

ASA
Avicultural Bulletin



ASA

A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION,
RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

October/November/December 2023

Conservation breeding of Pfrimer's pyrrhura
David Monroger



NEXT ISSUE

**Conspecifics & Interspecifics
In a private avicultural setting**

T.J. Pluid

The purposes of the Society are the study of foreign and native birds to promote their conservation and protection; the dissemination of information on the care, breeding, and feeding of birds in captivity; the education of Society members and the public through publications, meetings, and available media; and the promotion and support of programs and institutions devoted to conservation. Front Cover: Pyrrhura pfrimeri Photo David Monroger Inside cover: Nicobar Pigeon (*Caloenad nicobarica*) Photo: Carol Stanley © 2012-2023 Avicultural Society of America. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced without express written permission by ASA. The Avicultural Society of America e-Bulletin is published quarterly online on our website, asabirds.org

Volume 91, Number 4 October/November/December 2023

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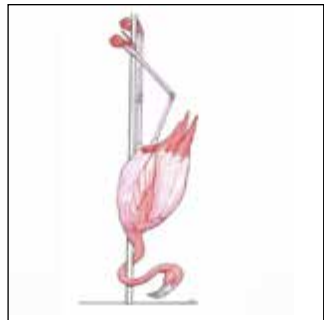
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October/November/December 2023

Editor's Message

Happy Holidays, everyone:

As we close out another year, we have some firsts to look back on.

1. The Aviculture United conference in Dallas was the first time three avicultural groups joined together to put on a conference. American Federation of Aviculture, Organization of Professional Aviculturists and Avicultural Society of America joined together to put together an amazing conference that will be remembered for a long time to come.
2. Avicultural Society of America streamed their track of the conference over the internet. Go to <https://asabirds.tv> and sign up to watch!
3. For the first time in ASA history, two zoos were visited; Ft. Worth Zoo and Dallas World Aquarium. The latter occurred on Sunday, a day later than the usual ASA conference end.

The turn out was excellent and, as a reminder, all attendees and speakers may access the online recordings of the conference ASA track for one year post conference. I highly recommend watching these informative presentations.

One of the highlights was the USDA Q&A on the addition of birds to the Animal Welfare Act, with panel David Garcia, Steve Duncan, Dr. Susan Clubb and Dr. Cody Yager from the USDA. This session was streamed and recorded and is among the other jewels available on <https://asabirds.tv>.

John Del Rio was in the audience and asked: "What are your expected results after implementing these new regulations and inspections? Do you have a means of measuring the results to see if any of these changes improve any bird's lives?" and followed up with, "Do you have a protocol in your hiring process to prevent animal rights zealots from becoming inspectors?" Dr. Yager was unable to answer either question.

We are in for a long, bumpy road on AWA. Be sure to post your experiences on social media - good and bad.

We lost Kimberly Anne Susukida, ASA secretary, on September 10, 2023. Please remember Kimberly and see her on page 58 of this issue.

Happy Holidays!

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Conservation breeding of Pfrimer's pyrrhura
David Monroger
Photos and Text



Fascinated by the breeding of parrots, I first dedicated myself to Australian parakeets such as Neophemas. My particular interests were in Turquoise Parakeets (*Neophema pulchella*) with the selection of extreme red opaline or extreme yellow opaline mutation, and also with larger species such as Northern Rosella (*Plaryercus venusrusi*). Next I bred uncommon Asiatic parakeets such as the Malabar (*Psittacula columboides*) and then I specialized in South American parakeets.

In 2014, my search for Brown-throated Conures (*Eupsittula pertinax*) led me to Roman Dorhoh in the Netherlands. I discovered a very nice man who had a great knowledge

of South American parakeets. I was in awe of his Pfrimer's Conures (*Pyrrhura pfrimeri*). This is when my great adventure and investment in the conservation of this species began.

I knew of the species from many books, but despite my regular travels in Europe and around the world, I had never seen one.

European zoos do not keep Pfrimeri and it is rare in world aviculture. Europe is the only part of the world where we have the most chance to meet it. It is endemic to Brazil, where it is necessary to have governmental authorization to keep it. Therefore, only a handful of commercial breeders have this species.



Previously classified as a subspecies of *Pyrrhura leucotis*. DNA studies made it possible to consider *Pfimeri* as a full species. A small parakeet of 22 cm, it weighs little more than 50g. Dark green on back and wings, with a reddish brown face, and a blue crown much more extended than in *Pyrrhura emma*, the blue of the head goes from the forehead to the nape of the neck where it blends with the white markings of the throat. Unlike *leucotis*, the white ear coverts are missing. The shoulders are over-lined with a narrow blood red band. A small jewel! There is no known mutation to date.

Range and habitat loss *Pyrrhura pfimeri* is found in the central

part of Brazil, in the basin of the Parana River, more precisely in the northeast of Goiás and the southeast of Tocantins. It lives in dry forests and on the slopes of limestone forests, in small noisy groups of about ten birds. Today, its habitat is fragmented, which puts even more pressure on the small existing populations as it is restricted to a small geographical area. Its IUCN status is Endangered.

In recent years, repeated forest fires have accentuated the problem and in summer 2022 the main distribution area of *Pfimeri* was on fire. The losses must be significant.



