

# Evolution of Birds

**Avicultural Society of America  
& Organization of Professional  
Aviculturists Annual  
Education Conference**

*Holiday Inn Bayside San Diego, CA*

*September 11 - 14, 2024*

## Program Schedule & Information




# Avicultural Society of America & Organization of Professional Aviculturists Education Conference

## P R O G R A M

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 – Bayside Ballroom/Bayside Bar		
6 p.m.	Registration/Setup & informal get together	Informal get together in Hotel Bayside Bar- short walk to next building- see map last page.
Thursday, September 12, 2024 – Bayside Ballroom		
8:45 a.m.	Welcome	President Steve Duncan
9:00 a.m.	Carol Stanley	Sleeps with Flamingos - The Pink Birds Outside My Bedroom Window
10:00 a.m.	Levi Fuentes	Species, Subspecies, and Why It Matters
11:00 a.m.	Hillary Hankey	Cross Discipline Collab Talk & Bird Demo
12-2:00 p.m.	Lunch	
2:00 p.m.	Sean and Michelle Fremon	Parrot Education and Outreach Our Parrot Story, Their Parrot Story, Your Parrot Story
3:00 p.m.	Keriellen Lohrman	What Aviculture Means to Me
4:00 p.m.	Steve Duncan/Cody Yager, USDA	USDA updates and news
Friday, September 13, 2024 – Bayside Ballroom		
9:00 a.m.	T.J. Pluid	Florida Avian Conservancy-Facility Highlight
10:00 a.m.	Taylor Hains	Evolutionary History of Macaws and the Impacts of Hybridization
11:00 a.m.	Zoo Day - Car pool to zoo	Coordinate your ride/drive in the Bayside Ballroom
12:00 p.m.	Cookout Tree Tops Cafe	Talk by Jonathan Beilby
Saturday, September 14, 2024 – Bayside Ballroom		
9 a.m.	T.J. Pluid	Welfare and Enrichment in a Breeding Facility
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Chris Touchton	Parrot Incubation, Hatching, Handfeeding and Troubelshooting




Jonathan Beilby - 1	<b>Chester Zoo - A History Of Aviculture And Aviculturalists</b>
	<p>Jonathan Beilby is the Assistant Team Manager of Birds at the Chester Zoo, U.K. From keeping birds as a child, he graduated with a Masters from the University of Cambridge. Following university, he was an intern, then quarantine co-ordinator at Chester Zoo before moving to Indonesia to manage the Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre (CCBC). CCBC works with the most threatened songbirds, including the Javan green magpie, and through managed breeding programmes these species may still be able to survive. After Indonesia, he became the registrar for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) with 7 centres and over 1000 flamingos to keep records of, not to mention national and international moves. Since 2021, Jonathan has been back at Chester, with a focus on softbills, particularly trogons, and pheasants, having recently taken on a committee role with the captive breeding advisory group of the World Pheasant Association (WPA).</p>
<p>Chester Zoo has always had a long history of birds. George Mottershead, the zoo's founder, loved birds and insisted that birds were key throughout the organisation - resulting in the first breeding of the superb bird-of-paradise in 1969. This talk will look at the past, present and future of bird keeping at Chester, and focus on the applications our avicultural knowledge can have on the most critically endangered of species.</p>	
<b>Jonathan Beilby - 2</b>	At San Diego Zoo: Tree Tops Cafe Aviculture - a Global Profession


<b>Steve Duncan - 1</b>	<b>Vasa Parrots of Madagascar – Adapted for Life in the Fast Lane</b>
	<p>Steve is a life-long aviculturist, businessman, and nature photographer. His avicultural experience spans over 50 years. He established his commercial bird farm, Avian Resources, in 1988. The assortment of birds currently includes over 60 species ranging from parrots to cranes to hornbills. Steve earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at California State Polytechnic University at Pomona including an internship at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Steve is an adjunct professor at Mount San Antonio College teaching Aviculture, Pet Shop Management, Reptile Management and Aquarium and Pond Management.</p>
<p>Like many organisms from Madagascar, Vasa Parrots have many unique traits that make them very different from parrots elsewhere in the world. This talk explores the adaptive advantages for Vasa Parrots to be the way they are. How has Madagascar influenced their evolution? How does that impact their avicultural husbandry?</p>	
<b>Steve Duncan - 2</b>	<b>USDA Licensing Update followed by Q&amp;A with Cody Yager</b>
	<p>Steve will cover the latest information about applying for and obtaining a license under the new USDA Animal Welfare Act regulations. Steve has helped dozens of aviculturists through the process and will share helpful tips and potential pitfalls that he has learned from his experiences.</p>





