



The Flying Monkey

December 2020 | The Official NEWSLetter of Foster Parrots & The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary

Polly Finds Sanctuary with Foster Parrots:

Confronting the Reality of Euthanizing Healthy Parrots

by Bradley Kay,
Sanctuary Manager



Polly, saved from unnecessary euthanasia.

In September of this year, we received an email from a veterinary office about a Moluccan cockatoo named Polly. The bird was completely healthy, but his guardian had brought him to be euthanized after an aggressive outburst. When the clinic reached out to Foster Parrots, it was clear this was a bird in need of emergency services. With his history of unpredictable and aggressive behavior, there was not much adoption potential for Polly, but feisty Moluccan cockatoos are nothing new to us, so we knew we would be able to find a place for him at the sanctuary.

Stories like this one are heartbreaking and frustrating. They illustrate how little people understand their birds, and how unsuited to captivity parrots are. For cockatoos, sudden bouts of aggression are not uncommon. Some degree of aggression would be normal and necessary for any wild animal in terms of territory defense, protection from predators, and establishing dominance. In a home environment where humans make up a parrot's social circle, and where they are often frustrated by lack of enrichment and overstimulation from improper handling, hyperaggressive behaviors shouldn't come



Polly (foreground), with fellow cockatoos

as a shock. But the guardian's conclusion that the answer to her cockatoo's behavioral issues was euthanasia, unfortunately, is an issue we've seen before, and will likely see again. Polly was lucky that the veterinarian stepped in and convinced the guardian to relinquish him, and that an organization like Foster Parrots, capable of providing sanctuary, was able to take him.

Polly is now living in an aviary with five other Moluccan cockatoos. He is still getting used to living with other birds and seems a bit bewildered by them, but now has a huge aviary in which he can climb, fly, and explore, and where he has the potential to form healthy social relationships with other cockatoos. Since moving into the aviary, Polly has not displayed any aggression towards people. Once he is more established in his new environment this may change, but we are prepared for that. Aggressive and territorial behavior is something we simply learn to navigate with our birds. We can never give them anything close to the life they would have in the wild, but it is our mission and responsibility at Foster Parrots to give birds a shot at being birds.

FOSTER PARROTS 2020

YEAR-END Fundraiser & MINI MATCH!

*** All donations received on or before December 31, 2020 will be generously matched up to \$1500! Thank you for your support.**

We hope you will consider including Foster Parrots in your year-end giving. There are so many ways you can help!

See page 10 for details.





Why Won't My Bird Fly Back To Me?

The Psychology of the Escaped Bird

by Karen Windsor, E.D., and Rachel DeFronzo,
Adoption & Education Director

speed, gain altitude or safely target a desired perching destination. Parrots who have never flown before have not developed the navigational skills required to control flight. Very often when your bird is looking down at you from high up in that tree, he simply does not know how to fly down.

But birds are birds. Soon the vast openness of the outside world beckons to something deep within the spirit of your bird, and his amazing ability to practice exactly what his body was designed for becomes exhilarating. Parrots who escape from their human homes can travel dozens of miles in a short span of time. If an escaped bird is able to locate a food source like a backyard bird feeder, or is adopted by a flock of wild birds who can show him the ropes, returning to a life of flightless captivity can begin to feel like a less attractive prospect. This is when a parrot may transition from not knowing how to come home to not wanting to come home. But just like flight skill, parrots must also learn how to avoid predators and locate food, and these are much harder lessons to learn "on the fly." Provided an escaped parrot is successful

at avoiding predation, it is thirst, hunger and exhaustion that will ultimately bring many birds back down to earth.

Three days after he took to the skies, Echo flew onto a fishing dock in Charlestown, more than 10 miles from the sanctuary. A kind fisherman picked him up and wrapped him in his coat. It was clear that this was a human-bonded bird and that someone would be missing him, so the fisherman began reaching out to as many places as he could think of. Echo finally landed in the hands of the Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island. The powers of social media led them to us in a matter of 15 minutes and Echo was safely returned to Foster Parrots.

