

ASA

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A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017



NEXT ISSUE

**THE BIRDS OF INDONESIA
JONATHAN BEILBY**

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: Plumheaded parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*) Lutino male photo Steve Duncan. Inside front cover: Common green magpie (*Cissa chinensis*) photo copyright Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre © 2012-2017 Avicultural Society of America.

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March/April 2017

President's Message

Do you feel it?

That feeling of excitement about our upcoming conference is in the air.

Just a few short months until it begins in San Diego on October 4th. Preparations and plans are being worked out to make this our best conference yet! The Holiday Inn Bayside is the venue and we have several activities planned.

For openers, the no-host icebreaker Wednesday evening is our annual meet and greet with a slideshow extravaganza. Okay, maybe not an extravaganza but, it sure is fun to see everyone after a year! Thursday has a full day of talks and Thursday night will have an invitation only wine and cheese social -- and, you're invited! -- to benefit the Frank S. Todd Memorial Fund. Thank you Renee Weber and Lory Ables for your generous donations that help us continue to bring great speakers from around the world in Frank's memory! Donations of any amount to the fund are welcomed as they help us help our speakers cover their travel expenses. <http://asabirds.org/frank-s-todd-memorial-fund/>

Friday is zoo day. Get ready for tours and cookout at the world famous San Diego Zoo (I can't believe we aren't charging extra for this!). Friday evening we head back to the hotel for a round table with our guest panel of experts for a discussion on how to take advantage of the current political climate for avicultural legislation.

Saturday culminates in presentations all day, followed by a cocktail reception with keynote speaker, Dave Rimlinger, plus the raffles and auction.

URGENT ACTION ITEM

I loved receiving the email from Marshall Meyers announcing HR 2603, which would amend the Endangered Species Act to provide a limitation of treatment of foreign species as endangered. More info later in this issue! Please support this bill's passage by contacting your representative.

ASA affiliate National Animal Interest Alliance created an online source to find your representative and send an email in support of HR 2603. See page 28 for more information!

Yours truly,

Carol Stanley

President, YOUR Avicultural Society of America

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The *Lutino* Plum-headed Parakeet
Roger Bringas: No. Hollywood, California, USA
Fabulous photos by Steve Duncan

PLUMHEADED PARAKEET (PSITTACULA CYANOCEPHALA) LUTINO MALE





The Plum-headed Parakeet, *Psittacula cyanocephala*, is arguably the most beautiful of the smaller Asian parakeets. In comparison to other *Psittacula*, it is compact in size, but maintains its dignity because of its sleek physique, long elegant tail, and of course the customary *psittacula* demarcation above the neckline. Although the hen's head remains a slate color, the cock's handsomeness becomes obvious in maturity, becoming an exquisite purple-red color. Unlike other larger, boisterous, and audibly annoying *Psittacula* species, Plumheads in general are typically gentle, calm, and pleasantly quiet. When hand-fed, they can make wonderful pets and never seem to become spiteful as tame Indian Ringnecks quite often do. If left unsupervised, they are not nearly as destructive as some of the larger species such as Alexandrines or Derbyans, and do not require such large accommodations, as do their larger cousins.

Common though the Plumhead may be in the wilds of India, it is this same commonness that may doom it to extinction in captivity. The same applies to any bird that has a small number of devotees. But it is possible to make every chick a wanted chick if they can be bred in unusual colors. A remedy the idealist might find less bitter to swallow if they sell well, for is not money the universal sweetener?

The once-famous Keston Bird Farm in England had possession of a reported "*lutino*" Plumhead back in the late 1960's. It was a cock bird that never donated his seed to any obliging female and in the early 1970's he was imported into the United States. Reportedly, the bird ended up in the hands of an attorney in Northern California and bred a few normal colored young. It is my belief, based on the fact that all young were green in color, that this was most likely a recessive or non sex-linked lutino. The yellow cock bird eventually died and one by one, his prodigy also met their untimely demise. The bloodline died off and we shall never know exactly what gift of nature was so miraculously in our hands and lost due to ignorance, negligence, or ill-fortune fifty years ago.

