



AVIAN FLYER

APRIL 2024

APRIL 2024

AVIAN FLYER STAFF

CO-EDITORS

Caleb Coblentz
Beth Murphy

WRITERS & CONTRIBUTORS

Caleb Coblentz Beth Murphy
Norma Hoffman
Cynthia Nelson Dan Pitney
Debbie Stout

PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTION

Beth Murphy

ARTICLES, ADS AND PHOTOS
ARE WELCOME
AND ENCOURAGED!

IN THIS ISSUE

2024 Officers	Page 2
The Prez Sez	Page 2
Treasurer's Report	Page 3
Canary Band Information	Page 3
Signs of Illness In Companion Birds	Page 4
Avian Chlamydiosis and Psittacosis	Page 7
A Cartoon Page	Page 9
March Meeting Info	Page 10



SPRING HAS
Spring



THE CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE ARE COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIAN VETERINARIANS

The Association of Avian Veterinarians has shared with us a number of hand-outs that are helpful in caring for our birds. This month's issue is focusing on those pertaining to signs of illness in our birds, and avian chlamydiosis and psittacosis in particular. Next month's issue will cover additional topics that are courtesy of this organization as well.

Hopefully breeding season is going well for all of our members that enjoy breeding their birds. So far we have had lovely weather for spring, with some surprising high temperatures to enjoy. Hopefully that doesn't indicate another 115 degree summer day to come!

Remember, this is YOUR newsletter, so please feel free to send

articles, ads and pictures of your birds and aviary for everyone to enjoy! Share your breeding and keeping tips with your fellow members!

If you love budgies, the Cascade Budgerigar Society is having a Budgie Show at the Clackamas Community Club building on May 4th, 2024. It will be held in the same building where we had our February sale. This is the group that joins us in our show every year!

Judging will start at nine o'clock am Saturday morning until judging is finished, there is no admittance charge. Member Mike Dahl is encouraging us to check it out!

Caleb Coblentz & Beth Murphy
Avian Flyer Co-Editors



2024 Officers

President	Dan Pitney	503-866-9524	dspitney@gmail.com
Vice President	Maymelle Wong	503-459-8213	mmwong@easystreet.
Show Chair	Wayne Smith	360-263-3313	wayneandpatti@tds.net
Secretary	Kelly Beaty	541-520-3743	kellylbeaty@icloud.com
Treasurer	Cynthia Nelson	503-246-4041	cynthia.nelson@comcast.net
Board Members	Mary Ann Allen	425-736-0092	maa@allenspace.net
	Quin Ward	425-403-6206	momi.birdz@gmail.com
	Sharon Mrokowski	503-705-0762	minimagicor@hotmail.com
Committees			
Bands:	Norma Hoffmann	360-480-5240	nshoffmann@comcast.net
Membership:	Debbie Stout	406-949-2579	debbiestout@gmail.com
Sunshine:	Nina Rapp	503-663-7277	nina@therapps.net
Newsletter			
Co-Editors:	Caleb Coblentz		caleb.n.coblentz@gmail.com
	Beth Murphy	503-515-5206	thedovenest@yahoo.com
Website			
Coordinator:	Debbie Stout	406-949-2579	debbiestout@gmail.com
Facebook:	Debbie Stout	406-949-2579	debbiestout@gmail.com

THE PREZ SEZ

Hi Bird Breeders! April is here and spring is in full swing. Most birds are nesting or thinking about it. I will lead a program on raising baby canaries as a part of our April 13 club meeting. We will cover topics such as nests, nesting materials, egg candling, record keeping, eggfood, banding baby birds, lights, humidity, calcium, and more. Come prepared to share your experience or questions with the group.

At our March meeting we set the location for our fall show. We will be at Cascade Hall, again, at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem. Set up is on Friday, Oct. 25 and the show is on Saturday, October 26, 2024. We will continue to look for a site in the Portland or Vancouver area for our 2025 show. If you have ideas of locations, please bring them to our meeting or contact our Show Manager, Wayne Smith.

Our judges are lined up. They include:

- Laura Bewley, Finches (Oklahoma)
- Jim Pickell, Type Canaries (Kansas)
- Omar Chalaco, Colorbred Canaries (New Jersey)
- Laura Watkins, Small Hookbills (Washington)

Scott Golden will provide the program at our May 11 club meeting on "Raising Turacos". It should be really interesting. Scott is a well known breeder who has raised many different kinds of birds over the years.

