



Volume 50 Issue 6 May—June 2023 SBBS Newsletter Established 1974

Monday, June 5 at 7 PM Dr. Teresa Micco on "Our Aging Parrots"

Local veterinarian, Dr. Teresa Micco, will discuss various health considerations in our aging parrots, what to look for and ways to improve their comfort & condition.

Dr. Micco received her DVM in 2011 from [Ross University](#) and [Louisiana State University](#) Schools of Veterinary Medicine, located on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts. She finished her clinical year at LSU in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. While completing her clinical rotations, she assisted in the care of injured birds and sea turtles during the BP oil spill.



Prior to attending veterinary school, Dr. Teresa was a RVT (Registered Veterinary Technician) for 25 years, working primarily with birds and exotics, in addition to dogs and cats. Dr. Micco is an active member of the [AAV \(Association of Avian Veterinarians\)](#) and is on the Social Media Committee for the AAV on Aviculture. She currently maintains her animal practice at Point Vicente Animal Hospital, in Rancho Palos Verdes. **Learn ways to improve the quality of life for your aging parrots!**

Joining us online?

ZOOM links will be sent out prior to the meeting or RSVP on Meet-up at: <https://www.meetup.com/Redondo-Beach-Birds->

[Meetup/events/](#)

COME EARLY! SBBS members who arrive before the meeting begins, have a chance to be chosen "The Early Bird Winner" for first pick of an item on the raffle table.



WIN the Early Bird Drawing!

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 or go on: www.sobaybirdsoc.com

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Marie Calleja Presented: "Yellow and Blue, Who is Who?" on Monday, May 1



A MACAW KIND OF EVENING

by Patte Fisher

What a great way to spend the end of the first beautiful day in May! Our ever faithful flock of club members came together once again (it's almost getting to be a habit; what's next?) to learn from one of the masters of bird care. Things almost started out well.

Janet created a beautiful raffle table. David set up the audio equipment and prepared for the online viewers connecting to the video feed. I set up food and drink snacks and was feeling very pleased with myself until I realized that for all the items I had remembered, I had forgotten my official South Bay Bird Society notebook, which not only contains the member renewal information but also the sign-in sheets needed for the meeting! Yikes! So it was back in the car and off to my house for the missing papers. Sigh. Meanwhile, back at the meeting....



Janet Ragonese sold raffle tickets for the evening's drawings

Marie's hand outs providing more information on the two macaws were on each table

SBBS is lucky to have the technical expertise of David Benjamin when it comes to being able to provide others with the on-line ZOOM experience of our presentations



We were treated to a fascinatingly comprehensive look at two separate species of macaws.

Our speaker was well into her presentation with bird stands set up and two beautiful parrots displayed.



Blue-throated macaw, Mae

Blue and gold macaw, Indigo Blue

The two macaws mirrored each other in their grooming as if they were in a choreographed dance

Over the years we have been blessed to enjoy several different subjects from Marie Calleja; all informative and educational as well as extremely entertaining! On this occasion Marie gave us a comparison of two sometimes confused species, the Blue Throated Macaw and the Blue and Gold Macaw. Marie had brought us examples of both types of macaw: two of her personal companions, a female Blue Throated Macaw named Mae and a male Blue and Gold Macaw named Indigo Blue, who Marie calls Indie.

("Marie Calleja" continued on page 3)

("Marie Calleja" continued from page 2)



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Marie walked around carrying each of the macaws so those in attendance could see differences in between both of them

*(Blue-throated macaw: photos 1 & 5)
(Blue and gold macaw: photos 3-4)*

Up close, you could more easily see the teal feathers on the face of the blue throated macaw

Although similar in names and colors, there are many distinctive features peculiar to one or the other. Both birds originate in South America, but while the Blue and Gold's territory covers a wide area of northern South America, the Blue Throated's range is limited to a portion of Bolivia. Both are the colors of teal blue and yellow gold. They are similar in size and weight, though with Marie's two birds Indie weighs around 1300 grams to Mae's 700. Even though both species are considered endangered, the problem is much more severe with the Blue Throated Macaw, which could possibly disappear in the wild within a few more generations. There are approximately 350-400 Blue Throated Macaws in the wild today with about 1100 living in captivity.

Flyers describing each parrot's habitat, lifestyle and specific species information were provided by Marie.

For the Blue and Gold, the wild guesstimate is 100,000 to 200,000 and unknown number living in captivity. Both birds are considered intelligent; Blue and Golds are smart, talkative and playful while Blue Throated are excellent escape artists and require more supervision. Blue Throated Macaws have the longer life span with 50 years in the wild to the Blue and Gold's 30 to 35, and both species can live much longer in captivity. Both types are "high strung" and anxious; this is stronger in the Blue Throated which are easily startled; this may contribute to their endangered population due to flying off the nest. Marie calls Mae a "termite" as she loves to chew through wood!