There are lessons to be learned through Echo's story. Many people believe they should clip their parrots' wings in order to keep them safe, but Echo's flight ability is likely what saved his life. Parrots with clipped wings can still escape. Without full flight capacity they are an extremely easy target for predators. Additionally, the physical and psychological health of parrots depends on flight. Safe flight inside the home or in a secure outdoor aviary should always be encouraged. That said, all people in a home where a parrot resides need to be vigilant and educated about how to live with a flighted parrot. No exterior doors or screenless windows should ever be opened during a parrots' out-of-cage time. If there are children in the home, extra precautions should be taken to ensure a parrot does not get out by accident.

Echo was no worse for the wear after his adventure. He has since been adopted into a wonderful new family and he is happy in his new home! He is very lucky to have safely survived, and his new family is lucky to have this sweet, special guy in their lives.

You can see him. He's right up there in that tree. You're looking up at him and he's looking down at you, but he will not fly to you. Why? What goes on inside the mind of an escaped bird?

On September 30th of this year, Echo, a happy, human-bonded Alexandrine parrot, was scheduled to be dropped off at our facility. He would undergo his 30 days of quarantine, be cleared by our veterinarian, and then go up for adoption. We already had a few wonderful families interested in adopting Echo. But he didn't make it into the building that day. During the drop-off, a young child in Echo's family didn't understand what was happening and she opened Echo's carrier in the sanctuary parking lot before anyone had a chance to stop her. Echo took flight and quickly disappeared into the woods on our property. It was one of the most horrific things to watch, as we knew this could be a death sentence for Echo.

Echo's family and Foster Parrots staff searched the property for hours that day and in the days following. We put out flyers, informed all of our neighbors, and utilized the many "Lost Pet" online groups available. Echo was missing for three nights, and we were starting to lose hope.

When a parrot accidentally flies out the door, it is safe to assume that he is just as surprised and frightened as you are by this unexpected event. Most captive parrots have never before experienced a world without walls. Or cage bars. A suddenly boundless world in which absolutely nothing is familiar must be a terrifying experience for an unprepared parrot.

Flight is a skill that birds in the wild learn to perfect with practice. They must learn how to navigate wind, space and velocity. They must learn how to position their bodies to increase or decrease



Echo



Revisiting the Story of Xena, Queen of the Amazons

by Karen Windsor

In September of 2011, Foster Parrots was contacted about a parrot who had been flying around a neighborhood in Lakeville, MA for at least 2 weeks. Foster Parrots founder, Marc Johnson and Executive Director, Karen Windsor, arrived at the scene and soon located a blue fronted Amazon, sitting high up in a tree in a wooded area. Of course, the bird would not come down.

After tracking this bird for several days, Marc returned with a sizable parakeet cage which he filled with food and hoisted high up into the tree, just about 5 feet from where the Amazon sat. We waited and watched, but she did not go to the cage.

The next day Marc and Karen returned again to see that the parrot was still sitting in the same spot with a cage full of nuts and fruit just feet away, but she had not moved. It suddenly became clear that she could not move. She was too weak from dehydration and starvation to save her own life. Marc began to toss a ball up near

to where she sat to try to startle her off her perch. The third ball did the trick. The Amazon leaped off the branch and sailed to the ground. She was too weak to fly.

We named this little warrior Xena and held our breath, not knowing whether or not she would survive. Severe dehydration causes organs to begin to shut down, and Xena was also struggling through the toxins she had ingested, nibbling on leaves and acorns during her run-in with freedom. But slowly she began to recover under the care of our vet. A month later she joined the flock at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary, and it did not take long for her true personality to reveal itself. She was assertive, bratty, opinionated and... did I mention bratty? Over time, Xena demonstrated her preference for human companionship and her unequivocal rejection of other birds. She was finally adopted by a Foster Parrots volunteer in 2018 and continues to thrive as the Amazon Queen in her human home.

