



THE TROPICS EXOTIC BIRD REFUGE

SUMMER-FALL, 2005

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WEB SITE: www.parrotrefuge.com

Never forget for who we work.....THE BIRDS!!!
Send in your tax-deductible donations.....NOW!!!

DANGER...AVIAN FLU!

As you all have more than likely heard by now PARROTS CAN CONTRACT AVIAN FLU! It was first discovered in England at a quarantine station where a parrot was quarantined with birds from Taiwan. It died! So, now that we have confirmation that parrots DO get the Avian Flu what kind of dilemma does that cause for ALL the parrots of the world. It could be very bleak. Many who have pets may want to send them to sanctuaries BEFORE they contract the disease, but in reality, they are safer in their own homes where it is much less likely of being exposed to the disease.

What precautions are The Tropics taking to ward off an outbreak here? We have changed our policy, of course. At the present time, we are still taking in birds, but at the FIRST announcement of Avian Flu here in the US, we will not take in any more birds without veterinarian certificates showing that birds coming in here have tested NEGATIVE to the Avian Flu.

This, of course, will limit our ability to help more birds and their owners, but will also help prevent spread of the disease, at least at our facility. Therefore, if you or anyone you know wants to place a handicapped, or tame-adoptable bird here, should do so as soon as possible before any signs of the bird flu shows up here in the US. Anyone placing a bird here MUST pay a placement fee of \$300/large bird and provide the bird's cage (and toys) whenever possible, as it is the bird's home. If more than one bird is placed at the same time, there is a slight discount on the placement fees.

We hope that you will agree with our new policy of protecting the birds we already have from the flu and any incoming birds, too. Unfortunately, any bird testing positive with the flu MUST be put to sleep to prevent further spread of the disease.

NEWS!

In the last newsletter we deliberately left out anything about our personal health situations, as we felt it could become tiresome to our readers. But, many have expressed a desire to know how John and I are doing health wise. We are so much better. John's pain has subsided quite a bit in spite of the cooler weather. He still has to take medication and occasional therapeutic massage to manage the pain, but all in all is better.

My health is remarkably better. This is the best I've felt in over 3 years. Before the writing of the last newsletter I didn't mention that I had been in the hospital again, for the 4th time this year. This time I had complete urinary tract shut down. At first they thought it was kidney failure which would mean dialysis, and possibly a kidney transplant in the future. Fortunately, it was a very severe infection that completely shut down my system. I was hospitalized for a full week, again...ugh, but hopefully for the last time. I was told that if I go the entire year of 2006 without any major medical problems I will then be considered healthy again. Until then, I am still in recovery, but feeling so much better. Thank you all for your concern and for those who prayed for us both during this long time of disease and pain.

Our birds are doing wonderful and are full of playfulness and spunk. TOPPER BIRD RANCH continues to provide our seed at considerable discount. Without their help we would be in dire straits. Financially, for the month of November income has increased. We hope that this is not just a temporary event, and that we can continue to bring in the \$2,400/month needed to manage The Tropics without the sweating and straining it took in prior months to juggle the budget.

Personally, John and I remain tapped out as far as being able to help any further with money for The Tropics, so we need our current and long term donors to stay with us, and hopefully gain some new ones. We still need you to spread the word to your bird friends to help us out.

The raffle is slow but steady. So far we've earned \$133.00 and the raffle will continue until December 10. Then we will have the drawing in time for the winners to get their gifts before Christmas. We will continue to have raffles, as we have a ring that has been donated, and also art work from the wife of the "YODA MAN" who created Yoda and all the other weird alien creatures from Star Wars. So, get your pens ready to fill out future raffle tickets, this way you, personally, get something in return for your money, at least the hope of winning. We also have a friend with unique collectibles that will be donated soon.

DON'T FORGET, the magnets are still for sale for \$3.00/each and measure 7 1/4" X 4" and are beautiful!

So, as you can see, we are still 'begging' for money, but also trying to do other things to bring in extra to make up our total budget. Please continue to hang in there with us, as our work is very important to the birds and is GREAT therapy for us. We hope to do this for many more years to come and currently have 4 of the most wonderful volunteers possible, which has been a long time in coming. You WILL be rewarded for your giving, and many, many thanks for your faithfulness.

