



April 2017 ♦ Interim Newsletter ♦ Established 1974



SYLVIA SKIDMORE

More than 20 years ago, Sylvia a-adopted a young Cockatiel from a teenager who was not properly caring for him. At that time, she didn't know the difference between a Cockatiel and a Cockatoo, nor the first thing about how to properly care for a bird, but took on the challenge and responsibility of his care. She researched proper bird care, joined SBBS and WLABC and asked a lot of "bird people" countless questions. She went on to breed Cockatiels, Senegals and Congo African Grey Parrots. Her flock now consists of the elderly and no longer breeding birds such as 'Tiels and Greys that she has promised could live out their remaining years in her aviary.

Sylvia is currently the proud "Mom" to 16 special needs birds (and a handful more that aren't handicapped), besides her aviary flock. She willingly shares her 19+ years of experience and insights in dealing with small and large parrots with an assortment of special needs. She will be bringing a few of these special birds to the meeting and sharing their stories.

DONNA CROSSLEY

Donna has over 35 years of experience in breeding, handfeeding and caring for exotic birds. She speaks at the "America's Family Pet Expo" annually and promotes responsible bird/pet ownership. She also answers questions on proper bird care and what is involved with keeping pet birds. In addition, her booth also provides information regarding bird/pet first aid and disaster preparedness. Through the use of coloring sheets and feather-art projects, Donna introduces young children to birds and bird ownership.



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Photos couertsy Marie Calleja



Notes from Janet

As spring blossoms in Southern California, I am thrilled that our own Donna Crossley and Sylvia Skidmore will be our April 3rd speakers. Their topics will be "Responsible Bird/Pet Ownership" and "America's Family Pet Expo". Their presentation will include a few of their feathery friends who have been to the Expo on many occasions. Their handicapped birds will have stories of their own to tell! Arrive early to meet them!

Donna and Sylvia will knock your socks off with their combined experience, their knowledge and love of birds and other animals. I know you are going to say "I never thought of that!"

I encourage our entire membership, along with friends, family, and other bird club members to join us on April 3rd. An evening not to miss! See flyer for details.

As we moved into day light savings time, our birds seem to know it is 7:00 a.m., no matter what! At that hour, my flock is ready to eat and are busy preening, or vocalizing. A little later in the morning, it is a bit quieter as they settle down to watch their favorite TV programs such as "Dora the Explorer" and my favorite "Peppa Pig", a program produced by the BBC. Then, they are off to bathe or munch on more goodies!

On a sad note, one of our own has crossed the Rainbow Bridge. All of us at SBBS send our love out to Krista Renta, on the recent loss of her dear sweet Rosy Bourke, Angel. Krista, our hearts are with you at this sad time.

We need your help at the April 3rd meeting, as Marie and I will not be in attendance that evening. Marie's husband Charlie and I will be celebrating our birthdays on a Princess cruise up and down the coast of California. We are looking for a member or members to take pictures at this meeting. Please step up!

As always, we appreciate you arriving early to help set up and to stay just a little later, to help break down the meeting. If you have technical experience, we can always use your assistance. Food is always welcome!

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SBBS SPONSORS!

Cheers

Janet



**Krista Renta
and Angel**



Flynn and Angel

BASIC AVIAN CARE

An Evening with Dr. Walter Rosskopf

By Diane Sivas



Our March 6 meeting began with announcements and SBBS news about upcoming events. Kathy Powell introduced one of our latest board member additions, Gala Burkholder. Gala has stepped up as Technical Director in charge of managing our audio/video needs, and Janet announced the addition of Pattie Fisher as our Raffle Coordinator. Phyllis Levine has been helping, as well, picking up raffle items from our sponsors. Thank you all for pitching in.

Karen Allen took the microphone for an important announcement about the dangers of Teflon and other non-stick cookware, as well as the danger of self-cleaning ovens. She talked about her clients who recently lost several of their beloved birds. She reiterated that **NO BIRD IS SAFE** around non-stick cookware

or hot ovens. Don't take any chances!

