



Volume 50 Issue 2 Jan.—Feb. 2023 SBBS Newsletter Established 1974



## Ways to Help the Parrot You Love When It Develops or Has a Special Need



Presented by: Sylvia Skidmore

Monday, February 6th at 7 PM

Hybrid Meeting at Hermosa Kiwanis Building

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Sylvia was given a gorgeous, but crooked, baby Congo African Grey over 25 years ago. His name is Winkie, and he started her love of the “less-than-perfect” parrots. She had 16 of them for many years, and they were her teachers. Some of them she adopted as youngsters, some as adults and some in their “senior years” who spent their golden years with her before crossing the Rainbow Bridge.

Sylvia brought them to the America’s Family Pet Expo every year for more than 20 years to show folks that birds with serious injuries, medical conditions, and just getting older didn’t need to be put down simply because they weren’t perfect. She found ways to work with their special needs that allowed them to thrive.

She will bring some of her special friends, along with cage set-ups, and tips for living with your birds as they age, or perhaps have medical conditions that require special handling.

Sylvia is a long-time SBBS member who will be sharing her expertise in helping her parrots live more comfortable, happy and productive lives, no matter their medical conditions. Even the healthiest of our parrots can face age-related challenges.

This hybrid meeting will be held in person and on ZOOM. A ZOOM link will be sent to you just prior to the meeting or you can RSVP on “Meet-up at: ”<https://www.meetup.com/Redondo-Beach-Birds-Meetup/events/>. See pages 2 and 3 for more information about this and other upcoming SBBS meetings.

**The meeting will be held at the Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club Building**

2515 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90245 (near the corner of Gould & Valley Dr.)

For more information, contact Janet Ragonesi at (310)379-5954 or at [ragonesi@att.net](mailto:ragonesi@att.net) or go on: [www.sobaybirdsoc.com](http://www.sobaybirdsoc.com)

## The President's Notes *By Janet Ragonesi*

Greetings  
SBBS MEMBERS,  
SPONSORS AND FRIENDS,

### SPRING IS IN THE AIR

We are halfway through the WINTER season. With SPRING on the way our birds will soon be feeling their natural instincts in searching for a nesting spot or pairing up with one or two in your flock. I am not a breeder, yet my birds have already paired up, with some sharing a cage and some that do not. Have you been noticing any mating behaviors in your parrots recently? Are any of your birds searching for areas in your home to make a nest or substitute for a tree cavity for laying eggs? Are your



kitchen baseboards a target for wood shredding? I'm sure our "Parrot Lady," Karen Allen would welcome your questions to address these behaviors in your birds and some of the ways to meet this challenge of a hormonal bird in next month's newsletter.

### UPCOMING HYBRID SBBS MEETINGS

I am thrilled we will be holding our first three SBBS meetings of 2023 in a hybrid format. **They will each be offered in-person and on ZOOM.** We have three exciting speakers already booked February through April who will be making presentations to us at the Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club. Individually wrapped snacks and beverages will be provided in place of holding a pot luck dinner. So, please hold off on bringing food at this time. As always, a raffle will round out each meeting. We would like to have a full house in attendance for each of our first three SBBS meetings of the year!

Janet



MONDAY, FEBRUARY  
6, 7 PM, SYLVIA  
SKIDMORE  
TO SHOW US WAYS  
"TO LOVE OUR BIRDS AS  
THEY AGE OR IF THEY  
HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS"



On Monday evening, February 6, SBBS member, Sylvia Skidmore, will share her many years of experience living with parrots with special needs. The topic is **"Ways to Help the Parrot You Love When it Develops or Has Special Needs."**

With Valentine's Day in February, this month is a time we think about those we love, and our birds are no exception. Parrots can face many of the same kind of health challenges as humans. As a bird owner who loves their feathered family, you want to be able to adjust their care to make their lives more comfortable, productive and happy as they age. Sylvia has exhibited at the America's Family Pet Expo for many years, sharing her unique insight on this care with the public. She will demonstrate successful ways to address your birds with special needs.

Several members may even want to share ways they have shown their love of birds by making adjustments to make their lives more pleasant. Be sure to see page 1 for more information on this unique presentation.

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 7 PM,  
BOB SHANMAN WILL SHARE  
HIS SAFARI ADVENTURES



At our Monday evening, March 6 meeting, we are delighted to have Bob Shanman from WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED to speak to the SBBS. Last August, Bob, his family and friends were fortunate to travel to Africa with stops in Cape Town, South Africa; Botswana and Zimbabwe. Bob will share with us his experience on safari to see a variety of animals in the wild. His presentations are always entertaining and I look forward to seeing some highlights of his adventures.

