard, masking tape, paper towel/toilet paper tubes, straws, popped popcorn, other bird treats, seeds, nuts, dried fruit, leather strips, PVC pipe, stainless steel nuts and bolts, etc.



The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 8th 2007 @ 7:00 PM

The meeting will be at the Ann Arbor Community Center 625 S. Main St.



Inside this issue:

Hawk-headed parrot	2
Quiz	2
Unsafe metals	3
Contacts and links	5
Store bought snacks	6
Foraging for food	8

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HAWK-HEADED PARROTS

Small, Beautiful & Affectionate!

by Jean Pattison

Anyone ever seeing a hawk-headed (*Deropterus accipitrinus*) parrot, in the flesher..... feather, will always say, "they will take your breath away". They surely do, there truly is none more magnificent, in the parrot family. The hawk-head is rather a small bird as far as parrots are concerned. There size is comparable to a blue crown conure, a Jardine's, or perhaps a white capped pionus. Because of the very long tail, which does not taper to a point but rather flattens out and is very square, and their large beak and head, they can "appear" to be the size of a red lored Amazon.

They are most known for having the ability to raise the head feathers when excited or defensive. These elegant feathers of rich maroon edged in electric blue, form a crown of glory which frames the entire head. The hawk-heads beauty does not stop there. The crown of color extends down the back of the head circling the neck and extends down the entire belly. These rich colors frame the face of sable brown flecked with champaign. The wings, back,



**Hawk-headed
Parrot**

Deropterus accipitrinus

Length ... 14 to 15 inches

and tail sport a rather contrasty emerald green.

Hawk-heads are unique in the fact they are the only bird in their genus, which contain only two subspecies. The nominate (*Deropterus accipitrinus accipitrinus*) has the distinction of a buff colored patch on the crown. The nominate, in aviculture, is commonly called the buff head hawk-head. The subspecies *D.a.fuscifrons* lacks this buff coloration, and is commonly called the Brazilian hawk-head.

Most of the hawk-heads we have in the U.S. are of the

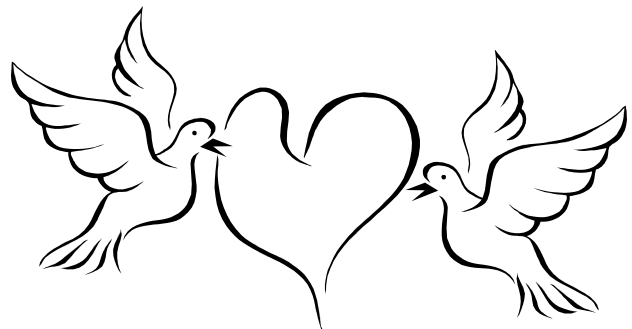
nominate subspecies (buff head), originally from Guyana in the North Eastern coast Of South America. Guyana extends down, long and narrow, touching a Northern part of Brazil. The subspecies, or Brazilian hawk-head, is found South of the Amazon river, as the name implies, in Brazil.

Hawk-heads are forest birds and very territorial. They usually travel alone, with their mate or family. Because of this solitary behavior very few hawk-heads were brought into the United States.

(continued on page 9)

?QUIZ?

Which parrot species is the only parrot that builds a stick nest, in a tree or on a man-made structure, rather than using a hole in a tree? (answer on page 7)



"All That Glitters"

by Theresa Jordan

Almost every bird I have ever known, loves to chew on anything that glitters. The jewelry we wear is one of their prime targets. What bird can sit on you without trying to remove your earrings, eat your bracelet and watch, saving your necklace for dessert?

All jewelry is not safe for your bird. Some of it contains lead. Lead poisoning can kill humans or make them very ill. It will kill your bird. Every technical book on metals warns us of the cumulative and toxic nature of lead in the human body. This is also true for our birds.

