

The Tropics

Exotic
Bird Refuge

Mark & Marianne Seward, FL

Dated 7/08

I have known John and Mary for over two years. To make a long story as short as possible, I have a Red Sided Eclectus that is a feather chewer. This habit escalated into masturbating excessively. I raised him from 3 weeks of age, but he turned on me and began to see my wife as his mate. He then started biting me hard and got to the point where he would chase me around the house in a jealous rage. After spending a LOT of money on vet bills to run every medical test known to avian medicine to ensure there was no medical basis for his attitude, I finally had to make a heartbreaking decision to put him in a different environment at least on a short term basis to see if his behavior would change.

After contacting several locations within a reasonable driving distance of Charlotte, I visited The Tropics. I sat down and visited with Mary for about two hours that first day and she showed me the three locations where they house their flock. Some are kept in their house, some are in a large outbuilding right behind their house, and some are kept in a large domed free flight area. All areas were kept clean, all of the parrots appeared healthy and happy. Trust me, my 3 parrots mean the world to me, and I would have walked right out if I did not feel this was an environment I was comfortable with. Mary more than understood my grief in making this decision and was more than willing to do whatever she could in an attempt to re-habilitate Satch. She was a wealth of information, and we found that we shared a lot of opinions about how our feathered companions should be treated. I took Satch up a few days later, one of the hardest days of my life. Mary was GREAT about keeping me updated on how he was doing. After letting him settle in for about 3 months, we started visiting him on a regular basis, about once every 3 – 4 weeks. Satch is very much a “people parrot” so Mary decided to keep him in the house along with several other parrots that lived in a day room attached to their living room.

Over time, he seems to have settled down quite a bit to where I can now handle him, and have even been able to go back to kissing him, with only an occasional bite, which are much less in intensity than they used to be. I have also learned how to read him and can avoid most biting situations. We have recently moved to Florida and purchased a home with a totally screened in back yard for the “boys” to live, fly, and roam outside during the day. Mary and The Tropics have been great to and for Satch; it is ironic that at the time of my writing this e-mail, I will be traveling to Charlotte tomorrow to bring Satch home. Thanks to Mary’s willingness, patience, and TLC, this is a success story and we look forward to bringing Satch back to his home flock.

If you are looking for a rescue that is surgery room clean, then you will be looking for the rest of your life. One thing any “parront” will tell you is you can forget keeping your house “perfectly” clean if you have feathered friends. Anyone who has parrots AND a very clean house either just got done cleaning it, or they are not good parronts and the bird spends way too much time caged. Personally, our 3 boys are out and free to fly / roam around the house any time either one of us are home (which is most of the time), and thus it is not uncommon to see a poop here and there as well as little bits of food here and there. That is a VERY small price we pay in order for them to have the freedom to do what birds are supposed to do, fly and roam around. I also “pay” by having to replace an occasional piece of baseboard that a busy beak decides looks good for dessert, but that is fine by me, I get indescribable pleasure watching them have fun being loose.