*("President's Notes" continued on page 3)*

*("President's Notes" continued from page 2)*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2,**  
**JULIE SCARDINA**  
**WILL TRAVEL FROM**  
**SAN DIEGO TO SHARE**  
**HER WILDLIFE TRAVELS**



Board member, Karen Allen, has been in contact with Sea World's former Head Trainer and Ambassador, Julie Scardina. Julie has agreed to travel from San Diego to speak with us in person on Sunday afternoon, April 2. She is always delightful and charming, whether it be on a TV show with Jack Hannah, or talking to us at a previous SBBS meeting. More information about her presentation will be in an upcoming newsletter. Be sure to reserve that date in your calendar to see Julie Scardina on Sunday, April 2.

**OPTIONAL RSVP**

**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.

**WE SHARE OUR LOVE OF BIRDS**

The SBBS encourage all bird lovers to support the clubs and activities that share your love of birds. Whether the meetings are on ZOOM or in-person, participate in our local sister clubs—West LA Bird Club, Long Beach and Orange County Bird Breeders, as well as SBBS.



**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023**

Now is the time to start off the new year by renewing your membership. You can renew and pay your membership online at [www.sobaybirdsoc.com](http://www.sobaybirdsoc.com) or use the application form at the end of this newsletter and mail it to the address listed on the last page or pay in person at the meeting.



**PLEASE SHOP OUR SPONSORS**

Our sponsors have remained open and made safety accommodations for us during the past two and a half years. They have continued to make donations to SBBS for our raffles and to our annual auction. Please give them your business, whether it be for a bird product, grooming or veterinarian service.



**"It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird:**

it would be a jolly site harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg.

We are like eggs at present.

And you cannot go indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg.

**We must be hatched or go bad."**

~ C. S. Lewis



See you February 6th!

From my flock to yours

Cheers,

Janet Ragonesi,  
SBBS President

**UPDATES:**

**AVIAN FLU IS STILL IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

This highly infectious bird influenza continues to be found in Southern California. *More information about Avian Influenza can be found below.* Please follow the precautions listed with your own flock and with the wild birds to help keep them safe.



**Prevention Measures to Stop the Spread of Avian Influenza:**

- In general, bird feeders & bird baths should be cleaned and disinfected at least once a week. Once HPAI is in your area, these should be taken down until the crisis has passed.
- Keep pet birds indoors and away from other domestic or wild birds.
- If you might be handling sick birds or other wildlife, wear appropriate protection.
- Disinfect surfaces that have come in contact with birds or sick wildlife.
- Practice bio-security by removing your shoes after walking outside and before entering your home with companion parrots. (Have inside shoes available to put on by the door).
- Depopulation is NOT required for exhibit flocks with HPAI-infected birds. However, if HPAI is suspected in your birds, you will need to follow quarantine requirements and use proper biosecurity to prevent the disease from spreading.



**Report sick or dead birds to:**

The L.A. County of Veterinary Public Health, Animal Disease (VPH) by calling: 213-288-7060 or by using the short report form at: <https://admin.publichealth.lacounty.gov/phcommon/public/adss/aossaddshortform.csm?>



**Valentine's Day and Birds**

It turns out the Valentine's Day holiday dates pretty far back and has been celebrated on or around February 14 since its inception.

The story begins with some unknown medieval birdwatchers, likely in France, who reckoned that birds begin mating in mid-February. They decided to give this a precise date of February 14. Whether birds really started mating that early in the season is up for debate. The holiday stuck nonetheless.

## I Am Sorry For The Lack Of Entries...

**Disturbing News!** January 24, 2023

My name is Rebecca Stout. [I created this place for Sergii and Roxy to give them a voice, share updates, and document his experiences in Kyiv during the Ukraine War.](#) He, for the most part, hasn't had time to do keep this blog himself as you can well imagine. So, I do my best here for him.

The late fall and early winter has been difficult for those in the Ukraine due to their cold, cold winters. Often times places loose power from the bombings. I can tell you Sergii has been doing his best to live his life, help others, and to get out of that country during this time. That is why the lack of updates.

Today, he released a very disturbing statement to the Cockatoo group on Facebook. It's very vague. He obviously typed it in a huge rush, but he seemed anxious to just share his grief right now with those that understand his love and bond to Roxy. Before I share that, I do want you to know Roxy is alive. Where she is, her condition and the future is unknown.

*"Happiness doesn't live here anymore ... Today is the worst day of my life"*

**Sergii Is Free... Roxy Is Not!** January 25, 2023

Dear Friends,

I managed to leave Ukraine. I'm now on the train and heading to my homeland in the Czech Republic. Very bad connection. I'll tell you everything later. Many thanks to all of you for prayers and support! Still need to save Roxy. She stayed in Kiev and suffers very much.

**Across The Border Without Roxy** January 26, 2023

Sergii is in Brno Czech Republic and safe. He is looking into all options to rescue Roxy & reunite with her. It will be very difficult even after the fact as hotels and places will not accept her...

