



Volume 47 Issue 9 August-September 2020 SBBS Newsletter Established 1974



**Animal Behaviorist, Chris Davis and
Veterinarian/Avian Nutritionist,
Dr. Ted Lafeber to speak on
“Birds and Other Animals as
Loving Friends and Family...
Taking It To A Whole New Level”**



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Sunday, September 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 2004, Dr. Lafeber received the prestigious Outstanding Service Award from the Association of Avian Veterinarians in recognition of his

commitment to the well-being of the avian population. In 2007, Dr 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 when he was 9 years old when he would accompany his father, Dr. Lafeber Sr., to his animal hospital every Sunday and continued throughout high school summers. 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.** At Grinnell College, Dr. Lafeber majored in Chemistry and, in 1988, he earned his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Iowa State University. After Dr. Lafeber received his DVM in 1988, Dr. Lafeber Sr. and Dr. Lafeber became close business partners. In early 1990, Dr. Lafeber became President of Lafeber Company and Dr. Lafeber Sr. became CEO. **In 1989, the father and son veterinary team developed 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.** Dr. Lafeber and the entire bird community were saddened by the loss of Dr. Lafeber Sr. in 2001. **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.

For more info & ZOOM link, call Janet Ragonesi at (310) 376-5954

Julie Scardina

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

August 3rd, 2020 Presentation via ZOOM

By Diane Sivas

What can I say?! A night with Julie Scardina—even via ZOOM—is something special. We had 20+ participants join in for our August 3rd meeting, and we had a whole lot of fun!

Julie stressed the importance of getting to know each animal, their likes, dislikes and personalities. This enhances training and helps to keep the trainer a little safer.



Once we got ZOOM up and running, Janet welcomed all attendees and then passed the baton to Karen, who introduced Julie. Most of us have been lucky enough to have seen her before but seeing her again never gets old.

She allowed us to get up close and personal with her umbrella cockatoo, who proceeded to take over, entertaining us and making us laugh—that is, until “the boss” banished him back to his cage for a time out. Julie told us that she

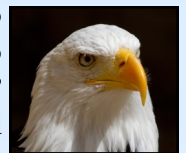


Umbrella Cockatoo

landed her first job at Magic Mountain, watching large animals (a lion and a bear!) while trainers took a break. She was only 17 or 18 at the time, but it set her career in

motion. After that, she secured a job at Sea World as a trainer working with a variety of animals—including killer whales—at a time when trainers were still getting in the water. She showed a great picture of herself being launched from the head of a leaping killer whale. Too cool! She told us that it was a great honor for her to work with seals and dolphins, and even birds.

She also cared for an injured Bald Eagle who they managed to calm down enough to promote to one of the park’s “ambassadors.” When asked about the trainer who was killed while in the tank with the whale a few years ago, she explained that the animal grabbed the trainer’s hair when she got a little too close. She stressed that the trainer had plenty of experience and had really done nothing wrong, but this whale had a history of being possessive, and when the trainer got too close, he grabbed her hair thinking she was his “possession.” It was just a matter of the trainer getting a little too close. **This, again, is why trainers must know and understand their subjects.** Unfortunately, the incident forever changed the way things are done at Sea World.



Bald Eagle



Jack Hanna

Going back a few years, many of us remember seeing Julie when she appeared on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Normally, she said, she was there to talk about serious issues, but once the important stuff was done, Jay would always manage to turn the situation from serious to humorous.

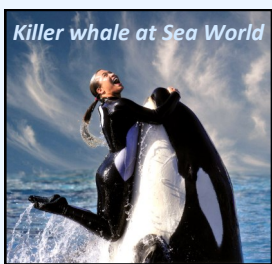


Jay Leno

Julie has also traveled the world with Jack Hanna as a part of her job with Sea World. Her favorite travels were to Africa, where she encountered elephants, another of her favorites. She was on a safari with Jack when they encountered a baby elephant who they rescued from the river. Since there was no sign of the baby’s family, Julie and her friends surrounded her and cuddled her until the rescue team arrived.



