



The Flying Monkey



Summer 2023 | The Official NEWSLetter of Foster Parrots & The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary

THE RESCUE ISSUE: PUERTO RICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND LOCAL RESCUE EFFORTS



SPECIAL FEATURE: THE MAYAGUEZ ZOO RESCUE MISSION

by Karen Windsor
Executive Director | Foster Parrots Ltd.



In its earliest days, the **Dr. Juan A. Rivero Zoo in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico**, was a popular island attraction. Opening in 1954, it was Puerto Rico's first and only zoo. Its concrete walls, grounds and animal exhibits would have been well maintained, and the manicured walkways would have delivered crowds of visitors into the alluring depths of the zoo where the exploitation of hundreds of captive animals would not fail to fascinate. But the zoo had been failing for many years. It now stretched out before us, mostly empty and eerily silent. The concrete walls and buildings were dirty and obscured by overgrowth. Exhibits had fallen into ruin and were flanked by piles of debris and broken equipment. Thick, rusty iron gates and railings designed to contain formidable animals like rhinos and elephants begged for new coats of shiny green paint, and now only corralled a lingering, resident flock of Muscovy ducks and peacocks who eagerly approached us, hoping to be fed.

Following years of public outcry, the persistence of animal welfare activists and recent investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice for the District of Puerto Rican, officials finally announced the permanent closure of the Mayaguez Zoo in February this year, commanding the removal of all the zoo's animals. This came too late for far too many. Hurricanes Irma and Maria had

Top image: Rescue work taking place inside the dark spaces during The Mayaguez Zoo rescue event. Directly above: Muscovy Ducks and Peacocks remaining at the Zoo. Photos by Karen Windsor.

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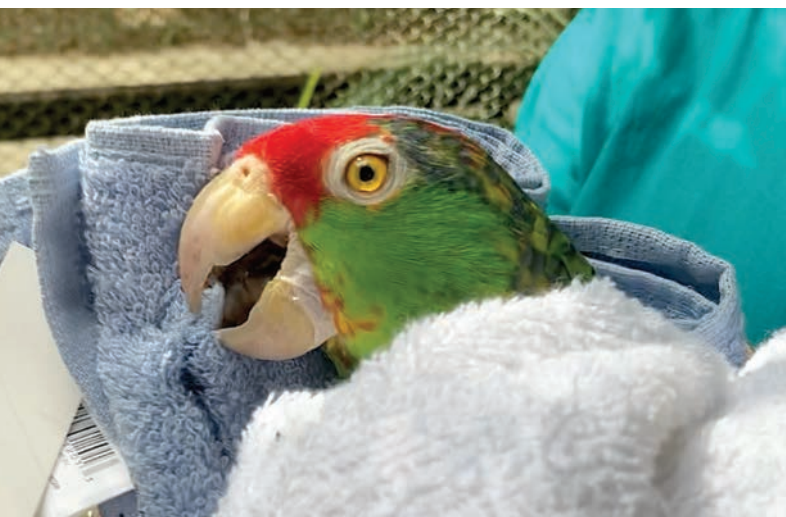
SPECIAL FEATURE: THE MAYAGUEZ ZOO RESCUE MISSION (CONT'D FROM COVER)



devastated the island and ravaged the zoo in 2017, requiring it to be “temporarily” closed to the public. But the zoo never recovered, and after 6 years of abject disregard, neglect and abuse, many of the zoo’s animals had perished due to starvation, illness and injuries. The abuse, however, stretched back well before the destruction caused by hurricanes. Inspections dating back as far as 2014 had documented numerous inexplicable deaths and injuries, animals being fed to other zoo animals, and sick and injured animals being euthanized instead of receiving medical care. According to a 2018 report, only one part-time veterinarian had been employed to care for the entire zoo population, and while a zoo of this size should have had an annual operating budget of at least 8 million dollars, the Mayaguez Zoo’s operating budget had hovered at 1.7 million, and in recent years had been slashed to \$526,000. The egregious absence of resources and basic compassion had culminated into an odyssey of inhumane treatment, suffering and death for hundreds of animals.