**Roxy In Safe Hands... ROXY Saved!** January 29, 2023

Dear Friends,

I've just been given information that my father and friends have adopted Roxy from a shelter. She is in a cage in my apartment in Kyiv. She was very hungry and immediately got a banana. Later I will give more details. Please let everyone know and thank everyone who supported us. Best wishes, Sergii & Roxy

**Thank You** January 30, 2023

Dear Friends,

You have performed a miracle again. I just can't believe that ordinary people from all over the world reacted and supported us so quickly and sharply. I am very grateful to all of you. I will especially note those who, for our sake, even refused to participate in one .... group.

The most important thing for today is that we are all united. Roxy is safe and we are not lost, but even become even closer. The most important for me is to save this peach angel. I hope that the last chapter of my book will have a happy ending. We will reunite with her in a beautiful and safe place.

*"I think that this story should teach each of us to take responsibility for our pets and develop our best qualities.*

We'll be in touch and waiting for Roxy. XoXo

## 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...

You can go on the site:



<https://sergiandroxy.wixsite.com> to see updates).



**Keep Sergii & Roxy in your thoughts & prayers. We are so fortunate to have our feathered friends with us in peace.**

OTHER AVIAN—RELATED ZOOMS/MEETINGS/BIRD WALKS

Palos Verdes/  
South Bay  
AUDUBON  
SOCIETY



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

The Next ZOOM/Hybrid/  
In-Person Meeting is:

February 21, 2022

“Restoration on the  
Esplanade”



Presented  
by:



Jim Light &  
Jim Montgomery  
of the South Bay Parkland  
Conservancy

Madrona Marsh Nature Center  
3201 Plaza del Amo, Torrance

BIRD EXCURSIONS:

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



RESERVATION FORMS and info are  
available at: [www.pvsb-audubon.org](http://www.pvsb-audubon.org).

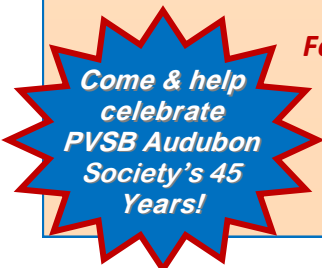
Sat. Feb. 25, 9 A.M.

Birding for Kids at Madrona Marsh  
with PV/SB leader, Jazmín Ríos.

Sun. Feb. 5, 8 A.M.

Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park  
with PV/SB Audubon leaders. Meet in  
the parking lot between Vermont and  
Anaheim above the ranger station.

Motmots' Birding Field Trip Adventures  
See information on the top of pg. 11.



*For Information, go  
to:  
[www.pvsb-audubon.org](http://www.pvsb-audubon.org)*

West Los Angeles Bird Club  
Wed., Feb. 8th at 7:00 PM



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

**For more information, go to:**

[www.westlabirdclub.com](http://www.westlabirdclub.com) or call Doreen at (310) 488-9749.

The Connecticut Parrot Club



Tue., February 7th, 4 PM (PT):  
Dr. Kristin Sinclair on “Avian Necropsy”

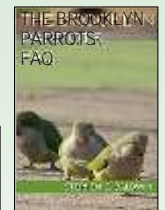


**For information on an upcoming ZOOM or  
to watch a previous ZOOM presentation,  
go to: [www.theparrotclub.org](http://www.theparrotclub.org)**



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

- **Rescuing, Rehabbing & Rehoming Pigeons and Doves**, Elizabeth Young
- **Rewilding the Caribbean**, Fabio Tarazona
- **Avian Flu**, Dr. Kristin Sinclair, YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/OfCsl4g35cs> (Over 1,000 views)!
- **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 in February

You can see a previous webinar by going to:

<https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/category/webinar/>

- **February 10, 11 AM ET, “Feather Disorders in Pet Birds” with Dr. Stephanie Lamb, DVM, DABVP (Avian Practice)**
- **February 17, 12 noon ET, “The Grey Way—Why Understanding Instinct is the Key” with Lisa Bono, CPBC**
- **February 24, 12 noon ET, “Ask the Vet: Q & A” (Ask questions about your bird’s health, nutrition, care or behavior problems) with Tom Tully, DVM, DABVP (Avian Practice), DECZM (Avian)**



**OTHER AVIAN—RELATED ZOOMS/MEETINGS/NATURE WALKS**

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

**Full COVID vaccinations are required** for PV/SB Audubon field trips, **masks are recommended** and the group is **limited to 12**. Call our home number **before** each field trip **to check for updates & to let us know you are joining us**.



