



# AVIAN FLYER



JULY 2023

JULY 2023

## AVIAN FLYER STAFF

### CO-EDITORS

Caleb Coblentz  
Beth Murphy

### WRITERS & CONTRIBUTORS

Caleb Coblentz  
Beth Murphy  
Dan Pitney

### PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTION

Beth Murphy

ARTICLES, ADS AND PHOTOS  
ARE WELCOME  
AND ENCOURAGED!



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2023 Officers	Page 2
The Prez Sez	Page 2
July Picnic Information	Page 3
Treasury Report	Page 3
June Meeting Minutes	Page 4
Avian Eye Disorders	Page 5
Avian Foraging By VCA Animal Hospital	Page 6
To Clip Or Not To Clip? That Is The Question! (And if so, should you do it yourself?)	Page 8
"I Saw Some Of These Birds In My Yard." (WELL, actually you didn't...)	Page 9
July Meeting Information	Page 10



**IT'S TIME  
FOR OUR ANNUAL  
JULY PICNIC!!**

**Saturday, July 8, 2023  
at the home of Cynthia Nelson  
3414 SW Maricara Street  
in Portland.  
(gray house with rose arbor)  
Parking is available at the church  
across the street.  
Potluck lunch is at 1 p.m.  
Feel free to arrive  
between 11:30 and 12 noon.  
Please bring  
folding tables & chairs  
if you have them!**

## HAPPY SUMMER EVERYONE!

If hot weather is your thing, you are in luck!

This month's issue covers avian foraging, eye issues and whether or not to clip your pet birds (and if you should do it yourself). We both do, but then our birds go out to frequent events, such as to senior facilities, boy scout meetings (they have a bird badge) and even church!

Are you seeing 'ring necked doves' at your back yard feeders? Well, maybe not. Find out the truth about these birds on page 9.

Have a safe and fun summer, and we will see you at the picnic!

Caleb Coblentz & Beth Murphy  
Avian Flyer Co-Editors





**2023 Officers**

<b>President</b>	<b>Dan Pitney</b>	<b>503-866-9524</b>	<b>dspitney@gmail.com</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Maymelle Wong</b>	<b>503-459-8213</b>	<b>mmwong@easystreet.</b>
<b>Show Chair</b>	<b>Wayne Smith</b>	<b>360-263-3313</b>	<b>wayneandpatti@tds.net</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Diana Gross</b>	<b>541-731-2051</b>	<b>dianabelstar2@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Cynthia Nelson</b>	<b>503-246-4041</b>	<b>cynthia.nelson@comcast.net</b>
<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Mary Ann Allen</b>	<b>425-736-0092</b>	<b>maa@allenspace.net</b>
	<b>Sandra Foote-Gregory</b>	<b>503-792-3582</b>	<b>sfoote@xpressdata.net</b>
	<b>Kelly Beaty</b>	<b>541-520-3743</b>	<b>kellylbeaty@icloud.com</b>

**Committees**

<b>Bands:</b>	<b>Norma Hoffmann</b>	<b>360-480-5240</b>	<b>nshoffmann@comcast.net</b>
<b>Membership:</b>	<b>Maymelle Wong</b>	<b>503-234-5512</b>	<b>mmwong@easystreet.net</b>
<b>Sunshine:</b>	<b>Nina Rapp</b>	<b>503-663-7277</b>	<b>nina@therapps.net</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>			
<b>Co-Editors:</b>	<b>Caleb Coblentz</b>		<b>caleb.n.coblentz@gmail.com</b>
	<b>Beth Murphy</b>	<b>503-515-5206</b>	<b>thedovenest@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Website</b>			
<b>Coordinator:</b>	<b>Debbie Stout</b>	<b>406-949-2579</b>	<b>debbiestout@gmail.com</b>
<b>Facebook:</b>	<b>Debbie Stout</b>	<b>406-949-2579</b>	<b>debbiestout@gmail.com</b>



Happy Summer!

If your canary room is like mine it is covered in feathers most of the time. Canary molt is in full swing! Feathers are everywhere.

This month is our July picnic. Thank you to Cynthia Nelson for hosting. Please look for details on the picnic and directions in another part of this newsletter. There will be a brief meeting at the picnic. No program is planned and there is no zoom scheduled this month.

