

Michigan Bird and Game  
Breeders Association  
Newsletter



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

[www.MBGBA.com](http://www.MBGBA.com)

December 2025

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Cute Christmas Birds In Snow Art  
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## **Statement of Purpose**

This association was created with the intent to preserve and propagate all varieties of ornamental/game/cage birds and animals. By doing so, we hope that future generations will be able to participate in the beauties of outdoor life. We hope to further educate our members and the general public with current information about the use of birds and animals for beauty and profit.

## President's Message

Well, we are back to wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I also want to send a thank you to all our members for being with us and making our club great. We have had a great year of swap meets and meeting places to gather together and talk bird talk.

We have set our swap dates for 2026, so let's mark our calendars. Our new swap hours are 6 am to 11 am. Cost of sale space is the same as always, club members \$10 per spot and non-members \$20 per spot. Cutler supply will be at all meets except Carson City. Also, we will be offering a 50/50 raffle at the swap meets and if you have anything you would like to donate for the raffle, please let me know.

Here are the dates:    April 25, 2026-Imlay City  
                                  May 16, 2026-Carson City  
                                  July 25, 2026-Clare  
                                  September 12, 2026-Montrose  
                                  October 3, 2026-Imaly City

We are trying to catch up with the times for our memberships. If you go online to our website, [www.mbgba.com](http://www.mbgba.com), you can see our new online membership option, which also includes paying with PayPal. We will still maintain our other options of paying by mail or at the swaps.



Merry Christmas,  
Kim Castine  
MBGBA President

## Editor's Page

**Publishing Information:** Please submit advertisements, marketplace ads, and memberships by the following dates.

### Newsletter Submission Deadlines

March Newsletter-Submit by February 1

September Newsletter-Submit by August 1

December Newsletter-Submit by November 1

### Directory Submission Deadline

June printing-Submit memberships by May 1 to be included. Any membership submissions after September 1 will be counted towards the following year's renewal.

## Advertising Rates

Advertising with us is a great way to reach other aviculturists who raise and work with birds. Where else can you get focused advertising to reach bird enthusiasts?

### **Display Ad In 1 Newsletter Issue:**

Full page-\$20 ½ page-\$15

¼ page/business card-\$10

### **Marketplace Ad In 1 Newsletter Issue:**

30 words or less-\$2 30-60 words-\$4

### **Calling for Submissions**

We would love to see your birds! Send us your photos by mail, email or text to our Editor, Felicia Smith. They could be included in the next newsletter!

We are also looking for article suggestions. Do you have information to share on bird related topics? You could have an article in our next newsletter.

Remit to: [fsjewelrydesigns@gmail.com](mailto:fsjewelrydesigns@gmail.com) or  
(616) 437-5636

## Updates For The MBGBA

For the most up to date information on swaps, events, cancelations, and news, please visit our Facebook page by searching: Michigan Bird and Game Breeders Association.

You can also check out our website at:

[www.MBGBA.com](http://www.MBGBA.com)

Contact us by email: [thembgba@gmail.com](mailto:thembgba@gmail.com)

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### **MBGBA Members:**

**Renewals will come due January 1, 2026.**

**Dues for 2026-2027 directory and membership will be \$30 per year/per family. Fee covers yearly directory and 3 newsletters.**

**Swap prices will remain the same with members receiving a 50% discount on seller fees. Sellers thus only pay \$10 per swap. The seller fee for swaps covers our required insurance and lot rent.**

**Newsletters will be mailed during the months of March, September, and December, approximately. The Annual Directory will be mailed out in June. In order to be included in the directory, please have renewal applications in no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you everyone!**

**\*NEW Option\* Digital memberships will be offered through our website for an annual fee of \$15. This will include an emailed copy of the newsletter, directory, and seller discount at the swaps.**

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### **NEW Mailing Address**

Please send all mail correspondence including membership submissions and renewals to:

**MBGBA**

**15263 Stout Ave**

**Cedar Springs, MI 49319**

# Treasurer Report

As of 11/25/2025:

September 2025 Newsletter	-\$726.63
Editor Fee, Printing, Postage	
Imlay City Lot Rent	-\$300.00
Deposit (Montrose Swap)	+\$849.00
Deposit (Imlay City Swap)	+\$790.00
Deposit (Mail in Memberships)	+\$150.00
<hr/>	
Account Balance	\$8051.93

- We have 200 followers on our NEW Facebook page. Please join our group and share with your friends to get the word out. Let's grow this community of bird enthusiasts!
- We have over 95 Members receiving the newsletters and directory.
- Montrose, MI Swap Report 9/13/2025
  - 30 selling members, 16 selling non-members, 7 new member applications, raffle \$19. Deposit \$849.00
- Imlay City, MI Swap Report 10/4/2025
  - 23 selling members, 16 selling non-members, 8 new member applications. Deposit \$790.00