Terrified baby elephant



Killer whale at Sea World



Julie training seals

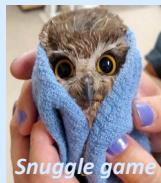
(“Julie Scardina” continued on Page 3)

(“Julie Scardina” continued from page 2)

Since then, she has been inspired to help, and has held several fundraisers to aid different organizations in Kenya. Over the past 8 years, she has managed to drum up over \$180,000.



Julie Scardina



Snuggle game

Janet asked if it is best to use the same towel or different towels. Julie prefers different towels in case situations



change or are a little out of the ordinary. That way, the bird won't be alarmed because the towel is a different color, or they're being moved at different times of the day.

Gala asked about **the best way to stop bad behavior and perform new tasks without the bird objecting too much. Slowly, a little bit at a time, to gradually get them used to it. It is a process, but it can be done.**



Kahlia did not get her scrambled eggs quick enough!

We could have gone on all night, but all good things must come to an end. **Julie was fantastic, as usual.** Hopefully, we can lure her back in a year or so.

Since we will be “ZOOMING” for a while, be sure to read our fantastic newsletters (thank you, Gala!) and watch for flyers you will be receiving for **news of future meetings, and our newly implemented “socials”** which is a

great way for everyone to keep in touch. You never even have to leave your home!



Keep in touch!



Diane Sivas & Cheeto, her Blue and Gold Macaw

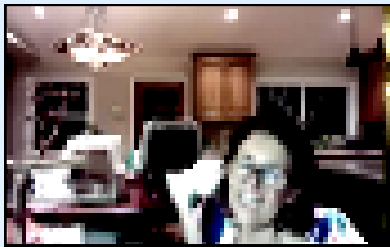
Stay safe, everyone!



Julie coordinates travel itineraries

Her “third” career has been to **combine her love of animals and her world experiences to organize travel itineraries and trips for others.** She can customize trips for anyone, depending upon where their interests lie. She works with the company, www.latitudeexpeditions.com to coordinate personalized travel itineraries.

Moving on to some “hands on” bird stuff, Julie demonstrated how to safely towel her cockatoo, **telling us that it's good to make the towel a toy or something good—so it's not something they fear.**



Julie ZOOMING from home



Jamie McLeod & Tutti Frutti, her Curl-Crested Aracari

She also showed the best way to put the bird into a crate or carrier. Jamie McLeod, who was also present at the meeting, said that she prefers to put them in backwards rather than face first.



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)

The President's Notes By Janet Ragonesi



Greetings
SBBS MEMBERS,
SPONSORS AND
FRIENDS



I say, it cannot be the end of August yet surely it is! Somewhat too soon the great whales and birds will begin their migration across the oceans and skies! My birds are molting and eating, eating, eating!

As a reminder please hydrate and keep the birds, and pet bowls full of fresh clean water! A follow-up to last month's motto is, "No One Goes Hungry." My invisible sign above my door reads, "Free Room and Board." It has been fun to see who arrives at the door including, the birds, bees and butterflies; sometimes even the ants! Yikes, get out the cinnamon!



REPORT ON THE
JULY 20TH SOCIAL
ZOOM

Donna Crossley and Marie Calleja's social ZOOM chat was wonderful.



Donna Crossley & Marie Calleja

Their topic was "Tips on How to Make Bird Care Easier for You and Not So Stressful for Your Bird."

I, along with about 15 other ZOOMERS, enjoyed watching the six short videos they created to spur our discussion and to share tips with all of us to help make situations much less stressful for our birds.

Gala Burkholder submitted the following summary about this ZOOM Social meeting:

Donna explained that it was important to familiarize our birds with people wearing protective face masks and gloves due to their possible interactions with vets, groomers and others. Reducing the stress from your bird interacting with people wearing masks is especially important during these times when your vet or vet assistant may come out to your car and take your caged bird into the exam room without you.

