



The Flying Monkey



Year-End 2022 | The Official NEEWSLetter of Foster Parrots & The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary

ENDANGERED PARROTS IN THE WILD AND IN CAPTIVITY: CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

FOSTER PARROTS' ENDANGERED SANCTUARY RESIDENTS

By Karen Windsor | Executive Director | Foster Parrots Ltd.



Photo by Brian Jones

Volan was sassy and bursting with energy when she came to the sanctuary in 2018 at the age of five. Today she remains one of our most spirited and joyful sanctuary residents. She is also an ambassador for one of the most critically endangered parrot species on earth. Volan is a Blue-throated Macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*). Native to Bolivia, the wild population of these macaws has, in past years, been estimated to be as low as 50. The pressures of being ambitiously extracted for the pet trade through the decades were intensified by urban and agricultural sprawl, which vastly reduced the opportunities for reproduction by eliminating the trees needed for nesting. Today, thanks to the efforts of the Bolivian-based conservation organization, Association Armonia, as well as local habitat protection

and artificial nest box initiatives supported by the American Bird Conservancy, more than 28,000 acres of protected habitat for Blue-throated Macaws have been created, and the wild population has increased to perhaps as many as 450 individual birds.

Of the 330 resident parrots now living at the New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary, 53 residents (16%) represent threatened, endangered, or critically endangered species. Of the 52 different species in residence at the NEEWS, 16 of those species (30.7%) are listed as threatened, endangered, or critically endangered on the IUCN Red List. This ratio of endangered species at the sanctuary closely reflects global numbers, which indicate that about 29% of parrot species on earth are threatened with extinction. We can all lament over these statistics, but what can we do about it?

Evidently, parrots are one of the longest-suffering captive wild animals kept as pets in history. As a result, their suffering has become normalized.

Parrots have held the fascination of humans for thousands of years. Archaeological research has shown that ancient civilizations in Central and South America kept parrots as pets as far back as 5,000 years ago. Parrot feathers were prized for their beauty and were used in ceremonies and rituals. The Moche people of northern Peru, whose civilization flourished from about 100-700 A.D., created pottery and art depicting parrots. The Alexandrine Parakeet that we know today was named for Alexander the

Great when he conquered India in 327 B.C. and took this parrot back to Greece as a pet. In 1504 Henry VIII kept an African Grey as a pet. As soon as humans

cont'd on page 2



FOSTER PARROTS' ENDANGERED SANCTUARY RESIDENTS (CONT'D FROM COVER)

began to sail the seas, explore faraway continents and engage in trade around the globe, parrots were subject to capture and, inevitably, the high incidence of fatalities that commonly occur during trafficking. Evidently parrots are one of the longest-suffering, captive wild animals kept as pets in history. As a result, their suffering has become normalized.

The pet trade drives the legal and illegal trafficking of parrots, resulting in unsustainable extraction from the wild, but **it's public demand that drives the pet trade**. Pet parrot enthusiasts create the market and the commercial industry is more than eager to oblige that market. **Without the demand, there would be no trade. Without people willing to buy a parrot as a pet, the market would die.** All of the money being made by the pet bird industry — illegal and legal importers, breeders, pet stores, merchandisers selling cages and toys and parrot supplies, parrot food producers and suppliers, parrot festivals and parrot market organizers and vendors — would all collapse if the market for parrots as pets no longer existed. This is why the industry will go to great lengths to crush any kind of initiative to interfere with the commercial trade in parrots. This includes opposing animal welfare legislation, and even challenging endangered

species assessments by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) that could potentially render even the commercial trading of certain domestically-bred endangered species illegal.

Are we willing to wait until the last Great Green Macaw, the last Yellow-naped Amazon, the last Sun Parakeet are all poached from the wild? I don't think so. We do have the power to save parrot species that are on the brink, to stop the tidal wave of unwanted parrots flooding into the rescue and sanctuary community, and to stop the suffering of all those birds who are passed from home to home to home, or who languish unseen in dark corners — or right in front of our eyes. It's time to start the conversation...

