January’s Meeting - moved to January 8th!
Foster care recognition and awards meeting, complete with desserts! Join us for this special meeting at which we will show our appreciation for the efforts of our foster homes.

Upcoming Membership Meetings
February’s membership meeting will be an in-depth discussion of TABC’s various committees and functions.
March’s membership meeting will be a photo contest. Start looking for that fantastic photograph of your bird now!

The ABC Store Now Open!
Visit The ABC website www.alaskabirdclub.org and click on The Club Store on the left menu.

Publications Director Nominations
We will solicit nominations for the Publications Director at January’s membership meeting. If you are interested, put in your name! We will vote at the February meeting. Jennifer Slaughter will continue until a new person is elected.

ByLaw/Standing Rules Revision Working Meeting
Come to the Midtown Denny’s on Saturday, January 19th at 11am, if you would like to contribute to the changes.

How To Make an Almond Treat
See page 10!
Club Information
The Alaska Bird Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit incorporated in the State of Alaska. It meets the first Tuesday of every month at Serendipity Adult Day Service in Anchorage. Meeting starts as 7:00pm.

Location: 3550 East 20th Ave (off of Northern Lights Blvd & Nichols St).

The Alaska Bird Club
PO Box 101825
Anchorage, AK 99510-1825
Phone: (907) 868-9070
email: akbirdclub@yahoo.com
website: www.alaskabirdclub.org

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868-7878, e-mail: leannarein@gmail.com

Vice President: Lin Westgard
868-8058, e-mail: westgard@geci.net

Secretary: Susan Allen
622-5536, cell 862-0118, e-mail: kissmekate59@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Ann Gilley
441-1119, e-mail: annlymbiz@ak.net

Member-at-large: David Allen
622-5536, cell 862-0117, e-mail: oomingmac55@hotmail.com

Sergeant-at-arms: Amber O’Neill
E-mail: akamber@ak.net, cell: 351-2762

Adopt-A-Bird Director: Cindy Welbourne
(907) 357-2513 (Wasilla), e-mail: welbourne@geci.net

Adopt-A-Bird Co-Director - Kathleen O'Keefe
243-4675 (Anchorage), e-mail: kok@woodscross.net

Adopt-A-Bird Co-Director - Courtney Reynolds
452-5665 (Fairbanks) No calls after 8PM please
e-mail: trtl dove@alaska.net

Publications Director: Jennifer Slaughter (acting)
868-8640, e-mail: birdabode@geci.net

Bird News Editor: Jennifer Slaughter
868-8640, e-mail: birdabode@geci.net

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Webmaster: Garry Wallan
E-mail: depc@sneakyparrot.com

Disaster & Emergency Preparedness Committee: Garry Wallan
E-mail: depc@sneakyparrot.com

Hospitality Committee: Susan Allen
E-mail: kissmekate59@hotmail.com

Lost/Found-Rescue Committee: Amber O’Neill
E-mail: akamber@ak.net, cell: 351-2762

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If the regular place that you picked up your copy of the Alaska Bird News is out, you may be able to locate a copy at one of the other outlets.

All Creatures Veterinary Clinic
Mi 7.4 Palmer-Wasilla Hwy
376-7930

Alaska Mill & Feed
1501 E 1st Ave
276-6016

Alaska Pet-ography
9130 Elim St (on Abbot across from Fred Meyer)
868-1680

Animal Food Warehouse PetZoo
Anchorage - 901 E Dimond Blvd
344-2966
ER -12046 Business Blvd
622-2966
Palmer - 10201 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy 746-0056
Wasilla - 1481 E Parks Hwy
357-7335

