



Volume 47 Issue 8 July-August 2020 SBBS Newsletter Established 1974

**Presented on
ZOOM**

**7:00 P.M.
Monday, August 3rd**

**Former Sea World & Busch Gardens
Animal Ambassador**

Julie Scardina



Julie was Jay Leno's most frequent guest on the "Tonight Show." She appeared more than 100 times with animals on NBC's "Today," and traveled with wildlife expert Jack Hanna, and appeared in his weekly "Animal Adventures" TV show.

With Julie's extensive, hands-on experience with animals, she will share Positive Training Techniques to help people develop the best relationships with their own pets at home.

Learn "Useful and Fun Ways to Avoid Problem Avian Behaviors!"

(See more about Julie's background on pages 2 and 6)

Zoom link will be e-mailed to all SBBS Members

**For more information visit
www.sobaybirdsoc.com
or contact: Janet Ragonesi at
(310) 376-5954**

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**Cartoons Submitted by:
June Baker & Marie Calleja**

Josefina (Pepy) Madunich shared her experiences of "The Galapagos and the Rain Cloud Forest of Ecuador"

July 6th, 2020 Presentation via ZOOM

By Gala Burkholder (for Diane Sivas while she was on vacation).



SBBS President, Janet Ragonesi began the meeting by welcoming those who linked-in on this monthly ZOOM presentation. Janet announced the upcoming Social and Presentation ZOOMS. She encouraged everyone to link-in to see the short videos and discussion lead by SBBS members Donna Crossley and Marie Calleja. The topic for conversation for the July Social ZOOM would be, "Tips on How to Make Bird Care Easier for You and Not So Stressful for Your Bird." Janet added she was pleased that SBBS would be having Julie Scardina, the Former Sea World & Busch Gardens Animal Ambassador, back again for a presentation via ZOOM on August 3rd. She added, "Julie's bubbly personality always makes her talks enjoyable, so you won't want to miss out!" When Janet asked if anyone had anything to share, SBBS member Linda Jensen, shared a heartbreaking story about a bird that lost all of his feathers.

Then, Gala Burkholder introduced our evening's speaker, Josefina Madunich, also known as Pepy, who she had the pleasure of listening to at the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society meeting, and thought we would enjoy her presentation.

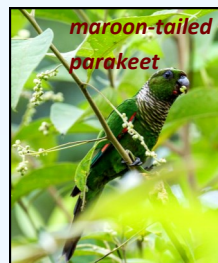
Pepy gave a brief history of her connection with the Galapagos National Park where she worked for 17 years as a naturalist. She explained that she was part of the community living there, serving as President of the Galapagos Park Interpreter Guides Association and starting the first public library on Santa Cruz, one of the Galapagos Islands. While she worked as a naturalist, she was a crew member on touring yachts around the islands.

Pepy told us that the Galapagos is located 600 miles off of Ecuador, on the equator and due south of New Orleans. Ecuador consists of 1,612 square miles with very diverse climates and vegetation zones including the Andes mountains.



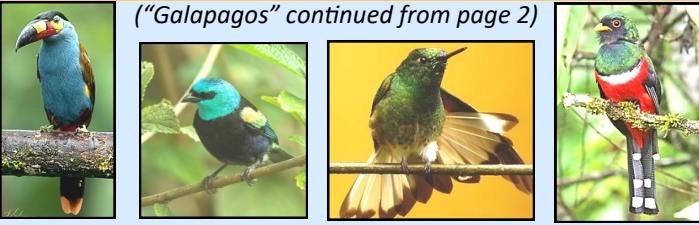
She explained how the **Nazca plate** plunges under the South American plate which has created the Andes mountains. There are 27 potential volcanoes in Ecuador, with the Galapagos having 7 volcanoes. Pepy talked about the varied climates of Ecuador with the north area being the most humid and consisting of forests and the largest river in the country.

The Rain Cloud Forest is home to a diverse species of birds including the **hoatzin** which is Ecuador's signature bird. **Baby hoatzins have claws on their wings and can climb to the top of the trees to their nests if it fall.** It is the only bird on the planet born with claws that disappear as it matures. There are many different species of macaws including the **blue and yellow macaw**. Another bird, the **dusty-headed parakeet**, fly to clay licks to ingest the clay because it helps them to digest the seeds that are still green that could otherwise make them sick. Then, Pepy showed a photo of a baby two-toed sloth which had fallen out of a tree when monkeys were hissing at him. On the way down, the baby reached out and grabbed a branch and held on, to be out of danger. In an example of Pepy's continued adventurous spirit, she reported swimming in a lake with piranhas! To get to the **Mindo Rain and Cloud Forest**, a bird destination, one has to travel 1 hour from Quito which is the major city one flies into when visiting Ecuador. The country has realized they will make more money by *saving* the **maroon-tailed parakeet** than *selling* it due to the increased tourism it brings. Another bird found in this area is called the **cock-of-the-rock**. The male flies to the clay lick to display his colorful feathers and to find a mate and then they move to a nest site. Another bird, the **ochre-breasted antpitta**, is shy and hard to find in the forest.



("Galapagos" continued on Page 3)

("Galapagos" continued from page 2)

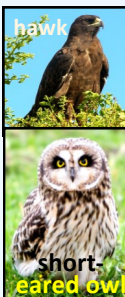


Towards the coast, you can see 500 different species of forest birds including the **plate-billed mountain toucan**, the **blue-necked tanager**, the **buff-tailed coronet**, and the **red-bellied, masked trogon**. (See birds in order from left to right).

The **Galapagos Islands** are a group of 13 main islands and some smaller islets, located 600 miles west of Ecuador. The islands are located on one of the hottest spots on earth, on the "ring of fire." The islands were initially formed by gentle **volcanic eruptions**, 3-5 million years ago with the one erupting as recently as Oct. 23, 2005. Thus, the newest islands are in the west and the older ones in the eastern areas with the Nazca plate continually moving. The plants of the Galapagos use the minerals of the two types of lava found on the islands. It's climate is greatly affected by the **currents** from Antarctica, Panama, and a cold, upwelling current from Japan called the **Pacific Equatorial Undercurrent**. This powerful upwelling current carries nutrients from the deep ocean to the surface. Many species have arrived with the currents and then are unable to leave the area. This unique geographical situation has allowed for the establishment of some remarkable species, giving the Galapagos its reputation as a laboratory of evolution.

The Galapagos is the home for many **unique animals** identified in three categories. The first are called "endemic" which means they are **not found anywhere else**. The second are called "native" which means they can also be **found in other places**.

