



# Angel Wings

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

June 2013  
Volume 8, Issue VI

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## Angel Toys For Angels

June's Featured Toys



[Levi's Loot](#)  
Small to Medium Birds



[Sliding Chain](#)  
Medium to Large Birds



[Ducks in Space](#)  
Small Birds

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



Pina Colada Multi-Grain Muffins  
By Toni Fortin

1/2 cup 10 grain cereal (used Bob's Red Mill)  
3/4 cup brown rice flour (used Bob's Red Mill)  
2/3 cup light coconut milk  
1/4 cup pineapple juice  
1/2 cup fresh pineapple whirled in food processor (measure after whirling)  
1/2 cup soaked, cooked chickpeas, mashed  
1 egg  
1 tsp. baking powder (non aluminum)  
2 Tbsp. chopped pecans  
\*Optional 4" paper lollipop sticks (cut off 1 inch)

In a bowl, measure out 10-grain cereal, flour and baking powder. Add the coconut milk, egg and juice to the bowl. Let sit. Whirl a couple of pieces of fresh pineapple in food processor, measure out 1/2 cup; adding it to the bowl of other ingredients along with the chickpeas. Fold pecans in.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees; fill the mini muffin pans with batter. As soon as you put muffins in oven, turn down the temperature to 350 degrees. Bake for 10 minutes. Working quickly, put some lollipop sticks in center of muffins. Continue baking for an additional 10 minutes. I only put sticks in some of them.

Yield: 28 mini muffins

These smelled so good while baking, I had to taste them. They were hummy.

NOTE: When I soak and cook legumes, I let them cool and measure into 1/2 cup and 1 cup bags and freeze. This way then can be pulled out and ready for your next recipe.

### Spring Auction Update:

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

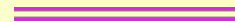
Making a difference...  
one bird at a time!

**THANK YOU**

A heartfelt thank you to all our generous donators:

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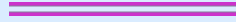
To all those that bid...we appreciate your support!



From the Angel's Toy Chest  
By Wyspur Kallis



PTA Abacus



This awesome toy is a Parrot Toy Angels Special. This toy is made from a 5-1/4 x 7" solid pine frame with Parrot Toy Angels spelled out in plastic beads strung on stainless steel wire. It is a must for any curious bird to play with. The pine is colored with food grade coloring and attached with nickel-plated hardware. This and other toys are available for sale at [www.parrottoyangels.com](http://www.parrottoyangels.com).



### The Great Duck Hunt By 'Sana Emberg



It started off innocently enough; cockatoo meets little pink duck that squeaks. I'm not even sure why this particular duck got her attention. She's seen many little plastic critters, ducks included, but it was love at first sight (or was that first squeak?).

One day, I was going through toy parts looking for some goodies for Boo's toy box in her cage, and came across a package of little pink ducks. I tucked one in my pocket, because Boo has always loved to destroy little soft plastic animals. I figured it would keep her occupied for a few minutes while I was doing email later. And I promptly forgot it was there.

Later that day, I sat in my favorite chair for some cuddle time with her, and after a few minutes, remembered the duck. In the process of pulling it out, it squeaked, and Boo's crest went to attention - she's an Umbrella Cockatoo, and there's just no mistaking interest there. She snatched that duck away from me, and to my surprise, she didn't

immediately start shredding it. She instead held it, stared at it, turned it this way and that, and started quietly talking to it. I'd never seen her behave this way before, but I thought maybe she wanted it to make noise again, so I squeezed it, and once again it squeaked.

Again, the crest went up, and again she started mumbling to it. I'd squeak the duck, she'd get excited and say Hi, Hello, Boo Boo, I Love You, on and on. My husband was laughing so hard; neither of us had ever seen her so excited over a toy. Finally after about half an hour (and at least 10 minutes of the duck refusing to respond to her because I finally quit squeaking the darn thing) she decided it was, after all, just something to shred, and chewed its face off...probably because it wouldn't talk to her any more!

The next day, I put another of the pink ducks in my pocket before our cuddle session, and when she was getting restless, I squeaked it. Again, up goes the crest, and she started looking all over for it. It took her a few minutes, but she found it, gave it a few kisses and tried talking to it. Then she killed it!

The next day, I hid a new squeaky duck under the towel I keep over my footstool. When she was prowling around, I made it squeak. Oh, you've never seen a cockatoo run so fast! She tried my pocket, she looked and looked. When she'd start to wander away I'd squeak it again, and tell her, "Boo! Find the duck!." Finally she found it, and another pink ducky that squeaks bought the farm.