Chester Valley Veterinary
1571 Muldoon Rd
333-6591

College Village
2036 E Northern Lights Blvd
274-5623

Hillside Pet Clinic
2101 Abbott Rd #1
344-7913

Northern Lights Veterinary & Laser Center Inc
2002 W Benson Blvd
276-2340

North Star Animal Hospital
840 S Cobb St (Palmer)
907-746-7387

Palmer Veterinary Clinic
Mike 39 Glenn Hwy
745-3219

Petco
8621 Old Seward Hwy
365-5500

Pet Emergency
2320 E Dowling Rd
274-5636

The Animal House
219 E International Airport Rd
561-7387

The Pet Stop
1921 W Dimond Blvd
522-1006

VCA Alaska Pet Care
3900 Lake Otis Pkwy
562-7387

VCA Alpine Animal Hospital
12531 Old Seward Hwy
345-1515

VCA E Anch. Animal Hospital
2639 Boniface Pkwy
337-1561

Club Meeting Information
First Tuesday of each month. Be sure to join us!
We love hearing about your birds,
but we ask that you do not bring them to the meetings.
Serendipity Adult Day Services
3550 E 20th Ave.
(Doors open at 6:30 to socialize)
7:00pm - 9:00pm
President’s Perch

Happy New Year!

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to serve another term as the president and am looking forward to a fun and productive year! The Alaska Bird Club has many talented members and volunteers and we are fortunate to have several of these individuals serving on the Board of Directors and committees. At the February meeting, we will provide an in-depth training on each of the committees and various activities TABC has to offer. If you have been interested or curious as to just what occurs behind the scenes with the Disaster Preparedness, Lost/Found-Rescue, Hospitality, Adopt-A-Bird Program or others, we hope you will plan on attending this meeting.

For folks interested in becoming an Emergency or Foster provider, we will also discuss just what it takes to fill that role and how TABC supports volunteers in these activities.

Coming later this spring will be a photo contest judged by Dave Jensen. This contest is back by popular demand and promises to bring out the artistic skills of our members and their birds. If you have photographed your bird in a special moment or pose, being goofy or just plain having fun, please come forward and enter the contest!

If you have ideas about who TABC should sponsor to present at the annual seminar this coming fall, please submit your suggestions. We’ve been very fortunate to have had many world-class speakers and hope to offer the best seminar ever!

With the New Year brings inevitable change, it is bitter-sweet that TABC has to bid farewell to the Ekstroem family. For those of you who may not be aware, this family adopted a pair of macaws through the Adopt-A-Bird Program and have given these birds a new lease on life. The difference they have made with these birds has been nothing short of miraculous. The Ekstroem’s are a military family and are moving to Alabama. As a family, they have been very active in assisting the club and helping in a variety of functions. Their energy and humor has been contagious. They have been a blessing to us and will be sorely missed!

Last, I hope that you and your birds find new ways to explore, play, and have fun!

Have a safe and happy New Year!

Leanna Rein, President

TABC Volunteer Thank You Event!

On January 8th, we will acknowledge some of our volunteers to say Thank You for all that they’ve done for TABC.

We appreciate their efforts, regardless of how big or small.

Casey Cash  Susan Olson
Courtney Reynolds  Gordon and Arlene Windell
Sharon Laster  Marta Muth
Else Smith  Leanna Rein
Jean Hale  Kathleen O’Keefe
Terri Nielsen-Rogers  Diane Olson
Valerie Goodrich  Elsa Smith
Celia Hall  Janice and Eric Peterson
Donna Jaskukowski  Robert and Keira Ekstroem
Kimberley Bustillos  Ann Gilley
Dee Powers  Jeff Medkeff
Kenneth Stanhope  Karen Medkeff
Sue Allen  Jennifer Morris (Aka Amber)
Dave Allen  Jennifer Slaughter
Cindy Welbourne

Thanks & keep up the great work!

Board Meeting Info - Open to the public

Notice of Change of Time - from 11am to 12pm

The Board meets the last Saturday of every month at 12:00 PM at the Denny’s on Northern Lights.

