

# Squawk Talk Magazine March 09'



*The Coastal Bend Companion Bird Club and Rescue Mission seeks to promote an interest in companion birds through communication with and education of pet owners, breeders and the general public. In addition, the*

*CBCBC&RM strives to promote the welfare of all birds by providing monetary donations for the rescue and rehabilitation of wild birds and by placing abused, abandoned, lost or displaced companion birds in foster care until permanent adoptive homes can be found.*

Welcome new members!! We are glad to have you on board!!!

We would like for everyone to share their experiences and any literature that you may have.

## WANTED: Books and Videos

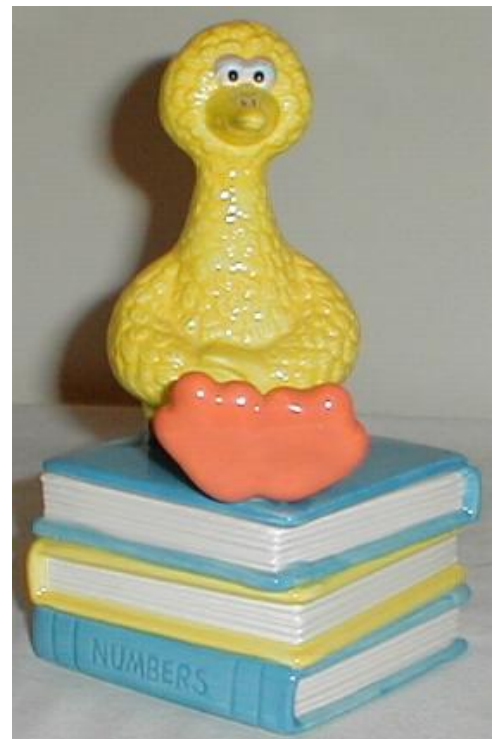
By Jim Harmon

Do you have a shelf of bird books gathering dust? Maybe old editions of "Bird Talk" or other magazines? How about that training DVD you watched once and decided teaching your bird to insert a penny in the piggy-bank just wasn't for you? With spring just around the corner, now is a great time to make space in the house and donate unwanted items to the bird club!!

Each year the club is blessed with more and more new members. Many of our members are experienced bird lovers, but others are brand new to the club and experiencing for the first time what it is like to be a companion to their pets. In either case, continued education is essential as the avian community continues to make new breakthroughs in the field.

On a recent home inspection, I was elated to see two books on the coffee table that had been just purchased on the African Grey Species. The couple had submitted their application for adoption of a bird in rescue; a bird in which the couple knew little about. Without even knowing what the club's decision would be regarding the disposition of the bird, they felt strongly that they needed to learn what they are getting into before taking on such a challenge. As I glanced through the books, I realized I too had a book on African Greys. The following day I pulled the book from my shelf and began to read. What I learned from the book, was that the bird world had changed drastically since it was written in 1979 and while most of the information was generally sound, much was outdated.

If you don't make the meetings, you probably don't see the club's library which is brought in on wheels, allowing members to check in and check out books. Every time I see it, the library grows by a few books or a video and it's a good resource for our club members. Members can check out books for free, so it's a great benefit of being a club member, especially for those who don't like to be strapped to the computer from morning to night.



One of the main purposes of the club is our education mission. While we meet monthly and hold a brief program on one of many topics, the ability to continue education beyond the meeting is essential and the club's library is just another way of doing that. So, if you do have books or videos you would like to donate, the club members and their birds will benefit greatly!

The following is a list of books and videos currently available to our members for check-out. Anyone desiring to check-out a book or video need only request them at the meetings or contact our vice-president and club librarian Marcia. *Membership has its privileges!*

## Library of Books & DVD's

Avian Medicine and Surgery

Birds for Dummies

Manual of Avian Practice

African Grey Parrots...as a hobby

African Grey Parrots...a complete pet owner's manual

African Grey Parrots

Amazon Parrots, The Handbook of

A Bird Keeper's Guide to Long-Tailed Parrots

Avicultural Society of America founded 1927

Guide to the Senegal Parrot

Your First Canary

All About Conures

The Joy of Cockatiels

Beginner's Guide to Cockatiels

Budgengars...step-by-step book

SPBE Journal April/May/June 1998

Doves

Songbirds

All about Finches and Related Seed-Eating Birds

The New Finch Handbook

Zebra Finches

Taming & Training Lovebirds

Lories and Lorikeets

Lovebirds, A Complete Introduction

Breeding Lovebirds

The New Australian Parakeet Handbook

The Quaker Parrot

Guide to the Quaker Parrot



## DVD's and Movies

The Total African Grey

Bird Basics

Cockatiels, Beyond the Basics

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## Article called: Exotic Bird Facts.

