



**ASA**

A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION,  
RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

MAY/JUNE 2017



# NEXT ISSUE

**ECLECTUS ARK**

**LAURELLA DESBOROUGH - LISA WOODWORTH**

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: Javan green magpie (*Cissa thalassina*) photo copyright Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre. Inside front cover: Female eclectus, photo Dayle Jordan, Australia. © 2012-2017 Avicultural Society of America.

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May/June 2017

## President's Message



Greetings, fellow Aviculturists:

Not long now....I am so looking forward to the 12th Annual Avicultural Society of America Education Conference this October 4 - 7, 2017! Are you going?

There will be a legislative roundtable discussion on Friday evening after our day at the San Diego Zoo (tour and cookout!). Read more about it in this issue. I hope to see you there!

Dick Dickenson and Mary Rose have been busy gathering great raffle items. This year we will have raffle tickets available online just before the conference when our permit becomes active. This dynamic duo has really outdone themselves and our raffle will be the best yet. Our raffles and auctions help support ASA throughout the year.

San Diego Zoo, our host for the conference, has a new exhibit "Africa Rocks" which features 6 new habitats and will be quite spectacular. In addition, conference members will receive a pass for entry to the San Diego Zoo Safari Park that is good for thirty days after the conference.

Lest I forget, I would like to thank former ASA president, Ivo Lazzeroni for his generous donation to the Frank S. Todd Memorial fund. Thank you, Ivo. If you too would like to donate to the fund to help pay our conference speaker expenses, please donate now at <http://asabirds.org/frank-s-todd-memorial-fund/> or, if you prefer, mail a check to:

Avicultural Society of America

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100% of all your donations go to speaker expenses.

Yours truly,

Carol Stanley

President, YOUR Avicultural Society of America

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## ASA Yahoo Email Group

Did you know ASA has an email group? It's easy to join. Email:

asabirds-subscribe@yahogroups.com and you will start getting messages.

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ASA has several pages on facebook. "Like" them all!

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- ASA Conference: <https://www.facebook.com/ASA-Aviculture-Conference-324481397748582/timeline/>
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Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre -  
Saving Asia's Songbirds

by Jonathan Beilby

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JAVAN GREEN MAGPIE (CISSA THALASSINA)



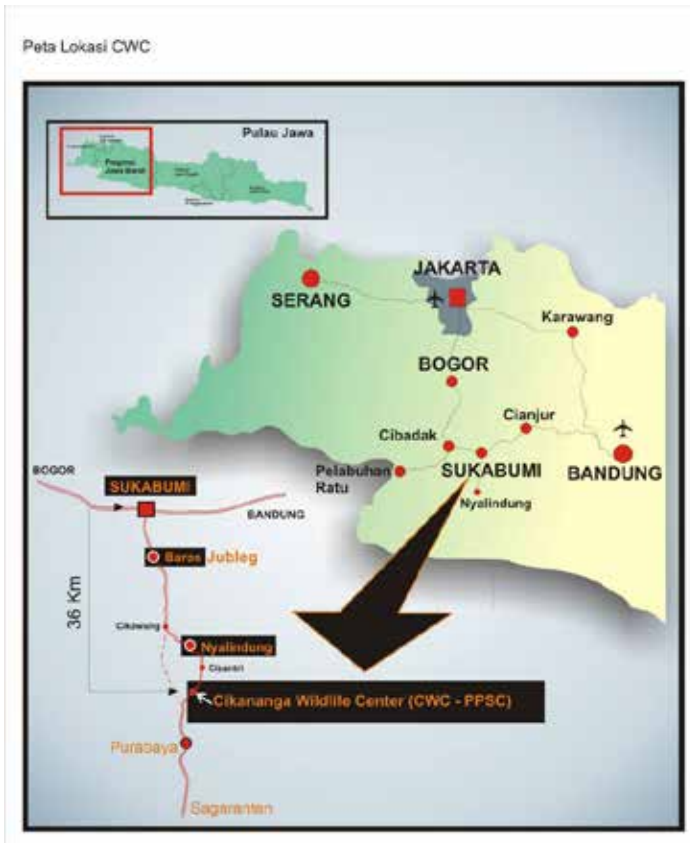
*The birdlife of South East Asia, particularly Indonesia, has been long adored by birdwatchers and aviculturists. Over the past couple of decades, 'twitchers' have noted a decline in the number of birds in some areas which formerly supported a wealth of avian activity. Whilst habitat loss is a huge factor in the decline of birds, the cage bird trade is decimating populations across Southeast Asia. Many species from this area are now commonplace in our aviaries or zoos, such as fairy bluebirds and shamas, but relatively few people are aware of the immense threat faced by these birds in their native countries.*

The Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre (CCBC) was founded in 2007, as the second branch of the Cikananga Conservation Integrated Foundation, the first being the Cikananga Wildlife Rescue Centre. The CCBC is located in the middle of the rescue center with the bird breeding facility occupying 0.3Ha. CCBC also works with the Javan Warty Pigs.

The aim of CCBC is to breed endangered Indonesian species, creating a well-managed 'safety-net population' with a view to eventual release in suitable habitat. For all

except the Black-winged Myna, reintroduction has not been possible, and so careful management of the populations is essential to ensure that the birds will have sufficient genetic diversity if they can ever be reintroduced.

I have been fortunate enough to be sponsored by the Chester Zoo to spend 6 months working at the center with the passerines. Below is a detailed description of the 5 bird species CCBC works with including their management and the main threats faced by each.



*Cikananga is located in the hilly area of the southern of Sukabumi, West Java Indonesia.*





BLACK-WINGED MYNA (*ACRIDOTHERES MELANOPTERUS*)

**Black-winged Myna** (*Acridotheres melanopterus*)

The Black-winged Myna was formerly a common bird, frequenting open spaces and seen riding on the back of the native Banteng cattle. Endemic to Java and Bali there are three species varying in the amount of grey on the back and rump. The Balinese species (*A. tertius*) has a grey rump and black mantle, the East Javan (*A. tricolor*) has a grey back and mantle and a white rump whilst the species from West Java (*A. melanopterus*) has a pure white back and white rump. The populations of all three taxa have been decimated by the cage bird trade, and sightings of birds in the wild only occur in a few localities.

CCBC works with the Black-winged Myna (*A. melanopterus*) and has done since 2007. The International



Studbook is managed by the Curator, Anaïs Tritto, and ensures that the pairings produce the most genetically valuable offspring. There can be issues with pair compatibility, especially with 'pet birds' received from confiscations. Once paired, the birds are provided with boxes and nest material. The female will lay between 1-4 blue eggs, which hatch after 14 days. The parents are then provided with kroto (ant eggs) which they feed the chicks for the first 9 days. At 9 days the chicks are closed rung with a CCBC ring and then crickets are offered to the parents. At 21 days the dull grey chicks fledge, and are left with the parents until they are seen to be independent, usually 2 weeks after fledging.

The Black-winged Myna is the only species kept at CCBC to have been reintroduced into the wild. This was the first reintroduction of a bird from a captive population on the island of Java, and only the second in Indonesia. A trial release in Cikananga took place in 2012, with further releases occurring in Halimun Salak National Park and Rawadanau Nature Reserve. The birds survived, being observed for several months afterwards and found to have bred in Haliman. Being such a desirable bird, the demand from the cage bird trade did affect populations but a lot of information was learned about release protocols and the importance of education. CCBC is working hard in local communities to raise awareness of the importance of the Black-winged Myna.



JAVAN GREEN MAGPIE (CISSA THALASSINA)

**Javan Green Magpie** (*Cissa thalassina*)

The Javan Green Magpie was formerly classified as a subspecies of the Short-tailed Green Magpie, which unlike the Common Green Magpie (*Cissa chinensis*) has never been common in western aviculture. In 2012, the Javan subspecies was split by Birdlife International owing to significant differences between them and the subspecies from Borneo,



now classified as *C. jeffreyi*. A montane forest specialist, there have been no reliable sightings for around 15 years.