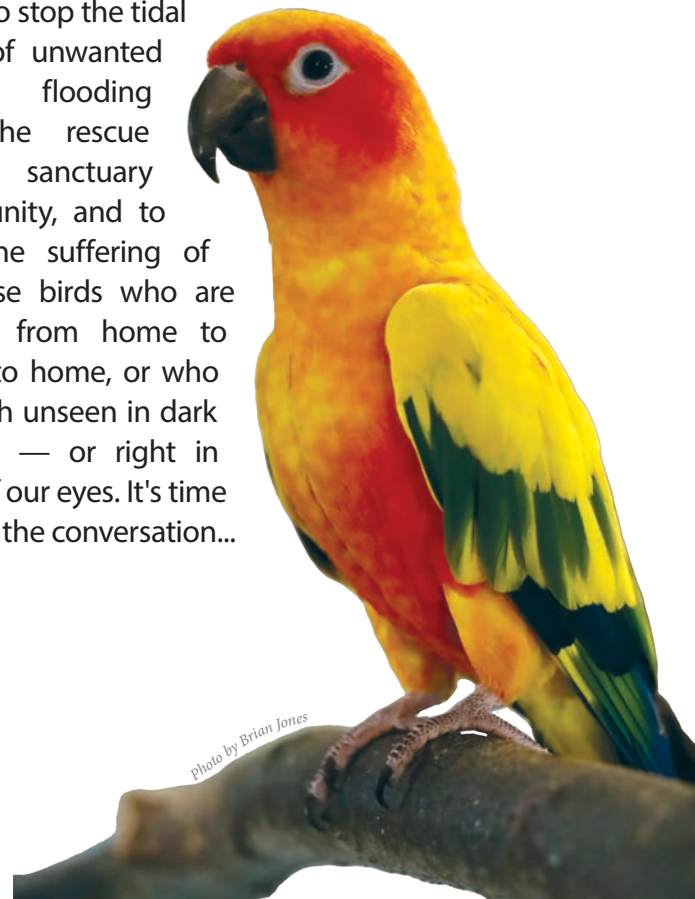


Photo by Brian Jones

Top: Wild Macaws fly past a waterfall in Guyana; Right: Rio, a Foster Parrots resident, is a critically endangered Sun Parakeet (aka Sun Conure.)

¹<https://abcbirds.org/bird/blue-throated-macaw/>

²Stephen F. Pires (2012): The illegal parrot trade: a literature review, *Global Crime*, DOI:10.1080/17440572.2012.700180

³R. Lederer, A Brief History of Parrots, October 2020 *Ornithology, The Science of Birds* | <https://ornithology.com/a-brief-history-of-parrots/>

⁴IUCN 2022. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2022-1. <<https://www.iucnredlist.org>>

MEET SOME OF OUR ENDANGERED SPECIES SANCTUARY RESIDENTS

Of the 330 resident parrots now living at the New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary, 53 residents represent threatened, endangered or critically endangered species. Of the 52 different species in residence at the NEEWS, 16 of those species are listed as threatened, endangered or critically endangered on the IUCN Red List.



Woodstock

Woodstock (left), a Great Green Macaw (*Ara ambiguus*) who adopted Volan (right) when she came to the sanctuary in 2018, has been a sanctuary resident since 2007. In 2020 Great Green Macaws were officially uplisted to critically endangered on the IUCN

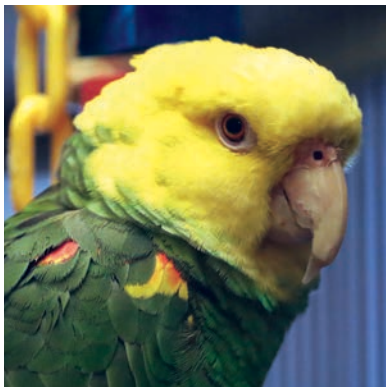
Red List. It is estimated that only 500 – 1000 remain in the wild.