The third category are those "introduced" by man. One endemic animal found in the Galapagos is the **marine iguana**. They are the only iguanas to eat algae. They use their large tail to swim and have special glands by their nose to get rid of excess salt from their nostrils. They lie on the sand together in order to warm up so they can stay active. The **land iguanas** never go into the water and they are plant eating, feasting mostly on cactus. The smaller **lava lizards** are carnivores and eat grasshoppers. The **Galapagos hawk** is the main predator. They are endemic. With their strong claws, they eat small baby lizards. The female hawks mates with 3-4 males and lays her eggs. The males raise the babies while the female finds new mates and this cycle continues! Some of the birds found on the Galapagos include **short-eared owls** who hunt in the early morning and in the late afternoons.



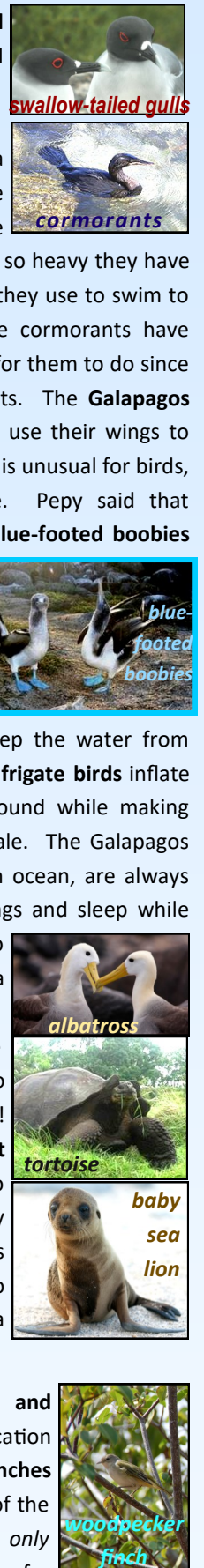
There are also **petrels** and **swallow-tailed gulls**. These gulls are endemic and nocturnal with a red-ring around its eye. It is believed the red eye-ring helps them see at night. These night-time birds have developed a beak with a white tip so the babies can see the parents feed the babies. The **cormorants** are so heavy they have lost the ability to fly. They have strong legs they use to swim to catch and feed on eels and octopus. The cormorants have adapted to nest on the ground which is safe for them to do since there are no predators such as pigs or goats. The **Galapagos penguins**, 35 centimeters high, use their wings to swim. They mate for life, which is unusual for birds, and are not afraid of people. Pepy said that scientists don't know why the **blue-footed boobies** have blue feet, but it might be due to sexual selection.

They use their feet to land and to dance to attract a mate. They lay 2-3 eggs per year. These birds dive into the water at 50 miles per hour and have air sacs to keep the water from smashing their brain. The male **frigate birds** inflate their red pouch and dance around while making noise in order to attract a female. The Galapagos **albatross**, who live in the open ocean, are always flying. They can lock their wings and sleep while flying! After flying for 5 years, they return to the place where they were born to find a mate. They do a mating dance with raised beaks, lay one egg and take turns feeding the baby. When the baby can fly, it heads out to the ocean and the 5-year cycle continues! Pepy said you can see the 500 pound **giant tortoise** on Santa Cruz Island that lives up to 150 years while eating grass and fruit. Pepy confessed her favorite animals on the islands are the playful **sea lions**. She showed a photo of her daughter sitting on the sand with a sea lion resting his head on her lap!

Through **genetic inheritance, mutations and natural selection**, the Galapagos was the location of **Darwin's study** of the **several types of finches** in support of his **theory of evolution**. One of the finch species, the **woodpecker finch** is the *only* bird to use a tool (*a stick*) to get insects out of a tree cavity. ("Galapagos" continued on Page 4)

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("Galapagos" from page 3)

For those who want to explore under water, you can snorkel using a wetsuit. Some of the ocean creatures include **orcas**, which are top of the food chain, **rays**, **puffer fish**, **starfish** and **hammerhead sharks** .

Pepy concluded her presentation by saying she has been happy to have worked in the Galapagos for 17 years. She can recommend guides for exploring other parts of Ecuador. **Normally, each July, Pepy leads a small group excursion of the Galapagos on a chartered yacht. Her next available tour will be July 13-20, 2022.** Because I hope to join her on this trip, I asked her to describe a typical day. She said it is like a summer camp for adults. The trip includes 7 nights on board the Grand Daphne, all meals and snacks while on board, local air ticket Quito-Galapagos-Quito, all transfers, the naturalist guide on board and visits as specified in itinerary and a Quito city tour. Space is limited. For more information regarding this trip, contact Pepy at pepygalapagos@gmail.com or call (909) 532 -0850. Thank you Pepy for your exciting and informative presentation. I look forward to seeing a Blue-footed Boobie for myself!



Each morning when I begin my day in the South Bay, I am greeted by the wild, green conure parrots flying over my house in search of breakfast. I also see three sleepy cats, several bushy-tailed squirrels and a crow or two waiting patiently for their morning meal. My motto is "No One Goes Hungry." In addition, there is an invisible, blinking, neon sign hanging above my door which reads "Free Room and Board."

HOW WE CAN SUPPORT EACH OTHER

While the current environment and challenges facing our country continue to evolve, SBBS wants to be there to assist our members, sponsors and friends.



If you, or anyone you know, need assistance with their birds, please let us know. We will do our best to help. Contact myself at (310) 376-5954 or Karen Allen, the SBBS "Parrot Lady" at (310) 371-9967.

Remember to support our sponsors. Along with some of us, this time is financially challenging for them, too. We want our sponsors to be able to continue their businesses and keep their workers employed long after this crisis is over.

IT'S WORTH REPEATING

On June 1, 2020, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced an **end to the Virulent Newcastle Disease Quarantine in Southern California.** So, when we can meet again in person, we will be able to bring our birds to the meetings.

UPDATE ON RETURNING TO THE HERMOSA BEACH KIWANIS CLUB BUILDING

Currently, the City of Hermosa Beach has no plan when to allow meetings to be held at the Kiwanis Club. So, with your help, we will continue to **re-invent ourselves in order to achieve our goals** to serve our SBBS members, sponsors and friends and promote the well-being of the avian world. With the newsletter and technology we will do our best to keep in touch with each other during this time. touch!

The President's Notes

By Janet Ragonesi



**GREETINGS
SBBS MEMBERS,
SPONSORS AND
FRIENDS**



SUMMER IS HERE

As they say, "It never rains in California" and so far, this season is true to form! Keep your pet's water bowls and your drinking glasses filled. Be sure to hydrate even when you do not feel thirsty. Recently, my childhood friend, Barbara, who has been staying with me since January, has returned to Canada with her cat to her cottage home located near Lake Winnipeg.