# MBGBA Meeting Minutes

Imlay City, MI 10-4-2025

1. Meeting called to order, attendance taken.
2. Old Business
  - a. Scholarship progress-no ideas submitted, further actions need to be taken.
  - b. Reviewed Carson City and Imlay City swaps. Both swaps did well. Steve List commented the new location for Carson City is ideal and works well.
3. Approval of Clare meeting minutes taken 7-26-2025
  - a. Present: Tom Kaiser, Doug Upell, Jon Parm, Derrick Anderson, Doug Komer, Steve List, President Kim Castine. Not present: Vice President or Secretary.
  - b. Treasurer Report given.
  - c. Need for vote on board of directors, need more volunteers to help so responsibility to run group does not fall on one person.
  - d. Steve List resigned and asked for Treasurer replacement. Nomination for Jude Dzbanski as Treasurer. All in favor. Motion carries.
  - e. Doug Komar resigned from the board.
  - f. Nomination for Shawn Anderson to be Vice President. All in favor. Motion carries.
  - g. Nomination for Sara Roys to be Secretary. All in favor. Motion carries.
  - h. Review constitution and suggested changes. All in favor. Motion carries.
  - i. Online membership-digital membership will be \$15 and includes emailed newsletter.
  - j. Vector logo work approved; extra merchandising artwork not approved.
  - k. Raffle reinstated beginning Montrose swap (9/2025). Approved
  - l. Collection of swap fees at gate beginning Montrose swap (9/2025). Approved

- m. Swap hours starting 2026 season will be from 6-11am. Sellers can stay later if desired.
  - n. Feed mill advertising. Approved. Feed mill sponsorship. Approved.
  - o. Breeder feature on website. Approved
  - p. Paid advertising opportunity on website or newsletter. Approved
  - q. Pre-swap vender list posted on website. Approved. Contact Shelby to list.
4. Treasurer Report-Approved
    - a. Beginning balance 7/29/25 \$7289.56, ending balance 10/3/2025 \$7411.93
  5. New Business
    - a. Swap dates 2026; need people to host and collect fees. 4/25/26 Imlay City, 5/16/26 Carson City, 7/25/26 Clare, 9/12/26 Montrose, 10/3/26 Imlay City
  6. Meeting adjourned.

## Constitution of the Michigan Bird and Game Breeders Association

Originally Adopted January 1, 1990

Revised & Adopted July 26, 2025

This association was first organized on August 20th, 1983.

The founding fathers were: President Art Mills, Vice President Ken Lickly, Secretary/Treasurer Jan Lickly, and Directions Glen Partin, George Fullerton, Steve Redmond, and Gordon Shaefer.

### **Statement of Purpose**

This association was created with the intent to preserve and propagate all varieties of ornamental/game/cage birds and animals. By doing so, we hope that future generations will be able to participate in the beauties of outdoor life. We hope to further educate our members and the general public with current information about the use of birds and animals for beauty and profit.

### **Article I: Name**

This organization shall be known as the “Michigan Bird and Game Breeders Association.”

### **Article II: Purpose**

This organization serves the bird and game breeders of Michigan through:

1. Promotion of preservation, propagation, and conservation of all species of bird, game, and farm animals.
2. Sharing husbandry information and other education surrounding the proper care, propagation, preservation, and conservation of birds, game, and farm animals with its members and the general public.
3. Providing assistance to its members in locating or relocating stock through the promotion of various markets to the general public.
4. Sponsoring one or more annual show(s)/sale(s) for both members and the general public.
5. Promotion of honesty and integrity among members regarding business practices, compliance with the law, and purity of breeding standards.
6. Promotion of the above to the general public, including opportunities to take part in such activities.
7. Cooperation and association with other organizations and groups endorsing our views and interests.
8. Informing its membership of legislative proposals and the enactment of laws which might affect our interests.

### **Article III: Membership**

1. Membership shall be open to all persons, regardless of age, race, sex, sexual orientation, creed, or residency.
2. Membership shall be limited to one year from the month of a newly accepted or renewed application (for example: a membership accepted at any point in July expires July 31st of the next year).
3. Membership classification shall be:
  1. "Single" – One individual person.
  2. "Family" – Any members sharing the same physical address.
  3. "Advisory" – Advisors to the Board, with no voting rights.
4. In addition, memberships shall be classified as:
  1. "Digital" – Communications (including newsletters and member directory) delivered through digital mediums such as e-mail or website access.
  2. "Hard Copy" – Communications (including newsletters and member directory) delivered in paper copy through the postal service.
5. Members may purchase hard copies of the current newsletters or member directory in person at swap meets or through any available online method, including contacting a board member to arrange mail delivery.
6. Membership voting rights:
  1. A "single" membership shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
  2. A "family" membership shall be entitled to two (2) votes.

3. An “advisory” membership shall be entitled to no voting rights, unless the member also acquires a “single” or “family” membership.
7. The Board of Directors shall establish the following year’s annual dues at the first meeting of the current year.

**Article IV: The Standing Rules of the Board of Directors**

The Standing Rules of the Board of Directors shall govern internal operations of leadership and the associated duties. The Standing Rules shall be established, and reaffirmed annually, by the Board of Directors.