If you have made the painful decision to surrender your bird, we urge you to please read the following before you take the next step:

You are not alone. Each year millions of bird guardians are led to believe that birds make wonderful animal companions, only to later discover that birds require more care than most people are willing or able to provide.

You may believe that your situation is hopeless and that your only option is to surrender your bird, for you and your bird's best interest. However, it is estimated that most people who surrender their birds are unaware of the potential and perhaps even simple solutions to correct their bird's behavior or the problematic situation causing it.



Unfortunately, it's not uncommon for some people to surrender one "difficult" bird and replace him with another bird, thinking that their new or baby bird will be better behaved, less noisy, less messy, will require less care, etc., only to discover that their new bird exhibits the same "bad" behavior as their former bird.

Birds are highly intelligent, sensitive creatures, and in many instances, a bird's problematic behavior isn't his problem but rather the result of his environment and how he's being handled. With proper training and correct handling, a bird's bad behavior can often be reversed. By reading books, consulting with an avian behaviorist, or seeking advice from knowledgeable veterinarians, you can create a positive relationship with your bird. Attending bird club meetings, sharing your bird stories, or having a "bird support group" when bird

troubles arise may be all that you need to mend the relationship between you and your bird. Let's face it: even the best human relationships require nurturing, and counseling may even occasionally be necessary to keep them healthy and strong. The relationship between you and your feathered friend is no different.

Here are just a few behavioral problems, dynamics, or environmental issues that can be potentially corrected:

- Screaming
- Chewing
- Biting
- Plucking
- Messy cages
- Aggression

- Your schedule and available time
- And many more.....

It's important to emphasize that each time a bird is surrendered, bought or sold, an existing homeless bird will potentially lose his opportunity for a loving, permanent home. Even if you find a home for your unwanted bird, you've taken away another bird's chance for a home and his future security. Due to the escalating rise in homeless, unwanted "pet" birds, we strongly encourage caring and responsible bird guardians to try the alternatives listed above before surrendering their birds.

However, we realize that some bird guardians may be subject to circumstances beyond their control and therefore don't have the ability to consider these other options. Or, for some, keeping their bird may not be in the bird's best interest. It could even be detrimental or dangerous for their bird to stay in his present home, in which case, we support and encourage surrender.

If you decide you must surrender your bird, please consult the How To information on the following websites, which include guidelines for screening potential bird guardians, printable application forms, and general information that will help you find the perfect home for your bird so you can ensure his safe and happy future.


If you want to surrender your bird, or if you want to adopt a bird, please visit the following websites:

- [http://www.parrotconnection.org/programs\\_and\\_services/animal\\_programs/surrender\\_options.html](http://www.parrotconnection.org/programs_and_services/animal_programs/surrender_options.html)
- <http://www.fosterparrots.com/adoption.html>
- <http://www.lilysanctuary.org/adoptions.htm>
- <http://www.avianwelfare.com/links/organizations.htm>
- <http://www.mickaboo.com/findhome.html>
- <http://www.cctexas.com/?fuseaction=main.view&page=332>

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**So, please don't feel alone. Just ask for help and many things can be accomplished.**