("President's Notes" continued on Page 5)

("President's Notes" continued from page 4)

SBBS SOCIAL ZOOM MEETINGS:



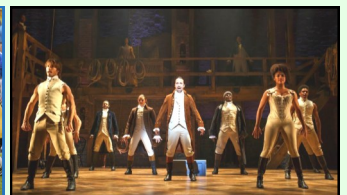
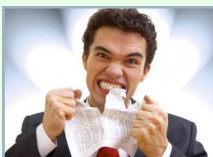
SBBS SOCIALS ZOOMS CONTINUE ON THE 3RD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7 PM

Our website, ZOOM and meetup coordinator, David Benjamin, has continued to set up monthly ZOOM for our club meetings and socials beginning over three months ago. It is great to see the familiar faces of our SBBS members and meet new avian lovers from across the country who have been linking with us. We have invited people from all over the country and from other bird clubs to join us. It is fun to hear the different experiences people have with their companion birds and what has worked for them in caring for their feathered family member. Plus, it is exciting to see the different birds who sometimes join in the conversations themselves!

It is no secret that our entire world is facing the pressures of this major health crises which has upended the normal lives of family, friends, vacations, work, sleep, eating, shopping, sporting events, concerts, school, theater, worshipping, home maintenance and more. We are limited on how we choose to spend our time and where we can go in the course of our daily lives. Everyone is being affected in some way whether it be financial, or our mental or physical health.



You can't just eat ONE



It is important for each of us to recognize these additional stresses on our life and attempt to compensate in some way. **SBBS wants to help you address these strains and feeling of social isolation by providing the opportunity for each of us to connect with each other for an hour or two during the month and realize we are not alone.** I have spoken to several of our members who feel less isolated and look forward to seeing so many of their friends and the support they feel each time they link in to a ZOOM meeting. ☀️

Each **ZOOM social has a topic to serve as a framework to begin our conversations.** But there is **always time for each of us to share, or ask questions** about what is on our minds, and **what we have been doing** while spending so much time at home.



SBBS will send out the link a day or two ahead of time to each of our members as a reminder. Let me know if there is a TOPIC you want us to focus on for an UPCOMING SOCIAL ZOOM.

("President's Notes" continued on Pg. 6)

("President's Notes" continued from page 5)

SBBS SOCIAL ZOOM MEETINGS

REPORT ON JUNE 22 SOCIAL ZOOM – Discussion was on How to Move Forward Through the End of the Year

Since June had five Mondays in the month, the board decided to add an extra social ZOOM for anyone who wanted to join-in on a brain-storming session on the 22nd. With everyone that linked-in, we discussed possible options in implementing our programs through the end of the year with the strong probability of limitations due to Covid-19.

Several people expressed an interest in holding the picnic in September with a few modifications such as everyone bringing their own food and sitting 6 feet apart in the park. But so far, the City of Torrance is not granting a permit for our group to hold our annual picnic at Columbia Park. This would likely be the case at any park with a group of over 10 people. So, our board has decided to step back this year from hosting a picnic. We are disappointed, but safety comes first. Instead, we are planning to have a meeting in September with two exciting speakers, Chris Davis and Ted Lefeber on "Parrots and Their Feelings."

Thoughts on holding our Annual Fundraiser and Silent Auction were also discussed. At this time, the City of Hermosa Beach has taken over the scheduling of the Kiwanis Building. The City is not allowing any meetings to take place, so the board believes it is time to start planning how to best hold a fundraiser under these circumstances.



2019 Fundraiser & Silent Auction

There were various suggestions from those who linked-in on ways we could consider holding our fundraiser with items available for bidding with safeguards in place. The board will continue to discuss the various options recommended. Logistics about our annual fundraiser will be announced soon. It is more likely that photos will be taken of all of the items and compiled into a pamphlet for everyone to review. Marie Calleja has offered to take the photos. Specifics on the bidding and other details will be included in a "Fundraiser and Silent Auction" pamphlet and in a future newsletter.



The board is committed to continuing as many of the activities of SBBS to serve our members and to achieve our mission as outlined on page 17 of the newsletter as safely as possible. Thank you for helping us to re-imagine our club.

JULY 20TH SOCIAL ZOOM

This meeting was coordinated by Donna Crossley and Marie Calleja using six short videos they had made to demonstrate "Tips on How to Make Bird Care Easier for You and Not So Stressful for Your Bird." A more complete report will be in the next newsletter. Thank you to Donna and Marie for their INFORMATIVE and FUN presentation and leading the discussion and answering questions.



Jasper Holding a Mask

UPCOMING SOCIAL ZOOM MEETING:

AUGUST 17TH SOCIAL ZOOM TOPICS

Our next Social ZOOM will be a time to share:

"How You Have Used Your Creativity To Make Your Bird's Life Better."

- **"What TOYS, OTHER ITEMS or PLAY AREAS You Have Made For Your Birds"**
- **"SPECIAL RECIPES You Prepare and Offer To Your Birds"**

For more information, see the flyer on page 16.

("President's Notes" continued on page 7)

(“President’s Notes” continued from page 6)

SBBS ZOOM MEETINGS WITH SPEAKERS:

WAS HELD ON MONDAY JULY 6TH, SBBS ZOOM MEETING WITH JOSEFINA MADUNICH (PEPY) ON “THE GALAPAGOS AND THE RAIN CLOUD FOREST OF ECUADOR”

Pepe’s presentation with animal photos featuring birds was outstanding. Due to her 17 years as a naturalist and living in the Galapagos, she shared information which we have not heard about in previous Galapagos presentations. She maintains a website at: <https://hellogalapagos.com>. Be sure to check out the Secretary’s Report on pages 2-3.



7 PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 3RD, SBBS ZOOM MEETING WITH JULIE SCARDINA ON “LEARN USEFUL AND FUN WAYS TO AVOID PROBLEM AVIAN BEHAVIORS!”

Julie has had a lifelong love of all animals and has called dogs, a chicken, a fox and birds her kids since she was 17 years old. After attending the **Exotic Animal Training program at Moorpark College**, she began her career working as a trainer of animals as diverse as killer whales, sea lions and birds. Always striving to grow and learn, she eventually rose to the position of **Director of Animal Training at Sea World in San Diego**.



Concurrently, Julie was named **Animal Ambassador of Sea World and Busch Gardens** and has been a **frequent guest on TV**, in videos and live educational programs across the country. Julie was Jay Leno’s most frequent guest and presented animals on the *Today Show* more than 100 times. During this time, Julie was also given the opportunity to film animals around the world, traveling with personality and wildlife expert, Jack Hanna, appearing on his weekly show *Animal Adventures*. It was here that Julie’s love for conservation and travel took hold.