The main threat to this bird is not just the cage bird trade, but the use of the green magpie as a 'master bird' in singing competitions. Here the mimicking ability of the green magpie is used to train competing birds to produce a more varied song and help the

owner to win the competition. The prizes of such events can be huge sums of money.

It was noted that the number of the Javan Green Magpie was low in the wild, and also decreasing in the bird markets, so CCBC began working with the species in 2011. Birds were confiscated from the markets, being sure to select the Javan birds and not Sumatran Green Magpies (*C. chinensis minor*). The Javan birds differ in a





JUVENILE JAVAN GREEN MAGPIE (*CISSA THALASSINA*)

proportionally larger bill, shorter crest, short tail which lacks pattern on the underside and no 'ladder' patterning on the wings. The Bornean birds have a white iris.

Traditionally, birds from the genus *Cissa* have faded to a blueish color in captivity. The feathers structurally produce a blueish color, with a yellow xanthophyll pigment from the diet changing the plumage to green. Research has shown that these xanthophyll pigments are also an important part of mate choice and essential when female birds produce egg yolk. In order to keep the birds as green as possible, the birds at CCBC are fed crickets dusted with Yel-Lux every morning. This seems to be successful, but look at the pictures to judge for yourselves!

The birds are very easily disturbed when breeding, so CCTV is used in two of the buildings to monitor the progress of the chicks. The incubation period is 3 weeks and then the chicks fledge after a month. After this point they must remain with the parents for another month whilst they learn how to feed for themselves.

In 2015, 12 birds were exported to Europe as part of a newly formed European Endangered species Programme (EEP). At the time of writing, there are currently 21 birds in the European population.

The magpie is such a distinctive and beautiful bird that it has been selected as the mascot for the EAZA campaign 'silent

JAVAN GREEN MAGPIE (*CISSA THALASSINA*) JUVENILE



forest' - promoting awareness of the wildlife trade. A recent confiscation at LAX shows the popularity of these birds worldwide, with 5-6 yellow-breasted magpie (*Cissa hypoleuca*) being found dead on arrival.

IMMATURE AND ADULT



ADULT AND JUVENILE JAVAN GREEN MAGPIE (*CISSA THALASSINA*)





**Spectacled/Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush** (*Rhinocichla mitrata*)

The Spectacled Laughingthrush is a small species of babbler, found on Sumatra and peninsular Malaysia.

Named for the small area of blue bare skin under the eye, not to be confused with the Hwamei (*Garrulax canorus*) which is also sometimes known as the spectacled laughingthrush.





SPECTACLED/CHESTNUT-CAPPED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*RHINOCICHLA MITRATA*)

This species was acquired as a non-endangered species of laughingthrush, allowing the CCBC staff to gain experience with this group before working with more endangered species. The last remaining birds are due to be

exported so that more room can be made for the more endangered species listed below. At the time of writing, this species is still showing up regularly in the markets but may soon be under threat.



SUMATRAN LAUGHINGTHRUSH (GARRULAX BICOLOR)

**Sumatran Laughingthrush** (*Garrulax bicolor*)

The Sumatran Laughingthrush as its name suggests, is endemic to the Indonesian island of Sumatra. This species lives in montane forest, but records are becoming increasingly scarce. Also known as the Black-and-



white Laughingthrush, this species has a striking appearance, and fantastic vocalizations, causing it to be a popular species in the bird markets. This is the only species kept by CCBC which can be sexed in the aviaries - the males and females have different calls.



## *Steve's Photo Pick*

Blue-crowned Pigeon squab, *Goura cristata*, aka Western Crowned Pigeon or Common Crowned Pigeon – This is a 2 week old squab that will grow up to be one of the largest species of pigeons weighing in at about 4.5 pounds. There are 3 species of Crowned Pigeons. All inhabit separate areas on the island of Papua New Guinea. The diet in the wild is mainly small fruits and seeds. In captivity, a diet of pellets, seeds, sprouts and chopped fruit is readily accepted. Crowned Pigeons lay a single egg per clutch. Rearing offspring in aviculture can be challenging and often requires hand-rearing which results in wonderfully tame adults. Crowned Pigeons spend most of their time patrolling the aviary floor while bobbing their large tails up and down, but they do roost up high at night.

