



**Redwood Empire Cage Bird Club
Since 1991**

PURPOSE: To join together people who share a common interest in keeping cage birds in captivity. To educate members and the general public in the best care, keeping maintenance and breeding of cage birds. To support bird conservation.

**This Month's Meeting
November 17, 2011**

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

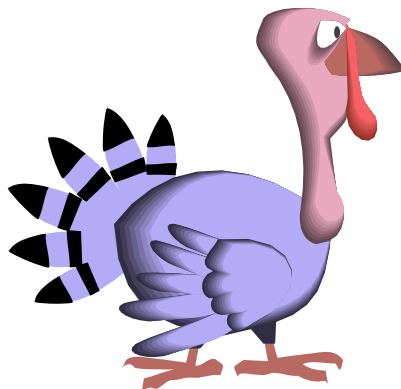


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LETTERS to the EDITOR

*Letters to the Editor are
always welcome. Send your
comments or suggestions to:*

*RECBC
Attn: Newsletter
P.O. Box 6232
Santa Rosa Ca. 95406
or
email me at
glenti@comcast.net*

Thank you!

Newsletter Editor

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN OUR NEWSLETTER?

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Business card - \$5/mo or \$50/yr
1/2 page - \$10/mo or \$100/yr
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RECBC, the officers, the publication and it's staff assume no responsibility for claims of advertisers in the publication or for the quality of goods and/or services the advertisers provide. Persons with substantial claims against publication advertisers may submit them to the Editors.

Please mail commercial and early bird ads by deadline Sunday after the General Meeting.
RECBC - Newsletter
PO BOX 6232
Santa Rosa, Ca., 95406
or email: dshore@shorebirds.biz for Commercial Ads and glenti@sbcglobal.net for Early Bird Ads.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

George Lentini (13)
(707) 528-1065
glenti@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Earl McEnaney (13)
869-1229

SECRETARY

Karyn Paulson (13)
(707) 996-9769
kmp@vom.com

TREASURER

Linda Karnstedt (12)
(707) 566-1366
Linda.karnstedt@medtronic.com

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Cheryl Cattan (13)
(707) 664-8965

Donna Shore (13)
(707) 585-7524
dshore@recbc.net

Chloe Jane Baskin
(707) 823-1675
shelterescue@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Advertising, Publicity and Membership

Donna Shore (707) 585-7524
dshore@recbc.net

AFA Delegates

Bev Mager (707) 795-8804
Karyn Paulson (707) 996-9769

Club Librarian

Cheryl Cattan

Hospitality

Carolyn Rawlinson (707) 778-9269

Newsletter Editor

George Lentini (707) 528-1065
glenti@comcast.net

Photography

Members

Raffle

Cheryl Cattan (707) 664-8965

Outreach Program

Earl McEnaney & George Lentini

Website Master

Jackie Turner

Welcoming Table

Bev Mager



Calendar of Events

November 17th: Pot Luck Holiday Dinner*

December: No Meeting

January 26th: Ice Cream Social and Video or Movie

** Please note our November meeting occurs on the 3rd Thursday of the month, due to Thanksgiving taking place on the 4th Thursday of November*



BIRDIE BUCKS

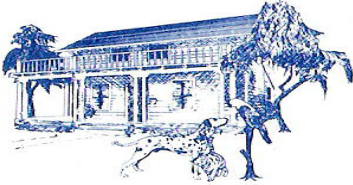
Birdie Bucks are distributed by our Raffle Chairperson, Cheryl Cattan, at club meetings and events.

You can earn Birdie Bucks by:

- Donating to the meeting raffle table
- Bringing food to share at meetings
- Volunteering at events (i.e. Apple Fair, Home and Garden Show, and the RECBC BIRD EXPO)

Beginning in January 2012, Birdie Bucks may be redeemed at major raffle events.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to everyone who participated at our Bird Expo. We had a wonderful turnout for help, which made things easier on everyone. This was much appreciated.

Please remember that you get birdie bucks for every hour you volunteer. See Cheryl for your reward.

We will not have a meeting in December. We are looking for ideas for programs next year. If you can believe it, it's right around the corner.