Julie has been **recognized for her work in multiple fields with a variety of awards**: an Emmy for *Saving A Species* Educational Programming, the International Marine Mammal Trainer’s Association Lifetime Achievement Award, US Fish & Wildlife Service Award for Conservation and a Collegiate Hall of Fame Induction to name a few. She co-authored the book **Wildlife Heroes** highlighting 40 conservationists and their work to save imperiled species.

Working hands-on with animals was Julie’s first passion, and Julie still enjoys sharing **positive training techniques** to develop the best relationships with their own pets at home.

Ms. Scardina has been concerned with how some birds end up with bad behaviors. She will discuss, “Useful and Fun Ways to Avoid Problem Avian Behaviors!”

We are delighted to welcome Julie back again to speak to us via ZOOM. Her presentations are always delightful. She is guaranteed to put a smile on your face. **You won’t want to miss this meeting!** See more about Julie Scardina and her presentation on page 1.



COMING UP AUGUST 3RD !!



Everyone, please reach out to someone and show them you care!

**Cheers,
Janet Ragonesi, SBBS President**

Palos Verdes/South Bay



**AUDUBON SOCIETY
NOW ON ZOOM!**

**3rd Tue./mo., 7 PM,
NO MEETING IN AUGUST**

SEPTEMBER 15: Phil Barnes presents: "How Flies the Albatross"

At this time,

BIRD WALKS are CANCELED

(Check the website to confirm cancellations and re-start dates)

***BIRD WALKS:**



4th Sat. each mo., 8:30-10:30

am: Madrona Marsh with Audubon leaders

1st & 3rd Sun., 8-11 am:

Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park with Audubon leaders. 1st Sun. meet in the parking lot, 3rd Sun meet in the parking lot closest to Anaheim & Vermont for Regional Park 2.

3rd Sun., 8-11 am:

South Coast Botanic Garden with Audubon leader David Quaadhamer

For Info: www.pvsb-audubon.org or call David at (310) 833-3095.

The Orange County Bird Breeders Meetings Are Canceled Due to Covid-19

Balearic Center, 1975 Balearic Center Ave, Costa Mesa
www.ocbirdbreeders.org



When disposing of your masks, CUT the EAR STRAPS so animals don't get tangled up in them!




YOU KNOW YOU ARE A BIRD OWNER IF:

1. When you save your chicken bones, and they are not for making soup.
2. When you have a Cinco-de-Mayo party, and you don't serve guacamole with your chips.
3. You remove your dangly earrings and shiny necklace as soon as you get home.

(Created by G.B.)

STAY SAFE!

Karen Allen Reminds Us To Continue To:

- Wash our hands often and vigorously for 20 seconds. Singing the "Happy Bird Day" song  TWICE for perfect timing.
- Avoid people that are sneezing and coughing.
- Wear a mask in public.
- Keep a distance of at least 6 feet away from other people.

BIRDING coordinated with the PV Ballona Wetlands and more led by Bob Shanman from Peninsula Land Conservancy, Madrona Marsh, Wild Birds Unlimited

CHECK WEBSITE TO CONFIRM CANCELED BOB BIRD WALKS

BIRD WATCHING WITH BOB SHANMAN

When: **(4th Wednesday), 8:30 am**

Where: **GEORGE F. CANYON**
27305 Palos Verdes Dr. East, Rolling Hills Estates, CA

When: **(2nd Wednesday), 8:00 am**

Where: **MADRONA MARSH**

When: **(3rd Sunday), 8:00 am**

Where: **BALLONA WETLANDS**

When: **(3rd Wednesday), 8:30 am**

Where: **WHITE POINT NATURE PRESERVE**
1600 Paseo Del Mar, San Pedro, CA



Other BIRDING Locations:

Where: BALLONA WETLANDS, KEN MALLOY HARBOR REGIONAL PARK (see PV/SB Audubon Society in the top, left, yellow box), BIXBY MARSH

(See "Events" on Wild Birds Unlimited web site: redondobeach.wbu.com or call (310) 543-2473 to know more)

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
RSVP: at pvplc.org, select "Events & Activities"



A TEMPTED MURDER

"Neighborhood Bird-Watching"

Laugh Kookaburra



**Animal Behaviorist, Chris Davis and
Veterinarian/Avian Nutritionist, Dr. Ted Lafeber
to speak on “DO PARROTS HAVE FEELINGS?”**

ZOOM on Sunday, Sept. 13th at 2PM



Chris Davis grew up in the rural foothills of Southern California where, until she was 5, her only playmates were animals. Ever since that young age, Chris has dedicated her life to the well-being and care of animals. **Her professional career in animal-behavior consulting and modification started when, at 12 years of age, she trained her first animal, a neighbor’s dog.**

In the mid 1970s, she began working in Irvine, California, at Lion Country Safari, where she performed in the bird show owned by Ray Berwick, who also owned the trained Animal Actors Studio at Universal Studios. He was also one of the top movie animal trainers of the time. For a few years, Chris worked at both Universal Studios and Lion Country Safari.

During that time, people asked her questions about problem behaviors their birds were exhibiting. Until then, few people in the United States had pet birds and knew little about them. In general, it was believed that birds could be trained, but were not intelligent enough to respond to behavior modification. Because of this, many pet birds that exhibited negative behaviors were badly treated, or simply discarded. Chris became the first person in the country to visit clients’ homes to assess their interactions with their avian companions, and to devise methods for modifying their environments and behaviors so people could have better relationships with them.

Chris has spoken nationally and internationally at veterinary conferences, pet shows and bird clubs. She has contributed numerous articles, papers, texts for books and magazines for more than 30 years, including “Bird Talk” magazine.

In 2007, Dr. Ted Lafeber received the prestigious President’s Award from the Association of Avian Veterinarians in recognition of continued dedication to the health and welfare of the avian population. Dr. Lafeber’s dedication to avian health and nutrition began at a very early age. At age 9, he would accompany his father, Dr. Lafeber Sr., to his animal hospital to clean cages every Sunday. At age 13, he learned how to run the bird pellet machine in the back of the Niles Animal Hospital. Dr. Lafeber Sr. created the first pelleted bird food. In high school, Dr. Lafeber worked every summer, weekends and holidays at the animal hospital caring for birds, cats and dogs. At Grinnell College, Dr. Lafeber majored in Chemistry and, in 1988, he earned his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Iowa State University. In 1989, the father and son veterinary team developed Nutri-Berries. They designed Nutri-Berries to provide the nutritional balance of pellets, the taste appeal of seeds, and the foraging enrichment experience that is found in the wild.