Birdie

Birdie, a female Yellow-naped Amazon, (*Amazona auropalliata*) has been with Foster Parrots for close to 17 years. She is an older, wild-caught bird estimated to be well into her 40s. The IUCN Red List assessment of Yellow-naped Amazons

went from “of least concern” in 2004 to “critically endangered” in 2021. It is estimated that only between 1000 – 2500 remain in the wild, and numbers continue to decrease.



Max

Handsome Max is a wild-caught Yellow-headed Amazon (*Amazona oratrix*) who has been a sanctuary resident since 2018. Native to Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, Yellow-headed Amazons were uplisted to Endangered on the IUCN Red List in

2020, with only 4,700 left in the wild, and numbers are decreasing.



Ozzie

Ozzie is an African Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) who was surrendered to Foster Parrots in February of 2021. The intelligence of these birds makes them challenging to keep as companions. Nevertheless, these birds are one of the most sought-after parrots in

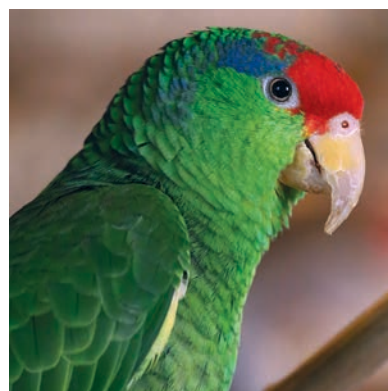
the pet trade, resulting in fervent and unsustainable extraction from the wild. African Grey Parrots were uplisted to endangered on the IUCN Red List in 2016 and numbers continue to decrease.



Linguine & Rav

Orange-fronted Parakeets (*Eupsittula canicularis*) Linguine and Rav were only months old when they arrived at the sanctuary in 2016 along with a very young Lilac-crowned Amazon. These babies had been poached from their nests and confiscated by au-

thorities at the Mexico-Arizona border. They were transferred to Foster Parrots after serving their time at the USDA/APHIS avian quarantine station in New York. Orange-fronted Parakeets are listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, with their population continuing to decrease. Their Lilac-crowned Amazon friend (successfully adopted) is an endangered species with only 4,700 – 6,700 estimated to remain in the wild. And decreasing.



Holly

Holly is a wild-caught Red-crowned Amazon, (aka Green-cheeked or Mexican Red-headed Amazon.) They are native to northeastern Mexico and the southernmost tip of Texas. Flocks of these chatty birds have been seen gracing the skies of southern California

as far back as the 70s and 80s, perhaps even earlier. Nevertheless, with numbers estimated at only 2,000 – 4,300 and decreasing, Red-crowned Amazons are listed as an endangered species. They are targets for poaching/trapping and are one of the species most frequently confiscated at the Mexican border. Holly and her partner, Brooke, also a Red-crowned Amazon, have been sanctuary residents since September 2010.



SoCal Parrot: The Rescue, Rehabilitation & Release of Naturalized and Confiscated Parrots

By Pat Latas, DVM, MS, BS

Raw diesel fumes from the bus stop below rise above the busy sidewalks and mingle with smoke from the kebab shop and the thundering Harley's exhaust. No one looks up or around, even as the Southern California sun arranges a typical and stunning Pacific sunset. Traffic noise, sirens and crying babies compete with the pungent atmosphere. But no one looks up. No one registers the above-ground utility lines drooping with the teeming and vociferous hundreds of parrots assembling for their nightly gossip.

A roost of a thousand parrots gathers here every night. The spectacle rivals any in the native habitats of these birds — Red-crowned and Lilac-crowned Parrots — and represents more individuals of these two endangered species than occur in their endemic geographies. Full of life and energy, they offer a joyous pilgrimage to the very few observers who have come here on a special mission to witness the amazing phenomenon. The minute the sun goes down a special call goes up by a few birds near the tallest tree...and en masse a thousand birds rise up to circle and roost in the tall trees around the city building, a deeply emotional and ear-splitting tumult. And at that golden moment, dozens of rescued wild parrots are released to join the throng, to the tears and cheers of the dedicated onlookers. In direct flight to the trees, these newly-released parrots are greeted by the birds at roost and the juveniles are preened and protected immediately; the adults introduce themselves at high decibels. The sun disappears with the first stars peeking

out of the marine layer, and another call goes up by a single bird. Instant silence. A thousand noisy parrots are suddenly invisible.

