



Volume 47 Issue 9 August-Sept. 2021 SBBS Newsletter Established 1974

Annual Picnic

Re-imagined



Sunday, September 12, 2021

12 Noon—3 PM

Columbia Park at the Gazebo

4050 190th Street (at Prairie Avenue)

Torrance, CA 90504

RAFFLE!



See pages 5 & 7 for info about bringing your own picnic, your birds, safety guidelines and more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Janet at (310) 376-5954 or at Ragonesi@att.net or go to www.sobaybirdsoc.com.

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Silvia Gutierrez

spoke on

Protecting the Monarch Butterfly



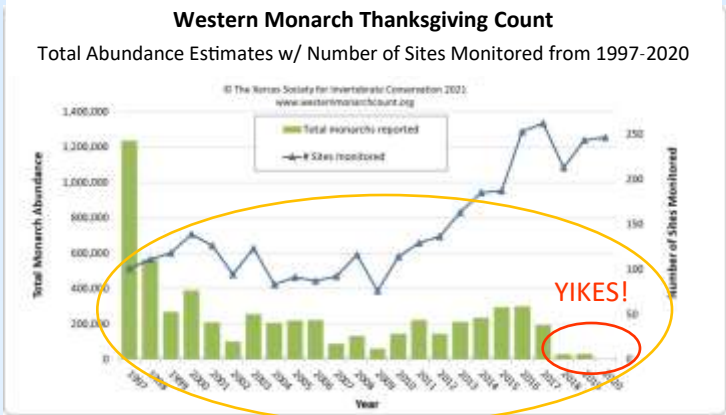
By Diane Sivas

We were joined by Silvia Gutierrez for our August 2, 2021, evening ZOOM meeting. Silvia is a Peninsula High School librarian by day, but enjoys studying the Monarch butterflies in her backyard on her off time. She enjoys planting and maintaining plants that attract and enhance the butterflies' lives.

Janet kicked off the meeting with announcements. Unfortunately, our plans to have an in-person meeting were thwarted by the COVID 19 Delta variant, but we will be moving ahead with the SBBS picnic on September 12th.

After Gala's introduction, Silvia began sharing her screen and we were off and running. She emphasized that she is not an academic, scholar or researcher, so the information she was about to share was based on her personal experience.

Silvia began her slides, which she credited to Sherry Roberts, who was also in attendance at the meeting. She began by showing the life cycles of the Monarch. The female lays about 400 eggs, of which only 2% to 5% will live to become butterflies. The caterpillar is tiny when it hatches, about half the size of an ant, and will eat the egg from which it emerged. It will remain a caterpillar for about two weeks, after which it moves through five separate stages of growth, shedding its skin between each stage. When the five stages are complete, it becomes a chrysalis, from which the butterfly finally emerges.



Silvia then went on to explain how Monarch populations have been in decline, beginning in 1997-98 and continuing through 2020. There are 250 locations on the California coast where butterflies are counted every November. There are several reasons for the decline in the population including climate change (butterflies can't handle hot weather with temperatures over 102 degrees), habitat loss and development (removal of milkweed), and pesticides. She told us that milkweed plants growing in the wild or sold through nurseries are full of pesticides. There are also natural backyard problems for butterflies. There is "OE" (Ophryocystis Elektrosirhra) which are spores that grow on milkweed, and if a caterpillar ingests too much OE, the butterfly emerges deformed. Other problems include wasps that eat caterpillars and Tachinid flies that lay eggs on the caterpillar.

To raise or not to raise Monarch butterflies? It is time consuming and expensive. Butterflies eat a lot of milkweed plants and Silvia told us that the cost to raise approximately 350 butterflies to butterflies annually is \$300-\$500 each year. Time is spent cleaning cages, bleaching the milkweed, collecting the milkweed—and this is sometimes done two to three times a day for a total of three or more hours each day.

Milkweed leaves with eggs are sometimes harvested & kept in wet paper towels



Egg through 5th Instar Larvae



Chrysalis stages from which the Monarch butterfly emerges



("Silvia Gutierrez" continued on page 3)

("Sylvia Gutierrez" continued from page 2)

Sylvia stated that she was not encouraging or telling anyone to raise butterflies. It is now illegal to do so in California because Monarchs were petitioned to be part of the Endangered Species Act, although their inclusion has now been delayed until 2024. The California Department of Fish and Game now prohibits handling them, removing them from the wild, taking them for scientific propagation purposes, and captive rearing. Sylvia makes a distinction between her backyard (not wild) and the wild. She contacted several authorities to get clarification as to what is considered "wild," but no one could give her an answer. She later learned that "the wild" included backyard AND front yard areas. There are several arguments both in favor of and against raising them.



Plant Native Milkweed if you are more than 1 mile from the coast

Sylvia advises planting only Native milkweed which carries less of the OE parasite spores, but only if you are NOT living within 1 mile to the coast for those areas south of Santa Barbara. She gave names and websites of organizations from which one can purchase native milkweed. The Audubon Society helps by planting milkweed in golf courses nationally and internationally. She also recommends planting nectar flowers to help attract the butterflies. They prefer nectar flowers which they can land on while drinking the nectar such as zinnias, sunflowers and daisies.



Sylvia ended her presentation by giving her contact information, and then taking questions. One participant asked about setting up her backyard, saying that she had purchased four milkweed plants that she put into 5- gallon painter containers which immediately attracted caterpillars. She then ordered painter strainers to put on top of the 5-gallon pots to protect the caterpillars. Although this does not completely protect them from outside forces, it does add an extra layer of protection.



