

# Recovering Lost Parrots

The following techniques have been used successfully dozens of times to recover birds who have accidentally been allowed to fly away from their home. If you follow these techniques, you will have an outstanding chance of recovering your bird.

STAY CALM, confident and positive that you will recover the bird. People tend to give up too easily and way too soon.

FINDING THE LOST BIRD – this is often the hardest part, but once accomplished is more than half the battle to successfully recovering the bird. As long as you know where the bird is, you can get it down with time - in most cases with enough time it will come down on its own, so long as you can keep track of it long enough. If you already know where the bird is located, skip to 3.

## RECOVERING THE BIRD.

Listen, listen and listen some more - if the birds is up in a tree or out of sight, chances are that you won't be able to see it. But, if the bird vocalizes, you will be able to find its location by listening. It will almost always make noises that can be heard, giving direction to look in. Taking another bird out to the area may also help, especially if the other bird is a noisy friend of the lost bird or a mate or cage partner. Also useful is playing a recording of your bird and other flock mates vocalizing.

If you can't hear or locate the bird:

Make and distribute flyers far and wide. Describe your bird as if to a person who has never seen a parrot before. Compare its size to that of a common wild bird, i.e. Crow, Starling. Include a picture!

Notify the Humane Society or Animal Control

Enlist the help of neighborhood kids. Children love to help look for lost parrots. They also tell on people that are hiding them.

Call area pet stores and vets. Ask them to keep their ears open for strange telephone calls like people asking "what does a parrot eat?", "what kind of bird looks like this?" etc.

Place classified ads in newspapers. Request radio station announcements.

Put up posters in local convenience stores and post office.

Don't limit your notification activity to the immediate vicinity where the parrot was lost. Frightened birds often fly a long way, up to several miles. Additionally, if a well-meaning person has your bird, they may transport the bird some distance away.

RECOVERING THE BIRD – Chances are that the bird wants to get to you but is too frightened or doesn't know how. Often, the key is getting the bird motivated to get to you on its own. This can take a while. A long while. Continue calling calmly and soothingly to the bird.

DO NOT use a ladder or cherry picker/bucket truck or long sticks. Keep anyone and anything strange away from you that he might be afraid of. These will only frighten the bird away.

DO NOT take the popular advice to attempt to spray the bird with a hose. This too will frighten the bird and a wet bird can still fly.

Morning and late afternoon/evening are the most likely times that the bird will come to you. It will rest in the afternoons and go to roost at night. If it is nighttime, do not waste your time trying to get the bird to come down. This time is better spent either resting up for the next day or working on flyers and other contacts.

Have someone watch the bird at all times during the day if you need to go for help.

If the bird is in a tree that you can climb, make sure the person climbing is someone the bird is comfortable with. Bring a favorite treat with you.

If you can reach the bird, calmly secure it and stuff it under your shirt so it can't get frightened and fly away again.

Put a familiar cage and food out where it can be seen by the bird.

If you have a second bird that the lost bird will recognize the calls from put the second bird outside in a carrier where the bird can hear it.

If the bird has been out for a while pack a picnic and eat right under the tree where the bird is. Make sure it's something decadent and tempting such as French fries. Make a big deal about how delicious it is.

Jealousy (a Significant Other giving the bird's #1 person attention, or another rival bird or pet getting attention from said #1) can work to lure the bird down.

With time and patience, the bird will calm down and relax and become much more easily recovered. Signs of such change of state include preening, playing with leaves/branches, aborted attempts to fly down, etc..

It may take days for the bird to become motivated enough to come down to you. Don't give up!!