

Thursday, October 1, 2015: Michele Raffin - Breeding Exotic Birds

Birding Information: Prior to the evening program, we will screen a short video about the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuges. Discover seven natural treasures that lie just beyond the city limits. Explore the National Wildlife Refuges that protect endangered species like evening primrose, Lange's metalmark butterfly, and the salt marsh harvest mouse.

Main program: Michele Raffin: Breeding Exotic Birds



Michele Raffin is president of Pandemonium Aviaries, a conservation organization dedicated to saving birds. A former high-tech executive, Raffin began taking in abandoned and discarded birds fifteen years ago. Today Pandemonium is one of the premier facilities breeding and caring for avian species facing extinction due to the destruction of their natural habitats.

Raffin, who also lives with turacos, lorikeets, East African cranes, finches, and doves (as well as parrots, donkeys, goats, two dogs, and one cat!) is a dedicated avian advocate and a passionate observer of birdlife, and in *The Birds of Pandemonium: Life Among the Exotic and the Endangered*, her enthusiasm for and special relationship with these winged creatures comes through radiantly.

A certified aviculturist and regular consultant to zoos and breeders, Raffin has spoken at the TEDx conference, is the conservation columnist for the Avicultural Society of America's *Avicultural Bulletin*, and has served as cochair of a large humane society and on the board of a companion bird rescue organization.

More detailed information about the October program is available in our October 2015 Quail newsletter.