On the street level, not a person has glanced up to see this miracle.

Southern California hosts 13 species of wild, non-native naturalized parrot species. Three are endangered, one critically so. Yet, they are afforded no legal protections; Endangered Species Act, CITES, and state laws protecting endangered species do not pertain to non-natives. At minimum, the State of California does not consider them invasive, rather as naturalized, stabilized populations, non-threatening to native flora and fauna and not dangerous for agriculture. State and local laws do at least prohibit nest poaching and harassment. But despite having such unique status — wild and descended from wild-caught ancestors, NOT pets — these birds are not considered native wildlife and there are no provisions for their rescue, rehabilitation and release back to the urban wild. In the past, orphans and injured adults often entered a lifetime of captivity, confined to a world of imprisonment they could not understand; that is, until Brooke Durham raised her voice for compassion, calling for a safe niche for those urbanites falling through the cracks.

SoCal Parrot is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by Brooke and staffed with dedicated and skilled people who rescue, raise and care for, rehabilitate and release the



Photos courtesy of SoCal Parrots

naturalized parrots back to the wild. Since 2014, SoCal Parrot has admitted almost 900 parrots into their care and released approximately half of them back to the wild. Of these birds 3 species are endangered: Red-crowned Parrots comprise 60% of the releases, about 10% are Lilac-crowned Parrots, and a few are Yellow-headed Parrots. Red-masked and Mitred Parakeets comprise about 20% of the releases. The most common naturalized wild psittacine species in Southern California, Red-crowned Parrots, Lilac-crowned Parrots, and Red-masked Parakeets are endangered or near-threatened and are decreasing according to the IUCN Redlist. Yellow-headed Parrots are critically endangered. The urban populations are distributed in Southern California from roughly south of Santa Barbara to the Mexico border. **SoCal Parrot is the only rescue, rehabilitation, and release facility for these urbanized species in the world.**

We in the wild psittacine world are all too aware of the massive illegal trade in parrots. The world populations are being decimated for a cruel journey from the wild to life-long imprisonment. Many birds die during this journey; reasonable estimates are that 80-90% die in transit and untold more after captivity. The wild parrots of Southern California originated from wild-caught birds released en-masse from the 1950s through the early 1990s (when legal importation into the USA ended). SoCal Parrot is the acknowledged expert in the care of wild urban parrots.

Recently, on the southern border, a vehicle was intercepted by Customs and Border Protection, and 22 unweaned baby

psittacines were discovered packed into the door panels. They were seized by USFWS agents, who identified all but one (a Northern Mealy) as Yellow-headed Parrots. Normally unweaned neonates would be euthanized on the spot, but because these were a critically endangered species, USFWS endangered species agents intervened. Ultimately, because of SoCal Parrot's expertise and because long-range plans might include repatriating to a safe area in their native lands, Brooke Durham was contacted and SoCal Parrot was asked to take on the care of the babies. In the end, 19 beautiful young birds flourished and thrived. What happens now? There is no government funding for their continued, potentially life-long care. But they are not entering the pet trade. They are wild and meant to be so.

We preach parrot conservation, yet have no provisions for repatriating the tiny percentage of survivors from the horrendous conditions associated with trafficking of these birds. Confiscated parrots who miraculously survive the ordeal end up in captivity and never see the free open sky or have the solace of a wild family. It will be up to sanctuaries to offer these birds a chance at being as wild as possible. Together, we must find a way to shoulder the responsibilities, once again, that others have dropped and ignored. Perhaps someday the situation will be so dire that repatriation across international borders will be possible and more feasible, and we can do right by these poor victims of a modern-day slave trade. Until then, we will have to network and help each other out and hope for justice and compassion from authorities and the public. A Herculean task, yet who else is there?



