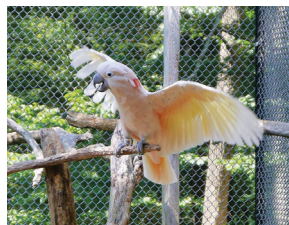




The Official **NEWS**Letter of Foster Parrots & The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary

## 2019: The Year with Foster Parrots and the Impact of Your Support

By Karen Windsor



As we look back upon the 2019 year, clearly our most meaningful successes have been achieved through Community and Connection. The decimation of parrot species in the wild and the adversity they experience in captivity are overwhelming situations that cannot be shouldered by any one organization. Only when we link arms and work in solidarity can we hope to make an impact. In the most heavily poached regions in Latin America, wild baby parrots successfully fledge because conservation organizations have gotten involved, provided locals with the tools

they need to protect their birds... and someone sat vigil under a nest tree for months to ensure those babies would fly free. Every time a parrot in captivity is rescued from a situation of abuse, neglect or isolation, it happens because people cared and organizations worked together to give a new beginning to a bird who has lost everything. Whenever avian protection efforts are successful on any level, it's because foundations and private individuals like you believe in the value of the work and are committed to supporting the efforts. We are a community. We are connected. We are all rescuers. ☺

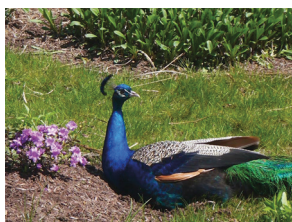
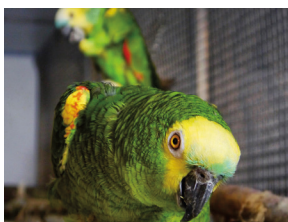


### ANNOUNCING FOSTER PARROTS' YEAR END MINI MATCH!

Please consider  
**FOSTER PARROTS, LTD.**  
in your year-end  
charitable giving!

**ALL DONATIONS MADE  
BEFORE DEC. 31 WILL BE  
MATCHED UP TO \$2000!**

See pages 7 & 8 for details



★ Help us meet our year-end goal of \$40,000. Every bird counts. Every dollar counts! ★

See pages 7&8 for details

# The Parrot Conservation Alliance: A New Rescue & Conservation Collaborative

By Karen Windsor



Charter members of the Parrot Conservation Alliance gather in Nashville, TN, for the first PCA conference held in October 2019. Photo taken at the “Exotic Avian Sanctuary of Tennessee”

It is estimated that there are between 20 – 40 million parrots in captivity in the U.S. today. Few of these birds will live out their lives in their original homes. Industry standards of care, established decades ago, set the bar pretty low in regards to actually meeting the physical, social and cognitive needs of birds kept as pets. The result has been the failure of millions of captive parrots to thrive in home environments, and an endless succession of unwanted, maladjusted parrots flooding into the shelter system. Rescue organizations across the country are struggling collectively to deal with the tragic aftermath of a revenue-driven pet parrot industry. But it gets worse. Conservation organizations all over the world are racing to save wild parrot species under the threat of extinction as a direct result of the pet parrot industry.

As long as parrots continue to be regarded as “pets”, and as long as a cage is perceived as an acceptable environment for a bird, the market

**As long as parrots continue to be regarded as “pets”, and as long as a cage is perceived as an acceptable environment for a bird, the market will persist, the international trade in illegally poached parrots will flourish, and wild parrot populations will continue to decline.**

will persist, the international trade in illegally poached parrots will flourish, and wild parrot populations will continue to decline. Commercial parrot breeders who

claim to be “breeding for conservation” and pet parrot retailers are arguably the driving force behind the steady slide of at least 1/3 of all parrot species toward extinction. This is not conservation. This is the opposite of conservation.

This year, in an effort to bridge the gap between the suffering of parrots in captivity and the threats facing those who still fly free, parrot rescue groups, sanctuaries and conservation organizations are linking arms to form the **Parrot Conservation Alliance**, a new program of the **American Bird Conservancy**. Still in its formative stage, the Parrot Conservation Alliance is positioned to connect the parrot rescue and conservation communities in solidarity, and create opportunities for collaborative efforts that will increase protection for parrots everywhere. 🌀

# Say Good-Bye, Say Hello

By Karen Windsor



## Danika Continues Her Journey

After six years of service as Foster Parrots' Sanctuary Director, our fearless leader, friend and mentor, Danika Oriol-Morway, has left her post in order to continue her journey and expand her reach in the animal rescue community. Danika has taken a position as the U.S. Country Director of Four Paws, an international disaster relief organization rescuing animals from some of the world's most egregious situations

of suffering, abuse and abandonment. Danika has stepped aside, but she has not stepped out! She will remain on Foster Parrots' Board of Directors and will continue to be a passionate voice for parrots. She has left an indelible mark on the physical development of our facility, on the growth of our programs and on the culture of our organization. We will always be grateful for her contributions to Foster Parrots.

