



The Newsletter  
of the  
High Desert Bird Club  
of  
New Mexico

Volume 3, Number 2

February 2010

**IMPORTANT ADOPTION/RESCUE INFO INSIDE**

Words from the Prez

Hello Fellow Bird Friends,

We are off and running on a great new year. Last month we had a wonderful presentation by Carolyn and Sparky Newell. A special thank you for them! We are following up this month with Dr. Linda Contos speaking about the New Bird Exam and what's new in avian medicine. I'm sure it will be great so don't miss it.

Last month we had a busy meeting and our Rescue program is operational. Thank you all for your patience and participation. We have three new chairpersons: Jerry Tuttle for Publicity, and Betty Hall and Rochelle Schwalb on the Raffle. We are in need of help if we are to have a Bird Mart this year. I urge everyone to consider working on the project.

I have also just heard that the Library project has been approved. We have lots of opportunities there and elsewhere to help promote our club and to educate the public on the care of birds. All we need now is lots of participation. We have the groundwork and a bright new year, so now let's run with it!

Good Tidings,  
Sandi

## High Desert Bird Club of New Mexico

P.O. Box 67855  
Albuquerque, NM 87193

**Website:** [www.highdesertbirdclub.org](http://www.highdesertbirdclub.org)

### Executive Committee:

President – Sandi Brennan  
Vice President – Anna Sloan  
Secretary – Marion Beal  
Treasurer – Lisa Uhl

**Membership:** Any person interested in cage birds who agrees to support the objectives in the HDHC by-laws is eligible for membership.

### Dues:

\$20.00 Individual  
\$30.00 Household (two voting members)  
\$15.00 Juniors (17 or younger)  
\$15.00 Seniors (over 60)  
\$25.00 Senior Household (two voting members, one over 60)  
(Due in January; mid-year dues prorated on quarterly basis)

**Meetings:** Unless otherwise specified, HDHC meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at the Paradise Hills Community Center, 5901 Paradise Hills Blvd., Albuquerque, NM. Meetings begin at 6:45 pm.

**Newsletter Advertising:** Any business which supports HDHC (allowing posters &/or club newsletters in their place of business or contributing to materially club activities, etc.) may have a business card sized ad at no cost. A ½ page ad costs \$25 for 6 months. Non-profit bird related organizations may have ads placed at no cost at the discretion of the editor or HDHC board. Members may have short text-only ads for two months (renewable) at no cost.

**Newsletter Policy:** *Birdy Bytes*, like all other aspects of HDHC, is the work of all Club members and will only be as good as the members want it to be. As editor, I will see to it that an issue of *Birdy Bytes* goes out every month. What it contains, however, is up to all of you. I have neither the time nor inclination to search out articles and such just to fill up the newsletter. I will include any and all submissions with few exceptions (obscene, inflammatory, overtly personal, copyrighted or insufficiently bird-related). Please inform me promptly of any change in your e-mail address.

## HDHC Standing Committees

### Chair Volunteer Opportunities Still Available!

See issue Vol. 1, No. 1 (August 2008) for a description of the committee duties. These are 2009 members, subject to revision for 2010.

Advertising/Publicity – Marion Beal  
AFA Delegate – Betty Hall  
Bird Expo – Jennifer Catron  
Rescue/Adoptions – Lisa Uhl  
Michelle Siebersma

Education – Trina Hatcher  
Fundraising – available  
Hospitality – Lisa Uhl  
Library – Betty Hall  
Membership – Anni and Joe Hovanec  
Newsletter – Joe Hovanec  
Raffle – Sandi Brennan  
Special Events – Joe Garcia  
Brittney Garcia  
Website – Aaron Birenboim

**Raffle Table:** A raffle table is held at the conclusion of each monthly meeting. All members are encouraged to donate items to the table as often as their means will allow. Items should be bird-related and should be new or in like-new condition. Tickets are 50¢ each or 12 for \$5. Special items of higher value may be sold separately using a sealed-bid auction. Thanks to all who have contributed.

**Hospitality Table:** The hospitality table provides an assortment of light snacks and beverages at each meeting. Members are urged to make regular contributions and the membership is grateful to all contributors. Lisa Uhl coordinates the hospitality table and she may be contacted at 898-4640 or [cuhl3@comcast.net](mailto:cuhl3@comcast.net).

**Adoption Policy:** HDHC has distributed adoption forms for use in any club-sponsored adoption program. Additional forms may be obtained from Lisa Uhl and will soon be available for download on the HDHC website. This will not apply to adoptions from non-HDHC sources which may be included in this newsletter.