Pat Craig and his group from **The Wild Animal Sanctuary of Colorado**, the largest animal refuge of its kind in the United States had been called upon to organize this massive rescue mission and largely finance the evacuation of all the zoo’s animals. These are people with the experience needed to lure hippos and lions into crates, and load elephants onto planes; ironically, the parrots posed a new level of rescue complication. There were a lot of them— more than 60 birds representing 12 different species. Avian stress and mortality risks, social dynamics, aggression, and delicate anatomical factors require specialized handling skills. Our team from **Foster Parrots** and **Best Friends Animal Society** had stepped in to carefully manage the removal of the parrots, which were some of the last remaining animals at this now mostly abandoned zoo.



We arrived at the zoo by 7:00 am on the morning of June 12th, meeting Pat Craig and his team, who had organized the various sized carriers and food items we had previously determined to be necessary, based on the number and species of birds. They escorted us to the various areas of the zoo where parrots were being kept. We pulled Ring-Necked Parakeets out of an old, chicken wire cage, hidden away out of sight in an isolated room. A bonded pair of elderly Amazons on display in a concrete aviary were relatively easy to capture; in true Amazon style, they flew at their rescuers as soon as we entered their enclosure and were quickly gathered up in towels and put safely into their crate. In another area of the zoo, we found **Lolita**, a single Umbrella Cockatoo whose only companions had been the crowds of visitors that would file past her window while she begged for attention by singing her own name, “Lolita! Lolita!” But there had been no visitors in over 6 years.

Once upon a time, one of the Mayaguez Zoo’s most impressive attractions had been a massive outdoor aviary enclosed by wire mesh that encompassed tall trees and offered an elevated



walkway through the exhibit where the largest parrots were free-flighted. The walkway was now falling into disrepair, with holes large enough to swallow a human. Here we found a lone, Moluccan Cockatoo, perched on a walkway railing as if he had been waiting for us to arrive. Our team member, Bradley Kay, once employed as Foster Parrots' "Cockatoo specialist" and presently working for Best Friends, calmly approached him. She reached out to stroke his head, and then gently wrapped him in her embrace. He melted into her hug. I was overcome with emotion, watching this lonely bird respond to Bradley's love. She named him "Cody."

The two Patagonian maras we had also stepped up for were shockingly thin. Once captured, they cowered in their large crates, their enormous, doe-like eyes full of fear. Cavies are nervous animals who, like many parrots, can be subject to mortality due to heightened stress. They were terrified and appeared to be shutting down. I worried that they might not make it to the mainland where their final sanctuary destination would be with Best Friends in Utah.



While some of the parrots had remained there at the zoo, many others had been removed to the **Cambalache Wildlife Detention Center** in the town of Arecibo, two hours away. Here we found dozens of birds, crammed into shabby, homemade cages that lined the walls. It took nearly 3 hours for our team to capture all the birds and examine them for health issues or injuries before delivering them into waiting carriers. In the midst of this rescue activity, I was summoned into the tiny office building where officials showed me two small cages containing 5 unweaned baby Quakers and 6 unweaned baby Canary-Winged Parakeets. They asked if we would take them, too. This was an unexpected twist we were not prepared for. But we were also not prepared for a litter of 5 kittens, only weeks old, whose mother had died. They had been living behind a heap of debris outside of the office. If we did not also rescue these animals, the baby birds would have eventually been relegated to the same cages we were emptying, and the kittens would not have survived for long.



The birds and kittens were packed into vans and endured a bumpy, two-hour trip back to the zoo. Here, a total of 19 crates of parrots and maras were organized in a large concrete area defined, once again, by those very thick, rusty gates and railings designed for the likes of elephants and rhinos. Light poured in through iron bars at the front of the room, but did little to penetrate the darkness of the deep interior. We kept our eyes on the task at hand, avoiding looking toward the ceiling or at the walls; we did not want to see the giant huntsman spiders with their 5-inch leg spans that lurked just about everywhere. An open drain hole in the adjoining room released whiffs of sewage into air that was already hot, stagnant and hard to breathe. Sweat trickled down our faces and soaked our clothes as everyone worked to get the birds fed and watered, and to label and prepare the crates for shipping back to the mainland. By this time we were all exhausted. I sat down on a plastic chair and watched this incredible team of women, so dedicated to their task under the most stressful circumstances imaginable. And I looked at the birds who clung to the doors or their crates, not understanding what was happening to them and having no idea what would

(Cont'd on p.4)

Top: Umbrella Cockatoo, Lolita. Middle: Bradley Kay comforts Moluccan Cockatoo, "Cody." Bottom: Kelly Duker and Danika Oriol-Morway crating captured birds, with Amanda Coleman in foreground. Photos by Karen Windsor.