*Danika Oriol-Morway, former Sanctuary Director*

## Welcome Sanctuary Director, Casey Fredette

Foster Parrots is proud to introduce our new Sanctuary Director, Casey Fredette! Formerly the Shelter Director at Forever Paws Animal Shelter in Fall River, MA, Casey brings with him a lifetime of experience and service in the animal rescue community. His shelter management experience has included forging collaborative partnerships with other animal care organizations both in the U.S. and internationally, engaging in high profile community education and outreach initiatives,

and expanding the reach and effectiveness of shelter programs. He has worked, trained and volunteered with organizations such as The New England Wildlife Center, IFAW, the MSPCA and the ASPCA and has participated extensively in disaster relief collaboratives both in the U.S. and abroad. We are happy to welcome Casey as a part of the Foster Parrots team, and are excited to see what he will bring to the table and to the future of Foster Parrots!

*Casey Fredette, new Sanctuary Director*



## Retiring Sanctuary Vet, Dr. Hank Wietsma

Having served as the lead veterinarian at Foster Parrots and The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary for nearly 12 years, our dear friend, Dr. Hank Wietsma, has announced his retirement. There is no possible way to adequately express our gratitude to Hank for taking on the challenge

of our 400 sanctuary residents for so many years. Hank's avian expertise, his compassion and his ethics helped to shape the path for our organization for more than a decade. We wish him peace and happiness in the years ahead!

*Dr. Hank Wietsma with avian patient*

## Welcome New Sanctuary Vet, Dr. Ann Bourke

Known throughout the region as the Traveling Bird Vet, Dr. Ann Bourke has been in veterinary practice for nearly 30 years and has been treating avian patients exclusively for 13 years, bringing her services directly into her client's homes and growing her reputation as one of the best loved vets in New England. Taking charge of the

health and well-being of 400 parrots at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary would be a daunting prospect for most, but Dr. Bourke has embraced the opportunity to work with such a diversity of avian species and feels right at home at the sanctuary. We are happy and honored to welcome Ann as a part of the Foster Parrots team.



*Dr. Ann Bourke and FP staff member Bradley Kay, examine a Quaker patient*

# Foster Parrots Recent Rescues

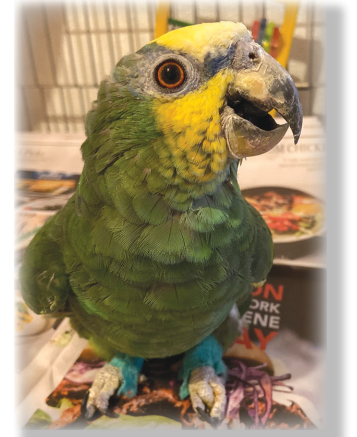
By Rachel DeFronzo, Adoption Coordinator



**Chester: Blue & Gold Macaw**

**Chester** was loved by an elderly woman, but one day he became startled by something and bit her. She was afraid of him following that incident, and so he remained locked in a cage for the next 3 years

of his life before his guardian passed away. He was inherited by relatives who kept him in the cage for 2 more years before relinquishing him to Foster Parrots.



**Daisy & Rollie: Orange-Winged Amazons**

**Daisy & Rollie** – Orange winged Amazons, Daisy & Rollie are a bonded pair who were separated by their family when Rollie developed a handicap in her feet. Rollie was moved into a small cage with padding on the bottom, and Daisy was moved to another part of the house. They would scream for each other all

day. The family was not able to provide the medical care Rollie needed for her feet. They finally decided to relinquish the birds when the primary caretaker developed COPD. At Foster Parrots, Rollie will get the medical care she needs, and we will modify their environment so that they can live happily together again.



**Clyde: African Grey**

**Clyde** is a 16 year old African Grey who has already been through 8 homes in his life. Because he's been passed around so often, he has never been able to trust people or fully settle into a home. The family who relinquished him to Foster Parrots was frustrated by the fact that they were unable

to hold or pet him, and they could no longer tolerate his destructive behavior and chewed baseboards. Clyde is quite a character and is very interactive – but fearful. We're still getting to know this interesting bird to determine whether he'll do best in an adoptive home or here at the sanctuary.

