

# T h e Pheasant Pen

WASHINGTON ORNAMENTAL & GAME BIRD BREEDERS



Larry Clark  
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Issaquah, Wa 98027

[www.wogbb.com](http://www.wogbb.com)

February 2013

# Washington Ornamental and Game Bird Breeders

## Our mission and goals

1. To promote the welfare and encourage the breeding of pheasants, waterfowl, and other species of fowl, quail, partridge, and related birds to the generally accepted representative standards and pure of the wild species.
2. To share breeding and propagation methods.
3. To introduce new species of birds into private and public aviaries; to improve present captive breeding stock and to catalog present captive bird species and aviculture in the Pacific Northwest.
4. To interest more individuals and groups in aviculture.
5. To promote programs and other goals as may be deemed to be in the best interest of Pacific Northwest Aviculture.

Web site: [www.wogbb.com](http://www.wogbb.com)

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## Honorary Members

• Jim Abernathy	• George Allen Jr.
• Westley Batterson	• Edna Goldstone
• JoAnne Elbert	• Phil and Bobby Krueger
• Jim Harvey	• Bruce Morgan
• Joe & Marge Longo	

## WOGBB President's message

Plans have fallen thru for a meeting in February – The people and facilities are not available and a backup plan has fallen thru also, so there will be no meeting this month. I hope to see you all at the March meeting at Bob & Carol Dawson's place.

As you read the minutes of January meeting you can see we have an exciting year of events planed, some have not been confirmed so if you are listed as a host and I have not contacted you, I will get with you shortly.

Its dues time again! 2013 Dues are due the first of the year. An application is accompany the Pheasant Pen so take the time now to fill it out and send it in. There is a lag time between sending in dues and me receiving word so if you have send them in, thanks. I have included an application for all so if you don't need it; use it to sign up a new member!

On a personal note I had a visitor the other day, he or she stopped by for a bit. I had to encourage it to leave! I'm not a Raptor guy so if anyone can identify him or her drop me a line. (See picture below)

Larry Clark



## Treasurer's Report

### Checking

Balance	1/1/13	\$3314.74
Deposits for dues		\$ 00.00
Transfer to savings		\$<150.00>
Checks Written (1)		\$ 43.15
Balance	1/31/13	\$3121.59

### Savings

Balance	1/1/13	\$700.12
Transfer from savings		\$150.00
Interest		\$ .06
Balance	1/31/13	\$850.18

# No February Meeting

# WOGBB Meeting minutes—January 20, 2013

The January general membership meeting was called to order by President Larry Clark at 3:00 p.m., following an hour of socializing and eating, giving an added allowance of time for stragglers to show for the scheduled start time of 2:00 p.m. Fortunately the weather had been well settled that Sunday, well above freezing, and no one reported any traffic or weather related problems en route to the Poodle Dog Restaurant in Fife. The only officer unable to attend this first meeting of the New Year was treasurer Steve Dazey.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved as printed in the January Pheasant Pen.

Treasurer Steve Dazey had send a verbal report with Larry Clark reporting that there had been no disbursements since the prior treasurer's report reflected in the January Pen and that \$75 had been received in membership renewals together with the deposit of the honorarium of \$500 for the Club's participation in the Animals of the World exhibition at the 2012 Puyallup Fair. On motion duly made it was approved to reimburse Larry the \$25 rental fee for the meeting room at the Poodle Dog.

VP Craig Holmes reported that the club web site was not down but was merely "hidden" or less visible than what would be optimal for access by non-techies (like most of the membership and all the officers).

There followed discussion about the art showing February 2, 2013, at the Olympia Performing Arts Center featuring member Chris Maynard's feather art. We are all proud to count such a talented artist as Chris as a member and congratulate him on the wonderful public exposure his art gives to aviculture in the Pacific Northwest and nationally. Kudos to Chris for his excellent and most creative artistry and exhibition of primarily undomesticated bird feather art.

On the topic of getting more support for the club web-site development Diana Clark agreed to check with the Career Center at the Skyline High School where she works (Issaquah School District) to see if there may be assistance available through pairing of a potential Senior Project with this task. Larry opened the search up to all members who may have contact with young techies, perhaps even their own children, who may be willing to hone their skills in the service of the Club to help Craig's project of advancing the club's internet image, both on the existing or expanded web site and perhaps even into social media.

Larry Clark then steered the meeting through its primary focus and objective, mapping out the strategic plans of meetings and events for 2013.