Levi Fuentes	Species, Subspecies, and Why It Matters
	<p>Levi Fuentes developed a passion for birds at the age of two. He officially entered the avicultural world at 12, focusing initially on parrots, particularly large macaws. Over time, his interest has broadened to include bird species native to tropical Mexico, Central, and South America.</p> <p>The 2019 ASA conference further fueled his fascination, leading him to explore all bird species in human care across the United States. Levi keeps a personal record of birds observed in zoos and maintains a detailed list of parrot conservation statuses and population trends. Since 2020, he has also pursued wildlife photography, capturing both wild birds and those in captivity.</p> <p>Levi regularly contributes articles he has written to the Avicultural Society of America e-Bulletin.</p>



<p><b>Taylor Haines</b></p>	<p><b>Evolutionary History of Macaws and the Impacts of Hybridization</b></p>
	<p>Born and raised in Southern California, Taylor has a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Biology from Columbia University with a thesis on hybridization of scarlet macaw (<i>Ara macao</i>) subspecies in a captive population in Costa Rica. He worked at the American Museum of Natural History for this project. He completed a Master of Science in Environmental Science &amp; Policy at Johns Hopkins University in 2021, with a thesis on genomic management of Blue-headed macaws (<i>Primolius couloni</i>). He is now pursuing his doctoral degree at the University of Chicago and the Field Museum studying chromosome evolution and conservation genomics in parrots.</p>
<p><b>Hillary Hankey</b></p>	<p><b>Crossing the border: How cross disciplinary education strengthens communities among in aviculture and beyond</b></p>





Many of bird enthusiasts get our start with birds through a single community, such as aviculture, sanctuary, rehabilitation, veterinary medicine, falconry, or research biology. Building learning history through these avenues can guide us to fulfilling hobbies and careers. That said, many of the constituents in these communities grow and evolve through promotion of skills and beliefs within the frame of the community circle. It is not only common, but perhaps de rigeur, to become entrenched along the fault lines of the respective community's ethos. Growth, as any biologist or entrepreneur knows, is always in the margins. This presentation explores the transition of one person from companion parrot owner to vet tech, avicultural assistant, and then zoo animal trainer. From the zoo world came falconry, then professional behavior consulting, entrepreneurship, wildlife rehabilitation work, and even field biology. At each step, values and skills from the previous period were retained, grown, and utilized to enhance understanding, practical application, and pedagogy for a richer experience and practice of avian science and welfare.

Hillary Hankey started Avian Behavior International as a comprehensive resource for avian education and conservation focused on integrating conservation experiences and progressive, scientific training technology. Her team teaches conservation education on their idyllic ranch near San Diego California and produces free flying bird programs for zoological parks and serves wildlife rehabilitation organizations, zoo teams, and other animal behavior enthusiasts through a science based learning program, the Avian Behavior Lab. Hillary is on the Advisory Board of the Teton Raptor Center, Board of Directors of the Indonesian Parrot Project, and a behavior advisor to the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project in South Africa, where she has assisted in enhancing reintroduction and release efforts for the Southern Ground Hornbill. Hillary is currently enrolled in the Masters Program at Colorado State University for Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology.

**Jeremey Hodges**

**Beginning captive breeding on two of Hawaii's rarest birds**



I have worked for the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance for nearly 20 years. For the first 7 of those years I worked in island bird conservation as an aviculturist in the Hawaiian Island and San Clemente Island. For the last 13 years I've been the Lead Zookeeper at the San Diego Zoo vet hospital.

Hawaiian honeycreepers, a group of birds found exclusively on the Hawaiian Islands, are one of the best examples of evolutionary adaptive radiation in the world. Since the 1990s the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, along with many partners, has played a vital role in the conservation of Hawaiian birds by managing the Hawaii Endangered Bird Conservation Program. The program maintains a captive population of some of the most critically endangered species on the planet. In 2015, the decision was made to bring two species of birds from the island of Kauai into captivity to set up an emergency population at our facilities on Maui and the Big Island. For several months that year, I was given the opportunity to assist in the collection of the first `akikiki and akeke`e eggs ever artificially incubated and hand-reared, which we collected from the Alaka`i swamp of Kauai. This presentation will present details including pictures and videos of how these tiny eggs were collected from nests 40 feet off the ground to be artificially incubated, the process of hand-rearing the chicks, and the current state of the captive population of these species.

**Keriellen Lohrman**



**What Aviculture Means to Me**



President, Bird Gardens of Naples

The Bird Gardens of Naples is a non-profit organization primarily focused on education, the welfare of captive birds, and the conservation of wild species. We consider ourselves to be an avian resource center; providing public education, adoption placement, veterinary recommendations, and sharing our husbandry/conservation experience with inquiring bird owners since 2011.