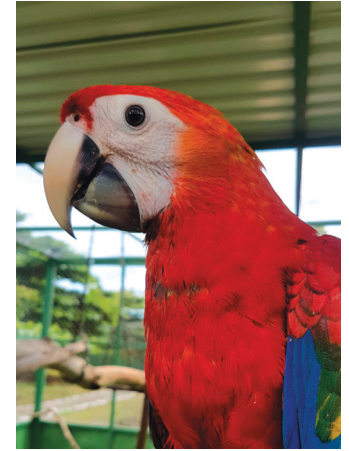
*You are invited*  
to the  
**One Earth Conservation**  
**2019 Parrot Holiday Fundraiser**  
Saturday, December 14, 2019  
7:30 PM to 9:30 PM  
Downtown Community Television, Inc.  
87 Lafayette Street, New York, NY  
Featuring an inspirational message from  
**Rev. Dr. LoraKim Joyner**  
Wildlife Veterinarian, Avian Conservationist,  
and Co-Director, One Earth Conservation  
Singer, Songwriter, Comedian and Parrot Expert  
**Dr. Michael Schindlinger**  
who will serenade us with his signature  
"Fly Parrot Fly" and many other songs  
A light vegan dinner and  
drinks will be served

For tickets & information visit [onearthconservation.org](http://onearthconservation.org)

# Spotlight on Conservation

## Macaw Conservation, Costa Rica MCCR-Foster Parrots Partnership

**M**CCR's focus over the 2019 year has been rescue and rehabilitation. Cars, fallen trees and poaching represent some of the biggest threats to birds in Costa Rica. MCCR has become the prime repository for the rehabilitation of parrots on the Osa Peninsula, and four of MCCR's most notable and precarious rescues this year have been tiny scarlet macaw hatchlings. Arriving naked, cold and traumatized, it is unlikely that any of these babies would have survived had it not been for MCCR's Chris Castles' skills and expertise. All of these birds will eventually be set free to live their lives in the wilds of Costa Rica. 🌀  
*For more information visit [MacawConservationCR.com](http://MacawConservationCR.com)*



*Four rescued macaws raised at MCCR in 2019*



## Sun Parakeet Project, Guyana A One Earth Conservation-Foster Parrots Partnership



*Dexter DaSilva (left) and One Earth's Dr. LoraKim Joyner (upper right)*

**O**ne Earth Conservation and Foster Parrots kicked off the year in Guyana and closed the year in Guyana! Dr. LoraKim Joyner embarked on a month-long November/December expedition, leading a team of Amerindian rangers in an effort to locate and further document sun parakeet numbers. The January



*One Earth Conservation's team in Guyana working to document the endangered sun parakeet.*

2019 excursion documented as few as 137 individual birds. While the team hopes to be able to log a greater number of parakeets during the final 2019 tour, the writing appears to be on the wall: Sun parakeet numbers in the wild are critically low. If steps are not taken now, we are going to lose this species. Many thanks to One

Earth Conservation for your dedication to this important work!

Joining Dr. Joyner's team, Dexter DaSilver, of Nappi village is now being employed by Foster Parrots to assist with the expedition and documentation of the tour. Skilled as an eco-tour guide, ranger, assistant researcher and wildlife conservation educator,

Dexter will resume implementation of Foster Parrots' conservation education programming with the children of Nappi village in 2020. We are excited to be working again in Nappi, helping to shape Guyana's next generation of wildlife conservationists! 🌀

*For more information visit [oneearthconservation.org](http://oneearthconservation.org)*

# The Cockatoos of Foster Parrots: stories of

## Cooperation and Compromise By Cockatoo Specialist & Enrichment Coordinator, Bradley Kay

*Intense and unpredictable, cockatoos have a way of taking behaviors to the extreme; I have found that trying to control a cockatoo will only lead to frustration. Working as Cockatoo Specialist at the NEEWS, my takeaway, time after time, is that the only way to successfully manage these challenging parrots is to truly work with them.*



**Dolly:** Dolly was rescued from a terrible pet store in California and brought to Foster Parrots in 2012. Deprived of any meaningful social connection in his retail situation, he expressed his frustration through an ear-splitting continuous scream. While attention could stop the screaming, it also reinforced the behavior. That's where an alternate behavior comes in. We started a collective effort to praise and reward Dolly for ringing a bell, and quickly he caught on, learning that this was an

effective way to indicate that he wanted attention.