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happen next. Lolita stood at the front of her crate, calling her own name, and Cody repeatedly yelled, “¡Hola! Hola!” (Spanish for “hello”), possibly hoping to solicit more of Bradley’s precious hugs. Overwhelmed by the enormity of the situation, I started to cry.

Sometimes the animals we work the hardest for embed themselves in our hearts more deeply than we anticipate. It took 5 days for us to get 19 crates of birds and maras onto cargo flights and out of Puerto Rico. Baby birds and kittens who needed special care were nestled into small carriers and flew safely with us as “carry on” items. Caring for these birds and covies through such an extreme event, feeding them, fearing for them, and comforting them through their confusion, required an unwavering investment of compassion and empathy that is as exhausting as it is gratifying. But this is the kind of dedication that lies at the heart of every person whose love for animals is their driving force. Helping with the Mayaguez Zoo rescue was a privilege and an honor.

Special thanks to our rescue team: Kelly Duker, Amanda Coleman and Danika Oriol-Morway from Foster Parrots, Sierra Medlin and Bradley Kay from Best Friends Animal Society. Additionally, big thanks to Janet Trumble from Oasis Parrot Sanctuary and Galiena Cimperman from MAARS for offering Sanctuary to a number of these birds. We must also thank our friends, Israel Aledo and Elvin Monge, officials from the Law Enforcement Division of U.S. Fish & Wildlife in Puerto Rico, who provided invaluable help and support. **Lastly, eternal thanks and much respect to Pat Craig and the folks at The Wild Animal Sanctuary of Colorado who led this Herculean rescue effort and welcomed our participation on behalf of the birds.**



Photo by Brian Jones

Top left: Tiny orphaned kittens. **Middle:** Unweaned Quaker parrot babies. **Bottom:** Organizing and labeling crates of birds in preparation for transport. Photos by Karen Windsor. **Directly above:** Patagonian cavy, resting upon safe arrival at Foster Parrots. Photo by Brian Jones.

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Clockwise from top left: Two baby Parakeets who hatched during the hoarding rescue mission; One of these babies upon hatching, raised by Foster Parrots staff; A Cockatiel from the Coventry trailer rescue receives wound care; A few of the 99 rescued Parakeets..

RESCUING 99 PARAKEETS: LITTLE VICTIMS OF HOARDING & HUMAN MENTAL ILLNESS

by Kelly Duker | Avian & Animal Care Director



On March 23, Foster Parrots received a surrender request for Parakeets. There was just one caveat: there were 99 of them, all originating from a single pair, and still actively breeding. We were compelled to intervene because this had reached a crisis level. This was a massive hoarding case, and it became apparent that religious beliefs and a lack of education would make stopping the breeding impossible. These birds had to be extracted all at once. After four hours of catching birds, we were on our way back to the sanctuary with 99 little lives, and eggs that were actively hatching.

Hoarders are often regarded as villains who purposely neglect animals. But at the core, this is a mental health disorder. "Most hoarders claim that the animals are being well cared for and are healthy, despite evidence to the contrary, suggesting that hoarders possess an unrealistic belief system," (Reinisch *Al*) which is what we saw in this case. The guardian repeatedly stated that she 'spoiled the birds with fresh salads' and was concerned that the flock 'wouldn't sing anymore if they didn't see her every day,' which showed a stark disconnect from the reality at hand.

Initially, it was infuriating to us that assistance was only sought after the flock had reached 99 birds. We later learned that was not true. Their guardian had reached out, multiple times, before it got to this point. A local breeder had told her to tape the nest boxes shut, killing any babies inside. Another breeder told her to

remove the nest boxes completely, but when she did that, the birds started to have offspring on the shelves and on the floor. This was a traumatized individual with a "delusional disorder" who had been asking for help for years.

Only two months after the parakeet rescue, **Coventry Animal Control** contacted us regarding 7 Cockatiels and 4 Conures who had been left in an RV in a tractor supply parking lot after the hospitalization and death of the two heavy smokers who had lived there. While we don't know the personal stories of these individuals, it's very possible they shared similar hoarding and psychological challenges. The Cockatiels were neurotic, anxious birds, and were missing their tails from being kept in tiny cages. These birds are now thriving in Foster Parrots' community aviary.

