

ASA
Avicultural Bulletin



*"Spix flying
free again"*



ACTP

ASSOCIATION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF
THREATENED PARROTS e.V.

ASA

A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION,
RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

January/February/March 2022

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: Christ the Redeemer, San Paolo, Brazil with Spix's Macaw on it. Photo: ACTP. Inside cover: Yellow cardinal chick (Gubernatrix cristata) Photo: Lou Megens© 2012-2022 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

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President's Message

Hello all!

It is absolutely an honor to carry the title of “president” of the Avicultural Society of America. Most of you know that the Avicultural Society of America is the longest running bird organization in all of North America, run by dedicated elected members—all volunteers, and all with the same passion and love for what we do. Our members span throughout diverse sectors of aviculture: They include biologists, veterinarians, zookeepers, private collectors, sanctuaries, and pet owners looking to learn more. Without this community, there is no “leader.” It takes all of us working together to maintain this community; within a field that we are all so passionate about.

It's important that we never throttle ourselves from expanding our knowledge, and always be open to different sources of information. Fortuitous answers could spring from up from unexpected places. We can all learn from each other, whether we're just starting out or have been keeping birds for the last 50 years.

My challenge to you is this: Reach out and develop relationships with others interested in working with birds, or those who are deemed experts in their fields. Ask questions, and listen with an open mind. Let's build and strengthen our community.

With all of my love and hope for the future of aviculture,

Sarah Brabbs
WestBranchAviary, Owner
Avian Resources, Aviary Manager
Avicultural Society of America, President

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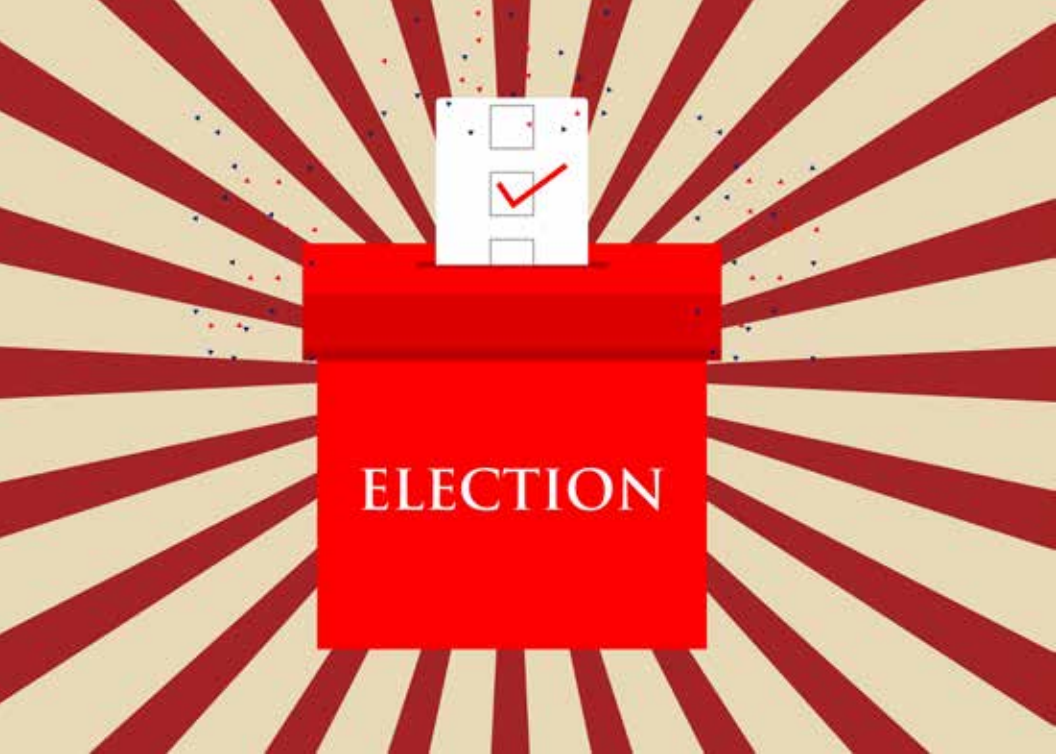
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Like Us on Facebook ASA has several pages on facebook. “Like” them all! Avicultural Society of America: <https://www.facebook.com/asabirds>



2021 ASA Election Results

Ballots were counted on October 30, 2021

The current officers of ASA are now:

President – Sarah Brabbs

VP – Sally Huntington

Secretary – Kimberly Robertson

Treasurer – Mary Rose

Board of Directors

- Greg Sercel
- Dick Schroeder
- Rick Rosenthal
- Carol Stanley
- Sheri Humphrey (Hanna)
- Roger Bringas
- Steve Duncan

At the end of 2022, the following will be up for election/re-election:

- Kimberly Robertson
- Mary Rose
- Sheri Humphrey
- Roger Bringas
- Steve Duncan



Decades in the Making

*“The Return of the Ararinha-azul to the Skies of the Caatinga”
Article and photos by Simon Degenhard, except where noted.*

Turn the clock back to the early 1990s; my fascination with this special bird was ignited when as a young bird lover in Adelaide (South Australia), I came across a magazine featuring a photo of the last known wild male on the cover. I was immediately drawn to the plight of this small blue macaw and that image has since been permanently etched into my memory.