Indigo Blue is a nine year old male. Marie received him at four months. She reports he looked like a little porcupine with spiky feathers. She also says Indie will eat anything. Indie is blue and gold, of course, with a long blue and yellow tail, and white cheeks with black patterned stripes. Mae is a more picky eater and 21 years old. Unlike Indie, Mae has a teal blue colored throat and patterned stripes on her face. Marie reports they have similar energy levels, like music, especially rock and roll, and that Indie enjoys watching television.

At the end of Marie's presentation, members were invited to come up and view these two beautiful animals. Members were welcomed to ask any questions they might have about the macaws, bird care and feeding in general.



Neither of the two smaller birds in attendance were afraid of the yellow and blue macaws. (left photo) Kahlia, the blue fronted's, only concern was that one of them was NOT coming home to live with her. Krista Renta's lovebird was happy to stay close to her mom.

("Marie" continued on page 4)

“Marie” continued from page3)

Marie Calleja is a long time South Bay Bird Society member. She is the Director of Fine Feathered Friends, our local parrot (and captive birds in general) rescue and adoption organization. During the past 2 and a half years, she has re-homed over 800 birds!

Marie’s two personal favorite parrot species are macaws and cockatiels. We also learned about the origin of the logo on Fine Feathered Friends business cards; designed by Marie’s daughter, Courtney. It was brought to life by artist Michelle Leveille of Ventura, California.

Marie is the “real deal.” At the bottom of the Blue and Gold information sheet, and only a true parrot lover would refer to the raucous, ear shattering screeching of an animated bird this way, it reads: “can be a bit loud.” Thank you, Marie.

SBBS President, Janet Ragonesi, provided a certificate of our appreciation to Marie Calleja for her excellent presentation

SBBS will also be giving the non-profit, Fine Feathered Friends Foundation, a donation



Courtney with her green-winged macaw



Janet got our sign in sheets all signed. The early bird tickets were created, the drawing was held and our esteemed speaker, Marie Calleja, was our winner this month for first pick from the raffle table!



The macaw on the card’s left is Sully who was Marie’s first scarlet macaw and was in his 70’s; she owned him for 7 months before he passed. On the right is Ruby Tuesday, who was thought to be wild caught and whose age is unknown. Ruby passed last year after many happy years with Marie, and was Marie’s official “welcome” parrot. In the center is Sebastian, hyacinth macaw, who was featured for many years in every New Year’s Day Rose Parade.

After the early bird drawing, Janet gave club announcements followed by Gala Burkholder catching us up on other area bird club events happening. The raffle tickets were sold and the monthly drawing was held. Krista Renta assisted by selectng the tickets and calling out the winners. A fine time was had by all!

I can’t wait for June 3rd with Dr. Teresa Micco to talk on “Aging Parrots!”



(photo left) Marie and Sebastian, a hyacinth macaw



(photo right) Sebastian with his previous owner, Raul Rodriguez, riding on a Rose Bowl float

To learn more about Marie Calleja’s non-profit foundation go to the website:

<https://www.finefeatheredfriendsfoundation.org>.

If you are in need of a bird to be re-homed, want to give a bird a new forever home, or to make a donation to the foundation, contact Marie Calleja.

Here is the contact information:

Fine Feathered Friends Foundation

(310) 334-9062

P.O. Box 462, El Segundo, CA 90245

Finefeatheredfriendsfoundation@gmail.com

LOCAL PARROT GETS STOCK ADVICE FROM JIM CRAMER ▲ 5.20

Recently, Kahlia, Gala Burkholder's blue-fronted Amazon parrot, got stock advice from Jim Cramer, the host of the CNBC TV shows, "Mad Money" and "Squawk Box." Kahlia revealed that she thought Jim was cool; without any hesitation, she stepped up on Jim's arm. (As you know, parrots are very sensitive and perceptive about people. She won't step on just anyone. So, Jim passed the coolness test!)

Kahlia asked Jim to recommend a stock to include in her portfolio. He suggested that she invests in the best semi-conductor chip company used in artificial intelligence called Nvidia (NVDA). He added, "Own it, don't trade it!" (It was a good stock tip since it soared 24% after it's earnings report four days later).

Kahlia wanted to know if she should be concerned about the future of AI and how to tell between a "deep fake" or "the real thing." (Yes Kahlia, those crows outside are real). Gala found out that AI would NOT be taking over cleaning the bird cages and perches, but could start writing the SBBS newsletters.



Gala Burkholder, Kahlia, her parrot & CNBC host, Jim Cramer

Both Jim and his wife, Lisa, were very gracious in letting Kahlia analyze the character of this TV celebrity and stock-market guru. Kahlia confirmed that Jim has a kind heart and truly cares about his fans, members of his investment club and his national TV audience. In addition, Jim reviewed Gala's watch-list of stocks telling her to hold on to Humana.