SCAMS continue to be sent out using my name and other club officer names. If you receive an email or other message using my name, asking for your immediate assistance, do not reply. I won't ask for your rushed assistance, help, or need for money without talking to you directly. Neither will other club officers. These are scams. I am sorry this keeps happening.

Our August 12 meeting will be at the Clackamas Community Club. Scott Golden will present a program on "Raising Turacos". I think it should be a great program. Thank you to Mike Duyn for his very informative program in June on raising Ring Neck Doves.

I hope you are having a great summer.

Dan



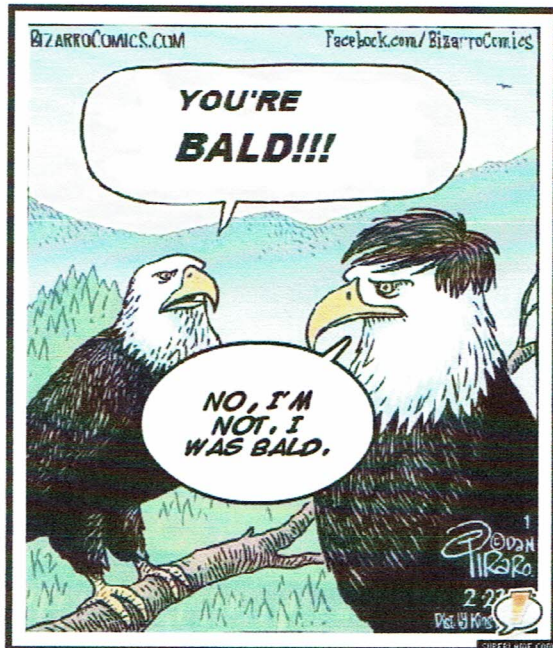
**CCC ANNUAL PICNIC ON JULY 8TH!**

I, Cynthia Nelson, am looking forward to hosting the picnic this year at our S.W. Portland home. Feel free to arrive between 11:30 and 12:00 to mingle awhile and perhaps get a garden tour before we sit down for lunch around 1:00. I'll provide a couple options for the main course; please bring a side dish or dessert of your choice. We are a bit short on chairs here-bring a folding chair if you're able to (a couple card tables, or similar, would also be much appreciated!).

Our address is 3414 S.W. Maricara Street, Portland. We are the first house on the street (gray with the rose arbor). There is some curbside parking available but, if needed, people can park at the church directly across the street from our house.

I look forward to talking more with you all at the picnic!

Cynthia Nelson



**EVER WONDER WHY THE AMERICAN BALD EAGLE IS ALWAYS PHOTOGRAPHED FROM THE SIDE?**



**JUNE TREASURY REPORT**

Beginning Account Balance: \$946.61  
(Combined Checking and Savings)

Income: \$16.00 (Donation for Manzanita Branches)

Expenses: None

Ending Account Balance: \$962.61

**CONTRARY TO LEGEND:**

There's no evidence Ben Franklin protested to Congress about the choice of the bald eagle and lobbied for the turkey, although in a 1784 letter to his daughter he did label the bald eagle "a bird of bad moral character" (because it steals food from other birds) and thus was a disappointing choice!



## CCC June Minutes

**Board Meeting:**

\*Diana read minutes taken by Kelly Beaty at May meeting. Minutes voted and approved with no corrections.

**Treasurer Report:**

Cynthia reported \$11,871.61 in checking and \$844.36 in savings plus \$105 income: \$85 in dues and \$20 donation for finch nest donated by Dan. No expenses. New checking total \$11,976.61 plus \$845.36 savings= \$12,820.97

\*Sandy inquired with US bank regarding CD for investing club funds. Current interest is 4.5% for 11 months. A 19 month CD is almost 5%.

\*Board voted and approved Treasurer report.

\* Cynthia will look into CD length term options and if any penalty for early withdrawal.

\*Discussion about closing PayPal account. Board voted and will ask Carol to close PayPal account.

**Membership Report:**

\*Maymelle reported one new member for a total of 89 members. The club continues to grow.

\*Job descriptions for all club positions need to be completed ASAP and Chris will send job descriptions to Maryanne.

\*10 days notice for bylaws changes so members can vote. In Oct. When new officers are elected we will vote on bylaws changes as well on the Oct ballot. Nominations in August, Report in September, Vote in October.

\*Fund raising idea from Kelly Beaty: purchase silver nitrate (styptic) sticks in bulk for .30 each and sell for \$1 each. Sandy will purchase 100 sticks and Kelly will distribute them.