Instructions for an Escaped Bird

- Create flyers** and distribute them widely to neighbors as well as to humane shelters, veterinary offices, police stations, pet retailers and wildlife rehabilitators. Notify agencies in your town as well as surrounding towns in every direction within at least a 20-mile radius.
- Post information** on lost & found parrot sites like 911parrotalert.com or parrotalert.com. Post an accurate description, but do not disclose band information.
- If you can locate your bird, keep track of him** and try to anchor him to the location. If your bird has a mate, bring that mate outside in a secure cage (if this can safely be done). The calls of your bird's mate may help call him in or keep him localized.
- Locate a large parakeet cage with a drop-down or sliding door.** Rig the door with a rope or string, fill the cage with food and hoist the cage into the tree as close as possible to your bird. If he enters the cage, pull the string and close the door.
- If you can safely climb the tree, do so with a backpack.** If your bird will come to you or allow you to pick him up, put him in the backpack so you can descend the tree with two free hands.
- If your parrot has been out for several days, he may be growing too weak to fly.** Throw a ball up near to where your bird is perched, being careful not to hit him! This may be enough to startle him to take flight. A tired parrot in a weakened condition will flutter to the ground.

HELPFUL HINT: Parrots who routinely (and safely) accompany their guardians outside of the home and/or spend time in outdoor aviaries become visually familiar with their surroundings and also learn what their house looks like. This can be helpful in keeping an escaped bird close to home. They know where they live!





Staff Member, Kelly Duker, with roosters Toby and Red

Keeping Backyard Birds Safe and Happy

by Kelly Duker, Staff Member

The smell of ammonia filled the air and rows of battery cages, offering less space than a standard sheet of paper, imprisoned hundreds of laying hens. This was what life was like for chickens who once filled the buildings of the old Chickadee Farms, a chicken meat and egg factory farm that operated from 1963 until 1995 on the current site of The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary. Since 2007, Foster Parrots has transformed this space to provide lifetime sanctuary for over 400 parrots and other displaced exotic animals, and also offers a refuge to birds most commonly exploited on farms, including roosters, ducks, peacocks, and geese.

Birds used in agricultural settings account for 98% of animals raised for food in the US, yet they are exempt from every federal protection overseeing agricultural animals.¹ The public is becoming more aware of the commonplace abuse that occurs on factory farms and are turning to alternatives like not consuming animals and their

products or keeping their own backyard chickens. But does keeping backyard chickens guarantee them a safe, high quality life free from exploitation? Oftentimes not. Sourcing one's birds, having proper enclosures, and providing predator proofing are often areas that can be improved.

Backyard chickens are commonly purchased from feed stores that source birds from hatcheries. Hatcheries view individual birds as commodities and only place value on able-bodied birds that produce eggs. Chicks are sexed at just one-day old, with any males or disabled chicks being killed immediately.² Adoption is a great alternative, but one must be committed to life-long care despite the fact that their hen's laying will decrease with time, and inherently value these birds for being sentient individuals.

Proper enclosures are vital for maintaining a thriving flock of chickens. Prefabricated coops are often too small and require

modifications. Coops should be insulated, draft free, and well-ventilated to control humidity and temperature. Minimum space recommendations state that each bird should have 2-4 sq. ft. of floor space inside the coop and 8-10 sq. ft. ground space in their run.³ However, minimum requirements are really starting points, and should be exceeded if possible.

Predator proofing is essential to protect your flock, with predation being the number one cause of death in backyard fowl.⁴ Half inch hardwire cloth should be secured around any openings larger than a quarter in your coop. For free ranging, utilize overhead protection, hardwire cloth skirting at the base of electrified fences, and human presence for safety measures. Killing predators in your area will not solve your predator issues, it only harms wildlife, and new predators will continue to move into this open territory. Quality housing is the best way to ensure the safety of backyard birds.

¹ <https://awionline.org/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/19LegalProtectionsFarm.pdf>

³ <https://extension.tennessee.edu/McMinn/4H/Backyard%20Chickens%20Information%20Publication.pdf>

² <https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-happens-with-male-chicks-in-the-egg-industry/>

⁴ <http://www.poultrydvm.com/featured-infographic/tips-for-protecting-poultry-from-predators>

Prevalent Avian Health Issues in Captive Birds

by Bradley Kay, Sanctuary Manager

At Foster Parrots, we do everything we can to keep our birds in optimal health. The issues posed by captivity mean that managing health problems is a constant challenge in the sanctuary setting. Two of the most common and challenging issues we have faced this year are heart disease and nutrient deficiency.