This was a great presentation with a lot of Monarch butterfly information and a lot of food for thought. Thanks, Silvia!



If you have further **questions** pertaining to Monarch butterflies for Silvia, you can e-mail her at joeeg@earthlink.net.

You can get information or purchase native milkweed or other plants for Monarchs from:

- www.xerces.org/monarchs
- Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley, (818) 768-1802, theodorepayne.org
- Stover Seed Company, Sun Valley (800) 621-0315, stoverseed.com
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy Shop (Will have butterfly pollinator plant Fall and spring baskets with native plants).
- Audubon's Native Plants Data Base
- National Wildlife Federation—Native Plant Finder

You can still support this species through other ways, rather than captive rearing. For information why raising Monarch Butterflies might not be the best option to help protect the Monarchs, see the report on Pages 12-15.



Remember that next month is our **PICNIC** which will happen on **September 12** from **noon until 3:00 PM** at **Columbia Park** located in Torrance. Check out Janet's report on [page 5](#) and the picnic flyer on [page 7](#) for more information.



Diane Sivas and Cheeto,
her Blue & Gold Macaw



The President's Notes

By Janet Ragonesi

Greetings
SBBS MEMBERS,
SPONSORS AND FRIENDS,

WORLD CLASS ATHLETES ARE CELEBRATED!

Janet



Now I have my check-list of items to purchase for the hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. Since I live within one mile of the ocean, my next trip to the garden center will include: nectar flowers such as marigolds, asters or blanket flowers! **Check out Diane's report on this presentation on pages 2-3 for more ways you can protect the Monarch butterflies.**



Cory Juneau

What an experience for all of the athletes that have participated in the Tokyo Olympics. The dedication and focus it takes to have the opportunity to compete with other athletes from around the world. I appreciate their strength, courage, compassion and goodwill! BRAVO! It was cool to see the new event of skateboarding with one of Southern California's own, Cory Juneau, winning a bronze medal. We are lucky to see some of the top world volleyball players like gold medalist, Alix Klineman, from Manhattan Beach, practicing at our local beaches.

AMAZON GIFT CARD WINNER

Our \$25.00 Amazon gift card was won by SBBS member, Sylvia Skidmore! She proofs our monthly newsletter. We are lucky to have her keen eye for spotting errors and grammar skills to help make our newsletter fun and easy to read. Congratulations, Sylvia!



Sylvia Skidmore

PREVIOUS SBBS ZOOM MEETING WITH SPEAKER:



AUGUST ZOOM PRESENTATION

Silvia Gutierrez



On August 2, the SBBS ZOOM presentation with Silvia Gutierrez was outstanding with all of her graphics, and the sharing of her knowledge and experience with another winged creature. The topic was "Protecting the Monarch Butterflies."

We have a new way of choosing the winner of a gift card rather than picking a name out of my hat. **This is how it works: WE SPIN THE WHEEL!** We type in the list of SBBS members who are on the ZOOM. Then, we click to spin the virtual wheel. The animation of the rotating wheel stops on a name and announces the winner! Virtual confetti scatters across the screen in celebration. It is random and fun! One must be a current SBBS member in attendance at the end of the ZOOM meeting to be eligible to win. Maybe you can be a winner at the next ZOOM meeting.

SWITCHING FROM AN IN-PERSON MEETING TO ZOOM

My belief is, all living beings are connected! My question is, what species will be next if the Monarchs become extinct? The threat is real, given the huge reduction in numbers on their annual counts. I feel it is our responsibility to guarantee the survival of the birds, bees and butterflies in nature for all of our futures. We must do what we can to protect our environment!

As the Delta Covid variant suddenly became a major health issue for both those vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, we felt it was safer to have our August 2 meeting by ZOOM, instead of in-person, as planned. This was surely a disappointment, but better safe than sick or worse! Fortunately, our speaker, the board and ZOOM host, David Benjamin, were able to adjust to the changing situation in order to continue with our SBBS presentation. We ended up having 26 people on this ZOOM presentation, which is more than we would normally get at our in-person meetings!



Protect the Monarchs!

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

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

THE FUTURE SBBS MEETINGS

For the health and safety of our members, we are planning to have our speaker presentations on ZOOM and not meeting in-person for at least the remainder of 2021. We will continue to keep you in the loop with our scheduled speakers, topics and various activities!

On the plus side, ZOOMING allows SBBS the opportunity to invite speakers from outside our region. On Sunday, October 10th at 2 PM (PDT) our speaker will be coming to us from Florida! Jennifer Cunha will give us a ZOOM presentation on “Communication & Play for Parrots.” See the flyer on page 9 for details!



SBBS ANNUAL PICNIC

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

12 NOON-3 PM with SET-UP at 11:00 AM



Kathy, Janet, Diane



Fran & David

Columbia Park is located in Torrance at 190th Street and Prairie Avenue, for our annual picnic. Your family is invited to join in the day of fun!

Location at Columbia Park: See the map of Columbia Park (to the right) to see where the Gazebo is located which is where we will be meeting. There are two parking lots closest to this site and the restroom is closest to parking lot A.



Help at 11 am

Setting-up: We will need help setting-up at 11:00 am. Please contact Janet at ragonesi@att.net or call her at (424) 247 4447 to let her know if you can help.

Guidelines: We will follow the guidelines set out by the County of Los Angeles. Even though we will be outside by the gazebo, please wear a mask when you are not eating and let’s social distance for our safety. Hand sanitizer will be available.



Food: Please bring your own picnic lunch with your utensils and napkins. SBBS will provide individual-sized bottles of water and other beverages.