Approximately some ten years later, another 'lutino' Plumhead was imported into the U.S. by Mr. Don Wells. It was a hen that proved to be quite a challenge to breed. In his many years of working with the bird, Mr. Wells had only moderate success in that he produced two progeny from his "yellow queen". As fate would have it, tragedy befell his aviary as rats killed all three birds;

the lutino and its two offspring. Thus another valuable line lost forever. But the question still remained, was this a lutino or a yellow mutation?

In January of 1987, I was on a rather lengthy trip throughout Southeast Asia, looking for unusual and interesting birds. While in Singapore I learned of a dealer in Bombay, India who was supposedly in possession of some unusually colored birds. The dealer had a questionable reputation and it was a long way to go to confirm if the rumors were true. Traveling for almost 8 weeks and running low on financial reserves, I was already looking forward to returning home. Back in the late 1980's, there were no digital cameras or means to instantly verify the rumors or tales of rare mutations that might exist in the hands of an animal trader. I phoned a good friend of mine in Southern California, Dave West, and asked him for his opinion as to whether I should carry on and investigate the viability of the rumors. He was very excited to hear about the prospect of some new Asiatic mutations, and said he had only heard of a different bird dealer in Bombay. His enthusiasm gave me enough inspiration to extend my trip and proceed farther East to India. Dave suggested to me that since I would be in India, I might want to stop in Calcutta and try to find a famous collector of birds named Mr. Ara, who was supposed to have a fantastic assortment of different mutation Asiatic parakeets.

I had a good travel agent who was able to make all the last minute travel arrangements for me without complication...or at least that's what

PLUMHEADED PARAKEET (*PSITTACULA CYANOCEPHALA*) LUTINO MALE



I thought. I flew from Singapore to Calcutta late at night, arriving about 1:30 am. When I disembarked the plane, I followed the line of passengers to immigration and was greeted by an older, seasoned immigration officer who obviously wasn't pleased to be working at that time in the morning. After reviewing my passport, he asked, "Where is your visa?" I replied, "It will be on any page you choose once you stamp it into my passport." He became excited and rather angry, shouting at me that "everyone needs a visa to enter India". I told him that I was unaware that I needed a visa to enter the country and apologized for my ignorance. In all honesty, no one had informed me that I needed a visa prior to arrival, not even the travel agent! Well, I was threatened with deportation, and the immigration officials were going to hold the Singapore Airlines plane and send me back to Singapore if this wasn't worked out. For over an hour, the same immigration officer kept repeating over and over I needed a visa and I would be deported. Eventually, the Singapore airlines plane boarded and was preparing to depart. I was fairly confident I wouldn't be on that flight. The 'light bulb' went off in my head. I had a pretty good idea of how to resolve this issue quickly. Putting my hand in my pocket and withdrawing some cash, I could see the officer's eyes completely focused on what I was doing. I again apologized for the mix up and for not having a visa, and asked, "Is there a way I can pay for one now and remain in India for a few weeks?" He pulled me over to the side, took the money and my passport. He gave me an address of

the immigration office where I could retrieve my passport after three days. He said I would have to pay for the processing of a proper visa at that time. Then he belted out, "Welcome to India, Sir!"

Having never been to Calcutta before, I had no idea where to stay. The airport information center had some brochures of hotels, and I randomly chose one that seemed to be in the center of the city. Big mistake! Dark, dingy, smelly, and old with no hot water, no air conditioning (actually, there was a window unit, but it only blew out hot air), and no television. Not my kind of place, even when I was in my late 20's. I changed hotels three more times over the next few days and finally found something adequate. Dave West had given me a few telephone numbers of people in India who might know Mr. Ara. After a few phone calls...success! I was able to speak with someone who knew him and had his contact information. I called Mr. Ara, and he was quite agreeable to meet with me and invited me to his apartment. I took a taxi to the address of a grand old apartment building in the middle of Calcutta, surrounded by urban chaos. Servants answered the door. I explained who I was and that I had an appointment with Mr. Ara. They escorted me into a large, dimly lit living room with 20 foot ceilings. The very large apartment was adorned with old paintings hanging on the walls, old carpets covering the wooden floors, and antique furniture throughout. A large, elderly man entered the room and said "I am Mr. Ara." He then asked, "Do you

know what my surname means”? I smiled and said, “I know that Ara is the scientific name for macaw.” He seemed to be quite pleased, and with a broad smile, he said, “Oh, you are a true bird man”.

