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Black-naped pheasant-pigeon

Lost: 1896 | Found: 2022



Doka Nason/American Bird Conservancy

For 126 years, this secretive pheasant-like bird was considered all but lost on its homeland of Fergusson Island, a rugged and mountainous landmass off Papua New Guinea. Recently, an international team of scientists, guided by Indigenous hunters, finally snapped a photo of the critically endangered pigeon.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com>

Berkeley event invites you to challenge the Thanksgiving narrative

“Thangs Taken” at the La Peña Cultural Center enter its 13th year of uplifting Indigenous stories. by [Lisa Plachy](#) Nov. 18, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving as a national holiday began in a federal office in 1863 at the hands of President Abraham Lincoln. Since then, its lore has evolved as if through a cruel game of telephone: a story of pilgrims and Indians and a merry feast that snaked its way from textbooks to turkey-filled tables.

This story is, plainly, a myth, one that a Berkeley event aims to not only expose, but also repair.

[Thangs Taken: Rethinking Thanksgiving](#)

[La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley Sunday, Nov. 24, 6-9 p.m. For tickets and volunteer opportunities, visit \[eventbrite.com\]\(#\) or \[lapena.org\]\(#\).](#)

“Thangs Taken: Rethinking Thanksgiving,” brings together both Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists, performers, activists, allies, and community members at La Peña Cultural Center to challenge and reshape the “colonial Thanksgiving narrative.” Open to all, with tickets sold on a sliding scale, the evening is centered around both celebration and healing, truth-telling and resistance, in recognition of the harms done to Indigenous people throughout history.

Thangs Taken began in 2006, when [Ariel Luckey](#), currently the development director at [Sogorea Te’ Land Trust](#), was craving a way to talk with the community about the truth behind Thanksgiving.

“I was ... feeling this real tension every year, every time November comes around,” he said in a Zoom interview. “For me as a white person, it’s always felt uncomfortable to just kind of go through the motions without actually talking about the origins of the holiday and what it means.”

Luckey organized and produced the first event in collaboration with [Corrina Gould](#), tribal chair of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation and a director at Sogorea Te’ Land Trust. For a decade, the annual event explored — through art, music, dance, theater, film, poetry, comedy, ancestral knowledge, and oral storytelling — the complex and tragic history of both Thanksgiving and the United States’ relationship with Indigenous peoples. After a hiatus from 2016-2022, it resumed last year.

Now in its 13th iteration, [Thangs Taken](#) will come back in full force this year on Sunday, Nov. 24 from 6 to 9 p.m.

“Buy tickets early!” encouraged this year’s host, [Morning Star Gali](#), a member of the Ajumawi band of Pit River Tribe and the executive director of Indigenous Justice. As it has every year, she and others at La Peña expect the event to sell out its 185 seats. In preparation, the organization offers an overflow room and a live stream option.



Thangs Taken was first held in 2006 and there was a hiatus for the event from 2016-2022. Credit: Clara Perez

Recognition and reconciliation

Even in the birthplace of [Indigenous People's Day](#) — in 1992, Berkeley was the first to recognize it in lieu of Columbus Day — the harmful legacies of colonization, genocide, and patriarchy persist. Thangs Taken responds not only to past wrongs but persistent issues in the present, upon the ancestral lands [of the Chochenyo-speaking Lisjan Ohlone](#).

“Thangs Taken allows us to talk about all of these things that are not only historical but are currently happening,” said Gould [in a video](#) recorded for last year's event. “People that are taking land back, people that are celebrating who they are in their culture even throughout all of this devastation.”

Gould will once again be part of this year's programming, alongside a number of performers, activists, and Indigenous leaders and groups. Yuki Resistance will bring ceremony and traditional song and dance. Musical acts will include singer [Desirae Harp](#), a member of the Onacátiis (Mishewal Wappo) tribal nation, and SoCal Indigenous band [Aztlán Underground](#). The lineup will also feature the [Palestinian Youth Movement](#) and Phil Albers Jr. from [Save CA Salmon](#). More than 30 tribal nations will be represented.