1. Article IV(a): Definitions
  1. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of both Officers and Directors.
  2. Officers shall consist of: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor.
  3. Directors shall be elected at large from the membership, for the purpose of providing a broad base of membership representation.
2. Article IV(b): Terms of Office
  1. Officer and Director terms shall begin and end at the first meeting of each calendar year.
  2. Officers shall be elected or appointed for a 1-year term.
  3. Officers shall serve a term of 1 year from the date of election, or until a replacement officer has been installed, whichever comes first.
  4. Directors shall be elected or appointed for a 2-year term
  5. Directors shall serve a term of 2 years from the date of election, or until a replacement officer has been installed, whichever comes first.
3. Article IV(c): Impeachment and Removal
  1. Any Officer or Director failing to fulfill the duties required by their position on the Board shall be impeached and may be removed from office
    1. By 2/3 majority vote of Directors present at any official meeting in person or via digital proxy.
    2. By automatic resignation, for two (2) consecutive absences from Board meetings.
4. Article IV(d): General Duties
  1. The Board shall create and/or affirm a calendar of events for the upcoming year.
  2. The Board shall hold at least two general membership meetings per year.
  3. The Board shall hold at least two Board Meetings per year.

4. General Membership and Board Meetings may be held concurrently.
5. Article IV(e): Specific Duties
  1. President
    1. Shall preside over all Association meetings.
    2. Shall provide leadership in fulfilling the purpose of the Association.
  2. Vice-President
    1. Shall assist and aid the President.
    2. May serve as Ex-Officio head on all Committees
    3. Succeeds the President in the event of vacancy
    4. Carries out Presidential duties in the President's absence.
  3. Secretary
    1. Shall keep accurate minutes at all Association meetings.
    2. Shall keep accurate non-financial records for the Association.
    3. Shall correspond and relate notices as necessary, including an agenda for all meetings.
  4. Treasurer
    1. Shall pay all debits owed and authorized by the Board of Directors within 30 days, or as directed by the Board.
    2. Shall collect any and all dues.
    3. Shall compile membership information necessary for the preparation of the membership directory.
    4. Shall notify members of upcoming expirations of membership at the beginning of the month prior to expiration
  5. Editor
    1. Shall collect, compile, and distribute information for the membership newsletter(s).
    2. Shall receive compiled membership information from the Treasurer and create a yearly membership directory for distribution to the members.
  6. Director
    1. Shall assist the Officers of the Association.
    2. Shall conduct an annual audit of the Association's financial accounts and records.
    3. Shall conduct any other periodic financial audits they deem necessary for Association function.

4. Shall elect a Directory Chairperson from among themselves.
5. Shall elect a Resident Agent from among themselves.
7. Directory Chairperson
  1. Shall decide the vote in the event of a tie.
  2. May serve as Ex-Officio on any committee in the Vice-President's absence.
8. Resident Agent
  1. Shall serve as the point of contact for any legal matters within the Association.
6. Article IV(f): Committees
  1. Publishing Committee
    1. Publishes all periodicals and Directories.
    2. The Editor shall serve as Committee Chair
  2. Membership Committee
    1. Promotes services for the membership
  3. Sale Committee
    1. Promotes and coordinates sale/swap activities
  4. Elections Committee
    1. Conducts elections for Board Members.
    2. Shall be composed of three (3) Directors not currently standing for election or re-election.
  5. Program Committee
    1. Obtains potential speakers and/or programs for members and the general public.
  6. "Ad-Hoc" Committee
    1. May be held for any special need as it arises.
  7. Committee Members shall include any volunteer member of the Board of Directors allowed by the above.
7. Article IV(g): Elections and Voting
  1. All elections shall be conducted by the Elections Committee.
  2. The Election Committee shall publish the procedure for the nomination and election of Officers and Directors.
  3. Election of the Officers and Directors shall take place at the first meeting of the current year, or as need arises.
  4. Vacancies through impeachment/removal, resignation, automatic resignation, or any other means shall be filled by appointment of a member in good standing, to serve until the next annual election meeting.
    1. Appointed Board members shall be required to fulfill all of the same duties and are subject to all of

the same rules as an Elected Board member would be.

5. Votes for the Board may be cast in person or by proxy (for example written letter or digital attendance).
  6. Votes by Members must be cast in person.
  7. When a vote is called for at any meeting, all voting for it must take place within the span of that meeting.
  8. A Quorum shall be 50% of votes plus one Officer or Director.
8. Article IV(h): Rights of Representation
1. Each Officer and Director shall represent one (1) vote.
  2. The Directory Chairperson shall decide the question of a tie.
  3. Any Board member may abstain in the event of a conflict of interest.
  4. A meeting agenda shall be prepared and communicated to all Board members by the secretary prior to the associated Board meeting
  5. A member in good standing may request an opportunity to address the Board by contacting the Secretary or the Directory Chairperson.
  6. "Roberts Rule of Order" shall prevail for all Board and Membership meetings.  
([https://assembly.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/roberts\\_rules\\_simplified.pdf](https://assembly.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/roberts_rules_simplified.pdf))
9. Article IV(i): Amendments to the Standing Rules
1. Amendments to the Standing Rules only require a quorum of Officers and Directors present at the meeting where the vote takes place.
  2. Three Members, in good standing, finding cause, may petition the Board of Directors for consideration or reconsideration to any Amendment.

