

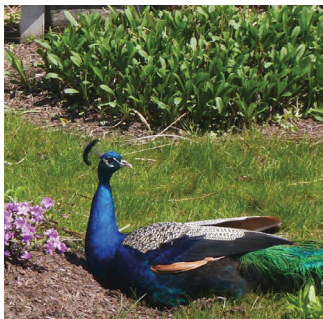


# The Flying Monkey

Summer  
2018




The Official **NEWS**Letter of Foster Parrots & The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary



## Summer at the Sanctuary

**W**rrought with freezing temperatures, blizzards, fallen trees and power-outages, winters in New England test our endurance – and our sanity – year after year, but it is the depth of our suffering that makes the arrival of spring so incredibly sweet. April’s first mild breezes, carrying the scent of spring rain and a newly awakening world, are invigorating to winter weary souls, but

perhaps this is by design, because at the sanctuary, the work to usher in the new season has only just begun. Outdoor aviaries have to be assessed for structural integrity (shifts over the winter months) before the windows can be opened. Every aviary needs to be re-perched, re-furnished and manicured. Yard debris from the massive piles of wood that heat the facility from October through April has to be

removed. Gardens have to be prepped for new growth. Crows, covies and tortoises are anxious to be transferred to their summer yards and enclosures. Springtime in New England is like a long, luxurious stretch after a deep and dreamless sleep, and none welcome the warmth of the returning sun more joyously than the birds and animals at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary. 

## The Art of the Super Soft Release

By Karen Windsor



**T**he small group of orange chinned parakeets (Brotogeris jugularis) jet in like

tiny green darts and disappear into the greenery of the Capulin tree outside of the house. One wouldn’t know they were there at all but for the concert of rapid fire vocalizations that are shockingly loud for the size of the birds. From inside the aviary little **Chichi** darts back and forth and begins to return the calls with great excitement. She wants to join the group, but she is not ready. Chichi had been found on the side of a road along with a deceased sibling or parent several weeks earlier. Her

wing had been injured, and when she was brought to the center it had been unclear if she would be able to fly again, but over the weeks she has grown stronger and has begun to master short flights across her aviary. She is eager to recover her flight and her freedom and we are optimistic. The rescue team at MCCR speculate, based on the relative ease with which Chichi has accepted human interaction, that she is quite young, and perhaps had only recently fledged when her accident occurred.

The outside birds are not her family, but they recognize her as one of their own and wish to reclaim her. One of them, a little brotogeris named **Trevor**, had been a resident of that same aviary two years earlier and had been released to this local flock. The sole survivor of a fallen tree mishap, Trevor had been found as a nearly

featherless hatchling and hand raised by MCCR’s rescue team along with a tiny brown throated parakeet of similar age named **Clara**. Having the benefit of one another had been integral to Trevor and Clara’s rehabilitation success and their transition back into the wild; they provided one another not only with companionship, but with an essential reference for species identification (close enough) as they matured and ultimately fledged. They played together during their days and roosted together safely at in the rafters of the house at night. Despite the fact that Trevor and Clara had been raised as siblings, they would, eventually, separate in favor of joining flocks of their own species. And despite the fact that both had been lovingly hand raised by humans, spending their first months of freedom as residents of

*(cont’d on p. 2)*

**Save the Date! 11<sup>th</sup> Annual FP Fundraiser Extravaganza, Sunday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>!**

See page 7 for details

# The Art of the Super Soft Release *(cont'd from the cover)*

the human house, these tiny birds used their human imprinting and the safety of the house only for as long as they needed it. Exploring their world, Trevor and Clara would spend increasingly longer periods of time away from the house, returning only to roost at night. And then, finally, they no longer needed to come every day but infrequently over the next few months and years.

Trevor and the group of wild Brotogeris in the tree only a few meters from Chichi's rehabilitation aviary suddenly issue the vocal cue that ignites flight, and off they fly. Chichi becomes excited and calls to them as they go. Someday soon she will be able to join them. Because they visit with her almost daily, when that time comes, Chichi will already be a part of the flock.

