

# Birdy Bytes

## Newsletter for the High Desert Bird Club of New Mexico



Volume 13, Issue 2

February 2020

### Upcoming Events

**Feb 27<sup>th</sup>** – General Meeting  
Program: Birdy Bingo!  
RGSCC Albuquerque, NM

**Mar 26<sup>th</sup>** – General Meeting  
Program TBD  
RGSCC Albuquerque, NM

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** – General Meeting  
Program TBD  
RGSCC Albuquerque, NM

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### Words from the Prez

#### How Feathers Can Tell a Story

One of the hardest things for bird owners to come to terms with, especially new bird owners, is the fact that we can't rely on our eyes to determine the health of our birds. Because sick parrots are targeted by predators in the wild, they hide the appearance of illness until they are no longer able to do so. Eventually, as their illness progresses, they become lethargic, their wings begin to droop and their perching can be unsteady. This is all an indication of a sick bird.

Here are a few things to watch for that will help you identify a potential problem.

I know we all know about looking at droppings and weighing our birds, but I want to take this opportunity to discuss changes in feathers.

Being vigilant in noticing changes will help you avoid coming home one day to find your bird puffed up and perched on the floor of her cage. Being aware of the appearance and color and change in color of the feathers will also be an enormous help in identifying illness.

Discoloration in feathers such as black tips on feathers or the appearance of feathers that are not part of the normal coloration of your parrot species (such as a yellow feather on an Eclectus where there should be a green or red feather) are problems that are almost always dietary in nature. This will tell you that you have work to do on your bird's diet, and you cannot put it off. You should also see your Vet about this. Dietary issues affect the liver and feather discolorations are an indication that the problem has been ongoing. Your Vet can diagnose the condition of the liver and prescribe supportive care while you work on improving the diet.

Continued on Page 4.



**Feather Discoloration on  
a Female Eclectus**

## Bird Club Biz

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High Desert Bird Club of NM  
P.O. Box 67855  
Albuquerque, NM 87193  
[www.HighDesertBirdClub.org](http://www.HighDesertBirdClub.org)

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

### General Meetings

**Fourth Thursday** of the month

Meeting time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Location:

**Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center**  
9800 - 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Albuquerque, NM  
Map link: <http://goo.gl/maps/tk52Y>

### Club Officers

President: Margaret Johnson  
Vice President: Dorothy Newbill  
Secretary: Available  
Treasurer: Jennifer Catron

### Committee Chairpersons

Advertising/Publicity: Available  
AFA Delegate: Jennifer Catron  
Bird Rescue: Margaret Johnson  
Education: Dorothy Newbill  
Fundraising: Available  
Hospitality: Available  
Library: Available  
Membership: Available  
Newsletter: Jennifer Catron  
Raffle: Available  
Website: Jennifer Catron

### Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance (stmt 12/31/19)	\$1,582.87
Revenue	
Memberships	\$75.00
Donation	5.00
Expenses	
AFA Affiliation Renewal	\$65.00
Ending balance (stmt 1/31/20)	<b>\$1,597.87</b>

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

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### Membership Requirements

Any person interested in cage birds who agrees to support the objectives in the HDDB 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 HDDB 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 [jcatron@Q.com](mailto:jcatron@Q.com), or (505) 235-2803.

Thank you.



## General Meetings

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### February

This month's meeting event is Birdy Bingo! Birdy Bingo is just like regular bingo except all the prizes are for birds! Winners will get to pick their prize from the prize table.

**Bingo!**

Bingo cards are six cards per sheet, and six sheets per pack. Each pack is \$5.00. Bingo dabbers will be provided.

It's great fun for both people and birds. Buy some cards, play some bingo, shout BINGO! when you win. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Members and guests with birds are always welcome. Tell a friend.

### Meeting Minutes

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Margaret Johnson renewed our meeting space contract with Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center for 2020.

IRS 990N filing for HDBC was submitted for tax year 2019.

HDBC affiliation with American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) was approved for renewal. Jennifer Catron will be designated as our club delegate.

HDBC membership joining and renewal is encouraged and appreciated for the new year.

Ideas for future general meeting programs were discussed. Suggestions included: bird treats/food competition, DVDs from the club library, bird first aid, speakers on topics of their choice, birdy bingo, and bird nutrition. Birdy Bingo will be the program for the February meeting.

January meeting activity was a bird toy workshop. Some additional toys were made and donated to Birds of a Feather Parrot Rescue of NM.



**Luca a Moluccan Cockatoo  
Eyeing a Toy Donated by HDBC**

### Hospitality Table

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Do you like snacks? Do you like to share? HDBC invites you to share some snacks at our hospitality table at each monthly meeting.