Donna suggested familiarizing your bird with this protective gear by starting out by setting the mask and gloves near the cage in front of the bird and letting them know these items are okay. Then, let your bird see you put on the mask and gloves while you explain to them what you are doing.



Donna's Greenwing Macaw, Jasper, is NOT afraid of a mask!

SBBS SOCIAL ZOOM
MEETINGS:



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

It is great to see the familiar faces of our SBBS members and meet new parrot lovers from across the country who have been linking with us. This is a time we can get together as friends to chat about our common interest in our birds!

Each ZOOM social has a topic to serve as a framework to begin our discussions. 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 in advance to each of our members as a reminder.

(“President’s Notes” continued from page 4)

Daughter & Mom Caique

David played a short video that Marie and Donna had made to show how to safely towel a bird inside of a cage that goes belly-up in the bottom of the cage. Donna suggested having a towel at the bottom of the cage so the bird will not get it’s wing caught in the bottom grate. Then she used a second towel to catch



the bird. Annie, Donna’s Double-yellow-headed Amazon, was a bit confused, since she normally steps up without needing a towel or other coercion. (An acting career might not be for her)!



Another video showed Donna placing a towel on Jasper, her Green-winged macaw, and laying her on another towel and then wrapping her up like a burrito. (Sorry– no jalapenos).



Is it Taco Tuesday?

In the next video, Donna demonstrated how to put a parrot into a pet carrier. She stated that she felt it was easier to get a bird in the kind of carrier that had a lift-top that opened from above, rather than one with a front opening. Donna suggested practicing

with your bird to go in and out of the carrier, while rewarding it with a treat for good behavior. Through repetition, your bird will get used to entering the carrier so it will not be so traumatic if you have to put it into a carrier in an emergency.



Donna and Marie, with the help of Marie’s daughter, Courtney, along with David’s technical help, made a great team by keeping our interest and gave us focus for our conversation.

In the following video, Donna suggested if you travel with your bird in a cage, put paper or a towel on the bottom so it will not get it’s wings caught in the bars. Also, make sure toys or other items are out of the way so they will not swing and hit your bird during a trip in a vehicle.

Donna believes it is important to build trust with your bird starting out when they are babies. Then, you can do most anything in handling them to prepare them for any required grooming or first- aid they will later need. She suggested starting out by placing a Dremel on their nails and beak in a playful fashion to get them familiarize them with noise and vibration of the tools. Also, gently lift and open their wings one at a time in preparation for future wing clipping. Donna admitted, African Greys and Amazons tend to not be as cooperative as other species.



Sylvia Skidmore & her African Grey, Winkie

Then, David showed a video of Marie’s daughter, Courtney, using an emery board on Phoenix, her 2-year-old Green-wing Macaw. Donna added that, sometimes if you do not feel comfortable grooming your own bird, it is better for a groomer to do the job because some birds may hold a grudge.



After showing six videos, those who linked-in shared their own experiences on grooming and other tips for making bird care easier for each of us and not so stressful for our birds.

Bree & her African Grey, Aero, “after dark” on ZOOM



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DISCUSS AT A FUTURE ZOOM SOCIAL? The topic for our July 20th Social ZOOM was suggested by Bree Brozey. Let us know of any topics you would like to discuss at a future Social ZOOM. So, if you think about any topic you would like to chat about, let me or one of the board members know.

(“President’s Notes” continued on Pg. 6)

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

UPCOMING SOCIAL ZOOM MEETINGS:

AUG. SOCIAL ZOOM RE-SCHEDULED TO AUG. 31

Our August Social ZOOM has been rescheduled for Monday, August 31 at 7 PM

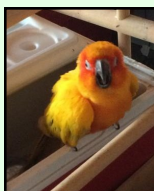
When the board realized the beginning of the two-weeks of the presidential conventions begin that night, it was decided to re-schedule our Social ZOOM for 2 weeks later on Monday, August 31.