Hoarders frequently lead lives they believe "revolve around the unconditional love of the animals" in their care (Reinisch *Al*). But animals pay a heavy price for human mental illness. The care and placement of both groups of rescued birds has been a collective rescue effort. The Budgies, Cockatiels and Conures have been placed between **Foster Parrots, Connecticut Parrot Rescue, Connecticut Parrot Society, Riley Farm Sanctuary (CT) and Rhode Island Parrot Rescue**. Is only through working with our rescue partners and other agencies that we are able to assist in larger rescue events and continue to be a community resource when we are called upon.



Photos by Brian Jones

RESCUE PROFILE: *Henry, a Moluccan Cockatoo Story*

By Karen Windsor | Executive Director | Foster Parrots Ltd.

Henry didn't like to be caged. In fact, nothing about captivity was working for Henry, and the inadequacies in his life fueled his wrath and compelled him to protest in the only ways he could: he screamed incessantly to be freed from his cage, he bit to try to control his people, he lashed out to express his frustration and demanded constant attention. But the frustration was mutual; life with Henry was untenable. So one day his human packed him into a crate, dropped him off outside of the Franklin Park Zoo and drove away.

Zoos do not take unwanted pet parrots. Henry was brought to the MSPCA — Nevins Farm, in Methuen, MA. The family who subsequently adopted him had nothing but compassion for this beautiful Moluccan Cockatoo, whose plucked chest and neediness were interpreted as evidence of his sadness and negative past experiences. They put everything they had into Henry for the next 7 years, but the love and attention they provided was never enough, and Henry continued to scream, bite unpredictably, and lash out.

Moluccan Cockatoos are a larger-than-life parrot species. Psychologically vulnerable, profoundly social and emotionally complex, they are famously ill-suited for lives in captivity and are prone to maladaptive behaviors like self-

plucking, self-mutilation and aggression. Few people are truly able to meet the needs of these big birds in tiny home environments. So when Henry was surrendered to Foster Parrots in April of this year, his horizons suddenly expanded in ways better suited to his personality. The sanctuary is big, and the high level of activity, noise and general daily "chaos" were stimulating and fascinating to him. There were many different humans buzzing around, talking to him and interacting with him. There was a lot to do and a lot to pay attention to. In this environment, Henry could be his Big Bird self, and he simply blended.

Recently, Henry was brought to the Education Hall and introduced to **Louie**, the shy, unsocialized, wild-caught Moluccan Cockatoo rescued by Foster Parrots in 2021. Having spent over 40 years confined to a cage, Louie has lived cage-free on a hanging play frame in the Ed Hall for the past 2 years. In all his years in captivity, he has never had the companionship of his own species. Henry and Louie are now working on their relationship. Along with our 4 Umbrella Cockatoos, Henry and Louie will become the first residents of the new 2,200 sq ft. Cockatoo wing, planned for the sanctuary reconstruction project, which will commence later this year.

ADOPTION CORNER SPOTLIGHT

Amanda Coleman | Intake & Adoption Director



Caique, **Chi-Chi**, had had three previous guardians at the young age of seven. He displayed aggression and became reactive whenever his caretaker would attempt to place him back in his cage. Due to this, it was difficult to find him the perfect human to spend his life with. We are happy to announce that, after spending 5 months in our adoption center, Chi-Chi found his special human and celebrated his one-year adoption anniversary on July 9! He still exhibits

some of his behavioral "tics" but through a new and consistent routine and by working closely with an avian behavior consultant, Chi-Chi is thriving in his new home.

A HUGE thank you to Chi-Chi's guardian for taking such exceptional care of him. The following is an excerpt from a letter written to Foster Parrots by Chi-Chi and forwarded to us by his human, Donna.



Letter forwarded by
Donna Lomuscio

A Letter from Chi-Chi Hello Foster Parrots!