The Alaska Bird Club’s Mission Statement:

The Alaska Bird Club’s mission is to promote responsible avian ownership through education and when possible, to provide rescue and adoption services for abandoned and unwanted birds in communities across Alaska.
Bird News From the Secretary, Susan

Leanna called tonight’s meeting/Christmas Party to order at 6:00 PM. Leanna covered a few points of old and new business, while David picked up the hot Turkey dinners provided by the TABC Board, and prepared for us by the Northway Mall Carrs Store.

For the first point of business, Leanna acknowledged all the hard work that the 2007 Board Members, Committee Chairs and Volunteers have accomplished in the past year.

Leanna then introduced Keira Ekstroem, the 2007 Nomination Committee Chair, who passed out the ballots to the membership for the voting of the 2008 TABC Board. Keira instructed the members to fill out the ballots then give them to Robert or Kathleen to be counted.

The next point of business was reviewing the importance of the members submitting a survey form. It is through these submitted forms that the Board determines the directions the meetings will take over the next year.

Garry gave an update for the Lost/Found Committee. Leanna followed with the announcement the next membership meeting will be held on Tuesday January 8th, instead of on January 1st. Happy New Years Everyone!

David arrived just before 7:00 PM with the hot turkey dinners, and along with the wonderful side dishes and desserts prepared by several of the membership, a delicious meal was shared by all present.

The meal was followed by the announcement of the new 2008 Board Members.

Leanna Rein : President
Lin Westgard : Vice-President
Susan Allen : Secretary
Ann Gilley: Treasurer
David Allen: Member-a-Large
Amber O’Neil: Sergeant-at-Arms

The festivities were closed by a lively Chinese Gift exchange lead by Kathleen and Diane.

Leanna adjourned the gathering at 9:00 PM.

Here’s the Scoop: Poopology 101

By Ann Taylor and Gregory D. Wilkie

Birds are infamous for being able to hide illnesses, up to the very end. To catch the earliest sign that something is going wrong examine your bird’s droppings. It is important to identify the components of your birds droppings to determine if they are normal. Abnormal droppings can be the first sign of a serious underlying disease or condition and can show up months in advance of any other symptoms.

There are three components of a bird’s droppings and their normal appearance are:

- the urates, which is always white and is a byproduct of the kidneys;
- the urine, which can be clear to pale yellow liquid;
- the feces or solid portion of the dropping can be any color from green to brown or even red, depending on the diet, but it should always be solid or solid chunks.

Important changes include color changes and amount of poop.

Green or Yellow Urates Liver Disease
Brown or Chocolate Urates Lead Poisoning
Red Urine or Urates Internal Bleeding
Increased Urates Dehydration
Increased Urine Disease Eating food high in water
Drinking a lot

Your bird’s droppings should also be totally odor-free. Any deviation should be taken as a sign of illness. Take your bird immediately to a board certified veterinarian for a checkup and tests. Your bird’s continuing health relies on your ability to read their poop.

Ann Taylor has worked with companion birds for over 13 years, starting with a blue-fronted Amazon and now having six cockatoos, three macaws and an African gray. Ann is past Membership Chair of The Alaska Bird Club (2006), and works full-time from home as a financial analyst. You can reach Ann at: normismydog@msn.com

Gregory D. Wilkie is a degreed ethologist, associate member of the International Association of Animal Behavioral Consultants (IAABC), past-President of The Alaska Bird Club (2006), and works full-time changing organizational cultures. You can reach Greg at: flockoften@hotmail.com
Bird of the Month

By bird club member Julie Forsyth

Jenx is a Quaker parrot and came into my flock last summer. His Mom and Dad moved down to the lower 48 and didn’t want to take him with them. He loves his toys in his cage and likes to come out to try to get me. He lands on my head all the time. I don’t hold him; he holds me. Jenx tries to make friends with the Amazon but Samson doesn’t want anything to do with him, but the Red-Bellied parrots like him.

Quakers can live up to 25-30 years or more. They are a fearless bird. They come from South America, with feral colonies established in parts of the United States. They are a medium bird about 12 inches in length from beak to tail, weighing between 80 and 150 grams. They come in green or blue on the back and head.