In her latest book, *Pyrhura Parakeets*, Rosemary Low writes on page 121: In Brazil, the future of the most endangered species hangs in the balance, especially that of Pfrimer's Conure" and then on page 154: "The isolated groups of Pfrimer's Conures that exist will not survive long term, especially as such remnants are vulnerable to fire and continue to be selectively logged".

It is therefore urgent for European aviculturists to establish this Species. I exchanged information with Tulio Domas, biologist/ornithologist and founder of Projeto Tiribado-Parana in Brazil. Tulio is responsible for the research and education project to preserve Pfrimer's Parakeet in situ.

I am also in contact with Professor Luis Fabio Silveira, vice director and curator of bird collections of Sao Paulo's zoological museum. He confirms the importance of an ex-situ conservation breeding program for this species.

Population

BirdLife International Species' Fact sheet stated that according to Tulio Domas in 2020, the population was suspected to be between 20,000 and 25-000 individuals. According to remote sensing data on tree cover and tree cover loss, there was approximately 2,000 km² of tree cover with at least 50%

canopy cover remaining within the species range in 2021 (Global Forest Watch 2021). Based on the population density estimates from 2007-2008 (9,15 individuals per km²), the population size in 2021 was estimated to fall within the range 18,000 -30,000 individuals, with a best estimate of 16,000.

The subpopulation structure is not known. The species generally stays within 300m of forest with limestone outcrops (Bianchi 2010), although it has been recorded up to 1.5 km away (Domas and Pinheiro 2015), so it is able to travel at least short distances between patches of forest.

Local people have observed a sharp decline in abundance since the 1970s, when flocks numbering in the hundreds were frequently observed, in contrast to flocks of up to 20-30 individuals nowadays (T. Domas and E.R. Luiz., pers.comm.). During field surveys in 2007-2008, the species was not found in some small forest fragments where it had been recorded less than a decade before. It had not been recorded at the river Inferno in Tocantins since 2012, suggesting local extinction.

An analysis of remote sensing data found that the area of dry forest habitat within the Para. nit River Basin decreased by 66.3% over 31 years from 1997-2008 (35.7% between 1977-



1993/94-199J194 and 47.6% between 1993/94 and, leaving a remaining forest area of 4,352 km²; Bianchi 2010). The latter rate of forest loss would equate to a reduction of 44% over three generations (13 years}. Habitat fragmentation increased significantly, with the number of patches of 2..5 km² increasing from 3.9% of the forest extant in 1977 to 38.4% 38.4% in 2008 (Bianchi 2010).

More recently, remote sensing data indicates that approximately 10% of tree cover with at least 50% canopy cover was lost from within the species' mapped range over three generations from 2008 (Global Forest Watch 2021). Extrapolating forwards, up to 12% of tree cover may be lost over the next three generations.

The population size is also likely to be impacted by ongoing forest degradation through logging and increasing fragmentation or remaining habitat, so may be expected to decline faster than the rate of forest loss.

The population size was estimated at 162,000 - 202,500 individuals in 1995 (Olmos et al, 1997), 39,168-65,280 individuals in 2008 (Bianchi 2010), and 18,000 - 30,000 individuals in 2021 (Birdlife International, 2023).

Breeding of Pffrimer's Conure

I would like to comment on the myth that all the Pffrimeri in Europe came from seven birds imported in 2000: one female and six males. In my experience, this is impossible.



The original female would have had to accept a different male each year and the new pairs would have to breed each year. In my experience, when a couple is formed, if the breeder separates them they will not accept another mate.

I acquired my birds in 2014 from Roman Dorholt in the Netherlands who had 10 pairs. He told me that there were probably about 20 birds in Europe. Roman Dorholt, and Ernst Hohl in Switzerland, have jointly done a very good job in breeding these few birds from the single import in 2000. They are the initiators of this ex-situ protection. A big thank you must be addressed to them.

Roman announced that 2015 would be his last year of breeding.

My visits to Roman's home allowed me to fall in love with this little parakeet. His pairs were magnificent, all with babies but that year, 2014, all young were reserved by a Czech breeder. At the end of December I received a message that the breeder did not collect the young. Roman wanted the 15 birds to be sold at one time. I accepted his proposal. My great adventure was launched...

Forming a colony

At the beginning or the formation of my colony, a female was rejected from the group. I isolated her and gave her a male. This couple never reproduced. A few years later, 1 had the same

scenario with two of the first females hatched and raised in the colony. I also isolated these females and paired them with two males. These two couples did not reproduce. Fecundity is random: we often hear of clear eggs and nests of two or three young maximum.

The flight of Pfrimer's Conure is extremely lively and fast. A small species at the bottom of the food chain in its biotope needs the mutual aid of the group to alert, defend and protect itself. So I decided to breed them in a colony. I housed them in a large aviary of 6m x 6m outside with access to an interior cage of 2m x 2m. I offered as a precaution more nests than the number of potential couples. I had then seven males and eight

females. Without any rational explanation, the group ganged up on one of the females, and I had to remove her urgently as she was being attacked by the whole colony. After several weeks of convalescence and special care, I made the decision to put her back in the colony. I released her and caught her just as quickly because they all fell on her. Safe and sound and without injury, I isolated her from the group. I put her with a young Brown-throated conure while waiting to offer her a male.

This first experience allowed me to observe that this cute little parakeet could turn into a tyrant and become very quarrelsome. In a group, they become a ruthless gang





in adversity. I will not risk introducing another bird

into the colony, whatever the species or size.