How Chris and Ted Met and Later Became a Family

In 1985, as part of an audience of 200 people, Dr. Lafeber watched while Chris Davis worked with a wild macaw on stage. Within 30 minutes, the bird went from being frightfully afraid of all humans, to beginning to trust Chris by allowing her to scratch his head. It was literally a miracle to Dr. Lafeber, who had spent his life with birds. He had never seen such an ability to understand and to communicate with birds. Little did he know that in 1998, 13 years later, this incredible woman would become his wife and best friend. They live in Chicago and Los Angeles. Their family includes two adult daughters, a bird family of macaws and parrots, a horse, a Maltese, and various wildlife that surround their homes.

Join us on Mon., Sept, 13th at 2 PM on ZOOM! The link will be sent to all SBBS members.

For more information, call Janet Ragonesi at (310) 376-5954



Q & A By Karen, The Parrot Lady



The answers to your questions are MY opinion based on nearly 50 years experience. I donated my time to Avian and Exotic Animal Hospital, working with Doctors Rosskopf and Woerpel. I have hands-on experience owning my own Exotic bird shops, raising and breeding, grooming and caring for parrots of all kinds.

Ask me your questions and I will answer to the best of my knowledge. If I don't have an answer I will make every effort to find one for you and tell you my source.

Here we go!!!!

Q What do you recommend to help relax the birds in times like the 4th of July when the noise is driving them goofy?

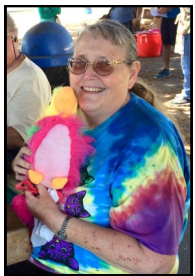
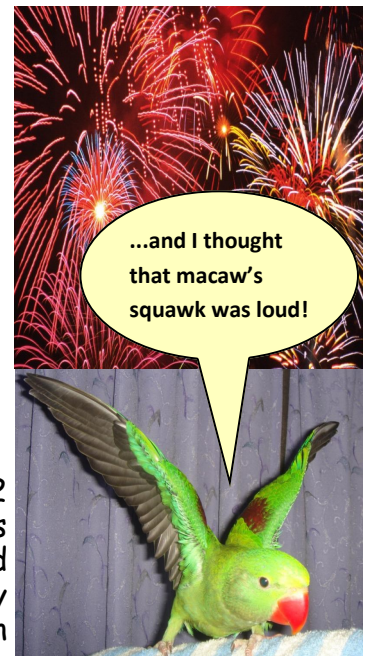
A The two things that seems to work with birds are called: **Rescue Remedy** (use either the Animal or Human Version) and **Ignatia Amora** (Boiron Company). Both products are homeopathic.



Dosing recommendations:

Rescue Remedy: Start using a week in advance of drama! 1 drop to 1 ounce of water; 4 drops to 4 ounces of water. (Be sure to read the instructions on the back for what amount for what size critter).

Ignatia Amora: These pellets come in a tube and come in only 2 sizes. The size of the bird determines which pellet you use. Birds smaller than an Amazon parrot, get a 6c pellet, and Medium-sized birds such as an Amazon and larger, get a 30c pellet. They get only ONE pellet in a 24-hour period and must be completely dissolved in water. Do not follow the human dosage on the tube for your bird.



Sondra Luther wins a parrot stuffed animal at the SBBS 2018 picnic.

Q How do you choose a bird as a pet?

A You Do Not Choose a Bird. They CHOOSE You. When you see a bird you like, check the interaction between you and when that feathery child latches onto your heart. Just stop looking. You are the Chosen One!

I have had people call me to get a bird that matches their furniture. My answer to that is, "Get a stuffed toy and please don't call me again."

Q My bird loves Popcorn. Is that OK?

A Sure, your bird can have popcorn, as long as you use good sense (no butter or salt). Eating plain popcorn is good food, and I don't want to hear you say, "He doesn't like it that way!" He would never know the difference, if you hadn't snuck him some of yours!!!!



("Q & A" Continued on page 11)

(“Q & A” Continued from page 10)

Q How often should my bird have its wings clipped?

A My personal choice is every 6-8 weeks. This way you do not take a chance of any accidents such as flying away, crashing into a wall, falling into a toilet or into a boiling pot on the stove (just to name a few reasons).

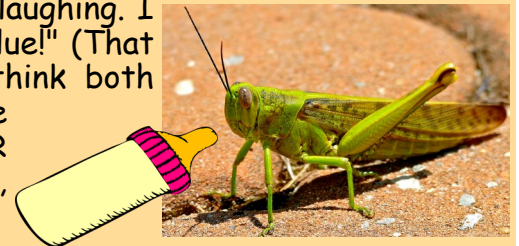


Ideally a free-flighted bird is wonderful; however, in most circumstances it just is not safe or practical. Birds, more often than not, cannot tell the difference between a mirror or a window and the outdoors. That is an easy way to lose them by getting a broken neck or back by flying into a window or mirror, or lost by bolting out the door and having no idea how to return.

It takes a special talent to train a bird to fly free and come back to you. To be safe, keep the feathery kids groomed for indoor living!

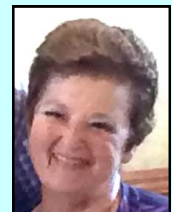
YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THIS, BUT IT HAPPENED

On a fun note: I received a call late one evening from a lady that had a bird question, which I promptly answered. She then announced that that was really not why she called. She informed me that **she was hand feeding a baby grasshopper and could I tell her what to do.** If she hadn't been so serious, I probably would have choked from laughing. I answered the only way I knew how, "OMG! I haven't got a clue!" (That was out of my mouth before my brain got in gear). I think both Dr. Rosskopf and Dr. Micco would have never let me hear the end of it, if I had told her to call them. **A GRASSHOPPER BABY?????** I commended her for her tenacity and courage, and wished her well!



I want a chance to remind everyone to **support your SBBS sponsors.** Most of us have stayed open during the pandemic, so you and your feathery children will have the things you need. Food, grooming, boarding, consultations and supplies are available to all of you. We, as sponsors, have shortened our store hours and sanitize often. We wear our masks and ask you to do the same. This is a trying time for everyone, and as long as we stick together and do what's right, we will come out ahead.

Stay safe and healthy, and keep a lookout for that "masked" man! They are everywhere.



**HUGS FROM,
Karen, Your Parrot Lady**

Karen Allen has been involved with birds and a SBBS member for over 35 years. She is a lifetime member of SBBS. Karen owns her own bird shop, "Birds & More" located at 4301 Redondo Beach Blvd., Lawndale, CA. The phone number is: (310) 370-7550. She counsels and trains new bird owners and is a published writer.