By now it was a game for both of us, and that night I hid several other types of ducks all around the area she plays and prowls in. The next day, one squeak got her going, and the first one she found was not what she wanted. It was quickly chewed and discarded. Another squeak and she was looking again, another duck demolished, and another, before she finally found the squeaky pink one. This one she left in total shreds, not a piece bigger than a pony bead left. Once it was demolished, she flared her wings, yelled 'Boo Boo BOO!' and strutted off to find something else to do.

So started the great duck hunt. Nowadays, I have ducks, and other small plastic critters stashed in many places around the house - any place she's allowed to play. They are stashed in plain sight and, wrapped in a paper towels. They are tucked into see-through containers, hiding in cardboard tubes, in little paper boxes, or peeking out from under the edge of a sheet of newspaper. All it takes is for someone to say, "Boo, go find a duck!" and she's off looking. She doesn't even kill them all any more; she'll bring me two or three mostly intact before she finally finds the victim for the day. Then she climbs up in my lap to make tiny plastic pieces of what was once a cute duck or turtle or whatever the hapless creature was that day. When it's thoroughly demolished we hear the battle cry "Boo Boo BOO!" before she struts off on some other mission!



Writers note: I wrote this earlier in the year, before Boo had her stroke. I wasn't going to submit it, because the 'Great Duck Hunt' had pretty much gone by the wayside. But about a week ago, when I let Boo out of her cage after work, she came hobbling over and offered me a duck, and cried "Boo Boo BOO!" and I had to share the story, knowing Boo and the Great Duck Hunt will make a great comeback!



## Fred

By Bridget Wagenbach



Fred is a 15-year-old Umbrella cockatoo. Despite the male name, Fred is the only female of the five-bird flock

living with my friend Suzie and her 11-year-old son, Noah. Despite being shy around strangers, she is a lively bird with the



family and her best friend is Noah. Noah and Fred typically play on the floor. They play ball or with Fred's foot toys.

Fred is an avid wood chewer. One of her favorite toys, actually comes from PTA, the stainless steel bucket hat is always filled with wood blocks.

When I visit the family, Fred is usually quiet and shy. She sometimes displays her 'horned owl look' with feathers ruffled if I get too close. But Fred knows she is well loved in Suzie's household!



We'd love to run your "Favorite Bird Story". Send it to us at [editor@parrottoyangels.org](mailto:editor@parrottoyangels.org)

## Rikki Sez

Rikki will try and answer frequently asked questions here.



Rikki, I was settling down for the night, and I heard some loud bangs. It continued for quite some time. I was so scared I didn't know what to do, so I flapped around my cage and ended up on the bottom with my heart pounding. What happened and what were those loud bangs? Signed, Scaredy Bird

Dear Scaredy Bird, Those loud noises are scary sounding. They are called fireworks. They are loud but they sure are beautiful and they light up the sky. Humans have been celebrating the 4th of July, also known as Independence Day, since the 18th century. They also have other festivities like parades, concerts, back yard B.B.Q.'s. and family gatherings. This holiday is really a big deal. It happens every year, so ask mom if she could put you in the room farthest from these loud noises. Maybe she could turn the T.V. on or the radio so they won't be so loud. She can also purchase some 4th of July toys at [www.ParrotToyAngels.com](http://www.ParrotToyAngels.com) so you can join in the fun and celebrate birdie style.



Rikki, We have 7 birds of different species in our home. Are there any tips you can give us to prepare them for the upcoming 4th of July holiday fireworks? We previously lived in a secluded area where the noise levels were minimal. We moved and while it is still in the country, somewhat secluded, we now have young neighbors that are looking forward to the celebration. I am really concerned about the noise factor frightening my boys. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Signed, Concerned Parent

Dear Concerned, Whenever there is going to

♥ ♥ ♥



♥ ♥ ♥



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

♥ ♥ ♥

be something different going on around here, whether it's loud kids visiting, or noisy stuff going on outside, our mom always finds ways to help us cope. Last year, before the noisy fireworks started, mom put heavy blankets over the windows to help keep it quieter, left a light on for us, and turned on some soft soothing music that we really liked. And when it got really noisy, she came in and cuddled us, talked to us and played with us so we were not so scared. We like any excuse for a cuddle when we are supposed to be asleep, so we didn't mind the noises outside.