It's me, Chi-Chi! It's coming up on a year since I left Foster Parrots, or so my **human companion, Donna**, tells me. I want to say **thank you** to you all for helping me land in the best human home ever. I have all that I could want. From a BIG indoor enclosure with plenty of fresh food, pellets, treats, water, toys, etc. to an outdoor enclosure on the screen porch when it's warm and good weather outside. I'm out of my enclosure a lot! I basically only sleep in there or when my human is not home (which is not very often as she's always around) or when I get really overwhelmed and overstimulated. Remember, I need to be supervised. I am a bit of a rascal! Or so she says. But that is her opinion not mine.

Oh, by the way her name is Donna (maybe I told you that already), but I call her Baby! I say "Hi Baby!" when she comes downstairs in the morning or "Love you Baby!" She says I am stubborn and persnickety sometimes. Do not believe it! I am just a Caique. We get along great. My human never takes it personally when I nip at her, she knows I have a reason and she reads my body language very well. We did have some help from **Sheila** and **Amanda** because we had an adjustment period. It did take us a bit to figure each other's needs out but we made it! My human knows I am a wild animal with wild traits and treats me accordingly.

There is much more to say but I'm getting tired, typing with my beak is hard LOL. Again, thank you to everyone for finding me the best human to live with and keeping me safe while I was at Foster Parrots. You're welcome to come see us anytime.

Love,

Chi-Chi





THE "NEW NORMAL" OF AVIAN INFLUENZA

By Jennifer Yordy | Sanctuary Director | Foster Parrots Ltd.

Last summer, the gardens and grounds of Foster Parrots were strangely quiet. The birds could be heard through windows, but the outdoor aviaries were closed up and empty. An outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI, pronounced "H-pie", for short), that began in January was still raging. The virus that causes avian influenza thrives in cool, wet conditions and is susceptible to UV radiation; past outbreaks had peaked in the winter or early spring before petering out in the intensity of the summer sun. But this outbreak was—is—different. It was more widespread, with far more birds affected, and the summer did not kill it off. It's still with us today, killing susceptible domestic and wild birds around the world.

When HPAI is detected in commercial poultry flocks, by government orders the flock is "depopulated," a euphemism referring to mass euthanasia. As cruel as this is, it is done in an attempt to prevent more birds from becoming infected and to protect the human food supply. The "highly pathogenic" part of HPAI refers to its extremely high transmissibility and virulence, at least among susceptible species. In infected chickens, mortality rates are between 90-100%. As the theory goes, any chicken in a flock with a confirmed HPAI infection is essentially doomed, and depopulation only hastens the inevitable while limiting the risk of the infection escaping the facility and affecting more birds.



Facing page: Resident Sun and Jenday Conures along with Umbrella Cockatoo Lily once again enjoy access to the outdoors after precautionary adjustments were made to their aviaries. Top left: Sanctuary Maintenance & Repair Manager Michael Teets installs bio-security measures to outdoor sanctuaries. Top right: Jenday and Sun Conures oversee Michael's efforts. Photos by Karen Windsor.

Parrots can, and do, succumb to avian influenza, but they are generally not highly susceptible to the HPAI strain currently circulating. Still, in the early days of the outbreak, we were deeply worried by the threat. If one of our birds became infected, could we stop the disease from spreading throughout the whole sanctuary? Even if we could, would state or federal officials show up and mandate that all our birds be killed? In the face of this uncertainty, we took the greatest possible precautions. Our yard birds, the only truly susceptible species we care for, were moved into a fully enclosed shelter. Nonessential visitors were not allowed to tour the sanctuary. Staff and volunteers used foot baths and shoe covers at each entrance. And the birds remained indoors all through the summer, closed in from the outdoor aviaries where a passing wild bird might deposit infected feces or feathers.

A year later, too much has remained the same, but some things have changed for the better. Although birds are still dying and infections continue to be detected in new locations, there have been roughly half as many positive cases detected in wild birds in the US in the first half of 2023 as there were in the first half of 2022. We no longer expect that avian influenza will just “go away” in the summer heat, and if it does, we know it will be back someday. Just as we’ve learned to live with covid, we’re learning to live

with HPAI. Of great importance for Foster Parrots, the USDA now has an established policy that exhibit flocks, which ours is considered, are exempt from depopulation if birds become infected. Although we cherish each individual life and do all we can to keep every bird safe, we no longer have to fear the possibility of unaffected birds becoming victims to policy.