The board felt it was much more important for each of us to hear the various platforms and policies that could affect each of us, our families and our birds. We feel it is vital for all of us to be informed in preparation for the upcoming election. We all need to be participants in our democracy that we are so fortunate to be able to enjoy!

The 7 PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 31 Topic will be:

"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.

MON., SEPT. 21ST, 7 PM, SOCIAL ZOOM TOPIC:

"How to Disinfect Your Home Safely While Keeping Your Pets Well In Light of Covid-19"



Recently, veterinarians have been treating dogs and other animals who are showing signs of people over-using disinfectants in their homes in an attempt to help keep their family safe from Covid-19. So what YOU use and HOW you clean your home is important to maintain the health of your pets.



Join the conversation that night and share what YOU have found to be effective at cleaning your home and pet areas while keeping everyone safe and healthy.

For more information , see the flyer on page 17

SBBS ZOOM MEETINGS WITH SPEAKERS:

Report on: AUGUST 3RD SPEAKER PRESENTATION WITH JULIE SCARDINA



I genuinely enjoyed seeing Julie Scardina at our ZOOM meeting August 3rd. Julie's enthusiasm for animals is as strong, concerning, and genuine now as the first time I met her years ago!

Her topic was "Useful and Fun Ways to Avoid Problem Avian Behaviors!" Julie started out by showing us various training techniques and easy ways to teach birds to cooperate with some basic avian care. Julie suggested holding 1-minute training sessions, once or twice a day to slowly introduce a new behavior to your bird. Then, she opened it up to the ZOOMER'S questions about specific avian behavior problems. Be sure to read Diane's summary of this presentation ZOOM on pages 2-3. You can see Julie's presentation on our web site at: www.sobaybirds.com.

UPCOMING ZOOM SPEAKERS



2 PM, SUNDAY, SEPT. 13th

SPEAKER PRESENTATION WITH CHRIS DAVIS & DR. TED LAFEBER



Chris Davis has dedicated her life to the well-being and care of animals. 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.

In 1989, the father and son (Dr. Ted Lafeber) 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. For more information, see the flyer on page 1.

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

("President's Notes" continued from page 6)

ANOTHER UPCOMING ZOOM SPEAKER

7 PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
WITH MICHAEL TOBIAS, Ph.D.



Michael Tobias is an American author of over 45 books, and environmentalist, a filmmaker of over 125 films who focuses primarily on wildlife preservation. He has traveled to over 80 countries for his field research of the **goal of saving endangered species. For more information on this presentation, see the flyer on page 9.**

LET ME ADD: We are grateful to Vice-President, Karen Allen, who has arranged for some of the recent, presenters to speak to us. Thank-you Karen for making this happen for SBBS during this time of ZOOM!



LOOKING AHEAD: THE ANNUAL DECEMBER FUNDRAISER & AUCTION

Our board is currently working on a fun online auction for our December fundraiser with more details to follow.

The online auction will be secure with **approximately 100 items**. We are limited in the number of items we can have since we will not be holding an event in-person, but it will be online. We will be preparing a **catalogue for you with all of the items which will include photographs** to help you select any items you might want to bid on.

So, due to the limited number of items, they must be PRE-APPROVED BEFORE you donate them. To help us select the 100 items for the fundraiser, **please send me a photo (smart phone photos are fine) along with a short description and item value, to me at: Ragonesi@att.net and to Gala Burkholder at: gidgetscal@aol.com.**

Because all that is involved in coordinating this annual event, **NOW is the time to organize your donations that you wish to include in our annual SBBS fundraiser. Donations should be NEW or NEARLY NEW.** If you choose to purchase **new, BIRD items for a donation, we would like to suggest you consider supporting one of our SPONSORS; for NON-BIRD items, consider ordering thru Amazon Smile and choose SBBS as your designated charity and we will receive a small percentage of that purchase.**

Donations may include such items as: art, jewelry, bird & people toys, wine, books, bird cages, sporting equipment, household items, china, hand painted or artisan clothing, beauty products, gift baskets and gift cards of all kinds!

