

ANIMAL EXHIBIT

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Colorful bird show takes stage and sky

Chris Biro will be returning to the Umatilla County Fair with his flock of colorful birds.

"For the most part, we try to bring something new and try to refresh so there's not the same stuff every year," said Lucas Wagner, entertainment director for the fair board.

But the residents of Umatilla County couldn't resist the fun of the Pirate's Parrot Show.

"The attendees almost demanded that they come back again this year, and that was great," said Wagner.

For someone who describes his career as "one accident after another," Biro is certainly good

at what he does. He only began his educational presentations after he rode around town with a blue and gold macaw on his shoulder and people started asking him to come to their school classrooms, he said. He sold parrot photos at county fairs for a while, and then one day a fair manager came up and said, "Chris, you're on stage at three o'clock."

"And I said, 'What?'" said Biro.

That's when the fair act was born.

Biro said it's not an uncommon occurrence for his shows to be popular and that most of the fairs he attends are repeat acts. He chalks it all up to his relationship with his birds.

"There's a reason not a lot of people do a fair like this," he said, referring to the fact that he lets his birds fly across the fairgrounds at their own free will.



EO file photo

Chris Biro works with one of his birds during the Pirate's Parrot Show last year at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston.

Unlike animal trainers who rent birds for fair acts, Biro owns his birds.

"My birds and I have an obvious relationship that the public can see," he said.

This allows him to trust that they will return to him.

"They have a grand time, they love the public, they love what they do, or else they'd fly away," said Biro.

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*Left: Jennifer Zimmer
 Right: Katelynn Zimmer*

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 - N. Hwy 395 (next to Transfer Station)
 - 81144 N. Hwy. 395
- Irrigon:**
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