The Rights of Birds in the USA to Be Legally Protected: Update on Proposed Welfare Standards for Birds Under the Animal Welfare Act

By Jennifer Yordy | NEEWS Sanctuary Director

In the United States, the **Animal Welfare Act (AWA)** is the cornerstone of legal protection from abuse for animals used in research, as pets, and for exhibition. The general protections granted by the AWA are established by Congress, but the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), part of the USDA, is responsible for establishing and enforcing the specific regulations. **Like nearly any piece of legislation, the AWA represents a compromise between groups with different priorities and values, and like most compromises, it leaves no group completely happy.** It was first passed in 1966 to regulate the sale and use of a limited number of mammalian species, including dogs and cats, for research purposes. Over the years a series of amendments have broadened the scope of the AWA, reflecting trends in public opinion toward increasing concern for animal welfare issues. For avian welfare activists and other bird lovers, however, something has remained conspicuously absent from AWA regulations. **Despite a 2002 amendment that extended coverage to birds (except those bred specifically for use in research), APHIS has never published any regulations pertaining to birds...until now.**

Following a series of lawsuits from various animal welfare groups, APHIS released proposed standards for birds in February of this year. The process of adopting standards like these involves an open comment period in which any member of the public may read and offer feedback on the proposed regulations, which the agency will then consider before publishing the final rule.

Foster Parrots, along with many other avian welfare organizations, submitted comments on the standards. In general, we support the proposed regulations—they're not perfect, but they do represent a significant step in the right direction. Incremental progress is better than no progress, and standards that meet every one of our ideals would never make it through the gauntlet of pet trade lobbyists to be accepted and put into regulatory effect. The comments we submitted highlighted select strengths and weaknesses of the proposed standards, which are summarized below. These points have been reiterated by many other avian welfare organizations, including some thoroughly researched and documented deep dives on specific topics like the need for flight.



(You can read our full comments by searching for APHIS-2020-0068-18505 under the “Comments” tab on [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).)

Foster Parrots is also a signatory on a comment submitted by representatives of a number of sanctuaries, rescues, and avian welfare organizations asking that avian sanctuaries and rescues be included under the regulations and be required to be licensed by the USDA (APHIS-2020-0068-22448). As the regulations currently stand, sanctuaries and rescues would only be regulated if they are also breeders or exhibitors. It says a great deal about the respective priorities of the pet trade and sanctuary communities that while the American Federation of Aviculture and other pet trade advocates are fighting to avoid regulatory oversight, sanctuaries are asking for more.

It remains to be seen what changes might be made in response to the public comments, but hopefully the final rule will retain most of these key victories for birds and will strengthen protections where the proposed standards fell short. APHIS estimated that the final rule will be published around February of 2023.



Proposed AWA Standards Strengths & Weaknesses

Strengths

- “Performance based standards” set general requirements for diet, habitat, etc., while maintaining enough flexibility to ensure the needs of diverse species are met
- Species-appropriate environmental enrichment is required
- Transport of unweaned birds is prohibited except for veterinary care
- The threshold for small-scale dealers and exhibitors to be exempt from regulation (“de minimis exemption”) is the same as for other species.
- Suitable aquatic features are required for wading and aquatic birds

Weaknesses

- The phrase “pet animal” is re-defined to include many non-domesticated birds, so retail pet stores that sell birds will be exempt from regulation as long as they only sell other animals included in the definition
- Tethering is accepted as a primary means of containment
- Primary enclosures are not required to provide adequate space for flight
- Painful physical mutilations such as pinioning, toe clipping, devoicing, and beak alterations are not prohibited (although the agency did specifically ask for comments on this topic)

Adoption Corner Spotlight

By Amanda Coleman | Adoption Director



Crayola Species: Hybrid Macaw | Age: 14

Crayola is a female 14-year-old Hybrid Macaw. She suffered an accident when she was young, resulting in the amputation of her right wing. Don't let this disability dissuade you! Crayola can still navigate her surroundings and, with the exception of flying, do everything a bird with two functioning wings can do. A playframe would be best to support Crayola in her new home.

