



## Angel Wings

*A monthly journal for human angels who make a positive difference in companion birds' lives.*

December 2013  
Volume 8, Issue XII

Having trouble viewing this email? View as a [Web Page](#)

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*Happy Holidays from our nest to yours.  
Have a safe and happy holiday season.*



In this month's issue:

- Angel Announcements
- Fall Auction Acknowledgements
- Boo TV
- Holiday Safety Tips
- Feathered Funnies
- Murphy's Law
- Christmas Pasta Salad
- Deck "their" Halls
- Rikki Sez
- 'Twas the Night Before Christmas
- Gift Wrapping
- Angels Wanted
- Help Us

### Angel Toys For Angels

December's Featured Toys  
*"Limited Quantities"*



[Reindeer Puffs](#)  
Small to Medium Birds



[Snowman Shredder](#)  
Small to Medium Birds



[Christmas Curls](#)  
Small to Medium Birds



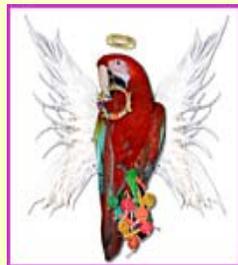
**I hope Santa is good to  
all my birdie friends**

Check out all the  
[Angel Toys for Angels](#)  
now!



**ANGEL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Watch for upcoming events, news, website updates,  
etc. here



ON THE SITE:

- [New Items](#)
- [Fall Auction Supporters](#)
- [Holiday Toys](#)
- [Stockings](#)
- [Gift Certificates](#)



**Fall Auction Update:**

Our Fall 2013 Auction was a great success!  
We raised much needed funds so we may  
continue doing what we do best...

Making a difference...  
one bird at a time!



A heartfelt thank you to all our  
generous donators:

- 14 Karat Parrot
- Any Mouse
- Apollo's Closet - Keri Pacin
- ARTdornments: By Clay Artist Alicia Merritt
- Beaktastic Bird Toys - Cheri Pearce

Send Rudolph Your Wish List  
[Mail Rudolph](#)



Baby telling Santa Birdie what he wants for Christmas!



Birds in Hand - Ashley Dietrich  
Bridget Wagenbach  
Casey Pearce  
Chopper's Toys - Claudia & Chopper  
Ilona Peterson  
Kristie Rodgers  
Leigh Anne Stewart  
My Safe Bird Store - Kathie  
Owls and Friends - Paula Fitzsimmons  
Parroteelia Bird Toys - Delta Andries  
'Sana Emberg  
Terry Moore  
Toni Fortin  
Verna & Peter Lucey  
Vicki Hartsfield  
Wyspur Kallis

To all those that bid...we appreciate your support!



### Boo TV and the Peek-A-Boo Squirrels

By 'Sana Emberg

Sometimes, it can be downright difficult to keep a parrot amused and active with a busy schedule like I have now days. In the winter, when it's cold and yucky here, Boo (my crazy cockatoo, if you haven't "met" her yet) gets cranky, because she's used to being able to sit outside in the sun and amuse the neighborhood. So we have to find warmer amusements.

During the day, I move her cage over in front of our big window in the living room. She has the most fun after I've filled the bird feeders outside the window. We jokingly call it "Boo TV". She talks to most of the outside birds, but we always know when a crow comes by, because she'll start making kissy sounds. She ONLY does that for crows! Then, if they get close to her window, she climbs down IN her cage and grumbles and mumbles to herself until the offender is gone.

She really loves the antics of the jays hanging upside down off the suet feeders. She chuckles and wolf whistles when she sees them.

I often sit with her at the window to watch her reactions to different birds. But one day, I was working at my desk and she started YELLING, tossing her wings, and alternating between barking and meowing. Wondering what had her all riled up, I walked over to see. At first didn't see anything. Then I noticed a weird shadow of two squirrels chasing each other on a power line that goes through the big tree in our front yard.

I think Boo was really confused, because I'm pretty sure she'd never seen a squirrel before. I told her what they were, Yup, it seems like I'm always trying to explain our world to my parrot! I told her, "Baby, those are squirrels, and they live up in the trees. They are not cats, and they are not dogs, they are squirrels, pretty pretty squirrels!" She repeated the 'pretty pretty' and mumbled some stuff after that.

The squirrels disappeared on their squirrely business, and I asked her "Where did they

go baby? Where'd the squirrels go?" This inadvertently started a game of peek-a-boo for her, because when I play peek-a-boo with her, I always ask, when she hides her head, "Where'd Boo go, baby? Where's the Boo?" She looked, and looked, but couldn't find the squirrels. She paced back and forth on the top of her cage, mumbling "pretty, pretty" something, for quite a while. Then suddenly, she yelled "PEEK-A-BOO pretty pretty skuuurrrr!" and laughed and laughed! Of course, I was laughing even harder, and gave her a treat and some scratches for being such a smart 'too.