Jenx and the other Quakers are outlawed in many states, including: California, Wyoming, New Jersey, Hawaii, and Georgia because they are considered a potential agricultural pest. There are now established breeding colonies (originally escaped pets) in several states, including New York, New Jersey, Louisiana (New Orleans), Texas (Dallas), Bridgeport/Fairfield Connecticut (Bridgeport/Fairfield), and Illinois.

Find an avian vet and have your birds checked annually

The following list of Clinics have vets, which indicated an interest or a specialty in avian care. This is not a complete list, but to help you find an avian vet. Ask your vet if they are experienced in bird care and if not find one that is.

VCA Alaska Pet Care
3900 Lake Otis Pkwy, Anchorage
(907) 562-7387
Dr. Jackie Frederickson

College Village Animal Clinic
2036 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage
(907) 274-5623
Dr. Jon Basler
Dr. Pam Bluestone
Dr. Pam Tuomi

Pet Emergency & Treatment Inc (PET)
2320 E Dowling Rd, Anchorage
(907) 274-5636
Dr. Kathy Doty

Chester Valley Veterinary Hospital
1571 Muldoon Rd, Anchorage
(907) 333-6591
Dr. Thomas

All Creatures Veterinary Clinic
Mi 7.4 Palmer-Wasilla Hwy, Wasilla
(907) 376-7930
Dr. Cuthbert

Palmer Veterinary Clinic
Mi 39 Glen Hwy, Palmer
(907) 745-3219
Dr Ronald Williams

North Star Animal Hospital
840 S Cobb St, Palmer
907-746-7387
Dr. Teresa Beck

Peninsula Veterinary Services
48213 Funny River Rd, Soldotna
(907) 260-5850
(907) 252-7806 Cell
(Will do “barn” calls)
Dr. Nybakken

Mt McKinley Animal Hospital
800 College Rd, Fairbanks
(907) 452-6104

Forth Quarter Donations to
The Alaska Bird Club.
Thank you to everyone!

Jennifer Slaughter - Northern Lights & VCA coupons
Jan Caroline Hardy - large King’s Cage, 3 small cages, toys, & bird light.
Mary Slusarski for her donation of a cage.
Norwegian Wood Farm & Feed in Kodiak, AK, for their donation of bird toys, food, perches and other parrot-phernalia.
Bird TLC - donated cages
Alaska Mill & Feed - donated bird food

Birds of the Month Needed
Is your bird interested in being the next bird of the month? If so, contact Jennifer Slaughter birdabode@gci.net and we will reserve a spot for them.
They will get to make a guest appearance at the membership meeting the month they are featured!

Rainbow Bridge
We will always remember you Violet!
Fly like the wind!
Disaster Preparedness and Your Flock

The ideal emergency response plan calls for self-sufficiency and depends on having time to organize your response before the emergency happens. The time to prepare for an emergency and put together an emergency kit is not at the moment you need to evacuate!

**Fill out and keep this section.** Follow the preparedness guidelines listed after the questionnaire with the goal of being able to answer “Yes” to each question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparedness checklist</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you have basic supplies collected together in a waterproof, portable container in case of rapid evacuation?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have one or more methods of identification for each bird (leg band, microchip, tattoo, photo, written proof of ownership, or medical records)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If any of your birds are on medication, are the medicines stored in one location, collected into a single container, in case of rapid evacuation?</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have a seven day supply of food and water set aside?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have enough extra food and water dishes for each emergency cage or transport container?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you established possible emergency evacuation sites with family or friends?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have an emergency contact number outside the Southcentral region?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you practiced evacuation procedures?</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Preparedness guidelines:**