Steve Duncan

Avian Resources





Sumatrans were formerly listed as a subspecies of the White-crested Laughingthrush (*Garrulax leucolophus*), it differs from the white-crested, in the lack of brown in the plumage and a distinctive teardrop near the eye.

The species has historically had a small population in aviculture, with only a few birds kept in the US and Asia. In the early 2000s, a number of birds were gathered together at Waddesdon Manor (which had the world's first breeding of these birds), and an EEP was established - managed by Chester Zoo.

CCBC started working with this species in 2007 and has been very





successful. The female will lay between 1-3 white eggs, which hatch after 2 weeks. The young fledge at around 14 days and look very bizarre, lacking tails and still having particularly large areas of yellow skin around the gape. The only downside to the success at Cikananga is that a high density of Sumatran Laughingthrushes actually decreases breeding success, with birds calling to defend their territory instead of getting on with breeding!

In 2015, 8 birds were exported to Europe to provide much needed new blood for the EEP. This satellite population in Europe now numbers around 70 birds.









## Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush

(*Garrulax rufifrons*)

The Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush might lack the attractive appearance of the other species, but is a fantastic bird! Formerly found in montane habitat in West and Central Java, recent records come only from Gunung-Gede national park, despite the availability of suitable habitat, indicating that the species is trapped across the range. The call of the rufous-fronted is so distinctive, similar to the whinny of a horse, that this species is called the Poksay Kuda, meaning 'horse laughingthrush'.

CCBC has worked with rufous-fronted since 2012, and has both subspecies. The nominate subspecies (*G.r.rufifrons*) is found in West Java and *G.r.slamatensis* from Central Java is currently known from one captive female 'Esa', meaning 'the lonely one' in Indonesian.

The Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush is an incredibly shy bird, normally hiding in the back of the very densely planted aviaries. They will sometimes come forward for live food, but are generally difficult to observe. CCTV is essential to determine lay dates, and allows for an intimate view of the reproductive behavior of the birds. The incubation and fledging period are the same as for the Sumatran Laughingthrush, but the Rufous-fronted lay 1-2 pale blue eggs.

At the time of writing, CCBC has the only viable population of these birds. 2015 was a very successful year with several offspring were reared to adulthood. This species is currently the highest priority at the breeding centre.





RUFOUS-FRONTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*GARRULAX RUFIFRONS*)

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RUFOUS-FRONTED

## Conclusion

CCBC is working with 5 species of high conservation status, in their native Indonesia. By making market surveys, rescuing, breeding and reintroducing these birds, CCBC is working on the front line for saving these few species from certain extinction in the wild. However, the work of the CCBC would not be possible without the support from various sponsors worldwide.

I would like to thank Anaís Tritto (Curator and Conservation Manager) for proof-reading (and putting up with me), the keeping staff of CCBC and Chester Zoo for their sponsorship during my stay here in Indonesia.

Jonathan will be speaking about the work of the CCBC and the extent of the bird trade in Indonesia at the ASA conference this fall in San Diego.



D LAUGHINGTHRUSH (GARRULAX RUFIFRONS)

## Want to help CCBC?

For further information or to contribute to the amazing work of CCBC please email [jonathan@beilby.gotadsl.co.uk](mailto:jonathan@beilby.gotadsl.co.uk)

RUFOUS-FRONTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (GARRULAX RUFIFRONS)



# PLEASE DONATE NOW

Help us keep Frank'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/>

# The 2017 ASA Conference Roundtable Strategy Meeting

*"Taking Advantage of the New Political Climate in Washington, D.C."*

*John Del Rio*

The 2017 Aviculture Society of America Conference is approaching us quickly! We all look forward to being together in beautiful San Diego, California to see old friends, take in fantastically prepared lectures and presentations, enjoy our meals and libations, tell jokes and stories, and just plain "TALK BIRDS"!