Atherosclerosis

In the past year, over half of the deaths of older parrots at our sanctuary were related to atherosclerosis. This cardiovascular condition describes the build up of fat plaques inside the arteries, restricting the flow of oxygenated blood to the organs of the body. Its primary cause is lack of exercise, combined with a diet too heavy in fat, which is unfortunately quite common. Foods like nuts and seeds are incredibly high in fat, but form the bulk of many birds' diets. We frequently get birds from homes where guardians have fed these fatty foods in large quantities for years, causing irreversible damage. Sedentary lifestyles and advanced age are significant factors. Many of the birds we take in have spent decades sitting in a cage, perhaps 24 hours a day. However, even birds in aviaries or with extensive out of cage time don't get nearly the workout their cardiovascular system is evolved for: flying for miles each day in the wild. Finally, genetics also play a major role in the deterioration of cardiovascular health. Amazons are genetically predisposed to obesity. Consequently, as a species, these birds are at higher risk for heart disease than many other species. And just like in humans, individual genetics can impact cardiovascular health despite the quality of care.

Lethargy and difficulty moving and breathing can early be signs of atherosclerosis, but the unfortunate truth is that clear symptoms are rarely displayed. More often, the condition results in sudden death. It is one of the most jarring diseases when it takes effect, because

a bird can seem completely normal up to that point. The suddenness with which atherosclerosis can take a bird's life makes treatment challenging. If a bird shows signs indicative of heart disease, long term medication can sometimes help.

But the biggest factors in preventing and managing atherosclerosis are diet and exercise. Limit high fat foods like nuts and seeds, and opt for a high-quality pelleted food like Zupreem, Harrison's, or Lafeber, along with daily fresh fruits and vegetables. Allowing as much flight, climbing, and activity as possible is also crucial.

Calcium Deficiency

Calcium deficiency is often associated with egg laying females, as developing a hard-shelled egg requires a great deal of calcium. Failure to acquire enough calcium can result in a softer egg that is more difficult for the bird to pass, increasing the risk of her becoming egg bound. Repetitive egg laying can also deplete calcium in the bones. At Foster Parrots, egg laying is discouraged, and we avoid creating environments that promote this, such as dark boxes with nesting material. However, it is not always preventable. Ava, our eclectus female, is happily bonded to a mate who fulfills her social needs, but their bond can stimulate her to produce eggs, which are sometimes soft-shelled. Ava receives a daily dose of Clay Cal calcium supplement mixed in her food daily, as well as calcium gluconate in her water when she starts to exhibit increased nesting behavior.

Sometimes calcium deficiency occurs independently of egg laying. This is the case for our sun conure, Pumpkin Pie.



Due to either genetic predisposition, poor nutrition for most of his life, or a combination of the two, he exhibits tremors and lethargy if not kept on calcium supplements. The role of vitamin D in calcium absorption is another factor, as the majority of captive parrots never have access to direct, unfiltered sunlight. Currently Pumpkin Pie receives both Clay Cal and calcium gluconate, and has a UVB sun lamp on twelve hours a day.

The most basic step for preventing calcium deficiency once again centers around diet. A high-quality pelleted food provides adequate calcium in most birds when fed in combination with fresh produce high in calcium, like broccoli rabe, kale, collard greens and Swiss chard. Frequent egg layers, or birds with signs of calcium deficiency, may need additional supplementation, and access to as much sunlight or artificial UV light is also incredibly important.

The common factor between both of these conditions is captivity. In the wild, getting enough exercise to counterbalance caloric intake would not be an issue, egg laying would be limited to a regular breeding period, and sunlight would be abundant. We do our best to provide the highest quality care, but keeping birds in captivity will always pose the risk of severe health issues. Ultimately, the best way to prevent heart disease and nutrient deficiencies in parrots is to leave them in the wild.