So this summer, we’ve made the decision to open our outdoor aviaries. If HPAI is our new normal, it isn’t an acceptable quality-of-life trade-off to take away the birds’ access to wind and sun permanently. But free outdoor access and potential contact with wild birds is also not an acceptable risk, so we’ve modified the aviaries in accordance with USDA bio-security recommendations—solid roofs, and 1x1” or smaller mesh over all walls. This summer, we can finally again see conures resting in a patch of sunlight or an African gray peering out from the foliage growing up his aviary walls, and hear a Cockatoo screaming across the courtyard. We continue to monitor the HPAI detections, and if there is any indication of another serious outbreak in our area, we will keep the birds indoors to ensure their safety. In the meantime, humans and birds alike are enjoying the literal breath of fresh air for as long as we can.

You need to check this out!

SHOPPING FOR A CAUSE WITH RUN. FLY. SWIM.

Marjorie Drew's deep connections in the animal rescue world, her love for the planet and her professional background in merchandising all converged when she founded "Run.Fly.Swim," a one-stop online shop for ecologically sensitive gift giving that is not only kind to the earth, but also supports animal rescue organizations making a difference around the world.



How do you select the non-profit organizations you support?

I do my research, asking pertinent questions, reading reviews, examining their social media presence, and sometimes even relying on personal recommendations or past encounters. It's crucial for me to ensure that the funds I donate are being utilized effectively by reputable organizations that uphold their promises.

I felt compelled to support **FOURPAWS International** in Ukraine when I saw footage of animals suffering during the war. I am confident that my donations



Run. Fly. Swim founder Marjorie Drew and her best buddy at Foster Parrots, Blue and Gold Macaw, Lightening. Marj has been involved with Foster Parrots for over 9 years.

are going to a worthy and impactful animal rescue organization. I chose the **Humane Society of St. Thomas** as I've witnessed their amazing work despite limited resource while living and working in St. Thomas. The amount of animal abuse, neglect, abandonment, and feral populations there is shocking. It inspired me to support the shelter and its efforts. **Foster Parrots** was an easy choice as I've been involved with the sanctuary for nine years. I am constantly impressed by the passion and dedication of everyone who works and volunteers with FP, and I know the parrots and other animals are given the best possible life at the sanctuary.

How do you locate the products you sell?

I focus on sourcing from small businesses that positively impact the community or support individuals. To ensure quality, I carefully research each product. I consider factors such as the product's origin, labor practices, manufacturers, sustainability

of packaging, and use of recycled materials. I also examine if the ingredients are natural or organic. Before offering a pet product for sale, my friends and I test it on our pets. If we don't like the product or our pets don't respond well to it, I won't sell it.

What are your hopes for the future of the Run Fly Swim?

I have a vision for Run.Fly.Swim, where we offer a range of eco-friendly, natural, and organic products that people will love and come back for. It's a store where people can shop confidently, knowing their purchases benefit animal rescues. I would love to see Run.Fly.Swim continue supporting the existing animal rescues and expanding to include more animal non-profits and environmental causes.



Run.Fly.Swim provides quality-made organic, eco-friendly items for you, your home and your pets.

90% of the proceeds go to help support animal rescues and sanctuaries.

Shop for a cause and help animals in need.

www.runflyswim.com

Photos courtesy of Marjorie Drew



PARROT CONSERVATION: REPARATIONS & "REPARROTATIONS"

THE THEFT OF EGGS & THE RISING TREND IN POACHING By Dr. LoraKim Joyner
Co- Founder & President One Earth Conservation



Photo courtesy of LoraKim Joyner

In 2014 we documented that 100% of our scarlet macaw nests were poached in the indigenous parrot core conservation area of La Moskitia, Honduras. By 2016 and 2017, the growing competency of the parrot rangers there had amazing results — only one nest was poached and those chicks were later recovered and liberated. We were starting to feel pretty good about our ability to save these birds. But then came 2018, and buyers of parrot eggs for the illegal wildlife trade started stalking our area. First it began as rumors that people from China or Taiwan were in our border communities along the Coco River that separates Honduras from Nicaragua, asking for people to bring them eggs. Then our nests were being climbed in January and February, when normally the poachers waited until May to take chicks. We were in shock that the international demand for parrots had come from so far away to take what was ours to make it theirs.

