



Sanctuary Happenings

Capital Campaign Taking Flight! #RaiseTheRoost!!

We are very excited to announce that soon we will be officially launching our ambitious capital campaign to raise the funding necessary to build and operate a cockatoo sanctuary that will provide lifetime care for cockatoos, as well as other



Markus Gebauer Photography
<http://www.markusgebauer.com/>

parrots. Our focus remains on providing the best life possible for our feathered residents and for those yet to come. Our goal is to create indoor/outdoor habitats to meet the special needs of cockatoos, where our residents will be able to fly, forage and flock with others of their own kind and of their own choosing. For those birds unable to join a flock, their individual needs will be accommodated accordingly. This move will expand our ability to help many more cockatoos who are in desperate need of a safe, lifelong place to roost.

So stay tuned for updates by checking your inbox and our website at <https://icarusfoundation.org/>, and by following us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/icarusfoundation/> and on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/chesapeakeparrotsanctuary/>

Our Sanctuary's Response to COVID-19

Our hearts go out to everyone affected by the new coronavirus. Although, thankfully, no one in our organization has become ill with COVID-19, sadly two of our volunteers were laid off from their jobs, with one resuming her employment this past week.

All of our birds are doing well. Here at the sanctuary, we are following CDC guidelines. We are utilizing only a handful of our volunteer staff to keep possible exposure to the virus to a minimum. Each volunteer is required to self-monitor, wash their hands immediately upon arrival, as well as periodically throughout their shift. Surfaces in common areas are regularly disinfected. We are all practicing physical distancing and wearing face coverings when working in proximity. Also, we are not allowing any visitors at this time, nor are we interviewing or training new volunteers.

Working with a skeleton crew means that there is less time for emails and social media posts and interactions. Please understand if your emails and contact forms are not answered right away.



We were unable to hold our Spring Yoga in the Yard fundraiser and are not currently planning any public fundraising events until it is safe to do so, but we still must continue to raise the funds necessary for the care of our precious feathered flock.

Thanks to ALL of our wonderful supporters, who have continued to donate even with the economy taking a nose dive! We hope you know just how much we appreciate, and need, your very generous Facebook Birthday fundraisers! Above all, **we extend our deepest appreciation to our awesome parrot sponsors** who continue to donate monthly, as well as send toys and food. **THANK YOU!!!** ❤️

All of us at Icarus wish you and your families well, and hope that you remain safe, healthy, and hopeful through these uncertain and trying times. ~ *Christi Richter, Executive Director*

Welcome, Guildy the Goffin's!

A huge **THANK YOU** goes out to all of our incredible supporters who so generously donated to cover the costs of Guildy's veterinary expenses and his first year of care at our sanctuary!! You really came through for this special little guy! Guildy is a 30+ year old Goffin's cockatoo who lived his entire life with his human companion who loved him dearly. Guildy had been through a lot over the last couple of years as his human companion's health steadily declined; and over the last 10 months on his journey from home to home. Please make sure you have a plan for your bird(s) in case something happens to you. Many parrot species have lives that can span beyond that of their caregivers. If you are the primary caregiver of a bird, be sure to include instructions for the care of your bird in your will, and have a plan for your bird in the case of an emergency or illness that may keep you from being able to care for your bird.

The following link is a great place to start planning for your feathered companion's future:

<http://www.avianwelfare.org/needhelp/estate.htm>



Guildy

From a Sponsor's Perspective

Article by *Brittney de Vicq, -Tico's Sponsor*

Although I've been a lifelong animal lover, adopting numerous cats and dogs over the years, I never had much contact with parrots, and I knew very little about them. So how did I end up sponsoring a parrot? As with so many things, I can blame my



Tico, Blue-fronted amazon

husband for that. He has had an interest in parrots for a long time and over the years he stubbornly introduced me to many of the different parrot species, until I too became captivated. Like the bird version of Goldilocks, I found Macaws beautiful but too big, Cockatoos fascinating but too loud. Amazons with their quieter demeanor, mischievous intelligence and subtle differences in plumage became my favorite.

When I learned that the Icarus Foundation was looking for people to sponsor, it seemed like a great opportunity to help my favorite parrot species in a small way. Reading the bios on the website, Tico's story and age stood out to me. My husband had fostered an orange winged amazon for a short time many years ago, so

that sealed the deal. We began sponsoring Tico over Christmas.