Our team can help teach you how to build a playframe that will be a safe and engaging environment for Crayola. She is an energetic bird who enjoys engaging with everyone around her. Due to this, at times, she can easily become overstimulated. Learning how to read her body language and respecting her boundaries when needed can help manage this behavior.

Angel & Kiwi Species: Congo African Grey & Hybrid Macaw | Ages: 10

Angel & Kiwi are a bonded pair of birds who had spent the first 10 years of their lives living with one guardian. Angel & Kiwi have lived in an indoor aviary and will need, at minimum, a flight aviary or a dedicated room in their new home. Angel (the Grey) is a known male and is reported to enjoy male companionship by his

previous guardian. Kiwi (the Macaw) is a known female. She is gentle but shy; it may take her some time to feel safe and secure in her home. Pairs of birds are typically easier than a single bird as they have another bird to help meet their social needs.



Yoshi Species: Black-capped Caique | Age: 17

Yoshi is a 17-year-old Black-capped Caique who is looking for a guardian experienced with Caiques. He can be a very sweet guy, but he needs a lot of attention and would benefit from behavior training. Yoshi's ideal guardian should be someone who is home a lot and can invest time working with him. He does not do well with other pets in the home and is not recommended for a home with small children. Yoshi becomes

reactive around people in baseball hats and those handling garbage bags. He enjoys spending time exploring the floor and playing with toys that can be shredded. Yoshi should have access to lots of ropes and boings for climbing and playing. In the wild, Caiques inhabit the canopies of the forest where they spend their days foraging in the branches of the treetops. Their preferred modes of movement are hopping, climbing, and jumping. Ample exercise is a must for these high-energy birds to keep them physically and mentally healthy.

Sylvia & Polly Species: Congo African Grey & Mealy Amazon | Ages: 21 & 49

Polly is a 49-year-old Mealy Amazon who prefers males while **Sylvia**, a 21-year-old Congo African Grey, prefers women. Both birds have lived in the same home together for the last 10 years. Previously, Polly was adopted from an animal shelter and later, Sylvia was adopted from a family friend. Unfortunately, due to severe health issues, Polly and Sylvia's guardians needed to make the heartbreaking decision to surrender them. Polly does not enjoy being handled but will accept "scritches" on top of her head from her chosen person. Polly, while

not a screamer, can be rather chatty at times. Sylvia is independent and enjoys foraging and exploring on the floor. Sylvia will allow touching from her chosen person. This pair of birds will need to be adopted together. They are best friends and enjoy socializing and sitting with one another. They will need a home that can provide them with social support, ample out-of-cage time, and lots of interaction!





The African Grey: The Bridge Between Popularity & Disparity

By Amanda Coleman | Adoption Director

African Grey Parrots are a popular species of parrot kept in human homes due to their intelligence and ability to mimic speech and sound. Scientist Dr. Irene Pepperberg demonstrated to the world the abilities of the African Grey Parrot during her cognition experiments with Alex. The cognitive abilities of the African Grey make them a highly sought-after species in the pet trade, as Pepperberg's studies have proven that African Greys are able to learn human words and use them in context (*Pepperberg, 2006; Pires, 2012*). Unfortunately, their popularity comes with a stark price: as of 2016, the IUCN had moved African Grey Parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) from vulnerable to endangered due to direct impacts resulting from the pet trade. From 1982 to 2001, more than 1.3 million wild-caught individuals of both *erithacus* and *timneh* (the vast majority *erithacus*) entered the international trade (*Birdlife International, 2020*). Furthermore, it is estimated that 40-60% (this estimate could be as high as 90%) of African Greys die in transport before ever making it to sale (*Assou et al., 0001*).

As adoption applications pour in, the African Grey remains popular. When applicants are asked which species is of the most interest to them more than half respond with "African Grey." "African Grey because they are so beautiful and intelligent." "African Grey, because I want a bird that can talk really well." Why then are African Grey Parrots being surrendered at alarming rates? Between January 2021 and October 2021, Foster Parrots, Ltd received 35 surrender requests for African Greys, primarily Congo African Greys (*P. erithacus*). What are some of the causes leading to the surrender and disparity of this popular species?