From that point on, I have followed the story of the Spix’s Macaw (*Cyanopsitta spixii*) or Ararinha-azul, as it is referred to in Portuguese. Searching out updates on the breeding program that was being led by the Loro Parque Foundation (LPF) at the time. Reading with interest any info that I could find on the last wild birds that were tracked down in the 1980s - first 5 birds, but by 1990 only the solitary male remained.

Later in the ‘90s I was excited to learn that they were being successfully bred at Birds International Inc. (BII) in the Philippines; knowing that birds existed in more collections than I first thought, Switzerland included, gave me much



©Simon Degenerand

greater hope that the species could be saved from extinction. The birds in Switzerland were held by Dr. Hammerli.

Come 2005, with bird flu running rampant in parts of Asia, the late Mr. Antonio de Dios, founder of BII, made the decision, with the safety of the birds in mind, to transfer all 24 remaining Spix's to Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation (AWWP), Qatar. AWWP worked tirelessly with these birds for the following decade, playing a major part in the success of the breeding program. It was also in 2005, that a German parrot lover, by the name of Martin Guth, was presented with the opportunity to purchase 3 Spix's Macaws from a breeder in Switzerland. Upon gaining the approval of the German authorities,

he made the arrangements to bring these birds to his home on the outskirts of Berlin. He immediately knew that with owning these birds came great responsibility, that they would be wasted if they did not become part of the official breeding program. Subsequently, after discussions with the Brazilian Government, he joined the program later that year.

Numerous conversations with the German Authorities ensued and as a result the formation of a not-for-profit conservation NGO was decided upon. And so it was that the Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots e.V. (ACTP) was born the following year (2006).

Fast forward 5-6 years, by which time ACTP had forged a great working relationship with both AWWP and the Brazilian Government (and LPF had exited the program), the future was now looking much brighter for the species. With the three main stakeholders in the program working so closely together, greater cooperation came and with it a new level of success was able to be achieved.

The unexpected passing of AWWP's founder, Sheikh Saoud Bin Mohammed Bin Ali Al Thani in November 2014 threw the program into a spin momentarily, with the uncertainty of what lay ahead for the birds in Qatar. Fortunately, the strong working relationship between AWWP and ACTP offered a sense of hope that going forward, support was available for the Sheikh's family should they need to call upon it.

On the 3rd of March 2015, as a part of World Wildlife Day celebrations, 2 Spix's Macaws, Carla and Tiago, that were bred at ACTP Germany, were flown to Brazil, and given to the Brazilian Government, to signify the continuing cooperation and strength of the partnership between the two parties. This was a very momentous occasion, one that brought new hope to the people of Brazil, giving reassurance that they would in fact one day see these beautiful parrots flying free in the Brazilian Caatinga once again.

The 5th of June 2017 brought very uncertain times to Qatar, when Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt severed diplomatic relations with the country. As a result of this embargo, and the escalating uncertainty that it brought to Qatar, the Sheikh's children made the decision that it was in the best interest of the birds that they be moved out of the country as soon as it was safely possible. After much discussion, it was agreed that all of the birds at AWWP would be transferred to ACTP Germany, this took place in early 2018.

Since then, the program has moved forward in leaps and bounds, breeding success continued to improve and support for the program has gone from strength to strength.

The construction of the purpose built Spix's Macaw Release, Breeding and Research Centre (RBRC), on land within the Spix's historical habitat in the Caatinga, was commenced in 2019. The construction of the facility was fully funded and overseen by ACTP. With the completion of the breeding centre a year later, preparations were then made to transfer birds from Germany to Brazil in order to commence the local breeding program and also to allow for the selection and preparation of the first birds that would be chosen for release.



Spix's Macaw breeding aviaries in Brazil.

On the 3rd of March 2020, again coinciding with World Wildlife Day, the journey began for 52 Spix's Macaws, from Berlin to Brazil. These birds would form the nucleus of the Brazilian breeding program and among them were individuals that would eventually be chosen for release. This was a huge undertaking to say the least, made possible by the incredible team at ACTP, along with the Brazilian Government, and their partners including AWWP and Pairi Daiza Foundation.

Acclimatisation in the Caatinga was the next step; a vastly different climate to that of Berlin, but one (in the hotter months) not so far removed from that of Qatar. The Caatinga is situated in the northeast of Brazil, it is a desert-like half-savannah with a semi-arid climate. It is only during the wet season, over the winter months, that the

vegetation comes alive in this region.

It was hoped that the first release would happen in 2021, however, like countless other events planned in that period, all around the Globe, the Covid-19 Pandemic (very frustratingly) forced it to be postponed. Preparations continued, with sights now set on mid-2022.

