

Dangers with Free Flight

By now you should have read the dangers document I have provided you with. Do you remember the dangers I highlighted on it? You should be able to tell me 8.



- Birds of Prey
- Roads/Cars
- Cats and Dogs
- Birds of Annoyance
- Telephone Wires
- People
- Strong Winds/Gusts
- Water

Dangers with Free Flight: Birds Of Prey

Small parrots naturally make easier targets for BoP than larger parrots.

Make sure to not fly in areas that BoP are actively nesting in.

Very few free flighted parrots get taken by birds of prey, but it does happen. This usually occurs when the bird is flying at a level they are not experienced enough to be in, they have gotten comfortable in a tree, they are showing weakness or they just do not have enough experience.

BoP are ambush predators, meaning they will remain hidden until they are ready to strike. Once spotted they usually won't attempt because it would be a waste of energy.

Dangers with Free Flight: Birds Of Prey



Dangers with Free Flight: Birds Of Prey



Flower from Flighted Feathers on instagram having an encounter with a very eager bird of prey.

Did Flower learn anything from this chase?

How did Flower know how to react to the bird of prey?



Dangers with Free Flight: Birds Of Prey

- What birds of prey are dangerous?
- This massively depends on the species you are free flying. What birds do you think will cause an issue for your parrot and why?
- For large parrots:
 - Kites, eagles, buteos and some falcons.
- For small parrots:
 - Falcons and accipiters.

Dangers with Free Flight: Birds Of Prey

How to tell if a bird of prey is in the area?

- The local wildlife will be silent.
- You'll hear crows screaming aggressively.
- Your bird will refuse to fly.
- You may hear the bird of prey screaming. When they are being noisy they are not hunting.





Dangers with Free Flight: Roads/Cars

Our birds don't understand that cars are dangerous. Some free flighted parrots have been killed by getting hit by a car.

Sudden noises from passing cars can spook parrots.

Flying near roads can reduce chances of recovery if you lose your bird.

Dangers with Free Flight: Cats and Dogs

- These are natural predators. Parrots have been killed by “friendly” dogs before. It is always recommended to not fly near dog parks.
- Flying too close to areas where cats are loose can also result in the death of your bird.



Dangers with Free Flight: Birds of Annoyance

Crows and seagulls cause the biggest issues for free flighted parrots. They have been known for chasing pet birds out of the area you are trying to fly in. They are also a lot more aggressive towards parrots than birds of prey.

Although people don't consider them, the local songbird can even give a chase to smaller parrots. It is rare but entirely possible.

When flying beginners, you want to try your best to stay away from crows and seagulls as they present challenges beginner birds are not equipped to deal with, yet.



Dangers with Free Flight: Birds of Annoyance





Dangers with Free Flight: Power Lines

Although rare, birds have been electrocuted to death in the past. When free flying you want to stay away from electricity poles, telephone wires, etc. Our parrots are not aware that these are dangerous and even with excellent recall may decide to still fly to one. It only takes one wrong move to get electrocuted so the risk is just not worth it.

Dangers with Free Flight: People

A lot of individuals don't tend to consider that other people can be a huge danger.

People may attempt to steal your bird. It is why free flighted parrots cannot be over-socialised. If you let your parrots get comfortable on strangers then they will be easy to steal.

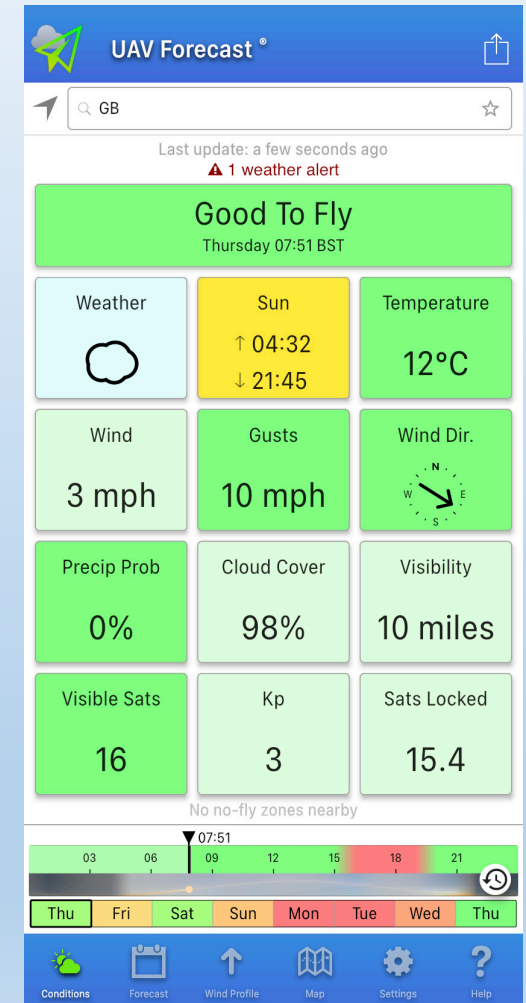
People may also kill your bird. It's not common, but has happened.



Dangers with Free Flight: Strong Winds/Gusts

If your parrot doesn't have the correct experience to deal with gusts they can be easily carried off. As smaller birds are lighter than big macaws it is not recommended to fly in high winds/gusts. Personally I only fly my birds in max 15mph winds and 20mph gusts. But I would never fly a beginner in these conditions.

For flying small parrots I rely on the UAV Forecast Phone App as it is designed for drones so needs to be really accurate.



Dangers with Free Flight: Water

Sometimes birds aren't the smartest creatures. They may attempt landing in water which could result in drowning as their flight feathers get wet which prevents them from being able to fly away.

There is also the risk that your bird could be blown into/over the water resulting in a struggle to recover.

Birds should not be flown around any water until they are experienced to deal with new challenges.



Issues Surrounding Desensitising to Dangers

Can you think of a reason why desensitising your parrot to dangers may become a problem?

Do you ever see parrots in the wild making friends with their predators?

The very short answer:

Dangers = Death