Now days, when she sees a squirrel, she says "pretty, pretty skurls" instead of barking or meowing at them. They've joined her line-up of stars on Boo TV, along with the dogs, cats, jays, crows, and other visitors to her own personal stage. :)



## Holiday Safety Tips

By Holly Nash, DVM, MS  
Veterinary Services Dept., Drs. Foster & Smith, Inc.

Pet accidents increase dramatically during the holidays. We do not mean to spoil your fun with these cautions, but hope to keep your holidays safe.

 Prevent exposure to electrical wires, which could cause dangerous burns or electrocution. Conceal them or use pet-proof covers. Otherwise, your pet may mistake them for a chew toy.

 Prevent access to holiday plants. Never allow your pet unsupervised access to poinsettia, holly (leaves and berries), mistletoe, or other plants commonly used to decorate during the holidays.

 A decorated tree is a magnet for birds, but unfortunately has the potential for causing problems. Do not allow your bird to have access to the tree. Tinsel, flocking, and artificial snow can be dangerous. The tree may also be coated with potentially harmful fire retardant, fertilizer, or insecticide. Larger decorating lights can become hot and cause burns. Some decorations may have small pieces that could be broken off and swallowed, causing digestive problems.

 Many of the foods we set out during the holidays can be toxic to pets, including chocolate (bakers, semi sweet, milk, dark), sugary cookies, salty snacks, and other favorites left out for nibbling and, of course, alcoholic drinks.

 Perfumes, potpourri, adhesives, glues, aerosol sprays, cleaning products, and of course, teflon, can all be toxic.

 Do not let your bird out of its cage when you have open flames in the house. Stoves, candles, and fireplaces always pose a serious threat.

 Do not tie ribbons on your pet or its cage, or leave them lying around. The inks and metals used in gift wraps and ornaments can be toxic. These items also pose choking and entanglement risks.

 Discourage guests from bringing their own dog or other pet into your home. If they do, understand that your pet and theirs are sure to be anxious. Keep them separated and do not relax your vigilance.

We hope these tips help you and your bird enjoy a happy, fun, and safe holiday season!

© 2006 Foster & Smith

Reprinted as a courtesy and with permission from [PetEducation.com](http://PetEducation.com)

On-line store at

[Drs. Foster & Smith](http://Drs.Foster&Smith.com)





*Bird Cages Galore  
Affordable Quality*



Why buy a Bird Cage from Bird Cages Galore?? Because we do not "just sell" top quality cages at reasonable prices, provide free shipping and a free toy with each cage; we offer first rate customer service and will answer your questions about most bird-related matters. Visit us on the web, browse our selection, join our discussion forum and sign up for our free Newsletter, [The Caged Bird Courier](#).

We are here to help, because we care about your bird!!



## Murphy's Laws Regarding Making Bird Toys

By The Parrot Toy Elves

- 🌲 If you spend all day coloring just enough parts to do a project, you'll discover when you are part way through, you didn't color enough.
- 🌲 You always have enough beads of a certain color to do 9/10ths of the toy you are working on.
- 🌲 You will no doubt find a part you are sure you can use in a dozen ways - and it will sit in your parts collection for ages. THEN you will get around to finding those dozen ways to use it... only to find you can no longer get it!
- 🌲 If you need to drill 4 holes in something, the first 3 will be perfect. The 4th will either be crooked, or crack what you are drilling.
- 🌲 If you carefully measure out all the rope, chain or wire you need for all the toys you plan to make, you will discover, part way through, you miscalculated and they are all too short.
- 🌲 The parts you are looking for will mysteriously not be where they should be, until you start gathering parts for something else, then you will find \*most\* of the parts for the first thing you wanted to make.
- 🌲 If the bead is exactly the size you need, the hole will be too small, or too large. If the hole is exactly the right size, then the bead won't fit at all. If both the beads and the holes are the right size, then you surely don't have enough of them to do what you need, and they are all the wrong color!
- 🌲 You finish your project and it turns out just the way you want, but in the end you go to add hardware for hanging and it cracks the top of your project.
- 🌲 You get an idea for a wonderful toy. You spend hours making it, only to decide it's ugly. You will then take it apart and start over. If Murphy is \*really\* on your case, you'll hate the remade one as well, at which point you might as well give up for the day.
- 🌲 You decide to use a bunch of your one-of-a-kind parts to make a toy. You spend hours, and it turns out really cool, and \*everyone\* wants one just like it!
- 🌲 Someone will \*always\* show up when you are covered in many shades of food

coloring and have freshly colored parts laying everywhere. They will usually bring a small child with them AND want you to go out to some place fancy. In-laws who don't understand your love of birds are especially drawn to you at these times.