**For Information, Details and Reservations:**  
**Contact Eric & Ann Brooks at (323) 295-6688 or**  
**text Ann at (310) 913-2798 or email: motmots@aol.com**



**Tue.-Thur., Feb. 7-9: Field Trip to the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Carizzo Plain**  
 Meet Tuesday at 3 PM at the parking lot of the Pixley Wildlife Refuge to watch Sandhill Cranes come to roost. Contact the Brooks for details regarding Wed. and Thurs. RSVP

**Sun., Feb. 12, 8:30 am: Field Trip to San Jacinto Wildlife Refuge Riverside** Meet at the headquarters to see ducks & hawks. A CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife pass required. RSVP

**Sat., Feb. 18, 8 am: Join LA Audubon for a Bird Count at Kenneth Hahn Park.** Meet in the Olympic Forest parking area (first left after kiosk) \$7/car, seniors \$5/car. RSVP

**Sun., Feb. 26: Field Trip to Yorba Regional Park in (north) Anaheim** RSVP



**WINTER RESTORATION PROJECT**

**ESPLANADE BLUFF REDONDO BEACH**  
**Feb. 11 & 25, RSVP**

**www.southbayparks.org**

**See a presentation on the "Restoration on the Esplanade" by Jim Light & Jim Montgomery on 2/21, 7 PM at Madrona Marsh, PVSB Audubon. See pg. 10 & 14 for info.**

**NATURE WALK at Wilderness Park**

**Sunday, Feb 26**

**10-11 am: Grades 2-5th**

**11:15-12: All Ages**

**For info go to:**

**www.southbayparks.org**

**Phoenix Landing Foundation Webinar**



**Saturday, February 11**  
**10 AM-noon (PT) 1-3 PM (ET)**



**"Wounds, Ouch! What to do When a Bird is Hurt" with Tammy Parker CPBT-KA and CPBC**

Hear about the science of behavior and learn how we can apply those concepts to our birds. Debbie will talk about how and what to train, and help us understand the connection between what we do and our bird's behavior.

**To Register or see a previous webinar, go to: www.phoenixlanding.org/events.html**

ZOOMS are on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7PM

**Thursday, February 23, 2023, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Speaker: Morgan Tingley, Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability UCLA**  
**"The Effects of Fire on CA Birds"**

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

**Previous ZOOM include topics:**

- "The How and Why of Colorful Feathers of Tanagers"
- "A Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds"
- "Crows and Ravens"



**San Fernando Valley Audubon Society**

**PALOS VERDES PENINSULA LAND CONSERVANCY**



**GUIDED NATURE WALK:**  
**Sat., Feb. 4 10:30 AM**

**WHERE:**

**George F. Canyon**  
**27305 Palos Verdes Dr. East**  
**Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274**

Naturalists will guide you along a trail through the preserve to discover a unique variety of wildlife in their canyon habitat with amazing views of the LA Basin. Meet on the back patio of the Nature Center and come inside to explore after the hike. Moderate walk. Guides provided by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. RSVP



**GUIDED NATURE WALK:**  
**Sat., Feb. 11, 9:00 AM**

**WHERE:**

**McBride Trail Agua Amarga Reserve**  
**Lunada Canyon, 29200 Rock Park Dr.**  
**Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275**

Walk the trail, enjoy the view and appreciate the results of the many volunteers' trail and habitat restoration efforts done in December in this quiet neighborhood canyon. Moderate walk. Guides by Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. RSVP



**GUIDED NATURE WALK:**  
**Sat., Feb. 18, 10:30 AM**

**WHERE:**

**White Point Nature Preserve**  
**1600 W. Paseo Del Mar**  
**San Pedro, CA 90731**

Naturalists will guide you along a trail to discover a variety of wildlife in their coastal sage scrub habitat with amazing views across to the ocean. Meet in front of the Nature Center and come inside to explore after the hike. *Park in the lot via Western Avenue only.* Guides by P.V.P. Land Conservancy. RSVP

## 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. Be sure to check with your avian vet for their evaluation of your bird's particular circumstance. Here we go!!!



**Q What does it mean when my parrot dilates his eyes and spreads his wings?**

**A** He is angry or upset about something, and it is best to leave him alone to avoid getting bitten. Make sure he has food, water and toys to destroy -- not you! Hopefully by ignoring him, after making sure all is well, he will get over it soon!



**Q My female Parakeet is incubating a walnut. Should I do anything?**

**A** The best you can do is leave her alone. You don't have to worry about little walnuts running around begging for attention! She is in "I want an egg mode" and the walnut will suffice. She may add an egg to the mix. Allow her to sit on either (or both) for at least three weeks after the last walnut/egg has decorated the nest. If there is a male in the picture, it might be fertile and you can candle the egg, not the walnut, in a week. You will see red veins if it is fertile. After 3+ weeks (if fertile) it will hatch and the parents will take care of things. They are quite amazing!



**Q How often should my bird take a bath?**

**A** Whenever he wants to. Some birds love to bathe, some hate it. You can always use a spray bottle on mist, if needed. With some birds, all you need to do is start the vacuum or turn on the water. You can take the feathery kid in the shower with you (some of the bird shops have great shower perches). Towel the bird off if he gets super wet, unless it is really warm out. You can also use a blow drier on warm. Most birds love that.