For Your Comfort: Bring a blanket and chairs to sit on so we can be remain safe while we are eating our picnic lunches.

Good News—Raffle: We will have a raffle table and possibly a few surprises!

Extra Auction Items: There will be some interesting auction items available for purchase that were overlooked in the excitement at last year’s fundraiser that was held on-line with 32 Auctions!

Our Birds Are Welcome! Don’t forget to bring their carriers and stands, as well as food and water.

Picnic Photos



Patte & Karen



Jackie Harkey

For more details and guidelines about the picnic, see pages 1 & 7



Sondra Luther



Krista Renta



Marie Calleja



Liz Loukatos and her twins



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

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

**SBBS ANNUAL
FUNDRAISER AND AUCTION
DECEMBER 2-5, 2021**



Last year's fundraiser and auction was outstanding! We had nearly 150 items! This year, we will continue our fundraising with **32 AUCTIONS online**. We will review on how to bid on-line for your favorite items before the event.

The dates planned are
December 2nd at 5 PM thru the 5th at 5 PM

Your **donations** and **participation** are welcomed, appreciated and are needed to help fund SBBS!

Drop off dates for your donations for SBBS fundraiser during August and September is:
Saturdays, August 21 and Sept. 18 & 25

Fri., Sept. 3 & at the Picnic on Sun., Sept. 12*
Hours: 11am – 3pm

The drop off location will be at my home* located in Redondo Beach! For my address, please e-mail me at Ragonesi@att.net or call (424) 247-4447.

DONATIONS MAY INCLUDE SUCH ITEMS AS:
Gift certificates from sponsors, assorted gift cards, various items for birds and other pets, art, jewelry, children's items, wine, art supplies, sporting equipment, gift baskets and collectables!

Items must be NEW or NEARLY NEW, clean and in working condition with batteries. Attach your NAME and an ESTIMATED PRICE for the items.

If you're not sure about a donation, please ask!
No animals will be auctioned!

This is a good time to **support our sponsors** by purchasing items to donate to the fundraiser. Use **Amazon Smile** for ordering non-bird items choosing SBBS as your charity and we will get a %.

Contact Janet at: ragonesi@att.net for general information, on how the auction works, or how you can donate and help! More details to follow.

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 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.

RSVP NOW



SBBS REACHES OUT

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.



If you live in awareness,
It is easy to see
Miracles everywhere.



By Thich Nhat Hanh

Cheers,
Janet Ragonesi, SBBS President



South Bay Bird Society

Annual Picnic

Re-imagined

Sunday, September 12,

12 Noon—3 PM

Columbia Park at the Gazebo

4050 190th Street (at Prairie Avenue)

Torrance, CA 90504

RAFFLE!

Your Birds &
Family are
Welcome!

ABOUT OUR PICNIC:

- ◆ (BYOF) Bring your own food (picnic lunch) & utensils.
- ◆ There will be no bar-b-que or pot luck this year due to health and safety guidelines.
- ◆ SBBS will provide water or bring your own non-alcoholic beverage in a re-usable drink container.
- ◆ Bring lawn chairs, blankets, your birds' stands & their food & water. Owners must clean-up after their bird.
- ◆ Some seating at picnic tables will be available.
- ◆ Hand sanitizer will be provided.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Janet at (310) 376-5954 or at
Ragonesi@att.net or go to
www.sobaybirdsoc.com.



OTHER AVIAN—RELATED ZOOMS

Palos Verdes/South Bay

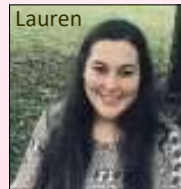
AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOW ON ZOOM!

3rd Tue./mo., 7 P.M.

September 21 Meeting

Dr. Carl Palazzolo, (vet) and Lauren Ellis (in vet school) to speak on



"Wildlife of Zambia"

Birding is returning on Sept 5th with reservations, limited capacity, guidelines & vaccinations. Contact David at the number below.

*BIRD EXCURSIONS:

4th Sat. each mo., 8:30-10:30 A.M.:
Madrona Marsh with Audubon leaders

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

2nd Sun., 8-11 A.M.:

South Coast Botanic Garden with Audubon leader David Quaadhamer

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



The Connecticut Parrot Club



Look forward to the upcoming September ZOOM meeting!

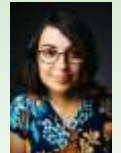


The speaker and topic will be announced and e-mailed to you by Labor Day Weekend!

You Can View YouTube Videos of Previous ZOOMS from

The Connecticut Parrot Club:

- **Tables Communication and Play for Parrots,** Jennifer Cunha <https://youtu.be/EgzLsA3owco>
- **Journey to Combine Art and Science Through Humor,** Rosemary Mosco <https://youtu.be/7b1qwbcxYFk>
- **Through the Eyes of a Parrot,** Dr. Graham Martin <https://youtu.be/JKcTfHynaMY>
- **Caring for Elderly & Disabled Bird Companions,** Dr. Kristin Sinclair <https://youtu.be/4YhsDzAwJgQ>



Free Webinars at 12:00 PM (PDT)

At your leisure: All 53 previous webinars are available to watch on Lafeber's YouTube Channel

August 20: "Ask the Vet" with Tom Tully, DVM, DABVP (Avian Practice), DECZM

August 27: "Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release: Wildlife Rehabilitation of the Parrots of Southern California" with Brooke Durham



September 17: "Avian Vet Insider: The Lighter Side of Treating a Pet That Can Talk Back!" with Dr. Stephanie Lamb



