



Volume 49 Issue 4 March-April 2022 SBBS Newsletter Established 1974

April SBBS ZOOM Meeting To Be Announced Sunday, May 3rd, 2 PM SBBS Meeting to be Held Outside

Dear SBBS Members, Friends & Sponsors,

On Monday, March 21, the SBBS board discussed at their monthly meeting, if we thought there would be enough people interested in attending an in-person meeting in April. To find out, an e-mail was sent out that week asking everyone to respond to our survey. We asked each person if they would actually attend an in-person meeting in April, or if they would prefer to meet on ZOOM. More information about this is discussed in the "President's Notes" on page 4.



We found after looking at the results of the survey, **there are simply not enough people who want to meet, indoors and in-person on April 4th.** But, we have been able to reserve the **Kiwanis Club to meet OUTDOORS on SUNDAY, MAY 3RD at 2 PM,** which should appeal to a larger number of people according to our survey. More information on those meetings will be sent to you by e-mail and the next newsletter.

For April, and on some of the other dates, we will continue offering ZOOM presentations with speakers from outside of our local area. This decision to meet on ZOOM in April, was not determined until we had the results of the survey. We are still coordinating a ZOOM speaker for April, and we will let you know as soon as one is confirmed.

As you probably know, the board is operating with fewer members than before and we are each filling multiple roles. No one is able to focus their entire time and energy on reviewing and coordinating the speakers at this time. We have lists of potential, exciting speakers, but it requires time to review and work out the details for each presentation. If you are interested in helping us, please review on page 5 "Join the SBBS Board" and contact the SBBS President, Janet Ragonesi to let her know you are willing to step-up and fill this void on our club board.

Thank-you for your consideration,

The South Bay Bird Society Board Members

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

Bonnie Zimmerman of the Indonesian Parrot Project

“New Directions in Conservation: From Tribal to Government in Indonesia”

Sunday, March 6, 2022

By Diane Sivas



It’s been a long time since we’ve seen our friend **Bonnie Zimmerman, Director of the Indonesian Parrot Project**, so we were very happy to have her as our guest speaker at the March 6th meeting. Janet welcomed everyone to zoom and thanked Bonnie for joining us. She gave a brief introduction and then handed the meeting over to Bonnie.

(Bonnie gave an example of one tribe that asked for a manual typewriter, although she never knew why or if they even knew how to use it). The tribe was trapping and eating cockatoos because they had no money and didn’t have any way to feed their families.



Bonnie began by sharing her screen and telling us she would focus on **major changes that are being made to the way they approach conservation work in the field**—which involves working with endemic tribes and the local community. While they have always worked with the community, working with tribes is, as she said, “a whole new animal.” The government, although difficult to work with, has also made changes to the way they view conservation, and some of the changes have been good.



Indonesians are very spiritual. Hindu and Buddhism **temples in Java display statues and carvings of cockatoos** that are either featured alone or with different things that show them as spirit gods. Birds, specifically cockatoos, are very important to the Indonesian people.

Dealing with local tribes (many are former headhunters) has been one of the major challenges for Bonnie and the team. The tribes are isolated and **facing extinction, and numbers of cockatoos are decreasing due to the tribe’s trapping and illegal trade**. Sitting down and asking them what they need is a way to communicate and establish trust.



The **Huaulu tribe on Seram Island** is also starving and facing extinction. They only eat forest food and after having been in the same location for 20 years, the forest has been hunted out. Men and boys eat first and if anything is left, it goes to the women and girls. Bonnie and her team received an invitation to visit--which she said was “pretty amazing”--and they now have a relationship with the tribe. The tribe remained headhunters until the 1980’s when the government told them they could no longer do it. **Headhunting was eventually replaced by hunting cockatoos which coming-of-age boys would eat to heighten their manhood**. The red crest of the cockatoo is symbolic of the phallus. They were eventually told that **they could not kill cockatoos anymore because they were endangered**.



“Bonnie Zimmerman” continued on page 3)



A solution to this problem needed to be found. When visiting the village, Bonnie asked the tribe what they needed and how they could help. The answer was that they didn't need anything. So how were they going to convince tribes to stop

killing cockatoos? "Meetings, meetings, meetings" Bonnie told us. They first tried to get them to accept a cockatoo feather and let the bird go, but the tribe still wanted to eat them. The team then offered the tribe a bunch of molted feathers (gathered from cockatoos at the rescue center) and offered to help them by bringing in sustainable farming things and help them find ways to improve their water system. It took two years of visits, but the tribe finally agreed.



The team continued to work with the tribe by helping them improve their situation, and eventually got them to stop taking the birds. The tribe is only slightly better off now, and Bonnie lamented not only about the possibility of the birds becoming extinct, but also for the tribe because they have no other place to go. Although the tribe expressed some interest in eco-tourism, which could have helped, the village was not set up for such activity.



Bonnie stressed that such changes can be made using love, care and respect. You can make a difference. The government, on the other hand, has not been as easy, but they did decide in 2020 that they liked Bonnie's model of rescue and rehabilitation. They wanted to take the program and move it into other national parks and endemic parrot areas, so the birds could be released into the wild. Unfortunately, COVID hit and prevented any further travel, so Bonnie has been unable to return. She reported, however, that all activity and trapping has been slowed down due to COVID (maybe the only good thing to come from COVID!).



