



AVIAN FLYER

JANUARY 2024

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HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!!

Winter is truly upon us, along with the season's first threat of snow. If you are in doubt about whether or not this coming weekend's meeting will be happening, contact your favorite club officer to get the latest.

If you didn't get a chance to buy or sell everything you wanted at the show then our annual February Sale will give you another chance. Check out all the details on Page 6 of this issue.

Several club members went to see the new animated bird movie that is out in theaters now, and Caleb Coblentz reviewed it for those who haven't seen it.

Kris Rigdon published an article back in our January 2012 issue about preparing for canary breeding season, and it is well worth the reprint in this issue, on page 9.

We are also featuring an article outlining different breeding methods in

an article on page 7. No matter what kind of birds you breed, it is insightful.

On Page 2 of this issue all of the 2024 Club Officers are listed. Special thanks to all those who served last year and those who volunteered to serve this year. Our club would not be celebrating our 71st year without so many dedicated members keeping it alive.

Our Canary Band Chairwoman Norma Hoffmann has put this year's band info on page 8 in a letter to the members, so if you are a canary breeder you can now stock up!

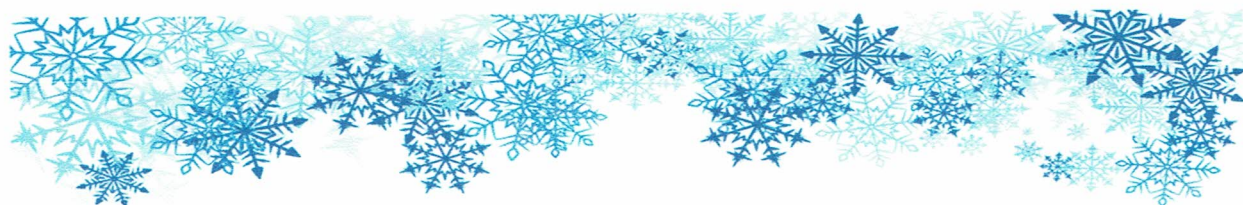
We wish everyone a very happy, healthy and blessed New Year and a very productive breeding season to come!

Caleb Coblentz & Beth Murphy
Avian Flyer Co-Editors



2023 Officers

President	Dan Pitney	503-866-9524	dspitney@gmail.com
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THE PREZ SEZ

The Columbia Canary Club will start the new year with our monthly meeting on Saturday, January 13. The Board meets at 1:30 pm. The Show Committee at 2:00 pm. The General Meeting will be at 2:30 pm, followed by refreshments. You are welcome to attend in person or by Zoom for any part or all of the meetings. A zoom link will be sent out via email a couple days prior to the meeting.

There will be two main agenda items. We will introduce our 2024 club officers:

President – Dan Pitney
 Vice-President – May Wong
 Secretary – Kelly Beaty
 Treasurer – Cynthia Nelson
 Show Manager – Wayne Smith
 Board of Directors
 Mary Ann Allen
 Quin Ward
 Sharon Mrokowski

Then we will spend most of our meeting evaluating our 2023 Annual Fall Show and Sale. Please come with your ideas and suggestions.

Don't forget our February Bird Sale. It will be on Saturday, February 10. Look for details in another article in this newsletter.

Happy New Year to each of you!

Dan Pitney

A Seasonal Reminder From Cynthia Nelson!

Time to Put Up those Bird Feeders!

It is now time to think about providing winter sustenance for our feathered friends who visit our yards. That means hummingbird feeders and suet blocks for other bird species. Our yard is a favorite place for the squirrels due to our Fir and Oak trees. We quickly learned it was necessary to buy the hot red pepper suet blocks because the birds can't taste the peppers (amazingly) but the squirrels don't typically want anything to do with them! I'm just waiting for some maverick squirrel to develop a taste for hot peppers!

If you start feeding in the Fall, it's important (particularly for the hummingbirds) to continue doing so until Spring has arrived. They will be depending on you!

Many species of our birds, even many relatively common species, are experiencing a decline in their populations. This is something we can do to help out our feathered friends. A bonus is the pleasure we can get from observing them!