September 24: "Ask the Vet" with Tom Tully, DVM, DABVP (Avian Practice), DECZM (Avian)



October 22: "Avian Bornavirus: Common Signs and Treatments" (Neurologic Disease) with Dr. Susan Orosz and Dr. Robert Dahlhausen



For more info or to view a prior webinar, go to: <https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/category/webinar/>

ZOOMS are the 4th Thursday of the Month at 7 PM, PDT



San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

For information on an upcoming ZOOM or to watch a previous ZOOM presentation, go to www.sfvaudubon.org

Previous ZOOM include topics:

- "We'll Always Have Parrots" (In Los Angeles)
- "Our Need for Birds"
- "Tracking World's Migrations"
- "The Importance of Street Trees to Urban Avifauna"



Jennifer Cunha, J.D.,

to give a ZOOM presentation on

Communication & Play for Parrots



Sunday, October, 10 2021 at 2 P.M. (PDT)

Join us for an exciting talk by Jennifer Cunha about Tablet Communication and Play for Parrots. Jen is creator of “**The Parrot Kindergarten Program**,” designed to *mentally enrich and challenge companion birds*, and “**My Reading Pets**,” a program to develop *easy communication techniques with your birds*.

Choice and enrichment are integral components in captive avian husbandry practices. *When birds have more choices and enrichment, they are happier and have better behavior outcomes.*



In the past, touchscreens were more difficult for birds to utilize, but recent advancements in technology have resulted in inexpensive electronic tablets and game apps that are usable by birds of all sizes. Birds can be trained to play matching, tracing, and puzzle games, and engage in independent tablet game play activity daily, providing mental enrichment through challenges that increase in complexity as new skills are learned.

Jen Cunha is an attorney, animal cognition trainer, writer, and international speaker, focusing on animal literacy and communication. A “parrot mama” for over 16 years, Jen has been developing cognition training techniques for almost a decade.

Her training manuals have been translated and distributed throughout Europe, and she’s been featured in Bird Talk magazine. Jen has twice written articles for the International Association of Applied Behavior Consultants Journal and is a frequent lecturer at science conventions and companion bird gatherings around the world. Jennifer collaborates on animal literacy and communication projects with university researchers, and her research has been published in peer-reviewed scientific proceedings.

Her birds, Ellie and Isabelle, have passed university-designed blind tests on phonics and reading comprehension skills and are considered the very first animals who have learned how to read.

Learn more about Jen’s work at <https://parrotkindergarten.com/> and <https://myreadingpets.com/>.



The ZOOM link will be included in the next newsletter!



For more information, contact Janet Ragonesi at (310) 376-5954 or Ragonesi@att.net or go on: www.sobaybirdsoc.com



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 Why can't I use non-stick pots and pans?

A The non-stick surface (like Teflon) is toxic to the birds, especially when it is overheated. I was told that the effect on a bird is like them swallowing acid and it destroys their insides. I don't know about you, but I will pass on even having the pots in my home!

I tell people, "Don't throw them out. Give them to someone who does not have a bird."



Q What is the reason for not having a self-cleaning oven?

A Same answer as above. The ingredients in the self-cleaning oven can KILL your bird, even if you NEVER use the self-cleaning portion of your oven. I spent hours trying to find a non-self-cleaning oven, and even the sales people had no clue!

My bird is tearing up everything in sight. What is going on?

Your little darling is sexually mature, and is building a nest for the eggs he or she is hoping will develop. Paper makes a mess, but there is not a whole lot else you can use. Eliminate the mirrors, so they do not see that handsome/beautiful likeness as a sexy mate in the mirror or a shiny bell. Try to distract the situation with the T.V. or new toys. Avoid tickling tushes and under wings. If your bird is getting amorous with you, stop what you are doing and play catch. A cold shower does not work in this situation!



("Q & A" continued from page 10)

Q My bird appears to be biting his nails. What is that all about?

A It is sometimes a sign of temper -- oftentimes close to a temper tantrum! Watch the body language: eyes dilating, flared tail, any sign of aggression. Think of what you just did that may not have set well in the little darling's plans, and back off. Charm is not this child's long suit when expressing that behavior.

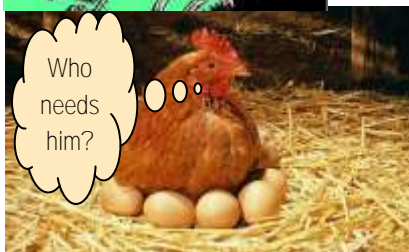
You made me mad!
Back off!!