Gali looks forward to the opportunity to be in community, support local land back projects, center Native voices, and “shift the narrative to a place in truth.” That includes talking about the issues relevant to Indigenous populations today to spur generational healing.



The Thangs Taken event at La Peña Cultural Center also includes various arts and crafts vendors. Credit: Clara Perez

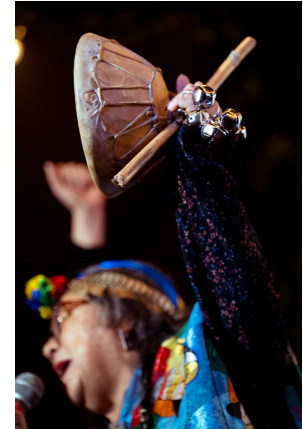
“Reconciliation isn't possible until we're able to be honest and have these conversations about what's taking place,” she said. “It's definitely bigger than Thanksgiving.”

Though she's been involved in Thangs Taken a number of times, this year's is especially meaningful to Gali. A special ceremony will honor the memory of [Norman “Wounded Knee” DeOcampo](#). He was a beloved Tuolumne Miwok Elder and leader in the Native American community who often frequented the Alcatraz Sunrise Ceremonies Gali hosts on Indigenous People's Day and the day the federal government recognizes as Thanksgiving.

Traditions new and old

For those who have built their own traditions around Thanksgiving — centered on coming together and practicing gratitude — Thangs Taken offers a kind of bridge between traditional teachings around the holiday and how to move forward more consciously. Gali called it “a time for truth telling and bravery.”

“Of course people can get attached to narratives and celebrate colonial holidays and traditions, because that is what’s familiar to them,” she said. “People can definitely change their perception and ways of thinking through education and just being open.”



*Mapuche Chief Lonko Juanita Millal was one of the presenters at the 2023 Thangs Taken event.
Credit: Clara Perez*

Thangs Taken is also intertwined with other longstanding activist movements and Indigenous traditions around the Bay Area that have raised awareness and spurred real change. Both Gali and Gould recalled dinners organized by the American Indian Movement that took place at La Peña after the Alcatraz sunrise ceremonies. The Sogorea Te’ Land Trust, where Luckey and Gould work, was launched partially out of the work of Thangs Taken. In 2015, organizers announced the Shuumi Land Tax, a voluntary tax residents can contribute toward repatriation, the act of returning Indigenous land to Indigenous people. It was later adopted by the [Alameda City Council](#).

“There is something irreplaceable about being in a room together, listening to story, to song, to prayer, together, in real time, in real space — feeling the energy,” said Luckey. “Events like this can be kind of medicinal, can be healing.”

This kind of impact is the beginning of a new story. Not based on a myth but built together, for everyone.

“Thangs Taken: Rethinking Thanksgiving,” will take place at the La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., on Sunday, Nov. 24 from 6 to 9 p.m. For tickets and volunteer opportunities, visit [eventbrite.com](#) or [lapena.org](#).

Teaming Up For The Treaty



(New Zealand protests by Joe Allison via Getty Images)

[Tens of thousands of New Zealanders gathered to protest in front of their country's Parliament yesterday](#), rallying against a bill that would shrink the rights of the indigenous Māori people. Local cops estimate that a total of 42,000 people gathered at the protests, which were preceded by a nine-day march to the Parliament building in Wellington.

The libertarian ACT New Zealand party (which is part of the country's ruling center-right coalition government) has been pushing for the Treaty Principles Bill, which would shrink the powers of the Treaty of Waitangi. That treaty, signed by 500 Māori leaders and the British government in 1840, has guided New Zealand's relationship with the Māori people for much of the country's existence.