Bonnie Feeds a Hatchling Breakfast

The government has continued to pursue their interest in helping, and has ramped up rehabilitation and rescue centers throughout the archipelago.

The concern now is to monitor the situation and make sure that things are being done correctly. Bonnie doesn't know when she'll get back there, but is anxious to go whenever the time is right. Even though it took a long time and a lot of patience and understanding, things have finally started to turn around.



Cockatoos are being released into the wild.

She went on to tell stories and showed photos of birds being released. Many of them were very heartwarming, but offset by stories of Indonesians releasing their pet into the wild, thinking they were doing the right thing. She also showed pictures of the various rescue/rehabilitation centers throughout the country and described how the birds are transported to and from them.

What a wonderful way to spend our afternoon – with Bonnie!

If you'd like more information or wish to donate, the website is indonesian-parrot-project.org.

Thanks, Bonnie. We hope to be able to see you soon.



Thank you for helping to save us!

The President's Notes

By Janet Ragonesi

Greetings
SBBS MEMBERS,
SPONSORS AND FRIENDS,

Janet



I was saddened to learn of the devastating invasion of Ukraine by Russia. There are many Ukrainians living in my hometown of Winnipeg. Some of my close friends were of Ukrainian heritage.

I am reaching out to our membership to pray for an end to this war/invasion of the Ukraine country and its people.

SBBS will do what we can for animals by reaching out to different animals/vet organizations that are rescuing and saving the lives of Ukrainian animals. The club is donating to two of these animal rescue groups.



For myself, I will not allow "FEAR" to paralyze me from reaching out in my daily life!



For the people of Ukraine, the world's efforts will stop this horrific action by a man and his army who have gone too far! Russians are now questioning this action, as their husbands/sons/daughters, may not return home because their "leader" told them this was a peace-keeping force to save Ukraine.

**Keep fighting for
Ukrainian
freedom!**

**See page 7 to find out
how you can help.**



THANKS TO THE MARCH 6TH SPEAKER –
SBBS LONG-TIME FRIEND
BONNIE ZIMMERMAN



Bonnie Zimmerman gave the club a moving presentation in March about her involvement with the Indonesian Parrot Project. Bonnie serves as the project's president, scientific advisor and project leader. As project leader, she oversees the project's international affairs, public education and avian management. We heard updates on Bonnie's avian conservation efforts in saving the island's cockatoos and other parrots. It was a fantastic presentation! Please check out Diane's article on pages 2 and 3. SBBS has donated \$275 to the Indonesian Parrot Project to help continue their efforts.

AMAZON GIFT CARD WINNER

Gala Burkholder was the March meeting's Amazon gift card winner. She donated the amount of the gift card to go towards Bonnie's non-profit organization, "the Indonesian Parrot Project" to increase the club's donation from \$250 to \$275.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY ABOUT THE APRIL SBBS MEETING

Recently, the membership was asked whether or not they would attend an in-person SBBS meeting on April 4th, or would prefer a ZOOM meeting. From the responses that we received, there was only a SMALL NUMBER of members, who said they WOULD attend an in-person, indoors meeting on that date.

The feedback about meeting or not meeting, and the suggestions on how we might move forward were helpful. Of course, there was consideration for the health of everyone, in spite of the fact we missed seeing each other.

The board held a special meeting to discuss the results of the survey and the feedback. We plan to implement some of the suggestions. We decided to hold a ZOOM in April (TBA), and an outdoor, in-person meeting on Sunday, May 3rd at 2 PM. Several people said they liked the ZOOM meetings due to the ease and wide variety of speakers available. Thank you to everyone who gave us their thoughts on the way we plan to meet in the near future.

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

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

☆ [APRIL MEETING—ZOOM \(TBA\).](#)

☆ [MAY 3rd, 2 PM MEETING- OUTDOORS & IN-PERSON](#)

JOIN THE SBBS BOARD!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A PROGRAM DIRECTOR

This board position is vital in keeping our club meetings interesting and educational as it relates to birds. The job includes seeking and reviewing possible speakers for future SBBS meetings. We have contacts to share and other resources to help a new program director find future presenters to recommend to the club board members.

After possible speakers are agreed upon, the program director will contact the potential presenters to work out the logistics and coordinate meeting dates. Our SBBS meetings are generally held on a Sunday afternoon or Monday evening during the first two weeks of the month. The date chosen depends upon the speaker's availability, time zone differences and other scheduling considerations.

The program director will coordinate in getting a short bio and photo of the speaker for an upcoming newsletter. They would be submitted to Gala Burkholder, the newsletter editor, to promote the speaker's presentation.

The club strives to bring in a variety of new speakers to keep the information fresh, as well as draw from some previous, well-enjoyed presenters. Potential speakers can be chosen because of their topic or area of expertise. Other speakers might oversee a bird rescue, bird sanctuary or support a cause to improve the welfare of birds. Occasionally, we include speakers to share photos of their travel excursions, which include seeing birds in the wild.

While SBBS is meeting on ZOOM, the choice of speakers can be from different parts of the country and world. The program director will coordinate with David Benjamin, our ZOOM host, to connect the speaker with him to help insure the presentation will run smoothly. When we resume meeting in person, the speakers are drawn from the surrounding Southern California area.

