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parrots magazine

PRESENTS



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SHOW GUIDE 2014



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Welcome to Think Parrots 2014



Dear Visitor,

Welcome to *Parrots* magazine's THINK PARROTS 2014 Show! We are now in our third year and growing all the time and this year we are delighted to be welcoming you all to Kempton Park Racecourse offering better facilities.

We appreciate very much, and would like to sincerely thank, everyone who has supported all three shows. We would also like to give special thanks to those that have travelled a long way to be here today. To those of you who are attending our different and unique parrot event for the first time, we offer a very warm welcome!

We are delighted that once again many of the UK's most reputable experts in their field are present, to give their support, advice and offer presentations on a wide range of topics. We would especially like to extend a huge welcome to *Parrots* magazine columnist and parrot behavioural expert, Sally Blanchard, who has flown in especially from the USA to attend and speak at this event.

This year we have three Masterclasses supported by Loro Parque. Peter Scott FRCVS will be speaking on first aid and the advances in avian medicine, and Rosemary Low will be giving the second talk on feather plucking. After the first two Masterclasses in the morning, top parrot trainer Mike Simmons from *A World of Wings* - with his wife Sarah and young son George - will be presenting their free-flying parrots in a brand new one hour show.

We also have an enhanced list of top exhibitors here today offering a wide range of products and services, with our Show sponsor, Northern Parrots, having a significant presence. We are extremely grateful to Mike Taylor and his team at Northern Parrots for their continued support, which has been instrumental in making this day and our annual THINK PARROTS Shows possible.

This annual event strongly endorses *Parrots* magazine's bid to support parrot owners in every aspect of parrot care, leading to a better understanding of our feathered friends. Our editor, Pauline James, has been instrumental in developing the magazine into a world respected publication, to whom we are indebted.

Keep up-to-date with what is going on in the parrot world and benefit from all the tips and great information provided by top parrot experts each month. Don't miss out! If you don't already subscribe to *Parrots* magazine take out an annual subscription today - at *Parrots* magazine's stand - and take advantage of the very special offers, available only at the Show today!

Our THINK PARROTS Show is for the true parrot enthusiast, and we hope you all have a very enjoyable, educational and memorable visit. Once again, thank you very much for coming, have a great day out (tell your friends) and we look forward to seeing you next year!

John Catchpole

Publisher, *Parrots* magazine and
THINK PARROTS SHOW organiser

Think Parrots 2014 Show: Presented by *Parrots* magazine • **Advertising Sales and PR:** Val Lawler

Show Organisers: John Catchpole & Val Lawler • **Show Guide design:** David Ransom

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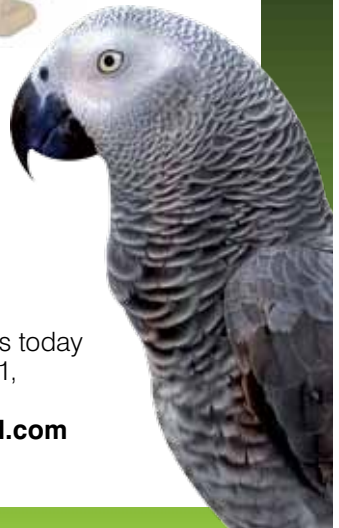
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Welcome from the Show's sponsor

Dear Visitor,

Northern Parrots is delighted to be here today, to support and be a part of *Parrots* magazine's third THINK PARROTS Show. We thoroughly endorse the objective of the Show, to promote responsibility through awareness and understanding, and improve the overall care and well-being of parrots in captivity. Knowledge is a powerful tool in enabling you to forge a deeper bond and better relationship with your birds.

We were greatly encouraged by the popularity of the first two shows and in particular the masterclasses run by top parrot experts. We sincerely hope everyone here today will leave feeling inspired to continue working at, and offering, an improved diet for their parrots, and providing lots of varied and stimulating enrichment opportunities on a daily basis.

Northern Parrots has been selling parrot supplies for around 20 years and during that time we've grown significantly, allowing us to provide an unrivalled range of accessories, to help keep your parrot happy, healthy and entertained – and all at great value prices!

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Enjoy the Show!