**Article V: Membership Regulations**

1. Members shall subscribe to an ethical code of conduct (see Article VI):
  1. In general behavior with regards to Association membership and related activities
  2. In breeding practices of owned animals
  3. In care of owned animals
  4. In honest representation of owned birds and other animals for sale
  5. In the sale of owned stock
  6. In the acquisition of game, rare, and domestic birds and animals

7. In business affairs so as to instill trust and satisfaction.
2. Members found in violation of these codes of conduct may be asked:
  1. to remove animals from sale areas
  2. to vacate a given swap or sales event
3. Members repeatedly found in violation of these codes of conduct may be at risk of Membership cancellation.
4. The Association hereby reserves the right to cancel or refuse Membership to any person for noncompliance with the intended purpose of this Association, or for repeated misconduct regarding the Association's Code of Ethics.
5. A request for action to cancel or refuse Membership must be by written request of three (3) members in good standing, one Board member, or three (3) non-associated members of the general public within a six month period.
  1. Upon receiving such a request, the Board will contact the Member/applicant for an inquiry and/or hearing.
  2. A 2/3 vote of Board members present at the hearing shall be required to cancel or refuse Membership.

#### **Article VI: Ethical Codes of Conduct**

1. Article VI(a): In breeding practices of owned animals
  1. Breeding animals should have appropriate access to feed, water, and housing.
2. Article VI(b): In care of owned animals
  1. Animals at home facilities
    1. should have continuous access to water
    2. should have appropriate access to correct food for the species
    3. should have a clean, safe habitat
    4. should have adequate housing space for their species
    5. should have adequate shelter from inclement weather
    6. should be kept at or below the maximum housing density for their species
    7. should receive appropriate veterinary care as needed, including any vaccines, health testing, or certification required by state or federal law
    8. should be provided a humane death
  2. All animals should be handled with regards to their wellbeing and in such ways as to prevent injury or escape.
  3. All animals should be transported in ways that protect their welfare and ensure successful transport.
3. Article VI(c): In honest representation

1. Injuries or other physical problems should be disclosed before the point of sale.
  2. Breeds of animals should be accurate to the best of a member's knowledge.
  3. Sex of animals for sale should be accurate if known. If sex cannot be determined, this information should be honestly represented.
  4. Age of animals should be accurate to the best of the member's knowledge and candidly given to a buyer.
4. Article VI(d): In sales of owned stock
1. Members should only offer for sale healthy, disease-free animals.
  2. Animals presented for sale at MBGBA functions:
    1. should have continuous access to water and appropriate access to food
    2. should have appropriate caging size for their species with regards to their welfare
    3. should be presented in escape-proof caging that protects their welfare
    4. should be uninjured and free of disease and parasites
5. Article VI(e): In animal acquisition
1. Animals acquired by members should be acquired through legal means and in accordance with all state and federal regulations.
  2. Animals should be sourced from ethical breeders that adhere to similar codes of conduct to the best of a member's knowledge.
  3. Animals should be acquired at an appropriate age, after weaning or other developmental milestones which ensure the animal will thrive after exchanging owners.
  4. Newly acquired animals should undergo quarantine from a member's current stock for at least 2 weeks, and preferably at least 30 days, to prevent the spread of disease and parasites. A veterinary health check is highly recommended during this time.
6. Article VI(f): In business affairs
1. Members are expected to accurately represent animals and products they sell, particularly at MBGBA events. This includes disclosing known ages, sexes, injuries, blood-relations, illnesses, and other such qualities that might affect the desirability of animals offered for sale.

2. Members are expected to treat other members and the general public with civility when conducting business.
3. Members are expected to conduct sales in accordance with all state and federal regulations. This includes providing or transferring any and all permit information required by law for legally-held game birds and animals.

#### **Article VII: Amendments**

1. The Membership of the association hereby reserves the right to add, delete, or modify this Constitution by a simple majority vote of the full membership.
2. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Board for referral to the full membership.
3. Voting rights shall be extended to the full membership on any amendment question by referendum.
4. All changes to this Constitution become effective 10 days following publication to the membership in the association newsletter.

## Bird Group: Peacock

*By Felicia Smith*

Peacocks are any of three species of resplendent birds of the pheasant family, Phasianidae (order Galliformes). Namely, the male is a peacock, and the female is a peahen; both are peafowl. The two most-recognizable species of peafowl are the blue, or Indian, peacock, of India and Sri Lanka, and the green, or Javanese, peacock, found from Myanmar (Burma) to Java. The Congo peacock, which inhabits the forested interior of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was discovered in 1936 after a search that began in 1913 with the finding of a single feather.

#### **General Information**

In blue and green peacocks, the male has a 35–50-inch body and 60-inch train of tail feathers that are colored a brilliant metallic green. Male peacocks weigh 8.8 to 13.2 pounds and female peacocks weigh 6.1 to 8.8 pounds.

This train is mainly formed of the bird's upper tail coverts, which are enormously elongated. Each feather is tipped with an iridescent eyespot that is ringed with blue and bronze. In courtship displays, the cock elevates his tail, which lies under

the train, thus elevating the train and bringing it forward. At the climax of this display, the tail feathers are vibrated, giving the feathers of the train a shimmering appearance and making a rustling sound.

The blue peacock's body feathers are mostly metallic blue-green. The green peacock, with a train much like that of the blue, has green and bronze body feathers. Hens of both species are green and brown and are almost as big as the male but lack the train and the head ornament. In the wild, both species live in open lowland forests, flocking by day and roosting high in trees at night. During the breeding season, the male forms a harem of two to five hens, each of which lays four to eight whitish eggs in a depression in the ground. The eggs are incubated by the peahen until they hatch some 28 days later. The chicks have all of their feathers when they emerge from their eggs and are capable of flight roughly one week after hatching. Most blue and green peafowl become sexually mature at age three. However, some male blue peafowl have been known to breed as early as age two.

