

2006

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 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 right now.

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 stay 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 Bradford's 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 them, and now some are almost extinct, because of greed. We, as humans, are the only ones that can help them. Won't you think about this, and if you can afford to help, either monthly, bi-monthly, or even a onetime 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