We will be considering your donations until Sunday, October 11th or until we reach 100 items. Tax deductible monetary donations can be made at any time.

For additional information or questions about your donations, please call me at (310) 376-5954. Please do not wait; I am expecting your calls! Remember, **due to the limit of items** for this year's fundraiser, **items must be pre-approved.** Thank you for supporting SBBS!

HOW WE CAN SUPPORT EACH OTHER

While the current environment and challenges that face 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.

**Be true to yourself in all things.
If you ignore your heart's desires
and are untrue to others,
you exhaust yourself.
Being true to yourself while being
kind and compassionate with
others energizes the soul!**



**Cheers,
Janet Ragonesi, SBBS President**

Palos Verdes/South Bay



**AUDUBON SOCIETY
NOW ON ZOOM!**

3rd Tue./mo., 7 PM,

SEPTEMBER 15:

Flight scientist & bird
photographer, **Phil Barnes** presents:
"How Flies the Albatross"

*How the Albatross flies huge
distances searching for food using a
mode of maintaining or gaining altitude
from horizontal wind gusts.*

**At this time, BIRD WALKS are
CANCELED**



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

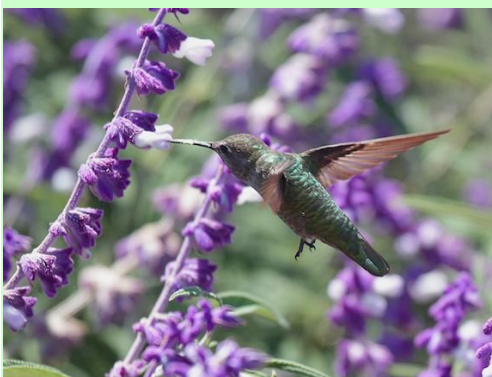
***BIRD WALKS:**

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

OOPS!



South Bay photographer and P.V./South Bay
Audubon Member, Paul Blieden, took this photo
of a hummingbird while walking at the South
Coast Botanical Gardens, not Madrona Marsh
previously identified last month.

**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 are looking for a new home, you don't worry about space for your king-sized bed, but room for your 3'X4' cage and bird stands.
2. Your only other political party or movement you thought about joining is The Green Party or The Rainbow Coalition.

(Created by G.B.)

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"



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.





**Micheal Tobias, Ph.D. to speak on
"Saving Our Planet's Endangered Animal Species"**

Z O O M on Monday, October 5th at 7PM



Michael Tobias, Ph.D., is a global ecologist, anthropologist, historian, explorer, author and filmmaker. He is also the President and CEO of the Dancing Star Foundation, a California non-profit public benefit corporation based in California. It's focus is on international biodiversity conservation, global environmental education and animal protection. The Foundation is involved in active ecological restoration efforts and intensive environmental field research.

Tobias obtained his Ph.D. from the U.C. -Santa Cruz and has lectured widely. He was an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies & Adjunct Assistant Professor of English and the Humanities at Dartmouth College, an Associate Professor of Humanities at California State University-Northridge, the Garrey Carruthers Chair of Honors and Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of New Mexico-Albuquerque, and a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Environmental Studies and Regents' Lecturer, at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Tobias is the **author** of more than **45 books**. **Recently, he has written three new books about birds**. He has also published research papers and written, directed, produced, executive produced or co-executive produced well over **100 films – TV series**, documentaries and dramas, most pertaining to environmental, cultural, social or scientific issues. **Tobias' field research has taken him to some 80 countries** where he has specialized in an interdisciplinary approach to environmental history, animal rights, scientific, ethical frameworks for policy research, ecological anthropology, biodiversity conservation, and non-violence activism. In 1996, Tobias received the "**Courage of Conscience Award**" for his commitment to nature and non-violence. In 2004 he was the recipient of the **Parabola Focus Award** for his long-standing body of work aimed at creating a better world.