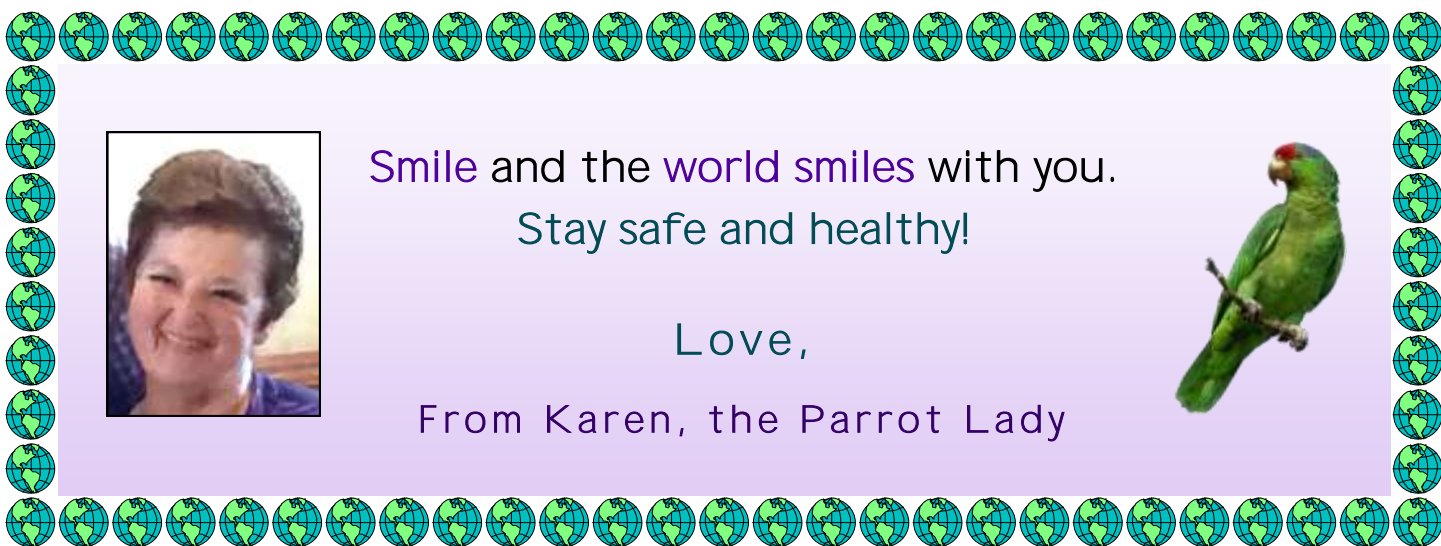



Q I only have a little girl parrot, and she laid an egg! I didn't know that was possible. What do I do now?

A First of all, she may lay more. Secondly, she may sit on them and she may not. Thirdly, if she is sitting, leave the eggs wherever she laid them for at least three weeks after the last egg is laid. Otherwise, you'll just encourage her to lay more, and she might deplete her calcium levels, if she lays too many.

SIDE NOTE: When females decide to lay an egg, and they will develop one in 24-36 hours, with no assistance from a male (clever little devils, aren't they?). **NO**, they are not fertile, if no male is present (and sometime even if a male is present, but not effectively doing his job). Remember you buy eggs in the market that are normally not fertile, so now you know the reason. One sexy rooster...many hens...sometimes chicks, sometimes eggs for breakfast, or the super market! Either way, it is magical!








Smile and the world smiles with you.
Stay safe and healthy!

Love,

From 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. **Contacts: work (310) 370-7550, home (310) 371-9967, text (310) 704-1210.** She counsels & trains new bird owners & 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

Keep Monarchs Wild: Why Captive Rearing May Not Be the Best Way to Help Monarchs

Editor's Note: *There are pros and cons on ways to help protect the Monarch Butterflies. The following article raises issues of why captive rearing may not be the best strategy to help protect the Monarch Butterfly.*

By Emma Pelton on 11 September 2018

Instead of rearing—which is risky and unproven in helping monarchs—we should focus on more effective ways to conserve these glorious wild animals.

Many of us have been there: Finding a monarch caterpillar, collecting it in a jar, raising it on milkweed, and then waiting patiently for a butterfly to emerge and take flight. Helping a child (or an adult) learn about this captivating, up-close example of metamorphosis can be incredibly rewarding. Unlike many wild animals, monarchs are easily reared, so it is no wonder that bringing



caterpillars into the classroom or home has been used by teachers and parents for decades as an educational tool—or just for the pure enjoyment of it. Rearing monarchs also has been a part of monarch research: From the tagging efforts started by the Urquharts in the 1960s to the multiple tagging programs of today. These programs, as well as other community science projects, have greatly expanded our understanding of migration paths.



A monarch caterpillar in the wild, on narrowleaf milkweed (Asclepias fascicularis).

(Photo: Xerces Society / Stephanie McKnight)

Because rearing a butterfly in captivity enables people to share in the amazing transformation from a caterpillar to winged adult, it deserves a place in the future of monarch education and research efforts.



However, **we need to approach it thoughtfully and responsibly.** Like any wild animal, we have to make sure that **our interest in rearing monarchs does not harm the butterfly's populations.** This is particularly important today, with **monarch populations down by 80-97%.** These levels are so low that the migratory phenomenon to Mexico and coastal California is at risk. In an attempt to help reverse the monarch's population free-fall, **many people are attempting to save the species by rearing and releasing monarchs on a large scale. There are, however, serious concerns about this approach.**

One aspect of the issue is the practice of **captive breeding.** Captive breeding refers to the **practice of keeping adult monarchs in captivity and creating a colony to produce hundreds or thousands of monarchs; some of these are retained for continued**



captive breeding. These concerns include the risk that rearing monarchs in captivity can **promote an increase in parasites, which can then be spread to wild monarchs** when they are released. Secondly, continuous rearing over multiple generations can **dilute genetic diversity,** and have adverse effects on wild populations. In addition, releasing captive-bred monarchs into the wild can **interfere with research studies aimed at developing a better understanding of monarch movement.**

("Keep Monarchs Wild" continued on page 13)

("Keep Monarchs Wild" continued from page 12)

Interestingly, a study of recoveries of tagged monarchs suggested that **captive-bred monarchs have lower migration success compared to wild monarchs** (Morris *et al.* 2015). This research suggests that captive-bred monarchs have lower fitness—a biologist's way of saying that **these butterflies are less able to survive—and thus don't help the population as much as wild monarchs**. There is broad agreement among the monarch scientific community that **captive breeding and mass releases can introduce unnecessary risks to wild monarch populations.**

In recent years, a second issue regarding rearing has emerged. In an **attempt boost the population** people are turning to large-scale **captive rearing of wild-collected monarchs**. **Captive rearing** is the **practice of collecting eggs, caterpillars, or pupae (chrysalises) from the wild, raising them in captivity, and then releasing them**. In recent years and months, we have received more and more reports of individuals and groups who are focused on collecting eggs and caterpillars from the wild, rearing them in their homes, and then releasing them. Newcomers to rearing find encouragement on online platforms and networks of people who are also rearing. With this support, it can understandably start to sound like a great idea to raise more and more "cats."



