



Volume 44 • Issue 3 • May-June 2017 • Established 1974

SBBS visits SBBS!

South Bay Bird Society visits the Santa Barbara Bird Sanctuary

Last month, SBBS members cruised into Santa Barbara and visited their feathered friends residing at the Santa Barbara Bird Sanctuary owned and operated by Jamie McLeod.



Pictured above (left to right) are Courtney, Jamie, Charlie, Janet and Myrna spending time with feathered friends sharing their space with the humans visiting them at the Sanctuary.



See pages 9, 10 and 11 for more images of this amazing adventure. Cruise and Sanctuary photos courtesy Marie and Courtney Calleja.

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Donna Crossley & Sylvia Skidmore (Doing What They Do Best!)

By Diane Sivas



If you weren't at our April 3rd meeting, you missed a delightful evening with our dear friends Donna Crossley and Sylvia Skidmore. It is always a joy to have them, and this night was no exception.

Kathy Powell kicked things off with our early bird drawing, and then handed things off to Karen, who took the lead in Janet's absence. After announcements about future meetings events, Donna and Sylvia took the stage, and began the evening by talking about the upcoming America's Family Pet Expo happening on the 28th, 29th and 30th of April. They will have adjacent booths, and will be displaying their birds, as well as passing out information on diet and housing, and other general bird related care. Donna explained that their presentation is mainly to educate the public about what to expect when living with parrots. As we know, many people who see these magnificent birds think that they absolutely must have one. Unfortunately, what they don't know is what to expect when it comes time to taking care of these guys. We all know that it's not as easy as it looks. Keeping them happy and healthy (and surviving breeding season with them!) can be challenging. Donna and Sylvia participate in this event year after year for

this reason, and they seem to have a great time doing it. Donna even sleeps in the booth at night so the birds won't be alone. Now that's dedication ...

Friday features the "kid's table," and Donna passes out coloring books and crayons so the kids can color the parrot pictures in the book. It seems like a great way to introduce them to lives shared with these unique pets.

Sylvia will have 15 handicapped birds with her at the Expo and will be talking about responsible pet ownership, which is the theme of the Expo. Sylvia began her journey with handicapped birds more than 20 years ago. That first cockatiel with special needs gave way to years of learning about these special guys, figuring out how to adapt their environment (cages, play areas, etc.), and striving to give them the best possible life. "Winkie", the African Grey who was at the meeting, loves the spa. The crooked leg and neck do not deter the bird's fun or quality of life. Like Sylvia told us, these guys don't know they're different -- their differences are only apparent in our eyes. Her birds love life in spite of their limitations, in large part due to Sylvia's determination, love
Continued on page 8.



The **South Bay Bird Society** is a Public Benefit Corporation and a qualified tax-exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3).

SBBS MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the SBBS is to study all avian species (native and foreign) and their habitats; to disseminate among the general public and supporting members, information on all aspects of avian care and breeding and the preservation of endangered species and their habitats through written publications, educational lectures, seminars, activities; and to support and promote the propagation and preservation of species that are threatened with extinction.

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Notes from Janet

May-June 2017

GREETINGS FROM THE HIGH SEAS!

We have returned from our birthday cruise up and down the coast of California. I would like to thank our Board, volunteers and members for taking on our responsibilities while we were away! A big thank you to Donna Crossley and Sylvia Skidmore for their presentation on Responsible Pet Ownership and America's Family Pet Expo.

One of the ports we visited was Santa Barbara. Just a short drive south, along PCH, is the charming town of Summerland, home of The Santa Barbara Bird Sanctuary where African Grey Babu, along with his flock of feathered friends, and director Jamie McLeod, reside.

There were 41 parrots at the Sanctuary the day we visited including a very cute Meyers Parrot, Cockatoos, Greys and Macaws. Most of the cockatoos were housed together in an outdoor aviary with a sign that read "Flock O' Toos"! On site is "The Menagerie" where you can purchase McLeods Parrot Cuisine as well as a wide variety of parrot toys and accessories.