("Q & A" continued from page 8)

**Q Why should I have my bird sexed?**

**A** Well, you certainly don't need to do it to name it! However, knowing the bird's sex could very well be a lifesaver. Females may have ovarian problems, like yolk peritonitis (where an egg breaks inside the bird) and can be deadly. Males can get testicular problems, and because all the organs are up inside there is no way to tell, unless it lays an egg, what sex we are dealing with. Please consider this a priority for your bird's safety.



*(Sebastian watched the Rose Parade that he used to ride in).*



**Q What do you suggest to keep my bird happy while I am at work? I worry that there is no one there to keep him entertained.**

**A** Your bird is talented and is really adept at entertaining himself. However, you can certainly help with a variety of toys that you rotate every week. Put in a new toy on Monday, 1 week later take out 1 old toy, move the other two toys to new spots and add 1 new toy. Do this consistently. You also can leave the TV on, particularly on talk shows or Disney shows. Some people leave a radio on, and that is OK, but the interaction of the TV is more fun. My personal opinion is not Animal Planet because there is too much violence between animals, and my birds get very upset. One dear person told me to line the cage with the funnies, but IT DOESN'T WORK!

**VALENTINE'S DAY IS UPON US**, and our hearts are with our feathery kids. General Mills Company makes their Cheerios® cereal into heart shapes. Take advantage! The feathery kids love them!



**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

## "The Esplanade Bluff Restoration Project"

GET  
UPDATES  
ON...



**Presenters:**

**Jim Montgomery**

**Board Member, South Bay Parkland Conservancy and Lead,  
Esplanade Bluff Restoration Project**



**And Jim Light**

**President, South Bay Parkland Conservancy, Certified  
California Naturalist**



**Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Chapter**

**Date/Time: Tuesday, February 21, 2022, 7:00 P.M. PT**

**In-person and via ZOOM at Madrona Marsh Nature Center**

Located at 3201 Plaza del Amo, Torrance, CA

**The South Bay Parkland Conservancy (SBPC)** mission is dedicated to the restoration, preservation and public use of coastal land resources in the South Bay Region. Our objectives include: 1) the identification of underutilized lands for potential conversion to suitable and productive land use, 2) the identification of opportunities for improved connectivity between public resources, 3) providing recommendations for improved native ecosystem resources, 4) creating opportunities for healthy community place-making, and 5) integrating educational opportunities into regional community resources.

**SBPC is leading a number of restoration projects throughout the South Bay.** One project, the **Esplanade Bluff Restoration Project (EBRP)**, will be discussed in detail, and has its genesis as part of the Beach Bluffs Restoration Project (BBRP). The BBRP is a resident-initiated effort to restore the natural diversity of the remnant dunes and bluffs along the Santa Monica Bay between Ballona Creek and the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The BBRP Master Plan has the following goals:

- Increase the ecological value of the beach bluffs by restoring the native vegetation
- Increase recreational value by providing stewardship opportunities for restored bluffs
- Provide a public education program about the beach bluffs and their coastal environment



The EBRP is a collaborative effort involving SBPC, US Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS), LA County Beaches and Harbors, City of Redondo Beach, LA Conservation Corps. In 2021, USFWS requested SBPC take a more active role in the project. Since then, SBPC has organized volunteer events to remove invasive species and install and maintain species native to the dunes and bluff. In 2022, USFWS provided SBPC with a 4 year, \$80K grant to further these efforts.

**The primary objectives of the grant are to contribute to the restoration of native coastal bluff scrub and dune vegetation adjacent to the Pacific Ocean in the City of Redondo Beach, California over approximately 7 acres.** The project directly contributes to the recovery of the federally endangered **El Segundo blue butterfly** (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*) by establishing native habitat that includes **sea-cliff buckwheat** (*Eriogonum parvifolium*), the El Segundo blue butterfly's host plant. The project will foster public appreciation and support of native habitat and the El Segundo blue butterfly. **More information can be found here:** <https://www.southbayparks.org/esplanade-bluff-restoration-habitat>

# WINGED NEWS & MORE

## 'Extremely Rare' Snowy Owl Sighting Transfixes a California Suburb

*What brought the owl to the city of Cypress, in Orange County, remains a mystery.*

**Neighbors have come to notice a pattern with the bird, which seems to take off in the evenings before reappearing sometime later.**

*Credit...Mark Rightmire/The Orange County Register*

By [Michael Levenson](#) Dec. 31, 2022



The forbidding frozen wilderness of the high Arctic tundra is the natural home of the snowy owl, a great predator perfectly adapted to hunting its primary food source, lemmings. But sometime during the last few weeks in December, one snowy owl made a surprise appearance in noticeably less harsh terrain — the shingled roofs and white chimneys of suburban Southern California. What brought the owl to the city of Cypress, in Orange County, about 25 miles southeast of Los Angeles, remains a mystery and the subject of impassioned debate among the scores of bird watchers and curious neighbors who have come out to marvel at the bird.

Whatever the owl's journey may have been, the sight of such an unusual raptor set among streets lined with palm trees has been "amazing," said Nancy Caruso, a neighbor who has seen the owl. "It's like seeing Santa Claus on a beach," said Ms. Caruso, a marine biologist. "Like that out of place, but cool."