As an ornamental bird, the peacock is a staple resident of many of the world's zoos and has long been famous throughout the Old World. Green peacocks in captivity must be kept apart from other fowl, though, because of their aggressive disposition. Blue peacocks, though native to warm humid climates, can survive northern winters. Green peacocks, however, cannot tolerate much cold.

The Congo peacock is the only large phasianid in Africa. The male is mainly blue and green with a short rounded tail. The hen is reddish and green with a brown topknot. The species is smaller than those in genus *Pavo*, growing to roughly between 25 to 28 inches in length by adulthood.

### **Peacock Habitat**

Peacocks live in woodland and forest in the wild, but they adapt well to different environments and captivity. They live in the wild in India, Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia, and also the Congo Basin. As peacocks are such magnificent birds they have

been brought to many countries around the world and now can be found on most continents.

You don't often see Peacocks flying as they usually spend most of the day on the ground foraging for insects before flying up into the trees, out of danger, or up to roost for the night. They have to be able to fly out of danger to get away from predators such as tigers.

### **Peacock Diet**

Peacocks are not fussy eaters and they eat most things they can find on the ground such as insects, worms, small snakes and reptiles, small mammals, grain, seed, and berries. They look for food by scratching around on the ground in the leaf litter and their sharp claws and beaks can even kill snakes including a cobra.

### **Peacock Colors**

According to Wikipedia, there are several hundred variations in color and pattern recognized as separate morphs of the Indian Blue Peafowl among breeders. Pattern variations include solid wing color, pied which is where the color is not complete across the bird, and white-eyed where the 'eye' feathers are white instead of black. Color variations can include white, purple, opal, cameo, peach, bronze, charcoal, jade, taupe, and midnight.

### **References:**

*Peacock.* [www.britannica.com/animal/peacock](http://www.britannica.com/animal/peacock). Accessed 11-24-2025.

*All about Peacocks-Life and Facts.* [www.birdadvisors.com/all-about-peacocks-life-and-facts/](http://www.birdadvisors.com/all-about-peacocks-life-and-facts/). Accessed 11-24-2025.

**Display Ad In 1 Newsletter Issue:**

Full page-\$20    ½ page-\$15

¼ page/business card-\$10

**Marketplace Ad In 1 Newsletter Issue:**

30 words or less-\$2    30-60 words-\$4

## Aviculturists Who Has Passed

**Bishop Robert H.E. Starr**, age 81, earned his ultimate heavenly reward on Friday, September 5, 2025, at 8:20 a.m. at Hurley Medical Center in Flint, Michigan. He was surrounded by his beloved family and dear friends.



Known by many names — Bob, Bobby, Bobert, Bro. Bob, Pastor Starr, Elder Starr and most recently Bishop Starr — to his family he was simply “Dad,” “Grandpa,” and “Papa.” No matter what name you knew him by, he was deeply loved, widely respected, and will be greatly missed.

Robert was born on July 12, 1944, in Pontiac, Michigan, the son of Tom and Ella Mae Starr. He married the love of his life, Paulette Arch, on December 19, 1970. Together, they built a life rooted in faith and family. After the birth of their first two children, Renee and Rudy, they moved to Lapeer in 1974, where they founded Lapeer Apostolic Church. Their daughter Racheal was born soon after.

Robert was a licensed minister with the United Pentecostal Church International for 50+ years. He pastored the Lapeer congregation until 1986 and then pastored in Bad Axe for a year. The family then joined First Apostolic Church of Mt. Morris, where he faithfully served as Assistant Pastor to the late Bishop Joseph D. Carpenter and, most recently to the Rev. Gary (Elizabeth) Thomason. His ministry also extended to helping found First Apostolic Church of Imlay City (Pastor Joseph L. Carpenter) and Greater Hope of Burton, MI (Pastor Larry (Katie) Thompson). Many came to know Jesus because of Bishop Starr’s tireless commitment, compassionate leadership, and unwavering testimony.

Before entering full-time ministry, Robert worked at Pontiac Motors in the foundry. Throughout his life, he held various jobs — always doing what was necessary to support his family and the work of the church. He retired from Lapeer County Animal Control in 2009 after 21 years of dedicated service.

Outside of his pastoral and work life, Robert had a passion for flea markets, bird swaps, garage sales, and especially thrifting with his sweetheart, Paulette. A skilled bird enthusiast, he bred and

traded/sold chickens, ducks, pigeons, rabbits, pheasants — and yes, all the cages to go with them. Though he couldn't fix your car, he could build the best bird cage you'd ever see. He was known for using every opportunity — whether at a flea market, garage sale, swap meet or church — to share a kind word, lend a hand, and talk to someone about Jesus.

