



South Bay Bird Society

March 2018 ♦ April Interim Newsletter ♦ Established 1974



THE AMAZING GALAPAGOS ISLANDS WITH DAVID WEESHOFF

Monday April 2nd, 2018 • 7 pm • Monthly Drawing • Outstanding Food

SBBS & West LA members enjoy Whale Watching with Joni Malukas

February 25th 2018



See page 11 for photos.

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Meeting Photos by Gala Burkholder

Notes from Janet

April 2018

SPRING HAS ARRIVED

With the recent rains it is sure to be greener and more colorful with the blades of new grass poking through last season's lawn and the blooming of spring flowers. I can see the return of flocks of birds that are on a flight path from the south through California and migrating into Canada where they will nest and raise their chicks for the spring and summer months.

In our neighborhood, hummingbird mating season is in full swing. If you find a hummingbird that needs help, please contact Dr. Micro cell or text (703) 307-8350 or call Point Vicente Animal Hospital (310) 265-9500. Dr. Micco is the only licensed person in the South Bay, in affiliation with South Bay Wildlife Rehab, that can take in hummingbird as they are federally protected.

COMING EVENTS

SBBS MEETING WITH DAVE WEESHOFF - Monday, April 2, 7 p.m. Dave travels throughout the world and will share his extraordinary adventure to the Galapagos Islands with a beautiful slide presentation complete with photos of the Blue-Footed Boobies! My kind of birds! Check out the flyer on page 4 to learn more.

"A WHALE OF A DAY" - Saturday, April 14, 2018, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. This annual community celebration is sponsored jointly by members of Los Serenos de Point Vicente and the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. This event featuring whale, sea and shore animals, ocean-related items and artwork will be held on the main grounds of the Point Vicente Interpretive Center at 31501 Palos Verdes Drive West. See page 5 for more information.

SBBS will be hosting a booth from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. to share with the public what our club is all about! We need volunteers in our booth to help us interact with others and explain what SBBS is all about. If you choose to bring your birds while being in this wind-prone area, they must be kept in carrier cages for their safety. We might see WHALES, DOLPHINS AND SEA BIRDS while we are there. Dress casually with sturdy shoes and layer your clothing in case of wind. If it is raining, the event will be canceled. IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER FOR 2 HOURS, PLEASE CONTACT JANET AT ragonesi@att.net by April 2nd or sign up at our April SBBS meeting. This is a community outreach event for SBBS! Please step-up and support your club! Set up is at 9:00am!

"AMERICA'S FAMILY PET EXPO" – APRIL 27, 28 and 29 – OPENS 10 a.m. DAILY

SBBS members Donna Crossley and Diane Bock will have their amazing avian booth focusing on "RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP" at the expo. Along with their large array of birds, they will have educational information on ways to take good care of one's feathered friends. The kids love learning about birds by coloring in the drawings of different bird types and adorning their pictures with stickers and feathers. In addition to their bird care information, Donna and Diane provide information on emergency preparedness for our pets. SBBS members, Marie and Courtney Calleja will be assisting Donna and Diane in their booth during the Expo!

SBBS members Sylvia Skidmore and Phyllis Levine are hosting a separate bird booth displaying their precious handicap flock. Although the birds don't realize they are handicapped, it is a complete eye-opener for the public to witness how birds with special needs can manage just fine with a few adjustments to their environment. The Expo is a must attend family-fun event! See page 10.

"READ THE SBBS NEWSLETTER; WIN RAFFLE TICKETS!"

Read the newsletter and be the first to answer the question. Arrive early and you could be the lucky "early bird" winner!

At our April meeting, we will ask a question about a topic in the newsletter. If you can answer the question you will receive 2 free tickets for our raffle.

EARLY BIRD MEMBERS DRAWING – Arrive early, sign in and if your ticket is picked, you will have first choice at the raffle table. EASY!

- Food or raffle donations are always appreciated; you will receive 2 raffle tickets.
- Raffle donations must be bird-related. Please do not donate seconds; items must be "NEW" or in excellent condition.
- If you wish to eat with us and you have not brought food a \$5.00 donation is appreciated.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR APRIL MEMBERS!

See you April 2nd with Dave Weeshoff and his adventures in the Galapagos Islands!

Cheers,
Janet

Potpourri of Important Topics in Avian Medicine

An Evening with Dr. Walter Roskopf

By Diane Sivas

SBBS was happy to welcome back Dr. Walter Roskopf as speaker at our March meeting. Dr. R is gracious enough to speak with us every year, and always has an abundance of important information to share.

