

AUGUST 2022

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# AVIAN FLYER STAFF

## EDITOR

Beth Murphy

## WRITERS & CONTRIBUTORS

Sandy Foote-Gregory  
Carol Groenevelt  
Beth Murphy  
Dan Pitney

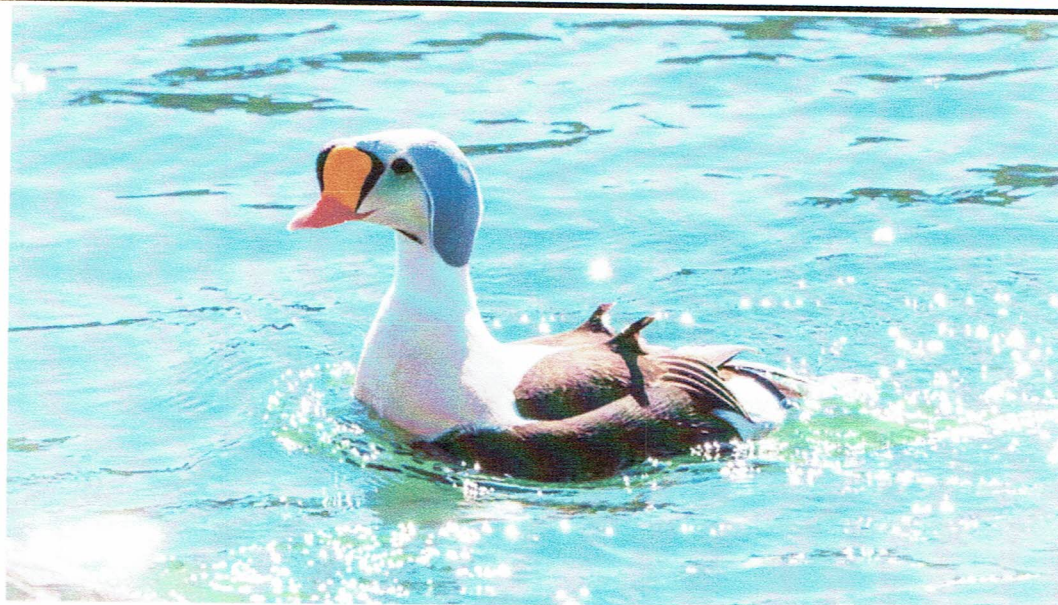
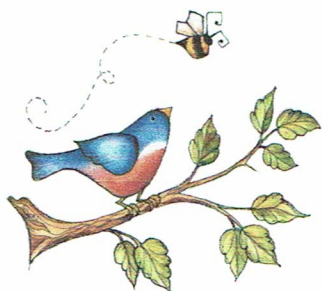
## PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTION

Beth Murphy

ARTICLES, ADS AND PHOTOS  
ARE WELCOME  
AND ENCOURAGED!

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Male King Eider Ducks in breeding season are sensational, with a lot going on in terms of both color and form. They are pale blue from the forehead to the nape of the neck, with pale green cheeks and a bright yellow-orange frontal lobe framed inside a black outline. All this, and a red bill, too. It's almost too much, but then they've got what looks like little "sails" on their backs, formed from special wing feathers. With a plumage this crazy, they would fit into a cartoon bird family perfectly!

## AUGUST IS UPON US

and the outdoors feels like "Arid-zona" much of the time!

This issue features an article about how birds could help us with antibodies to our dreaded and famous disease—Covid 19. There is a multi-page article about readying your birds for our show, which is rapidly approaching. There are two articles this month written by Dr. Laura Wade, one about toxic metals and how our birds might be exposed to them, and another about avian borna virus and how it impacts parrots in particular.

Dan Pitney is not able to be with us this month, so we will not have the ZOOM component at our meeting. Many members have really enjoyed how it increases their ability to be involved and we thank Dan for his continued efforts on that front.