**Rebecca DeLaGarza.**



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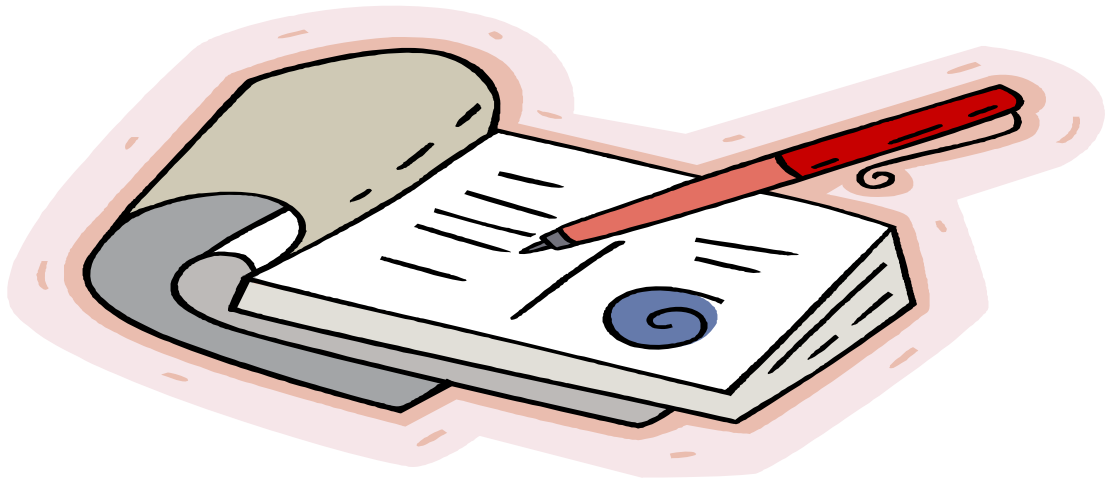
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Will ship at buyer's expense via Continental Air out of Corpus Christi, TX, price being \$157 plus small crate fee. Will meet within reasonable distance in Texas.

I do not, as of this date, have pictures posted on my website, however, you may read all our Policies and payment information there. I will be adding the pictures in the next few days, plus pics of the new babies !!

Thanks !!!!

Diana and the Menagerie

[www.critterstuffandmore.com](http://www.critterstuffandmore.com)

## Even more classifieds:

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## PHOTOS BY JOAN LATHAM

FEBRUARY 19, 2009



KIKI IS SHOWING OFF HER ADOPTED FAMILY!



KIKI HAS BEEN ADOPTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO GROW NEW FEATHERS. CONGRATUALATIONS KIKI!

## When Animal Control Comes Knocking

By Jim Harmon

When one thinks of Animal Control, probably the most common images that come to mind would be recent pit-bull attacks or horses found to be in wretched condition, or even the 300 Pomeranians in cages stacked floor to ceiling inside someone's house. These types of stories are common on the evening news and normally result in animals being carted off and in some cases put down.

Just this past week, in the national news, was the story of a chimpanzee seriously attacking its owner. To most of America, without a doubt, the beast was the loving companion of its owner and despite the damage inflicted, she was horrified to find the court was to destroy her beloved pet.

In addition to these types of situations, Animal Control is also who comes out when someone registers a noise complainant against someone else for a barking dog or screaming bird. While investigating the complaint, Animal Control will act depending upon what they find. If an animal is found to be mishandled, in poor condition, or in inadequately housed, Animal Control might seize the animal on the spot.



Needless to say when a friend of the club was cited for a noise violation, shock of a complaint barely equaled the realization that she might actually lose her birds over the complaint. Having gone through a recent court appearance, she wanted to share some observations that might help others in the future:

Lesson #1: The Animal Control officer has the power to remove any animal that the officer feels is in danger or mistreated. Keeping clean, safe and spacious cages are important.

Lesson #2: Seed is not the only thing birds eat and the officer was pleased when he observed that she was feeding seed, pellet and fresh veggies in her birds' diet.

Lesson #3: This might be a hard lesson for some, but overcrowding is deemed to exist if more than two birds are housed in the same cage. The size of the cage does not matter. So, when the babies are ready to leave the nest, they need to leave the cage as well.

Lesson #4: Birds need more than a cage and a perch to have a fulfilling life within the confines of its habitat. Having toys in the cage is a sign you care about your bird's mental well being.

Lesson #5 which is one that many breeders I have talked to have echoed; **BE REALLY GOOD TO YOUR NEIGHBORS!** Be friendly; invite them to see your birds. Remember, they listen to them all year around!



Luckily these lessons were not learned from the court, they were tried and true methods in place which added up to the breeder's credit and allowed Animal Control to determine there were no problems which might have otherwise resulted in the decision to remove birds from the property.

At the end of the day, running a clean and proper aviary saved our friend from a harsh sentence being passed down from the courts and the possible loss of her birds. If all stays quiet in the aviary for 90 days without additional complaints, the violation is cleared. If not, it's back to court, but this time for more severe charges.