### Christmas Pasta Salad By Toni Fortin

2 cups whole wheat ditali, cooked & drained. Do not rinse.  
1 cup chopped cranberries  
1-1/2 cups frozen chopped kale  
1 cup frozen green peas  
1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries  
1 cup cooked lentils  
2 TBSP. chopped walnuts  
Chia seeds

Mix all ingredients well. Sprinkle with chia seeds and serve.



Happy Holidays from Gracie and her babies

Rikki Sez

Rikki will try and answer frequently asked questions here.



Rikki, My parronts can't decide what kind of Christmas tree will be safest for me in case I get me beakers in it? Dad says both can be dangerous and I won't be allowed on either. How's come I can't perch in the beautiful sparkling tree?

Signed, Treeless Birdie

Dear Treeless, I know that tree is pretty, but it's really not a safe place for you. Both, real trees and artificial, have dangers for us birdies. Artificial trees can have dangerous metals or be made of other stuff that could make you sick if chewed on it. Real trees can have bugs, sticky sap, and pokey needles, and could be sprayed with preservatives or pesticides. And, either could have decorations that could hurt you or make you sick. Icicles, tinsel, glass or metal ornaments, and electrical wires can all be dangerous to you. You'd be much better off to admire it from afar, and be a good birdie so your parronts will fill a big stocking for you with all the goodies a good birdie needs!



Rikki, Last year I was a Christmas present for a family. They didn't know I was coming. They acted all happy to get me and for a little while they paid attention to me. But they got bored with me and tired of taking care of me, cleaning up after me and listening to my bird talk. They stuck me in a room that no one used, sometimes forgot to feed me, clean my

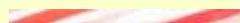


Deck "their" Halls

Deck the halls with boughs of millet  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la  
 Hang it near where we can get it  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la  
 Lay out all your decorations  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la  
 Chances are we'll rearrange them  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la  
 Everyone should have a stocking  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la  
 Filled with toys that keep us squawking  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la

And of course, we will do just that.  
 These little feathered beings have changed our lives in ways we would not have believed possible. Our love for them extends well beyond our own homes and *because* of them we have opened our hearts to birds we will never meet, never see. Yet, we know that because of us one bird at a time will lead a happier life.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays to all Angels and to our incredibly generous supporters. --ilona



Baby's First Tree



cage, or give me water. I'm all alone now.  
 What did I do wrong?  
 Signed, Neglected Holiday Gift

Dear Neglected, YOU did nothing wrong! Birds (and, in fact, any pet!) should NEVER be given as an unexpected gift. It takes a special person who really WANTS a bird, and is prepared for all the work, to make the relationship work. Every bird should have a good, loving home. NO bird deserves to be stuck in a cage in a back room and not cared for. But it happens all too often, especially when they are given as gifts and not chosen after research and thought. I truly hope that someone comes into your life and takes you to a loving home. You deserve better!



Rikki, I'm afraid it's THAT time of year again! Last year, around the "hollydaze" there were lots of strange people in my house; little people, big people, and loud people. I liked some of them, but some of them scared me! Some of them kept trying to touch me! I don't like strangers touching me! What can I do? Should I bite em, or scream at them?  
 Signed, Scared of Hollydaze

Dear Scared, Maybe you need to share this wisdom with your parronts. Some of us just don't like strangers, and even the most social bird hates having their schedule and peace all disrupted by rude people! When we are going to have lots of strangers over, mom moves me into the bedroom, but leaves the door open, and makes sure everyone knows they cannot come in there without permission first. She lets good people in to see me one or two at a time, and if I act scared, she takes them away. And then, when most of them are gone and it's only people I know, she'll bring me back out so I can visit with those I like. But they always know not to touch without invitation. :) Hopefully your parronts will read this and maybe give you a break! Have a Happy Holly-Daze!



Do you have a question for Rikki?  
 Please send it to The Editor at  
[editor@parrottoyangels.org](mailto:editor@parrottoyangels.org)





Happy Holidays from Gonzo!



## 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

By Chester P. Featherbutt

NOTE: This originally ran in the December '06 issue of Angel Wings. It's become somewhat of a "tradition" to run it every year. We'd like to thank Chester P. for granting his permission to use it once again. Thank you Chessy!



