



Volume 47 Issue 12 November-December 2020 SBBS Newsletter Established 1974

THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER & SILENT AUCTION

5 PM, Tue., Dec. 1 through 5 PM, Sat., Dec. 5

This year's Fundraiser and Auction will take place entirely online.

A **catalogue** with all of the items with descriptions and photos will be emailed out to all SBBS members and can be found online at www.sobaybirdsoc.com by **Saturday, November 28.**

To bid and register for the auction go on the website:

<https://www.32auctions.com/sbbsholidayauction2020>

Place your bids for any items you want beginning at 5 PM on Tuesday, December 1 through 5 PM, Saturday, December 5.



When you bid, you will get notifications whether or not you have the highest bid, or when someone else outbids you.

Then, you can re-bid a higher amount if you want to snag that item.

After the auction closes on Sat., Dec. 5th, you will be notified which items you won.

Payments for your winnings may be made through PayPal using your credit or debit card, or your PayPal account on the website.

Items are to be picked up later at Janet Ragonesi's house in Redondo Beach.

Read the President's message on page 5 to learn more.

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

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Dr. Irene Pepperberg from the Alex Foundation on "Life in the Lab, Post-COVID"

Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020 Presentation via ZOOM

By Diane Sivas



Diane Sivas & Cheeto

Our November meeting was extra special because we were able to bring Irene Pepperberg into our ZOOM Room for the Sunday afternoon meeting. It's been a while since we've seen her, so it was a happy reunion for all.

After Janet's brief welcome, Irene began by telling us about the Alex Foundation's current grant, the \$10,000 Challenge Grant. Donations reaching \$10,000 will be matched by an anonymous donor. When \$10,000 mark is reached, another \$5,000 will be added, which could net the Foundation a total of \$30,000. The Foundation's online store had to be closed because of COVID, but Alex purchases can still be made through teespring.com, and the purchases through [Amazon Smile](https://Amazon.com), igive.com and chewey.com will benefit the foundation as well.



Dr. Irene Pepperberg, Athena & Griffin

African Greys Griffin and Athena were with Irene for the meeting, and she began by telling us that because of a dispute they have had to leave their current lab/workspace at Harvard. COVID has complicated things, and they had to relocate to a friend's newly refurbished house nearby that has a 12' x 12', two-story glassed-in aviary for their birds. (They obviously love their birds)! The friend gave Irene and her students a 4th bedroom in the house for their work; however, since the room is small, only one person at a time can be there which has hobbled their research a bit.

Current research study involves **Griffin learning about bigger/smaller**--and he's supposed to "model" for Athena which, Irene said, has been challenging.



ZOOMERS LINKED-IN TO HEAR AND SEE IRENE, ATHENA & GRIFFIN



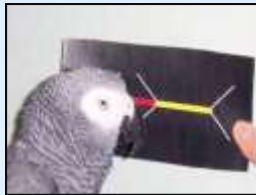
("Dr. Irene Pepperberg" continued on Page 3)

(“Dr. Irene Pepperberg” continued from page 2)

Another ongoing study is delayed gratification in which Griffin learned to wait 15 minutes to get a better treat. They are also working on “more” so if the bird waits, he can get three nuts rather than one if he had not waited. The result of that was that he only waited a minute longer, so they tried using tokens (representing a treat), which has been successful with apes. Apparently, apes became so excited by the treats that they weren’t able to wait--but with the tokens, they could. When she tried this with Griffin, he was able to wait 15 minutes for more tokens (and more nuts). Conversely, he was offered four tokens now, and three if he waited – and he took the four. Really amazingly smart!



They are also working on understanding ascending vs. descending tone patterns for comparison with children, as well as some optical illusion work. Janet asked more about this, and Irene said that Starlings can tell the difference in tones, but when the tones were transferred to a different octave, they could no longer do it. Irene surmised that there may be different meanings to the tones once the pitch is switched. Greys are used to different sounds, male and female voices, and since all our voices have different pitches, she thinks that they will be able to hear different tones as humans do in this regard.



She also talked about how they are testing the birds on optical illusions. Using letters N and P that, instead of a letter being solid, are filled with smaller letters (N is made up with small Ps and P is made up with small Ns). When this was presented to pigeons, they chose the little letters (local) cues. Humans, on the other hand, go for the large (global) letters. So far, the study with Greys breaks about 50/50, so this will require more research.



Parrot brains, Irene told us, are as densely packed as ape brains, and similar in relative size. Most species of parrots have similar brains, which are also like the brains of ravens and crows. Pigeons, however, have smaller and less dense brains; yet, as Irene said, “pigeons are not at all stupid.” Same goes for chickens.