In the end, the noise complaint cost her court costs; time spent conducting research to mount a defense, and forced her to sell a pair of beloved Amazon parrots, one of which was only doing what he had learned from a previous owner. *Daily he screamed for "Ed" at the top of his lungs...*

A few morals come to mind out of this story: Be kind to the neighbors, be kind to *your* "Ed" as neither wants to hear a high pitched scream from morning till night, but most of all, be kind to your birds.



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## CBCBC & RM General Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 7:09.

### Opening:

Joan greeted everyone and welcomed new members as well as visitors. She announced that due to the resignations of Marlyn Garant and Aurora Silva, Debbie Clanton would be the new secretary and Jim Harmon would stand in as treasurer.

### Officer Reports:

Vice President – Marcia announced that she would be placing a notice in the “Weekender” portion of the Caller Times each month on the Friday before our general meeting. She is also going to try to procure tables for the club at upcoming “wellness” events that she will be working.

Secretary – Minutes were accepted as written.

Membership – No official count of members is available yet. Members continue to fill out renewals and we have many new members.

Treasurer – Treasurers report was accepted as written.

Mart Director – Volunteers needed to help with May 30 mart.

### Committee Reports:

Rescue – Adoption of the African Gray named Kiki to Monica and Zach Montoya was voted on and approved. Cockatiel breeding pair is still available for adoption.

Hospitality - Joan reported that the Home and Garden Show in Robstown was a huge success. Our booth always had the biggest crowds. She also announced the cancellation of the Sports and Outdoor Show that was scheduled for the end of February. Volunteers are asked to contact Joan if they are interested in helping out with the First Christian Church Children’s Play Day to be held Saturday, April 4 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Volunteers are needed for Petco “Meet and Greet” on Saturday, March 14. Call Joan to sign up.

### Old Business:

A question was asked about the progress of raffle ticket sales. Raffle tickets are selling well and we hope to start selling more as the mart date approaches. Members are encouraged to check out tickets to sell to family, friends and coworkers.

### New Business:

Everyone was reminded to get their “green ticket” for attending the meeting to enter into the \$100 end of year drawing. Belinda and Marcia are checking into prices for club shirts. They are looking at prices for polo shirts with a small club logo embroidered on one side of the chest. Jim gave an update on the court appearance of the club friend who was cited by Animal Control for the noise of her birds. More information will be in an article in the March newsletter.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35

Helen Fahlsing gave a very informative presentation on Breeders’ Lung.

## CBCBC & RM Board Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2009

Members present: Marcia Shultz, Belinda Wait, Jim Harmon, Joan Latham & Debbie Clanton

Meeting was called to order at 7:04

Opening: Joan told everyone that the Petco date had to be changed to Saturday, March 7 due to a conflict at Petco with the pet photos that were being taken on the previously scheduled date.

Officer Reports:

Vice President – nothing to report

Secretary – minutes approved as written

Membership – Marcia and Belinda reported that the current paid membership includes 16 families, 17 singles, 2 commercial, 8 lifetime and 2 honorary.

Treasurer – Jim reported a beginning balance for February of \$14,888.88, debits were \$818.04, credits were \$707.00, leaving a final balance of \$14,777.84. The report was accepted as written.

Mart Director – Jim reported he has started mailing out vendor packets and that table confirmations are coming in. He will prepare a vendor list for Joan to start making calls to confirm attendance at the mart. We need to start looking at recruiting members to help with advertising.

Committee Reports:

Rescue – cockatiel breeding pair continues to be in foster care.

Webmaster – website had approximately 600 hits last month.

Newsletter – Rebecca was not present

Hospitality – Joan will need at least 1 volunteer without birds on April 4 to pass out fliers and sell raffle tickets. Marcia volunteered to leave “Pickles” at home and handle this task.

Old Business:

Jim is pricing TVs and will purchase the TV for the raffle to be held at the mart on May 30. Belinda and Marcia are still gathering pricing information on club shirts.

New Business:

Joan will be looking into two different options for the March program. There were several changes that needed to be made to the club bylaws that were necessary for our 501 3C status with the IRS as a non profit organization. Those changes and a few grammatical changes were discussed and made to the document. The changes were approved by the board and will be sent out to club members to be perused so that they can be voted upon at the general meeting in March.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25.