Chester P. Featherbutt, bird with a 'tude

'Twas the night before Christmas, and Chester was awake,  
thinking of all the plans that he would soon make.  
He snuck from his cage, and hid in the tree,  
behind decorations, and Christmas candy.  
He had a new plan to get Santa this year,  
that would not fail, and give Santa fear.  
He was going to teach the jolly red man,  
that Chester P. Featherbutt was taking a stand!  
So he waited and waited, and then he heard a noise.  
Sounds of crinkles of fresh wrapped new toys.  
Chester stirred not a bit, and got ready to strike,  
when from under the tree, came a four-legged, black little tyke.  
A chihuahua puppy that looked like a rat, and was just as small,  
except this one was chewing on a small tennis ball.  
It barked real loud, and ran to the floor,  
just then a big red Santa opened the door.  
The little rat ran back under the tree and screamed,  
"Chester!!" Help!!" You gotta save me!!!".  
Chester smiled with a grin so wide,  
you could have put in a whole kiddie slide.  
He said "little black rat, go over there,  
and hide in that red bag next to the chair".  
So the rat went and hid, and did not make a noise,  
as Santa drew near, and reached under the tree with toys.  
Then a beak flashed out, and grabbed Santa's sleeve,  
Chester beaked hard, and wouldn't let him leave.  
He chuckled with glee, as his beak made a hole,  
then he burst out laughing, and fell out of the tree....  
into the dog's water bowl!"  
"Yuk!!", Chester yelled, as he shook the water off.  
"I've been big dog germed!!" and he let out a cough.

Santa said "Chester, you got me this year!"  
You bit me so hard, I'm starting to tear.  
But don't worry Chester, I wore big mittens,  
just in case from last year,  
that you might still be smitten!  
I knew you were lurking. I know all these things,  
and when you think evil thoughts, my naughty bell rings.  
But I'll forgive, since it is Christmas Eve,  
and here are the presents I'm going to leave".  
Then he grabbed his bag and whisked right away  
through the door, to the roof and into his sleigh.  
As he yelled "On Donnor! and Blitzen!",  
there was a short pause,  
and Chester could hear.....a startled Santa Claus.  
Then a yapping and barking, that just wouldn't stop,  
he heard Santa jump from the sleigh with a big hop.  
Santa yelled "Chester! WHAT DID YOU DO?"  
Chester was giggling and laughing so hard  
he knocked over momma's display of old Christmas cards.  
He lay on the floor, covered up to his head..  
if a quaker could be embarrassed, his face would have been red.  
Santa came back, with a black rat in his arm,  
red in the face and not full of charm.  
"Chester P. Featherbutt!! You can't sneak away,  
cause I found your friend, tucked in my bag,  
like a lump of clay".  
But Chester was laughing loud as a bear,  
so much so, that he was loosing feathers into the air!!  
"Nice try", said Santa, "You're such a big sneak,  
I'm watching you now, and especially your beak!!"  
With that he left, with no time to spare,  
up into his sleigh and high into the air.  
"Just for you Chester P, before I go,  
I leave you with good tidings  
and a COLD CHRISTMAS SNOW!!"  
"BRRRRRRRRRRR", Chester thought, as the flakes fell.  
"Dis stuffs is colds, I no like what he's sent.  
Maybeeeez next years, I better repent!!  
Then he heard Santa say  
"No hard feelings... and have a great day.  
Remember my friend, don't loose your feathers when you jester....  
'cause no one wants to look at a "no feathered" Chester!!"



## Gift Wrapping With The Help of Your Bird

Author Unknown

Please Note - This is a humorous look at life with our beloved birds. Please do not try this at home!



