

Pirate's parrot show is truly for the birds



Photo courtesy of Chris Biro

Chris Biro of the Pirate's Parrot show poses with a young audience member and a blue and yellow macaw.

Chris Biro has one tip for those looking to attend the Pirate's Parrot Show: "Bring dollar bills."

That's because the cash will allow you a one-of-a-kind view of a sun conure, a bright yellow bird from South America. The bird will land on your hand, grab that dollar bill in its beak and fly back to Biro. It's hard to say whether or not you'll get the bill back.

Biro is a pirate, after all.

His live show takes place on an authentic pirate ship. He wears a true tricorner hat and carries a sword. But rather than pillage and plunder, Biro spends his days teaching audiences about his favorite thing: parrots.

"You're going to get to hold and pet the birds," he said of the live show, which features up to 40 parrots. The birds will also perform flight patterns and speaking tricks.

Biro has been a professional free flight bird trainer since 1993. It all started with

Chester, a cherry-head conure that belonged to his sister. Biro described the bird as a "hard-biting, nasty little guy."

"I took it as a challenge," he said. Before long, the bird was trained and the two were inseparable. "I ended up losing him on a road trip," he said. "He got up in a tree with partially clipped wings, and I didn't spend enough time looking for him."

Since then, Biro has flown over 100 birds and accumulated more than 2,500 months of combined flying time. He helps raise and train parrots for Bird Recovery International, a nonprofit he founded in 2010 to improve conservation release practices. And he travels from February to November in a motor home filled with 45 squawking — but lovable — parrots. It's all to bring the Pirate's Parrot Show to fair audiences.

"Parrots are amazing, wonderful creatures," he said.



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