Send your questions for "The Parrot Lady" to:

Karen Allen, P. O. Box 3863 Redondo Beach, CA 90277-3863

Email: Birdsnmor@aol.com



Science & Technology Date: July 2, 2020

When a Bird Brain Tops Harvard Students On A Test

Experiment Tests Human VS. Parrot Memory In A Complex Shell Game

By **Juan Siliezar** Harvard Staff Writer

What happens when an African grey parrot goes head-to-head with 21 Harvard students in a test measuring a type of visual memory? Put simply: The parrot moves to the head of the class.

African Grey Parrot, Griffin, at Harvard



Harvard researchers compared how 21 human adults and 21 6- to 8-year-old children stacked up against an African grey parrot named Griffin in a complex version of the classic shell game.



Dr. Irene Pepperberg with Griffin at Harvard University playing the shell game to test Griffin's Visual Memory

It worked like this: Tiny colored pom-poms were covered with cups and then shuffled, so participants had to track which object was under which cup. The experimenter then showed them a pom-pom that matched one of the same color hidden under one of the cups and asked them to point at the cup. (Griffin, of course, used his beak to point.) The participants were tested on tracking two, three, and four different-colored pom-poms. The position of the cups were swapped zero to four times for each of those combinations. Griffin and the students did 120 trials; the children did 36.

The game tests the brain's ability to retain memory of items that are no longer in view, and then updating when faced with new information, like a change in location. This cognitive system is known as visual working memory and is the one of the foundations for intelligent behavior.

So how did the parrot fare?

Griffin outperformed the 6- to 8-year-olds across all levels on average, and he performed either as well as or slightly better than the 21 Harvard undergraduates on 12 of the 14 of trial types.



Griffin and Dr. Irene Pepperberg

That's not bad at all for a so-called bird brain.

"Think about it: Grey parrot outperforms Harvard undergrads. That's pretty freaking awesome," said [Hrag Pailian](#), the postdoctoral fellow at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences who led the experiment. "We had students concentrating in engineering, pre-meds, this, that, seniors, and he just kicked their butts."

Full disclosure: Griffin has been the star of past [cognitive studies](#), like showing he's [smarter](#) than the typical 4-year-old and as intelligent as a 6- to 8-year-old child. But making Harvard students do a double-take on their own intelligence is quite the step up.

To be fair, the Harvard students did manage to keep (some) of their Crimson pride intact. On the final two tests, which involved the most items and the most movement, the adults had the clear edge. Griffin's average dipped toward the children's performance — though never below it. The researchers were unable to determine the precise reason for this drop, but they believe it has something to do with the way human intelligence works (arguably making the Harvard students' victory a matter of performance enhancement of the genetic variety).

The experiment was part of a study [published in Scientific Reports](#) in May. Pailian was the lead author and he collaborated with comparative psychologist [Irene Pepperberg](#), Henry A. Morss Jr. and Elisabeth W. Morss Professor of Psychology [Susan Carey](#), and Justin Halberda at John Hopkins University.

("Bird Brain" Continued on page 13)

("Bird Brain" Continued from page 12)

The researchers were investigating the limits of the brain's ability to process and update mental representations. In other words, they were looking at the "working" portion of the visual working memory system. The ability is referred to as manipulation. And ultimately, they were hoping to gain insights into the development and origin of the visual working memory system and the nature of human intelligence.

"Any operation that you perform in your mind, it takes place in visual working memory," Pailian said. "You store information from the outside world; you play around with it; and then you shuttle it up for higher cognition. It helps fuel STEM aptitude, mental wellness, and all these different types of important cognitive attributes ... We think that one of the main components of human intelligence, the key characteristic is that we're able to think about all these things in our minds and do these mental manipulations, but if we find that other animals, other species can perform those manipulation operations [and also see how ancient this ability is], maybe that can help us inform what delineates human intelligence from other animal intelligence, as well."

At a broad level, the paper's findings hint at the possible evolutionary origins of the ability to manipulate visual memory. Griffin's success suggests it is not limited to humans and might be shared across species derived from a common ancestor. In this case, the ancestor would be the dinosaurs, since humans and parrots are separated by more than 300 million years of evolution.

"We're suggesting that it's possible — we can't prove this — that dinosaurs, our common ancestor, may have had some basic capacity," said Pepperberg, a research associate in Harvard's Psychology Department. "Then this [advanced manipulation] ability could have evolved in parallel [in primates and birds]. The other possibility is that our common ancestor lacked this ability, and it somehow arose independently in these two lines. But we're arguing that because manipulation is built on storage capacity, and so many different species have similar storage capacities, that some simple form of manipulation likely existed in a common ancestor."



In the paper, the researchers note that future work is needed to confirm manipulation ability across a wider variety of species and identify its origins.

"It's not that we proved everything provable," Pepperberg added. "It's that we've demonstrated a behavior that leads to a lot of different questions."

Griffin was a prime candidate for this experiment because the researchers needed an animal whose brain was functionally similar to humans but evolutionarily distant for comparison. It was also likely that parrots possessed the manipulation ability because of environmental pressures in the wild, like tracking their hungry fledglings or threats like predators. Plus, Griffin is always ready to show off his brain power and earn a few cashews as a reward.

"He's the kind of student who asks you, 'What do I have to do to get the A?'" and then goes and does it, Pepperberg said.



*Clearly, animals know more than we think,
and think a great deal more than we know.*

- Irene Pepperberg -

Irene Pepperberg with three of her African Grey Parrots being studied at Harvard University for their cognitive behavior. The research found that Griffin was able to outperform humans while playing the classic shell game.

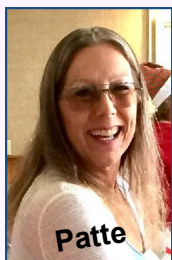


SBBS Welcomes
New & Returning Members

RENEWALS: Luana Feigelstock
LIFETIME MEMBERS: Cary & Anita Pao,
Karen Allen, Perry Ellwood, Donna Crossley,
Dr. Walter Roskopf, Jack Ford, Janet Ragonesi,
Don Hand, Bree & Deven Brozey
MEMORIAL LIFETIME MEMBERS:
Lorrie Mitchell, Diane Bock, Ron Ellwood
Number of Current Members: 64

Don't fly off the membership list! Please pay your dues.
Your dues help support your club by providing newsletters,
educational programs, the website, beverages and more.

To join SBBS, please print page 18 of the newsletter or go to
www.sobaybirdsoc.com and click on "Membership" to find a
membership application. Fill the form out, include a check and
send it to SBBS, P.O. Box 3863, Redondo Beach, CA 90277-
3863. If you have received a hard copy or found the



Patte

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 Membership
Director, Patte Fisher at pattefisher@verizon.net.

