

Birdy Bytes

Newsletter for the High Desert Bird Club of New Mexico



Volume 18, Issue 12

December 2025

Upcoming Events

December 14th – General Meeting
Potluck Dinner and Holiday Party
Sunday, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Location: Private Residence
RSVP for Address

2026

January – General Meeting
Date TBD
Sunday, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Location: Parrot Pantry
2325 San Pedro Drive NE, Ste11
Albuquerque, NM 87110

In This Issue

Upcoming Events	1
Words from the Prez	1
Bird Club Biz.....	2
General Meeting	3
Meeting Minutes	3
HDBC Hotline	3
HDBC Elections.....	3
PSA	4
A Christmas Poem	5
Bird Rescue, Foster, and Adoption	6
Parrot Pantry	6
Next Bird Toy Sale in 2026.....	7
Classified Ads.....	7
Friends of HDBC	7

Words from the Prez

Happy Holidays to all of us!

We have made it through another year. New friends and lots of lessons!!

This year we have traveled to two veterinary conferences and made it to Superzoo! We came back with a lot of great information and new items for our feathered family.

Our goal for next year is to grow our group and education!! Keeping our birds safe and healthy is our 2026 goal.

I want to personally Thank you for a great 2025! We are moving forward, slowly but definitely in the right direction. Our community is growing, and people are talking about the difference we make in our small towns.

When we are asked to help, we do. No questions asked. High Desert Bird Club... you rock!!

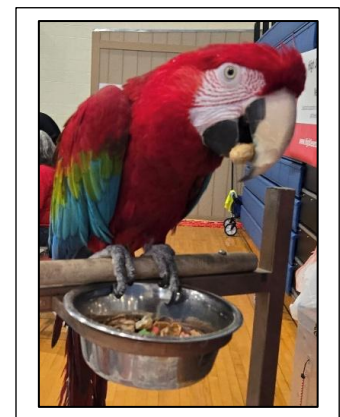
Looking forward to the holidays with my family and friends and to another year of being a partner to this amazing group!

Hope to see you at our pot luck!!

Cheers to us!

Dorothy Newbill

Maya
Greenwing Macaw
Birdie Ambassador



Bird Club Biz

High Desert Bird Club of NM
www.HighDesertBirdClub.org

Bird Rescue Hotline: (505) 554-0804

General Meetings

Monthly, usually on a Sunday

Meeting time: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location:

Birds of a Feather Parrot Pantry
2325 San Pedro Drive NE, Ste 11
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Club Officers

President: Dorothy Newbill
Vice President: Susan Carolus
Secretary: Sparky Newell
Treasurer: Carolyn Newell

Committee Chairpersons

Social Media/Publicity: Victoria Collier
Bird Rescue: Jennifer Catron
Education: Dorothy Newbill
Fundraising: Available
Hospitality: Available
Membership: Available
Newsletter: Jennifer Catron
Website: Jennifer Catron

Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance (stmt 10/31/25)	\$1,331.26
Revenue	\$0.00
Expenses	\$0.00
Ending balance (stmt 11/30/25)	\$1,331.26

**The High Desert Bird Club of NM is a
501(c)(3) educational, public charity
recognized by the IRS.**

Membership Requirements

Any person interested in cage birds who agrees to support the objectives in the HDBC By-Laws is eligible for membership.

Membership Dues

\$20.00 Individual
\$30.00 Household
\$15.00 Junior (17 or younger)
\$15.00 Senior (60 or older)
\$25.00 Senior Household

Dues are payable in January of each year or at a quarterly pro-rated amount upon joining the Club.

Newsletter Policy

Birdy Bytes is generally issued on a monthly basis. Content from members is encouraged. Content deemed obscene, inflammatory, overtly personal, copyrighted without permission to republish, or insufficiently bird-related may not be published at the discretion of the newsletter Editor.

Newsletter Advertising Policy

Any individual or business that supports HDBC through the donation of money, goods, or services may have a near business-card sized ad published in the newsletter for three months for no cost.

Members may have a text ad of up to 50 words and a reasonable number of supporting photos for no cost. Ads run for two months and may be renewed for two-month increments. Members are responsible for contacting the newsletter Editor to renew their ad.

Advertising space may be purchased. A half-page ad costs \$25 for six months. Additional ad sizes and corresponding rates are available.

Newsletter Editor reserves the right to accept or reject any advertisement based on the appropriateness for *Birdy Bytes*.

To submit content for *Birdy Bytes*, contact Jennifer Catron, Editor, at jrcatron@aol.com, or (505) 235-2803.

Thank you.