♥ ♥

Rikki, If a companion bird had three wishes, what would they be?

Signed, Wondering in LA

Dear Wondering in LA,  
~ To have a family that loved him  
~ To be able to play outside his cage  
~ Lots of scratches and showers

♥ ♥

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

♥ ♥ ♥

### Take Two Aspirin...

By Kim Perez

The question came up as to the difference between an avian vet and a non-avian vet. My daughter is in vet school currently, and I have had birds for 46 years, so I feel comfortable answering this!

In the school of veterinary medicine (SVM), a student will be an "Exotic Specialist" which includes birds, reptiles, rodents and other specialty pets (such as hedgehogs and tarantulas). Surprisingly, the specialties are talked about at the very beginning of vet school to learn what the students are initially interested in and then they actually learn their specialties in their fourth year of school. In between, all students are learning the same lessons, which have to do with the most common of pets - cats and dogs.

Some Moms get pictures of the exciting things their children do in college. I get pictures of my daughter's group's cadaver dog, tendons, ligaments, bones and more! And to some, that would be considered disgusting, but I do find everything she does very interesting.

All veterinarians have the same basic knowledge of how an animal's body works. They understand how an animal responds to medications and how to help them heal and live full lives. When the veterinarian decides their specialty, they get several hours of experience in that area. They then get the hands-on experience that is so important to feel comfortable treating the animals they decide to build their practice around.

As we all suspect, there is quite a demand for Avian Specialty veterinarians. It is difficult to find one at all, let alone one that you trust with a creature as seemingly fragile as our feathered kids.

If you must see a veterinarian who is not an avian specialist, they welcome a calm assistant who can gently restrain the bird while they examine it. I have done this when I have had to take a bird to a non-avian specialist. I have found that the vet knows the basics about what to look for, and quite honestly, most of us know with our birds what we need checked. As long as we are calm, our birds will respond positively to our touch and allow us to hold the bird so the vet can conduct the examination.

An experienced avian vet will be comfortable with how to handle a bird and will be able to restrain and examine the bird without your assistance. A knowledgeable avian vet will also not recommend useless tests on a young bird - tests which will knowingly have different results prior to maturity. The sign of an inexperienced or unqualified vet is one who will recommend blood tests on an immature bird just to run tests (and cost you money). A good avian vet will know that these are unnecessary and will have abnormal results just because the bird is young.

Overall, you need to find a vet you are comfortable with for your birds, preferably an avian or exotics specialist. At the very least, if your avian vet lives far from you, like mine does, you should have a local back-up vet who doesn't mind seeing birds as long as you know you need to guide the exam the way you think it should go. I have a back-up vet like this. He is very good as long as I am holding the bird for him and as long as I can tell him what I think the problem is. I have had great success with this local vet.



I am a Bird  
By Tuesday Graham

I am a bird who was dealt a bad hand. In this life I was bought by a family who then decided they no longer wanted me, so now I'm called a rescue. Yes some of us have missing beaks, missing toes, disabled, and even been abused, being hit or caged bound. We desire one thing and that is love.

There came a time in my life I wasn't sure where I'd be next. Then one day I found my home, a home where I was accepted just the way I was, missing a beak, missing toes, or disabled, even being abused. This place is my last stop. As I learn again what love is, they think I'm pretty, they think I'm nice, they think I'm the best, even though I have my share of problems, for the place is what I now call home, a place with love, a place where I can be me a bird. No I haven't found the freedom like I should have, but I found something better, a home with unconditional love.

I may never allow them to pet me or I might never step up, but this home has taught me it's ok for me to love. The one thing I was missing is the love. Now I have this love, a love within my life. Now I have a place I call my own, and for this I am thankful. Even though the road was long and took many paths, they all lead me to my new found home. Here I reside with the most, I'm a bird again, one who is loved, one who is a survivor of all I was dealt. I am now allowed to scream, I'm allowed to play and I'm allowed to sleep with no worries. There are times I see my flock leave this place, no not going to another human, but our maker, our forever life. I see the humans as they cry, as they try to comfort the ones who are sick and the ones who have been called to another world. I see the love of the ones I call mom and dad. I see how they just love without any conditions. You see I'm a rescue bird, and I was shown again how to love, this is

something I had to be taught, and with patience, time, and understanding, any rescue can be a true blessing. Dedicated to all rescue birds.

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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.



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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)



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