December Treasurer's Report

Beginning Checking Account Balance: \$5,971.25
 Certificate of Deposit: \$7,085.73
 Total: \$13,056.98

EXPENSES:

Bank Checkbook Order: \$62.74
 Internet Hosting Plan (for 2 years): \$300.00
 Internet Domain Charge (Annual) : \$14.95
 Judge's Expense: \$46.50
 Show Expenses (Public Address System and RV Parking) : \$100.00
 TOTAL: \$524.19

INCOME:

Dues: \$210.00
 Ads: \$5.00
 TOTAL: \$215.00

Ending Checking Account Balance (on 12/24):
 \$5,683.56
 Certificate of Deposit: \$7,113.91
 Total: \$12,797.41

Magical Migration

Review by Caleb Coblentz



Illumination's Migration animated movie is in theaters now. It follows a family of Mallard ducks who decide to fly south to Jamaica for the winter on vacation.

Mallards are the most common ducks in Oregon. The information about their migration patterns is pretty accurate. But showing them as a family is not. Mother Mallards abandon their babies as soon as their feathers grow in, usually at ten weeks.

The Mallard family experiences bioluminescence in Jamaica, which is really a thing. The bioluminescence comes from dinoflagellates, organisms in the water, that get annoyed when people (or ducks) splash. They light up because of a chemical reaction between their luciferin and oxygen to warn them.

I liked when they were flying at buildings and cars. Also when the chef was chasing them. It had good suspense and family values. If you get a chance, I recommend watching it.



Can Birds Predict The Weather?

It's an age-old question – can birds predict the weather? There are many stories of people observing their feathered friends to forecast changes in the atmosphere. But is there any scientific evidence that these ancient practices are accurate?

In this article, we'll look at some recent studies that suggest birds may be better meteorologists than you might think. From swallows returning early with a storm on their tail feathers, to crows gathering in huge numbers before a heavy downpour – it seems as if our avian companions have a knack for predicting inclement weather.

Scientists believe they could hold the key to providing more reliable forecasts and even help us prepare for severe events like hurricanes. We'll explore how bird behavior provides insights into what Mother Nature has in store for us next.

Ancient Practices Of Observing Birds

People have been using birds to predict the weather for centuries. Ancient civilizations looked to birds and their behavior to make sense of changes in the environment, believing that certain behaviors could indicate an upcoming storm or other change in the weather.

For example, if a bird flew low to the ground it was believed that rain would soon follow. Similarly, a flock of migrating birds heading south signaled colder temperatures while a large number of seagulls indicated warmer weather.

These ancient practices may not have had any scientific basis but they were still widely used by people as a way of trying to anticipate what kind of weather lay ahead. With modern technology today we can now look at things like barometric pressure systems and satellite images instead – though there is still something comforting about looking up into the sky and seeing what kind of activity our feathered friends are up to!

As we move on from these traditional methods, let's take a closer look at how science can explain bird behavior when predicting the weather.

The Science Behind Bird Behavior

Ancient practices of observing birds have been used for centuries to tell what the future holds. From the direction that a flock flies, to the type of bird spotted – people have long believed in using these signs as an indication of what weather conditions are coming.

However, while it is easy to attribute superstitious beliefs and folklore traditions to the practice, there has been some scientific evidence that suggests that birds do indeed possess certain abilities which can help them sense inclement weather before it arrives.

Birds typically begin their journey southwards when winter approaches due to changes in temperature and day length. This behavior is thought to be triggered by hormones such as melatonin, which helps regulate metabolism and body-clock cycle.

As storms approach from far away, barometric pressure starts dropping and air currents change directions – both of which alert smaller species with better hearing capabilities about incoming bad weather more quickly than larger animals who rely on sight instead.

Birds' feathers also contain special sensory receptors called mechanoreceptors which act like antennae and can detect vibrations from lightning strikes up to 50 miles away. Thus equipped with the tools necessary for survival, birds know exactly when they need to take flight so they don't get caught in dangerous scenarios caused by Mother Nature's wrath.

The science behind bird behavior indicates how well adapted they are towards detecting forthcoming danger or discomfort; this knowledge provides insight into why ancient cultures looked at birds as harbingers of fate. With their superior senses attuned to sensing drastic shifts in climate patterns, humans should heed warnings given off by flocks taking wing if they want to stay safe during extreme weather events too.

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How Birds Sense Inclement Weather

Birds have the ability to sense inclement weather and take necessary precautions in order to protect themselves. They can detect changes in air pressure, humidity, temperature, wind direction and velocity which are typically indicators of an incoming storm. By noticing these small changes, birds often migrate away from dangerous conditions or seek shelter before a storm occurs.