The following is a summary of the meeting and event schedule tentatively adopted for the remainder of 2013:

February 17, 2:00 p.m.. Meeting program will be co-ordinated by Craig Holmes, at a location to be confirmed in the Pheasant Pen featuring an overview of the wildlife rehabilitation program of the clinic near Covington where Craig volunteers, South Sound Critter Care. Hopefully this will include not only a presentation by one of their veterinarians but also a tour of their primary care facilities, assuming bio-security details can be worked out. Alternatively the meeting site may be at the Maple Valley Community Center. Watch for firm details in the February Pen.

## January Minutes (Cont)

March 17, 2:00 P.M. St. Patrick's Day meeting at the home of Bob and Carol Dawson, off the Lake Joy Road, near Carnation in eastern King County featuring a hands-on presentation on bamboo propagation and culture, focused on its use about the aviary. Bob has been cultivating numerous species of bamboo, including non-invasive clumping species, and has offered to send participants home with healthy starts selected from his productive collection. Potluck lunch and perhaps a sneak peek at the more than 500 hookbills (parrot family birds) in residence at their Macaw Rescue and Sanctuary round out the day's agenda.

April 18 – 21. Spring Fair club exhibition at the Puyallup Fairgrounds. Craig will again be show chairman and club point person for this annual exhibition. Members who are willing to man the booth, even if for only a few hours, are encouraged to contact Craig early on and arrange for complimentary passes. Parking has historically been free at Spring Fair. If any urgent club business presses a brief official meeting may be convened Sunday afternoon. ....watch for notice thereof in the Pen.

May 19, 2:00 P.M. This date is being held open with the hope of arranging a meeting at a member's home/aviary on the Kitsap Peninsula.....In past years the Club has had meetings hosted by Brad Watts at his Valley Nursery, as well as by at least eight other members on the Peninsula at their private homes and aviaries. At this point Larry wanted to give our Kitsap Peninsula members a chance to work with Craig to flesh out more firm details—because of the proximity of your facilities, it may work out that two or more of you could co-host this meeting or the meeting could include tours of several of your aviaries.

June 16, 2:00 P.M. This is the Father's Day meeting. Some thought this would be an excellent choice for a meeting at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle. However, Craig requested more input from interested members and an opportunity to explore the scheduling issues with the Zoo folk before firming this meeting location or theme. Hopefully Craig will be able to prevail upon the zoo staff to provide a preview of their rehab plans for the aviary and pheasant/waterfowl collections.

July 21, 2:00 P.M. Evidently Kathy Fries has offered to host this meeting at her lovely home and aviary in Juanita, eastern King County. This is close to I-405 and should prove to be a geographically central meeting location handy to all our members no matter where they call home. Watch for details in the Pen as Craig firms up arrangements. Perhaps Craig will be able to prevail on member Jim Pfarr, our own resident expert and accomplished author on true pheasants to provide a slide program and preview of his latest publication.

August 18, 2:00 P.M. Violet Prairie Plantation, Tenino, Washington. Bruce and Jackie Morgan have offered to host this summer outdoor potluck picnic meeting at their farm, located just 5 miles east of I-5's exit 88, just south of Olympia. This meeting will be the most southerly venue for a meeting in 2013 and is only 15 minutes north of Fort Borst Park, Centralia, the long time venue of the annual joint meeting of the Washington Ornamental & Game Bird Breeders and the former Oregon Pheasant Club.....going back to the late '60's. No one should expect this to be a tour of a refined and proper estate and aviary grounds as we will have witnessed at Fries' for the July meeting.....but instead this would be better thought of as a tour of a work in progress, combining several styles of avaries, paddocks for non-domestic hoofed stock, working forest lands, conservation and reforestation plantings, and farm support infrastructure in various stages of planning and construction, all on 240 acres spanning a wide range of habitat and land features.

Perhaps we can interest some of our friends from Oregon to attend this meeting.....along with some of the folk who had run Washington's game bird propagation programs for the former Department of Game.

## January Minutes (Cont)

September--- As usual September will be reserved for the Club's annual participation at the Puyallup Fair. Craig reports that this will again include both the demonstration exhibits in the poultry building, spanning several days, and also the exhibition in the Animals of the World Pavilion which was such a great hit in 2012. The exact dates were not available at the time of our meeting. Craig and Larry reminded us that it will be useful to schedule a work session at the Puyallup fairgrounds sometime in advance of the Fair to refurbish more of the show panels, but that date will have to be worked out later.

October 20 --- Craig reported that he hoped to hold this date open for a fall meeting hosted by one of our premier waterfowl breeders. In the past the waterfowl showcase has usually been scheduled in the early breeding season, such as April at Maynard Axelson's aviary in the Skagit Flats or June at Schouten's outside Port Angeles or Lynn Dye's outside Lake Stevens. Craig will report back as he is able to firm details for this meeting.