\*Fund raising idea from Diana Gross: Club wall calendar with each month as well as front and back covers sold to club members as advertising. Calendars then sold through website and at shows and bird sales. Diana will investigate cost of calendars as well as other merchandise such as mugs and t-shirts.

\*Diana suggested buying bulk seed and rebagging and selling 2lb and 4lb bags at bird show as fund raiser. Diana volunteered to rebag and sell the seed a member picks it up and brings to show set-up on Friday.

**General Meeting:**

\*Introductions.

\*Show Committee Report by Wayne:

\*Volunteer positions are filled.

\* Need to get the trailer organized.

\*Suggested purchasing LED lights from Amazon for judging stands. Six 4ft lights from Amazon cost \$104. Wayne said the LED lights enhance the colors of the birds and fluorescent are becoming obsolete.

\*3 of the 4 judges have confirmed. Travel needs to be coordinated. Kris to coordinate travel with judges and Dan to send email confirmation to judges.

\*This is our 70th show. Diana to bring birthday cake and decorations. Cake will be a whole sheet cake from probably Costco or Safeway. Decorations from dollar store.

\*Mike Duyn gave presentation on Ring Neck doves.

\*Minutes read and approved.

\*Treasurer Report read and approved.

\*Membership Report read with 89 members including 1 new member.

\*Sunshine Report: Nina not here, condolences to Sharon on the loss of her husband. Carol broke her wrist and Beth Murphy's husband was in ER. \*Refreshments Report by Kelly: We are covered through first of year.

\*Club picnic: Cynthia suggests members begin to arrive around 11:30 am. She will give garden tour around 1pm. Plan for around 30 people to attend. Cynthia will provide salmon burgers and chicken. Club to reimburse Cynthia for the meat. Cynthia says to walk along curb to backside of garage to patio. Bring a chair or a few chairs if you can as well as yard games. Contact Cynthia with any questions. Picnic is 2nd Saturday in July.

\*Show Committee reports volunteer positions all filled. Trailer needs organized. Set up on Friday before the show.

\*August 12th meeting Scott Golden will do program on Turacos.



## Avian Eye Disorders

Birds can suffer from many different eye disorders. They can be due to an eye injury, or possibly an infection to the area. Occasionally, eye disorders are symptoms of another underlying medical problem. Therefore, if your bird has an eye problem, it should be considered serious and you should consult a veterinarian to rule out any major internal disease.

### Symptom and Types

Conjunctivitis, a common eye disorder, is usually caused by bacteria and can be identified as red and swollen eyelids, and may lead to photosensitivity (avoidance of light) in the bird. Conjunctivitis is also a symptom of many other medical problems, including respiratory infections.

Uveitis causes an inflammation of the inner parts of the eye. However, it is commonly associated with symptoms of other internal diseases in the bird. This particular disorder needs to be treated quickly to avoid cataracts from forming.

Cataracts develop in the bird's eye when there is a deficiency in vitamin E, an infection with encephalomyelitis, or even from continuous exposure to some artificial lights.

Marek's disease is a particular type of eye disorder that is caused by a viral infection. This medical condition can lead to irregularly shaped pupils, iris problems blindness, and can progress into cancer. Vaccination can prevent this eye disorder from occurring. However, a bird that is already infected with the virus, cannot be cured.

Avian Pox is another eye disorder which is found in birds, and is due to a viral infection. Though it is a generalized disease, the eye symptoms include swelling of the eyelids with blister-like formations, and partial or total loss of vision. However, the eyeball is not affected by the infection and the vision usually returns after the infection is treated.

### Causes

Many eye disorders are caused by bacterial infections (i.e., salmonella). This particular bacteria causes both conjunctivitis and ophthalmitis -- inflammation with pus in the eyeball and conjunctiva -- and possible blindness. In addition, salmonella is contagious and often spread from parent to your bird, or genetically through the egg yolk.

Fungal infections of the eye can also lead to bird eye disorders, usually because of moldy feed. One common fungi, *Aspergillus*, infects the bird's respiratory system, but can also affect brain and eyes. The infected eye will show yellow plaques under the eyelid. The eye will also have inflammation, and if left untreated, this infection can result in severe eye damage.