The most notable example is that of swallows returning early with storms. Swallows use their acute senses to determine when a thunderstorm is coming and prepare by flying back to their nests quickly for safety. This behavior has been observed across multiple species of swallow all over the world, making it clear that they possess some form of advanced weather prediction abilities.

To further support this theory, research shows that swallows will even leave their nests early if rainclouds appear on the horizon regardless of whether there are signs of actual bad weather or not. Therefore, it's safe to say that birds do indeed have the power to predict upcoming storms.

With this information in mind, let's explore how exactly they're able to do so...

Swallows Returning Early With Storms

Like the ancient mariners of old, birds have a unique way of navigating inclement weather. They are like tiny barometers sent to announce impending storms, gathering clues from wind and pressure changes before they make their move.

Swallows are some of nature's most reliable predictors; often returning days or even weeks ahead of an oncoming storm. With their small size and sensitive feathers, they can feel when turbulent winds and darkening skies are on the horizon long before humans can detect it in our atmosphere. It is almost as if a silent alarm has been triggered that sets them into motion:

Swallows migrate to warmer climates in anticipation of cold fronts moving through

They adjust their flight paths for optimal shelter during extreme weather conditions

Flocks will often gather together early morning prior to downpours

These instincts go far beyond what we could ever hope to understand, but one thing is certain – swallows have mastered the science of predicting inclement weather with remarkable accuracy.

As crows gather in huge numbers before downpours, so too do swallows take to the sky times before heavy rain begins.

Crows Gather In Huge Numbers Before Downpours

Crows are one of the few species that can predict rain. They often gather in huge numbers before downpours, and it's been documented by scientists around the world.

Not only do they show up in large groups to wait out a storm, but some crows actually call out loudly when they sense impending bad weather. This behavior is thought to be an instinctual way for them to communicate with each other about coming storms.

Even though we don't know exactly how birds can accurately gauge upcoming weather patterns, their behavior provides us with valuable insights into understanding future weather conditions. It could also help meteorologists create more accurate forecasts going forward.

For example, if more research was done on bird behavior during changing climates or extreme weather events, it may provide useful information for predicting long-term climate trends. By studying these animals' natural instincts, humans can gain deeper insight into the intricacies of our environment and its predictive power.

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Transitioning now to explore further how bird behavior provides insights into future weather...

Bird Behavior Provides Insights Into Future Weather

Crows gathering in large numbers before a downpour may be a sign of the changing weather, but bird behavior provides further insight for predicting future conditions.

By studying different species and their actions, scientists are able to gain valuable information about upcoming storms or high-pressure systems.

For instance, starlings often seek shelter from bad weather hours before it arrives. Hummingbirds have also been observed migrating earlier than usual when an impending storm is predicted.

Birds can provide accurate forecasts up to 72 hours in advance if studied carefully.

While this data can improve reliability of forecasts, there's still much more to discover about how birds interact with the environment.

With advances in technology giving us better ways to monitor wildlife, we now have access to even more data that could help predict extreme weather events sooner and with greater accuracy.


It's also beneficial to pay attention to birds' behavior as another way of predicting upcoming severe weather events – some species will start chirping more than usual when bad weather is coming their way. Therefore if you hear increased bird activity outside, it might be wise to prepare yourself for impending inclement weather conditions!



What do you call a bird in winter?

A brrrrrr...d

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 delbigstout@gmail.com.

2024 February Bird Sale

The Columbia Canary Club annual bird sale will be on Saturday, February 10, 2024. It will be at the Clackamas Community Club, 15711 SE 90th Ave. Clackamas, Oregon, 97015. Canaries, Finches, Soft-bills, small Hookbills, and bird related items will be for sale. The sale hours are 10 am – 2:30 pm. A \$1 admission fee will be charged for the public.

Sales tables are available for CCC club members. A \$15 donation per table is suggested to cover the club's costs. No table reservations are needed. Those planning to sell birds should arrive at 8:30 am to help set up tables. Birds will be admitted from 9 – 9:30 am. The sale starts at 10 am. All people selling birds need to remain until closing at 2:30 pm and help with take down and clean up.

Questions can be directed to Dan Pitney at dspitney@gmail.com.



BREEDING SYSTEMS FOR THE AVIARY

by R.C. Fanguy

In breeding birds we are constantly trying to improve their appearance and performance which constitutes what we call their phenotype. This phenotype is a product of a genetic effect and the environmental effect. While a good environment can make birds appear better than they are genetically, only the genetic components can be passed to the next generation. Consequently, if we are to show phenotypic improvement each year we must find some way to improve our breeders genetically each year.