During the winter of 2014-2015.
I unfortunately lost two young

females from the group. This
left me with seven males

and six females. Of all my birds, they are the fastest and most lively. I have never had to catch them, fortunately because it would be extremely difficult in my large aviary.

A varied diet

I try to give them as much variety as possible and to keep them busy with regular additions of fresh branches which they quickly peel and destroy. I give them a seed mixture for large parakeets. Seasonal fruits and vegetables are offered and varied daily. If one of them tries it the whole group will follow. Everything I offer is tasted and eaten: young corn cobs, sweet red peppers, apples, oranges, broccoli, rosehips (*Rosa rugosa*) and wild berries. In winter, I add a little black sunflower and cake to help them cope with the sub-zero temperatures.

During the rearing period I offered an increased quantity of cake and of the Tarin extra mixture of Versele Laga because it contains a variety of small seeds: I also provide small sunflower, bunches of millet, corn in milk and rosehips.

Breeding

When they were not old enough to reproduce the nests were available all year round. Indeed, they sleep in their nests whatever the weather and they never entered the

interior part of their aviary. Since the nests are protected from the weather. I never worried about this. Some nests are used for sleeping, others for nesting. Every year, I have to redo or reinforce the nests because they love to gnaw on them, sometimes all united to destroy one in particular, fortunately, this nest often visited by all the birds is never a nest chosen for breeding.

In 2016 I could observe the first mating during the month of June. Unlike other *Pyrrhura* that breed in April/May, Pfrimer's breed in summer in our latitudes. In Europe, the first eggs are laid between July and August.

In 2012, a couple laid five eggs - one egg every two days. This pair seemed to be dominant because they kept other birds at a distance and the male was very active in protecting his nest. The other pairs were mating but limited to copulation without going as far as laying eggs.

During courtship the couples isolate themselves. The males inflate their chest and feathers of the nape. They make a swinging movement of front to back then they stand up while inflating their chest. They repeat this dance several times and stop from time to time to feed the female and mate side by side.





After about ten days of brooding, I checked the nest feverishly. My joy was great because the five eggs were fertile. The eggs measure 2.6 x 1.6cm. The first chick hatched after twenty two days. All five babies were fed perfectly. On hatching they weighed between 2.8g and 3.2g. They are pink with sparse white down which gradually gives way to thicker down. The species evolved with a thick, grey down due to cool nights in their natural environment. The appearance of the first dark green feathers gives them a blackish aspect. I banded them at 12 days with 5.0 diameter bands.

The beak is light gray at birth, then the main part of the upper mandible becomes black. The upper commissures of the beak (very distinct from the main part) are whitish and flexible. These two small flexible parts darken, harden and weld to the central part, thus forming the upper mandible. The beak becomes entirely black.

It seemed that the few hatchings in aviculture produced mainly males. Surprisingly, this first reproduction gave me five females. During the following years, the sex-ratio was always balanced.

When these five females left the nest, the other members of the

colony were very curious and came immediately to see them. The breeding pair was very protective and prevented them from approaching. The weaning went very well and these young females took their place in the colony. They were accepted in the group but they had to stay in their places in the established hierarchy.

The following year, 2017, the first mating was in June, and the first eggs in July. Several nests had fertile eggs. All pairs raised their young well, from one to six young. The dominant pair that bred in 2016 was the first to lay. Their young were the first to fly out of the nest. The colony flanked them as soon as they emerged, but the alpha male kept everyone at a safe distance.

Unfortunately when the babies from another nest came out, they were immediately harassed by the alpha male and then by the other birds. The parents protected them but in the end they could not overcome the colony, to the point of finding four injured dead babies in the aviary. The colony considered them as intruders, invaders. You can easily imagine my dismay. I had to make a radical decision. It was unbearable to see the babies going out and being attacked, so I decided to remove all the babies of this year and finish the feeding by hand. This was a very difficult



Egg size

Day 1



Day 6



Day 10a

Day 10b



Day 12



Day 14a



Day 21



Day 30



Day 37



task because the youngsters that were already out of the nest, but not weaned, refused to be hand-fed in spite of being hungry. It was complicated for three days but, afterwards, hunger made them accept this food. These babies were successfully weaned.

Most of the time, we breed in pairs. Our concern is to provide the best conditions and all the elements necessary for success. When breeding in a colony, we have to be careful because there are regular quarrels for the domination of the group. Until 2020, the balance and the hierarchy within the group were not modified. However, in that year, another couple challenged the alpha couple. They overthrew the dominant couple, I found broken eggs

in the nests, some birds showed signs of fights, but in the end everything went back to normal. A new order was established. This year was my best breeding year.

Hand-rearing

Fortunately am not alone in this very demanding task. I can thank my wife Nathalie who helps me a lot in the handfeeding and who manages my birds when I'm away. Very often, the success and the good breeding results are the work of a couple.

Today my youngsters are all hand raised from 15-20 days of age. If there are fertile eggs in other nests, I place them in an incubator to prevent other couples from going in to destroy the eggs. The babies



are then socialized because I do not want tame birds. I don't want them to become pet birds. Even though I prefer parent rearing, this method has the advantage of producing birds that are not afraid of humans but do not accept catching or touching after weaning. This is important when the species is nervous and it seems that these less nervous birds reproduce better. I receive many messages of satisfaction to let me know that my young have reproduced with their new owners.