The Board decided for January to have an Ice Cream Social and a video or movie. Now we would like your input for the rest of 2012.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our club's Potluck Thanksgiving dinner. Everyone is invited – even though some of you have not attended our regular meetings lately and you know who you are!! Hey, I am not keeping track either.

Please see page 7 for details.



TREASURER REPORT *by* LINDA KARNSTEDT

INCOME	October
Membership	\$ 160.00
Logo items/Toy/book/stand-Sales	\$ 28.00
Bird Mart booth	\$ 670.00
Bird Mart attendance	\$1,596.00
Bird Mart raffle	\$ 651.00
Bird Mart food	\$ 109.00
Income Total:	\$ 3,620.00
EXPENSES	
Newsletter subscription	\$ 20.00
Bird Mart Marque Fee	\$ 150.00
Bird Mart food	\$ 164.25
Bird Mart tables	\$ 400.00
Bird Mart supplies	\$ 40.00
Expense Total:	\$ 774.25
Bank Balance as of 10/21	\$ 7538.71

Bird Mart Income	
Bird Mart vendor booths	\$1,586.50
Bird Mart attendance	\$1,596.00
Logo sales	\$ 28.00
Bird Mart raffle	\$ 651.00
Bird Mart food	\$ 109.00
Total Income	\$3,970.50
Bird Mart Expense	
Bird Mart Advertising	\$ 305.25
Bird Mart Marque Fee	\$ 150.00
Bird Mart Signs	\$ 807.29
Bird Mart Hall	\$1,050.00
Bird Mart food	\$ 164.25
Bird Mart tables	\$ 400.00
Bird Mart supplies	\$ 40.00
Bird Mart Fire Permit	\$ 117.00
Bird Mart Insurance cert	\$ 200.00
Total Expenses	\$3,233.79
Total Profit	\$ 736.71

Upcoming Bird Marts: NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sunday, Nov. 20th - San Jose Bird Mart - Santa Clara
Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Rd., San Jose

Pay and Free Parking

Adults: \$8; Kids 6-12: \$2, under 5 free

For more information, visit

<http://www.sanjosebirdmart.com/calendar.htm>

NOVEMBER POTLUCK

Please join us for our annual November Potluck on November 17 (one week earlier than our regular meeting night due to Thanksgiving).

We are going to break tradition and serve lasagna (both meat and vegetarian) with garlic bread. If your last name begins with the letters A-L please bring a salad. Letters M-Z please bring a desert. To allow for the "Maximum" socializing and eating, we won't have a raffle. And it goes without saying - Birds are not invited even though they do like pasta!



Welcome New Members!

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Minutes of the Board

October 20, 2011

Minutes of the Board
October 20, 2011

Present: Cheryl Cattan, Bonnie Scheffler, George Lentini, Donna Shore, Chloe Baskin, Linda Karnstedt

President George Lentini called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the September Board Meeting were approved.

Financial Report: There was a discussion as to what financial data would appear in the next Newsletter. It was agreed to submit a breakdown of the Profit & Expenses from the October Bird Expo, along with the Treasurer's Report.

Bird Expo: Bonnie brought up the question of how to bring in more vendors to the next Bird Expo. It was agreed that earlier ads need to be placed, and that more craft vendors could be sought out. Suggestions such as attending the first Bird Mart of the year, attending Christmas Expos and craft fairs would be helpful. It was also suggested that more vendors were needed who offered bigger birds.

Bonnie suggested the Board look into further options and ideas for a more creative approach. Linda spoke of ideas generated by the Sebastopol Apple Fair. An Expo Committee was suggested, along with reevaluating the ad in the Press Democrat, as it has become increasingly expensive.

George mentioned that all of the new Expo signs were accounted.

Bonnie brought up the topic of Birdie Bucks and that all volunteers should keep track of their hours.

Cheryl is mailing "Thank You" notes to all the vendors who donated raffle prizes.

New Business: The Thanksgiving Pot Luck will be held on

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Thursday, November 17th. Bonnie will bring lasagna and garlic bread for 25 people and it was decided to ask members A - L to bring salads, and members M - Z desserts.