- Keep emergency supplies together in a portable waterproof container. Keep the container in a safe place near an exit door to your house.
- Keep identification records, photos, proof of ownership, and medical records together, preferably in a waterproof container, ready to take at a moments notice. Identification records should include name, description, gender, age, and medical information for each bird. Records should be kept as up-to-date as possible.
- Keep medicines together, preferably in a waterproof container, ready to take at a moments notice.
- Keep survey tape and a permanent (non water-based) marker on hand for quick identification of cages or transport containers.
- Have a transportable amount of food and water on hand, enough to feed your flock for up to four days. Include enough food and water dishes for each cage or transport container.
- Talk to family and friends. Establish Primary and Secondary evacuation sites.
- Establish an emergency contact number outside the Southcentral Alaska region.
- Practice evacuation procedures. Make sure emergency supplies, food, water, and birds will fit into your escape vehicle(s).
The Maui Conures: From Homestead to Flock
Fern Van Sant, DVM, San Jose, CA

A non-native flock of mitered conures (Aratinga mitrata) that are enjoying life in spectacular homes on a sheer cliff in the area of Huelo, Maui. Their origin and history have become an urban legend and a constant source of concern to the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC). Through the years, usually at the request of local authorities, they have come under the scrutiny of state and federal agencies and the issue is currently back in the spotlight.

As with any long running story, the tale of the conures can be told from many different perspectives. From the perspective of the local biologists and MISC, the conures represent one more invasive species that puts at risk the native flora and fauna of Maui. At one time, their numbers were estimated to be close to 300 and local agriculture was considered at risk. At the high point of the "war" on the invasive plant Miconia, the conures were scrutinized as a source of seed dispersal. Early in 2001, Maui Animal Rescue Sanctuary entered into an agreement with MISC to try to remove the conures from the wild by non-lethal means and re-home them in an approved secure location. A 1-year permit was issued but all efforts were unsuccessful in capturing the birds. As Maui’s list of invasive species soared, the conures fell off the radar screen. In renewed efforts between MISC and USDA, the conures are once again in the sights of biologists and regulatory agencies.

Mitred conures have proven to be an incredibly adaptable species. Wild flocks of conures, commonly mitered (Aratinga mitrata) and red-masked or red headed (Aratinga erythrogenys), have secured homesteads in many other states including California, Texas, Washington, Oregon, New York, and Florida. Most flocks seem to have originated from individuals that have escaped or been intentionally released. The incidence of intentional release is no doubt linked to the large numbers of wild-caught birds imported for the pet trade. As loud, vigorous birds, mitred conures were not exactly of ideal pet quality, which no doubt led owners to show some interest in freedom through the closest window. Most flocks, though fairly loud, have been accepted by locals and have even acquired a fan base. The conures of Telegraph Hill, thanks to a popular book and video, are now a famous flock of birds with an international following.

Mitred conures, originally from southwestern South America, extend from southern Peru, through Bolivia, and into Argentina. In the wild, they prefer tall, steep rock faces and have been reported up to altitudes of 4000 m in Peru. They typically inhabit drier sub-tropical vegetation, but have been observed in drier cloud forests. They are commonly observed in pairs or threes, but may flock to numbers up to 100 in the non-breeding season. They are regarded as especially adaptable and hearty.

The rest of the story of the Maui conures involves a cast of characters unmatched in any wild tale. The original release in 1987 was either an escape or a planned New Year’s celebratory event. Atmo, the original male conure for the Maui conures, had been the pet of one of the early Huelo residents, White Star. Huelo lies in the Waipio Valley near Waipio Bay on the north shore of Maui, about 20 miles outside of Kahului on the road to Hanna. White Star moved to the area when the neighborhood was still mostly cow pastures, but the area has since become an enclave of large estates. Atmo’s flight to freedom was from White Star’s home, Pali Uli, a beautiful estate overlooking a 75-ft waterfall very close to the ocean. Miranda, the original female mitred conure, as the story goes, was left behind by a renter of White Star’s and released from a large, beautiful aviary by an amorous Atmo. The rest, as they say, is history.