Mike Taylor

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The *Pyrrhura conure's* need for a fresh diet

Rosemary Low says:

Pyrrhura conures are a delight! They are so inquisitive, active and fearless. They can be recommended for breeders who do not want to keep birds in enclosed buildings, but enjoy seeing them in outdoor flights. They are noisy only when alarmed, perhaps by the presence of a cat or hawk. As companion birds, they are suitable only where they can fly daily in a room - because they love to fly and need to use up some of that boundless energy they possess.

These birds may be small, with an average length of 24cm (9.5in), but don't underestimate them - they are highly intelligent. They need a lot of stimulation to keep them contented, in the form of new items to gnaw, explore and play with. It is a lot of work to provide this. My advice is to keep a few birds, well, rather than lots of pairs which receive a boring, standardised diet, without lots of fresh and wild foods.

Like Rosie Tully in the Letters page of the April 2014

(195) issue, I was dismayed and saddened to read the article in the March 2014 issue (194) about the Blue-throated Conure. I was dismayed because the author (who had yet to breed this species) had totally misunderstood its dietary requirements. I was saddened at the thought of these birds existing predominantly on pellets with a small amount of parakeet mixture, some eggfood, which the author explained, "they absolutely love" and some fruit. They loved the eggfood because their preference is for soft foods.

The fact is, *Pyrrhura* conures eat hard foods such as pellets and seed because, in some hands, they would starve if they did not. However, they do greatly enjoy spray millet and hemp seed. Otherwise, if a wide variety of fresh foods is offered they eat very little seed and they would not touch pellets. I understand the use of pelleted foods for some of the larger parrots which would eat nothing else but sunflower seed, if given

the opportunity, but conures are not like this. They are extremely adventurous where food is concerned and will eat almost anything suitable that is fresh and was growing until a few minutes or hours previously.

If seeds must be fed, it goes without saying that sprouted seeds are dozens of times more healthy and beneficial. Even soaking sunflower seed is better than offering it dry as it is then softer and more digestible. This is more important than ever these days when, generally speaking, the quality of the sunflower that we buy is not as good as it used to be, as so much more of the crop is now used for human consumption in the form of sunflower oil...

* Read Rosemary's tips on how to give *Pyrrhura* conures the best possible diet in the rest of this article in the June 2014 issue (197).



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Masterclasses & Events Timetable

*Masterclasses are on the first floor.
Access by stairs and lift by main entrance.*

❖ **10.30 - 11.15: First aid and advances in avian medicine**

Speaker: **Peter Scott** FRCVS

Peter Scott FRCVS, who is a world respected avian vet and speaker, will be explaining about first aid with birds and the advances in avian medicine. Peter has developed a wide range of veterinary avian products that will be offered at the Show on the Vetark stand 9.

❖ **11.30 - 12.15: Feather plucking**

Speaker: **Rosemary Low**

Rosemary Low needs no introduction as an international speaker and expert on a wide variety of parrot issues. She will be talking about feather plucking and self-mutilation in parrots. As an author of many parrot books, she will also be offering a wide range at the Show and signing copies, stand 15.

❖ **1.00 - 2.00: Flying display**

Michael Simmons (Main Hall)

Mike Simmons has demonstrated at our two previous Think Parrots shows how parrots can be trained to free fly, and has put on amazing displays. We are delighted that Mike will be here again this year and will be presenting a one hour display at 1pm. Mike will also be available throughout the day to talk to visitors, stand 12.

❖ **2.30 - 4.00: Behavioural problems**

Speaker: **Sally Blanchard**

Sally Blanchard has for many years been the editor and publisher of the very popular "Pet Bird Report" and is a leading authority on bird behaviour. She is flying in from the USA exclusively to speak at Think Parrots 2014 and will be available throughout the day to speak to visitors on *Parrots* magazine stand 16.

(Schedule may vary slightly depending on circumstances)



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Boosting our parrots' immune systems

**Alan K Jones, BVetMed
MRCVS answers this
query:**

Q Alan Jones' answer regarding ABV/PDD in the April 2014 (195) issue was very helpful as I have just lost many companion parrots housed indoors with this virus. But I have a further question. When illness struck, our birds were in moult and therefore at a low ebb. What can we do in the future to give our surviving birds a boost at this time and make them less vulnerable to illness? All our birds are fed an excellent diverse diet including lots of fresh foods on a daily basis.