In early 2022, Blue Sky Caatinga was formed and came on board



One of the 8 Spix's from the first release sitting on top of the breeding aviaries at the ACTP facility.jpg

as a major partner in the release program. Since then, they have worked alongside the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) (Brazilian Ministry of the Environment's administrative arm) to deliver the community outreach and support program within the region.

During the first quarter of 2022 it was announced that the first release would be taking place in a few months' time. Much work was still to be done, Team ACTP, both in Germany and Brazil, went into overdrive, as did the involved parties at ICMBio.

The excitement continued to build as the time drew closer and the date was soon set; the 11th of June 2022 would see the first 8 Spix's Macaws released into the skies of the Caatinga! From this point on, people from all corners of the Globe were counting down the days until this most momentous occasion would take place. Decades in the making, this day was one of, if not the most highly anticipated event to take place in avian conservation EVER!

June came around fast, and it was time to pack our bags; my son, Harry and I were heading to Brazil! I had been looking forward to this moment for so long, and as we were driving to Sydney to catch our flight out, it all finally began to sink in, we were actually going to see the Spix's flying free in the Caatinga. In Sydney we met up with two of the four close friends who would also



Simon and Harry Canudos, Brazil

join us on this incredible journey – Sam Davis and Darryl Weal. Garry Stack and Peter Barnes would meet us in Qatar. The adventure had begun!



Breeding pair of Hyacinth macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) photographed in the Pantanal.



Breeding pair of Hyacinth macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) photographed in the Pantanal.

Young Spix's (*Cyanopsitta spixii*) macaw bred by ACTP

We arrived in São Paulo some 30+ hours later; after such a long trip, we were all looking forward to a good night's sleep. We spent the next day in the city, before jumping on a flight to the Pantanal; we were off to see the first of Brazil's 3 blue macaw species that we would be observing in the wild, over the coming fortnight. The following morning, we awoke at our lodge and before long were treated to the incredible sight of a stunning pair of Hyacinth Macaws at their nesting hollow. These magnificent birds were in full sight, not more than 15m from where we were standing!

We spent 3 days in the northern Pantanal, where we encountered countless waterbird species, along with Blue-fronted and Orange-winged Amazons, Quaker (Monk)

Parrots, Yellow-billed Cardinals, and Toco Toucans to name just a few.

It was now time to head to the Caatinga for the main event; we flew overnight to Petrolina and then embarked on the 2hr drive to Curaçá. Here we met up with ACTP President, Martin Guth, Vice President, Claus Utoft along with ACTP members and supporters. An unmistakable sense of excitement and anticipation filled the air. The release was now just over 12 hours away and we could not wait!

At 9:03am ET on the 11th of June the first of 8 Spix's Macaws left the release aviary; the moment that we had all been waiting so long for, had finally arrived! A collective feeling of sheer excitement, relief and joy swept across everyone.

The 7 remaining birds followed soon after, joining the first Spix's Macaw on the outside, along with the 8 Illiger's Macaws that had also already left the release aviary. What an undoubtedly incredible moment in history.

That afternoon a press conference and celebration were held at the town hall in the nearby town of Curaçá. Attended by officials from ICMBio, ACTP, the town's Mayor and various project partners, along with many locals. It was clear to see just how significant this day was to the people of Curaçá; it was an undeniably proud moment for them, and their joy was very evident. The next day it was reported that all 8 Spix's had returned to the release aviary to sleep, this was the

perfect scenario and is something that has been repeated since. The birds have taken to their newfound freedom very well, exploring the surrounding area and foraging for wild native foods.

Whilst this hugely significant milestone has been reached, the reality is that this is not the finish line, this is just the beginning of the next marathon, that of ensuring that the goal of a self-sustaining wild population of Spix's Macaws becomes reality over the decades to come. This will not be an easy road, and no doubt there will be setbacks, however ACTP and their project partners, including the Government of Brazil, are all very much committed to this cause and will continue working tirelessly to achieve this dream.



One of the 8 Spix's from the first release

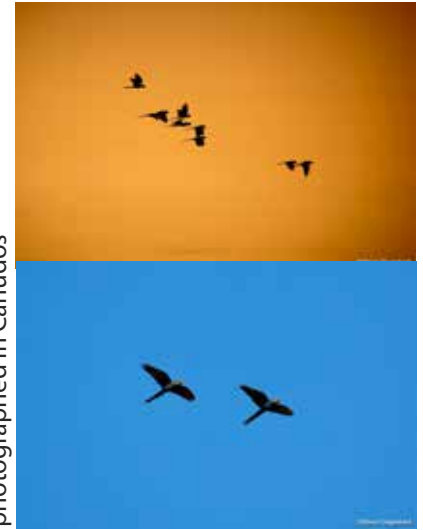


One of the 8 Spix's from the first release

To round off this incredible trip, we left Curaçá headed for the township of Canudos, from where we would get the chance to observe the Lear's Macaw and complete the trifecta of being the first people to see the 3 blue macaws of Brazil flying free in the wild in at least 2+ decades.