Jim told Gala that he works hard in his research, writing and educating ordinary people like me about the stock market. He always states at the beginning of "Mad Money" that he is here to level the playing field for all investors in order for them to be able to make money in the stock market. To Gala, Jim's dedication was already evident by hearing his earnest comments on his TV programs over the years. Meeting Jim in person, with Kahlia's approval, only confirmed Gala's suspicions about his kindness and humility. She thanked Jim and Lisa for this opportunity and for all that Jim does to demystify the stock market for non-professional investors. (Gala is still trying to talk Kahlia out of investing in crypto currencies, but she may instead consider buying some stock in Zoetis, an animal healthcare company).

This rare occasion to meet Jim and Lisa was part of a promotion for her beverage company, Fosforo, Mezcal. This spirit, with savory flavors, is made from a Maguery Tobalá which is a variety of high-end agave. (Gala will not be sharing a taste of this brew with Kahlia). The event was held at the Redondo Beach Total Wine and More store with people coming from as far away as Sacramento, a 6 1/2 hour journey. Kahlia and Gala were lucky to live only minutes away and will remember this day for a long time. As current members of Jim Cramer's investment club, Gala and Kahlia will continue to watch Professor and Coach Cramer on his TV shows and follow his wise advice to learn ways to take advantage of the ups and down of the stock market.



The President's Notes *By Janet Ragonesi*



Janet

Greetings BIRD LOVERS,

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

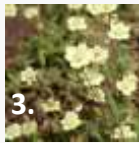
Recently, my friend, Lisa Miyake, and I spent a day at the **Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve**. The SUPER BLOOM was outstanding! **Poppies (1), Owl's Clover (2), Davy Gilia (3) and Cream Cups (4)** were just a few of the flora we saw during our 4-mile walk up and down the hills. The trek was not for the faint of heart! We wore hats, drank plenty of water and had a delicious picnic.



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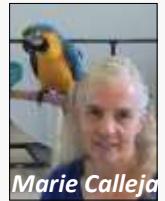
The trip would not have been complete without a visit to the **Jane S. Pinheiro Interpretive Center (5)**. The center was designed to blend in and complement the natural setting of the Poppy Reserve. **Jane, whom the center was named after, was a watercolor painter (6)**. Jane was a longtime Antelope Valley resident who worked tirelessly to preserve areas of wildflowers, Joshua trees and other native wildlands. She truly was a woman of vision!



6.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 1 WITH MARIE CALLEJA ON "YELLOW AND BLUE, WHO IS WHO?"



Marie Calleja

Marie Calleja, the Director of "Fine Feathered Friends Foundation," shared with us some of the similarities and differences between the blue-throated and blue and gold macaws. She brought one of each type of macaw to show us the visual differences. Marie contrasted some of their other traits and habits. Thank you to Patte Fisher for providing us a summary of this meeting on pages 2-4.

MAY EARLY BIRD DRAWING WINNER

We re-started the early bird drawing in April for members arriving before the meeting starts. It was ironic, but our guest speaker, **Marie Calleja, was the day's winner** and had first pick of an item off of the raffle table. Congratulations! Thank you to our sponsors for supporting SBBS with their donations.

AN UPCOMING HYBRID SBBS MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 5TH, AT 7 PM

DR. TERESA MICCO ON "OUR AGING PARROTS"

Local veterinarian, **Dr. Teresa Micco**, will discuss some various health considerations in our aging parrots, what to look for and ways to improve their comfort and condition.



Dr. Teresa Micco

Dr. Micco has been involved in conservation, rehabilitation and aviculture for many years. Each year, she rehabilitates over 200 **hummingbirds** under the license of South Bay Wildlife Rehab, as well as numerous songbirds and local wild baby and injured adult parrot species.



Refreshments will be provided and the public is welcome to join us for this fun and informative presentation. This hybrid meeting will be held in-person and on ZOOM. A 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/>.

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

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

MORE UPCOMING SBBS MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES



NO JULY SBBS MEETING

Due to the 4th of July weekend and celebrations, SBBS will not be having a meeting that month.

LOOKING AHEAD - SBBS ANNUAL PICNIC:

The SBBS Annual picnic will be on **Sunday, September 10th at Columbia Park**. Please save the date on your calendar! More details will be included in a future newsletter.



PATTE FISHER PROVIDES SNACKS AT OUR MEETING

Currently, we do not have anyone in the kitchen to oversee a pot luck dinner. Any volunteers?

At this time, **thank you to Patte Fisher for providing beverages and trays of individually packaged goodies and fruit for our first two in-person meetings! See what treats she'll bring on June 5! Thanks Patte!**



RAFFLE TABLE PRIZE DONATIONS

WELCOMED!

Donate a raffle item that is bird-related and worth at least \$5.00 and receive 2 raffle tickets for that meeting's drawings. The items donated must be **new and unused**.



PLEASE SHOP OUR SPONSORS

Our sponsors have remained open and made safety accommodations for us during the past three 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.



OPTIONAL RSVP FOR SBBS MEETINGS



In an attempt to reach out to the community, SBBS is listed as a **pet/animal activity on the "Meetup" website** that is available to the public.

All of our meetings and activities are listed. Each of you who plan to participate in any one of these activities may consider an RSVP on this site. *(This is not necessary to participate, but is optional).*

The more members who say they are participating, the more attractive our group looks to the public and hopefully will draw **new** members to our club.