Top left & right: Flooding from Hurricane Etna in Guatemala at the Yellow Headed Amazon Project; Center: a very endangered yellow-headed parrot chick.

Hurricane Etna Harms People and their Parrot Conservation Projects, But One Earth Conservation Has a Plan to Help!

by Dr. LoraKim Joyner, One Earth Conservation

On November 3rd, I had just sent funds to our partners, the Guatemalan government agency, CONAP (like USFWS), so that they could construct nest boxes for the very endangered yellow-headed parrot on Guatemala's Atlantic coast. They had participated in a bi-national parrot count along with our partners in Honduras, Cuerpo de Conservacion, and the numbers seemed lower than ever, under 100 birds between the two countries. Poaching has been extreme in both countries and we thought that if we could put up nest boxes near the participating communities, then the birds would have nests that could be protected by our rangers there.

I knew that Hurricane Etna, a Category 4 storm, was making landfall in Nicaragua that morning, but I was more worried about our projects there than further north. Then over the next two days the reports, photos, and videos kept coming. The entire parrot conservation community in Guatemala had to be evacuated by boat, and the nesting area in Honduras was under water. I remembered that we had some funds from "No Child Goes Hungry" and we immediately sent those funds to both Guatemala and Honduras so our partners could buy and distribute food. This

is just a small drop in the bucket of what they will need after the waters recede and they can return to their homes, for the damage from this hurricane has been ranked even worse than that of Hurricane Mitch in 1998, which had been the most destructive hurricane to ever hit Central America. Hundreds of thousands have lost their homes, and the recover will be long and painful.

But we have a plan. What if we could ramp up the projects, and pay the families that were the hardest hit to be parrot conservationists? Funds raised would then help to rebuild homes, and supply clothes, food, and medicine for many families, all the while the parrots are protected. It's a win-win opportunity, drastically needed, now.

But we have a plan. Both of these areas were very small projects relatively for One Earth Conservation. Each year we only offer a few stipends for community members to patrol and monitor the nests. What if we could ramp up the projects, and pay the families that were the hardest hit to be parrot conservationists? Funds raised would then help to rebuild homes, and supply clothes, food, and medicine for many families, all the while the parrots are protected. It's a win-win opportunity, drastically needed, now.

Thank you so much if you can donate today to keep food on the table for these people, and parrots in their trees around their rebuilding homes. If you cannot donate today, please tell others of this story so we can honor the hardship and the hope of these people's efforts for their parrots.

Visit oneearthconservation.org to donate and to learn more about One Earth's work.



A Murder of Crows at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary by Karen Windsor

Corvids are amongst the most highly intelligent of all bird species, and yet they are considered to be pests by many, harbingers of evil or bad luck by others, and are subject to extermination at the hands of humans. As if each individual crow or raven carries in their brain a blueprint of the history of human violence toward their species, crows fear and avoid people at all costs. For this reason, it is particularly heartbreaking when a crow incurs a permanent, flight-disabling injury and cannot be returned to his family group in the wild. This is when a crow loses absolutely everything.

Like all native wildlife, crows who cannot be returned to the wild are required, by law, to be euthanized. When the Foster Parrots sanctuary was presented with its first unreleasable American crow, it was simply impossible to consider ending his life. With help from our good friends at the "Born To Be Wild" raptor rehabilitation center, located in Bradford, Rhode Island, we began the long process of applying for the necessary state and federal permits that would enable us to keep this crow as an education animal. We named him Syrus.

A wild crow in captivity should never be kept alone. Like humans – and parrots – crows are deeply connected to and reliant upon their social connections and their family groups. We began our search for a

friend for Syrus. After internet searches and a bit of networking, we were able to locate two crows in need of sanctuary. Located in Killingworth, Connecticut, "A Place Called Hope" specializing in raptor rescue and rehabilitation, was holding an unreleasable fish crow who needed a place to go. The second crow, an American crow named Jackson (aka Big Jack) was being held at a wildlife rehabilitation center in Kentucky run by a woman named Ginger Rood. At the age of 89, Ginger had devoted her life to the care of birds and animals, and she poured her love into the care of every little creature who came into her center.