Netting for 3 life-cycles from caterpillars to Monarch Butterflies



The practice has now become so commonplace in some circles, however, that hundreds or even thousands of monarchs are reared and released by a single individual each year. **Many individuals with good intentions adopt this practice under the assumption that they are helping monarchs by lowering the butterfly's notoriously high predation and parasitism rates found in the wild, where less than 10% of eggs make it to adulthood.** By that logic, the more monarchs they rear, the more monarchs will make it to Mexico or California come winter. On the surface, this sounds like a good thing, but if you dig a little deeper, you'll see this practice does not match up with what we know about how to actually reverse the monarch's decline. There are **no studies or other compelling evidence that show that releasing captive reared monarchs boosts the population.** And if, at the heart of it, we are really trying to help monarchs, then we need to **carefully examine the risks of captive rearing.**



The fittest monarchs, best able to survive the migration, breed in the wild.

(Photo: Xerces Society / Sarah Foltz Jordan)

("Keep Monarchs Wild" continued on page 14)

(“Keep Monarchs Wild” from page 13)

So, why doesn't rearing help monarch populations?

One way to look at this is to consider **population fitness**: **Monarchs evolved to have very high rates of predation and parasitism**, so stepping in in the hope that a higher proportion of eggs make it to adulthood is not necessarily the best thing for the population as a whole. This can be a little counter-intuitive, but it's really about **valuing the entire population of wild, beautiful monarchs instead of focusing on individual butterflies**. For example, hypothetically, let's say you wild-collect 100 eggs and 90 of them make it to adulthood instead of the 10 that would have survived on their own in the wild. Maybe some of those 90 eggs wouldn't have survived on their own because they're not as “fit” (in the biological sense) and now their **less-fit genes are out there in a population that's already in trouble**.

Another way of looking at it is **resource limitation**: Let's say you release those 90 butterflies (instead of the 10 which would have survived). **Is there enough milkweed for 90 butterflies' eggs and caterpillars to eat? Or did you just unwittingly create a situation where there will be too many caterpillars with too little food?** If so, the boost in numbers possible through rearing doesn't carry over to the next generation, and could be **problematic due to competition for limited resources between the resulting caterpillars**. **Unfortunately, this apparently is a common phenomenon—especially in urban areas. We repeatedly hear from people that monarchs have defoliated their milkweed and there's nothing left for them to eat.** Again, when looking at the scale of the whole population, this could pose a problem.

An additional concern is that during rearing monarchs are **kept in densities far greater than typically occur in the wild, making them very prone to diseases and infections from pathogens like the protozoan parasite OE**. Some people who rear are aware of OE, **taking precautions to sanitize cages and test adults to make sure they are healthy, but in other situations the spread of disease is a serious problem**. Learn more about OE on the [Monarch Joint Venture website](#) and through [Project Monarch Health](#). In addition, there are many **other pathogens that can make monarchs sick** (and may increase in captive rearing situations) but aren't as well studied as OE.



A monarch butterfly infected with Ophrocystis elektroscirrha (OE) may not be able to eclose from its chrysalis, or may emerge with wings that cannot extend and flatten.

(Photo: Dara Satterfield / Project Monarch Health)

But don't we captive rear other endangered animals?

Too few animals is an issue with some critically imperiled species which only have a small number of remaining individuals. The California condor is a high-profile example of a species with a captive rearing program. This approach has also been adopted for some butterflies, including the island marble and Oregon silverspot butterflies. For these species, captive rearing programs are carefully designed and closely monitored. In fact, Xerces has worked with several partners on captive rearing of **very rare butterflies**—but this is done in **carefully managed conditions and only after a lot of research and consideration of how rearing and releases will affect the entire population**. In addition, **remaining populations of these butterflies are far smaller than the monarch butterfly's population**. And **rearing operations are just one part of a broader strategy that includes ensuring adequate habitat to support them after release**.

(“Keep Monarchs Wild” continued on page 15)

("Keep Monarchs Wild" from page 14)

Monarch populations have (thankfully!) not fallen so low that the conservation community is seriously considering coordinated captive rearing. Other wildlife populations that are facing as great, if not greater, declines as monarchs—such as Kirtland’s warblers, Karner blue butterflies or wolverines—are in trouble, yet we would not even think to turn to raising them in our homes to help them rebound. (Well, there are plenty of other deterrents to putting wolverines in your living room)! However, something about monarchs makes rearing seem like less of a leap. We are already so used to collecting and watching them develop in containers and cages, that it has been a natural extension for many folks to dial-up captive rearing as a solution to the monarch’s plight.

So, what can I do instead of rearing?

Arguably, the problem may not be that we have too few monarchs, but rather that the monarchs that are still wild don’t have enough of what they need. They don’t have enough breeding habitat (milkweed and nectar plants); they don’t have enough areas safe from pesticides; they don’t have enough intact overwintering habitat; they don’t have enough protection from severe storms and drought due to climate change; etc.