Michael's foundation, The Dancing Star Foundation (DSF) works with numerous partners around the world to help raise awareness about the importance of environmental stewardship, ecological ethics and conservation biology. The Foundation focuses on the interdisciplinary humanities and social justice movements as they concern humankind's relationship to the natural world. **The goal of DSF is to help sensitize people throughout the world to the critical importance of biodiversity, animal protection and conservation; and to instill a respect for all life, which can be demonstrated by even the most modest gestures of kindness, compassion and love in our everyday lives.**

SBBS is honored to have Michael Tobias, Ph.D. back to speak to us and give us updates on his activities and his foundation. You won't want to miss hearing his inspirational message on what we can do to help save the planet's endangered species! So be sure to ZOOM with us 7 PM, Monday, October 5th!

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 is the best way to bond with a parrot so I have a sweet bird for life?

A There are no guarantees, however, the best plan is to get a hand fed baby whenever possible. They are sweet to start with, and with Tender Loving Care (TLC), they generally stay that way. Should you buy an older bird that has already formed habits, good and bad, patience, persistence and consistency are the key words to a happy relationship.



Karen hand-fed this baby scarlet macaw with some TLC

My feet need some baby love



Q Is there anything I can put on my bird when his feet look really dry?

A I personally use a product named "Pretty Feet for Birds" (we do have it for sale at Birds & More). One of the main ingredients is Aloe Vera, and it is wonderful for dry feet, which is also super for the hands of those of us that do not have feathers! Mineral oil works nicely, too, as does baby oil (which is mineral oil).

Polly wants a cracker dipped in Dr. Pepper...

Q Why does my bird dip his food/crackers in his water?

A Do you eat Oreo cookies dipped in milk, doughnuts dipped in coffee, French fries dipped in ketchup, fresh veggies dipped in ranch dressing? ... Need I say more?



("Q & A" Continued on page 11)

("Q & A" Continued from page 10)

Q Why does my parrot stretch his wings and sometimes sneeze?

A He does this for the same reason we do. Stretching feels good. If you have been in one place too long, it feels good to stretch. It helps you wake up your muscles and get them moving comfortably. Getting dust in their nose, or a seed in that insane sinus cavity (a bird's sinus cavity tends to look like a mouse maze, and a seed or hull that gets stuck, or dust tickles). A sneeze (hopefully) helps get it out! If sneezing persists, please see an Avian Veterinarian because a nasal flush or antibiotics may be in order.

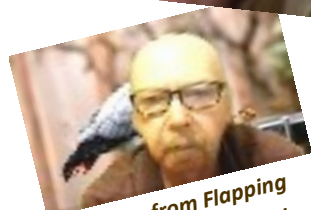


Krista Renta



Q My bird is getting so spoiled with me home. When this virus goes away and we head back to some normality, what will his reaction be?

A I guess we won't know until it happens. My suggestion to you is to be sensible, do not change things any more than necessary, (keep your normal schedule). That brilliant feathery child will undoubtedly test you to the MAX, and we will find out who has the upper hand. I promise not to tell, if you don't!!!!

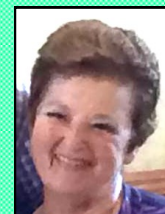


Shelly from Flapping Feathers Bird Club in New Jersey

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. Stay healthy. Be smart!