The greatest obstacle we face as surrogate parents to young injured or orphaned parrots is the fact that we cannot fly! When a rescued hatchling reaches the fledgling stage, had that baby had the benefit of its natural parents, those adult birds would fly with their baby during those tentative first launches when flight ability and flight control have not yet begun to synchronize. They would escort him while he learns the nuances of navigation. They would lead him to fruiting trees and teach him how to identify those food sources. They would protect him from predators, and they would roost with him at night. As earthbound surrogates we are at a considerable physical disadvantage when rescued youngsters fledge. Our ability to form close bonds with the babies and to establish a reciprocal vocal connection that the babies will respond to are the elements that help ensure a successful, gradual transition back into the wild.

During the rehabilitation process there can be no standard protocol or end result expectation because the birds arrive from such a wide variety of circumstances. Rehabilitation is a unique and individual process for every patient. Where injured adult wild birds tolerate only a minimum of human contact and exit quickly back into the wild once they have recovered, some adult birds who arrive in need of care may have been illegally kept as pets for decades. Human support, to varying degrees, may be a comfort for them - or a necessity. When they are set free, whether

or not they eventually embrace freedom or cling indefinitely to human support are decisions that are made in a parrot's own time. Whether independence takes them many months or many years, that is for them to decide. Reintegration for baby birds or juveniles, likewise, must be achieved at the individual pace of the birds.

**“Just because a parrot is wild doesn't necessarily mean they have the hard-wired ability to survive in the wild. You can't just release a bird according to a time table. They don't know what to do. They need time and support to achieve independence...”**

*-- Chris Castles, President MCCR*

Mentor or “anchor” birds are those parrots who, by virtue of their choice to remain close to the rescue center, become valuable participants in the rehabilitation of other parrots. Through his many years of breeding scarlet and great green macaws for release in Costa Rica, MCCR founder, Chris Castles, has witnessed the phenomenon of previously released macaws accompanying new releases on their first flights, forcing them to descend when they fly too high, steering them in one direction or another, and using their vocalizations to reference location. Granted, the assistance provided by these former graduates of the breeding program doesn't often save the team the trouble of having to go out to find the fledglings and bring them home, and as naughty as parrots can be, veteran macaws often delight in antagonizing new releases. But mentor birds, nevertheless, lead by example and create the community around the center that becomes the portal between captivity and the wild for parrots as they begin their journeys.

“The anchor birds, the close relationships and support of the rescue team and the

reliability of food sources at the center are important aspects of the process,” Chris explains. “Just because a parrot is wild doesn't necessarily mean they have the hard-wired ability to survive in the wild. You can't just release a bird according to a time table. They don't know what to do. They need time and support to achieve independence. Even if they are rehabbed adult birds, they may not be oriented to the area. It's always a process.”

Some free flighted birds may never sever their dependency on human support, and some injured birds will not have a choice when the nature of their injuries render them unreleasable. For this reason, the “sanctuary” aspect of MCCR's work becomes necessary, and certain unreleasable parrots not only serve a valuable purpose as anchor birds, but depending on their species and their conservation status, may become participants in the breeding program.



**Weasel**, a male scarlet macaw who had been raised and released by Chris and his team back in 2011, enjoyed

six years of freedom, living in and around the Tiskita release site in the Pavones region of Costa Rica, across the gulf from MCCR's current center. Weasel did not reproduce in the wild, as his choice for a partner, interestingly, was another male! In 2017 Weasel was found with a broken wing which was,

presumably, the result of an altercation with another macaw. Chris welcomed his old friend back into his care, and this would end up being of



utmost benefit when **“Sunny”** arrived six months later. “I had little hope for Sunny's survival,” Chris said. She had a broken wing and she was so weak she was completely unable to eat on her own. Her wing feathers were streaked with white, a pronounced, abnormal discoloration