However, we have planned a new feature into this year's conference that we anticipate will be a very robust conversation amongst all of us: aviculture's stakeholders. This new feature is a roundtable discussion with a panel of experts in animal politics.

We have assembled a small group of some of the most vociferous, pugnacious, intelligent, longsuffering, wise, and experienced fighters for the rights of keeping exotic and domestic animals this country has ever seen. These people are our "Dream Team" of warriors that come to fight every time our rights to keep and breed animals is threatened by the insane animal rights fanatics or the overreaching bureaucrats at any level of government.

The reason we feel this year's conference is a perfect time to have a roundtable discussion and

strategy meeting is because of the ground-shaking political changes that occurred in November of 2016 with the sweeping wins of the US Congress and the White House by the GOP and Donald Trump.

Regardless of your own political viewpoints and opinions, it cannot be denied that as aviculturists and animal enthusiasts, the new political winds in DC and state houses and governor's offices across this country have never been more potentially friendly to us as stakeholders in aviculture. We have an undetermined window of time where we have these favorable political conditions and we \*MUST\* take full advantage of these to rectify some of the bad laws and regulations that have been heaped upon us over the last couple of decades.

Our strategy meeting is going to focus on what we do from this day forward to better our position within the federal government as well as state and local levels so that we can take these strategies back to our home regions and put them into motion. We must learn to better use social media as a means of moving the fulcrum to our advantage.

# Who's Your Daddy?



Stumped?

See answer on page  
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## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- **Wednesday**  
Afternoon, Check-in & Open Bird Photography Slide Show, Evening – Cocktail Ice-breaker party
- **Thursday**  
Full day of Aviculture Talks - Cheese & wine social to benefit Frank S. Todd Memorial Fund
- **Friday**  
San Diego Zoo Tour and BBQ; Evening Legislative roundtable discussion
- **Saturday**  
Full day of Aviculture Talks, Banquet, Keynote and Auction

**Donations** for our raffle are welcome! Did you know our raffle, auction and silent auctions help the Avicultural Society of America throughout the year?

Contact Dick Dickenson at [rgdickenson@yahoo.com](mailto:rgdickenson@yahoo.com) or call him at: **408-313-4986** to make a tax deductible donation.



# 2017 AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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Watch for more info on:

**[www.asabirds.org/conference](http://www.asabirds.org/conference)  
Conference Speakers**

**Keynote: Dave Rimlinger, Curator of Birds, San Diego Zoo**

**Jonathan Beilby**  
Birds of Indonesia

**Myles Lamont**  
Avicultural applications in  
the field

**Simon Degenhard**  
ACTP & Lorikeets

**Christopher Marley**  
Bird Reclamation

**Stuart Denton**  
The challenges of a tropical  
mixed species collection

**Quinton Pyle**  
Great Blue Turacos

**Jerry Jennings**  
History of Aviculture

**Gamini Ratnivera**  
Birds of Sri Lanka

**Susie Kaseilke**  
Handrearing

**Patti Strand**, Founder and CEO  
of National Animal Interest  
Alliance (NAIA)

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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/>

# 2017 ASA Conference Speaker Line-up

This year's speaker line-up is nothing short of stellar! Presented by experts, the topics assembled are diverse and attendees will surely go home more aviculturally enlightened than when they arrived!

## KEYNOTE

**Dave Rimlinger**, Curator, San Diego Zoo - **Africa Rocks**  
[zoo.sandiegozoo.org](http://zoo.sandiegozoo.org)

Dave has graciously agreed to speak about the zoo's new \$70 million exhibit, Africa Rocks.