Neighbors have come to notice a pattern with the bird, which seems to take off around 5 p.m. before reappearing sometime later, like a commuter, to its suburban roost. "I have been hanging out with him a couple of times a day, and I'm not a bird guy in any way, shape or form," said Joshua Lindsay, a general contractor who lives nearby. He said the "absolutely ginormous" owl had been "divebombed by hawks and robins" and "would look over at them, like, 'Really? What the hell are you going to do?'"

Lori Aren't, the assistant director of the Raptor Center at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota, said that snowy owls are known to migrate from northern Canada to the Midwestern and northeastern United States during the winter. Some have been spotted as far south as Texas, she said. (In January 2021, one visited Central Park, creating a frenzy among urban birders.) But it was "extremely rare" to find one as far south and west as Southern California, Ms. Aren't said. She said it was possible that the owl may have simply flown thousands of miles to Orange County. It will be interesting to see how long this bird stays," Ms. Aren't said. "The question will be: Will this bird be able to find enough food to eat?" She said snowy owls that fly south often prefer flat, open terrain such as airports where they can more easily hunt small prey. That could make Cypress an appealing destination: The Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, a National Guard facility with an airfield, is only a few miles away as the owl flies. When the owl returns, joy fills the neighborhood.

**"The most exciting thing for me is that the public is reacting so positively."** said Victor Leipzig, who teaches birding at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, Calif., and is a past president of the local chapter of the Audubon Society. **"I was there on Tuesday of this week, and there were people from the local neighborhood who were just thrilled and people who had driven from a hundred miles away to see the bird,"** he said.



Scott Thomas, the raptor research chairman at the local Audubon chapter, said the owl had recently been spotted coughing up a pellet of bones and fur, a sign that it had found a small animal to eat. But there are dangers in the area, such as cars, rodenticide and airplanes landing at the military base. **At some point, he said, the most popular raptor in Cypress may simply move on, headed north to the Arctic.** "The thing I can say for sure is people are going to continue to watch it — a lot," Mr. Thomas said. "And one day it will disappear, just fly off."

# WINGED NEWS & MORE

## Are L.A.'s Parrots Getting Louder? We Investigate

Adam Tschorn

January 19, 2023

That the parrots of Los Angeles are loud is an indisputable fact. The voluble squawks warbles and trills of the colorful non-native birds (descendants of those originally imported from Mexico as pets that were freed or escaped) have been part of the SoCal soundtrack for more than half a century.

The volume of their vocalization has been chronicled in the pages of *The Times* as far back as the early 1960s, and it's the rare account of the feathered fauna that doesn't mention the cacophony that accompanies a pandemonium of parrots (yes, that's the appropriate collective noun for a group of them). But if you've been treated to an earful from a local treeful lately particularly in the last month or so, you might have wondered: Have L.A.'s parrots gotten louder? And if they have pumped up the volume, why?



*Parrots gather in a roost in Temple City, where their loudness can be overwhelming*

*(Carolyn Cole)*



*Mitred Conures sit in a tree in Temple City*

*(Carolyn Cole)*

To get a bead on just what kind of volume level we're talking about, I joined a recent field trip to the Temple City roost — the nightly home to one of the largest flocks of the mouthy birds around — organized by the [Pasadena Audubon Society](#). (Temple City is located in the west San Gabriel Valley, about five miles southeast of Pasadena & North of LA).

Shortly after 4 p.m., the first groups of four or five birds at a time (mitred parakeets at first) flapped into view, alighting in the sycamore trees in the Rosemead Blvd median near Olive Street, their calls barely audible against the thrum of rush hour traffic.

About a half hour later, the volume had risen markedly, and the groups were noticeably larger — six and eight bright green birds at a time (red-crowned parrots, red-masked parakeets and at least one yellow-headed parrot swooping in to join the dozen or two parrots already perched in each tree).

At 4:45 p.m., the median birds took wing en masse, circling in the sky a few times before taking up residence in a denser stand of trees a couple hundred feet farther away along Eaton Wash and behind a Korean restaurant, cranking the volume knob up another few notches along the way. Noisy? Sure. Loud? Yes, but hardly distractingly so.

Then, at about 5 p.m., just as the sun was setting, things seemed to go all Hitchcock movie on us as hundreds and hundreds of flapping, squawking, chirping and tweeting parrots (and a good number of parakeets) converged on the trees surrounding the intersection and accomplished the rare feat of drowning out — for a good 10 minutes — the sound of all the automobiles driving by just a few feet in front of us.

*("Are L.A. Parrots Getting Louder?" continued on page 13)*

# WINGED NEWS & MORE

*("Are L.A. Parrots Getting Louder?" continued from page 12)*

And, yes, they were loud. Ear-piercingly loud. Two hundred pet shops, a dozen zoos and a good-sized rain forest all mixed together and turned up to 11 loud.