Atmo and Miranda set up a homestead in abandoned sea bird cavities that they shared with local pigeons. The cavities were on a steep, fragile cliff facing the wild seas on the north shore of Maui. Approach by land and sea was virtually impossible. Most US Coast Guard vessels are not rated for these waters and the land owner declined access to the state and federal agencies for a variety of reasons.

Biologists with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) tried to capture the conures in 1992 when the population was estimated at 12. By 1996, biologists believed the flock had grown to about 30. Three local biologists (Carter, Gassman, and Duvall) were later hired by DLNR to conduct field studies and risk assessment. By that time, they estimated the flock at 200 or more individuals. In June of 2000, 2 of the birds were shot by DLNR personnel in an attempt to identify the species and survey for infectious diseases. The species was identified as A. mitrata, based on size and color, and lice found on the birds were identified as common pigeon lice.

Unfortunately, the samples taken for infectious disease tests were lost.

A. mitrata conures are larger than other similar species and commonly measure 38 cm in length. They can be easily distinguished from other green conures by their size, red cheeks, and olive green under wing coverts. They can also...
The Adopt-A-Bird Program: Looking Back and Moving Forward 07/08

By Adopt-A-Bird Program Director, Cindy Welbourne

On behalf of the Adopt-A-Bird Program Committee members: Debbie Lloyd, Marta Muth, Kathleen O’Keefe, Diane Olson, Leanna Rein, and myself ... Thank You to all our foster homes, new adoption homes, and the owners who have sought us out to help them find forever homes for their birds.

2007 has been a very busy year for the Adopt-A-Bird Program. We have lost some committee members and gained more. The volume of inquiries has increased considerably. I think this is due to many factors: An improved, user friendly website, thanks to Garry Wallan; A monthly presence at all three PetZoo’s, thanks to David and Susan Allen (Eagle River), Greg Wilkie (Anchorage), myself and Dee Powers (Wasilla); Notices on Craigslist, thanks to Leanna Rein, and our association with PetFinders.com, which has continued to improve and make it easy to use their system.

We now have Co-Directors: Kathleen O'Keefe in Anchorage, and Courtney Reynolds in Fairbanks. This has made it possible to keep up with the increased demands of the Program. Thanks to Courtney in Fairbanks, we have been able to approve adoptive homes there and place 8 birds in that area. Thanks to Kathleen, I actually took a vacation!

We are continuing to search for Foster homes. This requires a home with TRUE quarantine, either a totally separate air system, or a home without birds. Foster homes without birds don’t last long, as they soon become adoptive homes! All Foster homes require a home inspection. This is time consuming and requires lots of paperwork. Currently we don’t have any empty Foster homes, so if you know of someone who may be interested, let us know.

This Program is only going to get better, and busier. If you are interested in becoming a committee member, please let one of the Directors know and watch for notices of upcoming training courses.

Here is a breakdown of the birds placed through The Alaska Bird Club’s Adoption Program in 2007:

- 2 African Grey
- 21 Budgies (parakeets)
- 27 Cockatiels
- 8 Conures
- 19 Finches
- 12 Lovebirds
- 1 Meyers
- 8 Conures
- 1 Cacique
- 2 Cockatoos
- 6 Doves
- 1 Lorikeet
- 2 Macaws
- 1 Mustached parakeet
- 1 Pionus
- 1 Quaker

Total: 107

Currently we have 3 Macaws, 1 African Grey, and a Budgie in pending adoption situations.

In closing, I know I say this every year, but this bears repeating. No one knows exactly what the future holds, so please don’t put off making plans for the care of your birds when you are no longer able to. Make a plan, write a will, tell your family your wishes, and put it in writing. Create a trust fund for your birds continued care. Make sure your birds life without you, is a secure and happy one.

Cindy Welbourne
Adopt-A-Bird Director

Fundraiser Table

Thanks to all of our past donors of the Fundraiser table!!

December’s meeting did not have a Fundraiser table because of the other activies planned for the evening.

Bring any donations you may have to the monthly meetings for added fun.