When Gala asked why she decided to study Greys, Irene told us that she began studying African Greys in the 1970s following a study that had been done in Germany. Her goal now is to show how smart they really are, in the hopes of convincing people that they are worth saving. She also hopes to transfer what she learns from working with them and apply it to teaching and helping autistic children.



There were many questions that followed: What do they see when they’re watching TV, is their sight better for distance or up close, and are they generally left- or right-footed. Great questions from our group and fascinating answers.



It was a fun and informative afternoon, and we thank Irene for the time she spent with us. Always a pleasure!

If you wish to donate to the Alex Foundation, you can do it at: www.alexfoundation.org.

Flyers and the newsletter will be coming your way for updates on SBBS upcoming speakers and events.

Happy Thanksgiving! See you next time. Diane



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

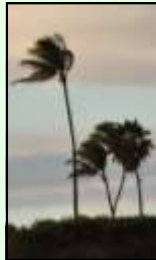
Is a Public Benefit Corporation and a qualified tax-exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501 (C) (3).

The President's Notes

By Janet Ragonesi



Greetings
SBBS MEMBERS,
SPONSORS AND
FRI ENDS



SBBS ZOOM MEETINGS
WITH SPEAKERS:

WELCOME AND WEATHER ALERTS

Wow, what a windstorm we had recently in Southern California! Trees falling and palms all over Redondo Beach. What a mess for the city to clean up. Dr. Teresa Micco had a number of calls for Hummingbird rescues! The little tykes would not have a chance at surviving without the kindness of people that helped save their lives and contacted Dr. Micco!



THANK YOU FOR ZOOM!

Once you have ZOOMED with us, and experience the speakers and the variety of topics, you will *not want* to miss another chance to share some ZOOMING with us! **These ZOOMS allows us to stay connected.** We appreciate David Benjamin for hosting our ZOOM meetings and setting up the Meet-up announcements! See how to sign up pg. 15.

SBBS REACHES OUT

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.

SUPPORT FOOD BANKS & OTHER CHARITIES



Due to our current economic crisis, SBBS has made an additional donation in November to the L.A. Food Bank. No one should go hungry! We recommend you donate to your local food bank or other charity to assist the many who have been impacted by their loss of income due to this pandemic. Consider donating to the Salvation Army, the L.A. Food Bank, the Union Mission, canned-good drives, Spark of Love Toy Drive and Toys for Tots. PLEASE DONATE so we can help our local families during this holiday time.

THANK-YOU TO OUR
NOVEMBER 8TH SPEAKER—
DR. IRENE PEPPERBERG WHO SPOKE
ON "LIFE IN THE LAB, POST-COVID"



We were thrilled to welcome Dr. Irene Pepperberg to SBBS to give us updates on her research studies done through The Alex Foundation on African Grey Parrots. Check out Diane Sivas' report on pages 2-3.

After Dr. Irene Pepperberg's presentation, SBBS auctioned off a plaque honoring Alex. The money raised went to the Alex Foundation! **You can make your own tax deductible donation to this foundation at <https://alexfoundation.tumblr.com>.**



The winner of the Alex and Dr. Pepperberg plaque was Joanne Detweiler as shown here holding the plaque with her husband, Jim. They reside in Nevada. Congratulations!

ON MONDAY, JANUARY 11 AT 7 PM
DR. AMY HOPKINS
TO SPEAK ON THE PARROTS OF
AUSTRALIA



We are happy to welcome, Dr. Amy Hopkins, all the way from the east coast, to share stories, photos and videos of her exciting wild parrot bird adventures in Australia. She is the President of the Parrot Club in Connecticut. **See the flyer on page 9 for more information about her exciting presentation.**

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

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



THE ANNUAL DECEMBER FUNDRAISER & AUCTION IS ALMOST HERE!

FUNDRAISER & AUCTION INSTRUCTIONS:



The on-line auction bidding is being held through a company called, "32 AUCTIONS."

This company has been used by other bird clubs and it has worked out well. The company, "32 Actions" will make our annual fundraiser EASY and SECURE for all who participate.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE "32 AUCTIONS" SITE.

The AUCTION will BEGIN at 5 PM, DECEMBER 1 and run through DECEMBER 5 and END at 5 PM that day.

TO VIEW THE SITE and see how it works, go to <https://www.32auctions.com>. Then, on the top right corner of the page, click on "DEMO AUCTION." Scroll down the page so see "FEATURED ITEMS" and then click on "VIEW ALL ITEMS".

For fun, open an account, (*see below*) click on one item and you can *practice bidding* on an item to see how EASY it is to use.

TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT in preparation for the auction, go back on the "Home Page," scroll down and to the right is the login to create your own account. Register with a user name and password. No personal information is required. On Mon., Nov. 30th join us for a PRE-AUCTION ZOOM to answer any questions. See page 6 for the link.

On the home page of "32 Auctions" there is a list of commonly asked questions and answers about using this site. You might find it helpful to review those Q & As.

When June Baker and I practiced bidding on an item, I was able to *instantly* see whether or not I was the highest bidder and could raise my bid again, if needed.

*We even checked out a "32 Auctions" that was recently held for the Oasis Bird Sanctuary. Each item was clearly listed with a photo, description, starting and current bid and value of the item. They were able to achieve \$1,000 more than their monetary fundraising goal! We hope we will have similar results since this is our *only* fundraiser.*

We are currently finishing cataloging a variety of approximately 100 items that have been donated by our members, sponsors and local businesses.

Many of these Items will be great to give as gifts for your family, friends, birds, other pets and even for yourself!



This catalogue will be SENT TO ALL MEMBERS BETWEEN NOVEMBER 25 and 28 for you to preview the items before the START DATE OF DECEMBER 1 at 5 PM!!

A few days before auction actually begins, our SBBS Fundraiser will be available to review online at: <https://www.32auctions.com/SBBSHolidayauction2020> with all of the items shown on the website with pictures, descriptions, their value and starting bid. You can write down your choices you want to bid on or log in and save your favorites by clicking on the ♥

Beginning at 5 PM, December 1, you can start bidding at any time of the day or night until 5 PM, December 5. You will receive an email when you submit a bid which confirms your bid and lets you know if you're the leading bidder. All participants will receive an email when they are outbid. If there is a tie for the highest bid, the first one to place that bid, will win that item.

To pay for your winnings at the end of the auction, "PayPal" will be available for you on our website. You will have a choice to pay through your PayPal account, or a credit or debit card.



For questions about payments or other auction inquires, contact me (Janet Ragonesi) at (310) 376-5954. Items are to be picked up at my house at an agreed-upon time after the auction closes unless other arrangements are made.

THIS IS OUR ONLY SOUTH BAY BIRD SOCIETY FUNDRAISER. We have lost our monthly income generated from our in-person meeting raffles. So, we appreciate your support and participation in order for us to be able to continue to bring the outstanding monthly speakers and covering other continuing expenses.

Thanks you for your support!



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

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

UPCOMING SBBS HOLIDAY SOCIAL ZOOM PARTIES!

This year, many of us may not be with family or friends during the holidays. SBBS is reaching out to make it a bit easier by providing a safe option to be with someone during this time. We want everyone to keep themselves, their family and friends safe. Join us for our Holiday ZOOMS!

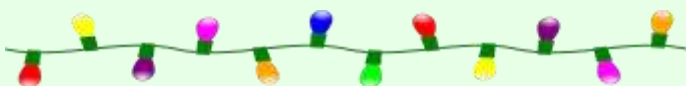
HOLIDAY PARTY & FAVORITE HOLIDAY TREE ORNAMENTS, COOKIES, DECORATIONS & MEMORIES SHARE!



- Share your favorite tree ornaments, cookies, holiday cards and decorations and memories with others and explain what makes them special to you.
- Share with others a special holiday time you had with your bird. Perhaps we will sing carols or festive songs with your birds while having a fun time!



See the flyer on page 16 to learn more! **7 PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31ST**



BRING IN THE NEW YEAR PARTY!

Let us know your fun ideas for bringing in the New Year. We can toast each other and make birdie resolutions for 2021.

We are starting early enough so you can still watch the virtual celebrations and ball-drop in New York City at 9 PM, CA time.



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT

WILL BE IN THE DECEMBER-JANUARY NEWSLETTER

DUE OUT BY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26TH.

By: Gala Burkholder

REPORT ON THE OCTOBER 19TH SBBS SOCIAL ZOOM MEETING ON:

'CREATING A PET DIRECTIVE'

In the state of California, pets are considered property. They have **no rights** other than the ones we state in our **pet directives**.

Not all of us can afford to hire a lawyer to devise this legal document for us. **Are there any other ways we can make sure our pets are well cared for?**

Several SBBS members linked-in on ZOOM in October to share ways to know their pet's best interests will be take care of. Some of their ideas might surprise you! At each Social ZOOM, great ideas are shared informally.

To find out what some have suggested and see a cartoon, see "Pet Directive" continued on page 13.

SPECIAL PRE-AUCTION SOCIAL ZOOM PLANNED FOR 7 PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 31!

Find out the latest fundraiser and auction updates, the day before the bidding starts.



Learn how to log-on to the auction, bid on your favorite items and have any of your questions answered. RSVP on the Meet-Up site or call Janet Ragonesi at (310) 376-5954 for more information.