The most common cause listed for surrender following guardian illness is destructive behavior, "I have moved into a home that has a huge amount of woodwork everywhere and

she is beginning to destroy it, and in return she is confined to her cage." Wild African Grey Parrots forage on fruits, nuts, seeds, grasses, tree bark, soil, and roots. In captivity, many parrots are fed commercial diets with little opportunity to forage. Foraging not only provides food but is mentally stimulating. Here they expend physical and psychological energy through movement, problem-solving, and choice, which help to alleviate boredom and destructive chewing. African Greys spend a lot of time on the ground foraging in the wild. In human homes, it is imperative to provide a safe and engaging space in which they can do this.

This leads to the second most common reason for surrender at our facility, "the lack of time to properly care for the bird."

All too often parrots are left locked in cages to discourage behavior unfavorable to their human guardians. Due to this, more than half of the African Greys surrendered to us arrive with some form of feather destructive behavior. Native to Western and Central Africa, this species can be found inhabiting a variety of habitats ranging from dense forests to mangrove forests, savannahs, cultivated areas, and gardens. African Grey Parrots are a gregarious species that live in large fission-fusion groups. In the evening, the flock gathers together to roost, during the day, the group fissions into smaller groups for foraging. Continuous social interaction is critical to their survival in the wild (*Bentley, 2018*). In captivity, African Greys often lack social complexity contributing to mental health issues and feather destructive behavior seen only in captive parrots. This is especially the case in homes that fail to provide a stimulating, engaging, and highly social environment. **African Greys are highly intelligent, social beings, who often suffer at the hands of human caretakers in captivity. Their popularity is nothing more than another tragedy of the pet trade.**

Assou, D., Elwin, A., Norrey, J., Coulthard, E., Megson, D., Ronfot, D., Auliya, M., Segniabeto, G. H., Martin, R. O., & D'Cruze, N. (1AD, January 1). Trade in African Grey parrots for belief-based use: Insights from West Africa's largest traditional medicine market. *Frontiers*. Retrieved October 5, 2022, from <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fevo.2021.612355/full> | *Birdlife International*). B. L. I. (2020, April 2). *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Retrieved October 5, 2022, from <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22724813/154428817#threats> | Silk, M. J., Craft, D. P., Tregenza, T. and Bearhop, S. (2014). The importance of fission-fusion social group dynamics in birds. *Ibis*, 156: 701-715. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ibi.12191> | Bentley, C. (2018, April 2). Flight burst frequency of foraging African Grey parrots. *Medium*. Retrieved October 5, 2022, from <https://medium.com/agreenmoment/flight-burst-frequency-of-foraging-african-grey-parrots-40143b3feb8>

Complexities of Sanctuary Residents' Welfare

By Kelly Duker | Director of Avian & Animal Care

Providing high welfare care to our avian residents is a complicated task, especially given that captive life can never match the beautiful complexities of a wild one. Promoting naturalistic living, ensuring our birds are in good health, and most importantly, assessing the individualized emotional states of our birds, guide us in providing high welfare care to our residents. Balancing these three pillars can prove challenging. They can often interfere with and contradict each other, creating difficult decisions.

Trying to mimic a wild environment in captivity is essentially impossible, but we can at least strive to allow our birds to express as many natural, normal behaviors as possible. Foster Parrots tries to create naturalistic environments by having large aviary enclosures that allow for flight opportunities and housing parrots in flocks or pairs for social support. The aviaries have natural, textured perching and varying toys for the parrots to destroy and chew. All of these supportive elements help encourage residents to fly, chew, vocalize, socialize, and embrace all of the innate, fulfilling behaviors that are often labeled as "bad" in home settings.

Trying to keep our birds in good health can be challenging since birds, who are prey animals, instinctively work to hide their illnesses. We also often receive birds who have lived sedentary lives on fatty, poor diets which must be addressed under our care. We use a combination of preventative supplements, a balanced diet, on-site veterinary support, and bi-monthly body checks to provide each bird with the high standard of medical care they deserve.