After our introductions and some friendly conversation, Mr. Ara asked if I'd like to see his bird collection. I said “Yes, absolutely!” The truth was I had traveled half way across the globe and was more than eager, actually impatient, to see his collection. Thinking the birds would be outside in aviaries, I was somewhat surprised as we walked through the kitchen and into the adjacent room. Although the road was not Rodeo Drive and the city was not Beverly Hills, I thought I was in Tiffany's. There in front of me was an incredible collection of nature's living gems, more rare Asiatic mutations than I had ever seen. In small cages, Mr. Ara had several blue, lutino, cinnamon, and grey-green Alexandrines and Ringnecks. He also had at least 4 yellow or lutino Plumheads and a slew of pied-looking birds, all kept as pets. He had acquired the birds over many years and said he was never interested in breeding them. I was in awe of the rare colors he had and spent a good hour looking at and photographing his collection. I tried to convince Mr. Ara to sell me some of his birds that he had multiple colors of. He wasn't interested in parting with any of his “pets”, but he did know of a dealer in Calcutta, who he said had some nice birds available from time to time. The hunt was on.

I was able to contact Kapeed, the dealer Mr. Ara had referred me to. He



NOMINATE MALE PLUMHEADED PARAKEET
(PSITTACULA CYANOCEPHALA)

told me it was the end of the baby season, and he was expecting to receive some unusually colored birds from his trappers in the next week or two. After our initial conversation, I made it clear to Kapeed that I wanted to do business and I had the financial means as well as the required licensure and permits to import birds into the US. He also made it clear to me that he was serious and he also could obtain the required export permits and paperwork to export birds from India. I thought, “This is the beginning of a beautiful relationship.” All my efforts just might payoff this time.

A few days later, Kapeed called and said that the load of special birds had arrived in Calcutta. He picked me up and took me to his home where I saw several baby birds and some mutations. All the birds were kept in small cages, given a diet of mostly paddy rice for the adults and ground up paddy rice for the babies. The baby birds were suffering from yeast infections, bacterial infections, dehydration, and general malnourishment. There was a lutino Alexandrine baby, a Cinnamon Alexandrine cock, an adult turquoise Ringneck hen, an adult blue Ringneck cock, and 17 pied

*I'm not Chinese, but
1988 was a very lucky
year for me!*

looking Ringneck cocks, all from the wild. I suggested to Kapeed a better diet and gave him a list of ingredients he might use to provide a more nutritious hand-feeding formula. At that time, in the mid to late 1980's, India had a closed economy and very few foreign products were imported into the country. It was the first time I had been to a country that had no McDonald's or Coca-Cola. Problems, problems, problems! We were able to procure sunflower kernels and baby oatmeal cereal. It wasn't ideal, but it was better than just paddy rice. I got some diflucan from the local chemist and that helped with the yeast infections, but more

medications were needed. It just wasn't possible to get the necessary drugs to treat the birds more thoroughly. It was the end of the baby season; I remained a few more weeks, and tried to educate Kapeed on better avian husbandry. He was

*"You are very lucky
your jewelry wasn't
taken from you when
you arrived. Don't you
know that foreigners
are not allowed to bring
gold into India?"*

eager to learn and implemented the changes I suggested. I knew he had the right contacts and was eager to do business again. I promised I would come back the following year and bring with me the hand-feeding formula I was mixing at home in the US, as well as medicines to help remedy the various problems he was encountering when receiving the baby birds from the trappers. We made a deal on all the birds that he had at that time and all were successfully imported into the United States. The import transaction and quarantine went



NOMINATE PLUMHEADED PARAKEET (PSITTACULA CYANOCEPHALA) MALE, RIGHT AND LUTINO FEMALE, LEFT

smoothly and I was excited to go back the following year.