We will begin our Board meeting at 1:30 pm on Saturday, April 13. The Show Committee meets at 2:00 pm, followed by the General Club meeting 2:30-3:30 pm. You are welcome to attend all or parts of these meetings either in person or via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent out by email a few days prior to the meeting.

I hope you have a great spring!

Dan Pitney

Herewith is the March Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Checking Account Balance: \$6,253.06
 Certificate of Deposit: \$7,172.40
 Combined Accounts: \$13,425.46

EXPENSES:

Liability Insurance- \$639.00
 Post Office Box Rental (Annual)-\$150.00
 Nat'l. Colorbred Assoc. Affiliation Fee-\$130.00
 Nat'l. Bird Show Affiliation Fee-\$25.00
 Deposit on Cascade Hall Rental (for October show)-\$500.00
TOTAL: \$1,444.00

INCOME:

Dues-\$75.00
 CD Interest-\$27.50
 Bands-\$109.70
TOTAL: \$212.50

Ending Checking Account Balance: \$4,955.76
 Ending CD Account Balance: \$7,199.90
 Combined Accounts: \$12,155.66



CANARY BAND INFORMATION

Hello fellow Columbia Canary Club members,
 I have received our club's 2024 band order for 2,000 CCC bands.

The cost of the bands are 35 cents each. A minimum of 10 bands must be purchased.

Shipping is \$5.00 per order. (If you are paying for orders for two people, please include \$5.00 per person for shipping, since they need to be shipped to different addresses.)

Bands can only be purchased after you have paid your 2024 membership dues.

If you wish, you may pre-order your bands at this time. I will start shipping bands on Tuesday, December 26th.

If you would like to place an order, please email, call or text me at:

nshoffmann@comcast.net (please note the 2 F's and 2N's in my last name.) phone: 360-480-5240

Checks or money orders should be made out to: Columbia Canary Club.

Looking forward to working with you. Wish-ing everyone a great 2024 breeding season!

Kind regards,
 Norma Hoffmann


Did you know....
You can be listed on our Breeders page?

All current members may ask to be placed on the BREEDERS page of our website.

www.columbiacanaryclub.org/sales

A text-only listing at the bottom of the page is NO CHARGE.
 A business card ad at the top of the page is \$5 annually.

Questions can be directed to webmaster at debbie@outlook.com



BABY LOVEBIRDS FOR SALE!!

Club member Roftin Reginald has adorable baby lovebirds for sale, all from their own stock. They have a variety of colors available as well, so if you have been thinking about adding some lovebirds to your aviary now is your chance!! \$90 for one but will negotiate if you buy more! They are located in Portland. Contact her at 971-269-9196 or by email at roftin567@gmail.com.

SIGNS OF ILLNESS IN COMPANION BIRDS

INTRODUCTION

Early signs of illness in birds are subtle and easily missed. In the wild, a sick bird will hide evidence of illness in an attempt to avoid predation. This behavior is counterproductive in companion birds, as they can be ill for some time before symptoms are obvious to the owner. A bird that appears to die suddenly often has been sick for a while, with the caretaker unaware of the subtle signs of illness the bird has been displaying. For this reason, pet bird owners should familiarize themselves with early signs of illness in birds, and take note of any changes in their pet's normal routine. Early detection of illness allows for prompt medical attention and a more favorable outcome for your sick pet.

Evaluation of Droppings

A change in your bird's droppings can be an indicator of a change in your bird's health. Always use paper towels or newspapers underneath your bird's cage and perches so that you can easily see the droppings. Replace the paper daily so that the number, volume, color, and consistency of the droppings can be noted.

Normal Droppings

A bird's normal droppings will vary in appearance depending on its diet and what type of bird it is. Most parrots will have formed feces of a dull green color accompanied by varying amounts of clear urine and white urates. Eating berries or foods with food coloring may temporarily change the color of your bird's feces, and a diet high in moist foods will increase urine production.