The evening started off with the early bird drawing, won by Norma Schrader. June, Donna, Luana and Marie volunteered to bring food for the April meeting—always appreciated! We also had a guest at the meeting—Mike, who had met Gala one day at Target and decided to check us out. Welcome, Mike!

The first order of business was to wish Dr. Roskopf a Happy Birthday! Since he's always with us in March, we always take the opportunity to honor his special day. After a round of "Happy Birthday," he began his talk by telling us that parrots are masters at masking and hiding illnesses. We need to know our birds and

be able to identify anything out of the ordinary. By the time they finally exhibit symptoms, it is often too late to help them. And remember that just because a bird is eating doesn't mean that he/she is well.

So, what makes them sick? Bacterial infections can come from humans who naturally have certain bacteria in their systems—which is why Dr. Roskopf recommends that we do not allow our birds to put their beaks or tongues in our mouths. They can also catch illnesses from the family dog or cat, so allowing the bird to ride around on the dog's back is not a good idea. Dirty water bowls or cages can make them sick, as well.

Marek's disease and Pacheco's disease are two herpes related viruses that have become less common since *Continue on page 6.*





THE AMAZING GALAPAGOS ISLANDS WITH DAVID WEESHOFF

Monday April 2nd, 2018 - 7 p.m. - Monthly Drawing . Outstanding Food

David will present revealing photos and an interactive discussion on the amazing animals of the Galapagos Islands, past, present and future.



Included are numerous birds, iguanas, tortoises indigenous to the historical desert community. He travels extensively, including the high Arctic, Antarctic, Alaska, Galapagos, Iceland, Greenland, Midway Atoll, Baja Mexico, Chilean Patagonia, Madagascar, etc. in search of aquatic birds to protect and enjoy.

Location: Kiwanis Club of Hermosa Beach

2515 Valley Drive • Hermosa Beach • Cross streets are Gould and Valley Drive For more information www.sobaybirdsoc.com

Janet: 310-376-5954 • Kathy: winebird1@msn.com

Whale of A Day Celebration



The Rancho Palos Verdes annual Whale of a Day celebration is co-sponsored by the City and the docents of Los Serenos de Point Vicente. In 2018, the celebration will be held on Saturday, April 14 (**NOTE: Rescheduled from March 10 due to rain**).



"Whale of a Day" is a festival celebrating the migration of the Pacific Gray Whale from its summer feeding grounds in the Bering and Chuchki Seas in Alaska to the winter breeding and calving grounds in Baja California. Migration viewing takes place December through April along the California South Bay coastline.

As stated above, the 2018 Whale of a Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 14, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The event is free to the public. The celebration is sponsored jointly by members of Los Serenos de Point Vicente and the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. The event will be held on the main grounds of the Point Vicente Interpretive Center at 31501 Palos Verdes Drive West. [\[MAP\]](#) Free parking is available at the Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall located at 30940 Hawthorne Blvd. with a free shuttle bus service to PVIC. [\[MAP\]](#).



There are activities for children ~ face painting, children's crafts, small children's games ~ all at no charge. There are also exhibits, craft and food vendors and a raffle drawing.



Some of the past participants have included The Aquarium of the Pacific with its Aquarium on Wheels, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, George F Canyon Nature Center, Save the Manatee, National Marine Fisheries, Heal the Bay, American Cetacean Society, Whale Watch, Marine Mammal Care Center, South Bay Wildlife Rehab with their rescued hawks and other raptors, PVP Land Conservancy, California Native Plant Society, and Las Candalistas.

JOIN US - SBBS WILL HAVE A BOOTH - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED email Janet at: (310) 376-5954 OR SIGN UP AT THE SBBS April 2nd MEETING! A very cool community outreach event.

An Evening with Dr. Walter Rosskopf continued from page 3.

the importation of birds was outlawed in 1992. Budgies are prone to Polyomavirus, although there is an available vaccine. Poxvirus produces skin lesions and is often seen in canaries. Pox can also manifest as eye problems in birds and is transmitted by mosquitos.

On determining the gender of our birds, Dr. Rosskopf told us that there are subtle differences in male and female parrots. Most of us know that Eclectus parrots are completely different in appearance, but there can be visible (to the informed eye) difference in other breeds. DNA is still the best way to be sure, and it's always a good idea to know the gender of our birds.

Breeding can always cause problems in birds, including egg binding, and excessive egg laying that can result in calcium depletion. Excessive egg laying may be curtailed by leaving the egg in the nest for a period of time before removing it, which discourages additional laying. Egg binding can be diagnosed by palpating the bird, or the bird may look uncomfortable or appear to be straining. Sometimes it may be necessary to break the egg while still inside the bird, which will be followed by an antibiotic injection. Calcium depletion can be remedied with a liquid calcium supplement.