The Sanctuary needs our assistance with their **Wish List:**

Human Resources:

Handyman, Webmaster, IT help, Video Editor

Supplies:

Newspapers, Towels, ****Eucalyptus/Manzanita Branches****

Auction/Raffle Donations:

Artwork, Gift Certificates, Product Packages

Equipment:

Air Purifiers with Hepa Filters, Portable Photo Printer

I urge our members to visit and donate to the Sanctuary any way you can. Your help would be appreciated.

The Sanctuary is located in Summerland, CA.

Santa Barbara Bird Sanctuary

Menagerie: 2340 Lillie Avenue Summerland CA 93067

Visiting Hours: Daily 10:00-3:30 every day except Tuesdays

Admission: \$5 adults, \$2 children

(805) 565-1807 • <http://www.sbbird.org/>

I look forward to our May 1st meeting with Bob Shanman from Wild Birds Unlimited. Check out the flyer!

Cheers,
Janet

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April 28-30, 2017
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Friday: 10am - 6pm • Saturday: 10am - 7pm • Sunday: 10am - 6pm
Please do not bring your pets.



Monday, May 1, 2017 • 7 p.m. • Monthly Drawing • Outstanding Food

*Bob Shanman, Wild Birds Unlimited,
on "How To Build a Thoughtful Backyard Bird Feeding Station
and Why Feeding The Birds Is Beneficial For Them"*

**The talk will be focused around the book "The Joy of Bird Feeding"
written by Jim Carpenter, founder and owner of Wild Birds Unlimited**



Pictured are Wild Birds Unlimited owner Bob Shanman, along with business partner/store manager Debbie Shewfelt, inside the Torrance store that caters to wild birds in nature and the people who feed them.

Wild Birds Unlimited owner Bob Shanman, left and store manager Debbie Shewfelt in the Torrance store that caters to wild birds in nature and the people who feed them.

Recently an article written about them by Jordan England-Nelson appeared in The Daily Breeze. The title was "BIRD FEEDING TIPS".

After Bob lost his job of 23 years as a civil engineering consultant, he had a vision that he would find a new profession involving birds, kids, nature, photography and the environment.

Three months later, he saw an ad to purchase Wild Birds Unlimited, a wild bird food, feeders and nature shop, and the vision came to pass.

Nearly two decades later, Bob and Debbie have turned the Torrance store into an unofficial school for bird watching and a regional promoter of wildlife appreciation and preservation.

**Location: Kiwanis Club of Hermosa Beach
2515 Valley Drive • Hermosa Beach • www.sobaybirdsoc.com
Cross streets are Gould and Valley Drive • For more info, phone 310-376-5954**



Monday, June 5, 2017 • 7 p.m. • Monthly Drawing • Outstanding Food

Dusty, Dander and More Dander – Cockatoos, Cockatiels & African Greys



Our meeting will feature some of our dusty birds - Cockatiels, Cockatoos, African Greys, etc.

Get ready to be 'dusted' by our feathery friends, as we enjoy an entertaining evening with our pet birds.

We encourage our members to share their stories on living with these wonderful birds, as well as strategies for dealing with the extra dust and dander that these birds generate.

Location: Kiwanis Club of Hermosa Beach
2515 Valley Drive • Hermosa Beach • www.sobaybirdsoc.com
Cross streets are Gould and Valley Drive • For more info, phone 310-376-5954



Snowy

Article and Photos by Marie Calleja

We lost a very special member of our flock earlier this year. Snowflake, "Snowy", our beautiful pure white ring neck dove, flew over the Rainbow Bridge on her magnificent wings, after a very quiet passing

Snowy was, unquestionably, the most peaceful member of our flock. Hardly every uttering a sound, other than the occasional low coo, she was the epitome of calm in our otherwise chaotic household full of chattering, chattering, whistling and squawking.....