If you're interested in helping SBBS with this important position, please contact Janet Ragonesi – ragonesi@att.net or call (310) 376-5954 for more details.

LOOKING AHEAD:

When we are able to once again meet in person, inside or outside, SBBS will need help in other ways besides "Program Director."

- The club will need to fill the **Technical Support Director** to help in bringing and setting up the sound equipment, computer cables and projector when needed. No experience is necessary. You will be shown how to set –up and operate everything for the meetings.
- In addition, we will need a **"Raffle Table Coordinator"** to secure the raffle items, store them at our storage container, bring the items to the meetings and set up the raffle table. This person is oversees the selling the raffle tickets.

Please contact SBBS President, Janet Ragonesi if you are willing to help.

Please Step-up!



SBBS member, Donna Crossley, brought a stuffed animal, as a stand-in for her macaw named Jasper, with Easter goodies to a meeting when Exotic Newcastle disease kept our feathered family members at home.

("President's Notes" continued on page 46)

(“President’s Notes” continued from page 5)



RSVP

OPTIONAL

MEET-UP RSVP FOR SBBS MEETINGS

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

LOVE OUR SPONSORS

During the past two years, most of our sponsors have stayed open, so you and your feathered children could have the things and services you needed. Food, grooming, boarding, veterinary care and supplies have been available to you. They follow CDC guidelines to help keep us all safe and healthy.

Please thank our sponsors for their support to our club by using their goods and services.



JANET’S FLOCK UPDATE

My flock is doing well. I have several birds that will be getting their yearly “senior wellness bird checks” during March and April. As my flock is aging, I am working on a greater variety of fresh foods and pellets. My male Eclectus is overweight and has liver disease. With my focus on fresh and pelleted foods, with very little seed, he is losing weight. Scarlet, my female Eclectus, and Joey, the male share the same cage and menu! Check out the picture of these two darlings!

Send the whole world light.

Imagine holding the earth in the palm of your hand, surrounding it with brilliant, golden light.

Visualize the light infusing the entire planet and every being upon it with peace, love, and well-being.



From The Little Book of Light
By: Mikaela Katherine Jones

CHEERS,
SBBS President,
Janet Ragonesi
& Her Flock



Scarlet & Joey

WE SUPPORT OUR UKRAINIAN ANIMAL FRIENDS



You can help too
by donating to one of these charities
who are helping the animals of Ukraine

Projekt Ptasia Edukacja: For Ukrainian Birds & Their Parents

Parrot owner and avian nurse, Ola Borwec, has set up this fundraising site with “Projekt Ptasia Edukacja” (Project Avian Education) to try to reach every **Ukrainian parrot parent** in need and do everything to help them. He meets refugees at the border to offer assistance to evacuate them and their birds and provides avian and other pet supplies to be taken into Ukraine. Click on the link to see what he and his volunteers are doing and to donate: <https://zrzutka.pl/en/tu6s7z>

The Polish Association for the Welfare of Exotic Birds

They are getting food and other supplies into Ukraine for the parrots still there. You can pay with Google Pay or credit card. Learn more and donate here: <https://zrzutka.pl/en/jaewep>

International Fund for Animal Welfare (SBBS Donated towards this animal charity)

Emergency and evacuation aid for Ukrainian animal shelters, zoos, wildlife sanctuaries and aid to those animals that cannot be moved. <https://www.ifaw.org/news/emergency-aid-ukraine>

Network for Animals (SBBS Donated towards this animal charity)

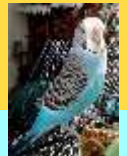
Emergency aid and evacuation aid for Ukrainian animals. They are raising money for a veterinary ambulance to evacuate animals; primarily dogs and cats. <https://networkforanimals.org/>

Warriors of Wildlife in Ukraine, South Africa, UK

Masha, the bear that was rescued in 2018, is to be relocated to Romania to AMP Liberty Bear Sanctuary. They need funds to buy supplies, pet food, blankets, and clothes which will be distributed to the Ukrainian people when they enter from Romania to relocate Masha to Romania. <https://www.warriorsofwildlife.org/donations/>

Mykolaiv Zoo in Southern Ukraine, <https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/ukraine-zoo-help-donations>

The struggling zoo, which has been shut down, is asking the public to donate by buying tickets online. Use Google translate to switch to English. There are about 30 hryvnia to the dollar, so a 100 hryvnia ticket is only \$3.41. When you enter your email, they'll send a verification code. Important – leave the phone number blank!! You can make up a date of birth. You can pay with Google Pay or credit card. https://widget.kontramarka.ua/uk/widget353site12031/widget/index?fbclid=IwAR2w1FEj_JGWJW-nusOsgJRxPyWzBXIkOPNuisKir3UNmNpEESfvPU5HRTw



OTHER AVIAN—RELATED ZOOMS/MEETINGS/BIRD WALKS



Palos Verdes/South Bay
AUDUBON SOCIETY
ON ZOOM!

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



Next ZOOM Meeting is

April 19, 2022
with

JD Bergeron,
the CEO of the

International Bird Rescue on

“IBR at 50—

Rescuing Water Birds

Birding has returned with
RESERVATIONS,
limited capacity,
guidelines &
VACCINATIONS.