Karen Chudley, email

A The moulting process in birds is a very draining process in terms of energy and nutrients, with some 30 per cent increase in metabolic energy required. This means that a bird's immune system is weakened at this time and susceptibility to current or latent infections is therefore high.

A good "diverse diet including lots of fresh

foods" is a great start, but you do need to provide extra essential amino acids to manufacture the proteins required for the formation of keratin (the structural protein of feathers) and feather pigments. These may be given in the form of soya products, pulses, or cooked egg, chicken or fish, or small amounts of hard cheese. In addition, there are avian-specific supplements containing essential amino acids available from reputable companies like Birdcare, Vetark and Meadow's Animal Healthcare.

Calcium is an essential mineral needed for feather growth, this again may be provided in calcium-rich foods, or avian-specific supplements. Finally, in order to boost a bird's immune system, a good probiotic is useful - some people also recommend supplements containing garlic for the same reason. **AKJ**

* Read Alan's expert advice in every issue of *Parrots* magazine.



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Stefano Salles, a founding member of the Parrotlets Group UK which launched last summer through the Parrot Society UK, will be available once again at the THINK PARROTS show to answer any questions you may like to put to him on the care, general management and breeding of these very special miniature parrots.

Stefano is bringing some of his birds to the show and will have an aviary of parrotlets and mountain parakeets on display.

For more details: www.parrotletslondon.co.uk
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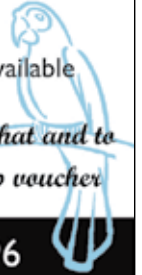
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The cause of most behavioural problems

Sally Blanchard advises:

Over the years I have done many in-home and telephone consultations and with most of them I was called because one of two behavioural problems became unbearable - biting and screaming. I usually ask how long these behaviours have been causing problems. The answer is often that they have been escalating for some time but have finally become too much for the callers. If I have been contacted about aggression, I ask the person if the parrot is also screaming. If they have called about screaming, I ask about biting. It is not unusual for the bird to be doing both, and there may be other more subtle behavioural problems too.

Behaviour problems come in clusters

At some point in my work with parrots, I realised that behavioural problems often come in clusters. Biting, excessive manipulative screaming, lack of curiosity, fear of new things, food rigidity, inability to play, repetitive behaviours such as foot biting or continually manipulating the

same item in the cage, phobic behaviour and behavioural feather picking are all examples, but a cage bound parrot, one-person bonding and mate bonding are not the problem. These negative behaviours are the symptoms of a larger problem - a bird in control of its life and doing a bad job of it.

While some parrots may seem to exhibit only one symptom, that is most likely the behaviour that causes the most problems for the people in the bird's life. The severity of that problem may overshadow other negative symptoms. Some people may not even realise that problem behaviours like food rigidity or one person bonding are symptoms associated with other problems they may be having.

For years I have written about my theory of nurturing guidance and how important it is in regard to a positive parrot/human bond. One of the root causes of the symptoms of behavioural problems is that parrots are still instinctively wild and have no idea how to live in our living rooms. However, young parrots in the wild depend on instruction from parents and flock members

to develop their social and survival skills. When they are our companions, our young companion parrots depend on us to teach them nurturing guidance. This way they learn the social skills that will keep them content in their homes and keep the people in their lives dedicated to their care.

When I do a consultation, the first aspect that I want to determine is if the parrot's owners have ever tried to provide guidance for their bird or understand how important it is. I believe that the less guidance the parrot has received, the more severe the behavioural problem symptoms are. Our parrots are very clever animals and will come up with their own behaviours if we don't give them the guidance they need to behave in ways that work for them and the people in their lives.