Abnormal Droppings

- Decrease in the total number or volume of droppings
- Color change of the urates (opaque portion of the urine) from white to green or yellow
- Liquid unformed feces (diarrhea)
- Increase in the urine portion (polyuria) independent of eating moist foods
- Presence of blood in the droppings
- A strong odor to the droppings (other than the first morning dropping)

Looser feces can be normal under some circumstances. Birds that eat nectar such as lorries and lorikeets will have more liquid feces. Birds laying eggs and baby birds on hand-feeding formulas will normally have looser stools. Similarly, a bird's first void of the morning is often larger and less formed than those that occur later in the day. Nervousness or stress can cause temporarily loose droppings that should resolve with removal of the stressor. We recommend you evaluate several droppings under normal circumstances before becoming alarmed.

Monitoring Weight

Monitoring weight is one way to catch illnesses early. We recommend that all bird owners have an electronic gram scale and weigh their birds weekly. Rapid weight loss or weight gain is abnormal. If you notice a significant change in your bird's weight (+/-10%) then a visit to the veterinarian is warranted.



Visit aav.org or find us on Facebook at facebook.com/aavonline

SIGNS OF ILLNESS IN COMPANION BIRDS

Early Signs of Disease in Birds

The following signs indicate the need for a visit to an avian veterinarian.

- Redness, swelling or loss of feathers around eyes
- Crusty material in or around nares
- Stained feathers over nares (nostrils) or around the face or vent
- Flakiness on skin or beak
- Overgrowth of beak or nails
- Changes in vocalization, eating habits, or aggression
- Broken, bent, picked, or chewed feathers
- Unusual or dull feather color
- Prolonged molt
- Lameness or shifting of body weight
- Sores on bottom of feet

Signs of Serious Illness

The following signs can indicate a serious health problem and veterinary assistance should be sought at once:

- Blood loss or injury
- Discharge from nares (nostrils), eyes, or mouth
- Labored breathing or abnormal respiratory sounds
- Decreased or excessive food or water consumption
- Loss of weight or general body condition
- Enlargement or swelling on the body
- Vomiting or regurgitation
- Significant reduction in the quantity and frequency of droppings, or a pronounced change in their odor or consistency
- Decreased vocalization and interest in social interaction
- Fluffed posture and sleeping more than normal
- Seizures or other neurologic abnormalities
- Inability to perch



SIGNS OF ILLNESS IN COMPANION BIRDS

Emergency First Aid

An ill bird should be kept in a warm and quiet environment until veterinary care is available. Minimize handling and provide your bird with easily accessible food and water.

Heat

The ideal ambient temperature for most sick birds is 80°-85° degrees Fahrenheit (27°-29° Celsius). A temporary incubator can be made by placing a heating pad along the side of or underneath your bird's cage, then covering the cage with a towel, blanket, or cage cover. Space heaters or heat bulbs may be useful as well but can cause over-heating. Ensure that cage covers do not touch the heat source, and that your bird cannot chew on any electrical wires used. If the bird starts breathing rapidly or holds its wings away from its body, the temperature is too high and needs to be lowered. Avoid any heaters that emit fumes or smoke, as they can cause more harm than good.