November 17 2:00 P.M. Cobela's, Lacey. Craig is going to see if he can reserve the meeting room at the Lacey Cabela's this year. The Cabela's meeting in 2012 At the new Marysville Cabela's was well received. Craig also offered that he was at work trying to tie down a full program for entertainment at that meeting and would keep us posted.

December 15, 2:00 P.M. Annual Christmas party at the home of Craig Holmes and family, Covington.

There was also a discussion about the possibility of organizing a road trip tour of aviaries outside Western Washington. Among the possibilities for such a tour included Pioneer Park Aviary and longtime member Joanna Lanning, Walla Walla, Northwest Upland Game Farm, Culver, Oregon, Ed and Sonya Benhardt (Twin Spruce Bird Ranch), Reardon, Mark and Melody Wagoner (Golden West Aviaries), Goldendale, and Jim Morelli in the Okanogan. In the past it has not worked out well to host tours of this kind as official club events or to try to host meetings in geographically isolated venues.....but Craig would appreciate feedback from members.....with enough support and interest no aviaries are beyond reach.

Next there was renewed discussion regarding various ideas which had surfaced for making the displays at Fairs more attractive, more functional, and perhaps even more photogenic. Specifically, Larry and Craig brought up the experience which the folks of the Utah Pheasant Society had with using plastic carpet materials in place of sawdust or other disposable substrate. Craig agreed to investigate material availability and cost options and to bring samples to future meetings, all with the hope of making a firm decision well enough in advance of the fall show at the Fair, if not by the Spring Fair. Craig also agreed to update the price quotes he had obtained for the one inch pvc coated chicken wire products many of us have now found so useful and attractive for our aviaries. Purchasing these products and having them shipped to a single drop point here locally by the pallet load proved to be an extremely cost effective member benefit. Evidently he has received an offer from a member benefactor to help front the cost of procurement for the next order.....now it is up to members to let Craig know you are interested in participating in a new procurement order in 2013 so he can get prices and quantities ordered accordingly. Don't miss out.....the products are incredible for our application for game birds, ornamentals and waterfowl (birds which generally do not chew on the PVC coatings), look good in our protected aviaries where the added security provided by link wire products is not necessary, and the savings can be truly substantial.

The meeting adjourned by 4:20.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Morgan, Secretary



**Behavioral Management of a 1.0  
East African Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*)  
Through Laser Pointer Training.**

By Dara Girsch, African Animal Keeper The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens Palm  
Desert, CA

**Introduction**

For several years, "Frasier," a 1.0 East African Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*), has exhibited frequent aggression towards his keepers. These displays would often culminate in Frasier injuring a keeper or himself. The previous method for managing these behaviors was to bring in a tool for protection or restrain Frasier and place him in a holding area. Neither of these methods was especially effective, as Frasier would attack the tool relentlessly or increase the intensity of aggression upon release from holding areas.

I set out, with a team of two additional keepers, to train Frasier to target to a laser pointer as a method of focusing his attention away from keepers and reduce the number of threatening displays. This became a transition to a routine shifting behavior into a holding area, taking a previously negative situation and positively reinforcing his time in holding. These initial behaviors, coupled with a newfound working relationship between Frasier and myself, led to the ability to begin desensitization and to train station behavior.

**Process**

Establishing the intended behavior of targeting to the laser pointer (Figure 1) was accomplished using basic positive reinforcement techniques. A notable step in eliciting this behavior was to take a step back, literally. When training first began, I was standing directly at the exhibit perimeter. Because male cranes are highly territorial (Ellis et al., 1996), my position at the fence was likely instigating his aggression and his attention was on me, not the laser point. When I began training from several feet away, he instantly focused his attention towards the laser. Researching specifics of crane behavior and accounting for Frasier's personality allowed me to adapt training methods to his ability, giving a greater probability for success.

Several different colors of lasers were tested to see if Frasier responded more to a certain color. Birds have been hypothesized to see twice as many colors as humans throughout the spectrum, and Gruiformes are known to be able to see into the violet range of wavelengths, down to 406 nm (Odeen and Hastad, 2003). A purple laser (wavelength = 405nm, 5mW) was tested, as well as green (wavelength = 532nm, 5 mW), red-orange (wavelength = 735nm, 5mW) and red (wavelength = 650nm, 5m W). Frasier targeted equally well to all of the colors. The green laser was chosen because it was the brightest for the trainer to see in daylight, to ensure that the trainer knew where it was pointed. In the future, laser colors can be used interchangeably to stimulate visual acuity and sustain novelty.