Through a slow integration process, Dolly is also becoming more confident around other birds. I accomplished this by bonding closely with him myself, as he had to trust me enough to be comfortable when I brought him to a new part of the sanctuary, around a new set of birds. He now appears to be adjusting amazingly to residence in a flock, which is better able to fulfill his social needs.



**Lucy:** Found in an old breeding crate in a wooded area of the Bronx, NY, in 2009, Lucy arrived at the sanctuary in terrible physical condition, and her trust of people was non-existent. But by following her lead, waiting for her to approach, and backing off when she exhibited discomfort, staff and volunteers chipped away at her fear. Now, I can directly hand her a treat, and she will often approach me on her own. She still is not comfortable with being touched, but that is okay. If Lucy can feel

safe just being around the people who care for her, that's a win.

Earlier this year, Lucy had another setback when she suffered a stroke that would permanently impair her balance. Perching on a high frame was unsafe, but being back in a cage was stressful, as was living on the floor, as birds instinctually seek high branches for safety. As a compromise, Lucy now resides on a lower platform-based frame she can navigate safely, and she grows more confident every day.



**Keva:** Keva is currently our most severe self-mutilator. While feather plucking is observed across many species, severe cases that progress to mutilation seem to be far more common amongst cockatoos. In Keva's case, he doesn't simply bite his skin, but will use objects to scratch at his chest. As a result, he is currently in both a vest and a collar as protective measures.

However, we don't consider this a permanent solution. Our goal is to get to the root of the behavior through enrichment: social, foraging, and environmental. Keva resides on a hanging

frame in a well trafficked area for social contact and has a constant supply of interesting toys to chew and destroy. We have also begun feeding him high reward foods in foraging toys, administering a small dose of CBD oil, and are in the process of incorporating full spectrum lighting to provide the much-needed UV rays often lacking in indoor environments. Through these interventions, Keva has been able to have supervised out of vest time, with decreased attempts to mutilate. It's slow progress, but we will continue with behavioral interventions and keep working towards getting Keva past his mutilation.



# ANNOUNCING FOSTER PARROTS' 2019 YEAR END MINI MATCH!

**Your donation will be  
matched up to \$2,000!**

## SANCTUARY



## ADOPTION



## EDUCATION



## CONSERVATION



## EVERY BIRD COUNTS. EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS.



Foster Parrots' impact in avian welfare happens because you, our contributors, believe in our mission, embrace our values and propel us forward through your generous support. We work for you on behalf of parrots everywhere.

Because of you, Foster Parrots is able to focus rescue efforts on some of the most heartbreaking instances of captive parrot neglect, abuse and suffering. Together we change the world for these embattled birds. We are able to run an effective adoption program that evaluates the unique needs of each individual bird, and provides guardian education that helps parrots keep their homes. Because you understand the essential link

between rescue work and conservation, Foster Parrots is able to work in partnership with conservation groups, indigenous people and locals to protect parrots in their wild places. Because you care, we are able to spread awareness through education and outreach efforts that help shape strong animal and avian welfare values in the next generation. We can never thank you enough for being a partner in this important work.

*Please consider making a tax-deductible donation on-line by visiting [www.fosterparrots.com](http://www.fosterparrots.com) or send a check to: **Foster Parrots, Ltd. PO Box 34 Hope Valley, RI 03832.** Mini-Match qualifying donations must be received before December 31, 2019, but donations are **always** welcome!*

**Please consider supporting the work of Foster Parrots with a year-end gift. Without you, none of this would be possible.**



**Foster Parrots &  
The New England  
Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary**  
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Hope Valley, RI  
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**YES!** I want to contribute to the  
**2019 Year-End Mini-Match!**  
All donations made in  
December will be matched up to **\$2,000!**

Your contribution to Foster Parrots, Ltd. helps provide care for over 400 parrots and animals at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary. It supports our humane education and adoption programs, and it helps to protect the freedom of wild parrots and natural habitat.

**Help us meet our year-end goal of \$40,000. Every bird counts. Every dollar counts!**

Yes! I want to support the work of Foster Parrots, Ltd. with a tax-deductible donation of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail checks to:**



**Foster Parrots, Ltd.**  
PO Box 34  
Hope Valley, RI 02832



Donate on-line by visiting:  
**[www.fosterparrots.com](http://www.fosterparrots.com)**  
It's safe, secure, and so easy!