*(cont'd on p. 3)*

# Patagonian Cavy Rescue: Foster Parrots' Newest Sanctuary Residents



**E**arly in May Foster Parrots was contacted by representatives of Black Beauty Ranch and the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF)

regarding a rescue situation at a roadside zoo in Maryland where a variety of exotic animals were being kept in poor conditions. The family owned and operated zoo had been the focus of animal rights and welfare advocates for more than a decade, and conditions had deteriorated significantly as the owners, now in their 70s, struggled to maintain their property and the animals under their care. Only after ALDF issued a letter of intent to sue for violations of the Endangered Species Act did the zoo owners agree to willingly relinquish their exotics, which included endangered lemurs, arctic foxes, coatimundi, Patagonian cavies and a bobcat. Foster Parrots was happy to help, and on May 15th, Sanctuary Director, Danika Oriol-Morway and Feral Arts Director, Travis Moon-schein, embarked on a road trip to retrieve 4 Patagonian cavies from the lamentable zoo in Maryland.

The Patagonian cavy (aka Patagonian "mará") is the world's second largest rodent next to the capybara. These unique "composite" animals resemble a cross between a rabbit and a deer with their long legs, stout bodies and doe-like eyes. Native to central and southern Argentina, cavies are diurnal, herbivorous and normally inhabit open grasslands and plains with abundant shrub cover. These gentle animals mate for life (12 - 14 years) but live in community groups and rear their young in communal dens where it is not uncommon to find the offspring of 15 or more mated pairs. The IUCN lists the Patagonian cavy as "near threatened" and, with numbers decreasing at a rate of approximately 30% over the last decade, cavies continue to decline in the wild due to hunting and habitat loss.



Our four new sanctuary residents, including two males, a female and what appeared to be a baby, arrived on May 17th. Due to a life-long diet comprised solely of rabbit pellets, the skin and fur of all of the cavies were dry and



grizzled, but beyond that they appeared to be in reasonable shape. The older male sported a long

scar down the center of his back, the origins of which we will never know. It's the "baby" whose condition was most perplexing. The zoo owners claimed she was a year and a half old. Her size is that of a 3-month old baby. Unlike the others who had been kept in an outdoor enclosure, the little one, whom we named Yolandi, had been kept inside the home as a pet. Consequently, she is well-socialized and enjoys human attention, but also shares a bond with the adult female.

Veterinary support and a vastly improved diet based in fresh produce and nutrient rich grasses will vastly improve the health of the cavies over the months and years ahead. We are grateful to ALDF for the work they do to give legal voice and representation to animals in need of protection, and for giving Foster Parrots, Ltd. the opportunity to care for these beautiful animals as the newest non-avian residents of The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary. 🌀

## The Art of the Super Soft Release *(cont'd from p.2)*



suggesting liver disease and other manifestations of malnutrition."

Captivity is extremely stressful for wild adult macaws, but once Sunny had recovered sufficiently enough, she was introduced into Weasel's aviary in hopes that the two macaws could become companions. Weasel's presence was clearly a comfort to Sunny, who is terrified by humans. The two birds bonded quickly. "We have not yet had her tested," Chris explains, "so I really don't know if she is a male or female. Weasel will bond with either! But Sunny is doing incredibly well for a bird who we never imagined would

recover at all. She's beginning to molt those old white wing feathers, replacing them with healthy new feathers. She cannot fly, though, and her foot is still a bit gimpy. But she has Weasel, and if Sunny is indeed a female, they may be good candidates for the breeding program."