A bird's affective state, or emotional well-being, is prioritized in decision-making and assessing welfare at Foster Parrots. A healthy

bird doesn't always guarantee a happy bird, and a naturalistic life doesn't always create a happy life for certain individuals. This can especially be true for a captive born and hand-raised bird, who never learned to truly be a "bird" in a wild setting. By observing behavior we can better assess how an individual is coping with their environment, despite what preconceived notions may be. Self-care tasks like grooming, bathing, and being vocal and confident are all indicators of contentedness. Stereotypic behavior, such as pacing, or self-harming behaviors like feather plucking can often be common indicators of stress and angst in a captive setting.

Sanctuary care involves looking at general flock welfare, but it also strives to support individualized welfare and well-being. This is a momentous task with large populations, but one that is possible if prioritized. Individuals have unique histories and subjective experiences, and even when in good health and living naturally, they can struggle. Although we believe no cage is big enough, some individuals have lived their entire lives caged and

may be insecure or terrified without that security for some time. For extremely human-bonded birds, it would be an injustice to place them in a sanctuary flock when adoption is clearly a better option for their welfare. Although it's tragic that the exotic pet industry has stunted a wild animal's ability to live their destined life, we must meet individuals where they are and in their best interest. It can be frustrating, but often what humans think is best, and what the birds actually want, don't align. Good health and naturalistic living are vital guidelines for high welfare care, but we believe emphasis on emotional wellbeing will give a more accurate assessment of what's best for the welfare of each bird at the sanctuary.

Trying to mimic a wild environment in captivity is essentially impossible, but we can at least strive to allow our birds to express as many natural, normal behaviors as possible.

Listening to Our Resident's Needs:



Marley had lived fully caged for 25 years in his previous home. Despite his cage door being often open with us, Marley has preferred to stay in his safe space, and has been very fearful when out. Although we'd be thrilled if he began to come out more often, we will proceed at Marley's pace and let him take the lead.



Pugsley is a resident Quaker, who prefers Nanday Conure partners over other Quakers. Instead of pushing him into the community Quaker aviary, we honor Pugsley's choice to live in the Conure aviary with his preferred friends.



NO FIRE EVER STOPPED A PHOENIX



FOSTER PARROTS, LTD. YEAR-END FUNDRAISER APPEAL 2022



Austin

CAPITAL SUPPORT: WHAT WE BUILD TOGETHER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

Our capital fundraising efforts continue as we work to close the gap on a formidable reconstruction budget. **We can't reach our goal without you.**

Architectural design, structural engineering, civil engineering, wetland surveys, electrical schematics, permitting processes... Three hundred parrots agree: A large construction project is more challenging and complex than we ever imagined, but we continue to move forward one step at a time. **Your support will catapult us over the finish line.**

YEAR-END MINI-MATCH!
All donations received on or before 12/31/22 will be matched up to **\$7500!**



Gizmo

PARROT SUPPORT: HOW WE CARE FOR ANIMALS WILL CHANGE THE WORLD

- Your support funds life-saving veterinary care for birds with long-term health issues like Gizmo.
- Because of you, special-needs birds like these Quakers benefit from customized accommodations.
- Your donations ensure that unadoptable parrots like Austin have a place to call home.
- You are the one who ensures parrots like Cora who are not suitable for sanctuary find compassionate, committed adoptive homes.



Quakers



Cora

There are so many reasons to give. Your support has never been more important! Please consider making a year-end gift to Foster Parrots.

Please mail checks to:
Foster Parrots, Ltd. | PO Box 34 | Hope Valley | RI | 02832



Donate securely online by visiting:
www.fosterparrots.com/donate





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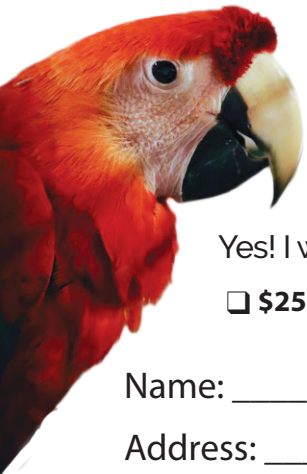


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