I have 2 trios of button quail that I

would love to give to anyone who would like to have them. They are so adorable but I just have too many at the moment. Text me at 503-515-5206 if you would like me to bring them to the meeting for you.

Keep cool and hope your summer is safe and full of some fun events!  
Beth Murphy

## SAVE THE DATE!!!

Our Annual Show will be a one day show this year, on Saturday October 29th at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem.

## WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION!!



## 2022 Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Sandra Foote-Gregory</b>	<b>503-792-3582</b>	<b>sfoote@xpressdata.net</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Maymelle Wong</b>	<b>503-459-8213</b>	<b>mmwong@easystreet.net</b>
<b>Show Chair</b>	<b>Dan Pitney</b>	<b>503-866-9524</b>	<b>dspitney@gmail.com</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Michelle Senior</b>	<b>503-709-3607</b>	<b>oceaniafinches@gmail.com</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Carol Groenevelt</b>	<b>360-954-5005</b>	<b>canarypalace@comcast.net</b>
<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Hector Diaz</b>	<b>503-569-6119</b>	<b>diazf47@msn.com</b>
	<b>Cynthia Nelson</b>	<b>503-246-4041</b>	<b>cynthia.nelson@comcast.net</b>
	<b>Bill Zinke</b>	<b>503-253-3832</b>	<b>billsbirdhouse@aol.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>Sharon McCadam</b>	<b>360-391-4483</b>	<b>firacres@comcast.net</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	<b>Beth Murphy</b>	<b>503-515-5206</b>	<b>thedovenest@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Librarian:</b>	<b>Debbie</b>		
<b>Program Chairman:</b>	<b>Sandra Foote-Gregory</b>	<b>503-792-3582</b>	<b>sfoote@xpressdata.net</b>
<b>Website Coordinator:</b>	<b>Sharon McCadam</b>	<b>360-428-3600</b>	<b>firacres@comcast.net</b>
<b>Facebook:</b>	<b>Michelle Senior</b>	<b>503-709-3607</b>	<b>oceaniafinches@gmail.com</b>



Hello, Everyone!

Our July picnic has come and is now gone. It was another great time to be together with so many people who love birds. Sorry for anyone who missed a time to get to know each other better. Members came from all over Oregon and Washington. Dan Pitney and his wife were great host ad hostess. They were so welcoming. The yard and gardens were so peaceful we didn't want the day to stop. Plus there were yard games set up and tours of three ovaries Dan has set up.

The food was delicious as usual. Besides raising great birds our member can cook. Dan's chicken was more than one of the best. I just wish I had brought some home. Talking about taking home, there were birds and supplies at the picnic that was shared. Our members are very thoughtful.

There was a very short business meeting that is required in the by-laws. Dan shared where we are with the show set up. Volunteers are always welcome.

Summer has finally arrive and it looks like we need to stay cool. I thought that I would never say that after waiting so long for summer to start warming up instead of raining.

At our next meeting Hector will share how to ship birds that have been sold. It seems to work very well. Diana has signed up to share her bird experience. Refreshments will be provided by Randi and Mary. Meeting will be Saturday, August 13th with the Board at 1:30 pm, Show Committee at 2:00 pm and the Regular Meeting at 2:30 pm.

We will be looking for a couple of volunteers for a nomination team who will be looking for volunteers for next years CCC Officers. The club needs the ideas each of us to have to club which can meet the needs of many. New volunteers will be helped by others in the club who have served so well. REMEMBER: We need you.

*Sandy*



## BIRDS IN THE NEWS

### COVID-19 ANTIBODIES FROM EGGS

Researchers at the University of California, Davis, have been able to produce antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein in hen eggs. Antibodies harvested from eggs might be used to treat COVID-19 or as a preventative measure for people exposed to the disease. The work was published July 9 in the journal *Viruses*.