She came into our lives in a rather strange way and at a place where we didn't expect to find her – a horse show! Courtney and I were walking around the Pomona Fairgrounds, at the 2008 Equine Affaire (now called the "Western States Horse Exp"), and we spotted a couple of young boys walking around with a white dove in their hands. Courtney looked at me and then headed over to ask about the bird. It seems that these boys had found Snowy on the floor of one of the barns. Courtney asked what they were planning to do with the bird and the boys looked at each other and said that

they were planning to take her home.... Well, quick thinking Courtney came back to where I was standing and said that she thought the boys might

be up to "no good" and suggested that maybe we try to bribe them with money. Our initial offer of \$10 didn't work so we upped the ante to \$15 and it was a done deal.... The beautiful white dove came home with us!

From the very beginning, we sensed that something wasn't quite "right" with Snowy because she would always lean to one side. We also noticed an indentation in her wing, and we suspected that she may have been injured sometime in the past, perhaps shot with a BB. It was obviously an old injury, as it was completely healed over with just the indent to show that there was something out of place. She was unable to sustain forward flight, though she could certainly fly (flutter) straight up.

A few months after, we acquired three more ring-neck doves and decided to place them all outside on our covered deck in a nice big flight cage. We thought Snowy would enjoy the company, but, not realizing that she would

get picked on because she was "differently able", we found her one morning with her head turned completely upside down, the result of being pecked (and picked on) by the other birds. It didn't seem to bother Snowy that her head was different – she was

looking at the world from a "whole different perspective". She was actually able to bring her head around to eat and drink normally and then it would slowly turn back upside down. We should have taken some photos of her at that time, but we never did. Separating her from the flock, and keeping her inside, safe and on her own, her head eventually turned around but it took over a year for it to do so. Her vision was never very good and she was almost totally blind at the end of her days.

Snowy's passing, on New Year's Day, 2017, was brief and peaceful, with just a soft and gentle fluttering of her wings. She will forever remain in our hearts.

"White doves surely get a free pass into heaven".- Michelle Leveille – Feb 2017



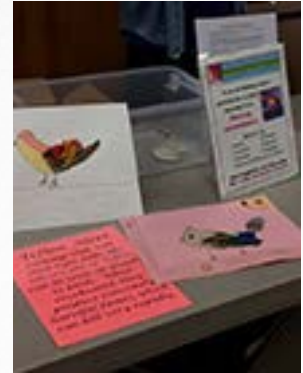
Continued from page 2.

and never ending dedication. She confessed that there were times when she didn't know what she was doing, but she kept at it until she found a solution. With each bird she showed us, she described the ways in which she has altered surroundings to meet each one's needs. Both Sylvia and Donna try to be a resource of information on dealing with handicapped birds. The evening would not have been complete without Donna's faithful dog, Lexi. The point of having Lexi there was to show how dogs and birds can learn to coexist. She explained how she trained the dog (through reward and positive rein-

forcement, of course) to basically ignore the birds. What a fantastic dog! When I tried to smooch with her, Donna told me that, because she has small children in her day care at home, she has taught the dog not to give kisses. But I had the feeling that if Donna had given Lexi the "OK" I might have gotten that kiss!

This was a very special evening, as it always is with Donna and Sylvia. They encouraged each of us to try to attend the Expo. Hours are Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-7 and Sunday 10-6, and you can find them in the "Hangar" building. I am planning to go, and hope many of you do, too.

Be sure to join us next month for a presentation by Bob Shanman of Wild Birds Unlimited fame. Bob will be speaking about "How to Build a Thoughtful Backyard Bird Feeding Station" and why feeding them is beneficial. It will be an informative evening that you won't want to miss. Plan to join the fun on May 1st, 7:00 p.m. See you then!





All meeting photos courtesy Gala Burkholder





Janet and Babu



West L.A. Bird Club Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 2017
7:00 pm

At the time of printing this newsletter, we have no speaker information.

Please contact President Doreen Seelig for further information (310) 488-9749 or refer to their website listed below.

American Legion Hall
5309 Sepulveda Boulevard
Culver City, California
www.westlabirdclub.com/



Welcome SBBS New & Returning Members

Returning

Charles Bender & Barbara Simon-Bender,
Lisa Cooley & Sean Wright, Linda Dorfmont,

Phyllis Levine, Sondra Luther

Lifetime Members

Diane Bock, Cary & Anita Pao, Lorrie Mitchell,
Jimi K. Anderson

Don't fly off the membership list. Please pay your dues!