RESERVATION FORMS and Info
available at www.pvsb-audubon.org.

Contact the numbers below to know more.

***BIRD EXCURSIONS:**

Sun. April 3rd, 8-11 A.M.

Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park
with PV/SB Audubon leaders.
Starting point is at the parking lot near
the ranger station. Call (562) 896-3369 for
information and reservations.

Sat. March 26 & April 23, 9 A.M.:

(Bird Walk with Kids & Beginners):
Madrona Marsh with PV/SB Audubon
leader, Jazin Rios. Call (310) 782-
3989 for information.

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

West Los Angeles Bird Club



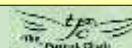
Tentatively Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM

Culver City American Legion Hall, 5209 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City

For more information and to confirm the meeting, go to:
www.westlabirdclub.com or call Doreen at (310) 488-9749.



The Connecticut Parrot Club



Tuesday, April 12 7 PM (ET), 4 PM (PT)

Join The Parrot Club and CT Parrot Society
for a joint meeting with a presentation by

Avian Veterinarian, Dr. Kristin Sinclair, about Avian Flu

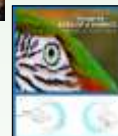
For information on an upcoming ZOOM or
to watch a previous ZOOM presentation, go to

www.cafabirdclub.org



You Can View YouTube Videos of Previous ZOOMS from
The Connecticut Parrot Club:

- The Brooklyn Parrots, Steve Baldwin
- A Virtual Tour of The Rhode Island Parrot Rescue
- Tables Communication and Play for Parrots, Jennifer Cunha
- Journey to Combine Art and Science Through Humor, Rosemary Mosco
- Through the Eyes of a Parrot, Dr. Graham Martin
- Caring for Elderly & Disabled Bird Companions, Dr. Kristin Sinclair



Lafeber Webinars are at 12 noon PT unless noted*

- **March 25 & April 29: “Ask the Vet: Q & A” (Questions about your bird’s health, nutrition, care or behavior problem) with Tom Tully, DVM, DABVP (Avian Practice), DECZM (Avian)**
- **April 1: “New Findings with the Grey Parrot Anatomy Project to Advance Veterinary Medicine” with Dr. M. Scott Echols DVM, DABVP, (Avian Practice)**
- **April 8 at: “Cardiovascular Disease in Pet Birds” (Part 2: Answering Questions From Part 1 with Dr. Stephanie Lamb**
- **April 22: “The Grey Way: Choosing Safe Toys For Your Bird” with Lisa Bono, CPBC**



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




OTHER AVIAN—RELATED ZOOMS/MEETINGS/NATURE WALKS

In Association with the PV/SB Audubon Chapter: Motmots' Birding Field Trip Adventures

- **Sunday, April 3rd, 8:30 a.m. Field trip to Prado Regional Park, Chino**
Meet at 8:30 am in the first parking lot after the kiosk (turn right at first right, essentially make a U-turn back along the road paralleling the entry road, park at the end). Good chance for Vermillion Flycatchers! Entry \$10. Park Information—<https://parks.sbcounty.gov/park/prado-regional-park/>
- **Wednesday, April 6th at 8:30 a.m. – Thursday, April 7 Birds and Blossoms tour!**
Carrizo Plain for birds and early spring wildflowers- should be wonderful if the rains keep up this year! Meet at filling station/restaurant at the intersection of **Highways 166 and 33** in **Maricopa** at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday. Thursday meeting place and time to be determined.
- **Saturday, April 16th, 8:00 a.m. Bird walk at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area**
Join LA Audubon's Chapter bird walk at the first parking lot on the left after the kiosk. Entry is \$7 per car, senior discount. <https://parks.lacounty.gov/kenneth-hahn-state-recreation-area/>
- **Sunday, April 24, 6:30 a.m. Field trip to Bear Divide**
A super special migrant location!! Meet at 6:30 (yes, a.m.!), layers recommended, it can be pretty chilly in the early morning. <https://www.beardivide.org/> for info, google maps location <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Bear+Divide+Vista+Picnic+Site/@34.3603184,-118.3958127,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x80c28e81d2652f0f:0x7fca30fdd5fbd5f8!8m2!3d34.360314!4d-118.393624>. When you get to the Bear Divide Picnic area, drive west to the parking area on the right before the road closure gate, if there is room.




For Information and Reservations: contact the Eric & Ann Brooks at (323) 295-6688 or text Ann at (310) 913-2798.



Phoenix Landing Foundation
Webinar

Saturday, April 9
10 AM-noon (PT) 1-3 PM (ET)

[The Macaw Recovery Network with Sarah de Groot](#)
To Register, go to:
www.phoenixlanding.org/




ZOOMS are on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7-8:30 PM, PT

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

Previous ZOOM include topics:

- “Nature: Urban Design”
- “Crows and Ravens”
- “We’ll Always Have Parrots” (In Los Angeles)
- “Our Need for Birds”



San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA LAND CONSERVANCY



NATURE WALK:
Saturday, April 9, 9:00 AM


WHERE:
[Linden H. Chandler Preserve](#)
[3011 Palos Verdes Dr. N. Rolling Hills. Park at the Empty Saddle Club, 39 Empty Saddle Road, RHE](#)

Experience this 28-acre nature preserve with native plants blooming in restored habitat to serve as home for the rare Palos Verdes blue butterfly. Moderate walk. Guides provided by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy.