The West L.A. Bird Club

All Meetings are currently

CANCELED due to COVID-19

We will post updates when the club
can resume their monthly meetings

At the American Legion Hall

5309 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City
www.westlabirdclub.com

For info. Contact
President, Doreen at
djseelig@aol.com
or (310) 488-9749



**Could you bring me a snack?
And, I can't reach the remote!**

And you thought *your* bird
was spoiled!

Laugh Kookaburra

Long Beach Bird Breeders

**ALL MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY CANCELED DUE TO
COVID-19** Meetings are normally held on the 4th
Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the American
Legion Hall, 5938 Parkcrest Avenue, Long Beach, CA
90808 (S. of Carson, E. of Woodruff Ave.)



For info call: (562) 881-9847
Longbeachbirdbreeders.com

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 information.

All members are invited to submit bird-related items for a future SBBS newsletter in any of the following segments:



Gala & Kahlia

- ☀ In **“Wing Tips,”** share a tip that could improve the lives of both you and your bird(s).
- ☀ In **“Laugh Kookaburra,”** send a bird-related cartoon, joke or humorous photo.
- ☀ In **“Creative Corner,”** send photos of your **bird-related drawings**, ceramic pieces, needle point, paintings, etc. or texts of poems or photos with a unique point of view.

E-mail your ideas of what you would like to see, along with your SUBMISSIONS to: gidgetscal@aol.com.

*The deadline for the next newsletter is **Wednesday, August 12th***



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!

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Fine Feathered Friends Foundation	(310) 529-1408 (Marie Calleja)	www.finefeatheredfriendsfoundation.org
Parrot Rehabilitation Society	(619) 224-6712	www.parrotsociety.org
Parrots First	(866) 248-7670, ext. 5937	www.parrotsfirst.org
Santa Barbara Bird Sanctuary	(805) 565-1807	www.sbbird.org
Southern Nevada Parrot Education, Rescue & Rehoming		www.southernnevadaparrotrescue.org

OPTIONAL MEET-UP RSVP FOR SBBS MEETINGS In an attempt to reach out to the community, SBBS is listed as an pet/animal activity on the “Meet-up” website that is available to the public. Our meetings and activities, including our socials and meetings via ZOOM, are listed. Each of you who plan to participate in any one of these activities may consider an RSVP on this site. *(This is not necessary to participate, but is optional).* The more members who say they are participating, the more attractive our group looks to the public and hopefully will draw *new* members to our club. Each month, David Benjamin will send out a RSVP under Meet-up. The following is the link to access this site: <https://www.meetup.com/Redondo-Beach-Birds-Meetup/events/>. Thank you for your help in spreading the word about SBBS to other companion bird owners.



Sometimes we can learn from our parrots!

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell

How to “Social Distance”
While Enjoying The Summer Fun



Laugh

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Social ZOOM on Monday, August 17th at 7PM

Join us on Monday, August 17 at 7 PM on ZOOM, where we will have an open discussion on **“How You Have Used Your Creativity To Make Your Bird’s Life Better.”** We’re focusing on:

- **“What TOYS, OTHER ITEMS or PLAY AREAS You Have Made For Your Birds”**
- **“SPECIAL RECIPES You Prepare and Offer To Your Birds”**

We have all made adjustments using common household items in our bird’s environment based on their personality, likes and dislikes. You may have discovered something that other’s birds might like too! **So, come prepared to share your idea for a toy, a play area or a recipe for a food your bird likes or just listen to what others have done!**



Kathy Rollinger (Powell) uses an old ice/beverage cooler for a play area for her sun conure, Roxy

Our first four **SBBS Social ZOOMS** have been so much fun that we have decided to **continue our get-togethers** on the **3rd Monday of each month for an hour or so beginning at 7 PM!**

With many of us spending so much time at home, it is great to see each other, along with our feathered and furry friends. You never know who will show up to our socials, and what a bird or other pet might do or say! There is always time to socialize with each other and see how everyone is doing.

(Please be aware of background images and activities that will be in view. Meetings may be recorded and used for promotional purposes. Opinions voiced by the speaker or others do not necessarily represent the views of SBBS, its board or its sponsors. You can RSVP on the Meet-up Site. See how on page 15).



What is in Your Birdie Bread?

MEETINGS In an attempt to reach out to the community, SBBS is listed as an pet/animal activity on the “Meet-up” website that is available to the public. Each of you who plan to participate in any one of these activities may consider an RSVP on this site.
(This is not necessary to participate, but is optional).

We look forward to seeing you on Monday, August 17th at 7 PM!

For more information, call Janet Ragonesi at (310) 376-5954



SBBS MISSION STATEMENT: The purpose of 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.

THE SOUTH BAY BIRD SOCIETY

Is a Public Benefit Corporation and a qualified tax-exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501 (C) (3).

Did you join the 40th annual Palo Verde/South Bay Butterfly Count on Saturday, July 11?

If not, have you looked in your yard or park to see what kind of butterflies you can find? I sent away for a butterfly guide so I will be able to start to identify them while I see them on my walks. I have been noticing the primary butterfly in my yard appears to be the Cabbage White butterfly which is common in the South Bay. Once you start



Cabbage White Butterfly

to learn about the different butterflies, you find yourself being more aware of these beautiful winged creatures. Hopefully, next spring we can learn more about butterflies, especially the Monarch Butterfly which needs our help by planting milkweed in order to survive.



Monarch Butterfly

Milkweed

LISTED BELOW ARE SOME OF OUR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2020

Monday, August 3, 7PM, Julie Scardina of Sea World ON ZOOM

“Useful and Fun Ways to Avoid Problem Avian Behaviors”

Sunday, September 13, 2 PM, Chris Davis and Dr. Ted Lafeber NEW!!! ON ZOOM

“Do Parrots Have Feelings?”

Monday, October 5, 7 PM TBA

Sunday, November 8, 2 PM TBA



Chris Davis



Dr. Ted Lafeber



Julie Scardina



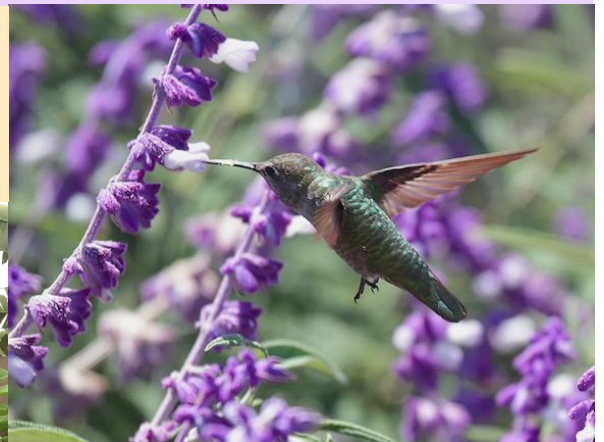
Annual Fundraiser and Silent Auction Re-imagined! LOOK FOR DETAILS SOON!