Over the next few years, we had our rangers working earlier in the reproduction period to protect nests from the egg robbers, and we worked with the authorities to try and capture the buyers. We were unsuccessful and so we

contacted the international community to help investigate and hopefully catch the perpetrators. We learned that the buyers were centered in Managua where the eggs would go. We also discovered that eggs were being bought in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Paraguay.

We currently hold our poaching rate to about 15%, but it takes a lot of people in the field traversing a very large area — in some years up to 1.1 million acres, and it is not without risk. Santiago Lacuth, our Project Coordinator, had an attempt against his life last year. He survived with no injuries, though our project truck got shot up. We don't know if the assassins were the egg poachers targeting him, or those who are engaging in illegal and corrupt timber extraction and land acquisition. Against such overwhelming odds, some days it seems like the saving of these people, parrots, and forests will ultimately fail, and it is dispiriting.

In mid-May of 2023, I learned that one of the Asian buyers was caught in Miami with a suitcase full of Yellow-Naped and Red-Lored Amazon eggs. He almost made it onto the



Facing page: Authorities delivering confiscated chicks to our Rescue Center. This page, top left: Three Scarlet Macaw chicks in a wild nest in our area. It is rare that 3 chicks survive to this age, as usually the third chick dies younger than these who are 4-5.5 weeks of age. The parents did an excellent job of raising these chicks. Middle: Confiscated Yellow-Naped Amazons, including the two with broken bones, being accepted at our Rescue and Liberation Center. Right: Confiscated parrots shortly after the poachers were captured. Photos courtesy of LoraKim Joyner.

plane to Taiwan but the chirping of a hatching chick alerted the authorities and he was apprehended. He currently is imprisoned in Miami, as were the birds he stole and sought to traffic. The parrots are well, having been cared for by **Rare Species Conservatory Foundation (RARE)** since hatching and now by **SoCal Parrot** who will hold them until the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service can figure out how to move them to their home range so they can someday fly free. Repatriating confiscated parrots has never been done by the USFWS, but they are taking steps so that the birds can return from whence they came. The birds could even come home to us in Honduras.

Just a few days after learning about the capture of the egg smuggler, the military in Puerto Lempira, the nearest town to our conservation area in Honduras, caught two of the most notorious poachers in our area who are responsible for many of the stolen chicks. One Scarlet Macaw and several smaller parrots were confiscated, and are now at our rescue center. The next day the military confiscated two more Yellow-Naped Amazon chicks from a different group of people.

There was some glee with these successful confiscations after years of no progress in pressuring poachers to stop, but the pair of poachers were released after only a few days and two of the Amazons were severely injured. Each had both of their legs broken, and one had a broken back. These kinds of injuries occur when the poachers don't climb the trees to

take chicks, but instead cut the tree down, and hope that the trauma doesn't kill the chicks. Despite our care, the two grievously harmed chicks did not survive.

The wildlife trade causes so much harm, and not just to the chicks. The parents are attached to their young and you can hear how their calls change when they discover the chicks missing from their cavities, or their nest tree lying in ruin on the ground. The parents love their eggs and chicks, and go to incredible lengths to care for them, often for naught.

In conservation, there is so much suffering and heartache, and so much care and protection. The weeks are full of impossible achievements and hopeless loss. But there is never a day without beauty, and without love. And so, we feel compelled to give back what was never ours, so freedom belongs to everyone in a home of their choosing. Thus, conservation is the art of reparations, and in our case, putting the parrots back so they can thrive in numbers and health that is conducive to the well-being of all of us.

If you'd like to be part of helping to stop the parrot trade and making amends to the tragedy of parrot captivity, please join us at **One Earth Conservation** <https://www.oneearthconservation.org/>, **Foster Parrots** <https://www.fosterparrots.com/>, or check out our new activist collaboration, **the International Alliance for the Protection of Parrots** <https://www.allianceforparrots.org/> (website now under construction!)

Let's Grow Together! So Many Ways to Get Involved



Moluccan Cockatoo, AJ, and Umbrella Cockatoo Midori, at home with their guardian, enjoy framed photos of sponsored sanctuary residents, Louie and Lilly. These sponsorships are made in honor of Sugar, their Umbrella Cockatoo friend, who passed away on Nov 29, 2020.

Sponsor a Parrot!