This became reality early the next morning when at sunrise we were afforded the opportunity to witness some 100+ Lear's Macaws leaving their cliff face roosts and taking to the sky to head off to the feeding grounds. I can say without hesitation, that everybody present had goosebumps at the sound and sight of these magnificent birds flying overhead!

It was now time to return home, with two long flights ahead, we had plenty of time to process what we had all been witness to during the



Lear's macaws (*Anodorhynchus learii*) photographed in Canudos

previous 2 weeks, the significance of which was certainly not lost on any of us; long live the blue macaws of Brazil!

At the time of writing, all 8 birds are doing extremely well; daily monitoring has been ongoing and



Pair of Lear's macaws (*Anodorhynchus learii*) photographed in Canudos



Lear's macaws (*Anodorhynchus learii*) at sunrise

©Simon Degenhard



Young Spix's (*Cyanopsitta spixii*) macaw bred by ACTP

©Simon Degenhard

has given great insight into the flock's movements and activities. The birds are behaving more and more like wild parrots and becoming less dependent on the provided supplementary food. They are still returning to the release aviary, which is ideal, and are learning valuable survival skills from both the Illiger's and the other bird species found in the area. A further 12 Spix's are earmarked for release at the end of the year, to be followed by subsequent releases each year onwards.

Up until now, and as the Brazilian's would put it, the first release has quite simply gone *perfeitamente* (perfectly)!

A message from ACTP

"The Spix's Macaw Release Project is only possible thanks to the many years of support from our partners, such as ICMBio, Páris Daiza Foundation, Spix Macaw (AWWP), BlueSky Global, Wisbroek, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Zoologische Gesellschaft für Arten- und Populationsschutz e.V. – ZGAP, NuTrópica Nutrição Especializada, Grumbach Brutgeräte, Arndt-Verlag, Wachtel-Shop.com, birdfarm bürgerheide, Parrots International, Sam Davis and Simon Degenhard... and many, many more. Many thanks also to those partners and supporters involved in the project, who are not mentioned here!"

Typical vegetation in the Caatinga



©Simon Degenhard



ACTP President, Martin Guth with Simon and Harry Degenhard in front of the Spix's Macaw Breeding Centre in Brazil



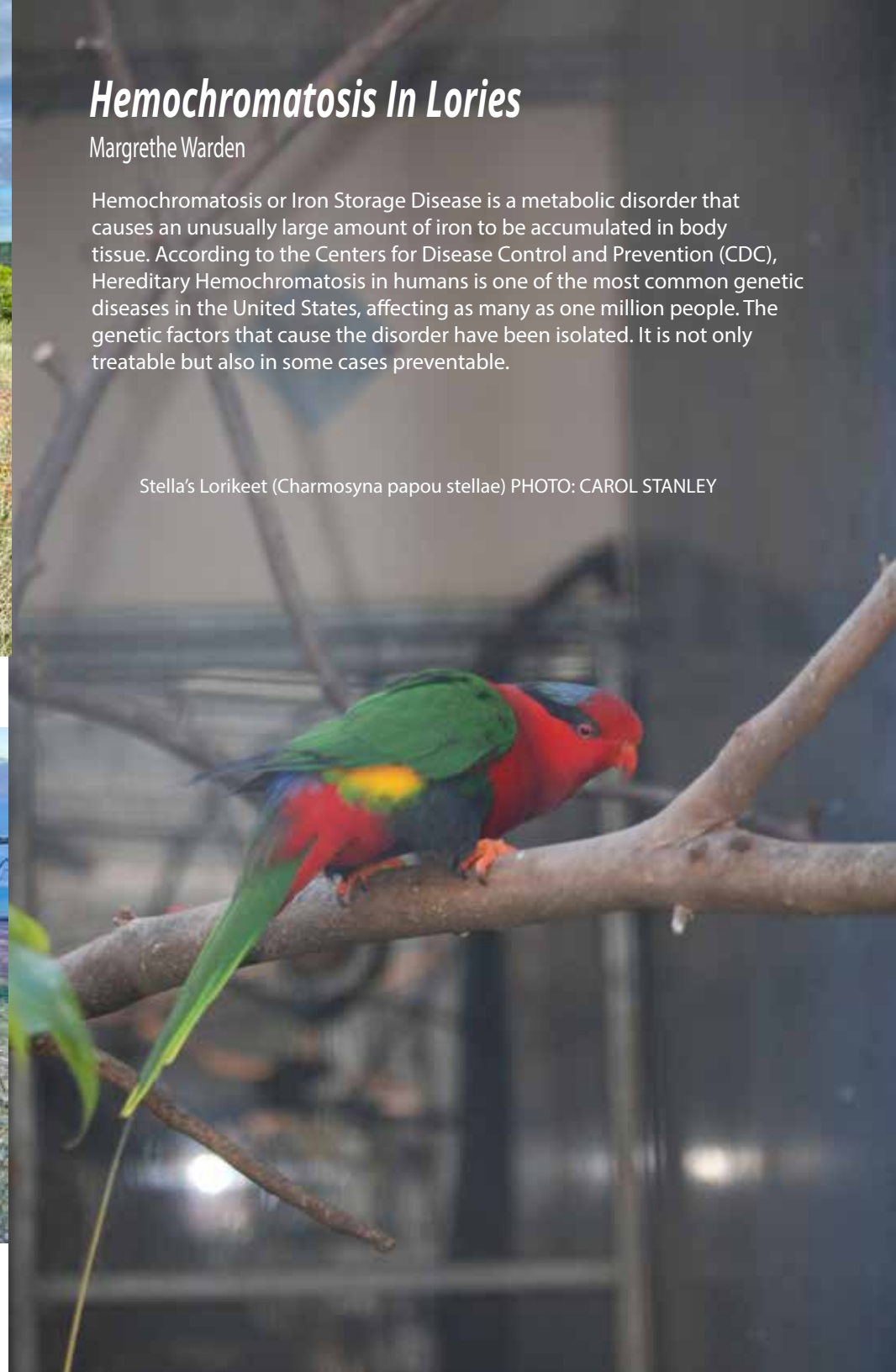
The Aussie delegation along with Preben Pedersen of Denmark. Photo taken by local guide