**FOREVER,
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



After The Dinosaurs Went Extinct, Some Birds Shrank In Body Size And Kept Big Brains

By [Ashley Strickland](#)

Updated 11:01 AM ET, Thu April 23, 2020

Crows have large brains and exhibit behaviors similar to humans. (CNN) *Being called a "bird brain" may be closer to a compliment than an insult.* That's because new research suggests that **some birds evolved over time to have smaller bodies and maintain large brains.**



Crow

Researchers studied the endocasts of skulls belonging to hundreds of dinosaurs and extinct birds. They used CT scans of the animals' ancient skulls to create **endocasts, which act like an imprint of the brain in the skull, reflecting brain sizes** (since brains don't fossilize).

Then, they compared the brain sizes with brain measurements of modern birds in a large data set. The brain measurements were analyzed along with body size to compare the scale of brain size to body size.

Together, the evolutionary biologists and paleontologists were able to show the timeline for bird brain evolution. The study published Thursday in the journal [Current Biology](#).



Cormorant

[Birds that learn new behaviors are less likely to go extinct, says study](#)

Before the mass extinction event that killed off the dinosaurs 66 million years ago, the researchers discovered **that birds and large dinosaurs had brains that were very similar in size.** But some birds went through what the researchers refer to as a "scaling" event after the dinosaurs went extinct.



Dinosaur

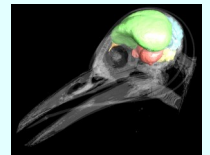


Modern Bird

These visuals show **brain endocasts** from the skulls of a **dinosaur** and a **modern bird**.

Birds were some of the first animals to recover and repopulate the empty landscape after the dinosaurs disappeared. They diversified and evolved in this setting, and some of the birds that started out larger in size experienced what's called "a **scaling down.**" **Their bodies shrank in size, but they kept the big brains of their larger ancestors**

[Meet 'Wonderchicken,' the oldest modern bird who lived among dinosaurs and survived their extinction](#)



"Our paper emphasizes that the **mass extinction really altered the course of avian brain evolution,**" said Daniel Ksepka, lead study author and curator of science at the Bruce Museum, in an email to CNN.

"There were profound **changes in brain-body scaling in the immediate aftermath of the extinction, and these may have played an important role in modern birds surviving** and going on to radiate into the 10,000+ species we have today."

The changes appeared to occur very rapidly after the **asteroid impact that caused the dinosaur extinction,** Ksepka said. They found at least seven brain-body scaling events in birds right after the mass extinction.



asteroid



impact

(“Bird Brain” Continued on page 13)

("Bird Brain" Continued from page 12)

Before the mass extinction event, the **similarities between dinosaur and bird brains were almost indistinguishable.**

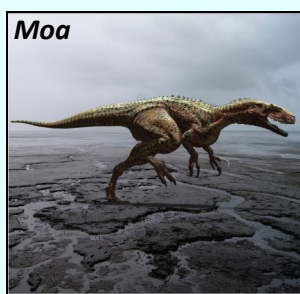
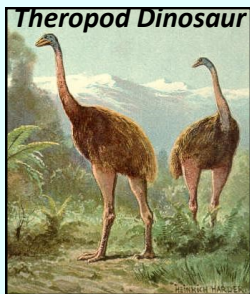
There is **no clear line between the brains of advanced dinosaurs and primitive birds,**" said Amy Balanoff, study co-author and assistant research professor in Johns Hopkins University's Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, in a statement.



"Birds like **emus** and **pigeons** have the same brain sizes you would expect for a **theropod dinosaur** of



the same body size, and in fact some species like **moa** have smaller-than-expected brains."



The mass extinction event likely acted as a trigger for these changes. These birds had to evolve to survive.