I'm not Chinese, but 1988 was a very lucky year for me! Kapeed and I were in regular contact and I assured him I would be in Calcutta in late December with food, medicines, and equipment in hand. Shortly after my arrival, Kapeed received two young Alexandrines, a blue and lutino perhaps 12 weeks old. There was also a single lutino Plumhead also just fledged, an unusual adult Alexandrine, who had a cinnamon colored body with a green head. The birds were dirty and a bit skinny, but they were in fairly good condition. I treated them with a course of

antibiotics and some diflucan, just in case there were any underlying infections. The birds did well and I was more than excited to relocate them to a new home in America.

Kapeed knew I wanted the birds and he was holding out for top dollar. He was asking more than I could afford, but he had the only possibly true lutino Plumhead available for sale in the world! Once again, I was ignorant on Indian rules and regulations. I happened to have a large money clip made out of a solid gold Mexican 50 Peso coin. I also had a large gold chain with another Mexican 50 Peso gold medallion. Kapeed happened to see my gold chain and medallion



FEMALE NOMINATE PLUMHEADED PARAKEET
(*PSITTACULA CYANOCEPHALA*)

one day, and was shocked that I had some gold jewelry on my person. He said, "You are very lucky your jewelry wasn't taken from you when you arrived. Don't you know that foreigners are not allowed to bring gold into India?" I told him it was my personal jewelry, and that I had no idea that it was prohibited to bring one's jewelry into India. Imagine that...I was in possession of some black market gold...what to do? When I got back to my hotel, I asked the concierge about gold's value in India. He said that because of the strict policy, gold in India was worth easily 4 or 5 times the world market price. Good to know!

A day or two before departing back to the US, I was still unable to come to an agreement with Kapeed regarding the price of the birds. He was stuck on his price and he said, "I am like the Rock of Gibraltar. I won't budge." The thought had crossed my mind that I would not be importing the birds in his possession. I was feeling a bit down after putting in the many weeks of work and effort into the whole project. The afternoon prior to my departure, I was invited for lunch with Kapeed and his family. Everyone lived together in the same

residence, mother, father, brother, and sister, as well as their wives and children. They were all present and we enjoyed a wonderful meal together of regional Indian food served on stainless steel dishes, using our hands and bread as utensils. During the course of the meal, Kapeed told me that his sister would be getting married soon, and it was expected that she have a dowry. He said that his sister would very much like to have the gold that was in my possession to add to her dowry, and how much would I be willing to sell it to them for? I told him that my jewelry had great sentimental value and that it really wasn't for sale. The 'light bulb' went off in my head again!

Kapeed picked me up the following day to take me to the airport. As much as I wanted the birds, he wanted to sell the birds. I didn't want to show how much I desired them, but I really wanted them....all of them. I decided I'd wait for him to be the first one to make a move, which fortunately he did. He said, "Really, we should come to some kind of agreement on these birds." I said, "The price is too high". By the time we arrived at the airport, after an

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/>

hour of negotiations back and forth, we finally reached an agreement for all the birds. He got what he wanted and I got what I wanted at a fair price for both of us. I departed Calcutta with less 'bling', but I was already imagining the 'bling' of new mutations in my aviary back home.

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home.*

The birds were imported successfully, and some of the birds were purchased in partnership with a friend also in Southern California. The single lutino Plumhead was housed at my partner's facility and paired up with a good normal cock.

Two years later, they produced a normal looking cock and a few normal looking hens. We were uncertain if the lutino was sex-linked or recessive, as there are lutino mutations in various species that are non sex-linked lutinos. Thus, we kept back all the progeny until we were certain of the mode of inheritance. Two years later we paired the first split cock back to its lutino mother and the first lutinos were bred! We still remained uncertain of the mode of inheritance and we continued breeding the same pair for a few years, successfully producing more greens and lutinos, but as luck would have it, no lutino cocks. I suggested that we break-up the producing pair and re-pair the lutino hen to a different cock to diversify the bloodline. My partner didn't agree, as he was of the mind of not changing a good thing and breaking up a compatible breeding pair. We agreed to divide the birds that were bred thus far and terminate our partnership in the birds. He kept the original breeding pair and a number of siblings, both lutino and green. I kept two young visual lutino hens and two green cocks. I paired my four birds to four completely unrelated normal Plumheads, knowing that it would be a much longer road for me to produce visual lutinos. But I believed in the long run, by out-crossing the birds to different bloodlines, the process would strengthen the mutation. It took me a few more years, but in the end, my decision to outcross to different bloodlines paid off. I produced visual lutinos and proved the mutation was sex-linked, as some of the split lutino cocks