**Bird Rescue Hotline:**  
505-554-0804

**Non-Profit Status:** HDHC is now an IRS approved 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization.

## CALENDAR

### NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday, Feb. 3,  
2010 at 6:45 pm at the  
Paradise Hills  
Community Center**

### TOPIC:

**Cockatoos by Evelyn  
Candelaria**

### COMING EVENTS

#### February 4

**Budget Meeting,  
6:30 pm at Village Inn  
on Coors Rd. between  
Montaño and Paseo del  
Norte. All interested  
members are invited.**

#### March 3

**Budget Discussion  
Birdy Bingo**

#### April and May

**Suggestions are  
solicited.**

## **HDBC Bird Rescue, Foster, and Adoption Program**

The High Desert Bird Club of New Mexico is dedicated to education in the best care, keeping, maintenance, and breeding of caged birds. One of our main goals is to provide rescue, adoption, foster care, and rehoming for caged birds in need. If you have a bird you can no longer care for, or would like to adopt a bird in need of a home, or maybe foster a bird that needs a home until it can be rehomed, you're in the right place.

The following information describes our process for pet bird rescue, foster and adoption. Also included on this webpage are links for forms to surrender a bird to HDBC, provide information about a surrendered bird, and an application to foster or adopt a bird.

### **Bird Surrender, Rescue, and Intake**

1. Call the HDBC Bird Rescue hotline at (505) 554-0804.
2. Provide information to the person answering the hotline regarding how many birds, the type of birds, and situation concerning why the birds are being surrendered.
3. If you wish to surrender a bird, please complete the Bird Surrender Form and the Donated Bird Questionnaire.
4. An appointment is made with you for two HDBC members to receive the bird(s).
5. A visual physical exam of each bird is done at the time of intake.
6. A vet check of the bird(s) is done within 7 days unless the in-home assessment suggests that the bird may be ill. In case of visual signs of illness, the bird(s) is vet checked on an emergency basis.
7. All birds are tested for Chlamydia and a CBC (Complete Blood Count). Other tests may be done as needed on a case-by-case basis.
8. A weight check is done prior to placing the bird(s) in foster care.
9. All birds are placed in a foster home and quarantined for six-weeks prior to adoption.

### **Bird Foster Care**

Bird foster homes play a critical role in the HDBC Bird Rescue Program. Being a foster parent helps birds in need. Some foster parents adopt the birds they are fostering, others just provide a safe, temporary home until a permanent home can be found. Both roles are essential to helping birds in need of a new home.

The following information includes requirements and details for becoming a foster parent for a HDBC bird rescue.

1. A basic bird care class is required for all foster parents and potential adoptive parents. Classes are approximately 2 hours in length and offered on a quarterly basis. Class schedule will be posted on the HDBC website.
2. After the class is completed, the foster home is visited at time of placement and after 30 days to see how the bird is settling in.
3. Except for emergencies, contact Sandi Brennan, HDBC President and Bird Rescue Committee Chairperson, prior to any vet visit for a foster bird.
4. Foster parents with birds are required to check in weekly with a bird rescue committee member to give a status or progress report. Contact may be done by phone or email. Contact information is provided at the time the foster bird is placed.
5. Bird food and bird toys are provided by the foster parent. HDBC does not reimburse for these expenses. When bird food or toys are donated to HDBC for the rescue program, these items will be shared among the foster homes as appropriate.
6. All foster birds must be quarantined for six weeks beginning at intake.

If you'd like to help rescue birds, but are unable to be a foster parent, we can always use help with acquiring and storing cages, bird toys and bird food. Every bit helps.

### **Bird Adoption**

1. Birds currently available and soon-to-be available for adoption are announced on our

- HDBC website and in our newsletter, *Birdy Bytes*.
2. HDBC membership is required to adopt a bird. HDBC membership fee is prorated in accordance with HDBC membership policy.
  3. No application fee is required.
  4. Adoption fee for each bird is the cost of its vet care and medication. Donations in addition to this cost are voluntary and always welcome.
  5. Complete the Bird Adoption questionnaire.
  6. Submit the completed questionnaire to the HDBC P.O. Box 67855, Albuquerque, NM 87193, or a Bird Rescue Committee member at least one week prior to the next HDBC monthly meeting for review.
  7. Completion of the basic bird care class is required. A bird may be adopted prior to completing this class with the agreement to enroll and complete the next available basic bird care class.
  8. After the proposed adoptive person or family has met the above criteria, a home visit is made to see where the bird will be kept.
  9. The bird is then be delivered by a Bird Rescue Committee member and placed in its new home.
  10. Bird(s) are fostered for 30 days. After 30-days have elapsed and the bird and the adopter are happy together, the adoption is finalized by signing of the final adoption documents.
  11. Finalizing the adoption requires the following:
    - a. Signed agreement to release HDBC from any further responsibility for the bird(s).
    - b. Agreement to return the bird(s) to HDBC if they can no longer be kept by the adopter.