Under the treaty, New Zealand has expanded support programs for the Māori, who make up 20% of the country's population but experience disproportionate levels of incarceration and poor health outcomes. The ACT party claims that those support programs are discriminatory against non-Māori people, but it appears their coalition partners disagree – the two other conservative parties who supported the legislation through its first stage have already said they wouldn't support it any longer, meaning it's likely to die before even being voted on by Parliament.

We Were Lost in Our Country June 29, 2024 - March 23, 2025

Newton and Louise

Table Gallery | Floor 2

This exhibition takes its inspiration from the video, *We Were Lost in Our Country* (2019) by Tuan Andrew Nguyen, now in the Nevada Museum of Art's permanent collection. Nguyen's powerful, moving-image work tells the remarkable story of the *Ngurrara Canvas II* (1997), which was made by a group of forty men and four women from the Walmajarri, Wangkatjunga, Mangala and Juwaliny communities and language groups. They all convened at the Pirnini outstation in the Great Sandy Desert in the Kimberley region of Australia to discuss making a Native Title Claim to the Australian government. In order to do this, the community members and Elders made a consequential decision: they would create a painting together that proved that they were the actual owners and original inhabitants of the land. To the Ngurrara people the monumental painting is a map, made from memory, of a place where their ancestors lived for over 65,000 years. It represents the direct connection to their land and the knowledge passed down for countless generations about what they refer to as Country. Fortunately, their claim was successful and thus, their achievement and legacy provides a remarkable model for the understanding of land rights, culture, and identity. In the words of Nguyen, "*We Were Lost in Our Country* explores questions of

personal agency, inherited trauma, and intergenerational transmission, through a conversation among ancestors and descendants.” Importantly, Nguyen conveys the story through his interviews with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, so that they chronicle their own history and relationship with the land.

In the exhibition, the video is paired with a selection of paintings by artists from the Great Sandy Desert (also known as the Western Desert), some of whom were involved in painting the *Ngurarra Canvas II*, such as Jimmy Pike, Ngirlpirr Spider Snell, Mawukura Jimmy Nerrimah, and Tommy May Ngarralja. Most of the works are recent gifts from Margaret Levi and Robert Kaplan, and Dennis and Debra Scholl, and now are part of the Museum’s Robert S. And Dorothy J. Keyser Art of the Greater West Collection. In 2012, the Museum defined the Greater West as a “super region,” which broadens conventional definitions of the West by expanding the scope of the collection’s geographic emphasis to encompass a region generally bounded from Alaska to Patagonia and from Australia to the United States intermountain West. This is a geography of frontiers characterized by large expanses of open land, enormous natural resources, diverse Indigenous peoples, colonization, and the conflicts that inevitably arise when all four of those factors exist in the same place at the same time.

Sponsor Roswitha Kima Smale, PhD

Support Martha Hesse Dolan and Robert E. Dolan

Linda Frye

Additional



IMAGE 1: Tuan Andrew Nguyen. *We Were Lost in Our Country* (still), 2019. Single-channel 4K video installation, color, 5.1 surround sound, 32 min. Image courtesy the artist and James Cohan Gallery, New York

Tahoe Fund issues call for 2025 projects

“The Tahoe Fund is opening its annual call for projects. The nonprofit is seeking projects for its 2025 portfolio that will increase the pace and scale of forest restoration, improve lake clarity and health, encourage sustainable recreation, provide innovative solutions to transportation challenges, and create more stewards of Lake Tahoe. Public agencies, nonprofits and environmentally focused businesses are invited to submit proposals for projects that require \$5,000 to \$1,000,000 in funding. Projects with the ability to leverage public funding as a result of Tahoe Fund support will be prioritized. “The projects submitted each year are a testament to the passion our community has for Lake Tahoe,” said Caitlin Meyer, Chief Program Officer for the Tahoe Fund. “The positive impact our partners make on the ground continues to inspire us. We’re so excited to see what new ideas are dreamed up this next round of submissions!” ... ”