I want to remind everyone to **support our SBBS sponsors**. Most of the sponsors have stayed open during the pandemic, so you and your feathery children will have the things and services you need. Food, grooming, boarding, consultations, veterinarian care and supplies are available to all of you. Many of the sponsors, have shortened their operating hours and sanitize often. They all wear their 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. Thank you.

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

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

**IT TAKES A FLOCK TO
CONTINUE TO MAKE SBBS
VITAL!**

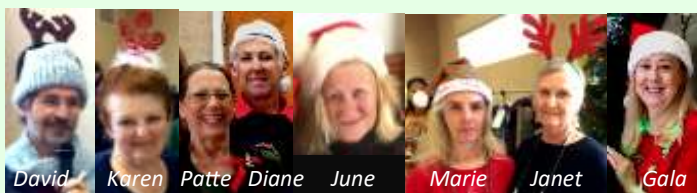


I continue to appreciate the work and support of the many of us who make the South Bay Bird Society vital in promoting the care of companion birds and support for our members. Without our volunteers, we would not have the fun, meaningful and vibrant bird club that SBBS is. *There are so many of you who contribute your time and donations to SBBS.* This includes the various members, sponsors and local businesses who have pulled together to keep our "lover of birds" club alive.

I would like to thank the board members who have creatively solved our ability to connect with one another and to continue to provide monthly enrichment in spite of the lack of our in-person meetings. **Thank you to David Benjamin for hosting our ZOOM meetings and socials.** A big thanks goes out to Karen Allen and those who have recruited our fabulous monthly speakers.

Our upcoming annual fundraiser and auction are important to help us continue our activities. It is important to our SBBS board to continue to bring a variety of interesting and thoughtful speakers to provide enrichment and inspiration to us all. At times, we give a nominal donation to the speaker's charity, which is our way of giving thanks for their time and efforts and meeting our legal obligation as a part of our non-profit status.

I am very appreciative to the SBBS members and sponsors who have donated items and services for our annual fundraiser. Thank you to our members Patte Fisher and June Baker who have helped me organize the auction items for our fundraiser; to Marie Calleja who has taken the photos of the auction items; to Diane Sivas and David Benjamin for creating our ability to receive donations online. Thank you to Gala Burkholder in compiling the auction catalogue.



Our revenue has been reduced this year since we are unable to hold our monthly meeting raffles. The board believes it is important to continue as much of the club's activities as possible, in a re-imagined way.

Our annual auction begins at 5 PM on December 1 with the list of items being available to review a few days ahead of time. Please go on the "32 Auctions" website and review the list of treasures suitable for you to give as gifts, pamper yourself or to care for your feathered and furry friends. Please be generous in your bidding. 🌿

Whether or not you choose to bid on any of the auction items, **please consider including The South Bay Bird Society in your year-end, tax-deductible contributions.** You can donate on our website, www.sobaybirdsoc.com using the donation button or send a check to the South Bay Bird Society to our post office box at: P.O. Box 3863, Redondo Beach, CA 90277-3863. You can renew your annual membership at that same time.



Another way to financially contribute to SBBS is to use "Amazon Smile" when ordering anything on Amazon.

When you designate "The South Bay Bird Society" as your charity, your club will receive a small percentage of your purchase.

Because you are someone who is interested in the well-being of our companion birds, I hope you will continue to support the South Bay Bird Society with your generous donations of your time and financial contributions.

When we come together, we make a real difference in the lives of companion parrots. Thank you for your continued support of SBBS!

During this holiday season, take a moment to be grateful for what we have and share a bit of kindness with others.



**Cheers,
Janet Ragonesi, SBBS President**

Palos Verdes/South Bay

AUDUBON SOCIETY
NOW ON ZOOM!

3rd Tue./mo., 7 PM,
NO DECEMBER MEETING



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 Ouadhamer

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



The Christmas Bird Count
is being done in your own
neighborhood due to
Covid-19 on Dec. 27th.

For more information: please
contact Vincent Lloyd at:
stephenvincentlloyd@gmail.com.