Dr. Rosskopf's presentation included slides showing a variety of health conditions like heavy metal poisoning, round worms, giardia, beak and feather disease (much less common these days), compulsive feather

picking (many causes), macaw wasting disease and more. Thankfully, many of these illnesses can be treated and are no longer as lethal as they once were.

As always, Dr. Rosskopf delivered a wealth of useful information. Hopefully, we can coax him back next year. Our April speaker will be Dave Weeshoff who will be talking with us about the Galapagos Islands. Dave is great, and this will be a wonderful program. Be sure to join us on April 2nd, at 7:00 p.m.



Long Beach Bird Breeders Club

Meetings - 4th Tuesday
each month at 7 p.m.
American Legion Hall
5938 Parkcrest Street
Long Beach, CA.
(S. of Carson,
East of Woodruff Ave.)



For Info, call 562-881-9847

Speaker: Krista Renta
Pet Partners
Topic TBA



Krista Renta

West L.A. Bird Club Meeting

Meet 2nd Wednesday
every month at 7 p.m.
Next Meeting:
Wednesday, April 11



Speaker is
Julie Hanson
Topic TBA
From
**Wild Birds
Unlimited**
Santa Monica

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



Meetings are on the
2nd Saturday each month
7:00 p.m.
1975 Balearic Center Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Next Meeting:
April 14, 2018
Speaker:
TBD
Topic:
TBD



Association of Avian Veterinarians

Advancing & Promoting Avian Medicine and Stewardship

February 2018 AAV Bird Club News Release

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Aviculture and Avian Veterinary Medicine: Understanding their Relationship

(Adapted from the 2017 AAV Conference Proceedings, Session 2112)

By: Sharman Hoppes DVM, DABVP (Avian Practice), Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, 4474 TAMU, College Station, TX 77845, USA; and Rick Jordan, Hill Country Aviaries, Dripping Springs, TX 78620, USA.

Background

Aviculture is the practice of keeping birds in captivity using controlled conditions, normally within the confines of an aviary or zoo, for hobby, business, or research and conservation purposes. Aviculturists provide birds for the pet trade and zoological collections and often fund conservation projects. Avian veterinarians provide medical and surgical care to the avian patient. Both the avian veterinarian and the aviculturist are essential in educating the pet bird owner to help keep birds healthy and happy and to aid in prevention of behavioral problems. It is essential for aviculturists and avian veterinarians to work together to provide and maintain healthy and well-socialized birds to pet bird owners, to preserve species and birds in captivity, and to assist in conservation of birds in the wild.

Aviculture and avian medicine were at their peak in the 1980s and 1990s. Aviculture was thriving with a seemingly unlimited supply of imported birds and avian veterinarians were struggling with multiple infectious diseases of parrots. Aviculturists and avian veterinarians worked together to fight these diseases and to develop diagnostics and treatment protocols.¹ In 1980, the Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV) was established. During this time, a new industry evolved, specializing in exotic birds. The industry was multifaceted, developing and providing diets, engineering safe cages and enrichment, building brooding and incubation equipment, along with avicultural and veterinary supplies.^{1,2} The science behind aviculture expanded and soon laboratories began offering specialized testing for exotic bird diseases such as psittacine beak and feather disease and avian herpes virus. Between 1970 and 1992 many species of psittacines were bred in captivity for the first time. Aviculturists and veterinarians collected and published biological data and lectured at veterinary and avicultural conferences, often sharing important husbandry and medical information.

In 1992 the Wild Bird Conservation Act limited the importation of wild caught birds listed in the appendices of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). Initially this was a boost to the aviculture community; they began actively breeding to keep up with consumer demand for captive bred parrots. But the public sentiment toward keeping wild birds spilled over into captive aviculture as well, and the keeping of parrots as companion animals began to dwindle over the next decade.²

Due to this new public attitude, aviculture has seen a decline in the number of breeding operations and in the demand for captive parrots. Sale prices for pet birds is stagnant or in some cases reduced. Membership in aviculture organizations and conference attendance is down. As older experienced aviculturists retire, there are no young enthusiastic individuals to take their place.¹ Factors that have led to this decline include the abundance of unwanted parrots that have ended up in rescue organizations and the new attitude of many people in the avian community, including veterinarians, who don't believe parrots are good pets or

should be kept as pets. Animal rights groups openly oppose parrots as pets and are very vocal in the media citing inflated statistics of overpopulation, abuse and neglect. These stories are shared by some rescue and sanctuary organizations who oppose aviculture and the breeding of parrots.