Each month, David Benjamin will send out a RSVP under Meetup.

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

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

These clubs succeed through the sharing of our love of parrots and by educating each other in the care of our companion birds. The sense of community of bird lovers is created by your participation in the various clubs.



(“President’s Notes” continued from page 7)



SBBS COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

“WHALE OF A DAY” ON SATURDAY, APRIL 15



This event was a wonderful opportunity to share our love of companion birds and to promote public awareness of the environment!

SBBS and Fine Feathered Friends Foundation (1) hosted side-by-side booths at “Whale of a Day” held at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center. People stopped by and asked questions about what it was like to own a bird. Marie Calleja, from Fine Feathered Friends, shared about how one could re-home a bird.

Whale watchers kept us informed with the passing of whales as part of their migration. On that day and being so late in the season, unless you had binoculars, the whales coasted past us too far out to see! Several years ago, a pod of Pacific Grey Whales came close to shore and the crowds were very excited to see and hear them.

This year, all the nonprofit organization booths **faced the ocean (2)** along the walkway. It was a beautiful California sunny day with thousands of people enjoying the event. The **International Bird Rescue (3)** was in attendance with **Dave Weeshoff (4)**, along with other nonprofits including the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge, the Sierra Club and the **Marine Mammal Care Center (5)**.

In addition, there were food trucks, musical entertainment, games, a raffle and an auction. The public was invited to walk through the Point Vicente Interpretive Center which hosts a Natural History Museum that included nature and local culture exhibits and whale-watching photos.

It was a fun and educational day for everyone!



1.



2.

*Photos by:
Janet
Ragonesi*



3.



4.



5.

Cheers!

From my flock to yours,

Janet Ragonesi,
SBBS President



“Intelligence without ambition is a bird without wings.” ~ Salvador Dali



Wild Birds Unlimited
 1888 1/2 S Pacific Coast Highway
 Redondo Beach, CA 90277
 (310) 543-2473
<https://redondobeach.wbu.com/>

A word from one of our sponsors, Bob Shanman:



Retirement is Looming! Will You Be The New Owner of Wild Birds Unlimited-Redondo Beach?

To my loyal Wild Birds Unlimited Family.

A year ago I announced my retirement, and that the store was for sale. Retirement is looming, and while we have had some nibbles, the person who wants to turn their love of birds and nature into a thriving business has not stepped forward----yet!

Seriously, thanks to all who have said so many nice things about the store, the staff and me since I made the announcement. You have provided the fuel that has energized me all these years. I still get excited when one of you comes into the store having identified a very common bird for the first time. It's not that you have put a name to an object; you have made an observation about the size, shape color and behavior that enables you to recognize the bird. More importantly, that observation for many of you has become a building block that has opened a whole new world around you. So, so exciting!

So now, I am looking for just one of you to ask yourself how you can get others excited about enjoying birds and nature in the backyard. How can you help others to Save the Song Birds and Bring People and Nature Together, which has been our mission statement for decades? You can do this and have all the fun and excitement of running your own business by following in my footsteps. And yes, you can do it. And with great backup from one of the top-rated franchises in the country.

Wild Birds Unlimited is an incredible organization. There are about 350 stores nationwide, and most are actively involved in moving this organization forward. The energy and excitement is incredible. Stores work together all the time and are very supportive of each other. The staff at the Franchise is dedicated to making the stores successful and to work together to leverage the power of a large, well-structured organization while each store maintains its individual personality.

If you think you, or someone you know, might want to be part of this organization, please reach out to me to learn more about Wild Birds Unlimited. I would be thrilled for one of you to be able to carry on the legacy of this store for another 28 years! And yes, if you want me around, I will be there to support you while you molt into your new feathers. Time is short, so don't delay getting in touch with me. You can learn more about WBU at franchise.wbu.com. (If a sale proceeds, I have a broker to guide us through the process. As a seller, I will cover the broker's fees.)

Oh--if you recommend someone and they buy the store, there will be finder's fee for you.

In the meantime, let's enjoy these next few months together. And thanks for all the support for the past 28 years.

Bob

OTHER AVIAN—RELATED ZOOMS/MEETINGS/BIRD WALKS

Palos Verdes/
South Bay
AUDUBON
SOCIETY



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

This hybrid Meeting is:

June 20, 2023

**“Snowy Plovers & Least Terns
in Los Angeles: Conservation +
Sketching Activity!”**



Presented by: Stacey Vigallon

Madrona Marsh Nature Center
3201 Plaza del Amo, Torrance

BIRD EXCURSIONS:

Sun. June 4, 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.



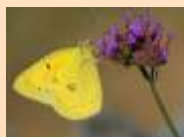
Sat. June 24, 9 A.M.

Birding for Kids at Madrona Marsh
with PV/SB leader, Jazmín Ríos. There
are a limited number of binoculars
available to borrow during the bird
walk.