For information and reservations:
call: (310) 541-7613 or email: info@pvplc.org.
The PVPLC website is www.pvplc.org

Palos Verdes Whale Of A Day 2022 Celebration!

Saturday, April 9, 10 AM - 4 PM
Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center, Rancho P.V.



This festival celebrates the **migration of the Pacific Gray Whale** from its summer feeding grounds in Alaska, to its winter breeding and calving grounds in Baja.

At the festival, there will be related marine exhibits, arts & crafts, games, marine themed vendors and organizations – all at no charge. This event has great live music and animal exhibits throughout the day. Some of the past participants have included the South Bay Wildlife Rehab (with their rescued hawks and raptors), The Aquarium of the Pacific, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Heal the Bay, Marine Mammal Care Center, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and the Calif. Native Plant Society. There will be food booths on location to buy snacks.

There is free parking and a shuttle to drive you to and from the event. Park at the Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall at 30940 Hawthorne Boulevard, Rancho Palos Verdes. For more info call (310) 544-5260 (Point Vicente Interpretive Center).



Q & A *By Karen, The Parrot Lady*



The answers to your questions are MY opinion based on nearly 50 years of experience. I donated my time to Avian and Exotic Animal Hospital, working with Doctors Roskopf 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 I was offered a Toco Toucan as a pet. Is this a good pet, and if so, what do I need to care for it?

A First of all, answer this for me: Are you planning on the Toucan being inside or outside? If outside, you need to speak to someone in the know about what a Toucan needs for protection from the elements, and that is not me.



If you are planning to have the bird in the house, **GOOD LUCK!** They are fruit eaters in a large part, and in a cage, they like to hang on the side of it and shoot poop (fermented, digested fruit) in any direction that looks like fun.

If hand-fed, they are adorable, and the only thing to be aware of is that our eyes look like grapes, and they love grapes!

Q My macaw broke a blood feather in his wing and I couldn't stop the bleeding. Is there a way to fix it?

A The feather needs to be removed and the vein will usually close off. Removing it is another story. You need a sturdy hand, and likely an assistant to hold the bird while you remove the feather. Needle nose pliers work well.

IMPORTANT: the feather needs to be pulled out exactly the same way it grows -- not twisted or bent. Hold the wing out, grip the feather with the needle nose pliers and pull quick and straight. Pinch the area off for at least a minute or two to stop any bleeding.

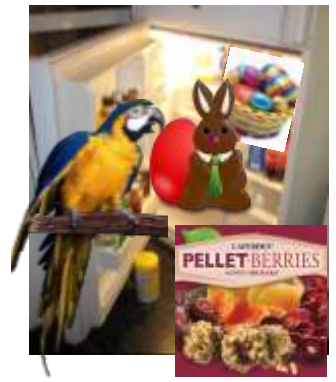
DO NOT DO THIS IF YOU ARE UNSURE. If you are uncomfortable, call an avian vet (in these times, most hospitals are slammed), so in a pinch, if you are in the area, call me. This does not take a brain surgeon, but a steady hand and a calm demeanor puts the bird at ease.



("Q & A" continued from page 18)

Q Easter is around the corner and we seem to have candy everywhere. My Amazon would tap dance for a piece of candy. He has the freedom of the house. Any ideas how to keep him out of the candy?

A Covered, sealed jars he has not been clever enough to open on his own would certainly help. He can have a treat of nuts, Nutra Berries, grapes, a baby carrot, a Ritz or Graham cracker (with or without peanut butter). Share eating time with the kids, then ALL the candy gets put away. Boxes and zip lock-type bags are out! He probably has not figured out how to open the fridge, so that will work, too.

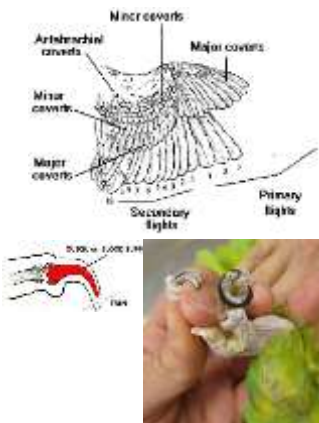


Q How often should I get my bird groomed?

A I received another question about grooming, so I will try to go into more detail than I did last month.

A great deal depends on the bird, his size and his rate of growth. I have birds that come to be groomed anywhere from every 4-12 weeks. A good guide is: large birds (Macaws, Amazons, Cockatoos) 4-6 weeks depending on the length and sharpness of the nails and beak; Conures and Cockatiels 6-8 weeks; Parakeets, Lovebirds, Pocket Parrots, etc. 8-12 weeks.

Some birds can go longer, some need it sooner. Just remember that everything grows faster in the heat. Some bird's nails will curl and beaks will grow way too long. A clipped bird's wings need to be kept even so that they are not off balance. A bird with sharp, long nails and beak suddenly becomes "Mr. Smarty Pants" and thinks he is in charge.



Q My bird sits in the window and my neighbor has taught him some dirty words. What can I do?