Birds are wonderful beings with lifespans of up to 100 years, complex emotional needs, and remarkable intelligence. Our public education efforts seek to provide a glimpse into the remarkable lives and personalities of our feathered friends.

T.J. Pluid -1	Florida Avian Conservancy-Facility Highlight
	<p>Highlighting the work of the Florida Avian Conservancy, the species we work with, some of our hand-feeding, visual guide of the facility, and how we approach certain things with our birds.</p> <p>T.J. Pluid is a dedicated aviculturist with extensive experience in both zoological and private facility settings. His career in aviculture includes serving as the primary bird keeper at the Reid Park Zoo in Arizona, an AZA-accredited institution, where he played a key role in bird care and management. Raised in Idaho, T.J. was deeply involved in private aviculture, specializing in pheasants, quail, grouse and waterfowl. Currently, at the Florida Avian Conservancy, T.J. works with rare species, including Ocellated Turkeys, Pygmy Geese, Turacos, Crowned Pigeons, Pheasant Pigeons, and Fruit Doves, contributing to the propagation of these unique birds.</p>
T.J. Pluid - 2	<b>Welfare and Enrichment in a Breeding Facility</b>
	<p>Easy and logical ways to enrich birds in a breeding environment along with some tips of general welfare without anthropomorphizing.</p>

**Chris Touchton**

**Parrot Incubation, Hatching,  
Handfeeding and Troubelshooting**



My name is Chris Touchton. I've been breeding parrots since 1989. After several years of having many parrot parents destroy their eggs or chicks I bought an incubator in 1992. I figured at least I wasn't trying to kill them like the parents were.

I have successfully incubated, hatched and hand-raised many parrots in a wide variety of parrot species.

This presentation is based on 32 Years of information gathering/ researching and good old daily trial and error on this subject.

This presentation is on how to incubate, day one handfeeding (on up) and more importantly trouble shooting the problems that plague us on this subject.

People all the time are contacting me to trouble shoot what's going wrong with their incubation or handfeeding chicks. I've solved many problems over the phone from their description and from photos. This power point is a compilation of trial and error with not only my experience but experience with others and cherished guidance of my Avian Veterinarians.



**Tamara Russell**

**The Penguano Project; where San Diego penguins at the aquarium help Antarctic penguins in the wild**



Dr. Tammy Russell is a marine ornithologist and postdoctoral researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Her research focuses on the impacts of climate change and plastic pollution on the habitat use and foraging ecology in marine birds along the U.S. west coast and Antarctic Peninsula. Her research has taken her on many research cruises within the North Pacific and across the South Atlantic, to colonies along California and Antarctica, and she has presented her work at several international conferences and recently, at the United Nations Climate Conference in Dubai.

The Penguano Project was created in 2019 by Dr. Tammy Russell and is a collaboration between Scripps Institution of Oceanography, NOAA's Antarctic Division, and Birch Aquarium. This research uses samples from captive little blue penguins to train scientists and improve methods in order to investigate ingestion of plastic pollution in Antarctic brush-tailed penguins. During this presentation, Dr. Russell will give an overview of the project, the collaboration with Birch Aquarium, and some of the results from this work



Visit [Eclectus Ark's Etsy](#) page and see all the bird treats and food they offer. Your bird will thank you!



**Carol Stanley**

**Sleeps with Flamingos - *The Pink Birds Outside My Bedroom Window***



Carol Stanley has served on the ASA board as a director and as president for the past decade. Her responsibilities have been assisting with coordinating and running the annual conferences. Since the passing of beloved ASA Bulletin editor, Sheldon Dingle, she has been gathering articles and information to put in the Avicultural Society of America e-Bulletin, a quarterly online publication of the ASA. Carol is a published author and photographer and believes avicultural information should be shared freely for the benefit of the species we keep.

She has been involved with birds since 1997 and has worked with many avian species, most flamboyantly, Chilean flamingos (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*). With recently settling in the Central Valley of California with her husband, Delain, Carol's flock has been downsized. She currently keeps 3 Chilean flamingos, a pair of Solomon Island eclectus (*Eclectus roratus*), and 2 standard poodles (*Canis lupus familiaris*). She abhors the emotional dribble animal rights fanatics use to separate people from animals through laws not based in science.



