

W.A.E.S.

Wasatch Avian Education Society

December: 2018



Merry  
Christmas!



It's a party!!

This month's meeting is our annual holiday potluck party! Bring a dish to share. Come enjoy the food, bid on some beautiful art for auction and get door prizes!

**Monthly Meeting**

December 8,, 2018

7:00 pm

**Salt Lake County  
Complex**

2001 S. State Street

Room N1100

(North Building)

Our meetings are free  
and open to the public.  
Come meet other parrot  
enthusiasts.

Refreshments & Raffle  
Table

Come see what our  
volunteer

Flock is all about.

**Election of WAES Board Members:**

In addition to eating, winning prizes and socializing, the annual election for WAES board members will take place at the December meeting. Nominations are welcome and encouraged, even for yourself if you are interested. The nominees so far are as follows:

President: Geri Driggs

Vice President: Chase Kimball

Treasurer: Audrey Hollaar

Secretary: Ann Greig

Publicity: Amy Olson

Fundraising: Tera Francis

Special Events: open

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

**Here we are again, that time of year... the time to think of holidays and our fathered family members getting into as much mischievousness as is possible.**

### **Lets start with trees.....**

#### Real Christmas trees

Not all real trees are poisonous to birds, although some have been known to cause problems for certain species of parrots. Pine is considered a safe tree for birds, but do be mindful of any sap produced by the tree, as this can stick to your bird's feathers. Additionally, pine has been listed as potentially harmful in some articles, but those mainly relate to wood shavings and so not relevant to bird keeping. Further, even if the tree itself is not harmful to your bird, many Christmas tree farmers use fertilizers in the water used to sustain their trees and the trees are often sprayed with chemicals.

Your bird is likely to want to perch on the tree, and may nibble on the pine needles while doing so. This is potentially dangerous, as pine needles are naturally prickly and can cause injury when ingested.

So, unless you plan to trek into the wilderness to chop down your own tree (good luck with that!), it is probably best to have an artificial tree, just to be on the safe side.

#### Artificial Christmas trees

Generally speaking, artificial trees are not harmful to pet birds. However, bear in mind that your bird may still try to nibble on the branches of the tree, especially if it is very realistic looking. As mentioned before, pine needles, whether real or fake, are prickly and can cause injury when ingested, so be mindful of this.

### **Of course there is much more to consider.....**

#### Other Christmas plants

Christmas trees – both real and artificial – are not the only potential danger to your pet bird in your home. Many plants traditionally used as part of the Christmas presentation, such as Ivy, Holly and Poinsettia can be poisonous to pet birds, as well as popular decorative flowers like Chrysanthemum and Yew. Lastly, and some of you may find this one particularly disappointing, Mistletoe can also be toxic to some birds, so un-pucker your lips and take it off the door frame! (Or at least hang it somewhere where your pet bird cannot reach it).

#### A few more things...

Birds have a particularly efficient respiratory tract. While this is beneficial in many ways, it also means they inhale more of whatever the air in your home contains. Scented candles, potpourri and air fresheners may all make your home smell lovely for your guests, but can be very harmful to your pet bird. Cigarette smoke and fumes from cooking can also be poisonous, so make sure your bird is not exposed to them.



**LET'S HAVE A FUN AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON.....**

**Geri Driggs,  
President, WAES**