Get involved in the life of a sanctuary resident by becoming a sponsor. Sponsors receive a beautiful packet containing an Official Sponsorship Certificate, a biography of the chosen parrot, a species fact sheet, 2 frame-able color photos and annual renewal updates! Parrot Sponsorships are \$50/mo. or \$600/yr. Please sign up online at: www.fosterparrots.com/sponsorship



Photos by Brian Jones

Become a Flock Member!

Reoccurring monthly donations **of any amount** provide dependable support for the sanctuary and ensure a strong foundation under the work of Foster Parrots! Monthly donors are automatically enrolled as Flock Members. This is a new program of Foster Parrots that will provide special updates, video messages and fun mailings to our cherished monthly supporters. Become a Monthly Sustainer here: www.fosterparrots.com/support-us-page



Photo by Brian Jones

Sponsor an Aviary!

Your annual aviary sponsorship of \$1,000 will support a bonded pair of parrots or an entire community! Personalized, engraved plaques bearing your name, a company name or a dedication of your choice are erected outside of the chosen aviary, heralding your support and inspiring others to also get involved. Become an Aviary Sponsor here: www.fosterparrots.com/sponsor-an-aviary



Join the Psittacine Society!

Psittacine Society Members are Impact Donors who become more deeply involved in the growth of the organization, enjoying increased avenues of communication, participation in special events and meetings, and first-to-hear alerts. Psittacine Society members are an extension of Foster Parrots, supporting our mission and helping to shape the future of the organization with annual gifts of \$1,000 or more. Join us! www.fosterparrots.com/psittacine-society

Fall Fundraiser Extravaganza!



Meadow Brook Inn

168 Carolina Back Road | Charlestown | RI 02813

October 7, 2023 | 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm



Photo by Brian Jones

It's been far too long since we've been able to gather. We miss our Foster Parrots family! While we will not be able to celebrate on-site at the sanctuary for another couple of years, we are happy to bring everyone together at the **Meadow Brook Inn** for a fundraiser event in loving support of the parrots and animals at the **New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary**.

Join Us For:

- Champagne Welcome
- Delicious Vegan/Vegetarian Dinner
- Cash Bar
- Spectacular Raffle Tables & Silent Auction
- Amazing Live Music by Will Evans
- Capital Project & Conservation Displays
- Foster Parrots Merchandise & Program Displays
- Guest Speakers

Tickets are \$130 per person and can ONLY be purchased online!

Purchase tickets & make your dinner selection at: www.fosterparrots.com/events

Attire: Cocktail to Casual; Be Comfortable!

Capacity at Meadow Brook Inn is STRICTLY limited, and tickets will go fast!

So don't wait! Please reserve your tickets as soon as possible!

OUR FALL
FUNDRAISING
ONLINE AUCTION
EXTRAVAGANZA
WILL RETURN!
DETAILS TO FOLLOW





Foster Parrots & The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary

P.O. Box 34
Hope Valley, RI
0 2 8 3 2

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Fall Fundraiser Extravaganza!

Meadow Brook Inn

Charlestown | RI

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3:00 pm - 8:00 pm

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See page 15 for details.

Don't wait! Seating is strictly limited & tickets will sell out quickly!



Your contribution to Foster Parrots, Ltd. and/or sponsorship of our Fall Fundraiser helps provide care for over 300 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 rebuild our sanctuary and provide homes for animals in need. Thank you!**

I CAN'T ATTEND THE FUNDRAISER BUT I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE VITAL WORK THAT FOSTER PARROTS DOES!

Here's my tax-deductible donation of:

- \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250
- \$300 \$500 \$1000 Other \$ _____

I WANT TO BE AN EVENT SPONSOR!

- \$500** Your name on our Benefactor Page + 5 complimentary raffle tickets
- \$1,000 - \$1,500:** Your name(s) or business and a personal message on our Sponsor Circle Page + 5 complimentary raffle tickets
- \$2,000 - \$2,500:** A half-page dedication, memorial or message with 1 photo, + 5 complimentary raffle tickets
- \$5,000:** A full page dedication, memorial or message with 2 photos, + 10 complimentary raffle tickets

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____



Scan the QR code to easily donate online or go to www.fosterparrots.com
Or, mail a check payable to Foster Parrots Ltd.
PO Box 34 | Hope Valley, RI | 02832



Prefer to receive your NEWSLETTER electronically?
Email karen@fosterparrots.com