Instead of rearing, which is risky and unproven in helping monarchs, we should **focus on more effective ways to conserve these glorious wild animals.**

Our tactics should address the **REASONS the species is in TROUBLE.** We can do this by taking action to:

- **protect natural habitat;**
- **to plant native milkweed and nectar flowers;**
- **avoid pesticides;**
- **support wildlife-friendly, local, and organic agriculture;**
- **contribute to research efforts via community science;**
- **organize ourselves to push for policy changes.**



These are more effective ways to expend our energies in monarch conservation than trying to rear the population back to health—which we do not know is possible and may spell trouble for an already at-risk species. For more information about ways to help monarchs, check out resources on the websites of the [Xerces Society](#) and the [Monarch Joint Venture](#).

You should feel welcome to raise a caterpillar or two to teach your family about monarchs or to report to a community science project, but put the rest of your efforts into some other action to help monarchs. Let’s work together to ensure that rearing monarchs does not unintentionally harm this iconic species we are all trying to protect!

To ensure that monarchs will cluster for the winter in the future, we should be focusing efforts on protecting overwintering sites and breeding habitat.



Butterfly Gardening

Plant Milkweed (*only if you are NOT within 1 mile from the coast, south of Santa Barbara*). The best time to plant native milkweed (*Asclepias*) is in the fall. Plant them directly into the soil or a 1 to 5 gallon pot. (*Mature plants are usually not available from nurseries until May*).

Plant Nectar-Rich Flowers Heavy perfumed flowers are appealing to them. Recommended nectar flowers include: asters, California bush sunflower, bladderpod, lupines, golden yarrow, coastal sand verbena, California goldenrod, bluedicks, seaside fleabane, Queen Anne’s lace, bee balm, honeysuckle, columbine. Dunn’s lobelia, Western goldentop, sweetscent, wishbone, California fuchsia, bush monkey flower, black sage, mallows, California four O’clocks, primrose, daisies, zinnias, coneflowers, golden poppy, lilacs and phlox.

For information on Milkweed seeds, go to: www.xerces.org/milkweed-seed-finder

For more information on Monarch Nectar Plants, go to www.xerces.org/monarch-nectar-plants

For local Native Plants for your Zip Code, go to: www.nwf.org/NativeplantFinder

WINGED NEWS & UPDATES

'Hawkpocalypse': Baby birds of prey have leaped from their nests to escape West's extreme heat!

It all started at a wildlife center in Oregon that was swamped with calls in late June when a record-breaking heatwave spurred baby birds to jump their nests!

One wildlife rehabilitation center in rural Oregon says it got "three months' worth of birds" in three days. Another, in northern California, declared a **"hawkpocalypse" in June**. And earlier in the summer, Portland Audubon, a nonprofit environmental organization, took in more than 100 Cooper's hawks over four days as temperatures soared to record highs in the 110s. Normally, they might get a dozen in a year.



Baby Hawks rescued

Around the West, young birds of prey have been **jumping out of their nests before they can fly to escape historic heat**, landing helpless on the ground and in some cases suffering injuries so

serious they had to be euthanized.

Birds in Oregon have already weathered intense wildfires and an ice storm in the past year. Climate change is here, that the impacts are becoming more and more visible. Blue Mountain Wildlife (BMW) in Oregon says it took in an influx of baby hawks during a heat wave, as birds jumped from their nests.

The heat wave with **temperatures hitting 117 degrees, had run right into nesting season**. Tompkins of BMW said they're used to seeing the hottest temperatures in August, when young Swainson's and Cooper's hawks would be out of the nest and capable of finding their own shade.

Staff's first advice to callers: Give the grounded birds some water. Turn on a sprinkler nearby. Leave them alone to recuperate if you can, especially if the parents are around.

Hawks nests are located high in the trees without much shade from the heat



But some birds were injured. Fifteen to 20 percent of the influx at Blue Mountain Wildlife could not be saved, she estimated. **Some had fallen from as high as 60 feet, she said. A couple had broken both legs.**

In California, Jeanne Capozzo, who goes by "Raven," said the "hawkpocalypse" began for her one Saturday night in June. Eleven Cooper's hawks arrived virtually all at once at the Shasta Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation, a mostly volunteer operation in the town of Anderson.



"I was like, uh oh, we have a situation," said Raven, the center's coordinator and only full-time staffer. She had just ordered a thousand mice, but within days she was calling her rodent supplier to ask for thousands more.

Other birds are affected, too. In Seattle, conservationists blamed **oppressive heat when Caspian Tern chicks plummeted to their deaths in late June**. But hawks in particular are "just falling out of the sky," Raven said.

At first, Raven said she thought of the nest-leaping as a local phenomenon. But temperatures were spiking around California and beyond. She heard other centers were seeing the same problems. "Our ICU has never been so full," the OWL Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society tweeted from Canada this month.

Raptors — or birds of prey — **nest high up in trees and in direct sunlight**, which means they are **sensitive to hot days** and might **sustain injuries** such as head trauma or fractured wings if they **tumble down**.



It's a long way down!

"We can definitely say that with these really intense events of wildfires and heat waves, the wildlife can't keep up with it," Mr. Compton of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society said. **"Is this something that now we should just be sort of planning for?"**

Elegant Tern Chicks Rescued in Long Beach California

The organizations involved in the effort to rehabilitate the tern chicks are asking the public to contribute donations to help feed and house them by visiting: www.birdrescue.org/help-terns.



WINGED NEWS & UPDATES

Cockatoos can learn to lift garbage bin lids to gather food by copying others!

Australia's sulphur-crested cockatoos have begun lifting garbage bin lids in order to scavenge for food, and they appear to be learning the trick by copying each other.



