

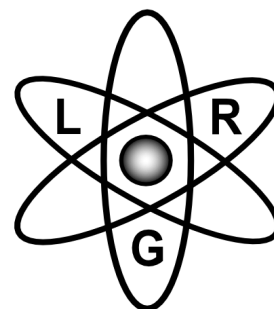
**Laboratory  
Retiree  
Group  
Newsletter**

**Vol. 27 No. 1  
March 2022**



# THE MAIN GATE

1947



Reaching Out From a  
Common Experience

## ***"Reaching Out From a Common Experience"***

***Greetings from a unique group of people - the retirees of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The Laboratory Retiree Group (LRG) is a non-profit corporation which seeks to maintain communications with and to serve the needs and interests of retirees from LANL.***

### **LANL Benefits Updates Norman Delamater**

The Medicare changes for 2022 include new deductibles for Parts A and B and higher Part B premiums. The new Part A (hospital charges) deductible will be \$1556, an increase of \$72 over 2021. The new Part B deductible will be \$233, which is an increase of \$30. For those LRG retirees on the Blue Cross Blue Shield National Medicare Supplement plan, these deductibles will be covered. The Medicare Part B monthly premium will be \$170.10 in 2022, up \$21.60 from 2021. The monthly Part B premium will be higher for those retirees with incomes above \$182,000 (married filing jointly) or \$91,000 (single). In 2022, there will be more help with insulin drug coverage with caps of \$35 per month for some insulins. Medicare will also provide more coverage for mental and behavioral health services over the phone or online. The Medicare benefits for 2022 will otherwise remain largely the same. Medicare allows for the coverage of second opinions if patients desire second opinions in the case of recommended surgeries or therapies. Medicare provides coverage for physician ordered physical therapy and no longer limits how much it pays for your medically necessary outpatient therapy services in one calendar year. Please consult the website [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) and the booklet "Medicare & You 2022" for the details of covered Medicare services. Also consult the Blue Cross Blue Shield website for details of coverages under the National Medicare Supplement insurance, or the PPO and EPO plans which LRG retirees may also have.

With the current Covid-19 pandemic, Medicare (and the Lab Retiree medical plans) also allows coverage for Covid-19 vaccinations and boosters, as well as coverage for up to eight free Covid-19 at-home test kits and free protective N95 masks. The over the counter Covid-19 test kit coverage will begin in Spring 2022 and will allow for eight free over the counter test kits at participating pharmacies each month. Also, up to three free N95 masks will soon be available at participating pharmacies. Please also visit the website [www.covidtests.gov](http://www.covidtests.gov) to order four free at home Covid-19 test kits per address.

The Lab medical health plans include a benefit called the "Consumer Medical Program" available to the non-Medicare retirees. This is a second opinion program for those who are recommended surgery or other treatments by their physician. The program allows for the patient to work with other physicians to arrange for a second opinion on recommended treatments. More information on this program is at [www.myconsumermedical.com](http://www.myconsumermedical.com). For Medicare retirees, remember that second opinions are already a covered Medicare benefit, so the consumer medical plan does not apply.

A note on the CalPERS long term care program: many participants may have already received their notices of premium increases. It may be prudent to pay the increase and/or decrease your policy benefits so you can maintain this policy as it may be very difficult to obtain alternate

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coverage if you need this type of insurance. For University of California retirees who receive the quarterly publication "New Dimensions", please note that while this publication often contains useful information it also contains information which is not relevant to UC retirees from Los Alamos National Laboratory. This is usually information relating to open enrollment, while the other information in "New Dimensions" is often useful and interesting to all UC retirees.