[Read more from the Tahoe Daily Tribune.](#)

A massive new ski village was just approved for this world-famous Tahoe resort

“At a packed government meeting on Tuesday evening in North Lake Tahoe, officials voted to greenlight a highly controversial development that many believe will be transformational to one of North America’s iconic skiing destinations. The vote by the Placer County Board of Supervisors came after a nine-hour meeting during which dozens of local residents voiced passionate concerns about the project’s potential impacts to their quality of life and the character of a historic Tahoe community. “I understand why you’re angry,” said Supervisor Cindy Gustafson, whose district encompasses Olympic Valley. “I understand why you’re skeptical. But I believe this is the best program we can put forward ... I believe we can make great strides together, so I do support moving forward.” ... ” [Read more from the San Francisco Chronicle.](#)

METROPOLITAN COMMITTEE: Colorado River Basin states grapple with post-2026 guidelines amidst challenging negotiations and potential water conflicts

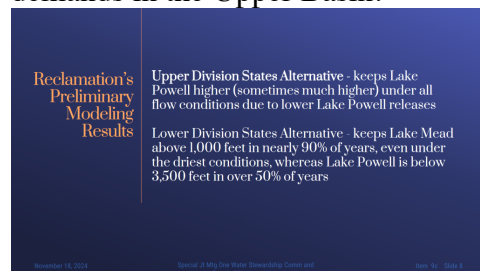
[Maven News November 20, 2024 0 97](#)

The Bureau of Reclamation is currently developing the post-2026 operational guidelines for managing the Colorado River system reservoirs. The guidelines will have a significant impact on releases from Lake Powell, water uses and shortages in the Lower Basin, and storage of conserved water (like Intentionally Created Surplus) in Lake Mead.

Since last spring, the Colorado River Basin states have been actively involved in the negotiations, submitting several alternatives. Despite the continued efforts, reaching a consensus has proven to be a challenging task. At the November meeting of Metropolitan’s One Water and Stewardship Committee, Shanti Rosset, Colorado River Program Manager, provided an update on the ongoing negotiations.

Reclamation is using five hydrology sets to evaluate how the alternatives perform with respect to elevations in Lake Powell and Lake Mead, the total volume of water use reductions that would be required for the Lower Basin and Mexico, and the volume of annual Lake Powell releases. Reclamation is analyzing four main alternatives, a no-action alternative, and one or more federal alternatives that will be identified sometime between now and December.

Ms. Rosset noted that Reclamation modeled drier hydrology as well as wetter and average hydrology over the last 30 years. They did not model any reductions to the Upper Basin except in the lowest system conditions in the lower basin alternative. They also modeled increasing demands in the Upper Basin.



“As a result, Reclamation’s preliminary modeling shows that the Upper Basin state’s alternative keeps Lake Powell higher, sometimes much higher, under all flow conditions due to lower Lake Powell releases and by imposing lower basin reductions at higher initial elevations,” said Shanti Rosset. “The Lower Basin state’s alternative keeps Lake

Mead above elevation 1000 feet, which is the critical elevation, nearly 90% of the years and even under the driest conditions, but Lake Powell is below elevation 3500 feet, which has been identified by Reclamation as a critical elevation, in nearly half of the years.”

“The Upper Basin and Lower Basins continue to have differing views regarding the volume of releases that should be made from Lake Powell, the size and frequency of shortage for water use reductions in the lower basin, and whether the upper basin will take reductions in the lowest system conditions,” she continued. “The Lower Basin state’s alternative represents a sort of compromise because it includes instances when releases from Lake Powell would be less than the volume that’s required by the 1922 Colorado River Compact without an agreement. Otherwise, the lower basin states have the right to make a compact call on the upper basin states to deliver at least 75 million acre-feet every 10 years for use in the lower basin and half of the Mexico treaty deliveries.”