1. Clear large space on table for wrapping present.
2. Go to closet and collect bag in which present is contained and shut door.
3. Open door and remove bird from closet and put back on stand.
4. Go to cupboard and retrieve rolls of wrapping paper.
5. Go back and remove bird from cupboard, place on stand again.
6. Go to drawer, and collect transparent sticky tape, ribbons, scissors, labels, etc.
7. Lay out presents and wrapping materials on table.
8. Go back to drawer to get string, remove bird that has been in the drawer since last visit and collect string, being sure to untangle bird from it and place back in cage this time.
9. Remove present from bag.
10. Remove bird from bag.
11. Open box to check present, remove bird from box. Replace present as well as replacing lock on bird cage that bird unlocked.
12. Lay out paper to determine size to cut.
13. Try to smooth out paper, realize bird is underneath, unlock cage, actually put bird in cage this time and get back to work.
14. Cut the paper to size, keeping the cutting line straight.
15. Throw away first sheet as bird chased the scissors, and tore the paper.
16. Cut second sheet of paper to size - by putting bird in the bag the present came in.
17. Place present on paper.
18. Lift up edges of paper to seal in present. Wonder why edges don't reach. Realize bird is between present and paper. Remove bird again.
19. Place object on paper, to hold in place while tearing transparent sticky tape.
20. Spend 20 minutes carefully trying to remove transparent sticky tape from bird while getting the beak of death as tape pulls on feathers. Place band-aids on hands and nose.
21. Seal paper with sticky tape, making corners as neat as possible.
22. Look for roll of ribbon. Chase bird down hall in order to retrieve ribbon.
23. Try to wrap present with ribbon in a two-directional turn.
24. Re-roll ribbon and remove paper, which is now torn due to bird's enthusiastic ribbon chase.
25. Repeat steps 13 - 20 until you reach last sheet of paper.
26. Decide to skip steps 13 - 17 in order to save time and reduce risk of losing last sheet of paper and any more skin. Retrieve old cardboard box that is the right size for sheet of paper.
27. Put present in box and tie down with string.
28. Remove string, open box and remove bird.
29. Put all packing materials in bag with present and head for a room with lock.
30. Once inside locking room, lock door and start to relay out paper and materials.
31. Remove bird from box, unlock door, put bird in cage, close and relock.
32. Repeat previous step as often as necessary (until you can hear bird from outside door!).
33. Lay out last sheet of paper. (This will be difficult in the small area of the toilet, but do your best!).
34. Discover bird has already torn paper. Unlock door, go out and hunt through various cupboards, looking for sheet of last year's paper. Remembering that you haven't got any left because bird helped

- with this last year as well.
35. Return to lockable room, lock door and sit on toilet and try to make torn sheet of paper look presentable.
  36. Seal box, wrap with paper and repair by very carefully sealing with sticky tape. Tie up with ribbon and decorate with bows to hide worst areas.
  37. Label. Sit back and admire your handiwork, congratulate yourself on completing a difficult job.
  38. Unlock door and go to kitchen to make drink and feed bird.
  39. Spend 15 minutes looking for bird until coming to obvious conclusion.
  40. Unwrap present, untie box and remove bird.
  41. Go to store and buy a gift bag.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



### Angels Wanted!!

Have these stories got your toymaking talons twitching? Do you want to help make a difference in somebirdie's life? Come join our ranks! We have Angels from all different backgrounds and walks of life, and there's always room for another generous heart.

Click here for: [Angel Application](#)

Click to join Parrot Toy Angels Yahoo! Group:



Not a toy maker? Come join our Facebook Group:



### Help Us Help the Birds...

Our Angels generously donate their time making toys for our needy feathered friends. Quality toy-making supplies are expensive and shipping charges are outrageous. That's why we need your support to help keep us going. Every dollar amount, large or small, is gratefully accepted. Donations are tax deductible.

We also welcome donations of toymaking parts and supplies. A receipt will be issued for every donation. Contact us at [Parrot Toy Info](#) for further information on donating.

Donate



All donations tax deductible.

Don't forget you can help PTA by clicking one of the following buttons:

GoodSearch is a search engine toolbar that's totally spyware free.  
Every time you use it we get a penny ...you can download it here:



Shop with GoodShop, you shop we earn:



Shop at any of over 680 stores using this banner:



and help PTA earn!



This is the official newsletter of the Parrot Toy Angels. Members and subscribers are encouraged to submit articles/photographs for publication. PTA reserves the right to reject, edit, or use only portions of items submitted. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the PTA Editor, Directors, Officers, or the general membership.

While PTA at all times tries to ensure any information provided in this newsletter is accurate, all articles are submitted by volunteers, and we are not avian professionals and make no claim as to the suitability of featured products, food, or toys for your particular bird. PTA strongly recommends that you ensure that all toys are safe, that you make sure your bird is fed a well balanced diet, and that you always provide continuing medical care through your avian vet.

Do you have a question or comment? Perhaps you have an idea for our newsletter, or simply want to share a story on how an Angel has touched your life. Drop us a line at: [editor@parrottoyangels.org](mailto:editor@parrottoyangels.org)



© 2008-2013 Parrot Toy Angels • P.O. Box 34372 • Houston, Texas 77234  
All rights reserved. No part of this newsletter may be reproduced by any means, print, electronic or any other,  
without prior written permission of the Editor or author.  
For permission to reprint, please contact us at [Editor](mailto:Editor@parrottoyangels.org)  
[www.parrottoyangels.com](http://www.parrottoyangels.com)