* For more guidance from Sally on nurturing and providing instructional interaction to badly behaved parrots, read the rest of this article in the May 2014 issue (196)



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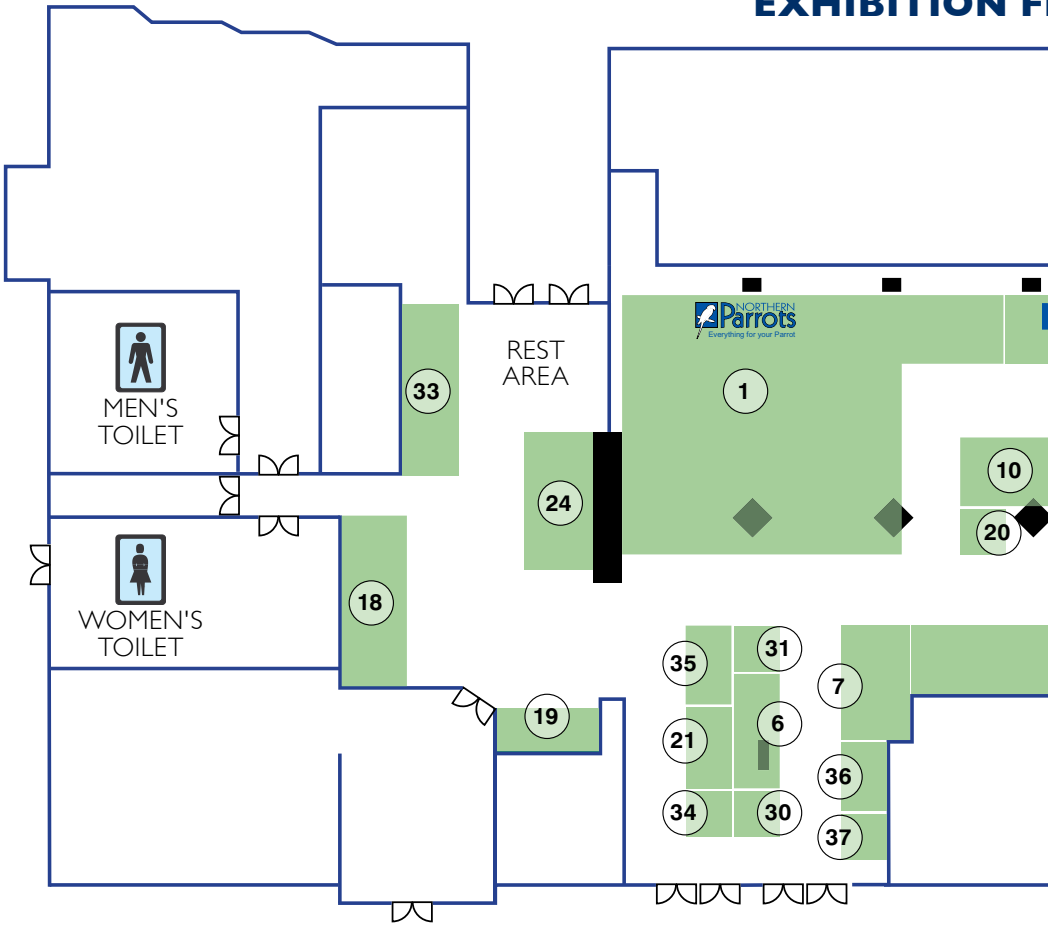