Lots of lead is used in the manufacture of what is generally called "costume" jewelry or any jewelry you have that you would classify as "not real". So, how do I know what is safe for my bird? Iron, steel, copper, bronze, brass, nickel, tin, gold, and silver are not toxic metals. What needs to be avoided is lead and a metal called "pot metal" or "white metal". This is what most "fake" jewelry is made of. It is inexpensive and used to make

castings of almost any item imaginable

Pot metal is like a recipe melted in a pot containing combinations of tin, antimony and lead. This is then poured into molds to make jewelry and other small metal items. The metal is then plated or painted to look like gold or silver. By the time the piece is complete, it is almost impossible for someone to know what it is actually made of, because it will appear to be another metal: gold, silver, etc. ... My advice is not to let your bird chew on any metal you can't identify. Don't try to guess. Be safe. Don't take a chance and be wrong. You can protect your bird from exposure to the hazard.

Here is a list of items that could possibly contain lead. I am sure you will be able to find other things to add.

- Lamp finials (decorative piece on top)
- Lead foil seals on wine bottles around cork
- Lead sinkers from fishing gear
- Linotype (letters from old printer's trays)
- Metal beads or ornaments on necklaces
- Pewter figurines
- Souvenir spoons with fancy tops
- Stained glass lamps (also called leaded glass)
- Stained glass sun catchers
- "Tin" soldiers
- Christmas ornaments
- Belt buckles
- Belts that look like chain links
- Costume jewelry of all kinds
- Decorative metal parts on bookends, picture frames
- Key chain ornaments

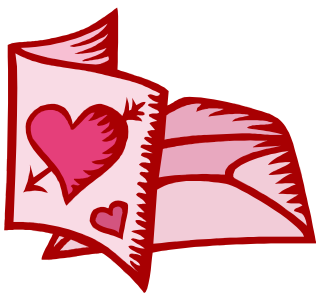


Contribute to the Newsletter

Please send submissions for the newsletter. If you would like to send any artwork, stories, poems, articles or photos, you can email them to me at:

pclancy2001@comcast.net

Patrick Clancy;
Newsletter editor.



The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 8th 2007 @ 7:00 PM

The meeting will be at the Ann Arbor Community Center 625 S. Main St. Ann Arbor Mi.



vickie barlow's
the cuckoo's nest

bonded baby parrots: macaws, pionus, Solomon island eclectus,

cockatoos, congo African greys

vickie@thecuckoosnest.net
989-682-4565

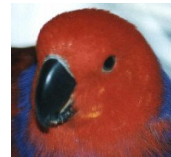
island cages, food, toys, pacific perch playstands,

The perfect happy parrot beginning



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Club History

The **Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club** was organized in 1980 for the purpose of educating its members and the community about bird and to support avian research . The club is a member of the American Federation of Aviculture (AFA). We exchange newsletters with many avian clubs across the country.

AACBC meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at the Ann Arbor Community Center. Meetings begin at 7:00pm. Interested persons may attends one meeting as a guest. Wing-trimmed, vet-checked healthy birds are welcome. Club membership is \$20/year/family. Membership includes our monthly newsletter. Contact Palucki's hospitality committee at 427-1903 for direction to the AACC at 625 N. Main, Ann Arbor, MI





Contacts and Links

- Bird Lost & Found and product safety warnings: <http://www.birdhotline.com>
- The Amazona Society: <http://www.amazonasociety.org>
- Parrot info and fun! <http://goodbird.com/>
- Budgie info: <http://www.budgies.org>
- ASPCA: <http://www.asPCA.org>
- Home Again Avian Rescue (Mary Wieske) 734-326-0720
- Guide to Pet Birds, Pet Parrots & Exotic Birds: <http://www.birdsnways.com>
- The Oasis Sanctuary: <http://www.the-oasis.org>
- Quakerville: <http://www.quakerville.com>
- Pet finches: <http://www.finchworld.com>
- Humane Society of Huron Valley: <http://www.hshv.org>
- National Cockatiel Society: <http://www.cockatiels.org/>
- The Parrotlet Alliance: <http://www.parrotletalliance.org/>
- Great Cockatoo website: Before you buy a cockatoo, read this site: <http://www.mytoos.com/>
- Assoc. of Avian Vets, at their website: www.aav.org
- Some great Quaker videos:
<http://www.talkingquakerparrot.com/pluto-videos.htm>
- Online magazine for parrot lovers: <http://parrotchronicles.com/>
- Fun parrot videos: <http://www.parrotparrot.com/birdmovies/>

ANN ARBOR CAGE BIRD CLUB MEETINGS

Come on down to your bird club meetings! If you haven't been in a while, (or ever), we'd love to see you at the AACBC monthly meetings. Its great for the whole family. There's often a guest speaker. There's refreshments, good people and usually great birds too! It's a great way to meet your fellow bird club members and socialize. You can share your bird experiences with others, learn from fellow bird owners and maybe even make some new friends! So we'll see you at the AACBC meetings eh? We hope so!