A Change the window the bird sits in. Do not bring attention to the words. Ignoring the behavior often helps. Saying "NO" or "Don't say that!" means he gets a rise out of you, and he will do it even more often. And as a last resort, SMACK THE NEIGHBOR! I am just kiddddddddddding!



Enjoy Passover on 4/15, Easter on 4/17, and whatever else might come along!

Stay safe and healthy.

Lots of Hugs,
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



WINGED NEWS & MORE

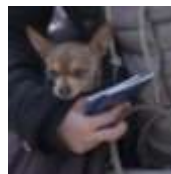
Ukrainian animals flee



If possible, Ukrainian pets are evacuated

Birds flee with their owners

Treating our pets as family, is universal.
And families are a top priority.



Learn More & donate to:



See page 7 for info.

<https://zrzutka.pl/en/jaewep>

The Polish Association for the Welfare of Exotic Birds



See how you can help on page 7




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See page 7 for more information. OLA BOBOWIEC, AVIAN NURSE AND CERTIFIED ZOO/PSYCHOLOGIST, CREATOR OF PROJEKT PTASIA EDUKACJA

Click on the link above.

("Winged News and More" continued on page 13)

("Winged News" continued from page 12)

WINGED NEWS & MORE

Ukrainian Bird
trapped in Kyiv



Sergii and Roxy

A Ukrainian Survivor and His Beloved Cockatoo's Story

Sergii and Roxy, his Moluccan cockatoo, are in Kyiv trying to survive the invasion of Ukraine. They are suffering the horrors of war and just trying to survive day to day.... trapped like so many of Ukraine's beautiful people.

This is their story....

On February 24 at 1:43pm, members of a **Facebook group for cockatoo lovers** awoke to an alarming message from fellow member, Sergii Antonov. Many were as shocked as me to find out that one of "our own" lived in Kyiv, Ukraine. I had to stare at the message for a bit to fully grasp what I was seeing. Sergii and his Moluccan cockatoo, Roxy, were in a bomb shelter together. I had just watched the beginnings of the horrible Russian invasion into the Ukraine on TV the night before with tears in my eyes along with everyone else in the world. Surely this man is not speaking from the depths of a bomb shelter! But he was and this suddenly became very real to all of us. This was not some video footage I was seeing of someone I didn't know in a land far, far away. This was happening live right before us. **And so the many loving members in the group, comprised of people from around the world, were quick to come to his and Roxy's aid with advice and comfort.**

These are his messages that all began with a post that didn't lead off with a photo of himself, nor of him with his cockatoo. It was just of **his exotic bird, Princess Roxy; the fragile soul was who he cared about most.** This spoke volumes to us. The Ukrainian people have inspired the world not just with their patriotism, resolve and fight. But with their humanity along with so many other attributes, including kindness and devotion to the innocents of the war: their pets and other animals living there. And here before me was a living example one of the peoples' virtues. **We were not all speaking with just a survivor of war, but with one of the many admirable citizens that were sacrificing so much for each other and their pets.**



You can go on his site listed below and read the daily updates from Sergii Antonov about he and his cockatoo, Roxy surviving the conditions as a result of the invasion of Ukraine. The reports of the support and prayers from his fellow cockatoo owners and others are heartwarming and a message to us all to stick-together. People have delivered them needed food and supplies. It goes to show our common humanity and our love of our pets, including for our feathered family.

Sergii and Roxy's Site: [\[https://sergiandroxy.wixsite.com/home\]](https://sergiandroxy.wixsite.com/home)

A Clever Cockatoo Named Figaro Plays “Golf” for a Tasty Reward

New findings could shed light on how humans evolved ability to design and use tools.

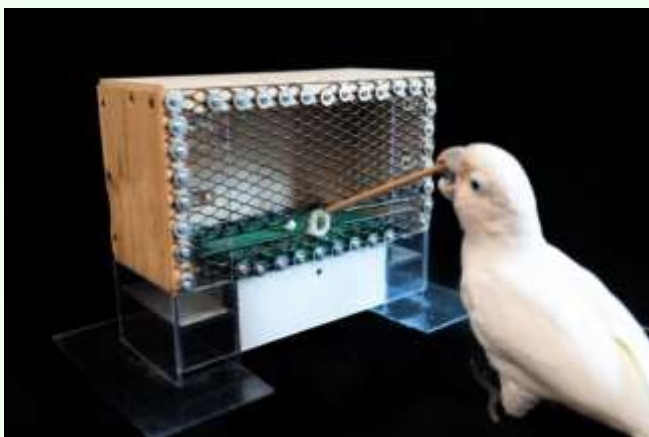
Jennifer Ouellette - 2/9/2022, 10:24 AM

Several years ago, we introduced *Ars* readers to Figaro, a precocious male [Goffin's cockatoo](#) kept in captivity and cared for by scientists in the “Goffin lab” at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna. **Figaro showed a surprising ability to manipulate single tools to maneuver a tasty nut out of a box. Other cockatoos who repeatedly watched Figaro's performance were also able to do so. Now, Figaro and his cockatoo cronies are back, having learned how to combine tools—in this case, a stick and a ball—to play a rudimentary form of “golf,” according to a [new paper](#) published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.**

As *Ars*' Science Editor John Timmer [explained in 2012](#), tool use was once thought to be one of the defining features of humans, but examples of it were eventually observed in **primates and other mammals. Then birds were observed using tools in the wild**, although this **behavior was limited to corvids (crows and jays). Parrots**, by contrast, have mostly been noted for their linguistic skills, and there **has only been limited evidence that they use anything resembling a tool in the wild.** Primarily, they seem to **use external objects to position nuts while feeding.**

Then along came Figaro. Figaro was playing with a stone one day in the Goffin Lab at the University of Vienna's Department of Cognitive Biology, led by Alice Auersperg. He accidentally dropped the stone behind a metal divider.