The potential fate of Jackson had weighed heavy on Ginger's heart. He had arrived at her rehabilitation center extremely weak and emaciated. Complacency in a wild crow is never a good sign. Jackson accepted Ginger's care passively, and in the beginning she was not optimistic about his recovery. But as he began to put on weight, he also began to show his disdain for Ginger. This was when she knew he was going to be OK. However, now she began to fear that she had saved his life only to be required by law to end it. Jackson had suffered an injury to his wing that rendered him unreleasable. When Foster Parrots contacted her with an interest in bringing Big Jack to our sanctuary, she was overcome with joy and relief.

The fish crow from Connecticut, whom we named "Hope," arrived at the sanctuary early in 2020, and the bond between Syrus and Hope was instantaneous. The two crows fully understood their own and one another's situation; both birds were anxious to be together. The process of getting Big Jack permitted and transported from Kentucky, however, was fraught with complications and delays. The permitting process had commenced in November of 2019. It took almost a year to bring Jackson home. On October 2nd of this year, "road trip volunteers," Emily and Toby Kay, safely delivered Big Jack to the sanctuary. Syrus and Hope immediately drew him into their exclusive, corvid circle, thereby creating the first "murder of crows" at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary.

Crows and ravens are iconic American birds. They should be revered for their guile, intelligence, resourcefulness, and for the critical role they play in urban and rural ecosystems. It is our goal to provide a small number of unreleasable crows with a "second chance" as educational ambassadors at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary. Visitors to the sanctuary will learn about the history of human relationships with crows, their mythological significance, and how their intelligence and adaptability enable them to navigate a constantly changing and challenging human landscape.



MACAW CONSERVATION COSTA RICA

Challenges and Successes in the Year of COVID

by Chris Castles,
MCCR President

With COVID-19 turning the world upside down, we have had to adapt to a new normal here at the MCCR sanctuary. We are isolating to the greatest extent possible, but the birds still need to be cared for. Trips into town for food, medical supplies and veterinary support have had to be minimized and well

planned. Maintaining our very small social bubble here on the farm with our 2 essential personnel has been an exercise in patience and resourcefulness. But the impact of the virus has been broad. Now with the lack of tourism in Costa Rica, we're running an unemployment rate of 23%, and this in turn has drastically increased the rates of poaching of native wildlife. **Parrots are particularly at risk. With breeding season for macaws just around the corner, the full impact on local populations is still unknown, but we're bracing for an increase in rescue activity in the year ahead.**

Despite COVID's obstacles, development at the farm continues.

We have very gratefully received the essential support from Foster Parrots to maintain our sanctuary. A grant from the Wagmore Foundation and an online fundraising initiative by the Intertwined Conservation

Corp. have enabled us to continue construction on our new veterinary clinic and on a new well to ensure an adequate water supply. We have been able to increase predator protection for our vulnerable sanctuary macaws, such as a non-lethal, solar electric fence system that effectively safeguards the resident birds. These are essential developments for the care of our macaws.



This has been a landmark year for the project, with 10 locally rescued macaws being successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild, and this includes **Mila** whose progress has been followed by so many people. This little macaw was found as a hatchling on

the forest floor. She was tiny, dehydrated and cold. She never should have survived. After such a rough start, she is now enjoying life in the wild with her other flock mates, where she belongs. Our two other rescued babies, **Monster & Oscar**, survived after their nest tree came down, have grown into strong, assertive macaws and now also fly free as a part of this group. These birds still rely on the support of the farm and visit the feeding stations daily, which enables us to monitor their progress. It is apparent we are on the right track with our rehabilitation methods. Their wild attitudes are clearly developing as they work on building and maintaining relationships with the wild population of macaws. Every day we are adapting our techniques to give our released macaws the best chance of survival in the wild, and to provide a safe and comfortable life for our unreleasable, sanctuary residents. This has been a fantastic opportunity to observe the healthy development of the birds and demonstrates that, with the help of our supporters, we are able to make a real difference in the conservation of macaws on the Osa Peninsula. Every individual life matters. Miracles can happen. For more info visit macawconservation.org.