More than a year later, I can say that it has been a great experience! We have visited Tico a couple of times, and Christi sends regular video updates of Tico and his BFF, Sonny. Christi and her team of volunteers do an incredible job with limited resources and it is so gratifying to see Tico, Sonny and the rest of the Icarus flock live their



Brittney giving treats to Tico and his best friend, Sonny.

lives in such a loving and caring environment. If you are looking for a unique and meaningful gift for someone special, or as a treasured gift for yourself please consider sponsoring one of The Icarus Foundation's sanctuary birds!

If you would like to become a sponsor like Brittney and play a very important role, not only in the life of a precious feathered soul, but also in the sanctuary's journey on the road to sustainability, please visit our website at <https://icarusfoundation.org/sponsor-a-parrot> We would love to welcome you as a member of our sanctuary family!

To see our residents who are currently available for sponsorship, please visit our website at <https://icarusfoundation.org/our-sponsor-birds>

Volunteer Perspectives

Article by Jessica Graves, Volunteer



The benefits of volunteering are boundless. You make new friends, contribute to a cause and create memories. I heard of a need for volunteers at a house of birds and thought, "How is that possible?" I discovered that it was very possible!



Volunteer, Jess and Sonnybird

I began volunteering for the Chesapeake Parrot Sanctuary in 2017 with Nancy LeMay, aiding in the sorting and distribution of organic produce to supply the proper diet for the birds. On my first day of volunteering I entered the sanctuary and was overwhelmed by every pitch and frequency of bird communication. I stood awash in sounds I had never encountered. After a thorough introduction to sanctuary protocol, I was introduced to every bird by Christi. It was thrilling seeing their exotic colorings and distinct personalities for the first time. I have a few favorites now and I am honored when any of the birds offer a head to

scratch or a foot to stroke.

A memory I will cherish most is when I met Pippin, an umbrella cockatoo. I gently approached his enclosure and said, "Hello, Pippin." I was met with that inquisitive, intelligent gaze and he replied "Hello!" At that moment, I was taken aback as I heard my mother's voice come out of that parrot. I lost my mother a few years ago and I felt that she was speaking to me. It brought me to tears and I will never forget that experience. Had I not been a volunteer, I would have missed it. Thank you to Nancy and Christi for bringing me into the flock.



Pippin, Umbrella cockatoo

Thank You!

Our volunteers are so AWESOME!! Even through the pandemic crisis, they continue to work hard at keeping our birds' enclosures and sanctuary environment clean to ensure the health of our feathered residents. They pick up, deliver and sort

through our weekly produce. They make toys and other forms of enrichment for our birds. They provide regular baths and mistings for our birds and socialize with the birds who prefer human interaction, and the list goes on.

I want to thank all of our volunteers for their dedication, compassion and hard work. Each of you is special and brings something unique and wonderful to our organization, and in so doing, enriches our birds' lives. The work we are doing here at our sanctuary would not be possible without YOU! From the bottom of my heart, I thank each and every one of you!! ~ Christi



Produce day with volunteer, Nancy



Volunteer, Cat with Von Truman

Birdie Bio!



Name: Pogo

Species: citron-crested cockatoo

Age: 20 years old

Favorite foods: sweet peppers, jalapeno peppers, pomegranate, almond in shell, and a variety of fresh greens

Pogo's story:

Before coming to our sanctuary, Pogo was living in deplorable conditions in a so-called "rescue" where he was kept in the bottom section of a small triple stacked cage in the corner of a filthy, fly infested room. Since he arrived without a name, we chose to name him Pogo after the Citronella plant genus: Cymbopogon. He is aptly named "Pogo" as he bounces from one place to the next!

This sweet boy is looking for a sponsor through our Sponsor A Parrot program at: <https://icarusfoundation.org/pogo>

honor those parrots living in captivity by supporting the heroic efforts of those fighting to save their wild cousins and their habitats!

Did you know...?

The word "cockatoo" dates from the 17th century and is a derivation from the Malay name for these birds, "kakaktua" (meaning older sibling) and possibly from the actual call of the white cockatoo as well.