A few days later, Pasadena Audubon Society board member and field trip chair, Corey Husic sent a final tally: a total of 1,323 individual birds had been spotted, a number that included 1,000 red-crowned parrots, **180 mitred conures** (*these are the most common of the species of wild parrots seen in the South Bay—also known as mitred parakeets*), 20 lilac-crowned parrots, 25 red-masked parakeets, four each of red-lored parrots and yellow-headed parrots, and a random assortment of less flashy feathered creatures including American crows (3), common ravens (2) and a single Cooper's hawk.

Loudness confirmed, I turned to the leaders of the excursion to find out if the birds had somehow gotten their beaks on the volume knob. While they had sound suggestions as to why the resident parrot population might seem louder now to the average Angeleno (or Temple Citian in this particular instance), Husic suggested I reach out to John McCormack, director of the [Moore Laboratory of Zoology](#) at Occidental College and a lead investigator of the school's [Free-Flying Los Angeles Parrot Project](#).



*Luke Tiller, president of the Pasadena Audubon Society, looks through binoculars as he guides visitors on a visit to Temple City to see a roost of parrots and parakeets who make the area their nightly home. (Carolyn Cole)*

"They've definitely been increasing in numbers over the last 15 years," McCormack said. "So, what started as small, local populations has sort of expanded across the city, as well as individual flocks becoming bigger. So that's one reason for the increased noise.

"It used to just be that the Temple City flock was kind of the main flock around for the [*Amazona* genus] parrots. And that was their epicenter, and you didn't find them anywhere else," he explained. "And in addition to that one growing in numbers, there's also all these satellite flocks." McCormack described recently tracking down a flock of 100 yellow-headed parrots in Altadena, which is about seven miles northwest of Temple City.

"The yellow-heads were actually kind of the original OG parrot in L.A. back in the 1960s, and they were thought to be declining," McCormack said. "But they seemed to be doing pretty well out in Altadena."

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*Mitred Conure (Photo taken in Torrance)*



*Lilac Crowned Parrot*



*Red Masked Parakeet*



*Red Lored Parrots*



*Yellow Headed Parrot*

## WINGED NEWS & MORE

*("Are L.A.'s Parrots Getting Louder" continued from page 13)*

In addition to the more parrots in more places equals more noise explanation (an hour-long instead of decades-long version of which I watched unfold in Temple City as the birds gathered together to roost for the night), there are several other reasons why people might perceive the birds to be a bit louder — especially right now.

### It's peak flocking season



*A large flock of parrots take off through the dusky sky in Temple City*

(Carolyn Cole)

McCormack explained that the parrot breeding cycle has the birds going off in (much less noisy) pairs in the spring. "Right about now is when they start breaking off and searching for nesting locations," he said, adding that they'll reform into larger (and noisier) flocks again beginning in August and September.

"Right now," he said when I spoke to him in mid-January, "is sort of peak flocking." (McCormack also noted that parrot vocalization has its daily cycles as well as seasonal ones. In addition to the evening come-home-to-roost socializing I'd observed just before sunset, there's increased morning-time chatter. "We've got flocks that come in here, right by Occidental College where I live. And they're always making a lot of noise in the morning as they're waking up," McCormack said.

### You've got new neighbors

During the visit to the Temple City roost, PAS' Husic offered a simple explanation as to why the parrots might seem louder to some people. They might have recently decided to alight in your 'hood. "The roosts tend to move around a little bit," he explained. "In previous years, this particular one has been centered a few blocks northeast, up near Workman Avenue. There still seem to be some over there too, but the bulk has shifted [here]."

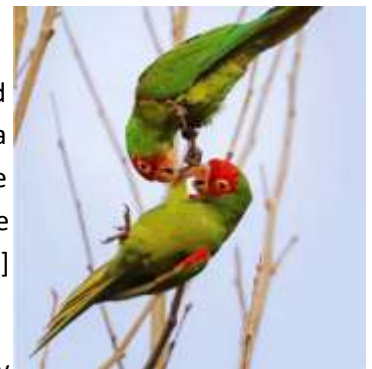
The result? Anyone living within earshot of a fresh roost site could be forgiven for thinking a full-scale parrot-geddon was in full swing every night of winter.

### Some species are louder (and more grating) than others

Pointing to the first few birds spotted during the Temple City field trip — a pair of mitred parakeets alighting in a sycamore tree — Husic suggested another explanation for a perceived noise increase. "The parakeet has a higher-pitched call that can be more grating," he said. "So maybe people are picking up on that." He also singled out the yellow-headed parrot as a possible culprit, describing its call as "sometimes sound[ing] like a shrieking child." In large-enough numbers, that can be hard to tune out.

"Those are really loud," McCormack said. "Really loud and really grating. ... They're every bit as shrieky as the red-crowned parrot, but with an added staccato burst, that makes it extra grating. If you've got a flock of a hundred right by your apartment complex, which they were in Altadena — they were literally roosting right next to a bunch of apartments — that's going to be insane."