Sincerely, John & Mary Bradford

WE JUST GOT IN TWO 9 WEEK OLD CONGO AFRICAN GRAYS THAT HAVE NO FEET. SPONSORSHIP ANYONE???



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE! \$3.00 per ticket. Drawing to be held on December 10, 2005. To Date, \$133 has been raised!

TESTIMONIALS

I am owned by an African Gray, and a Senegal parrot, both were "used" birds. What I mean by that is they both had other human owners before we adopted them. The Senegal had lived in many, many pet stores, but wouldn't bond with anyone. That is until I came along. I worked in a pet store for close to 10 years. I would actually talk people out of buying birds, because it is like adopting a child. Most big birds live for decades, and usually the people that wanted one told me, "I want a talking bird." I tried to explain that not all birds capable of speech, will ever talk. They also must be fed, loved, and cared for daily, even if they never speak.

Also, people need to be "settled" and responsible to provide a stable home for them. Birds are very smart, and know when there is strife in the home, and some will start to abuse themselves if they are unhappy.

It seems like we live in such a "disposable world", people see animals the same way. In other words, if the bird does not do what they want, then they get rid of it, and get a new one. These "throw away" birds have to have somewhere to go. That is why I am so impressed with The Tropics. These people love these birds, and have sacrificed very much to keep this place open. They depend on donations from other bird lovers, and not very many people are helping presently.

I know times are hard right now, but just the cost of a soda and pack of crackers that we spend without even thinking about it, would really help keep The Tropics Refuge open, and doing what needs to be done for these unfortunate birds.

I am not able to do much, being disabled, but I talk to people, write letters to companies, and am willing to do anything I can to help. I know if you are reading this letter right now, you have some love in your heart for the future of these precious birds. Just a \$10.00 or \$20.00 donation once a month would help so much, and I know you will be Blessed for it. It says in The Bible, that we are in charge of the animals that the Lord created. I can tell you, I have been personally blessed for taking care of the ones I own, and for helping others when I can.

Please, please, look deep into your hearts and see if you can find the compassion to help the Bradfords keep this Refuge/Rescue open. These exotic birds did not just decide to fly here and take up residence in our homes. They were brought here, sold, and now some are almost extinct, because of greed. We, as humans, are the only ones who can help them. Won't you think about this, and if you can afford to help, either monthly, bi-monthly, or even a one time gift of love, by all means send what your heart tells you to send.

I know I am not much of a writer, but this is something I feel so strongly about, I just had to share my feelings about this. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and thank you for helping keep The Tropics open, and doing what needs to be done for these birds. ***Bonnie Rogers***

FOOTNOTE: Bonnie has taken it upon herself to go through the phone books from the greater Charlotte area and is writing to ALL the veterinarians in the area asking for a \$20 donation. This idea can also be done with pet stores. If possible, perhaps some of you can do the same. This is the type of help we need from folks out there in all parts of the country. Thanking you in advance for your help.

Mary & John

Hi All!

The Tropics, like many parrot rescue and adoption groups find that adequate financial resources for their organization are a continuing problem. The Tropics, which has large monthly expenses, needs donations to help with the costs of feeding and maintaining the parrots surrendered to them and their facilities. The permanent residents are blind, have missing, broken and/or deformed limbs, motor skill deficiencies, are paralyzed and most common, suffer emotional trauma which is manifested in self-mutilation behaviors such as feather and/or flesh mutilation. In 2003 they became an adoption facility for those pet quality birds that require one-on-one human attention.

<http://tropics.parrotrefuge.com/index1.html>

The reason I'm sending this post is because a few years ago I had heard that they had closed down due to health reasons. Much to my surprise, I recently found out that they are still going and as all rescues, need our help. With the holidays coming it might be a nice idea to look at their **gift shop**. None of us has the funds to send big donations, but if we could all send a little it would add up! Thanks for taking the time to read this. I am not in anyway affiliated with this or any other rescue organization, but I did do rescue, rehab and placement myself for 10 years and I do know how hard it is to keep going. ***Suzanne***

VISIT OUR "GIFT SHOP" FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AND DONATIONS: www.parrotrefuge.com