Everyone is encouraged to bring snacks when they can. We're very informal about who brings what and when. Donations are always welcome.

Thank you for your support.

### Membership Support

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HDBC depends on your support. One of the easiest ways to show your support is to renew or become a member. Membership dues helps HDBC fulfill Club charter objectives to educate members and the general public in the best care, keeping, maintenance, and breeding of caged birds. In addition to supporting bird conservation and fellowship, funds also support the HDBC bird rescue, foster and adoption program.

Membership benefits include:

- Subscription to the Club newsletter *Birdy Bytes*.

- Early notification and the opportunity to adopt birds received through the HDHC rescue.
- Access to the Club library to check out bird-related books and DVDs.
- Fellowship with others interested in companion birds.

Membership dues begin each calendar year and are prorated on a quarterly basis. Membership classification and annual dues rates are listed under the Bird Club Biz section of each newsletter. Information about membership is also contained in our Club Constitution and By Laws posted on our website: [www.HighDesertBirdClub.org](http://www.HighDesertBirdClub.org).



### Have You Renewed Your HDHC Membership?

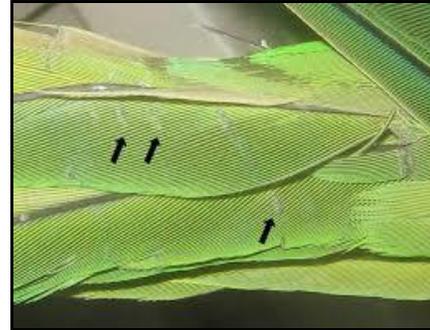
For everyone who has joined HDHC or renewed their membership, thank you! If you're not a member, join today and support a good cause. We're all about the birds.

## Words from the Prez Continued

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**Stress Bars** – These are bands of either discolored or de-pigmented segments or structurally weakened lines that run crosswise through the feathers. In very young birds, they are generally caused by temperature or other environmental fluctuations during the production of their first set of feathers and, as long as the bird is properly cared for, future feathers will grow in normally. In older birds, it reflects a more serious problem as it indicates that there are inadequacies in the bird's care. It almost always suggests a dietary issue, but it can also be a result of a period of emotional stress. Since stress bars occur during the formation of

the feather, look back around the time of your bird's last molt to find the cause. Antibiotics will sometimes be responsible.



### Stress Bars on Feathers

**Dark feathers** – This might mean there is excess fat in the blood. It is, again, almost certainly the result of poor diet, but this indicates the problem is becoming serious and you should see your Vet right away to determine the cause of the discoloration and for medication as needed.

**Oily feathers** – Usually indicate liver problems.

**Molting** – Old feathers that need replacement get molted out. That is the natural process. However, when you have experienced any of the above, molting periods take on a heightened level of importance. The appearance of healthy new feathers tells you that you are on the right track with your bird or tells you there is more work yet to be done.

The single most important thing in your bird's life is their diet.

A diet of seed or pellet only is not adequate enough to maintain the health of your bird and sooner or later malnutrition will take hold.

Hopefully, this information will help you gain some insight on just how tricky and complex our parrots can be and how a watchful eye can ensure a life of health and happiness to their lives and ours too.

Margaret Johnson

Sources: Footnotes from-AFA, Aviscience, Featherbrite, Patty Jourgensen and the Parrotforum

## Bird Rescue, Foster, and Adoption

A wide variety of birds are available for adoption at Birds of a Feather Parrot Rescue of New Mexico (BFPR). HDBC is partnering with BFPR to help with receiving, fostering and rehoming pet birds.

If you're interested in adding a feathered friend to your family, please contact Dorothy Newbill (BFPR) at (505) 980-6166, or you can call our HDBC Pet Bird Rescue Hotline at (505) 554-0804 for assistance.



**Scarlet Macaw**



**Green Cheek Conure**

If you are interested in fostering or adopting a parrot, BFPR is a **very** active parrot rescue. They are always working with a variety of different pet birds from Amazons to Macaws, and the smaller birds like budgies and cockatiels. They've even had some hand-tame doves available for adoption.

For more information, call Dorothy Newbill at (505) 980-6166 or check out their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/birdsofafeathernm/>.

Rehoming fees and adoption policy process apply.

**Double Yellow-headed Amazon**



## Friends of HDBC

Dr. Timothy O'Leary, DVM

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DANIEL LEVENSON, DVM

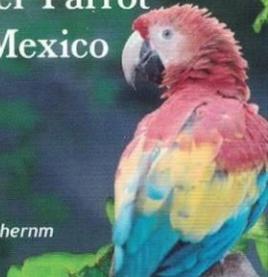
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## Facebook Fun

When you hear a noise outside  
and scream to warn your owners  
but they tell you to stop screaming