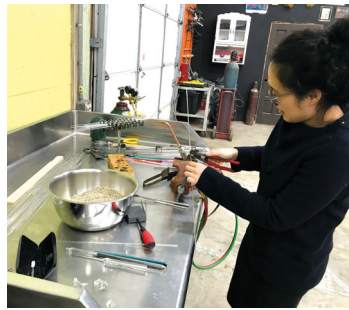
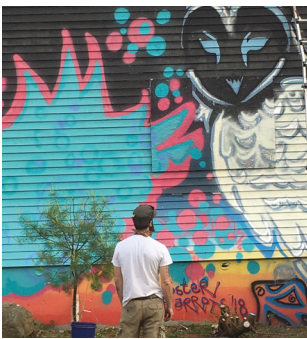
The rescue and rehabilitation aspect of MCCR's work has kept the team busy, with more than 30 parrots rescued and successfully released between 2015 - 2017. At this writing, 17 macaws, 4 Amazons and one tiny little orange chinned parakeet named Chichi currently reside at the MCCR center. Some of these will be carefully released back into the wild in a super soft release fashion that ensures they will have a reliable food source and the safety of the center as they work their way back toward independence. Here, what was once 9 acres of pesticide tainted rice fields have been reclaimed and are being converted back into forest, with a



special focus on planting fruiting trees that support parrots. As a result, the trees and the skies around the center are filled with wild macaws, Amazons, parakeets and uncountable numbers of other bird species. Always in communication with MCCR's resident parrots, these wild bird themselves will act as mentor birds, helping to usher parrots from captivity back into the wilds of Costa Rica. 🌀

To learn more about Macaw Conservation Costa Rica, visit <http://macawconservation.org>

# Summertime at Feral Arts!



Feral Arts mural project in progress; interior studio shots.

## Feral Arts Movie Night at the NEEWS!

Join us on August 18<sup>th</sup> for  
"Feral Arts Movie Night"



featuring  
**Disney's  
Zootopia!**  
This is a free,  
drive-in style,  
family friendly event!

**Community Gathering  
starts at 7:00 pm**

Meet our artists, visit our tables,  
eat, drink and socialize!

**Film Begins at Sundown!**

Bring your own chairs, blankets,  
snacks and drinks!

Once each month from June through August  
Feral Arts hosts "Movie Nights at the NEEWS",  
inviting the community to view selected films  
promoting earth and animal welfare, cultural  
diversity and inclusion.

## Recent Emergency Rescues



### Peyton: African Grey

We don't know much about Peyton's previous life or what his relationship with his woman might have been like. What was made clear by the third-party surrender request, however, was the fact that intervention was needed immediately. This 16-year old African grey had been alone in his home for 5 days after the hospitalization of his guardian. This had apparently been a lengthy and ultimately terminal illness. Peyton's

woman would not be returning home. With his primary guardian now unreachable – and possibly deceased – no one knows much about Peyton's history, but his true character will emerge over time. Peyton was lucky to be quickly adopted into a home experienced with African greys and able to offer him a high quality of life in a beautiful 4 season aviary with several other greys. Peyton will never have to be caged again.

### Sapphire & Missy: Catalina and Blue & Gold Macaws

Sapphire, a Catalina macaw, and Missy, his blue and gold mate, had been purchased by "Chrissy" when she was in high school, and the pair had been well loved and cared for by her for 8 years. They loved to sing and dance with Chrissy. They enjoyed being handled and were provided with a diet that included fresh fruit. Life can throw unexpected obstacles in one's path, however. When Chrissy's situation changed and she was no longer able to keep her birds, Sapphire and Missy were transferred to the home of her aunt. Here they were relegated to the basement where stone walls and drain

pipes replaced window views, and where human companionship was no longer a component of their daily lives. This would be their home for the next 10 years. The decades may have continued to roll by, but Chrissy's aunt had decided to move to Florida. By the time Chrissy contacted Foster Parrots, it appeared her aunt had already vacated the home. Arrangements were made for a male family member to meet us at the home so that we could retrieve the birds. Sapphire and Missy are two of our newest sanctuary residents and will soon be integrated into our open concept macaw community.



# Foster Parrots Adoption Spotlights



## Maggie: Parrotlet

Little Maggie is a young parrotlet. She takes time to warm up to new people, but once she gets to know you she likes to snuggle and play! She enjoys having her head scratched and sitting in the palm of your

hand. Maggie loves her fruits and veggies. Maggie does well with other parrotlets. She would be happy as an only bird to a human who can make her the center of their world, or as a friend to another parrotlet!