He loved his family and was always proud and bragging on his kids, grandkids, great grandchildren and everyone else he “adopted”. He was a man of deep conviction and gentle strength — a friend, mentor, father, and spiritual guide to many. Always willing to lend a hand or offer a shoulder, Bishop Starr lived out his faith every single day. There was only one Robert Starr, and his amazing legacy will live on through family and many friends.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 55 years, Paulette Starr; his children: Renee Starr, Rudy (Jennifer) Starr, and Racheal Starr; his grandchildren: Brice Starr (Kaitlin Oliver), Trevor (Maddy) Starr, Macayla Starr (Nick Hornung), Sadie Starr (Bilal Chaar) and great-grandchildren: Mason Bright, Porter Starr and Amelia Burnaine. He is also survived by his sisters: Annie Bays, and Vicki (Bob) Hagar; sister-in-law: Donna Starr; brothers-in-law: George (Sally) Miller and Gary Orr; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was an honorary father and grandfather to Brian, Lea, Prestin, Norly, Lesly, Anain, Sofia, Charlie, Selina, and Terry. Cherished best friend to Ernie (Shelly) Fairless and Dennis (Ann) Dupre. Beloved friend of the saints of First Apostolic Church/Greater Hope Church and many others whose lives he impacted. Our dad never knew a stranger.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents, Tom and Ella Mae Starr; siblings: Linda Miller, Wanda Johns, Shirley (Neil) Williams, Lilly Mae (Chuck) Boldry, Pat Orr, Don Starr, and Bill (Mary Lou) Starr. Cremation has been entrusted to Muir Brothers Funeral Home of Lapeer. The family received friends and family Saturday, September 13, 2025 at First Apostolic Church, 11650 Church St, Mt. Morris, Immediately followed by a celebration of life and homegoing service officiated by Bishop Keith McKinnies of Flint, Pastor Gary Thomason of Mt. Morris, and Pastor Larry Thompson of Burton.

# What is 4-H?

By Felicia Smith

4-H is American's largest youth development organization, empowering nearly six million young people with the skills to go beyond the expected. It is a community for all kids. In 4-H, every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around them. 4-H is delivered by Cooperative Extension—a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provides experiences where young people learn by doing. For more than 100 years, 4-H has welcomed young people of all beliefs and backgrounds, giving kids a voice to express who they are and how they make their lives and communities better. 4-H stands for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

## **4-H believes in:**

- all young people's potential;
- developing young people who are empowered, confident, hard-working, determined, responsible and compassionate-seeing a world beyond themselves so that they have the life-long skills to succeed in college and career;
- every child is valuable and deserves the support and freedom to choose their own path;
- the power of America's leading public universities;
- the practice of positive youth development (PYD)\* by creating positive learning experiences;
- caring and trusted adult mentors who cultivate positive relationships with youth;
- creating safe environments; and
- meeting young people wherever they are.

## **4-H History:**

4-H didn't really start in one time or place. It began around the start of the 20th century in the work of several people in different parts of the United States who were concerned about young people.

During the late 1800's, researchers at public universities saw that adults in the farming communities did not readily accept the new agricultural discoveries being developed on university campuses - practices like using hybrid seed corn, milk sanitation and better home canning procedures. However, the researchers found that young people were open to new thinking and would "experiment" with new ideas and share their experiences and successes with their parents. In this way, rural youth programs became an innovative way to introduce new agriculture technology to their communities.

The seed of the 4-H idea of practical and "hands-on" learning came from the desire to make public school education more connected to country life. Early programs tied both public and private resources together for the purpose of helping rural youth.

A. B. Graham started one such youth program in Clark County, Ohio in January, 1902; and, O. J. Kern started a similar club one month later, in February, 1902, in Winnebago County, Illinois. Many of these early clubs - which were project oriented - were called "Tomato Clubs" or "Corn Clubs" or "Pig Clubs" and "Canning Clubs". Jessie Field Shambaugh developed the clover pin with an H on each leaf in 1910, and by 1912 the groups were beginning to be called 4-H Clubs.

When Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 and created the Cooperative Extension System at USDA, it included work of various boys' and girls' clubs involved with agriculture, home economics and related subjects, which effectively nationalized the 4-H organization.

Nearing its 50th anniversary, 4-H began to undergo several changes. In 1948, a group of American young people went to Europe, and a group of Europeans came to the United States on the first International Farm Youth Exchange. Since then, thousands of young people have participated in 4-H out-of-state trips and international exchanges. 4-H began to extend into urban areas in the 1950's across the entire country,

however 4-H programming had been going on in some cities as early as 1906 or 1908.

Later, the basic 4-H focus became the personal growth of the member. Life skills development was built into 4-H projects, activities and events to help youth become contributing, productive, self-directed members of society. The organization changed in the 1960's, combining 4-H groups divided by gender or race into a single integrated program.

Today, 4-H has an expansive reach, serving youth in rural, urban and suburban communities in every state across the nation. Youth currently in 4-H are tackling the nation's top issues, from global food security, climate change and sustainable energy to childhood obesity and food safety. 4-H out-of-school programming, in-school enrichment programs, clubs and camps also offer a wide variety of science, engineering, technology and applied math educational opportunities - from agricultural and animal sciences to rocketry, robotics, environmental protection and computer science - to improve the nation's ability to compete in key scientific fields and take on the leading challenges of the 21st century.

**References:**

4-H. [www.4-h.org](http://www.4-h.org). Accessed 11-24-2025.

National 4-H History Preservation Program. [www.4-hhistorypreservation.com/History](http://www.4-hhistorypreservation.com/History). Accessed 11-24-25

## Winter Chicken Cakes Recipe

*By Kim Castine*

Try this treat recipe for your birds and let us know what you think.

