

Just before we made this trip, it was near Christmas and I had bought some friends of ours who had a child late in life, a big surprise if you wish, the kid was about six and it was Christmas so I bought him a snare drum. Of course his mom and dad were just thrilled to death. So a few months later they gave us live bird in a cage. This was the last thing I wanted in my life was a pet.

However we had it. We were getting ready to go away so we asked our friend, Ray, I won't say his last name to protect his reputation as he is no longer with us. But I asked Ray and his wife if they would take care of the bird. They said they would love to. Just bring the cage down and whatever else it needs. So we did.

Now they had about three or four cats. However, we went away and we came back and this bird and I, over a couple of years, had come up with this routine. I don't want a bird but I'll keep him till he dies. So every night I would sit down in my chair and His cage was right next to me and I would bang his cage with a pillow. The dog would come across, and I would tell him, "where is your brother" and the bird would get up on his little perch and swing back and forth and "chirp, chirp, chirp, chirp". This happened every night.

So we go away and come back and we get our bird. We're sitting there and I take the pillow, WHACK! Nothing. The bird does not respond. I figure he must be tired from the move. Next evening I do the same thing. Bang with the pillow. The bird does not do anything. So I think I need to take him to the vet as. Obviously the bird is sick.

So I call my buddy, Ray, and I said, "listen, did anything happen to this bird that might traumatize him or cause an issue because he seems to have changed and I don't want to spend money to take him to the vet". Ray said, "Gee, Joe I hate to tell you this but the night after you brought him over the cats got the bird and they killed it. I want you to know, Murdoch, I spent the whole damn weekend walking around every pet store in New London County with this napkin. I need a bird that looks just like this and opened the napkin.