She noted that under existing operations, releases from Lake Powell could fall below the compact minimum as early as 2026. If releases from Lake Powell stay at or below 7.48 million acre-feet in 2025 and 2026 as currently forecast, this means that the lower basin states may have the right to make a call on the Upper Basin states to make more significant releases from Lake Powell as early as 2026.

“Yet despite this, the Upper Basin states have not gotten any closer to compromise with the Lower Basin states,” she said. “Their alternative would reduce the volume of water released from Lake Powell and impose cuts on the lower basin in more years, all while increasing upper basin water uses. Their alternative includes the possibility of voluntary parallel activities like system conservation, but not mandatory cuts in the upper basin.”

“The Lower Basin state’s alternative includes reservoir releases and water use reductions that would respond to hydrology and system conditions, which, in the driest scenarios, include Lake Powell releases that are less than what is required by the compact. The lower basin states will retain their right to make a compact call, but if the upper basin states will agree to a compromise that leads to a seven-state consensus, then the lower basin states would agree to take less water than is required by the compact, in exchange for greater certainty that water will be delivered in more system conditions.”

The goal is still to reach a consensus, but if consensus isn’t reached, the lower basin states would likely make a compact call on the Upper Basin states, said Ms. Rosset. This could lead to litigation between the basin states regarding disputes over issues like the Upper Basin’s obligations to make half of the Mexico treaty deliveries and to deliver at least 75 million acre-feet every 10 years in the lower basin.



Reclamation plans to present a matrix of alternatives that will be carried forward into the draft EIS sometime between now and the Colorado River Water Users

Association meeting in December. Next year, there will be a new Department of Interior leadership team, which may bring changes in Interior’s approach to the post-2026 operational guidelines.

Interim General Manager Deven Upadhyay noted that this is the last set of meetings before the Colorado River Users Association meeting in early December. There will be a lot of discussions on how the negotiations are going.

“One of the mantras I’ve been hearing from the Upper Basin is related to compact compliance. The notion that the Lower Basin would hold the Upper Basin’s feet to the fire, that they have to release an average of seven and a half million acre-feet, or 75 million acre-feet over 10 years, is untenable,” he said. “A compromise has already been put on the table by the Lower Basin. The lower division state’s proposal includes releases from Powell into the lower basin that would be significantly lower than what you would see under compact compliance or a compact call as part of a deal where the upper basin, in the most extreme circumstances, would also be reducing their use.”

“So I just wanted that to be clear on Metropolitan’s behalf, and the other Lower Basin states that you’re not under the impression that we’ve taken a hard line that the Upper Basin must meet a compact call all the time at all costs, but rather, we’ve offered something that is a compromise, and hope that it isn’t characterized otherwise.”

Director Stephen Faessel (Anaheim) asked about the critical elevation for Lake Mead being set at 1000 feet. He recalls at one point, it was 1050 because anything below 1050 starts then affecting power generation.

Ms. Rosset said that it has been shifted downward to 1000 feet, which is the elevation that all water can be delivered through the hydropower generation tubes, not the bypass tubes. “In the last set of guidelines, the critical elevation was designated as 1025. It triggered a reconciliation if we got down to 1025, and that has been shifted down to 1000 in this preliminary set of modeling that’s been done. We’ve heard that it’s going to be further shifted down to 950 because Reclamations determined that that’s the new critical elevation. And just for a comparison, the intake that the Southern Nevada Water Authority built is at 895, but Metropolitan and Arizona and the rest of California’s water deliveries can be impacted when the elevation gets to that 950 level.”

The Hidden History of Bermuda Is Reshaping the Way We Think About Colonial America

New archaeological finds on the islands have revealed secrets about one of Britain’s first settlements in the Americas—and the surprising ways it changed the New World

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/hidden-history-bermuda-reshaping-way-think-colonial-america-180985439/?spMailingID=50439365&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=2822090196&spReportId=MjgyMjA5MDE5NgS2>

We missed this; Ian Zabarte was a participant. Lots of infolideas.