"The beauty of the system is that you can produce a lot of antibodies in birds," said Rodrigo Gallardo, professor in poultry medicine, Department of Population Health and Reproduction at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. "In addition to a low cost to produce these antibodies in hens, they can be updated very fast by using updated antigens to hyperimmunize hens, allowing protection against current variant strains."

Birds produce a type of antibody called IgY, comparable to IgG in humans and other mammals. IgY does not cause allergy or set off immune reactions when injected into humans. IgY appears both in birds' serum and in their eggs. As a hen lays about 300 eggs a year, you can get a lot of IgY, Gallardo said.

Gallardo and colleagues immunized hens with two doses of three different vaccines based on the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein or receptor binding domain. They measured antibodies in blood samples from the hens and in egg yolks three and six weeks after the last immunization.

Purified antibodies were tested for their ability to block coronavirus from infecting human cells at the National Center for Biodefense and Infectious Diseases at George Mason University in Virginia.

Both eggs and sera from immunized hens contained antibodies that recognized SARS-CoV-2. Antibodies from serum were more effective in neutralizing the virus, probably because there is more antibody in blood overall, Gallardo said.

Gallardo is working with colleagues Daria Mochly-Rosen at Stanford University and Michael Wal-

Gallardo is working with colleagues Daria Mochly-Rosen at Stanford University and Michael Wallach, University of Technology, Sydney, to develop the egg-based antibody technology. The team hopes to deploy these antibodies in a preventative treatment such as a spray, that could be used by people at high risk of exposure to coronavirus.

Additional authors on the paper are Emily Aston, UC Davis Department of Animal Science; Aarthi Narayanan, National Center for Biodefense and Infectious Diseases; and Sofia Egaña-Labrin, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. The work was supported by the School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis, Stanford University and poultry producers in the state of California.

(FROM: *ScienceDaily* - July 13, 2022)

#### July's Treasurer's Report:

Income:

Membership: \$25.

Expenses: 56.29

Ending Bank Balance: \$13,340.36





## PREPARING BIRDS FOR SHOW

By: Ron Castaner (USA)

Now is a good time to take a good look at the birds and select which bird (or birds) you might want to consider entering the show. Look at the size, color, feathers, and disposition of the bird. Check their feet for any missing toes or toe nails, put these aside they will not be show quality. Make sure they stand up correctly, high and proud of themselves. Start cleaning their feet with ivermectin, file their beaks if necessary and make sure to bathe them at least twice a week, early in the morning. The diet should be varied, but not too rich in soft foods. Otherwise, the birds may become obese and lethargic.

Selected birds are caged separately in order to eliminate the risk of damaged feathers or other possible injuries. You will have to examine the birds daily to see if they are still of show quality. Anything can happen, and probably will. That is why it is best to select several of the same kinds, so you can put back any that should suddenly lose a feather, or a toe nail, etc. Using a small spray bottle with an adjustable nozzle, (the ones used to mist house plants are great), add distilled water and spray the birds. Make sure to remove all food containers before spraying. Also, make sure cage is clean, to avoid the risk of the bird soiling its' plumage. The best time to spray them is the late morning so they have plenty of time to dry off before roosting for the night. As the birds come into show condition spraying is reduced to a fine mist, which is just enough to dampen the feathers. Two days before the show stop misting altogether allowing the feathers to tighten up and the natural oil to build up, adding a sheen and better look of conditioning.

The preparation cage should be relatively small with two perches. Position one on top and one near the cage floor. I use a regular breeding cage, and this seems to work well for me. As the show date gets closer the perches are placed at the same level so the birds become use to the

configuration of the show cages. Normally the show cage for the small finches' measures fifteen and a half inches long by twelve and a half inches high by seven and a half deep. Bar spacing between front wires is half an inch. For the larger birds in the finch category the cage would of course be larger say for example the Pekin Robin.