Store Bought Snacks

Pet food companies have taken notice of the growing bird population, and have begun to manufacture snacks specifically for birds. In general, these products are fun and nutritious, and are certainly easy to offer. It's not a bad idea to have these kinds of things on hand for a "snacking emergency," perhaps when you need to distract your bird for a moment. But take a look at the ingredients on the packaging — is the snack made primarily of the same base diet you're feeding your bird? A bowl of seed and a seed stick are essentially the same thing (with a few added extras), and ditto for pellets. If your bird is on one or the other as a base diet, consider offering the opposite. If your birds are omnivores, like mine, you can offer both.

The grocery store offers a cornucopia of good, easy snacks for parrots. Fresh frozen soy beans (often called Edamame) are an easy, nutritious snack—just defrost. There's a human-food company called "Just Tomatoes" (www.justtomatoes.com) that makes dozens of freeze dried veggies and fruits with no salt, no sulfur, no fat, no sweeteners, and no preservatives—these are a simple and healthy snack. Canned or frozen beans—never raw or dried—make a quick snack, as do other frozen veggies. They don't have quite the nutrition as their fresh counterparts, but they're great in a pinch.

Invest in an air popper and you've got a cheap and easy snack maker. You can even mix the popcorn with shredded carrots, grated soy cheese, and toss in some peas or edamame, and your bird's

got a deluxe "movie night" snack. Use your imagination to come up with other combinations. Here's a great tip: If your bird refuses a particular snack, sprinkle some of its base diet (or something else it loves), over the concoction—this will at least pique the bird's interest.

One important note: Grit is not a snack for parrots. It's worth mention, because grit is generally sold near the snacks and the packaging can make it look like something entertaining and wonderful. Actually, parrots don't really need it, and some will gorge on it, leading to an impacted crop—or worse.



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<http://aacbc.org/>

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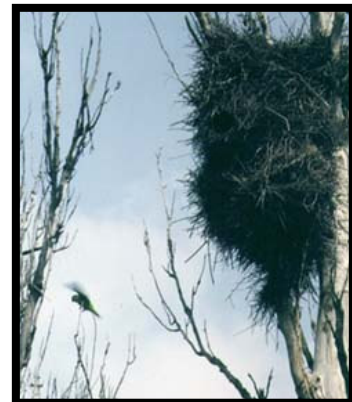


Triskit and Fred Tater enjoying their new "Window", purchased by us at the December club holiday dinner and auction. They love to watch the outside birds and squirrels.

-Pat & Janet

Quiz Answer

The Quaker parrot, also called the Monk Parakeet. This gregarious species often breeds colonially, building a single large nest with separate entrances for each pair.



Keep your bird busy foraging for food.

By Kit Manchester, Birds Just Wanna Have Fun

Start simple, then make more difficult

Cover. Place a piece of paper over the food dish so your bird has to knock it off to get food. Next, fasten the paper in place with masking tape.

Increase the difficulty. Gradually make foraging more difficult by using other foraging toys and hiding food in several locations.

Use several types of foraging each day.

Bury. Place a little dry food in the bottom of a dish. Fill the dish with wood or plastic beads or smooth river stones. Sprinkle a little food on top and mix in.

Wrap. Hide food in easy-to-destroy containers such as paper cups, plain paper and dried cornhusks.

Hang. Place food in a paper cup (twisted closed) or other wrapper, and hang it from a lace, chain, skewer or quick link. [Safety Note: Use supervision with long chains or laces.]

Hide. Use durable or semi-durable containers to hide food. Make them or purchase foraging toys.

*Come to the February 8th meeting and make foraging toys with us!