Summer

Butterfly Count:

Sat. July 8



All are welcome to participate, regardless of
expertise. To take part, contact Kim Moore at
kims.sight@verizon.net.

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

**For Information, go to:
www.pvsb-audubon.org**

West Los Angeles Bird Club

Wed., June 14th at 7:00 PM

Deb Stambul, Bird Behaviorist



With over 20 years with bird, Deb is a member of the International
Association of Avian Trainers and Educators and a member of the
International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants. You are invited
to bring your bird with its favorite treats and may win a training session.

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

For more information, go to:

www.westlabirdclub.com or call Doreen at (310) 488-9749.

The Connecticut Parrot Club

Monday, June 12, 4 PM (PDT)



**“How to Recover a Lost Parrot”
with Debbie Goodrich, Certified Parrot
Behavior Consultant and Bird Trainer**



**For information on an upcoming ZOOM or
to watch a previous ZOOM presentation go
to: www.theparrotclub.org**



You Can View YouTube Videos of Previous ZOOMS from

The Connecticut Parrot Club:

- **Target Training**, Sheila Blanchett
- **Rewilding the Caribbean**, Fabio Tarazona
- **Avian Flu**, Dr. Kristin Sinclair, YouTube Video:
<https://youtu.be/OfCsl4g35cs> (Over 1,000 views)!
- **Tables Communication and Play for Parrots**,
Jennifer Cunha
- **Through the Eyes of a Parrot**, Dr. Graham Martin
- **Caring for Elderly & Disabled Bird Companions**, Dr. Kristin Sinclair



Lafeber Companion Bird Webinars for June at 12 noon PDT

You can see a current or previous webinar by going to:

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

- **June 9, “The Grey Way - My Bird Wants That! But Does Your Bird
Need That?” with Lisa Bono, CPBC**
- **June 16, “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)**
- **June 23, “Avian Vet Insider - Symptoms in Birds, What They Might
Mean” with Dr. Stephanie Lamb, DVM, DABVP (Avian Practice)**



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:

<https://pvsb-audubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Winter-Spring-2023.pdf>



Contact Eric & Ann Brooks at (323) 295-6688 or text Ann at (310) 913-2798 or email: motmots@aol.com



- **Saturday-Sunday: June 3, 8 am, June 4 TBA: Field trip to Big Bear. Meet Saturday at 8 am at Aspen Glen Picnic Area, Sunday time TBA, meet at 40105 Mill Creek Road, Big Bear Lake, Adventure Pass or Golden Eagle/Golden Age Pass Needed**
- **Sat., June 17, 8 am: Join LA Audubon monthly birdwalk at Kenneth Hahn Park. Meet at the Olympic Forest Parking Area. (first left after entry kiosk, \$7/car, senior rate \$5). <https://parks.lacounty.gov/kenneth-hahn-state-recreation-area>**
- **Sunday, June 25, 8 am: Field trip to San Gabriel Mountains. Meet at Switzer Picnic area. National Forest Adventure Pass or AMERICA THE Beautiful Pass**



www.southbayparks.org

NATURE WALK

at Wilderness Park in Redondo Beach

Sun., June 18 (Pollinators)

10-11 am: Grades 2-5th

11:15-12: All Ages



**For info go to:
www.southbayparks.org**

Phoenix Landing Foundation Webinar

**Saturday, June 17
10 AM-noon (PT) 1-3 PM (ET)**

"Bird Behavior and Training: It's Not Magic, It's Science" with Adam Patterson CPBT-KA



Adam, the Lead Keeper at the Wild Encounters at Zoo Knoxville will talk about using science to learn about and modify our parrot's behavior.

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



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

The SFVAS will NOT be having general meetings or ZOOMS in June-August

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

Previous ZOOM include topics plus many more:

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



PALOS VERDES PENINSULA LAND CONSERVANCY



GUIDED NATURE WALK:
Sat., June 3, 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. June 10, 9:00 AM

WHERE:

Linden H. Chandler Preserve

3011 Palos Verdes Drive North, Rolling Hills Estates, CA

Naturalists will guide you along a trail to experience this 28-acre nature preserve with blooming native plants. This restored habitat is home to the endangered Palos Verdes blue butterfly. Guides by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. Moderate. RSVP



GUIDED NATURE WALK:
Sat., June 17, 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.

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 My bird is losing feathers all over the place. He appears to be kind of frazzled. What can I do to help?

A Lots of birds appear to be molting like crazy right now. The new season, the change in our weather and breeding are all factors. Some birds are breeding much more heavily than others. It is always a good idea to feed extra fruits and vegetables and double up on their vitamins because molting takes up a lot of extra energy, and your birds need a birdie boost to help them maintain normalcy.



Q Why does my bird insist on screaming when I am on the telephone?

A Oh boy, good luck with that one! Your bird wants to be the center of attention, or at least being in on the action. Do not play his game. If you tell him to be quiet, he's won.

Walk into the other room without saying a word, close the door and finish your conversation. Otherwise, you get to explain why you can't hear a word the person on the other end of the line is saying, and you are not hard of hearing.