Marie Calleja reminded us of some upcoming outreach events, and told us about speakers for our upcoming meetings.

With club business behind us, it was time for the evening's main event. Dr. Rosskopf has been gracious enough to come to us every March to talk about the health and wellness of our birds, and he joined us again this evening to speak about Basic Avian Care. He began by reminding us that birds are expert when it comes to masking signs of sickness. Dogs and cats may look sick and quit eating, but birds will keep eating even when sick. They may also "rally" for the visit to the vet, but within minutes, can quickly return to a "fluffed up" look which can be

Blood Feather Bleeding

1. Don't Try to Save the Feather
2. Pull It Carefully From the Follicle (straight!)
3. Pinch the Follicle-use chemical cautery only if necessary
4. A single suture may be needed.

a good indicator of illness. A fluffy bird has already been sick for a while. Weight loss can be another sign. Purchasing a gram scale if you don't already have one can be a smart investment.

Dr. Rosskopf then moved on to some common avian ailments.

Surprisingly, broken legs are quite common. A "zig instead of a zag" in the cage can snap the shin bone, but a splint can heal it up in two weeks' time. Blood feathers can be frightening with all the blood. Fortunately, it doesn't need to be a crisis, and the Dr. told us that birds can actually lose quite a bit of blood, which regenerates in a couple of weeks. Pulling the offending feather, and pinching off the artery that feeds the feather can fix the problem.

We were relieved to learn that beak and feather disease is much less common these days. A bird with Mutilation Syndrome experiences extreme itching and begins biting himself for relief, sometimes ripping the skin. A collar can help break the cycle. Sometimes the condition passes, and sometimes it reoccurs. Viruses are responsible for both conditions. In fact, Dr. Rosskopf told us that mutilation may be similar to herpes.

Bud-told, are gies, we were



Doctor Aero

Lisa and Kona

unfortunately prone to cancer. Mange is another Budgie problem, but this is easily managed and cured. Cockatiels enjoy great popularity; 50% of all pet birds are cockatiels. Cockatiel problems often stem from injury that occurs because they are allowed to fly free in the home. Conures have a problem with Bleeding Syndrome, which leaves them coughing up blood and bleeding from the nose. A calcium injection can stop the problem.

Wasting Syndrome is when a bird loses its ability to eat. Dr. R had some photos that showed the progression of this awful disease. He told us that anti-inflammatories have recently been used with some success. Thankfully, the syndrome is not



as fatal as it has been in the past.

And an evening with Dr. Rosskopf wouldn't be complete without some pictures of poop. Throughout the evening, the Dr. showed us a series of slides so that we could see things with

our own eyes. A nervous bird can spew out yellow, watery poop, the bird with liver disease drops green poop, and the bird with lead poisoning will expel red or rust colored poop. Horrifying to see, but very good to know.

Wow, we always learn a lot of useful stuff when Dr. Rosskopf comes to see us. We also got to wish him a Happy Birthday, and presented him with a card and cake. As always, we thank the good doctor for spending his evening with us. As we look ahead, our April meeting will feature our very own Donna Crossley and Sylvia Skidmore. For information, check the newsletter or the website, and be sure to mark your calendars for April 3 at 7:00 p.m. See you all next month!

Janet



Kahlia



Jordan

Left: Pepper, right: Dr. Aero





Monday, April 3, 2017 • 7 p.m.

Monthly Drawing • Outstanding Food

Presenting

Donna Crossley and Sylvia Skidmore

Donna and Sylvia will be speaking on

**Responsible Pet Ownership and
America's Family Pet Expo**

The Expo is being held at the Orange County Fairgrounds
from April 28th-30th

Sylvia will be bringing some of her handicapped birds to the SBBS meeting
that will also be present at the Expo.



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