I have had to raise chicks from hatching which were the only ones in a clutch with one fertile egg. It is a challenge but to date I have never lost one, However, given the very small size and the low weight I prefer

to leave them with the parents during the first fifteen days. I use only Kaytee formula for the Pfrimeri's Conures during the whole rearing period. I do not add peanut butter as I do for the other species I breed. The very first feed is limited to sugar water at 38°C approximately. This is to hydrate them and to give them a little boost with sugar. Then, one hour after hatching and after the first feces. I give very liquid Kaytee. Gradually I thicken it and after a few days the consistency is of pancake batter. For the first 10 days, I add calcium directly into the food which is given at a temperature between 37°•40°c.

From the beginning, I feed the chicks every four hours between 7am and midnight.



This corresponds to five meals a day. The weight curve is perfect and my babies are impeccable with this protocol.

When the first feathers appear, the babies have a particular behavior. I have never observed this in other species that I have raised. During feeding, when I pick them up, they rush and pinch my hand, it's not painful, just uncomfortable. It seems to be a solicitation to be the first one fed. This behavior is only observed at feeding time. They are very curious and playful with each other.

Average Weights of hand-reared chicks:

Day 10:	16.4gr
Day 11:	17.5gr
Day12:	19.52gr
Day 13:	22.56gr

Day 14:	25.1gr
Day 15:	28.73 gr
Day 16:	31.82 gr
Day 17:	35.31gr
Day 18:	38.49gr
Day 19:	41gr
Day 20:	43.41gr
Day 21:	45.61 gr
Day 22:	47.69gr
Day 23:	49.2gr
Day 24:	50.65gr
Day 25:	51.95gr
Day 26:	52.75gr
Day 27:	53.71gr
Day 28:	54.73 gr
Day 29:	54.95gr
Day: 30:	55.63gr

Weaning

I always leave the young ones raised together and I do not mix them with other species. As soon as they start to fly, they annoy the other birds. They nip



their legs and they harass them. They are not afraid of anything.

Weaning and second broods

At the time of weaning I give them at will the same mixture of small parakeets as the adults, plus some very small black sunflower, millet sprays, apples and cake. I feed them by hand until they refuse.

The transition is very simple. They take their independence easily. When they stop accepting hand feeding, they weigh 55-58g. Once this independence is acquired, they cannot be handled but they are not afraid of me. They are even very curious when I am near them. They all come to see what I am going to give them. It is very pleasant.

Since 2021 my couples are making a second brood. For a species that is difficult to reproduce, I think I have found a good solution. Colony breeding seems to give better results. On the other hand it results in frequent quarrels over dominance during the breeding period. The nests of the inferior pairs are sometimes visited by the dominant birds and their eggs can be broken. My solution is to give them fresh branches regularly during this period in order to keep them busy and to avoid idle males disturbing other nests during incubation. The vigilance of the breeder must

be constant. However, the resulting stimulation is positive and certain couples rear broods of six babies. The disadvantage is having to rear by hand. But it is really worth the effort and the investment.

A colony is never static. It lives and evolves. I could observe small fights. Alliances are made and broken. It happens that a couple tries to overthrow the established order. In case of success, the former alpha couple will go down in the hierarchy of the group, but in case of failure, the authors of this reversal will regret this attempt because they will be persecuted by the colony. I experienced this scenario in the summer of 2021. One of the females from the first breeding in the aviary laid five eggs. This year, in June, there was a little tension as I had noticed in previous years. But this summer, the male of this pair died while the female was in the nest with fertile eggs. Shortly after, the fights became more intense. I realized that the female was holding her nest very well despite this because she had made at least one alliance with one of her sisters.

Unfortunately, the tension went up a notch and one morning I found the two females prostrate on the ground. Their heads were completely plucked, their eyes were swollen and their plumage was damaged.



I immediately removed them from the aviary. At the control of the nest, all the eggs were broken and there was blood on the internal walls as well as on the perch of the nest. These were obvious signs of a big fight and of a determination to correct and maybe reject these females without the protection of the male.

Fortunately the females recovered well. Unfortunately I could not integrate them back into the colony. Females are rarer than males, so I keep them. At this time, they have joined the group of youngsters of the year. They may find their future partners; they will choose themselves.

Future of Pfrimer's Conure

Every day, I appreciate the chance and the privilege to have this species in my aviaries. My breeding since 2016 is as follows.

2016	5 young
2017	11 young (including 4 chicks killed by the alpha pair)
2018	12 young
2019	12 young
2020	18 young
2021	15 young
2022	16 young

That totals 85 babies raised since my investment in the conservation of the species. Since 2016, 1 have not been

on vacation in the summer as I need to check that everything is going well. They give me a lot of work during my vacations but what a pleasure to see them grow, transform and become independent.

Then they give joy to new breeders who contact me to tell me proudly that they have babies with my birds. Fortunately each year there are more breeders. Thanks to our exchanges, the sharing of our knowledge and our successes of breeding. Without ex-situ conservation breeding, we will go towards the extinction of the species. Private breeders increase the number of individuals, thus establishing an important nucleus for the uncertain future of this wonderful conure.