Q My bird likes to sit on my shoulder, or on the steering wheel when I'm driving. My veterinarian told me that was not a good idea but didn't explain why.

A OK, let's use some smart thinking here. You answer these questions, and then give me an answer to your question.

A. What happens if I stop short?

B. What happens if the bird is on the steering wheel and I have to make a sharp turn?

C. What happens if the bird gets on the floor between my feet?

I could go on for days, however, you should be able to answer those three questions and have a pretty smart answer as to why your bird belongs in a carrier in your car. If you don't have answers to those questions, you need to switch to a stuffed toy quickly, before someone gets hurt!



("Q & A" continued on page 13)

("Q & A" continued from page 12)



Q What kind of treats can I give my birds, especially if I'm eating something? What can I share?

A The key answer to this question is "in moderation." Using good sense helps a lot. If you were eating a graham cracker, half of the large graham cracker for a large parrot, an eighth or a quarter for a small bird. A Ritz cracker or peanut butter on a Ritz are fun and loved. If you're eating spaghetti and meat balls, your bird can have a spoonful. If you're having pancakes, waffles or French toast, cut off a small portion and share -- avoiding salt and sugar. Big No No's are chocolate, avocado and booze. If it's healthy for you, it's likely OK for your bird, with the above exceptions -- all, again, in moderation!

This is not a question, just a word of advice:

I came down my stairs in my house, and there was a man standing in my living room. I had several choices: faint, scream, wet my pants, or have a heart attack. I completely froze! None of the others seemed very equitable to me.

The man very nicely said, "You didn't tell me to come in, did you?"

I said, "No!"

He said, "Somebody did."

It turns out my Amazon graciously told him to come in, and he did.

My advice to you is:

If you don't have the good sense to lock your front door, make sure you're wearing clothes!



Have a super good day!
Love From Your Parrot Lady,
Karen



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

Parrots Find New Long-Distance Parrot Friends by Making Video Calls

Parrots in the wild are social and communicate with others in large flocks through their behaviors and parrot calls. On the other hand, Companion parrots are kept in our homes alone or in a small groups and can sometimes get lonely. Over 20 million parrots are kept as kept in homes in the US and often lack stimuli to meet their high social, cognitive and emotional needs. This can lead birds to develop psychosocial problems, which can lead to behaviors as rocking, pacing back and forth and feather-plucking. Now, some researchers may have found a solution to help provide additional stimuli to companion birds to improve their well-being.



Dr. Ilyena Hirskyj-Douglas, assistant professor of the University of Glasgow and a co-author of the research, wanted to know if companion parrots were given the opportunity to call other parrots, would they choose to do so, and would they experience benefits? This study included researchers including Rebecca Kleinberger and Jennifer Cunha from Northeastern University, in collaboration with scientists from MIT and the University of Glasgow. The research study is called, "Birds of a Feather Video-Flock Together."

The research team choose to use parrots for several reasons from an assortment of different animal species, in which to study how computer interaction could enrich the lives of an animal. The intelligence of parrots have been compared to the cognitive capabilities equal to that of an early-elementary-aged child. *(We, at SBBS, have learned about the intelligence of parrots from Dr. Irene Pepperberg of Harvard University, through her studies of comparing the cognitive abilities of African Grey parrots with young children.)* Another reason to choose parrots for this study instead of considering other animals, is their vision ability lets them make sense of movements on a screen.



Dr. Irene Pepperberg & her African Grey, Alex

The parrots studied were recruited from users of **Parrot Kindergarten**, an online coaching and educational program for parrots and their owners. *(Dr. Jennifer Cunha was the co-founders of Parrot Kindergarten and spoke to SBBS via ZOOM in 2019 about her program to teach birds to read using a tablet. You can review her program from a similar presentation she made to Amy Hopkin's Parrot Club located in Connecticut, by using the link "Introduction to Parrot Kindergarten" listed.)* **"Introduction to Parrot Kindergarten:"** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgzLsA3owco>