## Orson: Blue Fronted Amazon

Orson is a handsome, 18-year old Blue Fronted Amazon. He is missing some toes, which causes some mobility issues. As long as he has plenty of branches to perch on, he does just fine! Orson bonds very strongly with his chosen person, but can be aggressive toward other “non-preferred” people, so his perfect adopter should be willing and able to manage his behavior in

social situations. He would do best in a home with a single person who has no other pets. He is very affectionate, but like all parrots he can bite when the mood strikes. He is motivated to please, however, and is a great candidate for a little behavior training. He will make a great companion for someone with bird experience who understands and can manage Amazon possessiveness!



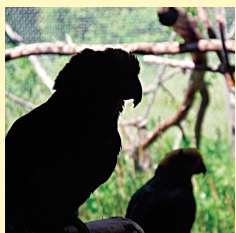
## Xena: Blue Fronted Amazon

It was September of 2008 and we had been tracking this lost, blue fronted Amazon for nearly a week. Starvation and dehydration were taking a toll and we could see that the bird was growing weak. It was time to make a bold move. Foster Parrots founder Marc Johnson launched a weighted rope high up into the tree until it draped over the branch that the bird was perched on. He grabbed both ends of the rope and began to shake. The Amazon was too weak to hold on and too weak to fly. She spread her wings and fluttered helplessly to the ground.

Our vet was not optimistic. The Amazon was in extremely poor condition, but

over the next couple of weeks she slowly regained her strength. She was a fighter! We named her Xena.

Xena is a gregarious bird who is friendly and charming and can bond to either men or women. We believe she was relatively young when we found her, and speculate that she's between 11 – 15 years old. She was adopted in 2009 but was recently returned because of her aggression toward other parrots in the home. Xena is a jealous bird! She will add such love and joy to the life of her next lucky adopter, but she must be the only bird in the home.



## Interested in Adopting a Parrot?

We have birds on-site in our modest adoption center and we run a long waiting list of birds in need of homes! If you think you have what it takes to provide high quality care to a parrot, please consider adoption!

You can find information about our adoption program and our adoption application at [www.fosterparrots.com/adoption-rescue](http://www.fosterparrots.com/adoption-rescue) If you are interested in one of the birds featured here, please indicate that on your application!

# Hazard Alert: Commonly Used Cooking Bags Are Toxic to Birds!

Susie Simpson had more than 50 parakeets and parrotlets at home and was well aware of the toxic nature of non-stick cookware, but she would never have guessed that cooking bags were also toxic to birds on the same level. Last Thanksgiving, Walmart substituted her two turkey breasts with a Jenny-O Cajun Turkey in a bag. Within 30 minutes of the turkey cooking in the oven, Susie's birds started dying. She and her family began to grab cages, running them outside to try to save the surviving birds. Altogether, she lost nine precious souls.



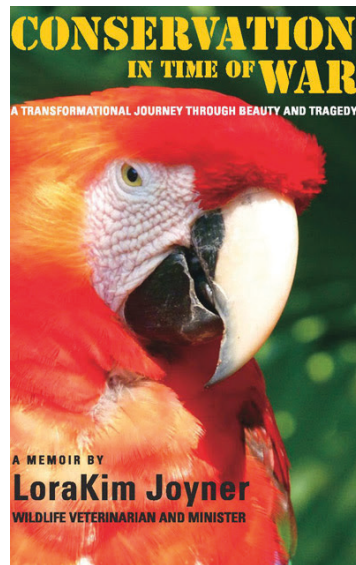
Following this tragedy, Susie's family did a search online and discovered that Jenny-O, Reynolds and other cooking bag products are indeed lethally toxic to birds. "I have books on birds and read extensively online before getting my birds," Susie wrote. "I never saw anything before now that said cooking bags were toxic. A warning should

be on the labels of these products. If my birds died that quickly, I wonder how toxic cooking bags are for all of us."