The annual tax season is now upon us, with the Federal tax filing deadline of April 18, 2022. The IRS strongly recommends that you file your return electronically to get the fastest refund. Be sure that all the information in your return is accurate as any issues could delay your expected refund. This year the standard deduction would be \$27,800 for married over age 65 taxpayers filing jointly. For the 2021 tax year, your charitable contributions of up to \$600 can be deducted from income without itemizing. Your tax can be reduced if you make use of the QCD (qualified charitable distribution) for those required to take required minimum distributions from their IRA, if the distribution is made to a qualified charitable organization. Also, those who attain age 72 during 2022 will be required to take their first required minimum distribution from all retirement plans like IRA, 403(b) and 401(k) accounts. These must be received either by December 31 of 2022 or can be taken by April 2023 if desired. But by waiting until 2023, you would still have to take the RMD for 2023 by December 31 of 2023 so that would lead to more taxable income next year and possibly cause an increase in the Medicare Part B premiums.

You can also save on state taxes by taking a deduction for contributions to an education savings plan like a 529 plan administered by your state. This is a way to save for college funding for beneficiaries like your children or grandchildren. New Mexico residents can check the website [www.theeducationplan.com](http://www.theeducationplan.com) for more information, while residents of other states can learn about the 529 college savings plans at [www.savingforcollege.com](http://www.savingforcollege.com). Saving for college for your loved ones is a great way to support their future and also gives you a tax deduction for state taxes if you live in a state with a state income tax and a state sponsored 529 plan. The 529 plan allows tax free growth within the account as long as the funds are used for allowed educational expenses for your beneficiary.

As this edition goes to press, it is still a cold winter season. The weather can be snowy and very cold, and yes, even Florida is having its cold spells and freeze warnings! Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind during cold weather. The cold weather season is statistically associated with an increase in heart attacks, which is due to vasoconstriction (tightening of the arteries) as occurs when outside in the cold weather and this can lessen blood flow to the heart. Cardiologists recommend against shoveling snow in sub-freezing weather if you have heart disease as the cold weather makes your heart work harder to keep your body warm and respond to over exertion. Be aware of what your body may be saying as you exercise in the cold weather and know the warning signs of a heart attack (chest or shoulder pain, shortness of breath, sweating, nausea, and dizziness to name a few). Also, in the cold weather be very careful to avoid slips and falls on steps or on the ice, as these could result in serious consequences like broken bones or concussion.

We hope all our LRG members will stay safe and healthy this winter and all through the year. Please continue to email us with any benefits issues and problems which we may be able to help resolve or assist with.

**DISCLAIMER: The information provided in the Main Gate, while believed to be currently accurate, is meant to be educational in nature and should not be interpreted as medical, investment, or legal advice. Consult your physician, financial adviser, tax advisor, or attorney before taking any actions based on information offered here.**

Empyrean: 1-844-805-0002, [www.lanlbenefits.com](http://www.lanlbenefits.com)

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Mexico: 1-877-878-5265, [www.bcbsnm.com](http://www.bcbsnm.com)

Express Scripts: 1-800-838-4590, [www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com)  
(beginning 1/1/20)

Delta Dental of New Mexico:	1-877-395-9420, <a href="http://www.deltadentalnm.com">www.deltadentalnm.com</a> group number 4000
Davis Vision:	1-800-999-5431, <a href="http://www.davisvision.com">www.davisvision.com</a> client code 9019
ARAG Legal:	1-800-247-4184, <a href="http://www.araglegal.com">www.araglegal.com</a>
Medicare:	1-800-MEDICARE or 1-800-633-4427, <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a>
Laboratory Retiree Group	<a href="http://www.lalrg.org">www.lalrg.org</a>

LANL Pension Center for Triad defined pension plan, TCP1 pensions, Hewitt: 1-866-370-7301, <https://ypr.aon.com/LosAlamos/#/>

University of California Retirement Plan, UC Retirement Administration Service Center at UCnet: 1-800-888-8267, [ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu)

California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPers): 1-888-225-7377, [www.calpers.ca.gov/page/retirees](http://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/retirees)

## LRG News

### The Office of President

The LRG Board has temporarily solved its search for a president. Three Board members have volunteered to take the office each for six months consecutively as follows:

Dave Schiferl, January – June 2022, Morrie Pongratz, July – December 2022, Alan Wadlinger, January – June 2023. Leigh House who has been vice president for five years stepped down at the end of December 2021. The role of vice president will be held by the president-in-waiting, making Morrie Pongratz the current vice-president.