Hemochromatosis In Lories

Margrethe Warden

Hemochromatosis or Iron Storage Disease is a metabolic disorder that causes an unusually large amount of iron to be accumulated in body tissue. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Hereditary Hemochromatosis in humans is one of the most common genetic diseases in the United States, affecting as many as one million people. The genetic factors that cause the disorder have been isolated. It is not only treatable but also in some cases preventable.

Stella's Lorikeet (*Charmosyna papou stellae*) PHOTO: CAROL STANLEY





Iris Lorikeet (*Psitteuteles iris*) PHOTO: CAROL STANLEY

While much is known about this disorder in humans one should be cautioned against drawing too many parallels in its effects on avian species. In lorries it is a potentially lethal problem. In avian species the causes are unknown but veterinarians and aviculturists believe it to be a combination of several factors including diet, evolution and genetics. This disease has been most commonly seen in captive soft billed birds such as mynahs, toucans and birds of paradise and is rarely seen in these same species in the wild. It seems to

occur more commonly in frugivores and insectivores. There is growing evidence to indicate that lorries may also be a species vulnerable to this disorder. Because they are becoming increasingly popular in the United States we are likely to see more and more incidents of hemochromatosis in our lorries. There have not been many studies conducted on avian hemochromatosis; therefore, much of what is commonly believed about the disorder is speculation. Most of the information relating to Iron Storage Disease and lorries is anecdotal and as such is not

always appropriate data for an actual scientific discussion. I began learning more about this condition in 1999 when it was discovered in several of my own lorries, specifically in five of my black lorries (*Chalcopsitta atra*).

In most cases, hemochromatosis is asymptomatic until shortly before death. When evident, symptoms can include difficulty breathing, fluid in the air sacs, paralysis and distended abdomen. Actual

diagnosis is usually made during a necropsy. In living birds, tests conducted on tissue retrieved from a liver biopsy can make a specific diagnosis. Radiographs and blood work on living specimens can indicate liver disorders that may include iron storage but will not accurately diagnose the disorder itself. Other tests may not be as helpful in determining status of hemochromatosis in a living bird. If diagnosed in a living bird, there are some treatments available, although

Red and blue lory (*Eos histrio*) PHOTO: CAROL STANLEY





Red-collared lorikeet (*Trichoglossus rubritorquis*) PHOTO: CAROL STANLEY

many of the results are questionable. Phlebotomy, drawing blood equal to 1% of the bird's body weight on a regular basis, is acceptable treatment. It is not always a practical one, especially on aviary birds not used to being handled. Chelation is also a possible treatment. The drug Deferoxamine has been used experimentally on birds with limited success. Research using natural plant tannins is now in progress in different locations. The Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, SC has been testing

the use of tannins by giving tea to their toucan population; however, as of this writing the results are not available. Iron is stored in the cells of the liver until it is needed to create hemoglobin. The storage of iron occurs most frequently in the liver but may involve other organs as well. The availability of dietary iron is considered to be a factor in the subsequent storage. Plants store iron in a tightly bound form thereby reducing its availability. Animal products such as bone meal and



Black Lory(*Chalcopsitta atra*) PHOTO: CAROL STANLEY

blood have more bioavailable iron than plant material. The more available the iron is the more readily it can be extracted and stored in the tissue. Diets that contain animal protein sources can be higher in available dietary iron than those using plant protein sources. While plant sources are considered to have less available iron there is a school of thought which says that items such as grapes and bananas have a higher iron content than other fruits and should be avoided.