Show cage training should start early by hanging show cages in front of the preparation cage door and providing treats and greens inside the show cage. This will encourage the birds to enter and they will soon learn that there is always something special inside the show cage. This method not only has the advantage of making the bird feel at home, but the main idea is the bird can come in and out of the show cage without being caught. This will prevent the risk of damaging feathers or other injury to the bird.

The bird should spend the day before the show in their show cage. They should be moved around the bird room to simulate the movement and the handling that occurs during the show. Also, do not be afraid to go in and out of the bird room. Create traffic and noise so they can get use to people, noise and any other Activity. Breeders quickly realize that exhibiting birds requires more than just taking birds from an aviary or stock cage and put them in a show .To get the best results out of their birds, they must have some training, as to how to behave in show cages. Exhibiting is another aspect of aviculture that helps the breeder improve the standard of the stock, and promote healthy spirit of competition among members of local and nationwide clubs.

The cages must be spotless, the exterior, including the wire fronts is painted with a glossy black, and these should shine. The interior is painted with the appropriate vinyl silk emulsion and should also have a shine to them. There should not be any spots or dirt anywhere. The perches are cleaned with sand paper and made sure they fit tight. No wobbly perches, this makes the bird nervous and he will not perch

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comfortably. Be sure there are not any water containers inside the cage. Use only external water tubes, glass or plastic. The last thing you want is to have a bird all wet from bathing in the middle of the competition. Also, and I cannot emphasize this enough, DO NOT USE COLORED SEED IN THE SHOW CAGES. USE PLAIN SEED!!! All it takes is for one colored seed to turn a light colored bird red or green and it could lower its' chance in the competition. Seed containers are not normally used as they would tend to slide around when being carried to and from the judging stand. Generally, what everyone does is put a layer of seed on the floor of the show cage. I have found that by putting a piece of paper towel on the bottom folded to fit and not noticeable then place the seed on top. It is much easier to clean afterwards. Just be sure to use the plain seed. It's time to load up for the show. Be sure to remove the water tubes just till you get to the show. I personally use storage boxes and put five or six cages to a box. I have seen a lot of other folks use the same method and it is a lot easier than carrying individually. This also keeps them free from draft, easier to carry and keeps them from sudden fright.

Be sure to bring extra seed, water tubes, and extra water. I bring a whole kit of things I just might need. A large and a small net. I have had birds get out in our room when transferring them to the show cages. Magnifying glasses, sand paper, tweezers, paper towel, 0 tips, first aid kit that contains surgical glue, nail clippers, liquid vitamin b-12, stop, scissors, eye medication, and last but not least a pen and pencil. You do not have to bring all of this, but you would be surprised how many times I have saved someone else's bird or even my own. Accidents will happen, so be prepared.

#### WHAT ARE THE JUDGES LOOKING FOR?

The judges will be looking for size, shape, and color, also the general condition plays a part as well as perfect, fully developed plumage.

Damaged or missing feathers are considered faults, also a sign of an incomplete molt, no matter how small they are. Birds must perch in a confident and proud manner. They must also give every impression of being lively and active without fluttering nervously around the cage. Pairs must be chosen so that they compliment each other and must be of the same variety. Make sure the bands of all show birds are clean.

#### THE NIGHT BEFORE THE SHOW:

I like to get everything set up the night before the show. Usually there is a room set up so you can pay for the bird registration and get the tags for the cages plus all of the paper work. The paper work is not very bad; it just depends on the number of birds you intend to show. I bring a book of reference on the finches so I have the correct spelling etc. Each bird goes into a category. You are given a booklet of the categories and you just look up your bird and fill in the blanks. Fill out the tag that is pre numbered with tag numbers. Fill out the type of bird in the cage you are working with, put your name on the bottom of the tag and tie it to the cage. Your name will be concealed so the judges and the galley have no idea whose bird they are looking at. By doing all the paper work the night before the show saves time for everyone and also gives more time for someone who needs help. If there is a question on a bird species or anything else, there are always other club members you can ask and will be happy to help.