Food/Water

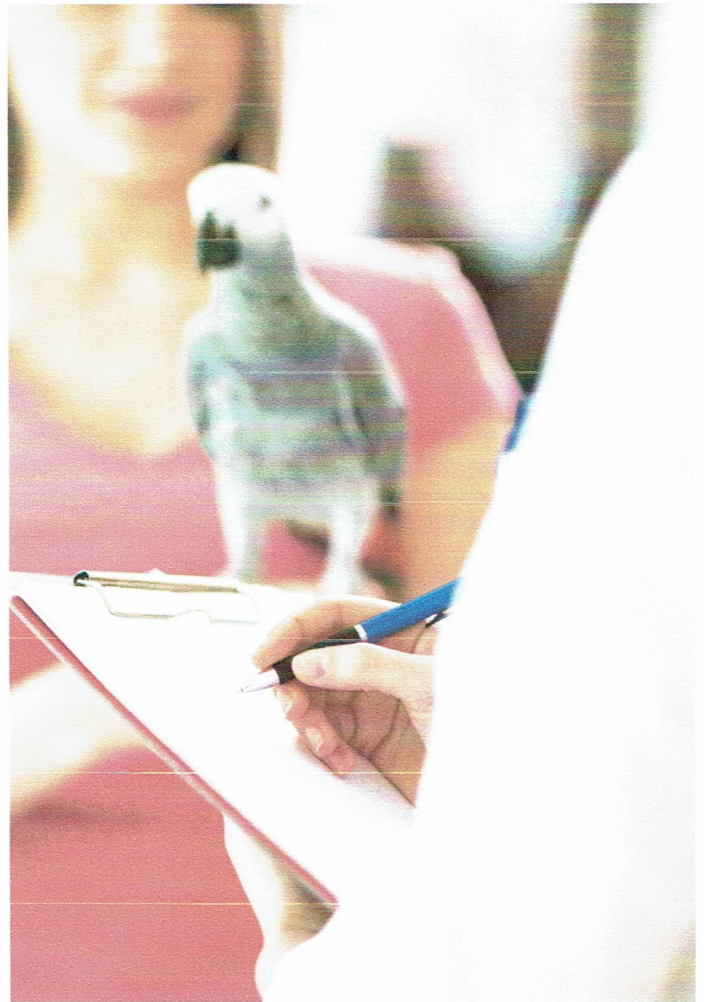
It is important that sick birds continue to eat and drink unless they are regurgitating or vomiting. Place food and water within easy access of where your bird is perching or laying. If your pet is tame, offer favorite foods by hand. An electrolyte solution, such as warmed sports or pediatric electrolyte drinks can be offered drop by drop with a syringe or eye dropper.

Mistakes to Avoid

- Don't attempt to drop food or liquids into a bird's mouth if it is too weak to swallow.
- Don't give any drugs or remedies that were not specifically prescribed for your bird.
- Don't wait to see how the bird is tomorrow.
- Don't wait to call your avian veterinarian!

Have a Relationship with your Avian Veterinarian

It is very helpful to have a relationship with an avian veterinarian before your bird gets sick. This will give you and the doctor important baseline information such as how much the bird usually weighs, how the bird usually acts at the veterinarian's office, and what test results are when the bird is well. It is also helpful to know the local emergency clinics that will see birds, and to post their phone numbers for family and friends.



Postmortem Examination

In the unfortunate event that your bird has passed away and you wish to find out what happened, the body should be refrigerated (not frozen) prior to transport to an avian veterinarian. Your veterinarian can perform various tests on the bird to help determine the cause of death. Knowing what did and did not cause your pet's death is an important part of protecting the health and safety of your family and the other birds in your home.

In Closing...

Bringing your bird to an avian veterinarian for well checks, noticing subtle changes in your bird's behavior, and acting quickly when you do see signs of illness are important factors in having your bird live a long and healthy life.

AVIAN CHLAMYDIOSIS AND PSITTACOSIS

Chlamydiosis in Birds

Avian Chlamydiosis, also known as ornithosis, is a common disease of many bird species and is caused by the bacterial organism *Chlamydia psittaci*. Bird owners should be aware that this is a zoonotic disease, meaning it can be transmitted from birds to humans, and also know its implications. The disease in people is called Psittacosis, or Parrot Fever.

Transmission

Transmission of the disease is primarily through inhaling respiratory secretions or contaminated dust from droppings or feathers of infected birds. Risk of infection is increased by close contact with infected birds that are shedding the organism, therefore, the disease is more common in stressed birds (shipping, overcrowding, or malnutrition) since birds tend to shed the organism when stressed. Infected birds do not have to show specific signs of the illness in order to transmit the disease.

Clinical Signs in Birds

The visible signs of chlamydiosis are typically respiratory or gastrointestinal in nature. Lime-green diarrhea or urates is a common sign in many species. Although the disease is systemic, the signs primarily relate to the eyes, respiratory tract, and liver. Some birds may show general signs of illness: lack of appetite, weight loss, depression, diarrhea, discharge from the eyes or nares, or even death. However, birds may exhibit few visible signs of illness and these same signs can be associated with a number of other diseases. Some birds that are actively infected with *Chlamydia psittaci* may show no signs of illness. An infected bird may carry the organism and not become identifiably ill until some stressful incident brings it out, if at all. Breeding birds can pass the organism to their young. Baby birds are more susceptible to severe infection than adult birds and may die in the nest or soon after weaning.