One of the next steps in the special relationship I have with Pfrimer's Conure would be to see them in their biotope. It is always a great pleasure to breed an unusual species, but to be able to observe them in their natural environment remains the Holy Grail. Being a wildlife photographer, I keep this project in my head. The future will perhaps lead me to this small happiness. It will be the occasion to share this trip in a future article.

To view other photos and videos, I invite you to visit my website: www.pyaf.net

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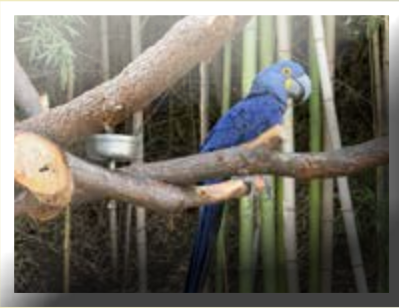
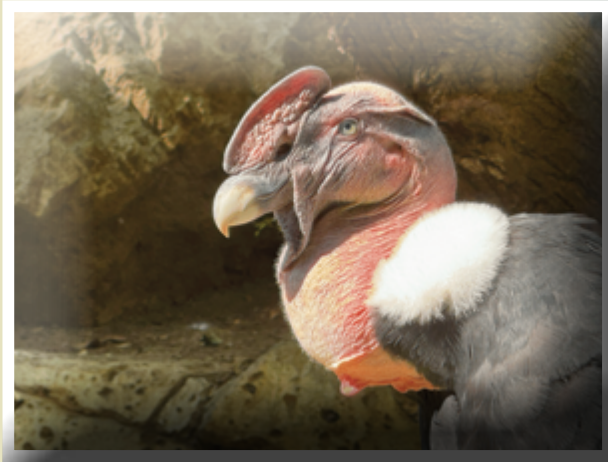
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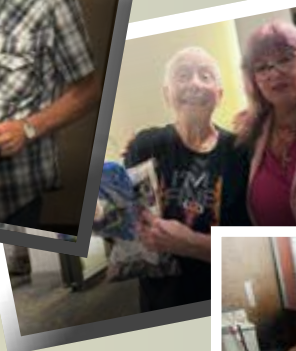
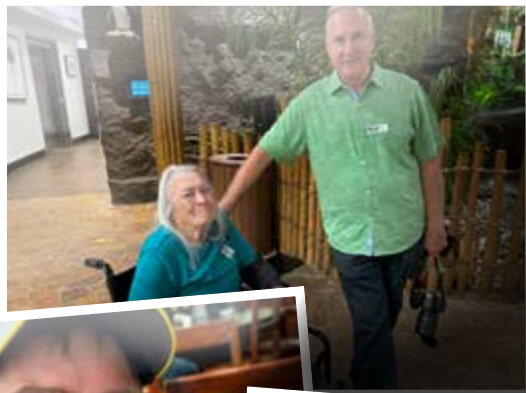
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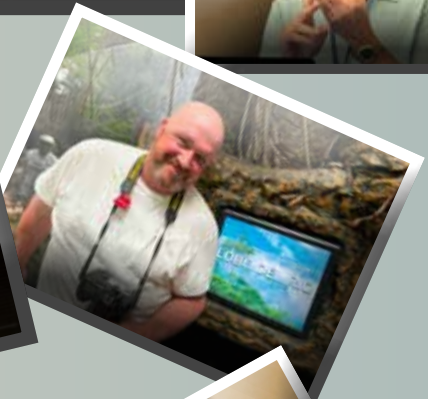
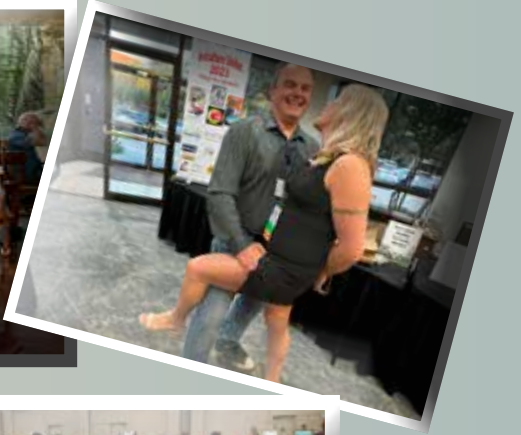
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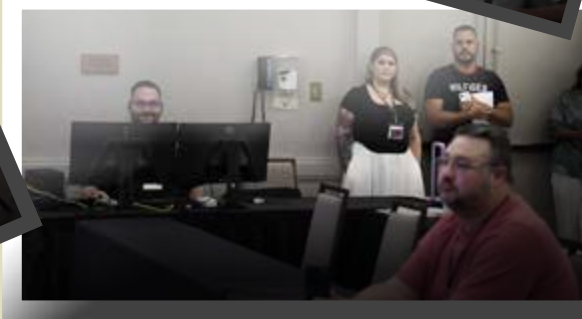
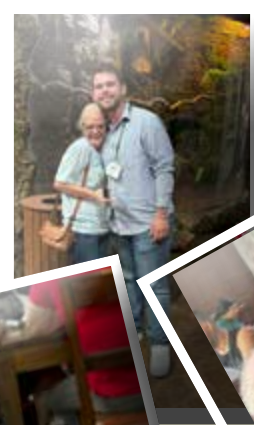
David Monroger is a dedicated and observant breeder in France. See his beautiful photographs from around the world at: www.pyaf.net