#### THE DAY OF THE SHOW:

When you arrive at the show you unload your birds and line them up on a table, return the water bottles to the cages, check over the birds one last time. Any broken feathers, all feathers in place, any seed stuck where it should not? Okay, now the stewards (the handlers for the judge) look over your paper work and make sure the cages and birds match up, and they are correctly labeled. Making sure, for instance, what you called a shafttail is just that and not a

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parson and so on. If everything is correct, you will be given the copy of the form that is usually yellow. Be sure to hold on to this copy. It will be the only way for you to claim and pick up your birds at the end of the show. After they are all checked in (this procedure is repeated for everyone), the judge takes what is called an over view just to see that each bird is in the right category. After that is completed the show and the judging begins. Hopefully, at the end of the show, all your hard work will have paid off and you will have BEST IN SHOW. But if not, please do not be discouraged. There are other awards equally as important. But best of all, we all love getting together and seeing our friends who in some way have become an extended part of our families. We all come away with a good feeling of accomplishment, and perhaps learning something that can help us in our future shows. You always come away with new friends and a good time is had by one and all. The best of luck to every one. Please do not be afraid to show your birds. Come be involved!



### THINGS YOU MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE BALD EAGLE

Bald eagles carry the heaviest loads of any bird—up to 15 pounds.

Fish make up over 50% of every bald eagle's diet.

68% of bald eagle deaths are caused by humans.

Bald eagles build the largest tree nests of any bird, and their nests can weigh up to 2,000 pounds, (1 ton).

Bald eagles can have a wing span of up to 6 feet, and up to 8 feet if they live in Alaska.

Bald eagles can reach 100 mph in a dive.

Of course, bald eagles aren't actually bald. That is short for "piebald," which is defined as "having irregular patches of two colors, typically black and white." It takes 5 years for a young eagle to get the white head feathers and become an adult.

The iconic "scream" of the bald eagle that you hear in the movies is actually that of a red tailed hawk. The bald eagle has a more chirpy, almost giggling call. Don't believe it? Watch a video, and you will see why the red tail hawk is substituted!

A bald eagle's talons are very strong and their estimated gripping power is TEN times greater than a human!

Bald Eagles Rebounded from 412 Nesting Pairs in 1952 to 9,789 in 2006.

According to federal law, it's illegal to take a feather shed from an eagle. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 prohibits the possession of eagle feathers by non-Native Americans. Anyone convicted of violating the law could face a fine of up to \$100,000 and a year in jail.



# TOXIC METALS

Laura Wade, DVM, Dipl ABVP (Avian)

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Several metals, when ingested, are toxic to birds. These include the heavy metals (lead and mercury) and trace minerals (zinc, copper, iron). This paper discusses clinical signs, disease processes, treatment and common sources of lead and zinc, the two most common toxic metals in veterinary medicine today. Diagnosis of metal toxicoses includes a complete history, routine blood tests, x-rays and toxicologic analysis. Sometimes metal pieces will be visible on an x-ray, but not consistently.

Paramount in the creation of a safe home for your pet includes vigilant inspection of all items it may come into contact with. Carefully read all package inserts to see if the product may contain hazardous chemicals. Don't assume that any item is safe, even if it is manufactured for birds or the label says it is free of toxins.

## ZINC TOXICOSIS

Zinc is a trace metal that plays an essential role in many biologic processes. It is necessary for the action of many enzymes and normal vitamin A activity. However, increased amounts of zinc may be toxic.

Zinc salts have a direct irritant and corrosive effect on tissues. Severe effects are seen in chronic zinc foreign bodies, which cause stomach ulceration. Aside from the gastrointestinal tract, zinc also directly damages the pancreas, kidney and liver.

Excessive zinc interferes with iron and copper metabolism and inhibits normal red blood cell production and function. In some cases, zinc causes massive red blood cell rupture, known as hemolytic anemia.

