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**AVIAN & EXOTIC CLINIC  
of the Monterey Peninsula**

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## Lost Bird Information and Tips

Tips to help you recover your lost bird:

- ✓ Place the bird's cage on the highest location possible (roof, balcony, etc.) and attach a long string to the door which can be pulled from ground level. Stuff their cage full of favorite treats and toys. Birds may not recognize their home in flight and the presence of anything familiar at eye level such as their cage may help them find their way back.
- ✓ Post ads in newspapers and online. Make flyers and post them around your neighborhood and at local gas stations, grocery stores, banks – anywhere that will allow it! Offer a reward for your bird's safe return.
- ✓ Be persistent! Although most birds stay within a few miles of their home, missing birds have been found up to 20 miles away. Also, lost birds have been recovered months after originally going missing.
- ✓ Dawn and dusk are the most vocal times of day for birds. Walk or camp out in areas where your bird may be and listen for familiar calls, words, or phrases. Make sure to bring favorite treats and toys with you. Ask a neighbor in the area to allow you to put a food-filled cage on a high balcony or roof.
- ✓ Does your bird live in a multibird household? If so, bring one of the other birds and place him in another cage next to your bird's empty food-filled cage. Make sure the cage is safe from bad weather, direct sunlight and predators. Be vigilant and never leave your "decoy bird" unattended!
- ✓ Make a recording of your birds favorite songs, phrases, or sounds (i.e. paper ripping, faucet dripping) and walk around playing this recording. This may get your bird vocalizing which can help you to pinpoint its location.
- ✓ If you locate your bird, do not startle or frighten it by jumping up and down and screaming! Remain in a good mood and try calm, stern phrases such as "Come here this instant, young man!"
- ✓ Check with local shelters and the SPCA regularly!

In addition to posting fliers or buying paid ads in newspapers, there are quite a few free resources online for lost or found birds. The following are free resources in which you can post a lost or found ad for a pet bird:

- ✓ <http://monterey.craigslist.org/> - You can post both in "Pets" and "Lost and Found." Craigslist is nationwide and they have one for most major cities.
- ✓ <http://www.911parrotalert.com/> - Yahoo! email group that sends daily announcements regarding lost and found birds to your inbox.
- ✓ <http://www.birdhotline.com/> - WorldWide database of lost birds.
- ✓ <http://www.mickaboo.org/> - Local bird rescue with lost and found resources.