The Alaska Bird Club is looking for people who purchased the Northern Lights Coupon Book. Specifically the Veterinary discounts:

- VCA Veterinary Discounts
- VCA Microchiping

If you do not plan to uses these, please consider donating them to the club.
Classified Ads

There is a $5.00 monthly fee for both members and non-members. Current members who pay for a classified listing will receive a free identical website listing for free. The monthly fee must be received before the newsletter goes to print.

Send to PO Box 101825, Anchorage, AK 99510.
Classified listings must be no more than 10 total lines.
Email Jennifer Slaughter with your ad birdabode@gci.net.

From The Canary Loft
Canaries - Beautiful Male & Females American Singers.
Many colors to choose from. Males- $50- $75 & Females
$30- $40. Cockatiel bonded Pairs and Spares
Mutations (Lutinos, Pieds, and Whitefaces) - $50 each
2 Hen Princess of Wales ParaKeets.
May deliver birds to your area.
Rhea 373-0880 Wasilla rhea@mtaonline.net

Parrot Behavior Consultations
Need help with any of the following?
Aggression, Excessive screaming, Inappropriate
vocalizations, Feather Destructive Behaviors, Diet,
Environmental Enrichment
Contact Karen Webster to schedule your consultation
today: 929-BIRD (2473) or akpeac@gmail.com.

Website to consider:
Check out The Alaska Bird Club’s new Online Store!
Now you can order exactly what you want in the size
and color that works best for you and it will ship to
you’re home!
http://www.cafepress.com/akbirdclub/

Caution:
Avocado pits or flesh, cherry pits or any kind of
fruit pit, chocolate, foods containing caffeine,
or alcohol. These can kill your parrot!
Also avoid asparagus, eggplant, cabbage,
caffeine products, junk food, milk & cream, raw
potato, and rhubarb (including the leaves).

REMEMBER: Teflon and other non-stick finishes
(like a self-cleaning oven, or some irons and hair
dryers) are deadly to your bird. Do not take
chances. Bird deaths have been recorded when
nonstick cookware was used even at
low temperatures.
Consider replacing all Teflon & other non-stick
items in your home -
even if not used around your birds. If it’s not good
for them is it really good for us?

Treasurer’s Year End Report
The Bird Club is ending the year with less money than it
began with. This is due to several factors. We have
expended money that will not be recovered until 2008,
so this is temporary. We have a fresh supply of Leach
seed and all the income from that will be posted in 2008.
The Board of Directors has approved spending money
on volunteer recognition. This is a first for us and a vital
part of every non-profit. Without the many volunteers
who give up their time, resources, and knowledge, there
would not be an Alaska Bird Club. We owe these volun-
teers 100 fold what is being spent on letting them know
how absolutely important they are.
The Adopt-A-Bird Program was hit with almost
$2,000.00 in veterinary care bills. Much of this amount
will be re-covered in the adoption fees. Currently there
are 4 birds in the program whose veterinary costs and
adoption fees total $1,989.59 These adoptions will be
completed in 2008.
I would like to welcome Ann Gilley as the 2008 Treas-
urer. Ann is more than qualified to handle this task and I
am so glad she has accepted the position. Welcome
Ann.
Thank you all for your generosity.
Cindy Welbourne
2006/2007 Treasurer

Leach Seed & Nuts Orders
The Alaska Bird Club is now placing orders for
Hookbill Cuisine and other items. Place your
order at the next bird club meeting and it will
arrive in time for the next monthly meeting.

**Note: The Hookbill Cuisine and other nut and
seed products are not intended to be your birds
sole food, it is designed to be a supplement to
pellets, fruits and vegetables.

Emergency Preparedness - are you prepared??
Go to The Alaska Bird Club’s website and click on
Emergency Preparedness on the left menu.

There is lots of information, including a survey for
you to take as well as a one-sheet Disaster
Preparedness Worksheet, which you can use to guide
you to some basic steps in preparing for disaster.
be identified by their loud, strident call.