Thank you, Leigh, for your years of dedicated service as vice-president to the LRG.

### Current President Dave Schiferl

Dave grew up in rural Maryland and received a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Chicago, was a NATO post-doc at the Max-Planck Institut für Festkörperforschung (MPI for Solid-State Research) – aka the MPI für Festforschung (MPI for Festive Research) – it had beer-vending machines. At LANL he pioneered a wide variety of ultra-high-pressure techniques on materials ranging from hydrogen to berkelium. He has eclectic materials-science expertise – including refractory rhenium alloys, arsenic-structure elements & compounds, and the fluoro-chloro-polymer Kel-F 800 (high-explosive binder).



Pre-Covid, science clubs at the two White Rock elementary schools featured "Dr. Dave" covering everything from The Science of Candy Making -- to The Fibonacci Sequence -- to General Relativity. He is an avid gardener – killed enough plants to qualify as an expert – but you should see his front yard in the late spring and summer. He is an intrepid nature photographer, having traveled above the Arctic Circle (easy) to below the Antarctic Circle (very difficult), and many challenging locales in between.

### Introducing New Board Member and Next Main Gate Editor—David Janecky

*The LRG Board welcomes new board member, David Janecky who was unanimously elected at the December Board meeting. The Board is now complete. David has also become the new editor of the Main Gate.*

I retired from LANL in 2018 after 34 years in a diverse set of organizations in the Lab. My wife Loui and I have two sons Gregg and Grant. I continue to be a Guest Scientist at the Lab, and collaborate with folks both inside and outside. By training and avocation, I am a geochemist. In addition to enjoying research projects, I spend time supporting the New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge and Los Alamos School of Gymnastics, and I have a long-term interest in the Los Alamos Employee's Scholarships.





LRG Board member Richard Henderson studies LRG Board member Leigh House's photos displayed in the Los Alamos Photo Club's excellent show in the Step Up Gallery at Mesa Public Library last October.

## More LRG News



LRG Board member Morrie Pongratz is dwarfed by the huge machinery on the family farm in Nebraska, where he spent some weeks helping with the fall harvest.

First Tuesday Breakfasts have resumed. LRG members and guests who are fully vaccinated are welcome. Coffee is provided by the LRG.



Morning Glory Restaurant  
1377 Diamond Drive  
8:30—10:30

LRG Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, hosted by Dave Schiferl on Zoom

We will continue to meet on Zoom until further notice.

**LRG Annual Meeting** LRG By-laws require an annual meeting be held in May of each year. The Board feels it is not wise to hold an in-person meeting yet because of the ongoing Covid threat. So the annual meeting will be on Zoom on May 18th at 2:00 pm along with the monthly Board meeting. If you plan to attend please send your email address to President Dave Schiferl who will send you an invitation at the time. ([dsconsult@centurylink.net](mailto:dsconsult@centurylink.net)).

**Treasurer Sheila Girard** explains that the address label on your Main Gate indicates your dues status. The date on the label indicates the date for which your dues have been paid.

**Laboratory Retiree Group Directory** As a service to current LRG members the LRG Directory, mailed each February, contains the names and available information for every present and past LRG member, whether that member is in good standing or not. Some listed in the Directory have passed away or experienced life changing events: marriage or change of contact information. We regret that the information in the directory may be outdated. Unless we receive updates the information will remain inaccurate. It's important to update your profile with the LRG so we can better serve you. Or if you know of a life change of a fellow retiree in the Directory please update us. Contact information is on page 9.

### LANL Workforce Retirees' Endowed Scholarship Fund

Application is closed and the committee is reviewing the 350 applications it received. The endowment received \$10,100 in donations in 2021. Sincere thanks to all of you who make this scholarship possible. The July issue of the Main Gate will announce the recipient of the scholarship for this year. See the back cover of this issue for instructions on how you can continue to support this important scholarship.

# Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Los Alamos County, New Mexico – Round One 1984 - 1992 Joyce Wolff



Joyce Wolff, co-founder of the Pajarito Ornithological Survey. Richard Henderson photo

In The spring of 1984 a small band of Los Alamos bird-watchers formed the Pajarito Ornithological Survey (POS). Co-founder and lay ornithologist Jim Travis\* immediately set the group to work on a breeding bird atlas (BBA). These atlases were becoming popular throughout the country and other parts of the world.

A BBA is a systematic survey of the breeding birds from late winter to early fall in a given area over several years. The POS surveyed Los Alamos County for five years – a daunting task considering the few participants and the challenging topography, from the rugged Rio Grande cliffs and shores to the rugged canyons of the Jemez Mountains that fell within County boundaries. This was the first atlas of breeding birds for a large portion of the state. Surveying breeding birds over a given period provides valuable information for environmental studies, identification and conservation of rare species, and habitat protection. The data becomes more valuable if a comparative survey can be repeated at some interval in the future.

The 111 square mile county was divided into 60 squares coinciding with USGS topographical maps. Participants were encouraged to adopt squares to survey throughout the collection period. LANL occupies 43 square miles of County property requiring badge holders only to work those areas. As the study period neared its end many blocks were considered under-surveyed. Block Busting weekends brought together surveyors, many from out of town, to invade the troublesome block en masse. Usually, a get together followed for tired participants and results were discussed.



A tiny Northern Saw-whet Owl peeking from a nest box  
Joyce Wolff photo

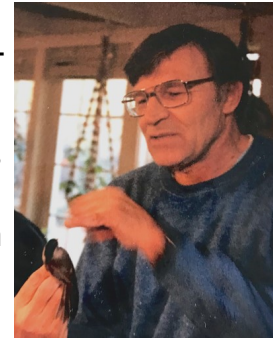
Several dozen recognized breeding behaviors and observations were codified: Possible, Probable, Confirmed. Carrying nesting material, for example, ups the probability until feeding nestlings or finding eggs (a rare and exciting event) confirms a record of a breeding bird species.

The POS had an invaluable advantage as a member of the now non-existent Club 1663. Clubs and organizations with some percentage of Lab members enrolled as Club 1663 members, allowing those clubs to use copy machines for club material, interoffice mail, and meeting rooms. In the case of the Los Alamos BBA the vast amount of data was stored on Lab computers.

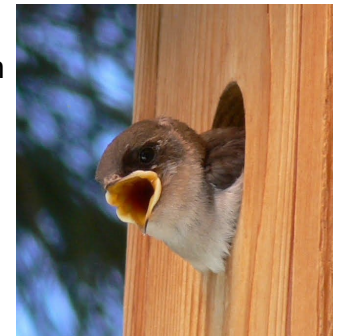
The resulting Atlas of Breeding Birds of Los Alamos County, authored by Jim Travis, was published in 1992 as a comprehensive LANL report, LA12206. Copies can still be found from used book dealers, at the Los Alamos Nature Center (PEEC), or in the libraries of local birdwatchers.

Now there is a second and most welcome BBA for LA County in its final stages. Read more about this effort in the following article by co-compiler, Mouser Williams. Comparing the data to discover resulting changes between the two Atlases will be invaluable.

*\*Jim Travis, a life-long birder, began his birding life in the east and was mentored by Chandler Robbins, co-editor of Guide to Field Identification Birds of North America. Jim saw that a project such as the BBA takes birdwatching to a new and more meaningful level. He and his wife, Gloria moved to Albuquerque after he retired as Group Leader of GMX-8 but continued to consult for some years. In a recent conversation with Gloria I sadly learned that Jim passed away in 2018. .*



Jim Travis, co-founder of the Pajarito Ornithological Survey holding a White breasted Nuthatch at an early morning banding event.  
Joyce Wolff photo



A Violet-green Swallow nestling begging food  
Joyce Wolff photo



## Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Los Alamos County, New Mexico – Volume II