**Photo San Diego Zoo**

**Jonathan Beilby**  
Birds of Indonesia

**Simon Degenhard**  
ACTP & Lorikeets

**Stuart Denton**  
The challenges of a tropical mixed species collection.

**Jerry Jennings**  
History of Aviculture  
[www.emeraldforest.com](http://www.emeraldforest.com)

**Susie Kaseilke**  
Handrearing

**Myles Lamont**  
Avicultural applications in the field



**Christopher Marley**  
Bird Reclamation  
[www.pheromonedesign.com](http://www.pheromonedesign.com)  
Ingenuis artwork above was created by Christopher Marley of Pheromone Designs and is being donated to ASA for our raffle Christopher's amazing work is created for museums and, he has published two books.

**Gamini Ratnavira** - Birds of Sri Lanka  
Gamini is also donating a print.

**Patti Strand**, Founder and CEO of National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA)

# THE RAFFLE

By popular demand, ASA will offer raffle tickets this year once registered with the state to do so. Below is a sampling. Thanks to Dick Dickenson and Mary Rose, raffle coordinators. Contact Dick if you wish to donate:



Scarlet Macaw Parent and Baby by Nancy Lipkin-Dodds framed and matted pastel artwork



Cruise the San Diego Bay or Point Arena with Captain Mary Rose at the helm with you & 7 of your best buds.





CRESTED COUA (COUA CRISTATA) PHOTO SAN DIEGO ZOO


## Who's Your Daddy?

From page 27, Answer: Crested-coua (*Coccyzoides cristata*)

Crested coua *Coccyzoides cristata*.jpg  
(Linnaeus, 1766)

The crested coua (*Coccyzoides cristata*) is a medium-sized, approximately 44 cm long, greenish-grey coua with grey crest, blue bare orbital skin, rufous breast, brown iris, black bill and legs, white belly and long white-tipped purplish-blue tail feathers. They are very attractive birds.

The crested coua is distributed and endemic to forests, savanna and brushland of Madagascar. It is found from sea-level to altitude of 900

metres. The diet consists mainly of various insects, fruits, berries, seeds, snails and chameleons. The female usually lays two white eggs in nest made from twigs. 

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

# EVENTS

## 2017 EVENTS



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE - AFA's 43rd annual Educational Conference and Avian Expo** will be held **August 3-7, 2017** in beautiful Tucson, AZ. This year's conference theme is "Aviculture is Conservation, too". [www.afabirds.org](http://www.afabirds.org)



Join the National Animal Interest Alliance as it rocks DC. Icebreaker night of Oct 2, presentations and dinner Oct 3 and lobby day on the Hill Oct 4, and Pet Night on the Hill Oct 4. [www.naiaonline.org/get-involved/naia-annual-conference/](http://www.naiaonline.org/get-involved/naia-annual-conference/)



**AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA - ASA's 12th Annual Education Conference** will be hosted by the **San Diego Zoo. October 4-7, 2017** in San Diego. More details online at [www.asabirds.org](http://www.asabirds.org)

**INTERNATIONAL WILD WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION - IWWA's conference** is slated for **October 18-23, 2017** [www.wildwaterfowl.org/index.html](http://www.wildwaterfowl.org/index.html)

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**LORO PARQUE IX International Parrot Convention September 24-27, 2018** [www.loroparque-fundacion.org/congresso](http://www.loroparque-fundacion.org/congresso)

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PO Box 5067, Fresno, CA 93755  
www.ccasbirds.com

Long Beach Bird Breeders  
6444 Spring St # 132  
Long Beach, CA 90815  
longbeachbirdbreeders@gmail.com

Contra Costa Avian Society  
P.O. Box 23115 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
www.contracostaaviansociety.org

Orange County Bird Breeders  
www.ocbirdbreeders.org

Acadiana Bird Club  
480 Almonaster Dr Youngsville, LA 70592  
acadianabirdinc@hotmail.com

Fort Worth Bird Club  
P.O. Box 1712 Keller, TX 76244  
fwbc@fortworthbirdclub.com

Arizona Seedcracker Society Inc  
P.O. Box 26899 Mesa, AZ 85214

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