### Birds Available for Adoption

We have several Lutino Lovebirds available for adoption. Tests results for these birds were negative for Polyomavirus and PBF (Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease). The bonded pairs must be adopted together. Single birds may be adopted individually. Adopter must provide appropriate cage or housing for the birds; none come with cages. Adoption fees apply in accordance with HDBC Bird Rescue Policy. The pictures of these birds are representative. They really do all look alike.

1 Bonded, proven breed pair; ages unknown.

1 Bonded, proven breeder pair; ages unknown.

1 Bonded pair, siblings, gender unknown, age approximately 6 months.

5 single birds, handfed, gender unknown, ages approximately 2-3 months, fully weaned.

The HDBC Bird Rescue Policy is published in this issue of *Birdy Bytes* and is posted on our website: [www.HighDesertBirdClub.org](http://www.HighDesertBirdClub.org). Adoption applications and other bird rescue forms are posted on our website. For more information, contact Sandi Brennan, President, and Bird Rescue Committee Chairperson.

**Mitred Conure** - Steve Nohoecek is looking to rehome a wild caught, former breeder, Mitred Conure. This bird lost its mate about two years ago, is missing front and tail feathers, and is not tame. For more information about this bird, contact Steve directly at (505) 315-8491. Not an HDBC adoption. Picture is representative of a Mitred Conure.



## ***Lutino Love Birds***



## ***Mitered Conure***

### **For Sale:**

Handfed Conures, Goldennan Suns \$400; Suns \$400; Gold Capped \$400; Green Cheeked \$10; Dusky Headed \$250. Also toys, vitamins, AviClean. Sandi, 505-281-7729

Parrot Cage, stainless steel, 30" x 40", good condition; Donna, 505-898-8943

## Mystic Becomes the Devil

Back in 1985, when we were new to conures, we purchased a Patagonian conure from a Gainesville, Fla. Pet store. He was beautiful, fascinating, sweet and the best talker we'd ever had. Mystic had been with us a few months, when he began sneezing and sniffing. It worried me so much that he went to the vet. They couldn't find a thing wrong. Well we went back a few weeks later, and still nothing. Then a vet student asked us what we did when he sneezed. "I go and check if it's wet or dry" I said "Just like I'd been taught." He thought a minute and suggest I try ignoring it for awhile. The brilliant student had Mystic all figured out. No more sneezing. He was cured, but he became Diablo.

### MY COMPANION: The Jurassic Park Dino

Anna Sloan

At one time or another, all of my parrots remind me in some way of those ancient critters of long lost: the dinosaur! At least, they remind me of the variations I have seen in *Jurassic Park* and other theatrical pieces regarding the mighty lizard monsters.

Just a few days ago I was laying on the sofa, chatting with husband Andy about Allen the hawk headed parrot and the progress I felt he has made. Unfortunately, my gain has been hubby's loss as the more bonded Allen becomes to me, the more aggressive he has been toward hubby. Andy was really afraid of Allen at first, especially after he saw the way the bird bit me when we were getting to know each other and wanted no part in being anywhere near the little monster. As time went on, Allen kind of grew on him and though Allen's behavior would suggest that the little feathered kiddo feels exactly the opposite, he is still a remarkable animal and a pleasure to experience

and this is exactly what Andy expressed to me when we were talking about his progress.

Back to my hawk headed dino comparison. Allen is special. He's unique in appearance and in personality. If Allen had to be a dinosaur, he would most certainly be the cute and playful, but mysterious little creature that meets up with a flustered and filthy Dennis in the pitch black and on the eve of a major storm. For those who remember, this is a classic scene from the film *Jurassic Park* where the pathetic character meets his relatively quick demise when the curious dino turns into a hissing, spitting hooded monster that devours the puny man within minutes. Allen may remind me of this creature mostly because he also has a hood that flairs when he is excited or upset but also because Allen can change from being playful and endearing to a dangerous being within a matter of seconds.

I recently had to have a bilateral foot surgery and Andy and other volunteers have had to step in to take care of a lot of the little things that I usually do myself, including our birds. Because I am aware of the moodiness of our newest resident, I had been making it a point to fully service Allen's cage every day so that no one else would have to risk getting hurt. Unfortunately, after surgery I was no longer able to protect my better half from his fears but was pleased when Andy expressed a growing interest and comfort level with our little Allen. Maybe it was good that Andy was somehow forced into interacting with the little parrot. I was proud of the confidence that my loving husband had built up during my leave from daily duties and proud of Allen for not completely melting down under the care of someone other than myself, even if he has been just a tad cranky.