Figure 1: Frasier performing target behavior. Photo credit- Author

## Behavioral Management of a 1.0 (CONT)

The location of the training sessions was kept consistent, a shady area on exhibit where the laser could most easily be seen, for Frasier and the trainer. Also taken into consideration was the fact that this section of the exhibit was not frequented by keepers, so it could be recognized specifically as a training area. To begin, with the trainer kneeling several feet away (at a pre-determined point, kept consistent) so as to be non-threatening, the laser was pointed approximately a foot away from Frasier's feet on either side. Once he pecked at it, the laser was immediately turned off as the bridge, a verbal 'good,' was given. Frasier was then tossed his reinforcement (crickets or mealworms) through the fence.

Six weeks were spent gathering initial data: the number of times Frasier targeted per session and the number of aggressive displays he exhibited during each session. The aggressive behavior under scrutiny was the "ruffie-bow," a low level threat display, "in which the crane elevates its feathers and slowly, at first, ruffles its plumage until at length the whole body is rapidly shaking" (Ellis et al., 1996). Training sessions were kept very short - under a minute. Frasier was required to target to the laser in less than ten seconds, with five attempts per session. This was to accomplish the desired targeting behavior before any frustration or diverted attention could occur that would lead to belligerent behaviors.

There was a wide discrepancy in the consistency of executing the targeting behavior between each of the trainers. Frasier targeted during 100% of the attempts with his primary trainer, and exhibited very few aggressive behaviors - an average of 0.1 aggressive occurrences per session over the six week period. For the second trainer, he targeted during 98% of the attempts, but exhibited the 'ruffle-bow' display during every session. For the third trainer, Frasier again showed little aggression but successfully targeted less than 50% of the time. It was known before training began that the levels of aggression from Frasier varied greatly for each trainer, regardless of the situational circumstances. The behaviors and their frequency towards each trainer mirrored those observed during everyday servicing of the exhibit.

Because of the variation in successful training and aggression, it was decided that in order to effectively eliminate Frasier's aggression from affecting keepers, he should be trained to shift into a holding area.

The original method for shifting was simply for Frasier to follow the laser point into a designated holding area. Frasier had shown in training sessions (after the initial data were collected) that he would follow the laser point several feet in any direction when the trainer was stationary. However, he would not follow the laser from across the exhibit; he needed to be directly in front of the trainer before he would initiate targeting. The first several attempts at shifting using a laser pointer (primary trainer only) showed that Frasier would not follow the laser through a doorway. Because he would not complete the shifting behavior using the laser as the only cue, several others were attempted.



Figure 2: Desensitization along outside of wing.  
Photo credit- Author

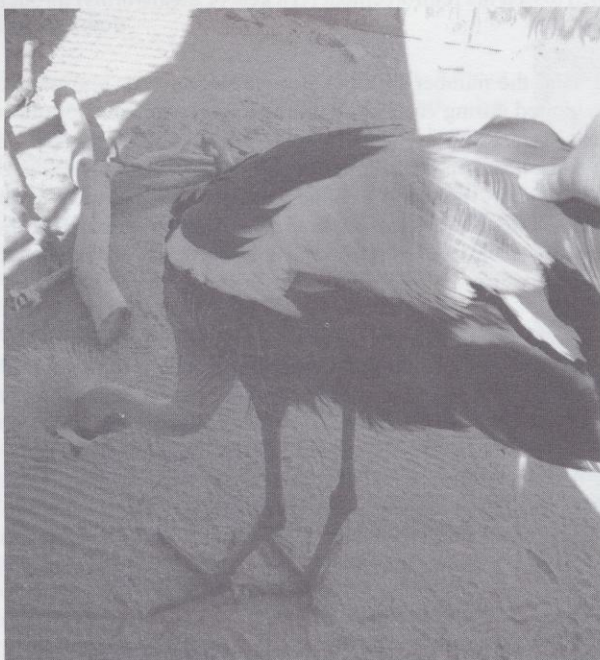


Figure 3: Wing partially extended by trainer.  
Photo credit- Author



## Behavioral Management of a 1.0 (CONT)

Frasier responded very well to a variety of sensory cues calling his name, tapping, walking through holding areas, facing him, walking ahead of him. In retrospect, successive approximations could have been used to shift Frasier into the holding area using only the laser. However, the time lapse between the failed attempt to shift with the laser and successfully using other cues was only one day. Once inside, he could be positively reinforced with insects or his normal diet by performing the original target behavior with the laser pointer. He performed the shifting behavior equally well for each of the trainers. While release from holding areas still caused an elevated amount of excited behaviors, immediate aggression upon release was not seen. When training for the shifting behavior began, Frasier proved that the simplest method would not be the most effective. In actuality, various other sensory cues (auditory and visual) became the primary training tools, while the laser became obsolete for the shifting behavior.