SBBS is currently upgrading our membership files. To help us, please go to www.sobaybirdsoc.com and click on Memberships to find the new membership application. Please fill it out and include your check and send it to SBBS, P.O. Box 3863, Redondo Beach 90277-3863.

If you want to join and have received a hard copy or found the membership application on the back of the newsletter, fill it out and send it to the above address. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Elaine Dunn at (714) 306-5513. Other names will follow in upcoming months.

West Valley Bird Society Meeting Next meeting May 19th

at the home of Barbara Herman,
1045 De Soto Ave, Chatsworth, CA 91311.
Come share some food and some insight and bird stories!



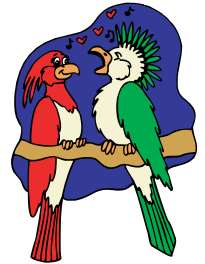
7:00 PM the 3rd Friday of each month
For more information, visit their website:
www.thewestvalleybirdsociety.com

FRIEND OR FOE?



Long Beach Bird Breeders Club

Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month
 7 p.m. at the
 American Legion Hall
 5938 Parkcrest Street
 (S. of Carson, E. ast of Woodruff Ave.)
 Long Beach, CA For Information call
 562-881-9847



Next meeting is Saturday,
 May 13th - 7:00 p.m.
 Speaker is Sally Huntington
 Breeder and Judge of
 show zebra finches, other
 finches and mouse birds.
 Meetings are the 2nd
 Saturday of each month.

PARROT EDUCATION & ADOPTION CENTER



PEAC is not taking in any parrots right now, but they do have a lot of nice birds ready to be adopted. There are classes going throughout the month. The San Diego location has classes the last weekend of the month. Classes in Orange County are on the third Saturday of the month. There is a new class now being offered in Hemet on the first Sunday of the Month. Please check the website for topics, times, and directions.

Please contact PEAC at parroted@cox.net or visit their website www.peac.org for more information.





Adoptions



There are so many birds needing homes out there. If you are considering another bird, please think about adopting one. Call one of these rescue/adoption groups. They all have many wonderful birds just waiting for someone to come and take them home. Many of these groups have websites – take a look!

Organization	Phone	Contact
Parrots First	(866) 248-7670, ext. 5937	www.parrotsfirst.org
The Lily Sanctuary	(714) 442-9474	www.lilysanctuary.org
Parrot Rehabilitation Society	(619) 224-6712	www.parrotsociety.org
Southern Nevada Parrot Education, Rescue & Rehoming Society		www.southernnevadaparrotrescue.org
Santa Barbara Bird Sanctuary	(805)-565-1807	www.sbbird.org
Fine Feathered Friends Foundation	(310) 541-2468	curtismyrna@verizon.net

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PLEASE JOIN US

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Parking lot and street parking.

Birds are Welcome at Meetings

South Bay Bird Society - Officers and Board of Directors 2017

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President Janet Ragonesi, (310) 376-5954
Vice President CFO Kathy Powell, (310) 325-1268
Vice President, Secretary Diane Sivas, (310) 937-9925

Directors

Programs Marie Calleja, (310) 607-9792
Meeting Activities Open
Membership Elaine Dunn, (714) 306-5513
Education Karen Allen, (310) 371-9967
Community Outreach Tammy Carreiro, (310) 675-6789
Raffle & Sponsor Patte Fisher, (310) 316-9843
Technical Support Gala Burkholder

Non-Voting Positions

Sponsorship Open
Webmaster Paul Carreiro
 Joan Margolis-West
Consultant to Board Ron Cuttriss-Elwood

Support Positions

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Adoptions & Foster Care Janet Ragonesi, (310) 376-5954
 Marie Calleja, (310) 607-9792

Newsletter

Publication Joan Margolis-West
 Elaine Dunn

Meeting & Information Flyers Joan Margolis-West
Proof Reading Lorrie Mitchell, Sylvia Skidmore,
 Marie Calleja

Refreshments Coordinator Debra Peterson
Photography Marie Calleja
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Do you keep birds primarily as Pets Breeders Both Renewal Month: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