Diagnosis

A confirmed diagnosis of chlamydiosis in a live bird is sometimes difficult and depends on the species, length of time since exposure, and general condition of the bird. Your avian veterinarian will conduct appropriate tests and evaluate the results in conjunction with a thorough examination. Current recommendations are that a suspect bird be given more than one type of test, along with evaluation of the bird's condition and history, to achieve a diagnosis. Some veterinarians recommend treatment of all suspected cases with or without a positive test result. It is very important to complete the full course of treatment as prescribed by your veterinarian.

Treatment

If chlamydiosis has been diagnosed, or if treatment has been recommended by your veterinarian, all exposed birds in the household should be treated at the same time to reduce the spread or recurrence of the disease. It is imperative that infected birds be isolated during treatment and that certain sanitary measures be employed to prevent spread or reinfection of the disease. The success of treatment depends on all of the medication being given in the recommended dosage and time frame. Antibiotic dosage and administration should be directed by your veterinarian to ensure an appropriate dosage is being administered. Specific means of treatment should be determined by your avian veterinarian. Depending on the condition of the patient, other supportive treatment may be recommended as well. Your veterinarian will discuss the most appropriate treatment for your bird. Treatment length can vary and a veterinarian will advise the pet owner on how long treatment should last. Depending on the state, a positive diagnosis may need to be reported to the state veterinarian.

During Treatment the Owner Must:

- Clean the premises of all organic debris and then disinfect with an appropriate disinfectant such as a bleach and water solution (1:32 dilution or ½ cup bleach per gallon of water), 1% Lysol®, or quaternary ammonia compounds for 5-10 minutes of contact time on the cleaned surface to be disinfected. Do not expose birds to the fumes of these disinfectants. Clean daily. Do not use a vacuum or pressure washer;
- Use caution when handling droppings and cage debris, take care not to stir up dust while cleaning, keep dust and feather circulation to a minimum; it is recommended to wear gloves, coveralls or a disposable gown, disposable cap, protective eyewear (goggles) and a properly fitted respirator mask such as an N95 particulate mask;
- Separate/isolate and seek medical care for other birds showing signs of disease;
- Avoid contact with the birds by elderly, pregnant, sick or very young persons, immunosuppressed persons, or persons on anti-rejection drugs;
- Remove all mineral supplements containing calcium as calcium interferes with some medications;
- Reduce stress in the bird's environment as much as possible; and
- Follow all treatment instructions as prescribed by your veterinarian.

AVIAN CHLAMYDIOSIS AND PSITTACOSIS

Psittacosis (Parrot Fever) in Humans

The bacterial organism *Chlamydia psittaci* is transmissible from birds to humans. If anyone exposed to an infected bird develops flu-like symptoms, that person should seek prompt medical care and inform their healthcare provider about having contact with birds. Treatment is simple and most often successful in humans but neglect of the symptoms or delayed diagnosis may result in serious illness, even death, especially in compromised persons. *Chlamydia psittaci* is not the same organism that causes genital chlamydia infection in humans, which is due to a related organism called *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

Preventive Measures

The following recommendations help reduce the incidence of chlamydiosis in flocks or companion birds:

- Immediately after purchase, take all newly-acquired birds to an avian veterinarian for chlamydiosis screening tests;
- Buy birds from suppliers who routinely screen their birds for the presence of *Chlamydia psittaci* or who are willing to stand behind the health of their birds in some manner (health guarantee);
- Isolate and quarantine all newly acquired birds for a minimum of six weeks;
- Maintain appropriate preventative health management as recommended by your avian veterinarian;
- Maintain good nutrition and minimize stress;
- Maintain adequate records for at least a year as to bird ID, where and when purchased and from whom, date of illness.

To Learn More About Chlamydiosis

To learn more about chlamydiosis please read the most recent edition of the Compendium of Measures to Control *Chlamydia psittaci* Infection Among Humans (Psittacosis) and Pet Birds (Avian Chlamydiosis) from the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, <http://www.nasphv.org/documentsCompendiaPsittacosis.html>

AAV: Setting a Standard in Avian Care Since 1980

Avian medicine is a distinct and very specialized field that requires extensive training, advanced skills, and facilities specifically designed and equipped to treat and hospitalize birds. The Association of Avian Veterinarians was established to provide veterinarians with this special education, and to keep them up to date with the latest information on bird health. The AAV holds an annual conference on avian medicine and publishes the peer-reviewed *Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery*. AAV also makes annual contributions toward avian conservation and sponsors studies advancing the understanding of avian medicine.