The current efforts to remove the conures are the result of collaboration with MISC and the National Wildlife Research Center’s Hawai’i Field Station, which is part of the US Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Concerns have steadily increased as biologists have watched the conures expand their range to nearby cliffs. Whereas the numbers at the Huelo site have fluctuated for many years at around 90, expansion of the colony to new sites with successful breeding populations has incited new action. Access the original cliff face, long denied by the resident, has finally been permitted and allowed biologists to rappel down to nest sites. Actions in July and August of 2006 resulted in the lethal removal of over 30 birds from the area.

Although it remains unclear just how much of a risk the conures pose to the fragile Hawaiian ecosystem, there is a vigorous effort underway to control or possibly eliminate non-native species. It appears that the economic and logistical limitations that have offered the conures relative shelter from authorities have shifted. Time will tell whether the efforts to remove them by any means possible will proceed or be successful.

Release #11, November, 2007. The Association of Avian Veterinarians welcomes membership from veterinarians with an interest in avian medicine. Annual meetings and a quarterly journal provide a format for the latest in avian medical information. Is your veterinarian a member?

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How to . . . Make An Almond Surprise

Toy courtesy of Leanna Rein.

What you need:
- 2x2’s cut to desired length
- 1 eye hook
- Almonds
- Drill bit approximately the diameter of an almond.
- Optional: Screw with eye hole at end (or a shish-kabob stick)

Instructions:
1. Cut the 2x2’s to the desired length. For example 6” or 3”.
2. Drill holes through each of the sides, making sure to alternate, so as the holes do not meet in the middle of the block.
3. Screw the eye hook into one of the ends so it can be hung.
   Alternative hanging method: Screw smaller hole through the middle to insert a screw with eye hole at end (or a shish-kabob stick).
4. Pound almonds into the holes.
5. Hang in cage or wherever and let your birds forage for the almonds. Birds enjoy chewing the wood to obtain the almond, or just make a mess.
The Alaska Bird Club’s mission is to promote responsible avian ownership through education and when possible, to provide rescue and adoption services for abandoned and unwanted birds in communities across Alaska.

We are a statewide 501(c)(3) [non-profit] educational club. All money collected as dues is used to provide educational training and activities to assist people in caring for companion birds. Our main activities include convening educational monthly membership meetings, producing a monthly newsletter, offering an annual seminar featuring experts in avian care and managing a website. Additionally, The Alaska Bird Club manages a statewide Adopt-A-Bird Program offering placement referrals, emergency/foster care and rescue services. The Alaska Bird Club also has a Lost/Found-Rescue Committee that aids in the rescue and capture of lost birds. There are numerous other activities and services that The ABC offers. You do not have to attend the meetings to be a member.

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

Membership is due annually, and runs from January 1st—December 31st. (rate discount of 50% applies to members joining in August and later). New members receive membership packets and free newsletter mailings.

___ Single: $20.00  ___ Family: $25.00  Mail Payment and form to:

The Alaska Bird Club, PO Box 101825, Anchorage, AK 99510

Name(s): ______________________________________________________________

Address:___________________________________City___________________State______Zip________

Phone:____________________________  E-Mail address___________________________

Type of Companion Birds you live with and their names:

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

How would you like to receive your newsletter?  US Mail ___  e-mail ___  pick-up at membership meeting ___

Would you like to be listed on a registry that is available to other members?  Yes ___  No ___

Would you be interested in carpooling from the Valley with other members?  Yes ___  No ___

Would you like to be on a committee? Yes ___  No ___  and if so, do you have a preference?

Adopt-A-Bird: ___  Lost/Found-Rescue Committee: ___  Hospitality Committee: ___  Membership Committee: ___

Educational Committee: ___  Seminar Committee: ___  Emergency Services Committee: ___

Other: _____________________________________

The Bird Club uses e-mail as the preferred method of communication. Do you wish to be included on this mailing list or not?  Yes _____  No _____

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