



JANE SHIRK, Kansas City, Kan., with her goffin cockatoo Merry on her shoulder, tries to get Andy, a mealy Amazon parrot, to talk to **Jess Jabben**, 7, and **Natalie Jabben**, 9, Olathe, at PetCo, 95th Street and Quivira Road, Overland Park, Sunday.

Area rescue group helps heal feathered friends

KATRINA SEGERS

STAFF WRITER

Double yellow headed Amazon parrots are not native to Johnson County. They reside mainly in tropical climates such as South America, Belize and Guatemala.

When Olathe animal control found an injured parrot last month, the bird ended up in a suburban habitat, with **Jennifer Hammertt**, Shawnee, vice president of rescue and adoption for Beak n Wings, a bird rescue group.

The bird, named Honeydew by workers at the Olathe Animal Shelter, is recovering from an attack by a red-tailed hawk, Hammertt said.

"He's eating OK, he's drinking, taking his medicine," Hammertt said. "He's still on antibiotics and eye drops. He's got scabs on the top of his head and around his one eye with paralysis. His

chest has some scabs."

Hammertt said Honeydew remains a mystery. No one stepped up to claim him, so she is left with no details about the bird.

Beak n Wings rehabilitates birds and adopts them out, but Hammertt said Honeydew may be a mascot.

"If we get a bird in that's been through a traumatic event like that, it's really hard to give him to a new home," she said.

President and Founder **Dean Tyson**, Overland Park, said 617 birds have been rescued and adopted since 2003. The birds first go to foster homes with club members. Tyson said there has been an "outcry of people calling" and asking the organization to take birds.

"There are a lot of excuses," Tyson said. "The bird's too noisy, they got a new baby coming in, didn't do their research, I don't care why they gave them up, I'll rehome the bird."

Board member and foster parent **Kevin Patrick**, Shawnee, said behavior problems are the No. 1 reason people give up birds.

"People have taken these birds home and after a few months have decided the fun is gone because these birds are starting to come into their own," Patrick said. "When people decide, 'Oh, I can't deal with them anymore. It's a pretty bird we're just going to let it sit in the cage,' (the birds) will start to do other things to get attention."

Patrick said the birds can become overly submissive or begin to pluck out their feathers. He said

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They are kind of like kids. They starve for attention. They can be cuddly creatures.

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