The Connecticut Parrot Club
invites you to see a recorded ZOOM
of Nikki Buxton, the founder of
the Belize Bird Rescue

You can view a
recently
recorded Zoom
of a tour of the
bird aviaries
located at the
Parrot Rescue in Belize by clicking on:



<https://youtu.be/sPbgYgLtxgU>

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. Your Thanksgiving turkey is vegan (tofurkey).
2. You make pumpkin bread sweetened with apple cider and only use cage-free eggs.
3. You never turn the oven on higher than 400 degrees to make your holiday meal.
4. You buy an extra bag of cranberries to treat your birds. *(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](http://PalosVerdesPeninsulaLandConservancy.org)
RSVP: at pvplc.org, select "Events & Activities"





Dr. Amy Hopkins will share her adventures of the **"The Parrots of Australia"**

Z O O M on Monday, January, 11th, 2021 at 7 PM

SBBS is taking advantage of reaching out to popular speakers from all across our country, due to our monthly presentation meetings being held on ZOOM. Our January presenter, Dr. Amy Hopkins, was recommended to us by Shelly (Sheldon Orloff), the President of the New Jersey Bird Club, "Flapping Feathers." Amy has started linking-in with us on some of our ZOOM meetings, so you may have already met her.

We are happy to welcome, Dr. Amy Hopkins, all the way from the east coast, to share stories, photos and videos of her exciting wild bird adventure in Australia.



Dr. Amy Hopkins with Rosie, her Galah, (rose-Breasted Cockatoo), & friend

Dr. Amy Hopkins is President of "The Parrot Club," Connecticut's oldest companion bird club. She has the good fortune to be owner and parent to three wonderful parrots and an elderly turtle.

Dr. Amy is an avid bird-watcher, both locally and around the world, and is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Dr. Amy traveled to Australia for a month in September 2016 with her friend Chris, for a wild parrot birdwatching tour. She is happy to be able to share some of her photos and videos of this extraordinary parrot paradise. Plan to be transported to this wild bird adventure through Amy's presentation!

RSVP on the Meet-up Site for more information.

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 How do I choose a good Avian Veterinarian?

A My first choice is word of mouth. Ask your dog and cat veterinarian, your friends that have birds, check University of California at Davis for their recommendations for the area you are in. Check with your local bird shops to see who they recommend. Make absolutely sure that you see an Avian Veterinarian. This could make the difference between life and death.



Q Christmas is coming and all kinds of decorations are in my home. Is there anything I should be aware of?

A The NO NOs ARE MANY. Here are a few:

- Mistletoe is deadly!
- Christmas trees are treated with fire repellent, which is not good for our feathery kids. Keep the birds out of the tree!
- Ornaments break easily. They are not toys.
- Sweets like chocolate, anything sugary, salty, coated nuts or candy are not acceptable for the birds to eat.

You have managed to go all year using good sense. Keep up the good work. I promise the birds will not miss any of it!



Cool...I am the center of attention!

Q Every time anyone sits down in the room with my African Grey, he makes a flatulent sound. Is there a way to stop this? It is so embarrassing.



OH DEAR!!!! Ignoring it is the best way. The birds love the reaction they get: giggles, gasps, downright tummy laughs, blushing faces or snickers. If there was no reaction, it might go away. All I can offer is "Good Luck!"

("Q & A" Continued on page 11)

("Q & A" Continued from page 10)

Q My bird screams when the TV is on, so it is impossible to watch in peace. HELP!

A You could move the "Lil' Noise Maker" to the other room, and close the door (not very social, but sometimes necessary). Or make sure everyone, including the bird, has a dish of unsalted popcorn, carrots, peanut butter on celery, or a Ritz cracker. Anything healthy and crunchy is a bit of a distraction.

Also please remember that all our birds need 12 to 14 hours of sleep EVERY DAY! This is necessary for health purposes. So, at 6 pm cover the bird with a dark cover (not a sheet that they can see light through), say "night, night" and he will start to get used to it and go to sleep. The noise and the lights will not bother him after a while. It works most of the time. Give it a chance.



Q Why should I have my bird's wings clipped?

A There are two schools of thought, and I personally do clip my bird's wings. When their wings are clipped, you do not take the chance of your bird flying into a hot pot on the stove, a toilet that has the lid up, a mirror or window they think is open space or out an open door. These are the most obvious and frequent reasons.



Flying free is wonderful if you have the space, like an aviary. People that train their birds to fly free and return, have the most outstanding patience and faith in their birds. For most of us, however, this is not the case because we have neither the space, nor the patience. Keep your bird safe. Unless you have proper training, clipping is the way to go.

Stay safe. Please wear a mask. Choose your battles:

Wearing a mask is easy, it helps protect others and you (if only a little), it's better than not wearing one, and is not terribly painful.

Strangely enough, my birds seem to like the looks and that surprised me.



HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Fondly, Karen the 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



It's California Cold Outside!

Tips to Keep Your Bird Warm & Safe

Now that the weather is turning colder, we must make sure we take our pet birds into consideration for their comfort and safety.



Keep The Warm Air In

Whenever the temperature is chilly, consider closing the curtains and blinds to keep heat from escaping through the window. During your bird's time awake, offer it an alternative to focus upon such as turning on an animated feature or nature documentary on TV. You may want to move your bird's cage and stands further from the window. Locking windows can further seal out cold air.