1 cup Black Oiler Seeds	1 tsp Cinnamon
1 cup Layer Feed	1 tsp Oregano
1 cup Scratch Feed	1 tsp Red Pepper Flakes
1 cup Cracked Corn	½ tsp Cayenne Pepper
1 cup Meal Worms (larva)	½ cup Coconut Oil

Mix all ingredients together and put in aluminum pan. Let harden, then feed to chickens.

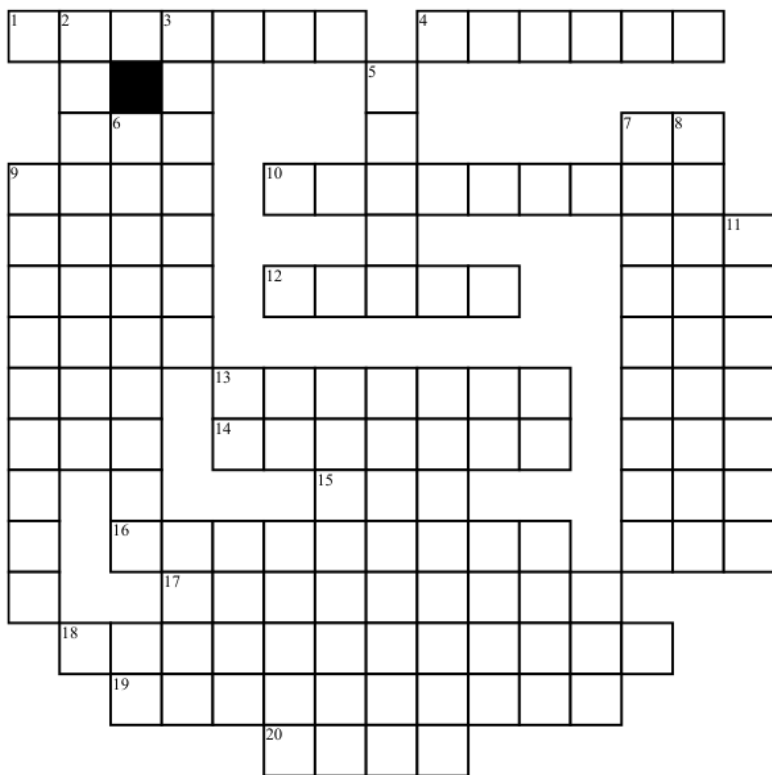
## Something to Cluck-le About

- Q: When should you buy a bird? *When it goes cheep*
- Q: Why did Mozart sell his chickens? *Because they kept saying Bach Bach*
- Q: What kind of bird doesn't need a comb? *A bald eagle*
- Q: Why do hummingbirds hum? *Because they don't know the words*
- Q: Why type of bird works at a building site? *A crane*
- Q: What's it called when it's raining ducks and geese? *Fowl weather*
- Q: What birds spend all their time on their knees? *Birds of prey*
- Q: What does duck eat with his soup? *Quackers*
- Q: What do you call a crate of ducks? *A box of quackers*
- Q: What's another name for a clever duck? *A wise quacker*
- Q: What did one egg say to another? *Let's get cracken!*
- Q: Why do seagulls fly over the sea? *Because if they flew over the bay, they'd be baygulls.*
- Q: How did the bird break into the house? *With a crow bar!*
- Q: What do you get if you kiss a bird? *A peck on the cheek!*
- Q: What bird can write? *A Pen-guin.*
- Q: What do you call a chicken with bad sunburn? *Fried Chicken*
- Q: Where do song birds go on vacation? *The Canary Islands*
- Riddle: In cities I dwell, perched high and low; I am no carrier, but messages I know. Who am I? Answer: *Pigeon*
- Riddle: I cannot fly, but run I can, across the plains, faster than man. What am I? Answer: *Ostrich*
- Riddle: A bird of treasures, shiny and black, collecting trinkets for my sack. Who am I? Answer: *Magpie*



## Crossword

# Christmas Crossword Puzzle



### Across

1. What forms when snow starts to melt but then re-freezes while dripping
4. Traditional Christmas beverage
10. A minty treat that is usually red and white
12. What people traditionally put on top of their Christmas trees
13. The most famous reindeer of all
14. When you get cold, you put them on your hands

15. What you put on top of a present when all finished
  16. Not anyone is alike
  17. "It's the most \_\_\_\_\_ time of the year!"
  18. Where Santa and his elves live
  19. The flower associated with Christmas
  20. The drink you leave out for Santa
- Down**
2. What we are counting down to
  3. Santa comes down the \_\_\_\_\_ to deliver the toys

5. Who delivers toys to kids every December 24?
6. What people hang above their fireplace
7. What you make when you lay in the snow and move your arms back-and-forth
8. The birthplace of Jesus
9. When 2 people walk underneath it, you are supposed to kiss
11. The sweet treat you leave out for Santa