Mouser Williams



*Mouser is an electrical engineer in A-3 at LANL. He, along with Michael Smith, are co-compilers of the second Breeding Bird Atlas of Los Alamos County.*

*Photos and captions by Bob Walker, who retired from T-Division in 2008, and has been chasing after birds, his daughters, and grandkids ever since. He volunteers at the Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC), where he pretends to know more about birds than he really does. He is a member of both the Los Alamos Photo Club and Los Alamos Master Gardeners.*



Thirty years after the fieldwork for the original Los Alamos BBA began, birding as an activity had changed dramatically. Inexpensive binoculars rivaled the quality of the best available consumer optics of the 1980s. Digital cameras with long zoom lenses were common, allowing birders to capture images of a fleeting bird sighting and identify it after the fact. The ubiquity of mobile phones and the internet gave birders access to huge amounts of reference materials even while in the field. The data analysis for the original BBA was performed on LANL supercomputers; the processing power and storage capacity of these supercomputers is now dwarfed by a modern-day cell phone.



The Western Tanager is most often noticed as a spring migrant in Los Alamos County, where the brightly colored males visit yards to find insects, fruit, and occasionally seed or suet. They stay all summer, but are less visible as they retreat more into the mountain and canyon habitats, where they set up nests and raise their young.

The Los Alamos Nature Center and its stewards, the Pajarito Environmental Education Center, cultivated an active birding community and provided a mailing list specifically for local birders. A “Rare Bird Alert” messaging service was set up to make sightings of unusual birds known to interested parties immediately. The online citizen science project eBird was launched in the early 2000s and is now widely used to report bird sightings and monitor bird activity in the region. These tools and services were not available to local birders in the 1980s and have resulted in a much larger and better-equipped birding community than was possible during the original BBA fieldwork.

As the local birding community was growing in size and sophistication, the bird habitats and distribution within Los Alamos County were also changing.

Wildfires are a semi-regular occurrence in Los Alamos County, and the original BBA noted that the 1977 La Mesa Fire had left a significant burn

scar across much of Bandelier National Monument and the southwest corner of Los Alamos National Laboratory. This left a unique and transitory habitat for birds like the American Three-toed Woodpecker, which preferentially seeks out fresh burn areas.

Presently, the La Mesa burn scar is essentially unidentifiable as such; a preponderance of grasslands and ~40 year old Ponderosa Pines mark the area now. However, the 2000 Cerro Grande Fire (three times the burn area of the La Mesa Fire) and the 2011 Las Conchas Fire (ten times the burn area of the La Mesa Fire) have completely transformed the western portions of the county. What had been mountains covered in mixed conifer and aspen forests were essentially laid bare and are now mostly occupied by low Gambel Oak and New Mexico Locust with the burned out trunks of the old conifers standing as reminders of the forest that once was.



The Broad-tailed Hummingbird is one of four species of hummingbirds that regularly visit Los Alamos, and one of two species that breeds in Los Alamos County. They winter in southern Mexico, and arrive here in early spring, where they breed regularly. This is a female sitting on her nest; the male has a bright rose-colored iridescent throat patch (gorget). His wings make a trilling sound when he flies.

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The Mountain Bluebird is one of our most colorful and signature species in Los Alamos County. These insect-eaters can be found at any time of the year, from the highest mountain habitats all the way down to the Rio Grande River.

As each year passes, strong winds blow down more and more of the ghost trees. A significant rain event in 2013 (as much as eight inches of rain in one week) resulted in wide-spread washouts of trails, scouring the canyon bottoms down to bedrock in some places and piling up downed trees into massive barriers. This has left a landscape in some areas that is difficult to traverse for field work. Some trails have been cleared with the use of chainsaws, but significant areas of the northwestern portion of the county are still effectively inaccessible.

In addition to making field work difficult, the fires and floods have made massive changes to the bird habitats throughout large portions of the county. This, in turn, has resulted in significant changes to the bird species distributions within the county.

