



**February 2021**  
**Vol. 29, Issue 1 & 2**

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Please send your photos and stories to Peggy Beal at [cageliner@raave.com](mailto:cageliner@raave.com)  
 Also include any Birthdays and Rescue dates.

**A TIME OF LOVE AND HOPE**

It's been a year since we were able to get together. We hope everyone is healthy and doing ok in 2021. All of us see hope on the horizon...Covid numbers decreasing and vaccinations becoming available. Of course this means that at some time...maybe this summer...we will be able to gather safely and see one another again!! The possibility of a picnic gathering is looking good!

Meanwhile, this is the month of love, friendship, good candy, etc., so indulge yourself and enjoy each day as much as possible! Every day has a few more minutes of daylight and the birds are responding to that in the wild as well as in our feathered family. Before we know it we will be back on daylight savings time with more light at the end of the day. And that will lift all our spirits!!

Be safe, look for some joy in each day, and send out love to everyone you know. And give extra love to our beautiful birds! And a to do suggestion: take some photos of your lovely feathered family and send them to the Cageliner. It's a great way to spend time with our birds and a way to stay in touch. And maybe your photo will be in next years RAAVE calendar! Smile!!

Rose Mueller,  
 Vice President



# President's Perch

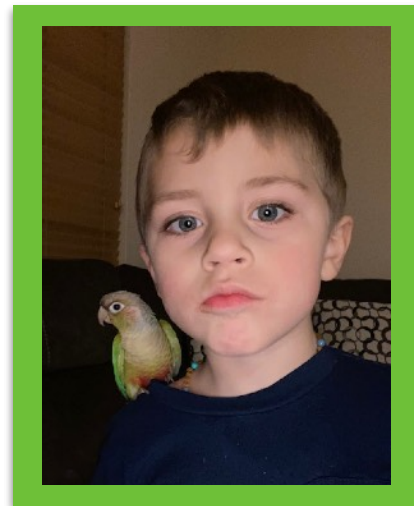


Dear Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you, your family, and feathered friends well and safe.

I thought I would share some heart-warming news about a recent Cinnamon Head Green Cheek that was re-homed. The Green Cheek was surrendered to RAAVE due to life changes. The Green Cheek was hand raised at the Parrot Connection and really loved her people. A young mother called the club looking for a Green Cheek for a companion bird for her autistic son. As soon as she brought the new bird home her son bonded with his new bird. It was a life-changing moment for him and the bird. The young boy felt confident to sleep in his own room with his new bird nearby which was astonishing to his mom! Stories like that make all the work in rescue, fostering, and rehoming worth it to me!

It has been proven many times over birds really can play a great part for folks participating in animal therapy programs where they are offered.



*Posey and her new buddy.*

Recently the Sierra Nevada Zoological Park Staff and volunteers updated the RAAVE bird room to give it a nice new fresh look for the five parrots we sponsor. For the month of February the Zoological Park is open on weekends 10am-4pm if you would like to see how nice the room looks.

Sincerely, Norman Huckle RAAVE President



[CLICK HERE FOR: AFA NEWS IN BRIEF](#)



**FOSTER PARRONTS NEEDED!**  
Norman Huckle at: [nhuckle23@gmail.com](mailto:nhuckle23@gmail.com)



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Ask me about the Healthy Bird Project.



## Featured Bird of the Month:

# Lovebirds

by Alyson Kalhagen - [thesprucepets.com](http://thesprucepets.com)

### 5 Facts about Lovebirds

Lovebirds are one of the most popular pet parrot species, and for those who are familiar with them, it's no surprise. Beautiful and intelligent, these little birds have been one of the most beloved types of African parrot for over 100 years. However, there are a lot of myths out there about Lovebirds, their behavior, and what it's like to keep them as pets. If you're interested in learning more about what Lovebirds are like, then you should read on to discover basic facts about these feisty little birds.

#### 1. Lovebirds normally don't talk.

Although they are a type of parrot, and they do have the ability to mimic human speech, Lovebirds are not among those species that most would consider talking birds. This is because they very rarely decide to speak, and if they do choose to mimic a sound, more often than not they repeat simple noises such as whistles or household sounds such as doorbells and microwaves. It is not known why some Lovebirds are more prone to mimicking speech than others, but it is widely believed that those who do learn to talk are taught from a very young age.

#### 2. There are several types of Lovebirds.

There are many different types of Lovebirds. In fact, there are nine separate sub-species of these little parrots, each carrying their own distinct traits and characteristics. These include the Masked Lovebird, the Black-Cheeked Lovebird, the Fischer's Lovebird, The Nyasa Lovebird, the Swindern's Lovebird, the Red-Faced Lovebird, the Abyssinian Lovebird, the Madagascar Lovebird, and the most popular, the beloved Peach-Faced Lovebird. The Peach-Faced Lovebird can be identified by the rainbow of yellow, green, and blue on their bodies, and their bright peachy-pink faces. While the different types of Lovebirds have differences in

looks and temperament, on average, all of the Lovebirds will live for up to 20 years in captivity.