The next Newsletter will be an October - November issue.

An Ice Cream Social with movie or video will be held in January.

Nominations for 3 Board Members will take place in January, with elections to be held in March.

Respectfully submitted by Chloe Baskin



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Visit AFAbirds.org to monitor new legislation that might threaten us, and write letters, send emails and attend hearings to set misguided legislators straight.

EARLY BIRD ADS



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(707) 585-7524 or email
Donna Shore at dshore@recbc.net

General Meeting Place

Animal Care Center

6470 Redwood Drive

Rohnert Park, Ca.

Behind Red Lobster and Olive Garden

Take RP Expressway Exit from 101

4th Thursday of the month

Meetings begin promptly @ 7:00 P.M.



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Do all parrots talk?

No. Older parrots, or wild caught parrots, may never learn to talk or may only learn a few words. Young parrots begin trying to communicate with their "flock", which are you and your family. They have a much easier time of learning to talk, it seems, than older birds, much the same as an older person trying to learn a new language. Communicating is a way to get attention, be part of the flock and have your needs met. A young bird is very interested in its surroundings and learning how to interact; this is the opportune time to learn - whether it is talking or other types of training.

When first learning to talk you may hear your bird making what you think are nonsense sounds. But with practice these sounds become words. Praise and encourage your bird as it is learning and you will see an increase in interest and the learning will quicken. Look it in the eye and tell it what a good bird it is! I can't tell you how many of my birds have learned the phrase, 'Yeah! That's very good!' They also teach each other to talk, and I often hear them praising each other! Just remember that those excited voices are the ones learned most quickly. So try to curb your responses when stubbing your toe or dropping that casserole on the floor!

All birds are individuals and some just do not seem to have as much interest in talking. However, you will notice that talking is not what makes a good pet; it is just the icing on the cake.

Help Kids Learn about Birds

Share your love of birds with those you know under 16.

Contact AFA4kidz@AFAbirds.org for coloring pages, word puzzles and other learning tools about birds.

Yahoo group for kids and newsletter coming soon.

"Oh, It Will Get Better Once He's Gone from Here"

When you spend thirty years in aviculture and twenty-some in the retail parrot trade, you encounter a great number of situations where pet owners did not quite get what they expected when they acquired their birds.

Rescue and adoption centers are chock full of avian creatures whose owners ended up relinquishing them because of dashed expectations about what the birds would actually be like. This is a shame. But I suppose were I to be involved with dog or cat rehabilitation and rehoming, I would no doubt find much the same story to be true. Why, a friend of April's just paid good money for a quarter horse gelding that was represented as a stable trail horse--and it turned out to be a total disruptive and dangerous former stallion when it was introduced into its new herd!

The point is there are unscrupulous breeders and sellers out there who will glowingly misrepresent the training, personalities and behavior of the animals—in our case psittacines—which they hope to sell.

And one of the grandest misrepresentations is the assertion that certain peculiar or perhaps undesirable characteristics in a pet bird will 'get better once you get him home.' *Hmmm, would you mind putting that in writing, please?*

Picture this: A young couple goes to a small breeding facility to look at young Green Cheeked Conures. It will be their first 'big bird' after having kept a budgerigar for many years. They are shown a small cage with four fledgling green cheeks about ten weeks old. But when the owner puts his hand into the cage to get one out, the conures shy away, thrash around a bit, and do not readily 'step up' on a finger.

"Oh, they are just a bit timid around strangers, that's all," the breeder explains. He grabs one and gets a significant pinch on the thumb while holding it and trying to pet its head in front

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of the couple. Then he clips the wings severely so the parrot plops to the floor when it tries to fly off. *Now* the young psittacine steps up when offered a hand!

The pet will get better once the new keepers take it home and it gets used to them, they are told. Not knowing any better, and trusting the breeder, they buy the little conure. In the care of novices, it never quite comes around to being loving and gentle and tends to jump off hands or bite hard.

The real truth is this green cheek spent most of its early life caged with brothers and sisters, got even less human socialization, and developed a fear of hands because it was always caught and held to take out or to put back in its cage.