Beyond the distribution changes caused by acute natural disasters, there have also been noticeable changes in global bird distributions over the last 30 years due to the warming climate. Breeding ranges for most migratory birds are creeping northwards which has resulted in some new species becoming regular in Los Alamos County that didn't appear in the original BBA at all. There are now approximately 15% more breeding bird species in Los Alamos County than there were 30 years ago.

One notable bird distribution change since the 1980s that wasn't caused by natural disasters or climate change is that of the Eurasian Collared-Dove. This eastern-hemisphere bird was introduced accidentally to the Bahamas in 1974. It immediately began to spread across the United States but its range had not reached New Mexico by the time of the original BBA fieldwork. Now the Eurasian Collared-Dove's range covers almost all of the continental United States, including Los Alamos County, where the bird is now quite common.

In 2016, members of the Los Alamos birding community decided that the changes in local habitat and species distribution had rendered significant portions of the original BBA document out-of-date and that a new volume of the BBA should be compiled. The second volume of the BBA would use the same grid squares and data collection protocol to the extent possible.

Unfortunately, much of the specifics for where the original grid squares were located was based on paper maps that were not reproduced in the BBA document itself (with one exception). The description given within the original BBA of where the grid lines should be located was inconsistent with the boundaries of the one example grid square map shown in the document. One small piece of the county was not covered by a grid square at all!

Significant work was done to tidy up the grid so that it matched our best understanding of where the original BBA grid likely was. This involved one row of grid "squares" that were slightly longer in one dimension than the rest so that the example block shown in the BBA document would still be correct. A 61st grid block was added to cover a bit of county land along the river between the outflows of Ancho and Chaquehui Canyons.

A cloud-accessible spreadsheet was created to accumulate all of the observation records culled from eBird checklists and direct emails from fieldwork volunteers. A core team of birders acted as data entry staff and a steering committee to guide fieldwork to blocks that needed particular attention. Scripts were written to provide real-time analysis of the raw observational data and compare the species counts and distribution to that found in the original BBA.

A presentation was given at the Nature Center in late 2016 for the local birding community in which the plans for the new BBA fieldwork were outlined and volunteers were identified to cover specific birding areas. The field work would again last for five years, encompassing 2017-2021. On January 14th, 2017, the very first breeding bird behavior was entered into the database for the new BBA – a pair of Great-Horned Owls exhibiting antiphonal hooting in White Rock Canyon. The field work concluded on New Year's Eve, 2021, with another report of singing Great-Horned Owls in Rendija Canyon.



The Eurasian Collared-Dove is an introduced breeder to Los Alamos County and can be seen in the spring sitting in trees, light poles, and electric wires. They are resident here all year long, and are frequent visitors to back yard bird feeders.

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The fieldwork was occasionally marred by closures of Bandelier National Monument, Santa Fe National Forest, and Los Alamos National Laboratory lands due to fire danger and by social restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 global pandemic. However, over the course of five years, approximately 47 volunteers were still able to find confirmed breeding evidence for significantly more species in most grid blocks of the map when compared against the original BBA.

Now the second volume of the Los Alamos BBA enters its second phase—data analysis. The ~50,000 accumulated records will be reviewed for data quality. Distribution maps and timing histograms for each breeding species will be produced. Photographs of each species will be obtained from local photographers. Species accounts for each of the confirmed and suspected breeding species will be produced one by one.

For the time being, the plan is for the second volume of the Los Alamos BBA to be published online and freely available to the general public. The timeline for completion of this phase of the project is likely to be measured in years—for the original BBA this process took three years.

### **PEEC and the Los Alamos Nature Center**

The Los Alamos Nature Center, a star attraction in Los Alamos, is operated by the Pajarito Environmental Education Center or more familiarly, PEEC. One of their many offerings to the community are Interest Groups. Among these email-based groups you will find PEEC Birders, an avenue for local birders to share information, photos, events, sightings and to plan outings to enjoy local birds. While some discussions can be quite detailed regarding a “mystery bird” identification the website is of interest to birders of all knowledge levels. The PEEC Birders Google email list is managed by PEEC volunteers while Bob Walker and Mouser Williams (see pages 6 and 7) are moderators and managers of the list of members. Bird watchers are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn from fellow bird watchers.