**3. Lovebirds are one of the smallest parrot species.** While they are true parrots, Lovebirds are one of the smallest members of the parrot family. On average, most Lovebirds fall between 5 and 7 inches in length at maturity, when measured from the beak to the end of the tail feathers. Their small size has worked to push their popularity among those who live in apartments and other small spaces. Many of these bird lovers have found it easier to house and care for these little birds instead of attempting to keep a larger parrot species such as a Macaw or a Cockatoo.

#### 4. Lovebirds are not always best kept in pairs.

It is a widely purported myth that you should never own a solitary Lovebird and that if they are not kept in pairs, they will die of depression. While it is true that they are extremely social birds who thrive on interaction and must be socially stimulated, in many cases, it is better for bird owners to keep single Lovebirds. This is because these birds breed readily in captivity, and most bird owners are not capable of caring for an entire family of parrots. It is also worth noting that birds kept in pairs tend to bond with each other and shun human interaction. Those who would like their bird to be affectionate and open to being handled by human hands have found that it's best to keep birds by themselves and devote as much time as possible to playing and socializing with them so that their needs are met.

**5. Lovebirds are very active.** Like all parrots, Lovebirds are extremely active birds that need quite a bit of exercise to stay in top physical condition. Those interested in adopting a Lovebird must be willing and prepared to give their feathered friend a bird-safe place to play outside of its cage for several hours per day. This will allow the bird to exercise all of the muscle groups that it needs to stay healthy, as well as provide important mental stimulation that these very intelligent animals need.

## Beak and Nail Care in Birds

By Rick Axelson, DVM; Updated by Laurie Hess, DVM  
Care & Wellness, Pet Services

### Do I need to be concerned about my bird's beak and nails?



Most wild birds are naturally very active during the day and normally sit on a huge variety of perches of varying diameters and textures in their environments. This variety of surfaces, along with ordinary preening and grooming behavior, wears down their nails so that they don't overgrow. Unfortunately, in captivity, birds typically have smooth surfaced perches, all of the same diameter. This lack of perch variability often results in decreased wear of nails and nail overgrowth. Without trimming, nails may become long and flaky. Overgrown nails may become caught or trapped on toys, clothing, or the cage and injure the bird.

*"It is never advisable to attempt to trim your bird's beak at home."*

The beak is a multipurpose organ used for eating, preening, grasping, climbing (like a third foot), self-defense, touching, playing, and communication. It is capable of great strength and gentle touch. The beak is constantly growing but tends to stay a relatively constant length, because the bird is always wearing it down at the tip as it eats, climbs, and plays. After a bird eats, you may see it wipe and clean its beak on an object in the cage such as a perch. This action helps wear down the beak. A bird may also grind its upper and lower beak together, which further wears down the beak. Providing your bird with pet-safe toys and chewing activities will not only help wear down the beak, but also provide hours of entertainment for your pet. As a rule, if a beak appears too long, your bird could have a health problem, such as liver disease, and it should be seen by your veterinarian. It is **NEVER** advisable to attempt to trim your bird's beak at home, as there is a large blood vessel running down the center of the beak that will bleed profusely if it is nicked.

A veterinarian familiar with birds will trim or grind the beak properly during regular health examinations if he or she feels it is needed.

### Can I trim my bird's nails at home?

Yes, but it is important to be careful when trimming the nails. The quick is the blood vessel and nerve that grows part way down the middle of each nail. The longer the nail, often the longer the quick. In light colored nails, the quick is visible as the pink area in the center of the nail. In dark or black nails, the quick is not visible. When cut, the quick may bleed profusely and it may be difficult to stop the blood flow. If you choose to attempt nail trims at home, you must have a clotting agent or styptic powder on hand. Ask your veterinarian about what clotting agents are safe for use in birds. In general, as birds preen their feet and ingest substances on the nails' surface, clotting agents and styptic powder should eventually be washed off the nails sometime after the bleeding has stopped.

*"Your veterinarian can trim the nails safely during regular health examinations and is prepared to deal with any bleeding should it occur."*

Small bird nails may be trimmed with a human nail clipper. Larger birds require a stronger dog nail scissor. Regardless of the instrument used to trim, the bird should be securely and safely restrained. The nail may be trimmed a little at a time to help lessen the chance of bleeding. It takes good judgment, patience, and practice to trim nails properly. If bleeding occurs, remain calm, restrain the bird safely and securely, and use finger pressure to pinch the toe (from side to side just before the nail). This will provide a tourniquet action so that you can apply a clotting agent or styptic powder into the cut end. Cornstarch or flour may be used in an emergency but is generally not as effective as a commercially available clotting product or styptic powder.

Your veterinarian can trim the nails safely during regular health examinations and is prepared to deal with any bleeding should it occur. Your veterinarian may use a special instrument called a cautery pen that has a loop on the end that becomes very hot and can cauterize (or cut with heat) the very tip of the nail, beyond the quick. Cautery pens are ideal because if the quick is hit, the nail will not bleed. Plus the heat of the cautery loop keeps the instrument sterile – free of bacteria and other microbes that could be transferred from bird to bird.

*Continued on page 5*