Top: Rescued as a chick, scarlet macaw Mila, foraging for beach almonds after being released back into the wild.

Bottom: Mila (far left) Monster (center) & Oscar enjoying supplemental meals provided by MCCR to help keep them healthy as they establish independence following their release. Center: Baby Mila. Photos courtesy of Chris Castles, MCCR President.



UPDATE: Regulations on Standards of Care for Birds Under the Animal Welfare Act

by Karen Windsor

In September of this year, the USDA issued a notice that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) was opening the floor for public input regarding standards of care for birds under the Animal Welfare Act. Listening Sessions were held on September 29th, October 7th and October 15th. Written comments were accepted between September 29th – October 29th.

Over 10,000 comments were submitted by the concerned individuals, by animal welfare organizations (including Foster Parrots), and also by those with commercial interests who have opposed and blocked any form of regulation of the industry for decades. With stakeholders defined in terms of “dealers, breeders, exhibitors, auctioneers and commercial transporters,” it is telling that language used by APHIS makes a distinction between “stakeholders” and “animal welfare” as two opposing entities, affirming what we all know: that welfare is not a part of the vocabulary of the commercial industry.

Although there were provisions for birds in the Animal Welfare Act, no regulations for standards of care had ever been promulgated. Consequently, the welfare of birds held in breeding facilities, sold as pets, transported commercially and used for exhibition remained in limbo

without enforceable legal protections in place. Finally, a lawsuit filed in the District Court of D.C. by the American Anti-vivisection Society (AAVS) and the Avian Welfare Coalition in January of 2020 prevailed, forcing action on the part of the USDA.

APHIS’ call for public input notably asked if certain breeders, retailers or exhibitors should be exempted from regulations, and also if certain species of birds should be exempt. We can assume that species most likely to be marginalized for protection under the AWA would be small, mass-bred species like budgerigars, cockatiels, passerines (finches, canaries, etc.) and columbiforms (doves and pigeons). It is unthinkable that a bird, just by virtue of its size and prevalence in the pet trade, should fail to qualify for legal protection in the commercial market. However, parakeets and cockatiels are species very often (mistakenly) classified as domesticated pets, not wild or exotic birds, and “pet birds” sold in pet stores, as well as the pet stores themselves (if they only sell so-called domesticated pets), are not subject to regulation under the AWA.

Please stand by for the conclusion of this story when regulations protecting birds under the AWA are finalized.



YOUR YEAR-END GIVING MEANS THE WORLD!

YEAR END MINI-MATCH JUST ANNOUNCED!
All donations received on or before Dec. 31, 2020 will be matched up to **\$1500!**

2020 has been one of the most difficult and frightening years in modern history, and yet, your support of Foster Parrots and the birds and animals at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary has enabled us to meet our primary goal this year: ensuring that our sanctuary residents continue to receive the care they deserve, never suspecting that there is anything amiss in the world of humans.

BECAUSE YOU HELPED:



415

In 2020, 415 resident parrots, yard birds & other exotic animals received high quality care at the New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary, including outstanding veterinary support, diets based in fresh produce, large, enriched aviary & animal environments, and the dedication of the world's best staff & volunteer crew!



100

Focusing on parrots coming from abusive circumstances, those in need of medical help and those who are ineligible for adoption, Foster Parrots provided rescue services for over 100 parrots in 2020!



66

66 of the parrots rescued in 2020 have been admitted as permanent sanctuary residents!



40

40 parrots were placed in loving, adoptive homes this year!

10

10 Scarlet Macaws were rehabilitated and released this year on the Osa Peninsula by our Conservation partner, Macaw Conservation Costa Rica!

ONE

1 grateful parrot rescue and sanctuary organization located in Hope valley, Rhode Island, cannot thank you enough for supporting this important work and making all of this possible!

We hope you will consider including Foster Parrots in your Year-End philanthropy. There are so many ways you can help!

Make a one-time donation of any size. Every donation makes a difference! Did you know that the bulk of total annual funding for Foster Parrots is comprised of small to mid-size donations?