For More Information

For more information on birds, ask your veterinarian for copies of the following AAV Client Education Brochures:

- Avian Chlamydiosis and Psittacosis
- Veterinary Care for Your Pet Bird*
- Basic Care for Companion Birds*
- Behavior: Normal and Abnormal
- Caring for Backyard Chickens
- Digital Scales
- Feather Loss
- Feeding Birds
- Injury Prevention and Emergency Care
- Managing Chronic Egg-laying in Your Pet Bird
- Signs of Illness in Companion Birds*
- Ultraviolet Lighting for Companion Birds
- When Should I Take My Bird to a Veterinarian?*
- Zoonotic Diseases in Backyard Poultry*



Scan to view these handouts and more on AAV's Bird Owner Resources page!

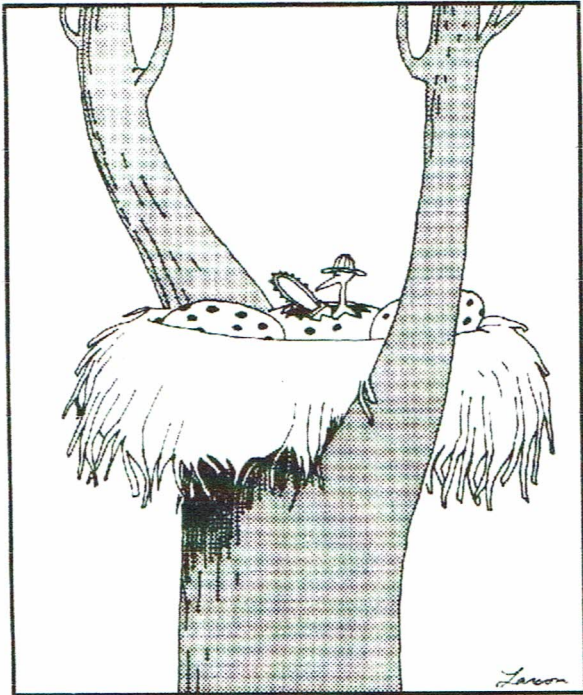
*Available in multiple languages. All others are available in English only at this time.

Online Resources

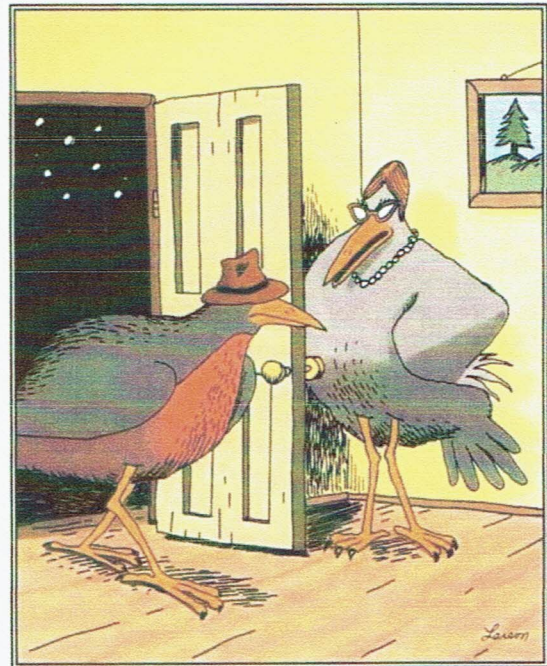
Follow AAV on Facebook (www.facebook.com/aavonline) for great tips and the latest news for pet bird owners. You can also find us on Instagram (@aavonline) and YouTube!

Our website, www.aav.org, offers a Find-a-Vet tool to help pet bird owners locate avian veterinarians around the world. We also offer a variety of resources such as basic bird care instructions and more. Visit the website today!