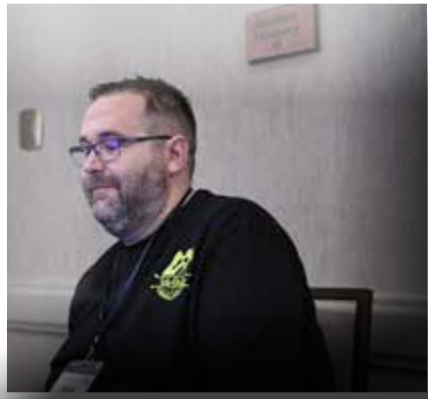
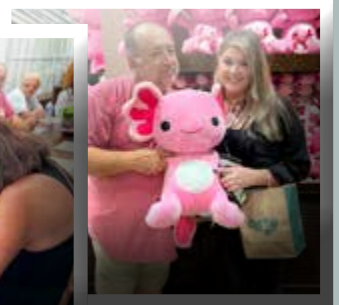
The 2023 Conference in Pictures



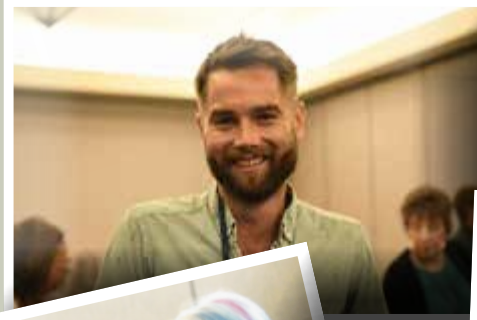












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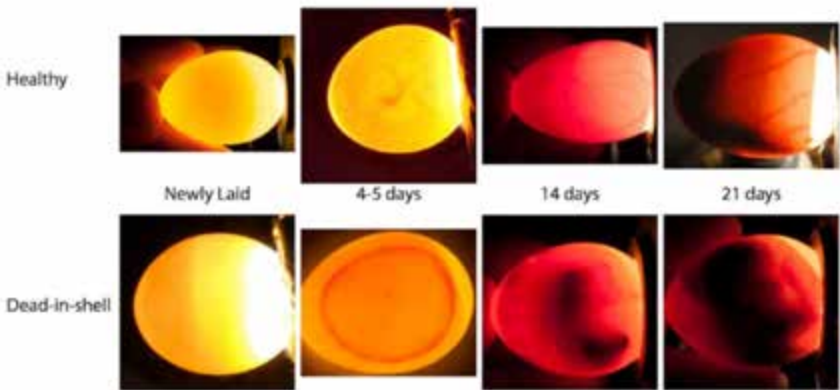
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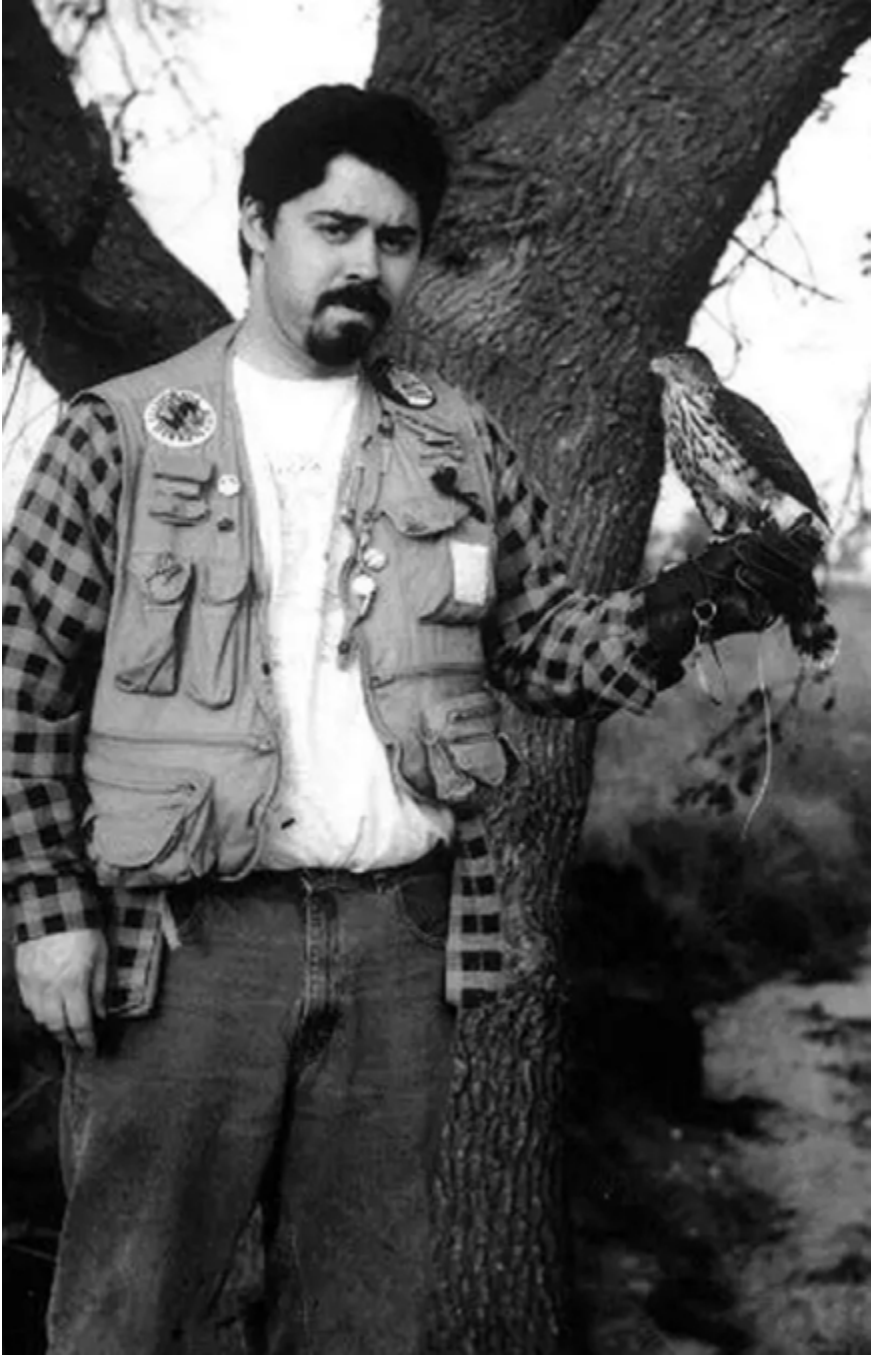
- 4 Tangled up in Blue