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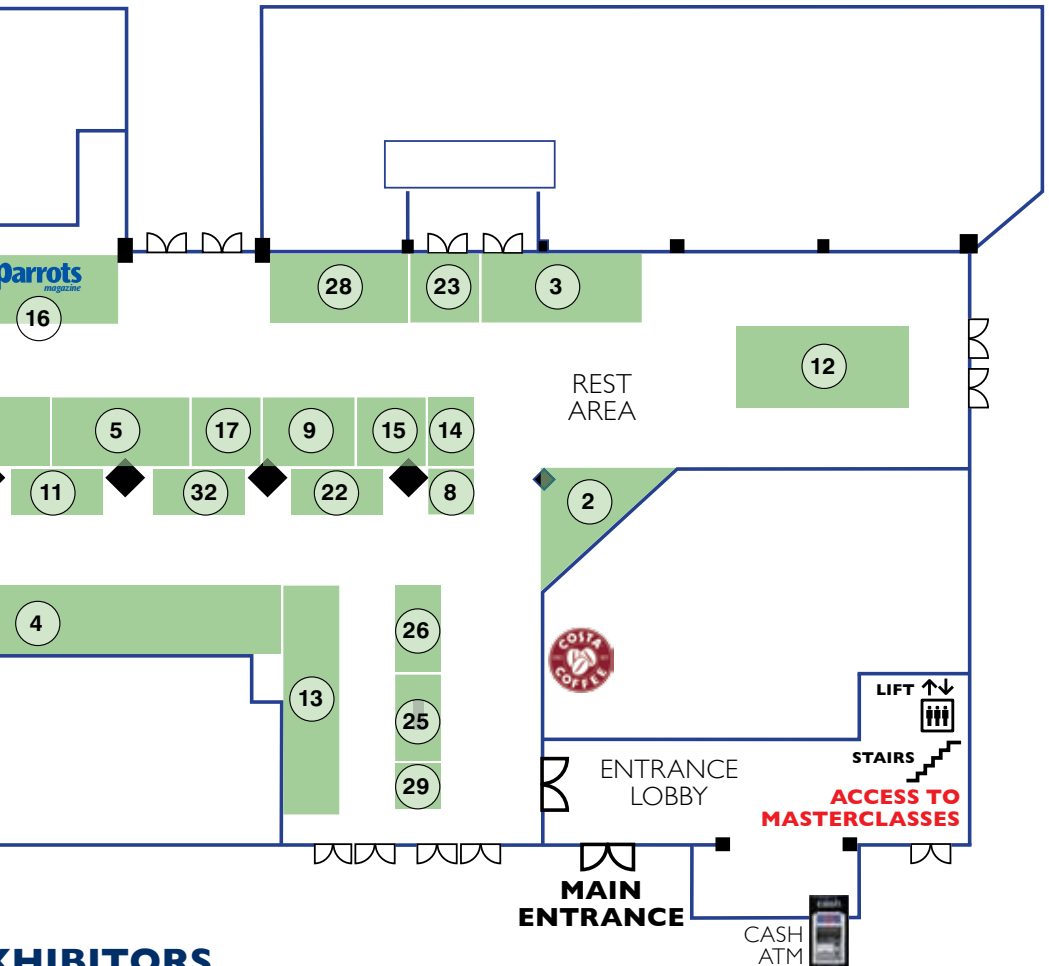


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Catering at the show

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ERICH SCHROTER – 35

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Email: eric.s134@ntlworld.com

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Safehaven Parrot Refuge Guinness Update

It is now just over a year since Guinness's surgery finished, having her leg amputated and a cataract removed from her eye. Our critics said she should have been put to sleep but if they saw her now, they would see that it would have been a tragic mistake.

Using body language she is able to tell you if she needs help in doing something like going out into the trees or going from the top of one cage to another, although she could do that herself taking about a minute. Being so disabled doesn't seem to have stopped her doing all the things she did before. Her wing was broken before she was bought from a market in the Amazon so she cannot fly. She is very affectionate to Paul, loves to be kissed, caressed or carried about. When he is cleaning the cages, she goes under them and regurgitates on his shoes saying "here y'are, here y'are".

All the time she is giving you the impression that she is very happy and is enjoying life to the full, not letting her disabilities get in her way. I would like to thank Paul Evans, Neil Forbes and Greg Simpson for the work they have done on her, giving her many more happy years and all the people who donated for these very expensive operations.

Christine Forman, Safehaven Parrot Refuge



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The 8th International Parrot Convention will be held again this year at Loro Parque in Tenerife from 22nd to 25th September. Nineteen speakers are scheduled to give presentations on a wide variety of topics including parrot keeping, breeding and conservation. Information and booking forms will be available on the stand.

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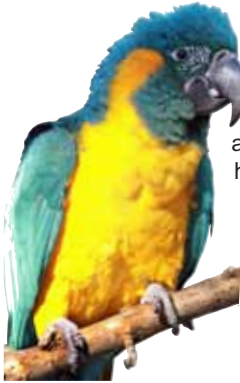
We are grateful to all at Parrots Magazine and the 'Think Parrots' event for giving us space to promote parrot conservation and welfare and for donating £576.68 for the World Parrot Trust from the 'Beaks n' Bobs' stand.