In order to make genetic changes in your breeders you must develop a breeding system that meets your requirements. There are six basic breeding systems to choose from and each has its own effect on the breeder populations and their progeny. The systems to select from are:

RANDOM BREEDING

This system is characterized by the condition that every potential breeder has an equal chance of being selected as a parent without reference to the phenotype or pedigree. If we ignore pedigree but do some degree of phenotypic selection of the parents, then we refer to the system as restricted random breeding. Random breeding is popular with many breeders because it requires a minimum of record keeping (which is a poor reason). The net genetic effect of random breeding is to hold the population constant. This may be a worthwhile object after you have improved the line but certainly not before.

OUTBREEDING

This system involves the introduction of breeders from outside your pedigree (unrelated birds). It should be used with caution since it makes possible the introduction of genetic faults and diseases to your breeders. The genetic consequence is that it essentially destroys

all your genetic progress to date by maximizing heterozygosity and making it hard to predict what the next generation will look like. If you must outcross, do it with a small segment of your breeders to make sure the results are what you want before changing your entire breeding population. Once these outcross genes are in your population, you can seldom get them out. Many people use outcrossing to reduce inbreeding—there are much better ways.

INBREEDING

This system involves the mating of close relatives and the net genetic effect is to increase homozygosity which makes the breeders and their progeny look alike (develop prepotency). Consequently, the breeder that practices inbreeding couples with good phenotypic selection should produce a very uniform population of birds. The amount of inbreeding can be calculated each generation along with the genetic relationship (genes in common) between each pair of breeders. It is erroneous to believe inbreeding creates bad genes—it only points them out so they can be eliminated. Once you have purged your breeders of undesirable genes you will have “smooth sailing” until you introduce more bad genes through outcrossing. Remember, you must inbreed to establish your own line.

LINEBREEDING

This system involves mating your young breeders back to an outstanding ancestor or to this ancestor's close relative. It is a mild form of inbreeding and serves to concentrate the genes of this outstanding ancestor in your current breeders. Used properly, it can produce a high degree of prepotency without a high level of inbreeding.

OUTCROSSING

This system involves mating between individuals having their smallest genetic relationship within the population and serves to

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hold inbreeding to a minimum. This method of reducing inbreeding is preferable to random breeding since it does not involve the risk of introducing bad genes and (or) disease from outside the stock. To be successful, you must first complete a pedigree analysis. With the aid of a small home computer this is a relatively simple task.

In summary the following recommendations are made: Operate from a closed population. Avoid outcrossing whenever possible. Use a systematic breeding scheme that can be evaluated periodically. Don't be afraid of mild inbreeding unless you have inferior breeding stock. Perform periodic pedigree analysis to evaluate the degree of inbreeding and to aid in selecting breeder pairs. Use outcrossing to reduce the degree of inbreeding rather than outbreeding. Keep good records.

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. Wishing everyone a great 2024 breeding season!

Kind regards,

Norma Hoffmann

BABY LOVEBIRDS FOR SALE!!

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.



UPDATING THE BREEDERS PAGE ON THE CLUB WEBSITE

Have you visited the Breeder page on the club website where there are business card type ads as well as text listings of CCC members who often have birds for sale? It has been several years since the last update, so some of the information is out of date. <https://www.columbiacanaryclub.org/sales>

The page will be updated soon after the first of the year, and we are contacting those currently on the website to see if they wish to remain listed. If you do not receive an email from Debbie Stout, please contact her at debbiestout@gmail.com. Please reply soon, if you wish to remain listed on the page.

Do you want to be listed? Please send your name address, contact preference (phone and/or email) and types of birds you breed, to be listed on the Breeder page of the Columbia Canary Club website.

The text listing is free and the business card sized ads are \$5 a year. If you have a business card ad, or if you want me to help design an ad, just contact me with your ideas.

If you renew using the form on the website, it has spaces to list your option for being listed on the website. You may send the \$5 for a business card ad, via the mailing address or Zelle account that is listed on the Membership Page:

<https://www.columbiacanaryclub.org/membership>

PREPARING FOR CANARY BREEDING SEASON

by Kris Rigdon

I think of January as a month of preparation. There are many things to get ready for us as we approach the breeding season.