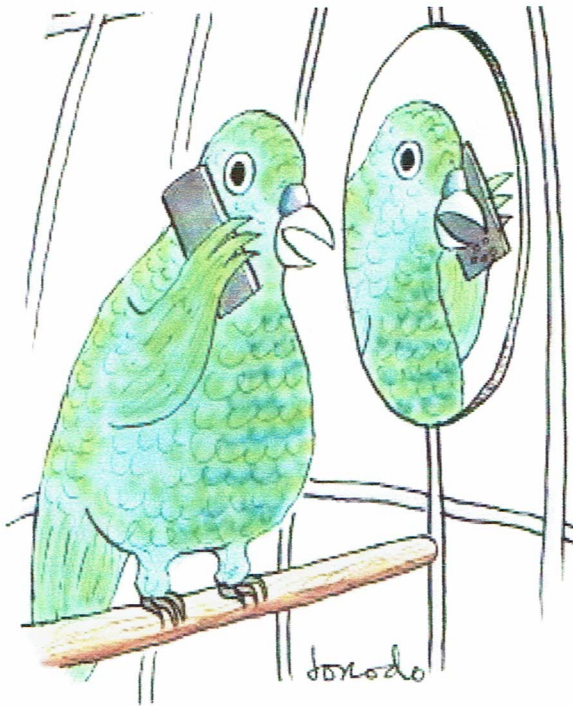




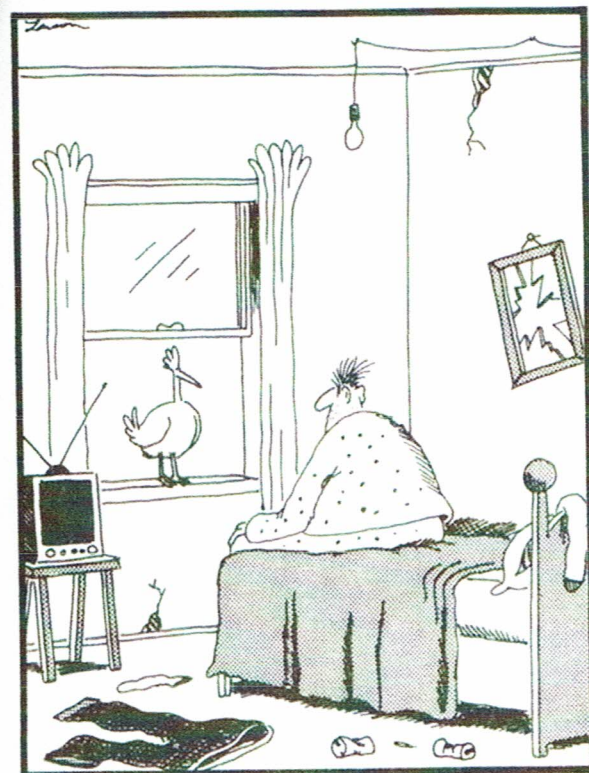
And then, the dawn is still again—and another miracle of nature emerges.



"So! ... Out bob bob bobbing along again!"



"POLICE? I'M BEING STALKED."



The Bluebird of Happiness long absent from his life, Ned is visited by the Chicken of Depression.

APRIL MEETINGS
 Saturday, April 13, 2024
 at the Clackamas Community Center

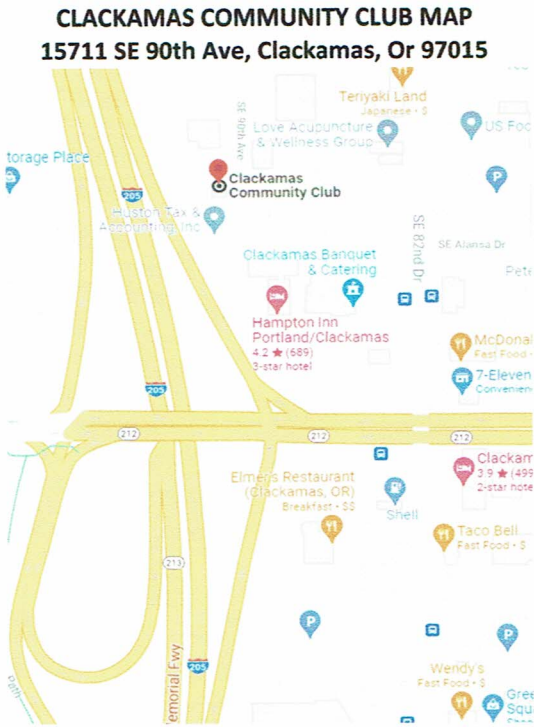
1:30 Board - 2:00 Show Committee
 General Meeting - 2:30-3:30

Refreshments: Carol Groenevelt & Beth Murphy

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