A saucy Stellar's Jay, common in Los Alamos townsite and occasional visitor to White Rock. Joyce Wolff photo



### **For The Birds Jonathan Longmire**

*Jon retired from the Bioscience Division in 2016.*

By the late 1980s the Human Genome Project was coming into full swing at LANL as well as at many other laboratories across the nation and around the world. Human genome scientists in LANL's then Life Sciences Division (currently Biosciences Division) were using state of the art genetic and molecular biology methods to map and sequence the human genome to gain a better understanding how the genome functions and to elucidate the causes of human genetic diseases.

At the same time, a small group of the LANL's genome scientists were beginning to use many of the same advanced molecular methods to study populations of certain threatened and endangered species of birds including the Peregrine Falcon and the Whooping Crane. Our idea was that studying the DNA of these birds would allow us to gain new and important insights into certain aspects of their biology.

In the case of the Whooping Cranes, we DNA “fingerprinted” 42 individual cranes from a captive flock at Patuxent Wildlife Center. These birds were being bred in captivity to produce young cranes to release to the wild to help bolster the endangered population. Analysis of the DNA fingerprints allowed us to determine which of the breeding cranes were very closely related, such as paternity and at the sibling level. That information could then be used to manage pairings in a way that would minimize the harmful effects of genetic inbreeding.

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Photo Cornell Lab of Ornithology

In our studies of the Peregrine Falcon, we set out to find population-specific DNA markers that could be used to determine the geographic origin of Peregrines that were sampled during their migrations. Such markers could allow remote monitoring of the different Peregrine breeding populations. We discovered a DNA marker that was a strong indicator for Peregrines that had originated in Greenland and that were briefly captured and sampled for a drop of blood during their migration along the eastern seaboard of the United States.

We also collaborated with wildlife researchers at the San Diego Zoo in studies of the California Condor. In this case we developed a cloned DNA probe at LANL (pV47.2) that the San Diego researchers used to reveal highly variable patterns in Condor DNA. These fingerprints were analyzed to determine relatedness among individual Condors.

The vast majority of our overall genome efforts during the late 1980s and the 1990s were focused on the Human Genome Project. In addition, we had a lot of fun applying DNA technologies to studies of birds. And, we were able to make some important scientific contributions. Such studies were not very common back in those days. Nowadays, DNA approaches are used widely in wildlife biology. It was interesting and gratifying for our LANL team to have been at the forefront of using modern molecular techniques to study threatened and endangered bird species.

### Manhattan Project National Historical Park

There will be no tours in April because of an ongoing preservation project. Currently there are plans for in-person tours in July to coincide with Los Alamos ScienceFest, July 12-17, 2022 and in October. Plans can change due to public health restrictions. For updates on tours and openings refer to the Bradbury Science Museum Website or Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

**Thank you** from Joyce Wolff to those who made the Main Gate possible: Norm for his excellent timely pieces on Benefits, Patricia for her support, Leigh and Sheila who found my many editing errors, and who keeps the LRG Directory and label file, Jack for painstakingly keeping records for In Memorium, and a special thank you to Richard Henderson. He could always cope with the vagaries of Publisher. I could not have done the job without his help.

### LRG Officers and Board Members,

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Vice President		president@lalrg.org
All Board Members		board@lalrg.org
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Scribe	Alan Wadlinger	awadlinger@vla.com
Board Member & Benefits	Norman Delamater	ynormdel09@centurylink.net
Board Member	Leigh House	hagar@newmexico.com
Board Member	Paul Elkins	pselks@gmail.com
Board Member	Sue Elkins	pselks@gmail.com
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Board Member	John Stewart	jns1a33@gmail.com
Board Member	Patricia Wing	hwybks455@yahoo.com
Board Member	Joyce Wolff	jwolff@lomalobo.com