Because they contain plant source iron, it is not known if this warrants great concern. Another factor that assists the absorption of iron is ascorbic acid, commonly found in citrus fruits. The acid can release the tightly bound iron from plants and make it more available. While many aviculturists have used citrus successfully, the use of it is something to consider when developing your total diet. While diet can play a formidable role in the development of



Mt. Apo Lory (*Trichoglossus johnstoniae*) PHOTO: CAROL STANLEY

hemochromatosis, it can also occur when there are relatively low levels of dietary iron. Genetics must also be considered a factor. The predisposition to the disorder may be hereditary and passed on through certain bloodlines. Anecdotally, lorries in the *Chalcopsitta* group (blacks, duivenbodes and yellow streaks) seem to be more susceptible than some of the other species. Because this group of lorries exists in American aviculture in prodigious numbers, it is almost impossible at this point to trace the genetic link or differentiate the bloodlines. In a natural environment, dietary iron may be practically nonexistent in some regions and birds must adapt by becoming better able to process and store necessary iron. It is possible that lorries have

evolved into one of the species that process iron too efficiently thereby absorbing and storing all available iron. Kept in captivity, these birds are fed a diet that, even while it is considered to be low in iron, has a much higher iron content than that which would be found in their wild habitats. It also appears that birds who are prone to iron storage do not decrease the uptake of iron when the amount stored is adequate

This disorder usually shows up in lorries around five or six years of age; however, it has been discovered in much younger birds than that who have been fed a diet high in iron content. It is ultimately a fatal disorder that can take months, even years, to develop and become severe enough to

result in death. The prevalence of hemochromatosis in lorries is not well documented; therefore, it is not known if it has become a common problem in our captive population. The lack of documentation underscores the importance of performing a complete necropsy on every lory that dies. A liver stain can diagnose iron storage. Even when hemochromatosis does not appear to be the primary cause of death, it is important to conduct the histopathology to determine if the disorder was developing in the individual. Only through these tests and the compilation of information will the pervasiveness of this disease be documented and understood.

Hemochromatosis may not be a great concern to the average pet owner but it should be considered when keeping a collection of lorries and also when selecting the diet most appropriate for ones birds. Maintaining the total dietary iron below 100 ppm (parts per million) can be effective in keeping this disorder to a minimum. During the summer of 1999 most of the commercial diets formulated for lorries available to collectors and pet owners in the United States, along with some handfeeding formulas and monkey chow, were tested for total iron content at the University of Georgia. While the total nutritional value was not evaluated, it was found that the iron content in all the diets manufactured specifically for lorries fell below 100 ppm. These diets did not all contain added iron but

iron occurred naturally in many of the ingredients and occurs in the milling process as well. A good quality commercial product is often the base of a good lory diet. Add to that are an assortment of fresh foods. Certain foods such as peaches, plums, honeydew melon and apples without skin are low in iron. Bananas, mangoes, papaya, summer squashes and boiled potatoes without skin are a bit higher in iron content but can still be within the acceptable range. Foods to definitely avoid would include baby foods and juices and nectars that contain iron, foods that are enriched with iron or ferrous sulfate (including table scraps), animal products, such items as primate biscuits, and large quantities of citrus fruit. Since most lory species are no longer being imported into this country, we must be diligent in maintaining the good health of the existing population.

Ritchie, Harrison, Harrison;
Avian Medicine, Principles and Application

Darrel Styles, Hemochromatosis: A Metabolic Disease of Softbills
Kirk Klasing, Comparative Avian Nutrition
Alicia McWatters personal communication
Cheryl Greenacre DVM, ABVP, personal communication
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Overview on Iron Overload and Hemochromatosis

Commercial Products Tested for Iron Content in 1999

Product Iron content (ppm)
 Pretty Bird 8% Handfeeding 101
 *Kaytee Exact Handfeeding 374
 Nekton Lori 71
 Lories Delight 51
 Roudybush Lory 93
 CeDe 61
 Monkey Chow 201
 Nutribird 86
 Lory Life Nectar 98
 Lory Life Powder 84/82**

*Lory Life Powder was tested again in 2000 because it had subsequently been reformulated to contain less iron. Results revealed it contained 27.66 ppm (parts per million) iron. Tests were performed in 2002. The first showed two separate batches of powder as 77 ppm and 102 ppm and the nectar mix at 68. The second set of tests done in December 2002 showed Lory Life powder at 40.41 ppm and nectar mix at 32.36 ppm. Tests done from 2003 to present show Lory Life, both powder & nectar, within the 25ppm - 45 ppm range. Pretty Bird handfeeding formula was also tested in 2002 and was 111 ppm.

**Two separate batches were tested

In 1999 most of the feed samples and the bulk of the funding for testing were provided by the online community of Lory World.

Editor's note:

Margarethe Warden was a respected aviculturist and profoundly helpful in editing the Avicultural Society of America Avicultural Bulletin for many years.

Her passing in 2018 was unexpected and left a hole in many peoples' hearts.