For many aviculturists, conservation has been a key part of their job, using the money made from selling captive birds to help birds in the wild. Consumer demand has resulted in increased breeding of some species and reduced breeding of those that may be at risk in the wild, but don't have pet appeal. In 1974, the United States joined CITES. CITES regulates international trade in species listed in their appendices I, II, and III.³ Most pet parrots are listed in either CITES I or II, affecting aviculturist's ability to get rarer birds. The Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 also made it harder to obtain and maintain rarer species of birds not previously kept in captivity in the U.S. State and local regulations that use the federal lists may actually create a "local ban" on keeping certain species. Since most laws are created to protect wild bird populations, aviculture is often caught in the middle, and aviculturists can no longer breed, maintain, or sell listed species.

Avian veterinarians are seeing a reduction in the number of birds coming into their practice.^{1,3} There has been a shift in the presenting complaint of these patients. In the 1970s-1990s, nutritional and infectious diseases were a constant threat, but with the advent of diagnostic tests, successful treatment protocols, formulated diets and more educated owners, the number of infectious diseases have declined and the issues now are behavioral and geriatric diseases. Many young and newly graduated avian veterinarians have limited to no experience with avicultural medicine and often have a negative attitude towards breeders in general. These newer graduates do not understand the concept of flock medicine or the issues that face aviculturists. Many aviculturists feel the expectations of the avian veterinarian are unrealistic given they are barely able to make ends meet financially so they begin to diagnose, medicate and treat their own flocks.

Other factors affecting the number of pet birds in homes is the number of birds with behavioral issues (feather destructive behavior, biting and excessive screaming). Many birds are given up to sanctuaries or rehomed due to behavioral problems. Behavioral issues are multifactorial in parrots and may include: genetics, poor husbandry and nutrition, inadequate socialization, boredom and stress. Many of these problems can be prevented or minimized if owners are better educated on the welfare needs and normal behaviors of parrots prior to taking one home.

As aviculture and pet bird ownership declines so will the need for avian veterinarians and the industry that supports them. A side effect of the decline in aviculture and pet birds is a lessened interest in parrots in the wild or their conservation. There will be reduced support of conservation projects and therefore less interest in protecting and preserving wild populations. Avian medicine will become static and the industry will be negatively impacted. With reduced numbers of parrots, there will be less demand for diets, cages, toys, educational materials, research, disease prevention, vaccines, specialized equipment such as brooders and incubators and even avian surgical equipment.

Goals for the Future

The future of parrots both in the wild, and in the caged environment, depends on the collaboration of aviculture and veterinary medicine. Aviculturalists and avian veterinarians need to work toward understanding and supporting each other. They need to educate the community on the intelligence and social qualities of parrots and work together to provide a healthy well-adjusted and well socialized bird to prospective pet owners. Veterinarians need to recognize the importance of aviculture to our businesses and recommend good breeders to clients. Both should support the industry, recommending appropriate diets, cages, foraging toys and enrichment items. Pet bird owners need to be educated on avian behavior, how to prevent behavioral problems and how to maintain a parrot in their home. This education should begin with the breeder and be reinforced by the avian veterinarian with the common goal of keeping birds in the home and minimizing the need for rescue organizations. Rescue organizations that provide a refuge for temporarily unwanted birds and assist in the rehoming of birds should be supported.

Avian welfare issues such as appropriate caging requirements, the pros and cons of deflighting, the need for exercise to promote health, and environmental enrichment and training need to be discussed with new bird owners when they buy a chick or adopt a rescued bird, and when they come to the veterinarian for their wellness checks.⁴

The avian community needs to share with others what they know; parrots are amazing pets. They are beautiful, entertaining animals, many of which can learn our language and often sing songs and dance. The human avian bond that forms between a well-adjusted parrot and the educated owner is a joy that few other animals can provide. Some parrots exhibit the intelligence of a young child. They are social and bond closely with their human flock and they can live for many decades. The human avian bond can cross generations and lead to a lifetime of companionship and love.

References

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2. Jordan R. Is there a future for aviculture? Parrot Festival. 2011;28-30.
3. Koch V, Briscoe J. Animal welfare legislation and its influence on avian welfare. In: Speer BL, ed. Current Therapy in Avian Medicine and Surgery. St. Louis, MO: Elsevier Saunders;2016:677-682.
4. Endenburg N. The human avian bond. In: Speer BL, ed. Current Therapy in Avian Medicine and Surgery. St. Louis, MO: Elsevier Saunders;2016:709-714.



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EXPO**



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April 27-29, 2018
OC Fair & Event Center

Show Hours
Friday: 10am - 6pm • Saturday: 10am - 7pm • Sunday: 10am - 6pm
Please do not bring your pets.

Read More ... <http://www.petexpooc.org/>



SBBS & West LA members enjoy Whale Watching with Joni Malukas