*("Are L.A. Parrots Getting Louder?" continued on page 15)*



*Two red-masked parakeets interact with each other while perched in the branches of a tree in Temple City.*

(Carolyn Cole)

# WINGED NEWS & MORE

(Are L.A. Parrots Getting Louder?" continued from page 14)

McCormack's comment made me think back to the field trip and the Kahlua Apartments complex strung along Rosemead and facing the spindly parrot-filled sycamores in the median. Noticing the cluster of apartments, one of my fellow birdwatchers asked exactly what I'd been thinking: "Does the parrot noise bother people?" she asked over the din of parrot socializing.

Tiller gave a slight shrug. "This is L.A.," he answered.

Yes, the sounds generated by the free-flying parrots of Greater Los Angeles — with their green plumage flecked with shades of yellow, red and lilac — are as much a part of the city's soundscape as the rustle of wind through the palm trees (all but one species of which are also non-native by the way) and the soft, almost pneumatic whoosh of freeway traffic.

And now if you notice that crazy-colored ornithological orchestra getting louder, you'll know there's substance behind the squawk.



Pat Julien at  
SBBS 2022 Picnic

**(This article was submitted by SBBS and W.L.A. Bird Club member, Pat Julien. Thank you!)**

## Big Bear Bald Eagle Lays the First Egg of 2023!



**Jackie, internet star and one of the pair of Big Bear eagles, protects a newly laid egg in their nest on Wednesday, January 11, 2023.**

(Courtesy of the Friends of Big Bear Valley) January 11, 2023

The countdown is on. Jackie, the bald eagle in the San Bernardino Mountains, who along with her partner Shadow, has become an internet star thanks to the Big Bear Bald Eagle Nest Cam, laid an egg on Wednesday, January 11 which was caught on camera.

Jackie and Shadow successfully raised chicks in the nest in 2022 and 2019, and in 2018 Jackie and a different partner had successfully raised a chick in the nest. The eggs usually hatch after 38 to 39 days (about 1 and a half months), according to the [Friends of the Big Bear Valley](#) group, which runs the popular webcam showing the nesting pair in the San Bernardino Mountains. The group's Facebook page lit up with excitement as fans near and far tuned in to see Jackie lay the egg. This egg is due to hatch the day after Valentine's Day.

"Congratulations, Jackie and Shadow. You're on your way to being great parents again," wrote Cindy Mendoza-Collins. "Congratulations to my two favorite love birds. I'm so happy, hopefully everything will go well," Christa Lafontaine wrote.

The first eagle chick recorded in the Big Bear valley hatched in 2012 to a different pair of eagles, Ricky and Lucy. A nest cam was first installed in the area in 2015 to capture the pair's home life, but they left the area the following year. Jackie, who could possibly be that first chick, has been using the nest with the camera on it since 2017. For more information go to: [www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org](http://www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org) or [www.facebook.com/FOBBV](https://www.facebook.com/FOBBV).

**UPDATE:** Jackie laid a second egg on January 14, three days after the first egg! The pair has continue to guard the nest even during a recent snow storm. You can see the activity at the nest at: "Big Bear Bald Eagle Next Cam" on YouTube.



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IS OUR LOCAL FLOCK



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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.

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**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](http://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 the Membership Director, **Patte Fisher** at [pattefisher@verizon.net](mailto:pattefisher@verizon.net) or you can call her at: (310) 316-9843 (home) or at (310) 418-9096 (cell).



Patte

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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. (You may want to turn off the water while you are scrubbing.)
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- 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:



*Kahlia & Gala*

- ☀ 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](mailto:gidgetscal@aol.com).

*The deadline for the next newsletter is **Wednesday, February 8th.***



## Adoptions



*There are so many birds needing homes.*

*If you are considering getting 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!*

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Parrot Rehabilitation Society	(619) 224-6712	<a href="http://www.parrotsociety.org">www.parrotsociety.org</a>
Parrots First	(866) 248-7670, ext. 5937	<a href="http://www.parrotsfirst.org">www.parrotsfirst.org</a>
Santa Barbara Bird Sanctuary	(805) 565-1807	<a href="http://www.sbbird.org">www.sbbird.org</a>
Southern Nevada Parrot Education, Rescue & Rehoming		<a href="http://www.southernnevadaparrotrescue.org">www.southernnevadaparrotrescue.org</a>



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Some of our meetings are held on ZOOM & some are at the Kiwanis Club of Hermosa Beach

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

MEETINGS are usually held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 P.M. OR are held on Sunday afternoons.

Verify the meeting date by checking the website at: [www.sobaybirdsoc.com](http://www.sobaybirdsoc.com).

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

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

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**Do you want to volunteer in ANY way for SBBS?**

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*The people listed above have chosen to "Step-up" to help with our club. Thank you!*





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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_