Our parrots, of course, are the "canaries in the coal mine" for environmental toxins that are harmful not only to birds, but to other pets, to us and to our children. It's beyond comprehension that industries and corporations can legally, knowingly sell poisonous and carcinogenic products to consumers, but this is the world we live in today. It is up to each one of us to self-educate and to make choices to keep ourselves, our families and our pets safe. ♻️

## Featured Book: Conservation in Time of War By LoraKim Joyner

Arriving in a war zone with many casualties, young veterinarian LoraKimJoyner lands in Guatemala during the 1980s, eager to follow her dream to save endangered parrots, the most vulnerable group of all birds. Striving to establish one of the first large-scale parrot conservation projects in Latin America, she is interrupted by the violent realities of Central America reeling from the impacts of the Cold War and the United States' business and foreign policy interests. After years of abysmal nest success rates due to poachers stealing chicks for the illegal wildlife trade, her spirit is broken when bulldozers tear down her beloved parrot nest trees. She returns to the United States feeling she has lost everything. Suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, LoraKim undertakes a journey of self-discovery. While studying to become a minister, grace steps in. Sustained by a deep understanding that everything is connected in beauty, she offers healing and hope to the parrots and people of Latin America, and to a world where climate change, terrorism, political polarization, and loss of biodiversity threaten us all.



"*Conservation in Time of War*" is a truly remarkable book about a remarkable and courageous woman. LoraKim writes of her passion for conservation and the repeated dangers into which this led her. She shares how she overcame depression and now battles with renewed commitment to saving wildlife. It is a story of love (for parrots), determination and the indomitable human spirit. All who read it will surely be inspired to make their own contributions to help our endangered wildlife. LoraKim I salute you, and --I thank you. For I too love parrots.

-- Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace

To contact LoraKim Joyner for presentations and or book signings, email her at:

[lorakimjoyner@onearthconservation.org](mailto:lorakimjoyner@onearthconservation.org)

LORAKIM JOYNER has worked in avian conservation in Latin America for more than 30 years as a wildlife veterinarian. The beauty and the power of the people and parrots there draw her to be in solidarity with them and to witness and share their struggle. She is also a Unitarian Universalist minister.

Available From Amazon in hardcopy or Kindle format! Order yours today!

Learn more at [www.onearthconservation.org](http://www.onearthconservation.org)



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# 2018 FALL FUNDRAISER EXTRAVAGANZA

In support of the birds and animals at NEEWS and all the programs of Foster Parrots, Ltd.



## SUNDAY SEP 16, 2018

## 12 TO 6:30 PM – \$65

Open Beer and Wine Bar  
Vegetarian Buffet Dinner  
Champagne Welcome  
Spectacular Raffle  
Guest Nonprofits  
Sanctuary Tours  
Silent Auction



Live Music by The Adam Ezra Group

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PO Box 650 Rockland, MA • 02370**

**If you'd like to contribute to our Silent Auction or Raffle, donations are welcome!**

**For details please contact Karen Windsor at [karen@fosterparrots.com](mailto:karen@fosterparrots.com)**

**Please consider supporting Foster Parrots Fall Fundraiser by becoming an event sponsor!**



### **GREEN FEATHER LEVEL SPONSOR: \$500**

- ☉ Company or individual listing as a Green Feather Level sponsor in our event program!
- ☉ Your company logo displayed on event posters!
- ☉ Receive 2 complimentary event tickets!



### **BLUE FEATHER LEVEL SPONSOR: \$1000**

- ☉ Company or individual listing as a Blue Feather Level Sponsor with a ½ page ad or dedication in our event program!
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### **RED FEATHER LEVEL SPONSOR: \$2000**

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- ☉ Your name ENGRAVED ON A PLAQUE as an official 2015 Aviary Sponsor (aviary of your choice)
- ☉ Receive 4 complimentary event tickets and 5 raffle tickets!



### **GOLD FEATHER LEVEL SPONSOR: \$5000**

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& The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary  
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**YES! I am excited to attend the Fall Fundraiser Extravaganza on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary!**

**NUMBER OF TICKETS** \_\_\_\_\_ **at \$65 ea. = TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

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