

Apollo will be remembered by his personality. Handlers who had worked with him for many years and whom he knew well got the same greeting each day as a novice handler or total stranger: He would puff up his feathers until he looked three times his actual size, then by adding hisses and clicks, he would assert his authority and try to intimidate. Of course, we knew this was an act. He was a "cream puff." Humans speaking to him with a soft cooing voice would calm him; his feathers would come down and his hissing and clicking would stop. Peace was restored and work could proceed. He, basically, was not an aggressive bird; he was shy and insecure. The display was his way of dealing with those feelings.

He never failed to appeal to audiences. Although he showed signs of nervousness, with ear tufts half way down and panting (gular fluttering), it made him seem more alive and real. This also initiated many conversations about birds and their individual personalities.

Apollo was such a sweetheart, and he will be greatly missed by all. — Ann Zepke