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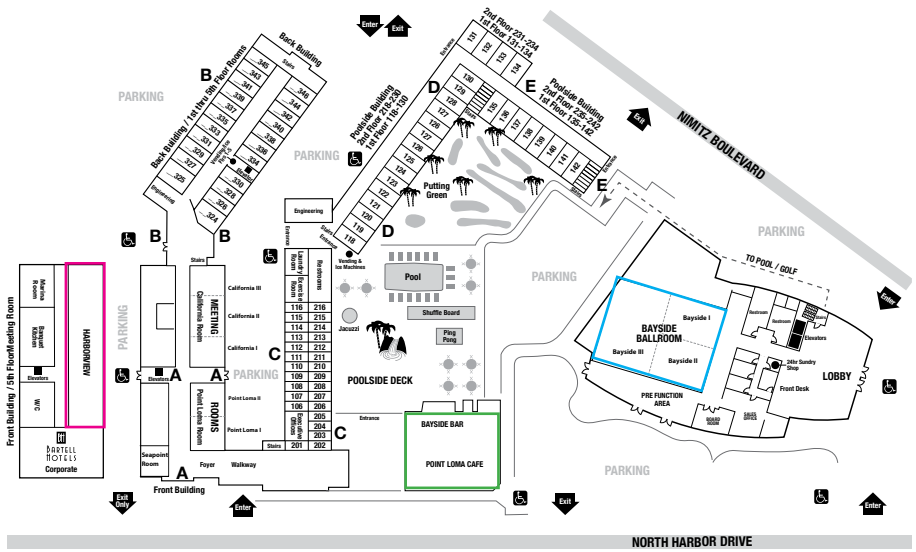


## **FUNDRAISER FOR THE ECLECTUS PARROT DNA PROJECT**

The Eclectus Ark is participating in a special DNA sequencing project under the direction of Taylor Hains, University of Chicago. This project requires the samples from live birds or dead specimens in order to put the physical sample thru the DNA sequencing process. Since we have spent a great deal of time in museums studying collections of wild caught specimens which were identified at the time, this has enabled us to accurately identify live birds in our flock and birds in the possession of other individuals, as well as in zoo collections. So, we will be submitting blood samples from live eclectus subspecies: *E. r. aruensis*, *E. r. biaki*, *E. r. polycholoros*, *E. r. solomonensis* and *E. r. vosmaeri*. There are costs associated with the work of the DNA sequencing, so we are requesting donations from the avicultural community to the Eclectus Ark in order to fund the project. Donors to our non profit organization who indicate they want an IRS letter will receive one. We are seeking \$3000 total for this project. Donors can send checks to Eclectus Ark, P O Box 1606, Claremore, OK 74018-1606 or send a gift thru **PayPal to [eclectusark@gmail.com](mailto:eclectusark@gmail.com)**. Or All donations are appreciated! If you have questions or comments: please email [Laurella.desborough@gmail.com](mailto:Laurella.desborough@gmail.com) Thank You!

Please use the QR code below to send money thru GoFundMe HELP ECLECTUS ARK CONTINUE THEIR MISSION.





### Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside – Meeting Rooms

4875 North Harbor Drive • San Diego, California 92106-2394  
 (619) 224-3621 • Fax (619) 224-3629 • In U.S. (800) 662-8899 • Sales Fax (619) 224-1787 • Sales (800) 650-6666  
 sales@holinnbayside.com • www.holidayinn.com/san-baysideca

### WALKING DISTANCE:

- Jimmy’s Famous American Tavern – [www.j-fat.com](http://www.j-fat.com)
- Pizza Nova – [www.pizzanova.net](http://www.pizzanova.net)
- Mitch’s Seafood Restaurant – [www.mitchsseafood.com](http://www.mitchsseafood.com)
- Eppig Brewing – [www.eppigbrewing.com](http://www.eppigbrewing.com)
- Tiki Time Bay Tours: Tour Descriptions — Tiki Time Bay Tours
- Eco Boat Rentals: New Pink Party Boat in San Diego | Dog Friendly Pedal Boats Rent ([ecoboatrentals.com](http://ecoboatrentals.com))
- Disco Paddle Surf: Paddleboard Rentals San Diego & Paddleboard Specialty Store | Disco’s Paddle Surf ([discospaddlesurf.com](http://discospaddlesurf.com)) – paddle board, kayak, hydro-bikes

### WHAT’S NEARBY:

- Ketch Grill & Taps - <https://ketchgrillandtaps.com/>
- Liberty Station – [www.libertystationsandiego.com](http://www.libertystationsandiego.com)
- H & M Landing – [www.hmlanding.com](http://www.hmlanding.com)
- OEX Water Rentals – [www.oexpointloma.com](http://www.oexpointloma.com)
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- USS Midway – [www.midway.org](http://www.midway.org)