CONSERVATION IN FOCUS

Yellow-Crested Cockatoos

The Citron-crested cockatoo or Sumba cockatoo (*C. s. citrinocristata*) found only on the island of Sumba in eastern Indonesia, is a subspecies of the Yellow-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*). There are currently 4 recognized subspecies of the Yellow-crested cockatoo: *sulphurea*, *abbotti*, *citrinocristata*, and *parvula*. The total wild population of all 4 subspecies is estimated between 1000 - 2500 individuals.[1][2]

The Yellow-crested cockatoo has suffered massive population declines over the last 40 years estimated at more than 80%. The nominate race and all related subspecies have been reduced to small fragmented populations of only a few hundred birds scattered throughout Indonesia. Three subspecies, *sulphurea*, *abbotti*, and *citrinocristata*, are the most imperiled. [1]

According to the IUCN, the Yellow-crested cockatoo population is still on a downward trend and they are listed as **critically endangered**. [2] They are also included in Cites Appendix 1 which includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in

specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.[3] The population of Yellow-crested cockatoos continues to decline due to poaching for the international pet trade, deforestation, and persecution as a crop pest to name a few.

How you can help . . .

- support conservation efforts like the [Indonesian Parrot Project](https://www.facebook.com/IndonesianParrotProject/) or on FB <https://www.facebook.com/IndonesianParrotProject/>
- Stop buying cockatoos and other parrots from pet stores and breeders! Adopt! So many of the birds living in captivity in the US today are the direct offspring (f1 generation) of wild caught parrots! We have had several wild caught birds come through our sanctuary door. Please



Citron cockatoo on Sumba
Indonesian Parrot Project (Facebook)

honor those parrots living in captivity by supporting the heroic efforts of those fighting to save their wild cousins and their habitats!

RESOURCES:

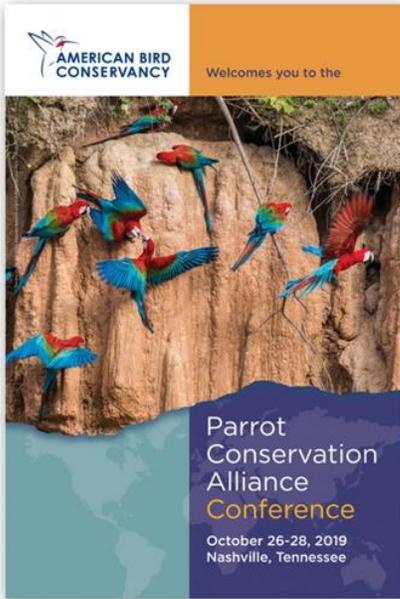
[1]World Parrot Trust, Yellow-crested cockatoo, *Cacatua sulphurea*

[2]International Union for Conservation in Nature, *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2018

[3]Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Appendix I

Uniting for Parrots in Peril

The Icarus Foundation was honored to be invited to attend the very first meeting of the Parrot Conservation Alliance, a new program launched by the American Bird Conservancy. The conference was held October 26-28, 2019 in Nashville, Tennessee and ended with a visit to the Exotic Avian Sanctuary of Tennessee.



Parrot sanctuaries, rescue groups, and conservation organizations across the Americas came together with an urgent mission to aid all parrots. Helping to protect the wild parrots still living in their native ranges confronting habitat loss, poaching, and threatened extinction, as well as the non-releasable captive parrots facing an overpopulation crisis and widespread substandard care in isolation.

As long as parrots are considered "pets," there will be a market for them. They are considered a "commodity" by those who poach, smuggle, breed, etc. As a result, the international trade in illegally poached parrots continues while more than 1/3 of all parrot species are headed toward extinction.

The conference theme was **"Uniting for Parrots in Peril"** which focused on how each of our organizations can

learn more effectively from each other, and create new avenues for working together on behalf of all parrots everywhere. It was an incredible weekend learning from, and getting to know, some truly amazing people working in solidarity to increase protection for all parrots everywhere.



Charter members of the Parrot Conservation Alliance

Support the birds at the Chesapeake Parrot Sanctuary with a tax-deductible donation!
To donate, visit [IcarusFoundation.org](https://icarusfoundation.org) OR send checks payable to Icarus Foundation, Inc. to
P.O. Box 3036
Annapolis, MD 21403



Online Store!

Currently we have men's crew neck t's, ladies v-neck t's and ladies tank tops available for purchase. ALL proceeds (less the cost of shipping) from the purchase of our logo t's benefit our sanctuary! We hope to be adding more items in the future. Please check out our storefront at <https://icarusfoundation.org/store?olsPage=products>.

BIRDS' WISHLIST

-  Nut gift bags from [Nuts.com](https://nuts.com)
(we are on their sanctuary list)
-  [Amazon Wishlist](#)