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OLIVER FRY – 20

Oliver will, again, be bringing his own companion African Greys and will be willing to speak about how he has cared for his birds, and the many different aspects and behaviour of African Grey parrots.

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ROSEMARY LOW – 15

Email: rosemary.low@virgin.net

Rosemary is a former curator of birds at Loro Parque and Palmitos Parque in the Canaries, and an author of many books on parrots and parakeets. Rosemary will be speaking on feather plucking and can advise on many avian topics.



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STEFANO SALLES – 8

Tel: 0208 7690562

Email: londonparrotlets@yahoo.co.uk

Stefano is co-founder of a brand new Parrotlet group, has written articles on parrotlets and will be bringing some of his birds to the show where he will be happy to provide advice and help.

THE PARROT SOCIETY – 21

Tel: 01442 872245

Email: les.rance@theparrotsocietyuk.org

Web: www.theparrotsocietyuk.org

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UMBERTO MONTEFUSCO (MONTY) – 34

Tel: 0208 5721517

Monty will again be bringing his Amazons to display and talk about to visitors, providing a great deal of information about this popular species.

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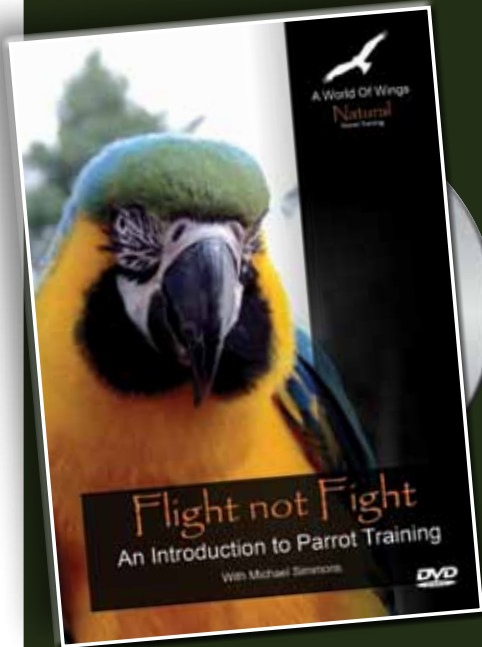


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July 2014 issue

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writes about her experiences with
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EB Cravens

discusses how easy it is to increase the
level of care we give our parrots

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Leslie Moran researches
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The latest parrot news
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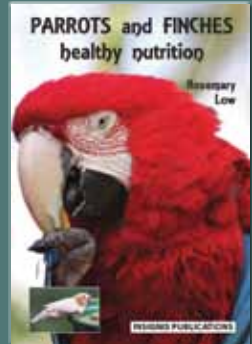
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EB Cravens asks: Would your birds like being outdoors?

Temperatures are warming up all across the country, and it seems like an opportune time to talk about one of my favourite subjects -outdoors time for our pet parrots.

April has a 20-year-old pet Noble Macaw named Forrest who journeyed with her when she moved to Hawaii, and it is not surprising, Forrest is her favourite companion parrot - despite her being a committed feather plucker.

Every day when April heads off to work, Forrest and I spend mornings together getting chores done, computer mail answered, bird food prepared and so forth. Yet seldom, will our little Noble

Macaw hen endure being in the house past 9:30am, even if it is cloudy and blustery outdoors. For once the Amazon flock, out behind the mango orchard, begins their vociferous contact calling, Forrest insistently begs to be carried outside and placed in her 1.2m (4ft) play cage hung next to the South American parrot aviary flights. She loves that secure, sheltered, enclosure with the branching tree boughs, the cardboard play box, the large bathing dish and the view of all the caged psittacines, and the wild birds' comings and goings!

This is certainly a far cry from the way Forrest was

originally kept: indoors, in a powder-coated cage, amidst store-bought toys and chewable playthings. Moreover, once she began to get a taste of the ultraviolet rays of sunshine, wind, occasional rain showers, greenery to hide in, and watching the other free birds flitting around the yard, she was captivated. Oh sure, Forrest still wants to come inside to sleep, covered, in her bathroom carry cage.

* If you would like to read more about the reaction of EB's birds to being securely take outside, read the rest of his article in the April 2014 issue (195)

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