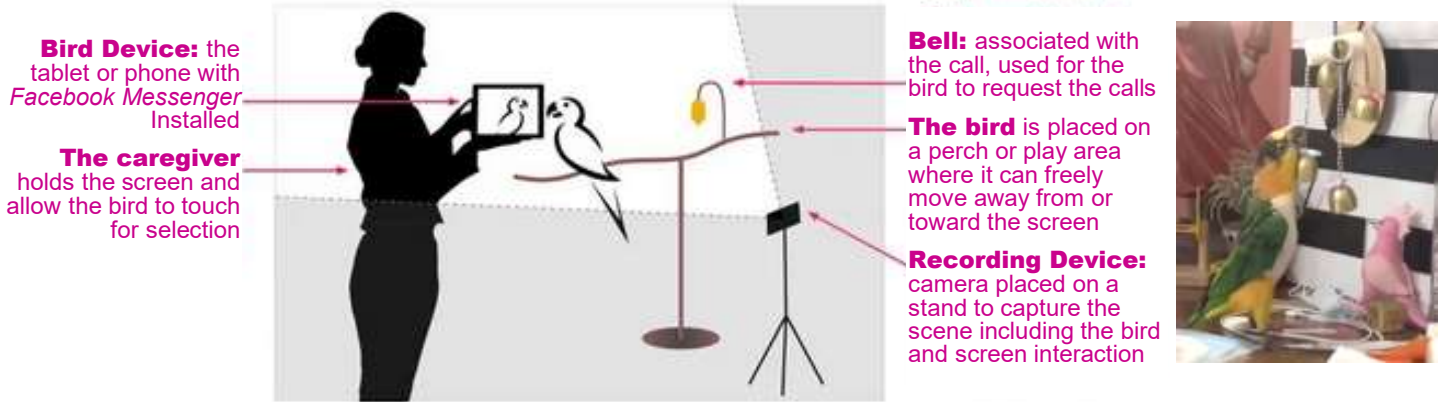
Dr. Jennifer Cunha, a Northeastern affiliated researcher, works with Ellie, Cunha's 11-year-old Goffin's Cockatoo, at her home in Jupiter, Florida, on April 10, 2023.



("Parrots Find New Parrot Friends" continued on page 15)

("Parrots Find New Parrot Friends" continued from page 14)

Room Set-up for the parrots to be able to request video chats with other parrots if they chose to make a call



Researchers began by teaching 18 companion birds to ring a bell. Then the birds learned by ringing a bell, it would indicate they wanted to make a video call. An important experimental design consideration was that the birds had free choice to make the calls or not. Once they learned how to use the tablet, they were not rewarded with treats for doing so. With the assistance of their owners, the parrots were presented with a tablet with photos of other birds from which they could choose. (The pairs and trios of the parrots were grouped together mainly according to size and time zone). By using their beak, the parrots could touch one of the photos of another bird on the screen and it would trigger up to a five-minute video chat on Facebook Messenger to that particular bird friend.

Parrots who participated in the video-calling research study

Ruby Macaw	Greenwing Macaw	Hybrid Macaw	Blue and Gold Macaw	Congo African Grey	Congo African Grey	Red Shouldered Macaw	Greenwing Macaw	Cockatiel
Parrolet	Jenday Conure	Cockatiel	Goffin Cockatoo	Black Headed Caique	Senegal	African Grey	Quaker	Quaker

Figure 3 | Subject demographics including participant ID, species, age, sex, social history,

Over a three-month period, the parrots made 147 requests for video calls. Their results show that 1) every bird used the system, 2) most birds showed a high motivation to call, and 3) all caretakers reported perceive benefits for their birds.

"Some birds got called a lot, while others were called less," said Rebecca Kleinberger, study co-author at Northeastern University. The ones who got called the most were the ones who also made the most calls. Birds stayed on most calls for the maximum allotted time of five minutes. The birds were allowed to initiate up to two calls during each three-house research session. The parrot caregivers received careful instruction to end calls at the first signs of any fear or aggression.



("Parrots Find New Parrot Friends" continued on page 16)

("Parrots Finds New Parrot Friends" continued from page 15)



The researchers could tell the birds seem to understand that a real fellow parrot was on the other end of the call. Sometimes the parrots preened together, tried to touch one another, imitated the vocalizations of each other and even sang together. Other fascinating behaviors observed included playing around and showing the other bird their toys. Some of the parrots even learned how to forage or fly by watching others.

Dr. Jennifer Cunha, of Northeastern University and co-founder of Parrot Kindergarten, said that the parrots "seemed to grasp" that they were engaging with other birds because their behavior mirrored that seen during real life interactions. Those pet parrots that were allowed to make video calls to other birds, show signs of feeling less isolated and fulfilled some of the social benefits missing from not living in a flock. "All the participants in the study said they valued the experience, and would want to continue using the system with their parrots in the future," Dr. Cunha said.

Kleinberger cautions parrot owners about using a Zoom call with their birds and assume it will go well. She said that the parrots in this study had experienced handlers that took their time to introduce the technology slowly and carefully monitored their parrot's reactions. They found that parrots were finicky about which fellow birds they will responded to. Unsupervised interactions could lead to fear, in the birds causing violence and property damage. Larger parrots have beaks more than capable of breaking an iPad into pieces.

The finding suggests that video calls can improve a companion parrot's quality of life. "It really speaks to how cognitively complex these birds are and how much ability they have to express themselves," says Hirskyj-Douglas. Kleinberger added, "We're not saying you can make them as happy as they would be in the wild. We're trying to serve those who are already in captivity."



[You will want to watch the amazing videos listed below to see the parrots video chat with each other!](https://www.wlwt.com/article/lonely-parrots-talk-to-each-other-on-video-chats/43719221)

<https://www.wlwt.com/article/lonely-parrots-talk-to-each-other-on-video-chats/43719221>

<https://youtu.be/R8BlvicJfJM>

TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter



**Does art
imitate life
or
does life
imitate art?**

The team's complete paper is published in Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. Some of the photography is by Matthew Modoono/Northeastern University, Videos by Cam Sleeper/Northeastern University For [media inquiries](mailto:media@northeastern.edu), please contact media@northeastern.edu. (This article was submitted by June Baker, Janet Gardner, Sandy Ferrera, Linda Wiggins and several others who thought other bird lovers would enjoy reading it. Thank you!)