Sign up for automatic monthly donations! This dependable support helps ensure a strong foundation under the work of Foster Parrots!

Sponsor a parrot or sponsor and aviary! Sponsorship support not only helps us to continue in this important work, but connects contributors to the lives of resident parrots in a more personal and meaningful way.

Make a bequest, include Foster Parrots in your estate planning or transfer stocks! Support like this helps to ensure the growth and success of Foster Parrots through the decades to come.

Donate on-line: fosterparrots.com It's safe, secure, and so easy!

Mail your donation to: Foster Parrots, Ltd. PO Box 34 Hope Valley, RI 02832

Stay Safe & Stay Well!



Meet the Birds: This is Why You Donate!



Beau - Blue-throated macaw



Berta - Hybrid macaw



Blue - Hybrid Indian ringneck



Sapphire & Missy - Blue & Gold and Hybrid macaws



JayJay - Jenday conure



Obie - Male eclectus



Pickle - Maximilian pionus



Pipsqueak - Black-capped conure

Prion: A Futuristic Fable of Parrots Pandemics and Promise Makers

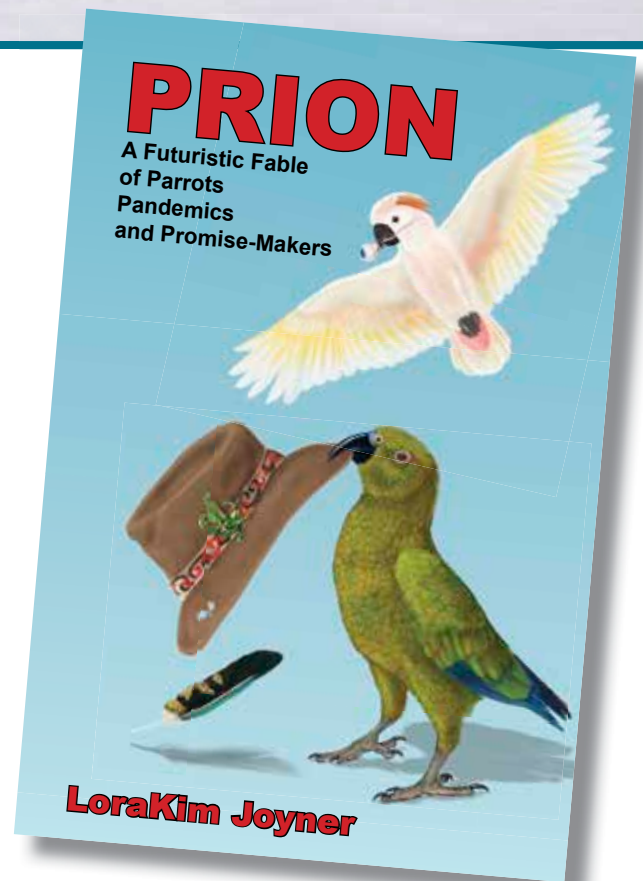
Introducing a New Book by Dr. LoraKim Joyner

A group of scientists and conservationists suddenly find themselves in the midst of a new, terrifying pandemic that could end the human race. Using the latest technologies, they come together through hard work and growing bonds of friendship and solidarity with all life, only to discover that parrots are the transmitters of the nicknamed "Zealand Zombie Disease." The story begins in New Zealand — then follows peoples' and parrots' lives in Australia, Honduras, and the USA — and dramatizes the frantic rush to find the cause, as well as how to prevent and cure, the disease. Using their scientific understanding of and experiences with parrots, promises are made to the parrots, and between humans. These might just save the day, until everything suddenly seems to slip away...

What happens next?

Look for Prion at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) in December!

Dr. LoraKim Joyner has worked in Avian Conservation in the Americas for more than 33 years as a wildlife veterinarian. As part of her work, and as a result of the devastation to people and parrots she has personally witnessed, LoraKim offers healing and hope to a world where loss of biodiversity, climate change, terrorism, political polarization, and pandemics threaten us all.





**Foster Parrots &
The New England
Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary**

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