Home Heating Options

When faced with cold weather, consider having an alternative source of heat in the event your central home heater goes out.

And while your bird will appreciate a little warmth, don't blast your bird with direct heat and keep heating cords well away from beak's reach.

Make sure the heater you use is bird-safe. Some of the portable electric heating units have a nonstick coating to protect them during transport and rusting corrosion that can emit toxic fumes. **Any new heating appliance should be operated for a few days, away from your bird until the coating burns off.** Out of an abundance of caution and under a watchful eye, operate the portable heater outside and run it on and off for a few days until you are sure it does not give off any harmful fumes.

Here are edited excerpts from a guide of heating options from Amy Hopkins of The Parrot Club (Our January 2021 SBBS speaker) that will help you navigate heating your home.

Heating Systems

Consider how various heating options affect birds. This includes such factors as air quality from the heat itself, humidity and toxic by-products.

Wing Tip

Stand Alone Heater Sources

There are many stand-alone ways to heat a house, including fireplaces, propane heaters, gas heaters, electric space heaters, and oil-filled radiators, among others. Some people like to keep their thermostats low and put supplemental heat in their bird rooms. So, what's safe to use?

Propane heaters can produce carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide; two respiratory irritants which can be potentially lethal to birds and humans alike. They should **NOT be used indoors** with birds, let alone with humans.

Fireplaces produce carbon monoxide and particulates by incomplete combustion. People with allergies and asthma are advised to avoid being around fireplaces, and it can be even worse for your birds. It is not advisable to keep your birds near these heating sources, though they could be in the next room. NEVER burn treated wood!

Electric space heaters are generally safe around birds. But, you should NEVER run a NEW electric space heater around bird unless you are certain it does not have a nonstick coating on it. The heater should be initially run for several days someplace away from your birds until the coating burns off. Old heaters that you've had around the house for years and have run a lot are probably safe. You could always call the manufacturer and ask technical support if there's a nonstick or anti-corrosion coating on the heater.

Oil-filled radiators are your best bet for supplemental heat around birds.

They are clean-burning, do not emit any particulates or dangerous gases, and are often cool to the touch. They do not usually have a nonstick coating. However, as with every other heating system, make sure you check with the manufacturer about a non-stick coating, and, if in doubt, run it for a few days far away from your birds.



("Keeping Birds Warm & Safe" Continued on page 13)

(“Keeping Birds Warm and Safe” Continued from page 12)

Other devices are marketed specifically for birds and reptiles and can be useful for small areas. These include **bird-safe heat lamps** (other non-bird specialty bulbs may be coated with PTFE, the substance used for nonstick cookware, so beware). **Ceramic heating elements** that emit heat with no light and are considered safe, though you need to make sure that your bird cannot touch the heater since they can get very hot to the touch. **Infrared heating panels** are considered safe, though as with everything else, make sure you find out if there's a nonstick coating on it.



“Snuggle Up” Bird Warmer

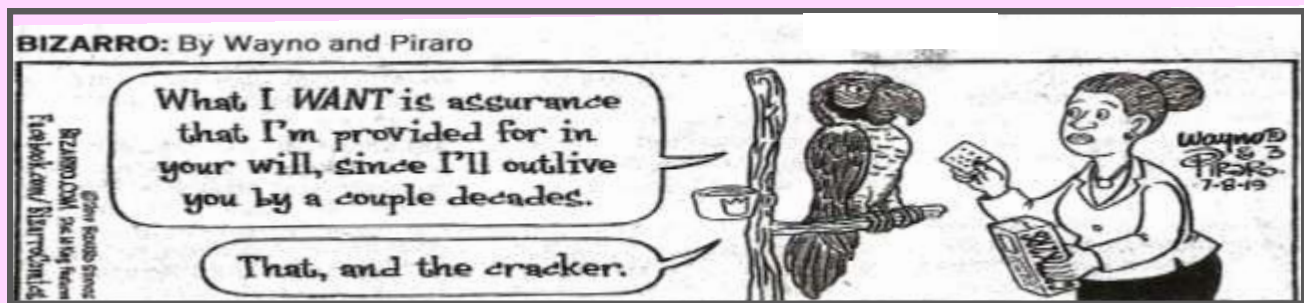
Other considerations

Any heating system used should be regularly **inspected** and **maintained**. There should be good venting whenever a heating system is used. **Install carbon monoxide and smoke detectors** in your house and either hardwire them to an alarm system or change the batteries regularly. Make sure any heating device has **safety features**, like **automatic shut-offs** if they malfunction or fall over. Proper humidity is very important. Low humidity when the heat is running can lead to dry feathers, respiratory irritation and feather picking. If your system does not have built-in humidification, get a humidifier. Your birds will feel and look better, and you will too!