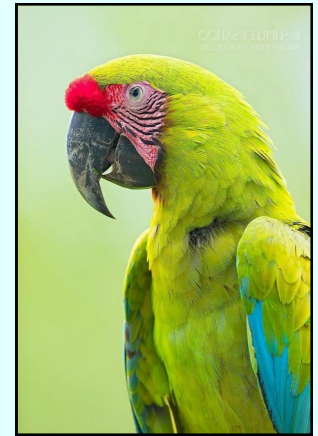
"In the aftermath of the asteroid impact, it would have been intensely challenging to survive," Ksepka said. **"Larger-brained animals tend to have more flexibility in adapting to changing environments."**

"Likewise, smaller-bodied animals seem to have had a better chance of surviving in the immediate aftermath since they need less food. So, the altered landscape may have triggered the rapid evolution of new brain-body scaling patterns by favoring both larger brains and smaller bodies." This Eurasian Jay is a member of the large-brain bird family called corvids.



Eurasian Jay

The **largest evolutionary brain leap is evident in modern birds** like **parrots** and **corvids**, the group that includes crows, ravens and other related birds. **And their brains are quite large when compared with their body size,** although crows and parrots are relatively large birds. Crows are "particularly turbo-charged" when it comes to brain capacity, Ksepka said.



Great Green Macaw Parrot

It can explain why they're able to **recognize and remember human faces, use tools and even speak,** like parrots do. In fact, **crows and ravens seem to parallel our own evolutionary history as well as some behaviors we associate with being human,** Ksepka said.

"Like our hominin [ancient human ancestor] lineage, these birds evolved to have both larger brains and larger bodies," Ksepka said. **"Brain size expanded faster than body size, leading to big, smart birds. Just like we ended up being big, (sometimes) smart primates."**



"**Crows** are really off the charts - they outpaced all other birds," said Adam Smith, study co-author and curator of the Bob Campbell Geology Museum at Clemson University, in a statement. "Our results suggest that calling someone 'bird-brained' is actually quite a compliment!"

Crows using tools to retrieve food such as ants.





SBBS Welcomes
New & Returning Members

RENEWALS: Luana Feigelstock,
Norma Schrader

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 and more.

To join SBBS, please print page 20 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 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.



Patte

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



MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson



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 Tuesday, September 15th

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 a 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.

ZIGGY: By Tom Wilson



Laugh

Kookaburra

HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan



HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan



ZIGGY: By Tom Wilson





Social ZOOM on Monday, August 31th at 7PM

Join us on Monday, August 31 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!**



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.



What is in Your Birdie Bread?

(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 to get the ZOOM link. See how on page 15).

We look forward to seeing you on Monday, August 31th at 7 PM on ZOOM!

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



Social ZOOM on Monday, September 22 at 7PM

**“How to Disinfect Your Home Safely
While Keeping Your Pets Well In Light of Covid-19”**

Recently, veterinarians have been treating dogs and other animals who are showing signs of not being well because their pet owners are over-using disinfectants in their homes in an attempt to help keep their family safe from Covid-19.

So WHAT you use and HOW you clean your home is important to the health of your pets and family. Vinegar is not appropriate for all surfaces, so what else can you use to sanitize? Some pine cleaners might produce toxic fumes. So what can you use safely? Have you found something **YOU** like to use and can recommend it to others?

Join the conversation you might have with your lunch buddies (*no, not your update on Match.com*) and share what you have found to be effective at cleaning your home and pet areas while keeping everyone safe and healthy.



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 to get the ZOOM link. See how on page 15.
If you are new to ZOOM, don't worry; it is easy!
ZOOM works on most smart devices: PC, Mac, iPad, Android or iPhone.



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



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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

VOTING POSITIONS:



— Officers and Board of

NON-VOTING POSITIONS:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS:

- President** Janet Ragonesi, (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) 318-2662
- Communications Director** Gala Burkholder, gidgetscal@aol.com

SUPPORT POSITIONS:

- Adoptions & Foster Care** Janet Ragonesi, (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
- Cartoons** June Baker, Marie Calleja
- Lifetime Members** Anita & Cary Pao, Karen Allen,
Perry Ellwood, Jack Ford,
Donna Crossley, Janet Ragonesi,
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 Ragonesi at (310) 376-5954 or ragonesi@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: _____