General Meeting

December 14, 2025

Potluck Dinner and Holiday Party

Like last year, we are combining our holiday potluck dinner with Birds of a Feather Parrot Rescue of New Mexico (BOAF).

We've also been invited to participate in BOAF's White Elephant gift exchange. If you're not familiar with a White Elephant gift exchange, it's a lot of fun.

Gifts are either something you already have in your home or something new. Gift value cap is \$20. Wrap or use a gift bag for the item to maintain the mystery. Numbers are drawn to select a gift, and a die is used for instructions to trade or retain that gift. Sounds complicated, but it is really fun.

Participation is optional, but please bring a gift if you want to participate in the exchange.

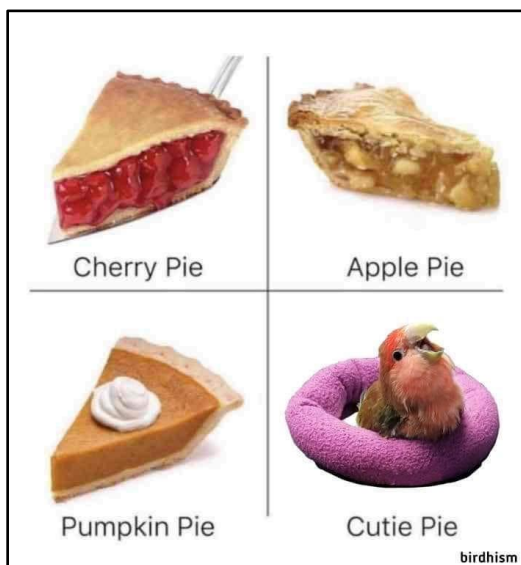
The potluck dinner theme is Crockpot or pie food.

We will be meeting at a private residence, so please RSVP to Jennifer Catron at jrcatron@aol.com to ensure we have enough tables and chairs and for location information.

Date: Sunday, December 14, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Private Residence



Meeting Minutes

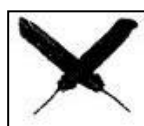
No meeting in November. No minutes.

HDBC Hotline

No calls were received this month.



HDBC Elections



It's that time of year again to nominate and vote for HDBC officers for the next year. In October, nominations are collected and accepted.

Because we're combining our November and December meetings, members can vote for the candidate of his or her choice at the December meeting.

HDBC Officer Nominees for 2026 are:

President: Dorothy Newbill
Vice President: Susan Carolus
Treasurer: Carolyn Newell
Secretary: Sparky Newell

We're a good club with a noble cause. We should continue our mission to educate and promote good and proper care of caged birds.

As a club, we also offer education and community support for current and new bird owners that adopt through Birds of a Feather Parrot Rescue.

Responsibilities of club officers are listed in our bylaws. A copy of our bylaws is posted on our website and can be found using this link: <http://www.highdesertbirdclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/HDBC-Constitution-and-By-Laws-062608-Amend-110712.pdf>, under Article VI - Duties and Powers of Officers.

PSA

As we enter the holiday season, please do not use non-stick cookware. This includes roasters, fryers, oven bags and non-stick coated aluminum foil. All non-stick coatings are extremely toxic to our feathered friends.



Sharing is caring as long as onions, garlic and avocado are not part of the ingredients. These items are also toxic for our birds. Be safe, not sorry this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

A stylized illustration of a tree with a brown trunk and branches, covered in vibrant autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red. Some leaves are falling. At the base of the tree are two pumpkins, one orange and one purple. The background is a light cream color.

SAFETY REMINDER - HOLIDAY COOKING

Kitchen Reminders
Do not use:

- Self-Cleaning Ovens
- Teflon/ PTFE Cookware
- Oven Roast Bags
- Non-Stick Foil

Common Holiday Foods that are harmful to birds: Onions, garlic, chocolate, caffeine, alcohol and dairy.

Having family over? - be watchful of any cookware brought over by friends & family to ensure it is bird safe when heated.

www.staravian.org

A Christmas Poem

Twas the night before Christmas and all through the flights, not a bird was stirring since I turned off the lights.

Clean dishes were stacked by the freezer with care, so in the morning they would be filled with fresh healthy fare.

The birds were all fed and put out to play, everyone was settled – I was done for the day.

When down from the basement there arose such a clatter, that I ran for the stairs to see what was the matter.

I raced down the steps and turned down the light, glancing first to the left and then to the right.

It was then that I noticed the now empty spot, in the cage where the Cockatoos should be but were not!

The Goffin's are missing I yelled to my spouse, while I shuddered to think what they'd do to the house.



My fears were well founded I soon came to know, as I surveyed the destruction in the bird room below.