Amy Hopkins, The Parrot Club, © 2011, 2016. All rights reserved

(“Pet Directive” continued from page 6)

‘CREATING A PET DIRECTIVE’



There were **different approaches** to make sure everyone’s birds are well cared for in the event of sickness or death.

SBBS President, **Janet Ragonesi**, has been working with a trust attorney to define her legal wishes for her parrots. She has included a **pet directive as part of her trust**. Janet found most lawyers would not prepare a pet directive separately from doing one’s will, which can be quite expensive. Janet encourages everyone to make their plans while they are healthy.

As an alternative, Janet suggested that pet owners may want to use **“Legal Zoom”** or **other on-line service**, to **devise their own pet directive**. It is important to make sure periodically whether or not, the people you have chosen to take care of your bird, continue to be willing to do so. It is common to provide a monthly or yearly **stipend**, rather than a one-time payment, to those who agree to take good care of your birds. Otherwise, the person could take the payment and not take good care of your birds or sell them. Janet has decided to have her

birds go to the **“Fine Feathered Friends Foundation,”** which is currently being administered by SBBS member Marie Calleja who will **look after them and then re-home them to suitable homes**.

Another SBBS member, **Diane Sivas**, has arranged for her birds to go to the **“Oasis Sanctuary”** to **live out the rest of their lives**. She has already made a payment to the sanctuary in order to save spaces for her feathered family.

One member has an **envelope posted by her front door with emergency information** with bird-care, health and personal contact information listed in the event she was suddenly taken ill and could not speak on her own behalf.

Another member, **Bree Bronzey**, pointed out an app. on one’s **phone that you already have or could download called, “Health ID.”** There, you could put your emergency information, along with bird care instructions, in the event you are suddenly ill or in an accident. **Lots of good information was exchanged that night. Join us on ZOOM!**



SBBS Welcomes New & Returning Members

RENEWALS: **Yolanda Keh**

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



Patte

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 pattfisher@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



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/](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.

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 *Friday, December 11th.*



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.

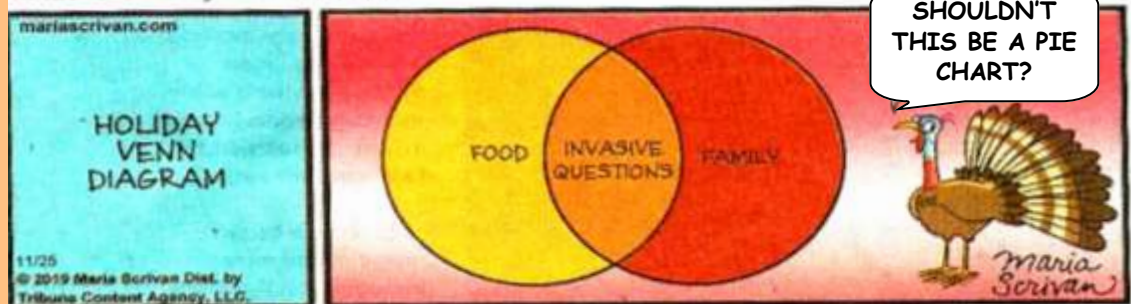
Many of these groups have websites—take a look!

<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



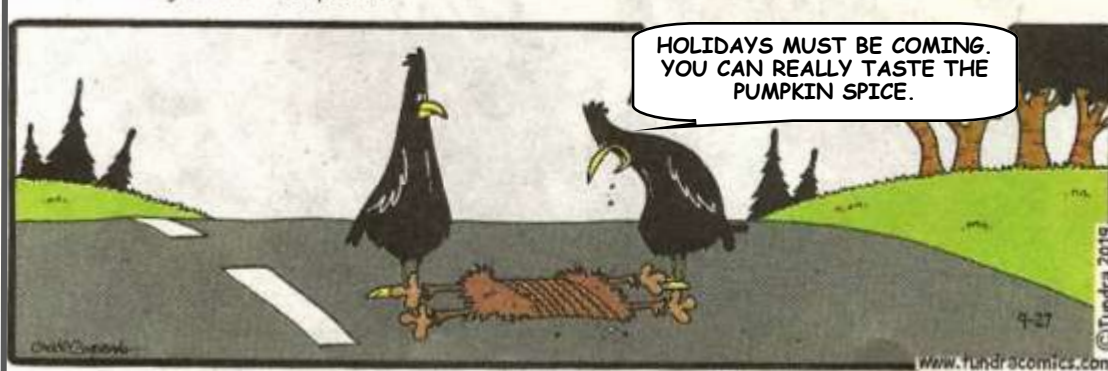
Laugh

HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan



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TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter





Social Holiday ZOOM On December 21 at 7PM



HOLIDAY PARTY & FAVORITE HOLIDAY TREE ORNAMENTS, COOKIES, DECORATIONS & MEMORIES SHARE!