The wily bird couldn't retrieve it using just his claw, so he found a piece of bamboo and tried to use it to push the stone to within reach. He failed, but the researchers were sufficiently intrigued that they decided to test Figaro by placing a delicious nut on the other side of the metal screen.

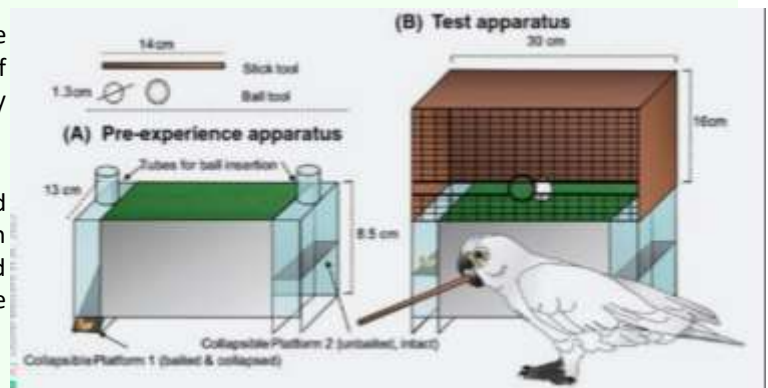


A stick retrieved from the floor was too short to retrieve the nut, so Figaro splintered off a longer piece of wood from the enclosure's wooden base. This time, he succeeded in pulling the nut close enough that he could use his beak to grab it. In subsequent trials, **Figaro used different types of tools—modifying some of them—to successfully retrieve the nut.**

The [researchers concluded](#) that **tool use is within the cognitive capacity of this species, even though the birds have never been observed using tools in the wild.** They argued that although we tend to think of tool use as a distinctive mental capacity, it might be more accurate to consider it as a possible outcome of having some minimum level of what the researchers call “**physical intelligence.**” Goffin's cockatoos don't normally exercise this capacity, but under the right circumstances, it can be uncovered.

[Two years later](#), the same team was back [with fresh insights](#): **other male cockatoos who watched Figaro's innovative use of tools to retrieve a nut began to catch on and exhibit similar behavior.** They didn't exactly mimic Figaro's approach—he tended to rake the food closer, while the others used the stick as a lever to flick the food to the edge of the cage—but they definitely began to obtain the treat.

Sometimes the birds would lose a tool, leaving it out of reach inside the cage. In that case, they'd reach for another tool but wouldn't use it to retrieve the food—instead, they'd retrieve the first tool, then use that to get the food. One individual went three layers deep into this sort of recursion.



Basic apparatuses used in the new study: (A) Pre-experience apparatus with two insertion tubes; (B) Test Apparatus with frontal grid, lateral slits, and the central insertion hole.

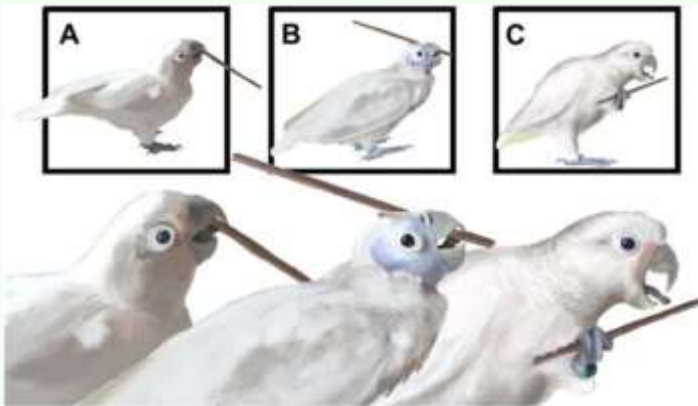
In subsequent experiments, one of the **other males spontaneously started making tools by pulling splinters off the block of wood after just a few sessions.** The third only needed to see Figaro perform a single tool manufacturing demo before he also picked up the habit. The results suggested that **learning tool creation is much easier than learning tool use**, at least once the utility of a tool had been demonstrated.

(“Clever Cockatoo” continued on page 15)

("Clever Cockatoo" continued from page 14)

This was followed by [a 2020 study](#) comparing the captive-bred cockatoos' problem-solving abilities with those of wild birds caught in Tanimbar. The birds were presented with a series of 20 different tasks they could choose to complete in exchange for a nut reward. While the wild birds were less likely to participate in the tasks, those that did were able to solve the problems at the same rate as the captive birds.

Other experiments have shown that the **cockatoos are capable of a measure of self-control and delaying gratification**. This is evidenced by **their ability to resist the temptation to eat a pecan nut for as long as 80 seconds in exchange for a tastier cashew reward**, in a bird-centric version of the famous [Stanford Marshmallow experiment](#).