# Word Search

## Christmas Word Search

E K G D T Z M E F I G A R L A N D N A S H Q R N  
N Y A D W O N S O J M A H U I R E I N D E E R L  
E J X C F T H R K T N F D G R O M Q E T B C S C  
C X S F H J Q O P G E L O I A U I U J M F R L E  
S O I S W R B N E P O L K H T L B X E E D B U V  
Y H N L E C I L J C S G T T S V B C Y C H S L O  
T O G E K G H S S N G T X S Z J E A F A O T N L  
I H I I A I V R T C O N O F I D O J A L S N E N  
V O N G L V S K I M R R I C C M H Y T P N E E M  
I H G H F I S O F S A E T D K A X E L E O M R A  
T L E P W N Y A P Y T S D H D I N Z D R W A G C  
A M O L O G Q S U L R M T R P E N D G I M N T N  
N S C K N V E D S I T R A R N O L G Y F A R A A  
I B T R S V Q S P M Q Z E S E U L S S C N O U U  
D W J F L I E J A A G V O B O E A E E M A Y U G  
X O U E I N E W R F H F H T N U R E D I C N O H  
C N B D I G D E G V E T Q C S A X K J N F X E T  
Y S L P N E Y Q W L T K G G R A R Q T U U H H Y  
Q Y P D L R V C C H I M N E Y U E C D W V M T L  
E A Z S N I C E L I S T E O S L H F P D L A A I  
H T J E S U S P H Q S W E A T E R C A M Q N E S  
S U G A R C O O K I E S A T N A S L L A M G R T  
U E T I R P S T H G I L S A M T S I R H C E W D  
K H O T C H O C O L A T E P A T N A S H S R O R

CANDY CANE  
CHIMNEY  
CHRISTMAS  
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS  
CHRISTMAS TREE  
SNOW DAY  
GIVING  
DECEMBER  
SINGING  
ANGEL

FAMILY  
FEAST  
FIREPLACE  
GARLAND  
GIFTS  
CHURCH  
CIDER  
COLD  
CRANBERRY  
ELVES

RED  
REINDEER  
SANTA  
SLED  
SLEDDING  
NATIVITY SCENE  
NAUGHTY LIST  
NICE LIST  
NORTH POLE  
ORNAMENT

STAR  
STOCKINGS  
SUGAR COOKIES  
SWEATER  
WREATH  
SLEIGH  
SNOW  
SNOWFLAKE  
SNOWMAN  
SPRITE

JOY  
LOVE  
MALL SANTA  
MANGER  
MISTLETOE  
GREEN  
HAPPINESS  
HOHOHO  
HOT CHOCOLATE  
JESUS

## Swap Meets & Sales

### 2026 MBGBA Swap Meet Dates

April 25, 2026-Imlay City, MI

May 16, 2026-Carson City, MI

July 25, 2025-Clare, MI

September 12, 2026-Montrose, MI

October 3, 2025-Imlay City, MI

These swap dates may change in order to accommodate the locations and involvement of vendors.

MBGBA Swap Hours: 6 am to 11 am  
FREE to the general public and buyers.

Seller fees: \$10 MBGBA Members, \$20 Non-members

\*Please have funds ready at the gate when you arrive, a director will be checking sellers in upon arrival, prior to set up.

\*FREE for FFA & 4-H member sales.

For more information, contact:  
Kim Castine, MBGBA President 616-450-5742

All legally held domestic and wild animals, birds and game are welcome.

**NO DOGS OR DOG SALES ALLOWED!!**

## Exchange Clubs

### **Pennsylvania Avicultural Society**

[www.paavsoc.com](http://www.paavsoc.com)

Treasurer: Barb Teats (Gray)

Email: [fatplants@verizon.net](mailto:fatplants@verizon.net)

908-752-9515

### **Wisconsin Bird and Game Breeders Association**

[www.wbagba.com](http://www.wbagba.com)

President: Jim Bleuer

Email: [Jim.bleueracres@outlook.com](mailto:Jim.bleueracres@outlook.com)

920-379-6188

Annual membership \$15 single/\$20 family; newsletters every other month; 2 swaps a year

### **Georgia Game Bird Breeders Association**

Editor: Dennis Rich

293 Reeves Rd, Barnesville, GA 30204

[Dennis\\_rich@bellsouth.net](mailto:Dennis_rich@bellsouth.net)

Annual membership \$20 Electronic/\$30 print; includes 4 newsletters & directory

### **United Peafowl Association**

Editor: Loretta Smith

[www.unitedpeafowlassociation.org](http://www.unitedpeafowlassociation.org)

Email: [unitedpeafowlassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:unitedpeafowlassociation@yahoo.com)

60016 Appaloosa Drive, Smithville MS 38870

Annual membership \$30, \$50 with directory, options for Canadian and overseas memberships; includes 4 newsletters

# 2026 Membership Application

Single/Family Membership \$30/year (At same mailing address). All memberships expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> annually.

Mail application and payment to:

MBGBA

15263 Stout Ave, Cedar Springs, MI 49319

New Member     Renewal

Exclude contact info from directory

Yes, Include contact info on website

\*Please Print Clearly\*

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_

List birds/game you raise. If you require additional space, feel free to attach a second page. (Categories continue on next page.)

Pheasants \_\_\_\_\_

Peafowl \_\_\_\_\_

Poultry \_\_\_\_\_

Turkey \_\_\_\_\_

Waterfowl \_\_\_\_\_

Partridge \_\_\_\_\_

Pigeons \_\_\_\_\_

Quail \_\_\_\_\_

Cage Birds \_\_\_\_\_

Ratites \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



MBGBA

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