Because all of the previous training was carried out with a barrier between Frasier and me, desensitization to human contact required the ability to read his behavior effectively before entering holding areas with him. This was accomplished using the original target behavior. If Frasier would follow the laser point around holdings, his motivation seemed to be reinforcement from training, and not reinforcing himself with maladaptive behaviors. If he refused to follow the laser, desensitization was not attempted. When distracted with a large amount of reinforcement (insects), Frasier could be approached and touched along his wings and back (Figure 2), coupled with a cue of 'touch.' After several sessions, he would allow his wings to be partially extended (Figure 3), increasing the ease of observing his overall health and minimizing stress. As this behavior progresses, the goal is to reach a point where he could be given the cue, touched and subsequently reinforced.

Currently, I am working on a station behavior (Figure 4) with a weight board (a box designed to fit over a scale), so that regular, stress-free weights can be collected. I continue to use the laser pointer, leading him onto the weight board and reinforcing his time being stationary.

### Conclusion

Training with the laser pointer and to shift into holding areas did not eliminate aggressive behaviors. However, it did minimize the amount of aggression that directly affected keepers during their work. The simple exercise of training with Frasier induced an overall behavioral change. Frasier and I were able to develop a working relationship in which performing the behavior took priority over aggression. It was observed that a greater percentage of Frasier's time on exhibit was spent near the original training location than it was before training started. Frasier even took to 'purring,' a vocalization indicating submission or happiness (Ellis et al., 1996), a polar opposite of his former behavior. As the desensitization behavior is being established, a low-level aggressive outburst towards me has only occurred once over a period of two months.

### Resources

Ellis, D.H., Gee, G.F., and Mirande, eds. (1996). *Cranes: their biology, husbandry and conservation*.

Dept of the Interior, National Biological Service, International Crane Foundation.  
Washington, D.C.

Odeen, A. and O. Hastad. (2003). Complex distribution of avian color systems revealed by sequencing the SWS1 opsin from total DNA. *Mol. Biol. Evol.* 20 (6): 855-861.

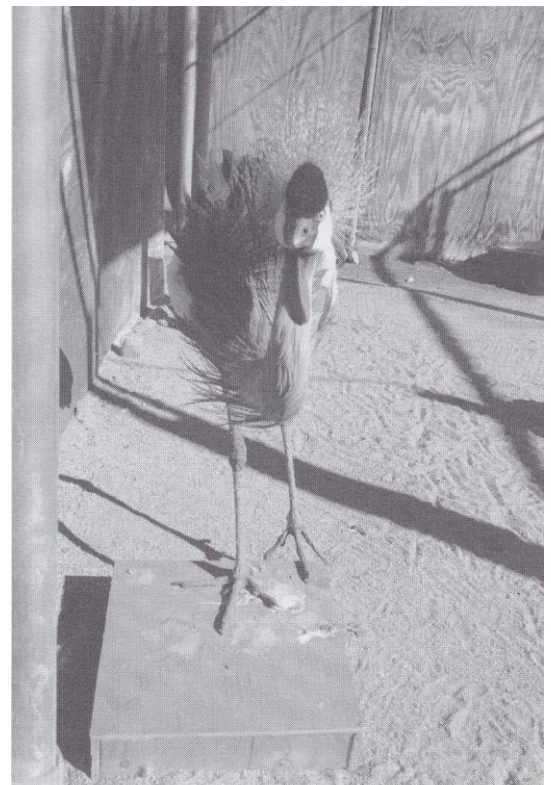


Figure 4: Frasier on weight board.  
Photo credit- Author



**Washington Ornamental & Game Bird Breeders (WOGBB)      Membership  
Application**

This organization has been established to encourage everyone interested in any type of Ornamental and Game Bird to expand their knowledge and exchange their ideas with other bird breeders. Membership dues are \$25.00 per calendar year (US Funds) for both single and family membership and are not prorated. New membership accepted after October 1st will be for the remainder of the current and the following calendar year.

Date:

Type of Application:      New                      Renewal

NAME:

CO-MEMBER(s):

ADDRESS:

CITY:                                      STATE:                                      ZIP

PHONES:

EMAIL:

OCCUPATION:

BIRTHDAYS: (MEMBER & CO-MEMBERS)

**Please, Enclose a list the birds that you have!**

Send application to:  
Steve Dazey, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 576  
Monroe, Wa 98272