Strangers Sent Over 60 Pairs of Tiny Shoes for a Chicken with Missing Toes



Egg Development & Embryo Death





Things have Changed

Dan Wake

November 16 is the day falconers from around the world celebrate World Falconry Day (WFD), the day of inscription of falconry as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. I made a post on Facebook recognizing this important date, and Carol asked if she could use it for the ASA E-Bulletin. My first response was "Is my post really bulletin worthy"? She assured me it was, but I felt if she was going to use it I could flesh it out just a little as it was more a lamenting post of my sense of loss.

Falconry was such a huge part of my life, as is aviculture. I never connected the two, though in hindsight it is pretty obvious they go hand in hand. I started at age 16 and had falconry birds for the next 34 years.

My life was defined by this sport, I lived and breathed it, like so many of us do with our birds. It was not easy for me to admit a few years ago that I was no longer achieving enjoyment from trying to continue to fly birds in what has become a marginal area.

Like many falconers in the USA I started to find shrinking areas to hunt my birds in the fashion I was accustomed to. Many of us that share our lives with animals, face similar obstacles, loss of land, encroachment of neighborhoods, new restrictions/legislations and the ever present AR's that want to end private ownership of animals. I miss my birds and seeing those friends that share this passion. I still have a falconry bucket list, and am still reluctant to part with much of my equipment, as I still hold onto the thought I may one day share my life again with a falconry bird.

Photo of me and Wyatt the male Cooper's Hawk, that I hunted 5 seasons with. I believe this was taken in Bakersfield at one of the CHC meets in the late 90's or early 2000.

About the author: Dan Wake lives in Northern California where he raises birds, is General Manager of a pet shop and is Official North American Importer and Distributer for Nekton. [Nekton distributor.](http://www.nekton.net)
www.nekton.net



A Yellow Penguin spotted for the first time!

A wildlife photographer has captured images of what he believes to be a 'never seen before' yellow penguin and recently released the incredible photos to the world.

Belgian photographer Yves Adams was on a two-month photography expedition through Antarctica and the South Atlantic when the unusually-colored penguin was spotted on an island in South Georgia, among a colony of more than 120,000 King penguins.

It is first believed the unusual penguin could be leucistic, meaning that there's a partial loss of pigmentation. So its black feathers have become this yellow and creamy color. However, the actual condition of the penguin has given rise to divergent opinions among researchers since this could be more complex.

Yves Adams/Kennedy News and Media





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The mission of Everything Birds is to pair individuals and families with the right species for their lifestyle and family dynamics to achieve a satisfying, long-term companionship.

We feel if our customers or a potential bird owner understands and embraces the species they are interested in, then through our guidance, continued education and support they will commit to these creatures for the rest of their lives and sometimes into their children's lives.

For us, the animals are the number one priority because if they aren't happy, healthy and well-adjusted birds then the flock is not in harmony. We offer care and support to our customers through free educational workshops, free grooming, and there is always a free sample to be had somewhere in the store each day we are open.

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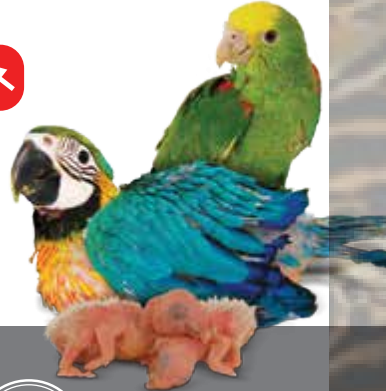
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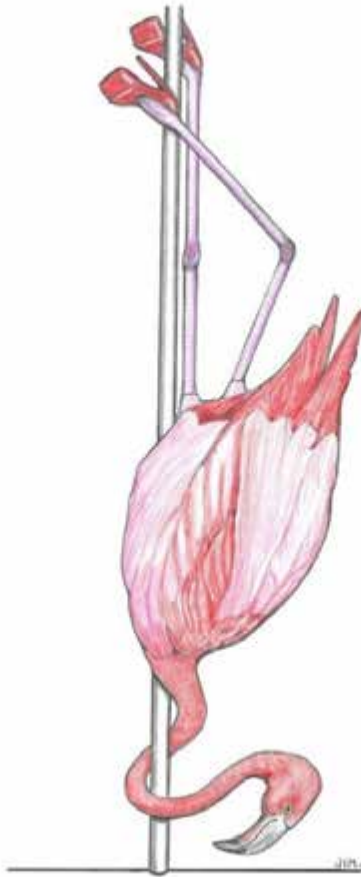
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Birds in Shoes

Jim Sorensen

My newest, Flamingo in Flamingo Heels. I had many people suggest I do a bird on a stripper pole. I found out that very tall high heels are often called flamingos so it was easy to pick a flamingo to grace the pole. www.jimsorensen.com.