What might you see on your walk around the neighborhood.



A large raven guarding a closed neighborhood park

A wild conure feasting on some sunflower seeds



South Bay photographer and P.V./South Bay Audubon Member, Paul Blieden, took this photo of a hummingbird while walking at Madrona Marsh



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"Animal Lovers" for home delivery information
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Website: www.animalloverspetshop.com

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E-mail: mkeens@sbcglobal.net

The South Bay is fortunate to have great avian veterinarians for our feathered friends.

Get your bird "wellness check" now!

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Cypress, CA 90630
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f: (714) 827-8471
facebook.com/birdsandsuppliesbyfran
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Fax (310) 265-9521
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Complete Bird Supplies

8990 Cerritos Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92804
(714) 527-3387
(Closed first 2 weeks in July)

12200 Magnolia Ave.
Riverside, CA 92503
(951) 278-0878
(Closed first 2 weeks in August)

Open 9-5 daily - Closed Sun., Mon., & Holidays.

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Happy, socialized babies
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Sundays are always Samples Days

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818.708.7277 Toll Free 866.727.7687
www.ParrotsNaturally.com

Please thank our Sponsors for supporting the South Bay Bird Society by giving them your business.

Shop on-line at: [www. MyWBU](http://www.MyWBU.com)
or call: [310 543 2473](tel:3105432473)

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Wild Birds Unlimited
Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist®
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Redondo Beach 90277
(NW corner of PCH & Prospect
310 543 2473 (new)

Feed a Hummingbird

Do birds need a head piece to be pretty?

Contact for reduced access during Covid-19

since 1934

Leach Grain & Milling
562.869.4451

South Bay Bird Society members receive a 10% discount at Animal Lovers and Birds & More on selected merchandise. You must show your membership card or mention South Bay Bird Society when shopping on-line.

If you need to renew your membership, e-mail Patte Fisher at pattefisher@verizon.net

NEED A HOME for Your Ad?

Please Contact SBBS President, Janet Ragonesi at (310) 376-5954

SPONSORS

Upon review and acceptance by the board of directors, any business that donates \$25 or more per month in either goods, gift certificates or money to SBBS will be known as a SBBS Sponsor. For each month, a sponsor donates to SBBS, the sponsor will be listed in the newsletter for that month depending upon the timing for publication. These sponsors are listed above. **LET'S GIVE THEM OUR SUPPORT.**



PLEASE JOIN US



CURRENTLY, IN-PERSON meetings are CANCELED. Meetings are held at the Kiwanis Club of Hermosa Beach

2515 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90245 (near the corner of Gould and Valley Drive)

Our meetings are NOW being held via ZOOM. MOST MEETINGS are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 pm., with an added ZOOM SOCIAL on the 3rd Monday of the month AT 7 PM. *Join in the fun and lively conversations!*

* Sometimes, special meetings are held on Sunday afternoons, but [verify the meeting date by checking the website at: www.sobaybirdsoc.com](http://www.sobaybirdsoc.com).

You don't have to own a bird to participate!

Members are invited to participate Board Meetings which are usually the 2nd Monday of the month via ZOOM. Call Janet for details.

South Bay Bird Society

— Officers and Board of

VOTING POSITIONS:



NON-VOTING POSITIONS:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS:

- President** Janet Ragonese, (310) 376-5954
- V.P. CFO & Secretary** Diane Sivas, (310) 937-9925
- V.P. Education** Karen Allen, birdsnmor@aol.com

DIRECTORS:

- Program Director** **OPEN**
- Membership Director** Patte Fisher, pattefisher@verizon.net
- Raffle & Sponsors** **OPEN**
- Newsletter & Flyers** Gala Burkholder (gidgetscal@aol.com)
- Press/Media** June Baker (junespetcare@hotmail.com)
- Community Outreach** **OPEN**
- Technical Support** **OPEN**
ACTING—Gala Burkholder (310) 345-0278

SUPPORT POSITIONS:

- Adoptions & Foster Care** Janet Ragonese, (310) 376-5954
Marie Calleja, (310) 529-1408
- Proofreaders** Sylvia Skidmore, Marie Calleja
- Web Master** **OPEN**
- ZOOM Coordinator** ACTING—David Benjamin (Davidsbbsr@dbenjamin.com)
- “Meet-up” Site** David Benjamin
- Refreshments** **OPEN**
- Photography** Gala Burkholder, Marie Calleja
- Lifetime Members** Anita & Cary Pao, Karen Allen, Perry Ellwood, Jack Ford, Donna Crossley, Janet Ragonese, Dr. Walter Roskopf, Don Hand, Bree & Deven Brozey
- Memorial Lifetime Members** Lorrie Mitchell, Diane Bock, Ron Ellwood

Do you want to volunteer in ANY way for SBBS?

If so, contact the President Janet Ragonese at (310) 376-5954 or ragonese@att.net

The people listed above have chosen to “Step-up” to help with our club.

They have listed their contact information for your reference in SBBS business.





P.O. Box 3863
Redondo Beach, CA 90277-3863
www.sobaybirdsoc.com

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

Due to the rising costs, members that require the US Postal Service for delivery, please add \$15 to your membership. Thank-you.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

When a new or renewing member pays for a 2-year membership in advance, the member receives \$5.00 off of the 2nd year.

South Bay Bird Society Membership Application

P.O. Box 3863, Redondo Beach, CA 90277-3863

We appreciate your support. Your donations are tax deductible. SBBS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation

New ___ Renewal ___ Former Member ___ Family \$40 ___ Individual \$32 ___ Senior (60+) \$25 ___ Lifetime \$350 ___

Name(s): _____

E-Mail Address for Newsletter Delivery: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Other Phone: (____) _____ How did you hear about us? _____

To help us plan programs and activities, please tell us what kind of birds you own: _____

_____ How long have you been keeping birds? _____

During the meetings when you are invited to bring your bird, we sometimes take pictures of the birds for our newsletter. We like to identify them by name. If you want, please list your bird species and the names of those you might be bringing so we can label the photos: _____

Mark ways you will volunteer: Hold a Board Office ___ Help with Pot Lucks ___ Help with Community Outreach Events ___ Help with the Silent Auction/Fundraiser ___ Take Photos of Meetings ___ Foster Birds ___ List Other ways _____

Do you keep birds primarily as: Companions ___ Breeders ___ Both ___ Renewal Month: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____