Feeding doors had been opened, the

dishes all tossed, bags were ripped open their contents all lost.

The marauders unfastened from the cage tops each toy, which they tossed at the occupants below with such joy.

The other birds sulked as they viewed the whole mess, this Cockatoo duo had created such stress!

I searched through the room, my frustration profound, those two fiendish beasts simply weren't to be found!

It was then that I noticed the Senegal staring, as his eyes flashed with anger I saw he was glaring

Towards the side of the room at an overturned pail. I followed his gaze and saw a flash of white tail.

Goffin's Cockatoo holding my breath as I approached with great care, was it possible both could be hiding in there?

I snatched up the bucket and the villains were exposed, they knew they were busted and for a second they froze.

Then the Cockatoo shriek and scrambling of feet, they raced for their cage in hasty retreat.

I slammed the door shut as I trembled with rage, don't you two ever, ever come out of your cage!

They stared at me smugly cheeks puffed with contentment, their mission accomplished they ignored my resentment.

I'll clean up tomorrow. I said aloud with a sigh, as I walked toward the steps one 'Too said "bye bye."

As I turned with a grin I felt suddenly calm, their sweet little voices could act as a balm.

For along with their mischief, they brought love and fun, it was hard to stay angry despite what they'd done.

My jangled nerves and life's hectic pace, had made me forget what was in my face.

I didn't need gifts, fancy stuff from the store, I had all I needed, my birds and much more!

My dear friends and family, my health and my spouse, everything that mattered was right here in this house.

So Santa I thank you but I don't need a lot, I'm learning to be grateful for all that I've got.

If you come down my chimney to leave something new, *just leave me some padlocks so I can lock up the 'Toos!!*

Author Unknown
Shared from the AFA discussion board



Bird Rescue, Foster, and Adoption



Birds of a Feather Parrot Rescue of New Mexico (BOAF) is officially on adoption hiatus until January 15, 2026

Every year, the adoption process is paused from November 15th through January 15th. This is to discourage the gifting of birds as Christmas or other holiday presents.

If an adoption is already in progress prior to November 15th, that adoption can continue to completion.

The rescue is at capacity and a waiting list for surrenders is in place for other than emergency situations.

After January 15th, the adoption process will resume. If you are interested in adopting, fostering, or volunteering, please complete an application posted on their website at:



Luca
Moluccan Cockatoo
Birdie Ambassador

<https://www.birdsofafeathernm.org/>

You can also follow them on their Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/birdsofafeathernm/>
for current events and activities at the rescue.

Parrot Pantry

Parrot Pantry is the place to go for all your parrot supplies.

A wide variety of parrot food, toys, perches, stands, cages, and accessories are available for sale.



No birds are sold at the Parrot Pantry.

Parrot Pantry is part of Birds of a Feather Parrot Rescue of New Mexico. The current bird surrender and adoption process will continue under the rescue.

Check out Parrot Pantry with new Sunday hours.

Store Hours:

Monday – Saturday 10AM – 6PM
Sunday 11 AM – 3 PM

Location:

2325 San Pedro Drive NE, Ste 11
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 584-1803 (Store Phone)

If you are not already following, check out the Facebook pages for Birds of the Feather Parrot Rescue and Parrot Pantry. Follow these pages for the latest information for both the rescue and store.

[Facebook - Birds of a Feather Parrot Rescue of NM](#)
[Facebook - Birds Of A Feather "Parrot Talk"](#)
[Facebook - BOAF Parrot Pantry](#)

Next Bird Toy Sale in 2026

If you missed the bird toy sale in September, you can still find some of Tina's fine bird toys and perches at BOAF Parrot Pantry.

Thank you, Tina, for bringing so many wonderful bird toys, perches, and accessories all the way from Phoenix Arizona. We appreciate you.

Mark your calendar for the next sale on March 28, 2026. It's on a Saturday (one day only) in Inez Park, Albuquerque.

If you have a questions for Tina regarding bird toys or a custom-size perch, you can find her on [Facebook](#), call, or email her directly.

Tina McClendon, (623) 341-3375
Email: CreationsJT@aol.com



Classified Ads

Pet Sitting

Sparky and Carolyn Newell, Officers of High Desert Bird Club of NM, and owners of Exotics of the Rainforest, LLC, will pet sit for one bird in our home while you are away for business or pleasure. Forty-five years of experience caring for parrots from Conures to Macaws! We have ten parrots of our own, five Macaws, three Amazons, and two Conures. Located in Albuquerque, NM. Reasonable rates. Call (505) 220-4737.

Friends of HDBC