NOMINATE FEMALE & LUTINO MALE



LUTINO FEMALE



NOMINATE MALE



LUTINO MALE



PLUMHEADED PARAKEET
(PSITTACULA CYANOCEPHALA)
LUTINO MALE

paired with normal hens produced visual lutino hens. I selectively recombined some of the out-crossed split cocks to lutino hens as the mutation was now firmly established. Unfortunately, the original line kept by my former partner was inbred over and over, and was not nearly as strong or prolific as the genetically diversified line I was working with. Subsequently, the year I paired split lutino cocks with lutino hens, I raised four large, robust lutino cocks. Later I paired them all to the best normal hens I could find. After three years, the lutino cocks achieved their mature adult coloring, amazing all beholders of their fantastic beauty.

I was able to import a few more mutations from Kapeed the following year; an opaline, gray-green, pied, turquoise blue, and dilute Plumhead. The opaline and gray-green were sent to my good friend, Theo Slagmolen in Belgium on a breeding loan. Then, the Wild Bird Conservation Act was signed into law here in the United States, making it nearly impossible to import the birds back into the country. The good news is that Theo established the mutations, and they are readily available in Europe. The bad news is that we don't have them at this time in this country. The pied did breed, but never produced a visual pied, thus it was a "sport". Phenotypically it was pied looking, but genotypically it was only a normal bird. The turquoise blue molted out a year later to be just a normal Plumhead. The dilute was kept here and went to my good friend, Gordon Hayes. It is now established and in the hands of several breeders. It is my belief that almost all the lutino



PLUMHEADED PARA


Plumheads in the world can be traced back to the first lutino Plumhead hen that was imported from India a few decades ago.

It took me over ten years from acquiring the first lutino Plumhead hen in India to seeing the lutino



COCKATIEL (PSITTACULA CYANOCEPHALA) LUTINO MALE AND NORMAL FEMALE

cocks in full color on the perch in California. This is truly one of my proudest achievements. My passion for mutation colored birds started when I was a young boy and still exists today. I continue to travel the globe in search of new mutations

and enjoy the hunt for these rare gems of nature. 

Steve's Photo Pick

Masked Grass Finches (*Poephila personata*)— Photo of wild birds (adult feeding three offspring) in Northern Territory, Australia. Males and females are alike, but young birds have dark beaks and reduced mask. Masked Grass Finches are very peaceful birds and make excellent additions to a mixed aviary. They will breed readily if a true pair is identified and provided with any standard finch nest box or thick shrubbery where they can build their nest out of grass or coconut fiber. Extra insect food should be provided when nesting.







Dr. Cromwell Purchase - an inspirational leader
Rosemary Lowe



What does it feel like to plan the future for an entire species? Last year, ROSEMARY LOW renewed her acquaintance with someone in just that position: Dr Cromwell Purchase, whose drastic conservation techniques include influencing the sex ratio of baby macaws in the egg



SPIX'S MACAWS (CYANOPSITTA SPIXII) PHOTO CROMWELL PURCHASE

QUOTES AND NOTES 2016

In 2016 I was fortunate to attend several parrot symposia. It is always a privilege to hear Dr Cromwell Purchase speak as I did in North Carolina in April and at the Parrot Society of Australia meeting in Brisbane in July. At the latter he presented a fascinating topic. It is a subject that has caused a lot of interest among aviculturists since it was first promoted: the possibility of

influencing sex ratios in the offspring of our breeding birds.

Cromwell's talk was entitled "Manipulating sex ratios in parrot offspring -- a study using nutrition and management." All those attending were keen to hear what this remarkable man had to say. Cromwell is director of Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation in Qatar, where most of the world's Spix's macaws are maintained, and is also

*This is important
because in birds it is the
female who possesses
the chromosome that
determines sex.*

studbook keeper, Genealogist and Management Consultation for the Spix's Macaw Recovery programme.