Vitamin deficiency is another cause of eye disorders in birds. For instance, a deficiency in vitamin E in the parent can lead to the birth of a blind chick. And vitamin A is required for proper pigmentation and tearing of the eyes. To prevent such deficiencies, give your bird commercial feed.

### Treatment

If your bird show signs of discomfort or symptoms of any eye disorder -- such as the eyes close, swell, become red, discharge a substance, or blink more than usual -- be sure to get the bird checked by the veterinarian for immediate treatment. Antibiotic eye drops or other medicines can help in dealing with the eye disorder at an early stage.

### Prevention

Prevention of certain types of eye disorders are dependent on the symptoms found in the bird. But, timely medical intervention can save the bird from suffering, as well as any serious eye damage.







## Avian Foraging:

---

In the wild, birds spend the majority of their day flying around and searching for food. The act of finding food; husking seeds and nuts and chewing on vegetation is known as foraging. Many animals forage for their food, but for parrots this activity is especially important. Because this occupies such a large part of their day, it is important that we provide the same foraging opportunities for pet parrots in captivity.

Scientists have studied birds in the wild, and found that their average day can be broken down into the following activities:

- Sleeping
- Flying
- Eating and foraging for food
- Socializing with flock members (preening, playing, finding a mate)

Birds in cages will often have food provided in a bowl for them and this greatly reduces their ability to forage. Instead of taking hours to find and consume food, they often eat their food within minutes. Therefore, there can be large periods of time where captive birds are lacking intellectual, social and physical stimulation. We unfortunately find that birds can become frustrated with their situation and can develop behavioral and physical problems. These include feather picking, aggression, anxiety and obesity.

### Start small:

- Some birds who have not had to forage before may need easier activities to get them used to it. Try placing food items all throughout the enclosure to encourage seeking and climbing behaviors.
- Begin by covering their regular food bowl with a piece of paper or cardboard, and poke holes so your bird can see the food underneath. Gradually cover the bowl in such a manner that makes it more difficult to obtain the food. Ultimately secure the cover to the bowl with masking tape. You can also make basic toys out of paper cups, toilet paper rolls or boxes, to add variety.





## VCA Wakefield Animal Hospital



### Be social:

- In the wild, parrot species generally live in flock situations. Take the time to give your bird a foraging activity while you and your family are eating nearby. This simulates the flock searching for food together and provides a healthier relationship.

### Choose carefully:

- Some bird species are able to manipulate and solve toys more easily than others. Make sure that you take the time to understand your bird and provide toys that are challenging, but solvable, for them to reduce frustration.
- Also be careful of the material the toy is made of. Don't give them anything they may become trapped in or eat pieces of (if using plastic materials).

### Get creative:

While there are many excellent stores and companies that prefabricate foraging toys for birds, you can also make your own at home!

- Skewer food (cut up vegetables and fruit) – change daily to prevent spoilage
- Cover food bowls with paper (small birds) cardboard, or wood (medium-larger birds)
- Put food in multiple food bowls throughout the cage
- Mix food among toys, shredded paper or other inedible items – be careful to remove shredded paper from cage as soon as finished as some birds will use this as nesting material.
- Wedge pieces of nuts or treats into holes of wooden or plastic toys, then hang from the cage
- Weave greens in cage bars
- Hide food in cardboard boxes, place between cage bars or hang in cage
- Purchase foraging toys, many are available
- Create foraging containers easily at home using safe materials:
  - Hide food in crushed paper bags, newspaper, small paper plates, coffee filters, paper dixie cups, corn husks, or snow cone cups.

### *For more resources:*

- <http://dramberlee.com/exotic-animal-care/birds/foraging-for-birds/>
- <http://www.harrisonsbirdfoods.com/captive-foraging-video-watch-it-here-for-free/>

19 Main Street | Wakefield, MA 01880 | 781-245-0045 | [www.VCAWakefield.com](http://www.VCAWakefield.com)

Dr. Amber Lee, BVSc | [Amber.lee2@vca.com](mailto:Amber.lee2@vca.com)



**TO CLIP OR NOT TO CLIP?  
THAT IS THE QUESTION!**

*(AND IF SO—SHOULD YOU DO IT YOURSELF?)*

### **Wing Feather Clipping**

Some companion bird guardians choose to have their birds' wing feathers clipped, and others choose to leave their birds flighted. The choice really depends on your lifestyle and the type of life you want your bird to have. If you take your bird outside, the bird's wing feathers should definitely be clipped or you risk losing him. (An alternative would be to accustom your bird to wearing a flight harness.)