Signs of zinc toxicosis are usually non-specific. They may include: a dull appearance, listlessness, and loss of appetite, regurgitation, feather picking, seizures and sudden death. Signs appear similar to lead toxicosis. Diagnosis of zinc toxicosis is often challenging, as birds usually do not become sick until days to weeks after exposure.

Zinc toxicosis is not uncommon in domestic animals. If diagnosed early and treated aggressively, the prognosis is often favorable. Zinc can be removed or chelated by injectable CaEDTA and oral D-penicillamine. Unlike lead toxicosis, DMSA does not effectively chelate zinc. Eliminating environmental exposure is important in preventing recurrence.

### Common Sources of Zinc

- Galvanized wire (many imported bird cages)
- Window screens
- Some powder-coated toys & cages
- Quick-links
- Twist-tie wires
- Pennies minted after 1982
- Paperclips, staples
- Duct tape
- Monopoly™ game pieces (98% zinc)
- Screws, bolts, washers, chains
- Zipppers and zipper pulls (some)



## LEAD TOXICOSIS

Lead poisoning in humans has been recognized for thousands of years and has been implicated in historic effects such as the decline of ancient Rome. Also known as plumbism (derived from the Latin word for lead, *plumbum*), lead toxicosis most likely caused many of the mental disorders noted in Roman citizens. Contaminated drinking water from lead pipes was found to be the source.

Lead is a heavy metal that has no physiologic benefit in living systems. Today, lead poisoning is common in pet birds, wild birds (especially waterfowl) and human children. It is estimated that up to 2-3% of the wild population of ducks and geese die annually in North America from ingestion of lead shot. Paint from older buildings (built prior to 1970) often contains substantial amounts of lead, a common source in children.

Lead absorbed from the stomach is distributed by red blood cells to soft tissues causing damage to the gastrointestinal tract, nervous system and kidney. Lead causes anemia by increasing fragility and premature destruction of red blood cells and suppressing bone marrow.

Signs of lead toxicosis are usually non-specific. They may include: lethargy, loss of appetite, regurgitation, green or bloody diarrhea, seizures and sudden death. Signs often appear similar to zinc toxicosis.

If diagnosed early and treated aggressively, the prognosis is often favorable. Lead can be removed or chelated by injectable CaEDTA, oral D-penicillamine, oral DMSA or oral dimercaprol. Eliminating environmental

exposure is important in preventing recurrence.

The body ultimately attempts to store lead in the bone, where it is quiescent. However, there have been cases of recurrence in female birds that are reproductively active. This is because these hens are mobilizing calcium to and from the bone (in preparation for egg lay). Lead that has been stored may leached out into the bloodstream along with the calcium at a later date.

### Common Sources of Lead

- Batteries
- Costume jewelry
- Weights (curtains, fishing, diving/sailing)
- Galvanized wire (some)
- Hardware cloth
- Linoleum
- Mirror backings
- Paint (varnishes, lacquers), paint tubes
- Pewter (some)
- Plaster & putty
- Solder
- Seams from ornaments, stained glass
- Tiffany lamps
- Champagne and wine bottle foils (some)
- Shotgun & air rifle pellets
- Light bulb bases
- Imported glazed ceramics
- Lubricants (lead naphthalate)



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## Avian Borna Virus and Your Parrot

by Laura Wade, DVM, ABVP (Avian), Bob Dahlhausen, DVM, MS  
and Susan Orosz, DVM, ABVP, ECZM (Avian)

Previously unknown, Avian Borna Virus has been recently identified in parrots suffering from proventricular dilatation disease (PDD).

1. This novel virus is currently being studied intensively by a number of experts in the field and is thought to be the most common virus affecting companion parrots today.

2. In fact, it has been shown that about 40% of clinically healthy birds may be positive for Borna virus. However, not all birds infected with Borna virus will develop PDD. The incidence of PDD is much less prevalent. The majority of infected birds are clinically normal.