He started by explaining that when he took over in 2010 he concentrated on the most endangered species

-- Lear's and Spix's. Most of the macaws there were female. He said: "I sacrificed the 2011 breeding season to build big aviaries for the macaws.

"Sex manipulation during the incubation process has long been thought possible with birds due to their recent divergence from reptiles that still have the ability to determine sex of offspring due to temperature variations during incubation. But this was different because I aimed to alter the sex ratio by controlling the condition of the female prior to laying. Females in prime condition, with a good weight, produce more males."

This is important because in birds it is the female who possesses the chromosome that determines sex.

LEAR'S MACAW (ANODORHYNCHUS LEARI) PHOTO CROMWELL PURCHASE



He changed the diet, adding palm oil to the pellets, and doubling the amount of fresh coconut given to the Lear's to increase the fat content. Lear's need more dietary fat than

He added concentrated cranberry juice to the Spix's diet; the pairs previously had produced only females. In 2012 the first male was reared and now 50% of the young are males and the ratio can almost certainly be altered again when necessary!

Spix's. Lear's exist mainly on palm nuts unlike Spix's whose natural diet includes more fruits and seeds. Each species is different and one needs



SPIX'S MACAW

to know about their feeding habits in the wild. He added concentrated cranberry juice to the Spix's diet; the pairs previously had produced only females. In 2012 the first male was reared and now 50% of the young are males and the ratio can almost certainly be altered again when necessary!



NEW BABIES (CYANOPSITTA SPIXII) PHOTO CROMWELL PURCHASE

The increased exercise and dietary changes, plus an improvement in nest-box design for the Lear's, are examples of Cromwell's creative thinking. His theories put into practice have very important implications for captive management of other endangered bird species.

I first met Cromwell in 1996 when he was a teenager in his native South Africa. He was passionate about lorries! He told me what happened when he was still at school and for the first time his parents went on holiday without him. When they came back, they found that their garden was gone, concreted over

and replaced by lory aviaries. I think this is typical of his determination!

In short, he is managing a captive population and overseeing the studbook of a parrot that became extinct in the wild in 2000.

He finally gave up his large and beloved collection of lories to take on his current position. With his solid background in aviculture (from aged ten) and science (he holds degrees in biochemistry and physiology, and in veterinary science), I doubt that there could be a better man for what is surely the most important position in aviculture.

Cromwell has worked with the Cornell Medical University in Qatar to produce the genome sequence of the entire population of Spix's macaw -- the only species in the world to which this applies. It allows pairing to be made of the most genetically compatible birds.

In short, he is managing a captive population and overseeing the



Captive Lear's macaw at Loro Parque in Tenerife. This species is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List Photo: Rosemary Low Inset: in 2013, AI Wabra Wildlife Preservation and consultants from Germany successfully used artificial insemination (AI) with the Critically Endangered Spix's macaw. The biggest and smallest chicks (top and bottom) are the two bred using AI.

studbook of a parrot that became extinct in the wild in 2000.

Plans are currently progressing to release captive-bred Spix's macaws into a new facility at their last known natural habitat in north-eastern Brazil.

This could soon change. Plans are currently progressing to release captive-bred Spix's macaws into a new facility at their last known natural habitat in north-eastern Brazil. When I said goodbye to him at Brisbane airport, he was on his way to that very place. If all goes well, releases will commence in 2019 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the naming of Spix's macaw by Johann von Spix.

As of September 2016, the total known captive population of this species was 131 -- a rapid increase in recent years, mainly thanks to Cromwell's hand-on influence -- and not only at Al Wabra. Cromwell (well named as a true leader) is still young. His potential to enhance the survival of critically endangered species is enormous. For me, he was the most inspirational person of 2016! 🖋️

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Legislative Update - HR 2603 - Saving America's Endangered Species Act

A bill has been introduced to amend ESA (Endangered Species Act) so that it only lists/regulates species native to the US. CITES would have primary jurisdiction over international trade in endangered and threatened species.



The current Endangered Species Act (ESA) is a prime example of unintended consequences. Enacted in 1973 with good intentions, the nonnative species regulation through ESA has proven itself redundant and injurious to legitimate conservation efforts. In its present form, ESA is powerless in regulating wildlife in foreign countries. Fraudulent fundraising, manipulation and profiteering by so-called environmental groups has cost the government millions of dollars which should be used instead for legitimate conservation.