Thank you, Jim Sorensen for allowing ASA to share your beautifully creative images!

Who's Your Daddy?

Stumped? See answer on page 53



Photo: Katy McKelroy

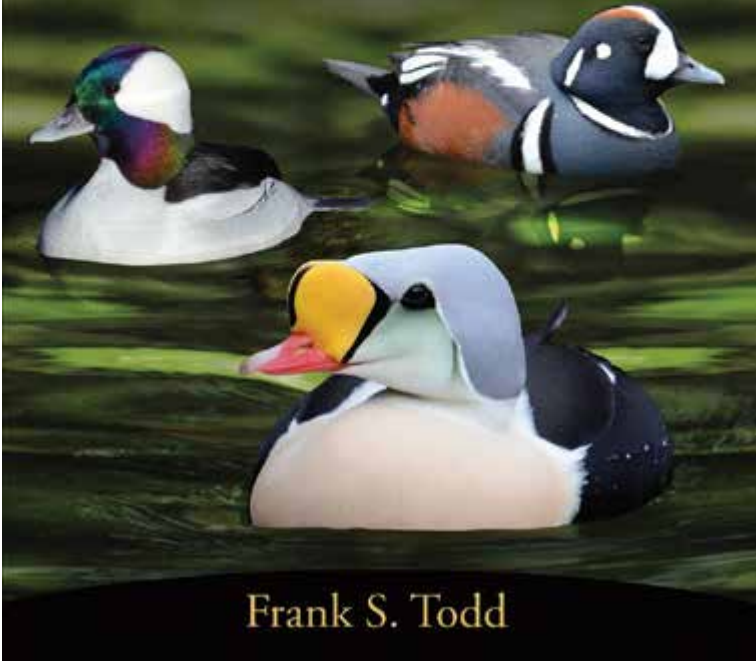


A National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) Initiative

<http://www.homesforanimalheroes.org/> Homes for Animal Heroes is the first and largest nationwide network for rehoming research dogs that supports biomedical progress and all of the heroes who make it possible. It's time for transparency and time for us to share our love for animals and people...with the world. Thank you for supporting our vision of truth!

NORTH AMERICAN DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



Frank S. Todd

In honour of our friend, colleague, and author, Frank Todd, Hancock House is pleased to commit a percentage of all revenues of books sold through our website to the Frank Todd Memorial Foundation to continue to promote the work Frank spent much of his life striving towards wildlife conservation and education. You can purchase *Ducks, Geese & Swans of North America: Identification Guide* at: <https://www.hancockhouse.com/collections/ducks-waterfowl/products/north-american-ducks-geese-swans>

PLEASE DONATE NOW

Help us keep Frank S. Todd's memory alive by continuing the tradition he started with the first Avicultural Society of America Educational Conference. Frank developed the conference and, for many years, arranged for speakers from around the world to attend and make presentations. Your donation will allow ASA to continue the tradition and help with travel expenses for our conference speakers. <http://asabirds.org/frank-s-todd-memorial-fund/>



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Female Photo: Carol Stanley



Male Photo: Miguel Rocha

Who's Your Daddy?

From page 51, Answer: Red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*)

The Red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*) is native to Queensland, Australia where it lives in dry forests near waterways.

Sexually dimorphic, the female displays red and black striped tail feathers and yellow "dots" on cheeks and wings. The male displays black tail feathers with panels of solid red and has no "dots."

Juvenile red-tailed black cockatoos resemble females until puberty, which occurs around four years of age.

Male birds weigh between 670 and 920 grams (1.5–2 lb), while females weigh slightly less at 615–870 grams (1.25–1.75 lb).[25] In common with other cockatoos and parrots, red-tailed black cockatoos have zygodactyl feet.

The male red-tailed black cockatoo courts by puffing up crest and cheek feathers, and hiding the beak; it then sings and struts, ending in a jump and a flash of red tail feathers toward the female who will most often reply by defensively biting him. Breeding generally takes place from May to September.

One to two eggs are laid. The second rarely survives due to neglect.

Prices in the United States start around \$15,000.

The red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*) is listed as LEAST CONCERN by IUCN 3.1 Portions of this text and chick photo are from [Wikipedia](#)

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Kimberly Anne Susukida

JUNE 2, 1964 – SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

Kimberly Anne Susukida, age 59, of Redding, California passed away on Sunday, September 10, 2023.



Kimberly was a passionate supporter of the Avicultural Society of America and served as secretary on the ASA board.

Kimberly's warmth, intelligence and passion for animals, especially birds, was a large part of her life. Always ready to help, without a negative word of anyone.

Kimberly mentored young aviculturists and was involved with teaching kids about the animals at Safari West, her working home.

We miss you Kimberly. You were one of a kind.