At the present time, it is not entirely clear how birds acquire Borna virus. Since it has been found in feces, the "fecal-oral" route is suspected. Infections may also be acquired through the nasal and other sensory epithelium. Because young birds have been found to be positive from artificially incubated eggs, it is suspected that infection may even occur in the egg while still in the hen's body. Borna virus is an RNA virus and is highly unstable in the environment. Therefore, routine disinfection (including 1:20 bleach and water) and good hygiene is likely to reduce risk of infection. There is currently no vaccine for Borna virus. Blood testing can be done by your avian veterinarian.

Healthy birds that are positive for Borna virus should be monitored for development of neurologic or gastrointestinal signs and feather/skin damaging behavior. Stress is thought to play a role in the development of clinical disease. As for any healthy bird, routine veterinary evaluations are recommended. This is especially important in birds that test positive. Nutrition should be optimized and

body weight should be monitored.

Birds that develop PDD should receive proper veterinary care. There are several treatments that have been shown to improve the quality of life of (and in some circumstances, cure) affected individuals. There is still a lot that we don't know about Borna virus in birds. It appears that avian Borna virus does not grow in mammalian cells, so disease in humans is thought to not occur. In summary, it appears that 1 in 3 healthy parrots may be infected with Borna virus. Although Borna virus is associated with PDD, most birds with Borna virus will lead normal lives.



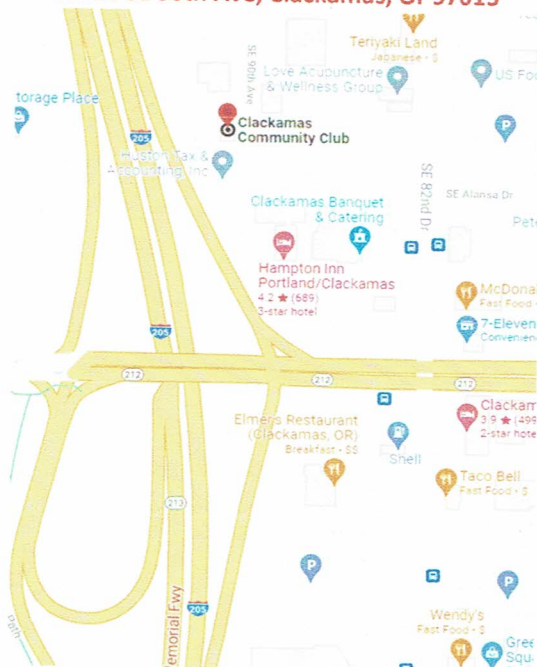
The Marabou Stork from Africa is considered likely to be the ugliest bird in the world, yet Disney "cleaned it up" and featured it in The Lion King movie! Look to try to recognize it when you see the movie!



**AUGUST MEETING**
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 13th, 2022**
**Board—1:30 pm / Show Committee—2 pm**
**General Meeting —2:30 pm**
**Zoom will not be available this month.**
**Hector will share how to ship birds that have been sold.**
**Diana has signed up to share her bird experience.**
**Refreshments will be provided by Randi and Mary.**
**DIRECTIONS TO CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY CLUB**

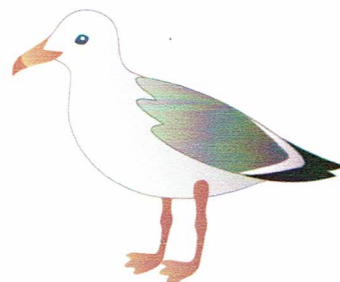
**FROM THE SOUTH:** I-205 North to Exit 12 for OR-212 E toward OR-224 E/Damascus/Estacada. Use middle lane to turn right onto OR-212 E. Turn left at the 1st cross street onto SE 82nd Drive. Turn left onto SE St. Helens Street. Turn left onto SE 90th Avenue. Destination will be on the left after a right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

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


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

Hope you gulls  
 and buoys  
 are having a wonderful  
 summer!



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