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(Hawk-Headed Parrots-continued from page 2)

Brazilian hawk-heads that came in were probably brought in from Paraguay and Bolivia, where other species of parrots were trapped. Before the introduction of Parrots of the World, by Joseph M Forshaw, wildlife officials didn't really know the country of origin of many birds. Once Forshaw's book was available hawk-heads could be identified as to country of origin, and Brazilian hawk-heads were no longer allowed to be exported.

Hawk-heads in the wild have a nasty temperament and will pick a fight to the point of carelessness. In trapping these birds, like many others, a call bird was used. In the case of the hawk-head, when a call bird was in their territory they would come down to fight, not to feed as other species of birds would. In defending their territory so vehemently they would be unaware of the trapper lurking in the blind. They were very easy prey for the experienced trapper. In being such solitary birds they were few in numbers for the trappers, so in any shipment, there might be less than ten hawk-heads. Other species could number into the hundreds.

Thankfully hawk-heads commanded a high price so they were well taken care of during holding and shipping. Much of our losses with these birds was in our ignorance of how territorial they were. In aviculture the hawk-head is a challenge. Much is still being learned as to their needs in breeding. Early on it was thought only one pair could be held on the same property for successful breeding. It has since been proven this is not the case. There is a major problem in

mate aggression with this parrot. Many an experienced aviculturist has lost a mate of either sex, it doesn't always hold true the males do the killing. I don't know of anyone actually knowing what causes the mate aggression, but there are many educated thoughts in regards to the problem. Some speculate one is ready to breed while the other is not. Some think that they just don't like each other, and believe you must have compatible pairs.

One aviculturist I know has half the cage wall and ceiling of solid metal with a perch and a nest box. The male cannot climb up the sides to get to the hen which is flighted. The male on the other hand is clipped to prevent him from getting to the hen in case of an attack. Most feel a big flight is necessary for the well being of the pair. Mine although, were in five foot flights and did very well, but personally I would like them in eight foot flights. There are many breeders that are breeding them in small flights in their kitchens, basements, and their garages. Solitude seems to be important, and since they like sleeping in their nest box, they should always have one available. Most breeders seem to prefer a deep nest box, but again, there are exceptions.

Their diet doesn't seem to be anything exceptional, and there are no major problems with specific health concerns, that we are aware of. A good parrot diet seems all that is required. I personally fed a lot of vitamin "A" type of foods. Hawk-heads seem to really like their veggies and fruit.

As a pet, one aviculturist (Howard Voren) likens their per-

sonality to a caique, and I tend to agree. ". They are extremely affectionate, and rambunctious. Hawk-heads seem to have a knack of entertaining themselves, so you are not at their beck and call. I know of many who are at liberty on their cage, or play area most of the day without them getting down to find their owners. In this regard they don't need an overly large cage. If on the other hand you work all day, then a little common sense should dictate a bigger cage, with lots of fun stuff to play with. They are very intelligent and seem easy to train and mesh into what you expect of them. They really seem to like routine, and can be very satisfied with time out to play and time with you, a lot of them even put themselves to bed at the appropriate time. Most people that have them as pets can't say enough about them. I personally recommend them highly.

Voice is another topic of importance. I personally don't think they are good talkers (I raise greys, how could I?) although they do have a nice quality about their voice. They will learn a few phrases, and say them quite clearly. Their normal call can be quite loud, but it is very clear and not screechy, more like short whistle noises, but loud. They tend to sound off in the morning and evening, and rarely have I known one that was obnoxious. In a breeding situation that is another story, they do call back and forth a lot of the time, even while sitting right next to each other.

If you are looking for an enjoyable pet bird, a hawk-headed parrot should definitely be on your list of birds to be considered.

ANN ARBOR CAGE BIRD CLUB

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P.O. Box 2766
Ann Arbor, MI 48106

NEXT AACBC MEETING:

Thursday, February 8th
7:00—9:00 PM
Ann Arbor Community Center
625 N. Main, Ann Arbor, MI



"I know how much you want a FLIGHTSUIT, but you're kidding yourself if you think you can slip into a petite."

NOTE:

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www.aacbc.org

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