Finches and canaries should always be flighted — these are "watching only" birds that most people don't handle. Other small birds that live in an aviary setting are often also left flighted, including budgies, cockatiels and love-birds. Parrots that are "hands-on" companions often have their wing feathers clipped so that they can't fly away.

A proper wing-feather trim should never hurt the bird. Only the lower half of the bird's seven to 10 mature flight feathers on the wing should be clipped, and these don't have a blood supply or nerve endings; cutting the tips of these feathers is like a haircut. However, flying psychologically benefits a bird, so you can keep a hands-on companion parrot flighted if you are very careful about windows and doors, and you thoroughly parrot-proof your home, including removing all of the potential dangers that a roaming bird can find. Any bird left outside of the cage should be closely supervised.

If you can trim your bird's wing feathers but not before you have a trained professional show you how. Do not, under any circumstances, try to clip your bird's wing feathers unless you have been shown the proper technique and you are confident you can do it yourself. Your best bet is to take your bird to your veterinarian or a bird store that does grooming. This way they are the "bad guy" and you can come to your bird's rescue. Also, wing-feather clipping necessitates properly restraining the bird, which can be very dangerous if you don't know what

you are doing. You can actually stop your bird from breathing if you hold him too tightly around the chest. Let someone who knows how to properly restrain a bird show you how to do it.

### **Nail & Beak Trimming**

Birds need very little actual grooming; they do most of the grooming themselves. They bathe themselves when given access to water, and they preen their feathers into perfection. When people say, "bird grooming," they are referring to clipping the wing feathers, trimming the nails, and conditioning/trimming the beak. A professional should do all of these grooming chores until you know how to do them, with the exception of the beak. Only an avian veterinarian should tend to your bird's beak. You can seriously injure the beak if you do something wrong, and the beak is very sensitive.

Nail trimming can be traumatic for a bird, especially if the bird has to be restrained to have it done. Also, the nail has a blood supply, called the "quick," and if you cut into it the nail will bleed. You can stop the bleeding with styptic powder or flour. If you are comfortable enough to trim the nails yourself, use a guillotine-style clipper (the same style used to trim a cat's nails), or one specified for birds.

A really great, non-traumatic way to trim nails is the "sneak up" method. Hold your bird on your hand and talk to him in an animated manner to distract him. Then, sneak up on the very tip of one nail and clip it off quickly and then turn around or do something to distract the bird from the fact that you just did that. You can do one nail a day, and, in eight days, you'll have all of them done. Be careful to only trim the very tip of the nail. Nails that are trimmed too short can be quite painful the bird, similar to if you trimmed your own nails too closely to the live nail bed.

A bird's beak can get flaky and overgrown. This can be the result of a poor diet, but this can also be because the beak is built that way. The beak is made of keratin, the same material as our own nails. An avian vet can "condition" the beak using a file to smooth and shape it, and then oil it to keep it from drying. Again, do not do this yourself!



**"I SAW SOME OF THESE  
BIRDS IN MY YARD."  
(WELL, ACTUALLY YOU DIDN'T...)**

*by Beth Murphy*

Most club members know that I am a dove keeper—most specifically 'ring necked doves' (also known as Barbary Doves, African Collared Doves and Turtle Doves). They are of the *Streptopelia* genus, and while there are many doves in this genus, mine are *Streptopelia risoria* (this is important later).

One of my favorite things to do with these friendly and cuddly birds is to take them out to retirement communities, classrooms, Boy Scout events (they have a bird badge that they can earn) and even church, when our Sunday school classes study Noah's Ark or peace. People are always surprised at how social they are, and those who have never held a bird can check that off of their bucket list!

However, inevitably someone will say "Oh, I have seen these birds in my yard." Well, most likely not. What these folks are actually seeing is an entirely different dove—*Streptopelia decaocto*, also known as the Eurasian Collared Dove. So what is the difference? Actually, while at first glance they look alike, there is actually quite a bit of difference.

To begin with, the two species of doves originate from different parts of the world. *Risoria* come from Africa, where *Decaocto* come from Europe and Asia, as their common name suggests.