Inaugural Conference on Global Indigenous Studies from Multiple Perspectives

November 15-17, 2024

Indiana Memorial Union

900 E. 7th Street, Bloomington, IN 47405



Throughout the world, ethnic minorities and Indigenous people have strived to protect their rich heritages and linguistic characteristics against colonial powers, expanding nation-states, as well as the homogenizing forces of globalization. It is increasingly being recognized, exemplified by UNITED NATIONS' "Indigenous Languages Decade" (2022-2032) (<https://en.unesco.org/idi2022-2032>), that Indigenous languages and the epistemologies embedded in them are fundamental for the perseverance of biological and cultural diversities. The protection and promotion of linguistic diversity help to improve the human potential, agency, and local governance of native speakers of endangered languages, which is especially critical in the face of climate change and environmental degradation.

The First Conference on Global Indigenous Studies (CGIS 2024) is a multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary event that will bring together national and international scholars, educators, practitioners, students, policy makers, activists, academic institutions, Indigenous organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations. The participants in this conference will be involved in a local and global dialogue and exchange of ideas, research, and experiences on the themes of the event.

Program: <https://indigenous.indiana.edu/conference/schedule/index.html>

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**Trump chooses loyalist Pam Bondi for attorney general pick after Matt Gaetz withdraws**

[https://apnews.com/article/gaetz-trump-fbi-justice-department-248b46ba0c882dd46d661568e8bd3bd7?utm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us](https://apnews.com/article/gaetz-trump-fbi-justice-department-248b46ba0c882dd46d661568e8bd3bd7?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)

**Staffing the administration:** Here are the [people Trump has picked](#) for key positions so far. Plus, a look at [recess appointments](#) and how could Trump use them to fill his Cabinet.

[LOC: Teaching with the Library Primary Sources & Ideas for Educators](#)

**Join Us in Boston for NCTE and NCSS**

**November 21, 2024**

Posted by: Stephen Wesson

For the next few days, Boston will be bursting with teachers wanting to learn and collaborate with their colleagues. The National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE) and the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) will convene at the same time in the same city, and the Library's education team will have a presence at both conferences!

**NCTE – at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center**

- Visit us in booth 513 on the exhibit floor to talk to the education team, learn about teacher resources, and grab information from the Story Cube.
- Lauren Algee will present a concurrent session on the Library's [By the People](#) transcription program. Join her on Friday, November 22, 2024, at 2:45pm in Room 152 to learn about “Collaborative Knowledge Creation Transcribing Library of Congress Primary Sources.”
- On Friday, November 22, at 6:30pm, one of the “NCTE in Primetime” speakers is Professional Learning and Outreach Initiatives Director [Lee Ann Potter](#).

**NCSS – at the Hynes Convention Center**

- Visit us in booth 111 to talk to the education team about what the Library of Congress has for teachers, including [civics resources](#).
- Meet a wide array of [Teaching with Primary Sources](#) partners presenting poster sessions on Friday, November 22, from 9:10-10:40am in exhibit hall D. Learn about their programs and teaching ideas.
- Lauren Algee will present a session on the Library's [By the People](#) transcription program. “Collaborative Knowledge Creation: Transcribing Library of Congress Primary Sources” will be in room 306 on Saturday, November 23, from 9:10-9:35am.
- Join Robin Pike and Michael Apfeldorf for a session on “Using Chronicling America in the Social Studies Classroom” at 9:45am on Saturday, November 23, in room 306 to learn about the new [Chronicling America](#) search interface and research guides.

Not able to join us in Boston? Here are resources available to anyone, anywhere:

- This [guide](#) to Chronicling America provides information and entry points to help you get comfortable using this important resource.
- The By the People [website](#) has information on the various projects and [tips](#) for teachers who want to introduce their students to transcribing historical documents

We hope to see you in Boston or online exploring [resources for teachers](#).