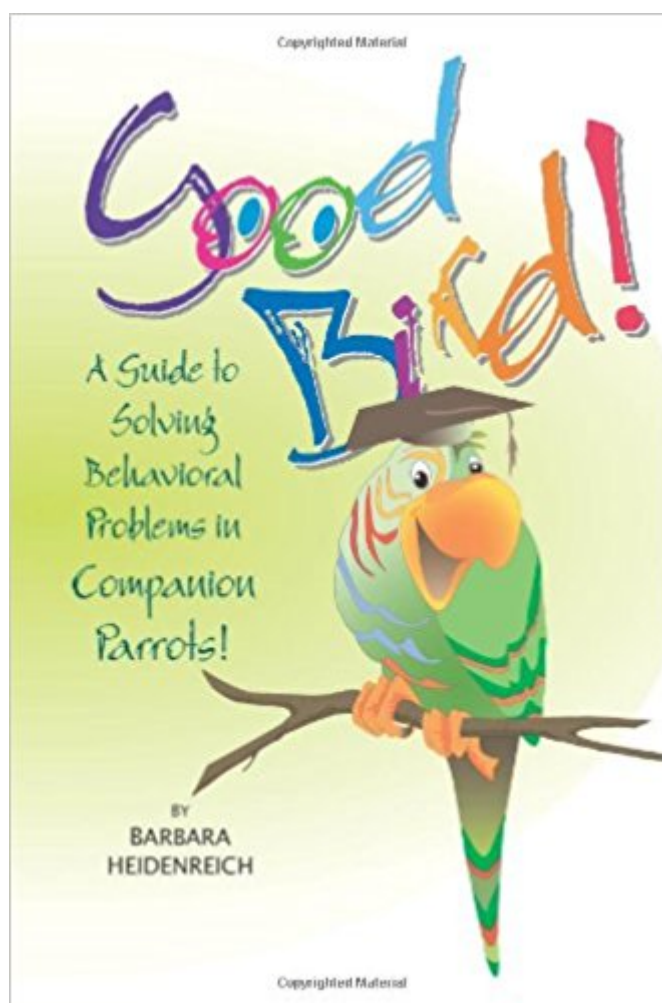


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# Good Bird! A Guide To Solving Behavioral Problems In Companion Parrots



## Synopsis

An easy to read step-by-step guide that uses positive reinforcement for teaching parrots acceptable behavior. Professional advice from animal behaviorist that will help you deal with screaming, biting, feather-picking, bonding and other difficult behaviors

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a nice little book. The problem I had with it is (1) it is very short, and (2) it didn't say anything that's not regularly quoted in forums on the Internet. I was hoping for more information, but her techniques do not work for me. I found the body language descriptions confusing; aggression and fear seemed to be described the same way. Also the scenarios are described first with a question (why does this happen?) then a paragraph answering it, then another question (what can you do?) Then there are two or three steps to take. Then the steps are reiterated with a "detailed explanation." But the details become repetitive, and could all be summarized in this manner: 1. ignore behavior you do not like. 2. Reward behavior you like. 3. Cue your bird for the behavior you like then offer reward. I got the book because I have a biting rescue parrot. She says to train him to step up and "The whole process can occur in one training session (approximately 20 minutes) if your bird has an interest in the rewards you have to offer." Not in any way, shape or form.

This book, along with Ms. Heidenreich's other book, The Parrot Problem Solver, are the best books I've come across dealing with companion parrots. If you understood why your bird is behaving as it does, you can deal with it more effectively. Kindness and reward go far with a companion bird (and, even though Ms. Heidenreich didn't mention it, 11-12 hours of covered cage/darkness a day does,

too) than all the reprimanding in the world (which a parrot does not understand). A parrot, much like a cat, is not going to do anything he doesn't want to do, but unlike a cat, you can convince a parrot to want what you want, too. Tell him he's a good bird when he's quiet. Give him a reward when he says something nice. Understand you are his teacher, not his mate and not his slave. Punish him by turning your back, reward him by giving attention and praise. Parrots are a lot like toddlers - they need to be constantly taught how to be good and their companions need to be able to recognize the behaviors (sometimes extremely hard to see) that signal overexcitement, frustration and anger. Excellent book I'd recommend to any bird "owner."

I have watched several of Barbara's videos, read her blog at [goodbirdinc.com](http://goodbirdinc.com), and then I bought this book and the other one she has on kindle. She is absolutely spot on with her methods. I had been forcing my new timneh african grey to step up and couldn't understand why he was biting. Now I get it and now we are working on the positive reinforcement methods defined in this book. Every parrot owner should have Barbara on their go to list for any issues that come up.

Barbara Heidenreich is certainly one of the titans of Avian Psychology and positive reinforcement models for parrot behavior modification and training. "Good Bird" is a great primer for first time parrot owners or those finding their parrot could use some behavior support. For companion parrot owners with more serious aggression/biting/screaming issues or those with re-homed birds with trust/behavior issues, a more in depth read with greater detail into avian psychology (How DO these guys think?) and positive reinforcement training techniques, "The Parrot Problem Solver" by same author or "MY Parrot My Friend" by Bonnie Munro Doane and Thomas Qualkinbush are must haves for any Parrot Owners library. "Good Bird" is good stuff however, and this multiple parrot owner gives it a thumbs up.

When your bird is screaming, or biting, or pulling feathers, you're looking for an effective and easy way to understand the problem and work with it. With an easy-to-read format and easy-to-understand writing style, this book is a MUST have for companion parrot owners, and the people that work with them. Excellent easy reference for veterinary staff and shelter workers. It's a great place to get hooked on positive reinforcement as a teaching/training technique. And, contrary to popular belief, you don't have to get bitten when you are working with your bird! The ideas presented are straight forward, and realistic to implement. I recommend this book to my students, and most of my behavior clients as a great place to get started.

This book offers feasible, effective methods of dealing with many of the problems that are common in companion parrots. It describes the problem, possible causes, and then clearly outlines options for dealing with them. The book is short and gets to the point. It is very well worth the \$15! Barbara Heidenreich has years of experience as a free flight educational trainer in zoological settings, and continues to train for shows and programs in the US and beyond! I've taken one of her seminars and it, too, was very worthwhile.

I have read this book completely and even referred back to it several times...I have a Quaker Parrot and this book has helped me in handling his trying to bite and just generally being onery. It helped me handle him and since he is only almost 6 months old, the timing could not have been better..My Son who owns a Macaw suggested this book to me and I love it. Sherry Harweger

I don't think I have ever read any of Barbara Heidenreich's books that I didn't like. She is very straight forward in her teachings and thoughts. I live that she always suggests going at the pace of your own individual parrot and that has been a huge key point in solving my parrots behavior issues. Never ever punish or abuse your parrot or you will damage your relationship potentially forever.

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