Current technology allows improved conservation through education and taking advantage of existing genetic array for captive populations would do a much better job for conservation than the draconian ESA. The restrictions on interstate movement creates bottlenecks for the gene pools so desperately needing diversity.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is the voluntary agreement with over 200 member nations, the US being one. This effective tool is currently administered in the US on international movement of nonnative endangered and threatened species making the ESA redundant and wasteful.

Focusing on protecting native species will eliminate wasteful energy and expenditures on nonnative species that are already in the U.S. and is a distraction to protecting our native species. By removing nonnative species, the ESA may focus exclusively on saving our native species.

Thank you to Texas Representative Gohmert for sponsoring this bill, and to the original co-sponsors with hopefully more to follow soon:

Texas Rep. Babin, Arizona Rep. Gosar, Colorado Rep. Tipton, Arizona Rep. Westerman, Iowa Rep. King, Texas Rep. Burgess, Louisiana Rep. Abraham, Kansas Rep. Marshall, California Rep. Hunter, Texas Rep. Farenthold

Several members have asked about how HR 2063 impacts invasive species. We have made it abundantly clear that this amendment does not impact the Government's ability to regulate non-native invasive species under the Federal Injurious Wildlife Law (Lacey Act 18 U.S.C. Sec. 42).

URGENT ACTION ITEM

ASA affiliate, National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA), has provided an online tool to determine your representative and allow you to send him or her an email at:

<http://cqrcengage.com/naiatrust/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=361753>

More information and links are available at www.asabirds.org/ESA

What in the flock?

Are you stumped?
Go to page 34

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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 or call him at: **408-313-4986** to make a tax deductible donation.

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**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)

Wow!
REGISTRATION INCLUDES BONUS TOUR TO THE SAN DIEGO ZOO SAFARI PARK



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/>

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

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

Susie Kaseilke

Handfeeding

Myles Lamont

Avicultural applications in the field



Christopher Marley

Bird Reclamation

www.pheromonedesign.com

Ingenius artwork above was created by Christopher Marley of Pheromone Designs and a similar is being donated to ASA for our raffle Christopher's amazing work is created for museums and, he has published two books.

Gamini Ratnivera - 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.





SENEGAL THICK-KNEE (*BURHINUS SENEGALENSIS*) PHOTO CAROL STANLEY

What in the flock?

From page 27, Answer: Senegal thick-knee (*Burhinus senegalensis*)

The Senegal thick-knee (*Burhinus senegalensis*) is a stone-curlew, a group of waders in the family Burhinidae.


It is a resident breeder in Africa between the Sahara and the equator, and in the Nile valley.

Senegal thick-knees are medium-large waders with strong black and yellow black bills, large yellow eyes — which give them a reptilian appearance — and cryptic plumage. The scientific name refers to the prominent joints in the long yellow or greenish legs.

They are similar but slightly smaller than the Eurasian stone-curlew, which winters in Africa. The long

dark bill, single black bar on the folded wing, and darker cheek stripe are distinctions from the European species. Senegal thick-knee is striking in flight, with a broad white wing bar.

This species has a preference for dry open habitats with some bare ground, preferably near water. It lays two blotchy light brown eggs on a ground scrape. It is most active at dawn and dusk. The song is a loud pi-pi-pi-pi-pi-pi-pi.

Food is insects, crustaceans and other invertebrates. It will also take other small prey. 

From Wikipedia

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



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/



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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS	
OCTOBER 2017	
Wednesday 10/4	ICE BREAKER
Thursday 10/5	TALKS
Friday 10/6	SAN DIEGO ZOO TOURS AND COOKOUT
Saturday 10/7	TALKS, BANQUET, RAFFLE, AUCTION

INTERNATIONAL
WILD WATERFOWL
ASSOCIATION



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



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

Long Beach Bird Breeders
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www.contracostaaviansociety.org

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www.ocbirdbreeders.org

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National Animal Interest Alliance

National Finch and Softbill Society

Zoological Association of America

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