While *Risoria* exists primarily in captivity in this part of the world, *Decaocto* is a relatively new invasive species here. Eurasian Collared-Doves made their way to North America via the Bahamas, where several birds escaped from a pet shop during a mid-1970s burglary; the shop owner then released the rest of the flock of approximately 50 doves. Others were set free on the island of Guadeloupe when a volcano threatened eruption. From these two sites the birds likely spread to Florida, and now occur over most of North America.

The Eurasians have a completely different coo from the domesticated ring necks, and also have a type of "caw" similar to a crow's. The Eurasian coo is a three part "coo COO coo" which sounds almost owl like, while the *Risoria*'s coo is more "koo, krroo" or "koo, kooroo-wa." The *Risoria* also has a "laugh" sound as well.

Beyond the sound, there is a size difference between the two, but admittedly that is nearly impossible to discern unless you have them side by side.

#### RISORIA MEASUREMENTS

Both Sexes

Length: 10.2-10.6 in (26-27 cm)

Weight: 4.6-5.9 oz (130-166 g)

Wingspan: 17.7-19.7 in (45-50 cm)

#### DECAOCTO MEASUREMENTS

Both Sexes

Length: 13 in (30-32 cm)

Weight: 4.4-8.5 oz (125-240 g)

Wingspan: 19-22 in (47-55 cm)

The *Decaocto* birds have black beaks and the legs of the juvenile birds are black rather than the pink of the *Risoria*. However both types of birds' legs age to a dark pink/maroon color.

The *Risoria* birds have been domesticated for thousands of years, and are thought to be the doves mentioned 18 times in the Bible. In contrast the *Decaocto* birds do not become very tame at all, even when raised in captivity from a young age, and thus do not make good pets. (That is the biggest difference between the two types of birds.) So when you see a 'ring necked dove' in your yard, you now know what you are *really* seeing!



*Decaocto*



*Risoria*



**ANNUAL JULY PICNIC**

Saturday, July 8, 2023

at the home of Cynthia Nelson

3414 SW Maricara Street in Portland.

(gray house with rose arbor)

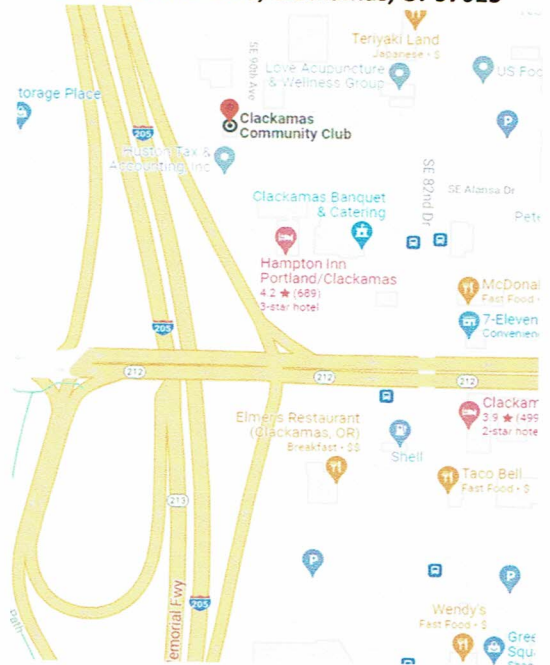
Parking is available at the church across the street.

Potluck lunch is at 1 p.m.

Feel free to arrive between 11:30 and 12 noon.

Please bring folding tables & chairs if you have them!

**CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY CLUB MAP**  
15711 SE 90th Ave, Clackamas, Or 97015



**DIRECTIONS TO CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY CLUB**

**FROM THE SOUTH:** I-205 North to Exit 12 for OR-212 E toward OR-224 E/Damascus/Estacada. Use middle lane to turn right onto OR-212 E. Turn left at the 1st cross street onto SE 82nd Drive. Turn left onto SE St. Helens Street. Turn left onto SE 90th Avenue. Destination will be on the left after a right hand curve. Smaller of the two buildings. (Was once a residence.)

**FROM THE NORTH:** I-205 South. Take exit 12A to merge onto OR-212 E toward Damascus. Merge onto OR-212 E. Turn left on 82nd Drive. Turn left onto SE St. Helens Street. Turn left onto SE 90th Avenue. Destination will be on the left after a right hand curve. Smaller of the two buildings. (Was once a residence.)



**Columbia Canary Club**  
**P.O. Box 2013**  
**Clackamas, OR 97015**