San Francisco Has an Official Animal. Long May the Wild Parrots Fly!

They're eccentric, stubborn and colorful. Kind of random. Resilient. They just got here, and yet they still fly through the city like they own the place. These winged settlers are travelers seemingly from another galaxy, who made San Francisco their home.

Those birds are a nonnative species, but doesn't that apply to nearly every human being who lives in San Francisco? Parrots are the perfect metaphor for San Franciscans, and they're the perfect choice for the Official Animal of this city by the bay.



The parrots were named "Official Animal" after a month-long process that started with 16 animals, and ended with the parrots winning with a feather-thin 51.3% of the vote in a one-on-one competition versus the Pier 39 sea lions.

For so many folks, their first experience of San Francisco ... is Pier 39. Though many tourists are mesmerized by the sea lions at Pier 39, some believed they just didn't have what it takes to be the Official Animal of San Francisco.

But there's something special about the way parrots have mirrored the San Francisco experience, captured beautifully in Judy Irving's 2003 documentary "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill."



The Parrots of Telegraph Hill are now the Official Bird of San Francisco

The parrots arrived in the late 1980s — there are conflicting theories about why, but a pet store escape seems most likely — and managed to proliferate. There were an estimated 220 during the last count. **The red-masked parakeets and mitred conures, two different species, have mated in San Francisco to create a hybrid that's unique to the city.**

(Photo left) Parrots stop for some seed and apple in 2021 at a Brisbane home. The famous wild parrots of San Francisco's Telegraph Hill have joined the flight to the suburbs. About a 100 or so of the green birds were spotted on the slopes of San Bruno Mountain in Brisbane at the time.

They're loud, colorful newcomers that help shape the city in their bold image — just like so many of their greatest residents. Robin Williams was a wild parrot. Harvey Milk was a wild parrot. Rita Moreno, Jerry Rice and Hunter Pence? All wild parrots.

Heather Knight and Peter Hartlaub of the San Francisco Chronicle, started the Official Animal of San Francisco contest after Heather discovered the city had no official animal.

The election process was a wild ride. The parrots were leading on a Tuesday afternoon, when the official San Francisco government Twitter account retweeted a Pier 39 post urging a sea lion vote. Lobbying wasn't banned during the contest (in fact it was encouraged!), but parrot supporters, including the influential Telegraph Hill Dwellers Association, protested the post. Yet grassroots parrot boosters, including parrot rescue organizations rallied supporters to a narrow 227-vote victory, with parrots receiving 4,239 votes and sea lions 4,012.

The Total San Francisco team hopes the parrots are forever honored for the joy they've brought to the city. They are the loudest — and the best — of all of us. *(This article was submitted by Karen Allen. Thank you!)*

SBBS Welcomes New & Returning Members



RENEWAL MEMBERS: **Mike and Julia Comella**

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

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

IN MEMORIAM LIFETIME MEMBERS:
Laura Lynn Porter, Diane Racey

Number of Current Members: **91**

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 the Membership Director, Patte Fisher at pattefisher@verizon.net or you can call her at: (310) 316-9843 (home) or at (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.

ZIGGY: By Tom Wilson



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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.)**
- **Avoid people that are sneezing and coughing.**
- **Please STAY HOME & away from others if you are SICK & CONTEGIOUS with a cold, flu, etc.**
- **Consider wearing mask indoors and when in close proximity to others. Respect people's choice on wearing a mask, even when it is not legally required. There are lots of respiratory viruses circulating right now and we need to stay healthy for ourselves and our birds.**



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.

The deadline for the next newsletter is Tuesday, June 13th.

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!

<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

ZIGGY: By Tom Wilson



LAUGH
KOOKaBURrA



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

ZIGGY: By Tom Wilson



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

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Please Contact SBBS President, Janet Ragonesi at (310) 376-5954



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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 SBBS sponsors are listed above.
LET'S GIVE THEM OUR SUPPORT!





PLEASE JOIN US



Our meetings are held HYBRID - on ZOOM & IN PERSON at the Kiwanis Club Building 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.

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.

South Bay Bird Society — Officers and Board of Directors



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,
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- Newsletter & Flyers** Gala Burkholder
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Marie Calleja, (310) 529-1408
- Cartoons** Marie Calleja
- "Meet-up" Site** David Benjamin
- Photography** Gala Burkholder, Marie Calleja
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Lorrie Mitchell, Diane Bock,
Ron Ellwood
- In Memoriam Members** Laura Lynn Porter, Diane Racey

June 20



American Eagle Day

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. Thank you!



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): _____

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Cell Phone for Texts: (____) _____ 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: _____