Next page: Mixed Rainbow Lory Species Exhibit at Turtle Bay, Redding, CA
 PHOTO: CAROL STANLEY





Using Smaller Vessels To Save On Formula Waste

Carol Stanley

When feeding low numbers of chicks or, day-one chicks, how many times have you mixed a batch of formula, fed the chicks and ended throwing out a large quantity of the unused formula?

This excess waste can add up and increase your hand-feeding formula budget substantially.

Not to worry! Whilst visiting Jan Nichols this past year, I learned about using smaller vessels for hand-feeding.

Shortly after, I ordered pyrex beakers online in 50 ml and 100 ml sizes. I had been using glass pyrex measure cups - 2 cup size.

The savings was apparent immediately!

By mixing smaller amounts, there was less waste and, when fed, was always at the appropriate temperature.

I've also found the hot water dispenser on Keurig coffee machines will dispense hot water instantly for mixing formula.

Always check temperatures before feeding formula to chicks.



- Animal loving public generally unaware of activities to end their having pets, eating meat, medical research, entertainment, education, etc.
- YOU can help: Take ACTION when asked. Watch for proposed BAD laws.
- Call your senator or representative when asked - always be respectful & polite
- Respond only with truth
- Join National bird organizations: AFA, ASA, OPA, SPBE and DONATE to legislative causes when asked
- INFORM OTHER BIRD AND ANIMAL LOVERS about this

- Continuously lobbying the end of all animal use: Food, entertainment, pets, conservation, medical research
- Have warchests of money collected based on lies from unsuspecting animal lovers
- Target retirement savings of unsuspecting seniors
- Most income goes to marketing and legal fees
- Use misleading marketing practices to steal dollars from unsuspecting pet lovers
- Hypocrites: Personally use medical advancements developed through research
- Make used car salespeople look like saints

The timing and development towards self feeding in captive bred Shama chicks

Article and all photos by Jeffrey Low

The timing and development towards self feeding in captive bred shama chicks:

The beak is used for prehension in the same way we use our fingers and hands to reach, grasp and manipulate objects. The adult birds uses the beak to grasp food, drink, feed the young, inflict injuries on intruders and sing. The different precised movements of the beak are tuned to specific stimuli and functions.

Feeding involves three coordinated movements of the beak and head,



namely the thrust, the grasp and the mandibulation. The behavioral development to peck at food for shama chicks can begin as early as 12 days of age. Pecking involves two of the three movements, the thrust and the grasp. During the thrust the gape will open while the head is being thrust downwards.



As the beak reaches its target, it recloses around the piece of food. It's a synchronised movement. A successful peck is accomplished by being able to hold the food at the tip of the beak when it recloses (the grasp). It may take a few days from the start of this behavioral development for the juvenile shama to perfect the peck.

Mandibulation is the movement of several beak and head actions to transfer the food from the tip of the beak to the throat for swallowing. This can start between 15 to 18 days of age and the juvenile should perfect this before they are a month old in order to be independent of parental care.

Under normal circumstances, there is the natural tendency for the parent birds to start stepping



down on the frequency of feeding from the age of around 12 to 15 days and that could be part of the natural weaning process that will encourage the start towards self feeding. Scattering killed live food on the aviary floor at around this time, in my opinion, could provide for another trigger as well as to support the weaning process. In captivity, it is not uncommon for the hen to be sitting on another clutch by the time the fledgling is around 15 days old, or even earlier and leaving the male to take up the sole duty of feeding the fledglings. The feeding amount and frequency will be decreased gradually. The fledglings are to be fully weaned by the time the next clutch hatches so that the parental focus can be on the new hatchlings. Under normal circumstances and conditions, shama chicks that are thriving will be fully weaned anytime between 20 to 30 days of age.



ABOVE: Mother knows best:

Shama hen picking out a cricket that has just shed its exoskeleton (white cricket) to feed her two day old chick. At different period of growth of the chicks, the mother bird if given the choice from a variety of live foods, will instinctively select the ones most suitable. From the fifth day after hatching, some hens will feed lots of guppies to their chicks if these are provided. It may be because of rapid skeletal growth during this period that requires the extra calcium that can be derived from the guppies.



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EverythingBIRDSOnline.com

Everything Birds is a locally owned business. We've been located in the Tampa Bay area for more than 17 years. Exotic companion birds started as a hobby. As I learned about them and lived with them, I have loved their inquisitive, intelligent, and loyal nature, and soon our birds became our passion.

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.