The Goffin Lab scientists next decided to see if Figaro and his fellow cockatoos could "level up" their problem-solving and tool-using skills. **The ability to use compound tools (like a stick and a ball) is the essence of human recreational games like hockey, cricket, baseball, and golf.**

So the latest version of the experiment essentially created a cockatoo version of "golf." This time, the birds had to manipulate a small ball through a hole in the closed box and then use a stick to push the ball to one side of the box. This triggered a trapdoor mechanism, releasing a yummy cashew nut as a reward. **Completing the task required combining tools (the ball and the stick)—a cognitive ability mostly observed in primates to date.**

Figaro and two other cockatoos successfully solved the problem, thereby demonstrating their **capacity for tool innovation**. "One of the most amazing aspects of the process was to observe how these animals **each invented their own individual technique in how to grip the stick and hit the ball**, sometimes **with astonishing dexterity**," [said co-author Antonio Osuna-Mascaró](#) of the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna. "One of the birds operated the stick while holding it between the mandibles, one between the beak tip and tongue, and one with his claw, similar to a primate."



Co-author Antonio Jose Osuna Mascaro with two of the Goffin's cockatoos used in the new study.

The Goffin Lab's research efforts are part of a wider interdisciplinary project that aims to **compare the innovation and problem-solving skills of cockatoos with human children**. **How the cockatoos are using spatial relationships with regard to tool innovation is of particular interest, hopefully yielding insight into the evolution of technology.**

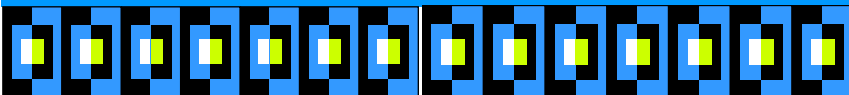


A Goffin's Cockatoo creates a tool by pulling off a twig from a tree branch.

"Although children are very good at using tools and technology in their lives (think spoons and iPads), **our research has shown that young children often find it hard to invent novel solutions to problems involving tool use**," [said co-author Sarah Beck](#) of the University of Birmingham. "In fact, **children under eight can really struggle to solve problems that cockatoos can master**. So while this study is the **first to show that cockatoos can coordinate tools to solve a problem**, it also feeds into our ongoing work with children. Tempting as it might be [to speculate], it's **not simply a question of who is the cleverest: children or cockatoos**. **Instead, comparing such different species helps us understand how humans and some other species develop impressive technological skills.**"

University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna/Zenger





SBBS Welcomes New & Returning Members



RETURNING MEMBERS: **Frank Miser**

LIFETIME MEMBERS: **Cary & Anita Pao, Karen Allen, Perry Ellwood, Donna Crossley, Dr. Walter Rosskopf, 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: **65**

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. 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 or call (310) 316-9843 (home) or (310) 418-9096 (cell).



Patte

THE SOUTH BAY BIRD SOCIETY IS OUR LOCAL FLOCK.



THE SOUTH BAY BIRD SOCIETY

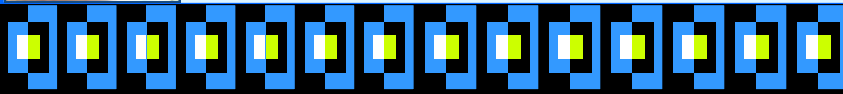
Is a Public Benefit Corporation and a qualified tax-exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501 (C) (3).

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.



Will this light blue Parrotlet be chosen for this year's "Cadbury's Bunny" to promote their crème egg candies ?



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 N95, KN95 or KF94 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. Consider getting vaccinated.



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

- ☀ 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.



Kahlia & Gala

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

The deadline for the next newsletter is *Wednesday, April 13th.*



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	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



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Webinars Listed on page 8!

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South Bay Bird Society members receive a 10% discount at 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, 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 P.M.

* 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
- Vice President, CFO** Diane Sivas, (310) 937-9925
- Vice President** Karen Allen, birdsnmor@aol.com
- DIRECTORS:**
- Communications** Gala Burkholder
(gidgetscal@aol.com)
- Community Outreach** **OPEN**
- Education** Karen Allen, birdsnmor@aol.com
- Meeting Tech Support** **OPEN**
- Membership** Patte Fisher, pattefisher@verizon.net,
(310) 316-9843 or cell: (310) 418-9096
- Newsletter & Flyers** Gala Burkholder
(text (310) 345-0278)
- Press/Media** Gala Burkholder
(gidgetscal@aol.com)
- Programs** **OPEN**
- Raffle & Sponsors** Janet Ragonesi, Patte Fisher
- Secretary** Diane Sivas, (310) 937-9925

SUPPORT POSITIONS:

- Adoptions & Foster Care** Janet Ragonesi, (310) 376-5954
Marie Calleja, (310) 529-1408
- Cartoons** June Baker, Marie Calleja
- "Meet-up" Site** David Benjamin
- Photography** Gala Burkholder, Marie Calleja
- Proofreaders** Sylvia Skidmore, Marie Calleja,
June Baker, Patte Fisher
- Website Coordinator** ACTING—David Benjamin
(Davidsbbsr@dbenjamin.com)
- Website Maintenance** Harold Buchman
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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.



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: _____