# LANL In Memoriam

By Jack Clifford



Robert Anderson	Darrell Ingwerson	Doris M. Quintana
Robert Apodaca	Wilbur L. Johnston	Harold Rogers
Alice Lelia Baker	James P. Jorgensen	David Joe Salazar
Charles Burton Banks Jr.	Birchard Lee Kortegaard	Lee F. Sanchez
Helen Begay	Lawrence Krenzien	2 Secundino (Sec) Sandoval
1 George H. Best	Gary Laabs	Darryl H. Shadel
John H. Birely	Kaye Don Lathrop	Phillip Shire
Pauline (Polly) F. Clark	E. Douglas Latimer	Ruth Silbert
Siverly Bravine	Peter Clare Lindahl	Edward M. Sitzberger
David Bustos	William (Bill) Donald Long	Oliver Rudolf Simi
Jay Buys	Teresa Lucero	Virginia J. Dominak-Stevens
Billy (Bill) R. Claybrook	Raymond Maestas	Maco Stewart
Melvin Coleman Chaney	Salomon Manzanares	Marion Stelts
Gary Christoph	Anthony Martinez	James E. Stallings
William (Bill) Clark	Olivia Martinez	John Loyal Stokes
David Dee Clinton	William B. McIntosh	Eugene G. Szklarz
Richard (Boyd) Cummings	Don H. Michel	Adele Treece
Randy Putt Dean	Allen Henry Medendorp	Christopher R. Valdez
Angela Duran	Nikolajs Mezins	Gerald Valdez
Lawrence Edgett	Alvah E. Miller	Roland Valdez
Albert Edwin Evans, Jr.	Nicholas Joseph Nagy III	Paul Vander Maat
Dorothy A. Garcia	Merrell Nelson	Robert Ferrell Wells
Lionel I. Garcia	Thomas William Nelson	Thomas P. Wangler
George Hagedorn	Clair Nielson	Michael D. Williams
Darryl F. (Buck) Hayes	Steven Michael Noe	Norman G. Wilson
Lucille Hennigh	Rebecca Parker	William Jack Worlton
Robert (Bob) E. Hill	William Powell	Don A. York
Richard E. Honnell	Randy Putt	Michael P. Young

1 The LRG Board sadly notes the passing of George Best who among his countless community contributions sat on the LRG Board for many years. The Main Gate honored George for his 100th birthday in a short article in the November 2020 issue. For a description of his exemplary life a full obituary will be found in the Los Alamos Daily Post.

2 Artist Secundino (Sec) Sandoval was featured in the November 2021 issue of the Main Gate.

An obituary can frequently be found in Google by entering the individual's name, followed by Los Alamos.

The LRG and the community are grateful to Carol Clark, Publisher of the *LA Daily Post*, for printing obituaries at no cost.

## Stay Informed

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LANL Foundation Scholarship news monthly email newsletter at

[lanlfoundation.org/](http://lanlfoundation.org/)

Laboratory Retiree Group (LRG)

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Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce at

[losalamoschamber.com](http://losalamoschamber.com)

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## LABORATORY RETIREE GROUP (LRG) Working to Protect Retiree Benefits

**Membership** in the Los Alamos Laboratory Retiree Group, Inc. (LRG) is open to any person age 50 or older who currently receives or expects to receive an ongoing financial benefit (health or other insurance, retirement income, or other forms of remuneration) from having worked or having an association with someone who worked for the prime contractor of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

**Active Members**, as described above, pay annual dues of \$20, have voting privileges at Annual Meetings, and may serve as LRG Officers and/or Board Members. Active members receive the annual LRG Directory of members and The Main Gate newsletter 3 times a year. Spouses of deceased Active Members remain members as long as yearly dues are paid.

**Friends** are persons who support LRG. Friends pay dues of \$20 per year to cover the cost of printing and mailing The Main Gate. Friends may not vote, hold office, or receive the LRG Directory.

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Last Name First Name Middle

LANL Retiree? Yes No Year \_\_\_\_\_ System: UCRS PERS LANS OTHER (circle as needed)

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