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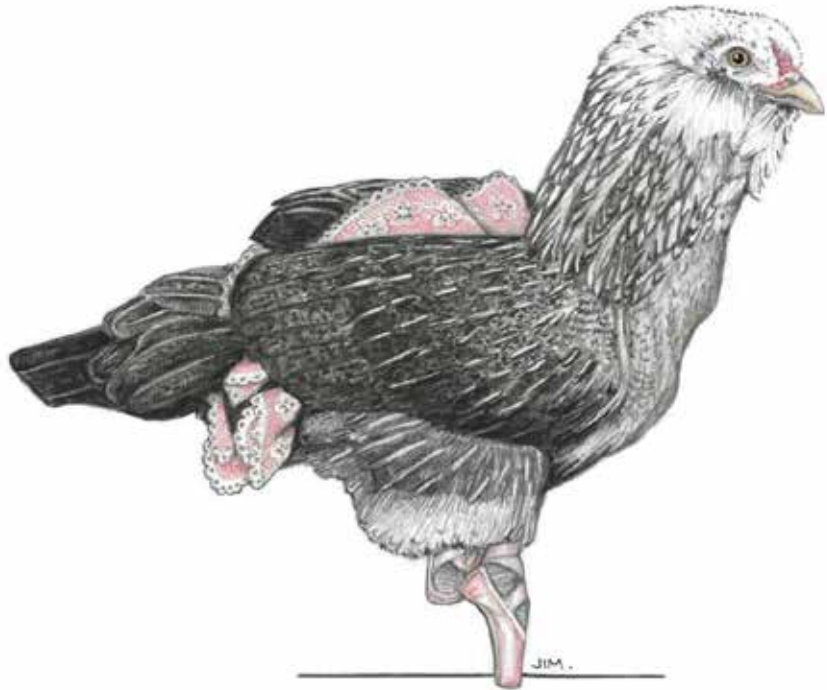
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Jim Sorensen

My newest, Owly The Fluffy Faced Disabled Chicken in Ballet Shoes. This was a special request from Yelisia Nicole. She rescued this Easter Egger when she was 8wks old so she wouldn't be euthanized. She hatched with a slipped tendon and curled foot and no one wanted her. She's now her ESA/Medical Alert Animal. Yelisia has a lot of health issues and Owly taught herself medical alerts to tell her when to take medication or call for help. She said she probably wouldn't be here if it weren't for Owly. The lace is a chicken diaper (that she makes and sells). Owly now has her own Facebook page. 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 40



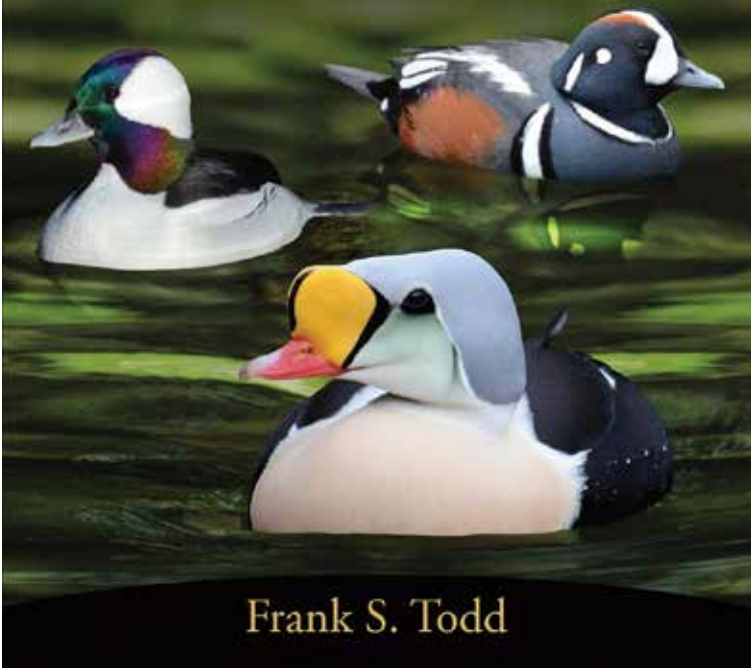
Photo: Wikipedia



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Frank S. Todd

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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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Photo: JJ Harrison
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawny_frogmouth

Who's Your Daddy?

From page 37, Answer: Tawny frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*)

The tawny frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*) is a species of frogmouth native to the Australian mainland and Tasmania and found throughout. It is a big-headed, stocky bird, often mistaken for an owl, due to its nocturnal habits and similar colouring. One of the best examples of cryptic plumage and mimicry in Australian birds is seen in the tawny frogmouth, which perch low on tree branches during the day camouflaged as part of the tree.[14] Their silvery-grey plumage patterned with white, black, and brown streaks and mottles[15] allows them to freeze into the form of a broken tree branch and become practically invisible in broad daylight.[16][17] The tawny frogmouth often chooses a broken part of a tree branch and perches upon it with its head thrust upwards at an acute angle using its very large, broad beak



to emphasise the resemblance.[14] Often, a pair sits together and points their heads upwards, only breaking cover if approached closely to take flight or warn off predators.[17] When threatened, adult tawny frogmouths make an alarm call that signals to chicks to remain silent and immobile, ensuring that the natural camouflage provided by the plumage is not broken.



From Wikipedia.com

EVENTS

2022 EVENTS

AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA - ASA's 16th Annual Education Conference November 2-5, 2022

Tampa, Florida
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2023 EVENTS

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