Now, lets go back to *Jurassic Park* - the scene where the fearless and gutsy hunter (his name escapes me) is leading a terrified Ellie through the jungle so that she can reset the compound's

electrical grid in the hopes that it will turn the protective fencing back on in order to keep any other dinos from munching on humans as an afternoon snack. As they are slowly creeping along, the hunter notices a velociraptor spying on them from the side and urges Ellie to run toward the electrical bunker as quickly as possible. He heroically stays behind, risking his own life so that she might escape unharmed. He studies the monster carefully and slowly pulls the sight of his gun to his eye. Suddenly a second raptor springs from the bushes from a different angle and pounces right on top of the man, who quickly finds himself at an end. His last words were curious but steady, "clever girl!"

So, Andy went to change bird waters the other night. He had been sneaking into the bird room which houses Allen, with the lights off. Despite my arguing that this is not an appropriate way to interact with the birds on any level, because they are prey animals who probably do not appreciate seeing a body sneak past their cages in the dark, he was doing this to create an element of surprise when it came to changing Allen's water dish. With the lights on, Allen would rush him in the cage and try to strike while Andy lifted his stainless water bowl from it's ring. After much pleading, I had talked Andy out of using this method and for the first time, he was about to change waters with the lights on, a great relief to me. He flicked the switch on and quickly darted for the hawk head cage, hoping to get a head start on the bird who would not have much time to react. He pulled the water bowl out quickly - caring only that Allen was no were near his fingers and then glanced up into the cage to see where his little opponent was hiding. He felt an eerie sense of calm come over him as he realized that Allen's cage was completely void of any bird.

Standing frozen in place, Andy's instincts told him to slowly look to his left. His vision caught sight of a hawk headed statue, stealthily perched upon the highest point of the tallest cage in the room, hood flared, body erect, wings out. It must have been only

a millisecond that Andy was allowed to process this image before the silent assassin leaped onto his head, hissing and spitting at him.

At that time I had bravely waddled my way to the kitchen and was peering into the pantry for something tasty to munch on. From down the hall I heard a sound, very faint. It took a second for me to process, but then, yes, there it was again - an incoherent string of expletives streaming down the hall in my direction! "What in the world?" I started to think to myself as I peered behind the pantry door with curiosity but my thoughts were interrupted by a roaring and urgent "ANNNNNNNNNNNA, COME NOW!!!" The tone in Andy's voice meant that we had a dead or dying bird back there and for the first time since surgery, the word "hobble" was dead to me. I flew down the hall and as I was doing so, I caught a glimpse of my husband jumping up and down, spinning around in circles, hands covering his ears. As I screeched to a halt at the door, my little hawk headed buddy coolly waltzed out the bird room door. He stopped at my feet and lifted his foot to alert me that he wanted a "step up."

My heart was pounding and so were my feet, but once my brain registered what had happened, I burst into laughter. Andy stood panting, so flustered he could barely speak but somehow he got out a frigid sentence regarding Allen's performance. Allen had learned how to unlock his food door and happily let himself out. Whether he had intentionally climbed up to that point to wait for an unsuspecting victim or not, the role was played out beautifully. The funny thing is that Andy never got bit, despite Allen's fool proof opportunity to nail him multiple times on the hands or face during the whole fiasco. Instead, Allen simply clung to to his victim, spitting and hissing and flapping. I think he had a grand time of it too.

Andy had to admit post trauma that he had experienced some setbacks regarding his feelings for Allen. Needless to say, I am now once again fully responsible for servicing his cage, broken feet or not.

## Birds are Available for Private Adoption

[These are not HDBC adoptions; fees and conditions may apply; contact numbers provided for more info. Lists based on latest information subject to change.]

**Avian Rescue; Ron or Charlie Howard, 899-5979**

- Amazons (3)
- Cockatiels (many available)
- Cockatoo, Lesser Sulphur Crested (1)
- Cockatoos, Goffins (2)
- Cockatoos, Umbrella (2)
- Conure, Jenday (1)
- Macaw, Blue and Gold (1)
- Macaws, Scarlet (3)

**Macaw and Cockatoo Rescue of New Mexico (1/19/10)**  
**Anna Sloan, 994-0505**

- Blue and gold macaw - 2
- Military Macaw - 1
- Yellow Collared Mini Macaw - 1
- Moluccan Cockatoo - 1
- Goffins Cockatoo - 1
- Umbrella Cockatoo - 1
- Lesser Sulfer Crested Cockatoo - 1
- Congo African Grey - 5
- Eclectus - 1
- Blue Front Amazon - 4
- Orange Winged Amazon - 1
- Mexican Red Headed Amazon - 1
- Jardine Parrot - 1
- Alexandrine Parakeet - 1
- Indian Ringneck Parakeet - 2
- Quaker Parakeet - 1
- Green Cheek Conure - 1
- Fischer's Lovebird - 1
- Red Rumped Parakeet - 1
- Lutino Lacewing Cockatiel - 1
- Whitefaced Cockatiels - 4
- Other Cockatiels - 5

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