Lost parrot finds home in Ursuline dorm

Grad student can’t keep Sunny, though, and search is on to find bird’s rightful owner.

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PEPPER PIKE — Ursuline College has an unexpected, colorful and peanut-addicted dorm resident.

His name is Sunny and he is a 4-year-old sun conure parrot. Sunny’s roommate, Jamie Orr, thinks of him as a boy, but there is no simple way to find out his gender.

Sunny landed on Orr’s shoulder just before lunch Aug. 23.

Orr, a graduate student at Ursuline, was walking to her office on campus when she heard a jarring sound.

“That is a weird squawking,” she said to her friend.

They both looked around, up and down. They spotted a colorful bird sitting on a tree branch.

“Come here buddy,” Orr called to the parrot.

But he did not come down, so she and her friend continued into the office for lunch.

When they came back outside, the parrot was still in the tree. They walked past and the bird quickly flew down and landed on Orr’s shoulder.

Sunny’s head is topped with yellow feathers. His beak is black and his eyes are surrounded by orange. His wings are not clipped and have feathers in different shades of green and blue, as does his tail.

Sunny got his name from Clarissa

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PARROT

Simms and Jessica Jennings, two other Ursuline students. “Anything shiny, Sunny loves,” Orr said regarding his chosen name.

She contacted Pepper Pike police regarding the incident, but they do not have the facility or resources to take care of a bird.

Ursuline students are not allowed to keep pets in their dorm rooms. Orr received permission from the college to care for Sunny until he is returned to his owner or can go to a parrot rescue.

“He is like a magnet to you,” Elizabeth Coletta, Ursuline marketing specialist and social media coordinator, laughed to Orr.

From the moment she arrives home from class, Sunny begins squawking. Her office is now his room and when Orr opens the door he immediately flies onto her shoulder. He only leaves her shoulder to get a peanut, which is his favorite snack.

Sunny has a tag number around his ankle and is registered to Forest Park Aviaries in Columbia Station. He was born in 2008, but the company has since closed.

Well-tamed and affectionate, Sunny must have come from someone’s home — not a pet store or breeder, Orr said. He either escaped someone’s home or his owner released him into the wild.

Orr and others at Ursuline have checked lost parrot notices on Craigslist, local veterinarian clinics, pet stores and the Cleveland Animal Protective League, as well as posted notices about Sunny on websites such as 911parrotalert.com and parrotalert.com.

No one knows him. “He is still very much a pet bird,” Orr said.

“He has not been in the wild for very long, but he was starving when I got him.”

Sun conures are originally from South America and Sunny would not have survived outside come late fall, Orr said.

Her priority is to return Sunny to his original owner — if he has one.

“I will not keep him,” she said, as Sunny affectionately "kissed" her neck.

Orr sadly smiles.

Being a student and unsure where her future might take her, Orr may not be Sunny’s best caregiver in the long term.

As this reporter said goodbye and backed out of the apartment, Sunny lifted his wing to “wave” goodbye.

Sunny has a tag number, so anyone looking for their missing bird can call Coletta in Ursuline’s marketing depart-