When the team led from Germany's Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior began their study, only birds in three suburbs knew the trick — but now it can be seen in 44.

The way that the bin-opening approach is spreading is an example of **social learning**, the team said — and proves that it is not just some innate skill.

The birds are using their beaks and feet to pry open the heavy bin lids, before shuffling along the bins' edge until they can flip the lids over and access the leftover food within.



According to paper author and behavioral ecologist Barbara Klump of the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior, **social learning is something that birds and primates share with humans** — where it forms the basis of regional cultures. “However, compared to humans, there are few known examples of animals learning from each other.”



Alongside the survey, the team also marked some 500 cockatoos with small, paint dots on their backs — allowing them to identify which birds appeared to have learnt to pry bins open. Based on their observations, the researchers estimated that only **10 percent of the birds have learnt the trick** — and most of them are males. The other birds, instead, wait until the “pioneers” open bins for them before helping themselves. “By studying this behavior, we are uncovering the unique and complex cultures of their neighborhood birds,” said Dr. Klump.

New Invasive Species, Rose-Ringed Parakeets Found on Maui... Say Aloha Birdies! August 2021

Rose-Ringed Parakeets can be identified by their long tails (about the same length as their lime green bodies), red beaks, and loud call. Mature male parakeets have a black or rose-colored ring around their cheeks.



Rose-ringed parakeets or RRP have recently been confirmed on Maui. One bird was captured in Kihei as a result of an online report and follow up by an interagency team.



At least four more birds remain un-captured in West Maui. These four birds were reported by a Nāpili resident who observed them frequenting a bird feeder.

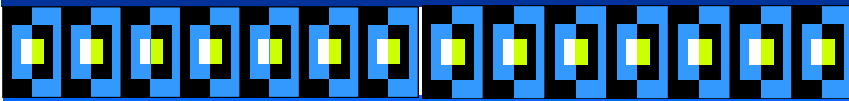
Not to be confused with the Rosy-faced Lovebird, which is already established on Maui, **Rose-ringed parakeets are native to equatorial Africa and Asia and have invasive populations in over 35 countries. There are established populations of RRP on O’ahu, Hawai’i Island, and Kaua’i.**

Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) representatives say they are an **agricultural pest that causes extensive damage to food crops, especially fruits and grains.** On Kaua’i, they have already successfully invaded farmland and have caused significant losses to harvests.

“Their high-density roosts, loud calls, and mass accumulation of droppings cause disturbance to humans and are a potential public health risk. If they reach native forests, their impact on native ecosystems could be substantial,” according MISC.

The most recent population estimate of Kaua’i Rose-Ringed Parakeets numbers is over 10,000 individual birds, with the rate of expansion steadily climbing along with costs to control them.

If only the 'Toos would learn to take the garbage out!



THE SOUTH BAY BIRD SOCIETY IS OUR LOCAL FLOCK.

SBBS Welcomes
New & Returning Members



RETURNING MEMBERS: **Patricia Coulter, Harriet A. Diamond, PHD, Jim & Julia Comella, Luana Feigelstock**

LIFETIME MEMBERS: **Cary & Anita Pao, Karen Allen, Perry Ellwood, Donna Crossley, Dr. Walter Roskopf, Jack Ford, Janet Ragonesi, Don Hand, Bree & Deven Brozey**

MEMORIAL LIFETIME MEMBERS: **Lorrie Mitchell, Diane Bock, Ron Ellwood**

IN MEMORIAM LIFETIME MEMBER: **Laura Lynn Porter**

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 the last page 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.



Patte

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.



THE SOUTH BAY BIRD SOCIETY

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

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.



This gives a new meaning to, "Will work for food."

Be ready...the swarms are coming!

STAY SAFE & PROTECTED FROM GERMS! **Karen Allen Reminds Us To Continue To:**

- **Wash your 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** indoors and when in close proximity to others. Respect people's choice on wearing a mask, even when it is not legally required.
- **Keep a distance** of at least **6 feet** between people.



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



Gala & Kahli

- ☀ 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 14th.



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) 334-9062 (Note: New #)	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



Happy "TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY"
Sunday, September 19th



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If you need to renew your membership, go to: www.sobaybirdsoc.com.

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, our meetings are held on ZOOM! 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)

Verify on our website of status of meetings. MOST MEETINGS are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM.

* 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 Directors

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:

- Communications** Gala Burkholder
(gidgetscal@aol.com)
- Community Outreach** **OPEN**
- Membership Director** Patte Fisher, pattefisher@verizon.net
- Newsletter & Flyers** Gala Burkholder
(gidgetscal@aol.com)
- Press/Media** June Baker
(junespetcare@hotmail.com)
- Program Director** **OPEN**
- Raffle & Sponsors** **OPEN**
- Technical Support** **OPEN**
ACTING—Gala Burkholder (310) 318-2662

SUPPORT POSITIONS:

- Adoptions & Foster Care** Janet Ragonesi, (310) 376-5954
Marie Calleja, (310) 529-1408
- Cartoons** June Baker, Marie Calleja
- Hospitality** **OPEN**
- "Meet-up" Site** David Benjamin
- Photography** Gala Burkholder, Marie Calleja
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June Baker, Patte Fisher
- Web/ZOOM Coordinator** ACTING—David Benjamin
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Dr. Walter Roskopf, Don Hand,
Bree & Deven Brozey
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Lorrie Mitchell, Diane Bock,
Ron Ellwood
- In Memoriam Members** Laura Lynn Porter



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 ___

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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: _____