The holidays are celebrated throughout our lives in many ways. We each have participated in different traditions. Your holiday memories may have started by making a holiday card or leaving note for Santa and a carrot for Rudolf. Or maybe you made a tree ornament to adorn your Christmas Tree or Hanukah Display. Perhaps your family made a gingerbread house and baked Christmas cookies. You might have made a colorful arrangement of decorations for the center of your holiday table, Menorah candle table or window display. As an adult, whether you spend it with others or by yourself, keep the magic of what each holiday means to you. Live it through the eyes of wonderment and joy as an adult by continuing or making new traditions to celebrate these life events. **Maybe this year, design and decorate a gingerbread bird house as shown on page 17, or make bird-shaped ornaments or scrumptious holiday cookies.**

On Monday, December 21 at 7 PM, you and others have the opportunity to share the sparkle of the holidays. Since we are on ZOOM, you can display holiday items or share memories or recipes that are special to you and explain why.

- Share your favorite tree ornaments, holiday cards, Christmas cookies or other holiday decorations.
- Share a holiday memory with your bird. Perhaps we will sing carols or a festive song with your birds while having a fun time!



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.

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

[RSVP on the Meet-Up Site for More Information.](#)

See page 14 to learn how to sign-up on the Meet-Up site.



We look forward to seeing you on Monday, December 21 at 7 PM!

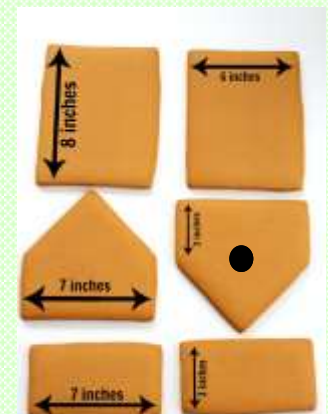
For more information, call Janet Ragonesi at (310) 376-5954



Make a gingerbread birdhouse, tree ornaments or holiday decoration to share on 12/21!



Sample Gingerbread Shapes for Birdhouse



MAKE A GINGERBREAD BIRDHOUSE from Scratch

Ingredients

- 6 cups of All-purpose flour
- 1 ½ cups of Molasses
- 2 Eggs
- 1 cup of Butter
- 1 cup of Sugar
- 4 Tsp Dried Ginger

- ½ Tsp Nutmeg
- ½ Tsp Cloves
- 1 Tsp Baking Powder

For the Royal Icing

- 8 cups of Powdered Sugar
- 4 Egg Whites

A selection of Candies

Instructions

1. Turn on some Christmas or other Holiday Music. (*Nutcracker Suite or a song by the Byrds, Sheryl Crow, the Eagles, the Yardbirds A Flock of Seagulls, the Chicks, the Black Crows, The Partridge Family or Counting Crows*)?
2. First, to make your Gingerbread you need to cream the butter and sugar together in a bowl. Next add the eggs and mix through and then pour in the molasses and give it a quick stir. Into a large sieve, add the flour, spices and baking powder and sift on to your mixture. Use a spoon to stir together and once it starts to bind together, sprinkle a little flour onto the counter top and tip the dough out. Gently knead the dough to form a nice smooth consistency. Pop it back into a bowl, cover and place into the fridge for a few hours to chill it down.
3. Once it has chilled, take a piece of baking paper and sprinkle with flour. Roll out the dough to about ¼ of an inch and then using your templates, cut out all the required pieces. Then, once again, place them into the fridge to completely chill as this stops them spreading too much when baked.
4. When they are nicely chilled, bake in a pre-heated oven 350°F for about 10 minutes. Once they are baked remove from the oven and allow them to cool a little before placing the pieces onto a cooling rack to completely cool down. I often wait until the next day before constructing my house.
5. Construct your house using the Royal Icing as the “glue” to stick your house together. Use cans or jars as props to allow the house to set hard. Complete the walls and allow to set before adding the roof. Leave to completely harden.
6. And then just have some fun and decorate your gingerbread birdhouse with icing and assorted candies.



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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.

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 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** 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.

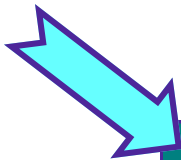
They have listed their contact information for your reference in SBBS business.



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

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

Members that require the US Postal Service for their 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

Return your application to: 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: _____