Such things do not simply 'get better' when the hookbill is bought and rehomed. In fact, this goes against one of our main assertions back at Feathered Friends of Santa Fe. Parrots are individuals and they can take to certain humans quickly, while staying a bit distant from others. If a prospective customer and a young conure or any other psittacine do not hit it off and interact harmoniously at the first or second meeting, the match may not be the best one to choose...

Baby parrots on the verge of weaning can be one of the most common 'oh, it will be better' subjects. Have you ever encountered an umbrella or Goffin's cockatoo baby that is being offered for sale despite the fact that it constantly begs for food and attention. "It's just being a baby cockatoo," the seller clarifies.

This is not only a confusing phase for a baby 'too to be forced into a life-changing move from its customary hand feeder, it can be downright dangerous to a neophyte. Border-line weanlings are apt to regress if placed in a strange situation with a new owner who offers slightly different foods and feeding protocol. Without expert care, daily weighing, and follow-up counseling from the breeder or pet shoppe, such fledglings may regress to the point of impaired health!

That 'things will get better' philosophy is not only applicable to parrot-people relationships. It may frequently be encountered by individuals seeking to obtain a compatible *pair* of

(Continued on page 16)

birds. I wish I had a dollar for every supposed 'bonded' pair of parrots I have known that basically were tolerant of each other, but were nowhere near forming a permanent avian 'bond.' Sometimes the new possessor will waste five or six years hoping for offspring from such pairs, only to be forced to admit that these two psittacines are not companionable. They have been forced together and the original keeper was wrong when he specified it will just take a little time for them to adjust to a new environment.

So, as you can see, using the 'it will all turn out all right' summation can be extremely misleading for anyone contemplating a new bird. 'What you see is what you get' might be more precise in a lot of cases.

Personally, however, there is one instance at least where I have claimed that a new psittacine acquisition will actually get better and work out smoothly once the owners have the pet at home. When April and I are the only caregivers for a parrot chick's handfeeding process, that infant naturally becomes very attached to its *first* humans. He or she will also become quite manipulative in the way it entreats us to handle it, skritch its head, give it just one more warm mush feeding, etc. Once fully weaned and eating on its own, the baby still begs to us, its perceived 'parents' to be pampered and handfed, just as fledgling amazons or macaws or lorikeets will implore their father and mother to 'feed me, feed me' even when they are many months self-sufficient. All those sparrow and red cardinal babies outside our kitchen window persist in doing the same until their parents compel them to go away and feed themselves.










But the moment we move such a well trained, weaned and self-sufficient but 'spoiled' chick on to its new permanent home, this needy baby behavior invariably disappears almost overnight. This is a first-rate sign that we aviculturists have done our job well—time to leave the nest, youngster!

Ah, birdkeeping. You can write it from opposite viewpoints, and sometimes, just sometimes, it makes sense both ways...

Aloha nui loa, EB



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Household	Individual	Sr. Household (60+)	Sr. Individual (60+)	Jr. - Under 17
\$32.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$22.00

Membership dues are paid annually. If you have any questions about your dues, contact Donna Shore (707) 585-7524.

Circle type of membership: New Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Email Address: _____

Payable to: Redwood Empire Cage Bird Club

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P B African Parrots

P B Budgies

P B Canaries

P B Cockatiels

P B Cockatoos

P B Conures

P B Doves

P B Eclectus

P B Finches

P B Gamebirds

Pet/Breeder

P B Grasskeets

P B Lories/Lorikeets

P B Lovebirds

P B Macaws

P B Parrotlets

P B Pionus

P B Ringnecks

P B Rosellas

P B Australian Parakeets

P B Other

Mail to: Membership, RECBC, PO Box 6232, Santa Rosa, CA 95406

We often need help with various functions for the club (i.e. bird mart/expo/fair, toy-making party, silent auction, outreach program, picnic, etc.) Would you be interested and willing to get involved and participate on occasion? Do you have any specialized talents that you might like to volunteer? Please let us know!



Redwood Empire Cage Bird Club
Since 1991

PO BOX 6232
Santa Rosa, CA 95406