If you pair birds in February you have started increasing the lights. Some people start increasing about 15 minutes a week. Another 'plan' will increase the lights 30 minutes a week. The target hours will be 13-14 hours of light. Still others will increase the lights on the males to 14 hours in one day, leaving the hens in less, 8-9 hours. This is the plan I have used for many years. I will have the males in the increased lights for two weeks. Then the hens are brought in to the same increased light schedule. With the increase of lights, they will eat more. This increase in diet and lighting stimulates the hormones for breeding.

Other preparations that are done at this time are the preparations of nests. They are washed and lined. Lining them will help the nesting material from sliding around. Some use coffee filters, some use milk filters and these are taped down with masking tape to hold them in place. I have used these and also used knitted nest liners. Besides holding the nesting material, they add an extra layer to hold warmth while the hens set.

The nesting material used is another preparation. I have used toilet paper ripped in strips with burlap. The burlap is cut in 1" squares and then the strings are pulled apart. To this I add furniture batting pulled into little pieces. All of these mixed together with little pieces of yarn that are the color of the year's bands. This will help the hens from picking at the leg bands when you put them on the chicks.

A main ingredient to breeding is the nestling or egg food you will feed. Add any vitamins, vitamin E, and wheat germ to your mix at this time. If you prepare large amounts ahead of time and freezing it will cut down the workload later on. If you are color feeding, mixing

up large quantities will assure that the same amounts of color agent are added. The consistency of the color makes for an even color in the birds.

Getting your notebook prepared for all the information will help in record keeping of all those babies. Preparing all the note cards you use on the breeding cages will get you ready for the information needed for each cage. The numbers of parents, the dates they are set and the dates chicks hatch, with their band numbers, are just a few things you may want to put on those cards.

I use colored dots on the index cards with all the information to also keep track. Yellow when laying, red when setting, green when hatched and blue when banded. This way at a glance I know what is happening in each cage. A large calendar is also useful to jot down when a cage will be hatching and other important information.

One of the most important preparation items is to make sure that the pairs you are pairing are the ideal matches. Are the feathers hard or soft, are any faults in one not in the other. Come to the meeting and ask these questions of any one of the more experienced members. They will all be ready to answer questions. The club is all about the education of raising canaries, for song or for show.

West Coast Seed & Supply Company

West Coast Seed & Supply Company has been a years long supporter and catalog advertiser for the Columbia Canary Club. Located in Clackamas, Oregon they have been a sought after wholesale resource for club member aviaries from Salem to Longview and beyond. On your first visit you can register your aviary with them and get a huge variety of seeds, toys and other supplies at wholesale prices with a \$100 minimum purchase with each visit. They are open Tuesday through Saturday. Visit them at 8853 SE Janssen Rd Clackamas, OR 97015 or call for further information at 503-744-0684.

JANUARY MEETINGS
 Saturday, January 13, 2024
 at the Clackamas Community Center

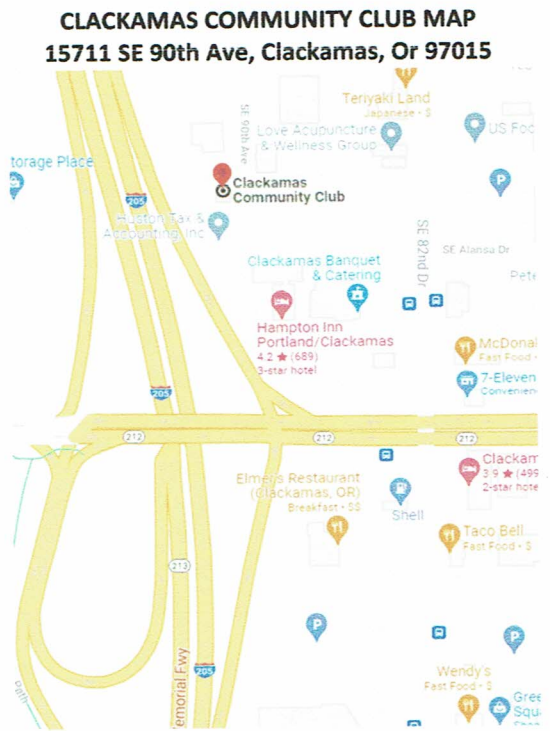
**1:30 Board - 2:00 Show Committee
 General Meeting - 2:30-3:30**

**Program: Nominating Committee & Show Discussion
 Refreshments to Follow**

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

