



My new life with birds is fun.

THE 2014 AFA CONVENTION ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

By Kaylee Johnson Corwin

Photos by Chuck Hawkes

Kaylee with Chinner

My name is Kaylee and I am 7 years old.

I went on a long trip from South Dakota to Seattle, Washington to go live with my Grandma & Grandpa, with my two little sisters in my Grandma's truck. We drove through the mountains and we saw lots of trees, flowers, grass, different flags and birds. It took 2 days and 2 nights to get there.

When we got to my Grandma's I could hear birds, and when I asked Grandma if she had birds, She said yes, we have lots of them. They are all different kinds of parrots. I have never seen those kinds of birds before, only the wild birds outside.

Grandma took me to where her birds are, so I could see them. Charlie, an African Grey said "Hi" to me. That was really cool. Grandma also showed me how some of the birds can whistle.

I liked the Macaws, my favorite are the big red ones; their names are Rosie and Ruby. They live together in a great big cage. Grandma says the big red macaws are called a Greenwing because of the color on their wings. Grandma asked them to lift their wings and they did. I could see all the feathers under their wings. One of them started to fly around. She has lots of other kinds of birds, they are different colors, some are big and some are little.

I also met Stevie. He is green with purple and has black, he has an orange beak and has a really long tail almost like the macaws. Grandma says he is a parakeet, but everyone else says he is too big for a parakeet. Stevie is a Derbyan Parakeet, and Grandma showed me how he would take treats from her hand. I thought that was really cool. Grandma opened his cage, and he came right out on her arm.

I think all of my Grandma's birds are pretty cool. I have learned that I have to be careful because birds can bite and they could really hurt you if they want to. I learned that birds are very colorful, some birds talk or whistle, and when they lift their wings, the colors under their wings almost glitter. I also learned that macaws live a really long time. They can live to be 75 years old and maybe even older.

Since I have come to live with my Grandma, I want to learn more about birds. I want to learn how to take care of them when I get older, I want to keep them. And another thing, they are called different species of birds, not just different kinds. I hope I will remember that.

Another fun thing we did was go to Expos. I am learning all the bird's names and what kind of bird they are. Chinner is my most favorite at the expos, she is a Rose Breasted Cockatoo, and she is very pretty. I even got to hold her. So did my sisters, but they were on Grandma's lap because they are little. My sisters are only 3 and 1 years old. I am 7 and I am bigger, so I got to hold her by myself on my arm.

And I got to hold Bob. He is a gray Cockatiel and he is old. He is 28 years old. He does not like to be petted, but he sat on my hand. Bob and Chinner both have a crest.

I really like Duvy, he is a brown bird with yellow feathers. He is a Duvyenbode Lory. Duvy is funny and likes everybody to pay attention to him. Gruff is another one I really like, she is a big green macaw. I think she is called a Military. Tanga is cute, she likes to jump on people's shoulder. She is red and she is a Lory, but she is called a Cardinal Lory. She has dark red and light red color on her feathers.

Yuma is another bird I get to hold at the Expos, he is a Green Cheek Conure and he is a good friend. He even lets kids pet him. He helped get money at the expo so Grandma can buy more toys and stuff for the birds. Scarlet is the same bird, just like him, but she is not as nice.

I like being with the birds at the expos, and I have lots of fun. One time we saw a bunch of different kinds of animals. Some big sheep called Lamas, and even a baby tiger. We got to stay at a hotel at night and we even got to go to a restaurant to eat dinner. My Grandma's friends come to the expo, they help with the birds and us kids too. It takes a lot of work to set everything up at the expo.

My Grandma has lots of other birds too, some are green, some are red, and even some that are pink.

Pink is my favorite color, and black too. Some of the birds have black feathers on their head. They are a kind of Lory. And she has some little tiny birds called Parrotlets that are all different colors, green, and blue, and yellow, and some sort of have spots on them. Those are called Pieds.

I hope Grandma lets her birds have babies again, because I want to learn and how to raise them and play with them. Baby birds are very friendly and fun to play with. My life is different now that I live at Grandmas and I get to learn about all the birds. My Grandma has lots of books about birds with pictures, and magazines too, so I will be able to learn about all the birds in the world.

When we went to visit our friend, we got to watch Rio on her big TV. She has a big bird that is green. His name is Cocoa. He was loud when the movie was on, but if it was off, he was quiet. His owner makes lots of cool toys for birds. Jodie comes to our house too and sometimes she brings toys for my Grandma's birds. The other friends that have birds are Robert and Renee, they help at the Expo too. They have a macaw that is just blue and yellow. Her name is Sydney and she likes to sit on Renee's hand. Sydney has feathers that are gone, but she is cool because she talks a lot and she can do big wings. They have an Amazon bird with a blue head that likes Robert and sits on his shoulder.

My Grandma and Grandpa are going to adopt us, so we can live with them forever. I hope I will get to hold more of the birds, and get to play with them like Grandma does. I just need to learn more about them, and which ones like to be touched and will let me hold them. But Grandma says she has to be with me when I am around the birds, because I am only 7 and just learning.

Here is a picture of me holding Chinner and another picture of me with Yuma at the Expo.

My Grandma's friend took these pictures when we were in Oregon at one of the expos, and her other friend Jodie helped me with spelling words to write this. Then my Grandma typed it to send to you.

I hope you like my story and the pictures of me holding the birds.



Kaylee with Yuma

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