



ASA

A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION,
RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

September/October 2018



NEXT ISSUE

PREPARING FOR THE BREEDING SEASON
TONY SILVA

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: Carunculated caracara Photo by Dot Rambin. Inside Cover: Carunculated caracara Photo by Dot Rambin © 2012-2019 Avicultural Society of America. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced without express written permission by ASA.

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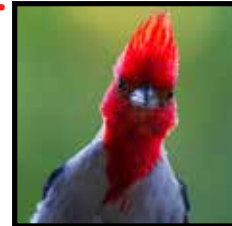


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President's Message

Greetings, fellow Aviculturists:

Aviculturists come from all walks of life with the appreciation of birds being their common bond.

This month's featured pictorial is a sampling of the work of our own Dot Rambin. An avid birder and award winning photographer, Dot is constantly in pursuit of the "perfect shot." So much so, that when traveling with Dot, you need to be on your toes to keep up with her. Her closest friends call this "Dot spotting." She moves fast and is hard to keep up with!

A retired school teacher living in Shreveport, Louisiana, Dot began developing her photography skills in her back yard on Cross Lake. Since then, she has traveled internationally with her camera ready to capture what she loves, birds!

In this issue, she shares with us a sweet sampling of her work. I hope you enjoy her photos as much as I do.

Yours truly,

Carol Stanley
President, YOUR Avicultural Society of America

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PHOTOGRAPHER IN OUR MIDST
the photos of Dot Rambin

EDITEOR'S NOTE: The beautiful photographs you will see in this issue are by award winning avian wildlife photographer, Dot Rambin.

Dot is a long-time ASA member and supporter and perfected her photography skills photographing the wild birds on Cross Lake near her home and at ASA conferences.

Dot also keeps pet parrots and lives in Shreveport, Louisiana. Her passion is birding!





Life in the Mississippi Flyway

Nearly half of the bird species and up to forty percent of the waterfowl of North America spend part of their lives in the Mississippi Flyway. I live on a lake in the Mississippi Flyway. I am thirty minutes from the Red River National Wildlife Refuge and forty five minutes from the Pierre Yates Tract of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge. I live thirty five minutes by car from a rookery and eight minutes by boat from a second rookery. Life is good in the Mississippi Flyway!

Dot Ramin

LECONTE'S SPARROW (*AMMOSPIZA LECONTEII*)



EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*SIALIA SIALIS*) RED RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE BAYOU PIERRE UNIT YATE'S TRACT





WESTERN GREBE (*AECHMOPHORUS OCCIDENTALIS*)



BRANDT'S CORMORANT (*PHALACROCORAX PENICILLATUS*)



CATTLE EGRET (*BUBULCUS IBIS*)



GREAT EGRET (ARDEA ALBA)





GLOSSY FLOWERPIERCER (*DIGLOSSA LAFRESNAYII*)



GREAT BLUE HERON (*ARDEA HERODIAS*)

WAVED ALBATROSS (*PHOEBASTRIA IRRORATA*)



SWALLOW-TAILED GULL (*CREAGRUS FURCATUS*)

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY (*SULA NEBOUXII*) CHICK BEGGING FOR FOOD



EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*STURNELLA MAGNA*)



GREAT FRIGATEBIRD (FREGATA MINOR)



FLIGHTLESS CORMORANT (PHALACROCORAX HARRISI)



BALTIMORE ORIOLE (ICTERUS GALBULA)





NORTHERN CARDINAL (*CARDINALIS CARDINALIS*)



NORTHERN CARDINAL (*CARDINALIS CARDINALIS*)

2000



CANADA GOOSE (BRANTA CANADENSIS)

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*SETOPHAGA CORONATA*)



NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*MIMUS POLYGLOTTOS*)



PIED-BILLED GREBE (*PODILYMBUS PODICEPS*)



TRICOLORED HERON (EGRETTA TRICOLOR)







TRICOLORED HERON (EGRETTA TRICOLOR)

WOOD OR CAROLINA DUCK (*AIX SPONSA*)



DICKCISSEL (*SPIZA AMERICANA*)





GREAT EGRET (ARDEA ALBA)



GREAT EGRET (ARDEA ALBA)

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (*PELECANUS ERYTHRORHYNCHOS*)







AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (PELECANUS ERYTHORHYNCHOS)

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (PELECANUS ERYTHORHYNCHOS) HERDING FISH

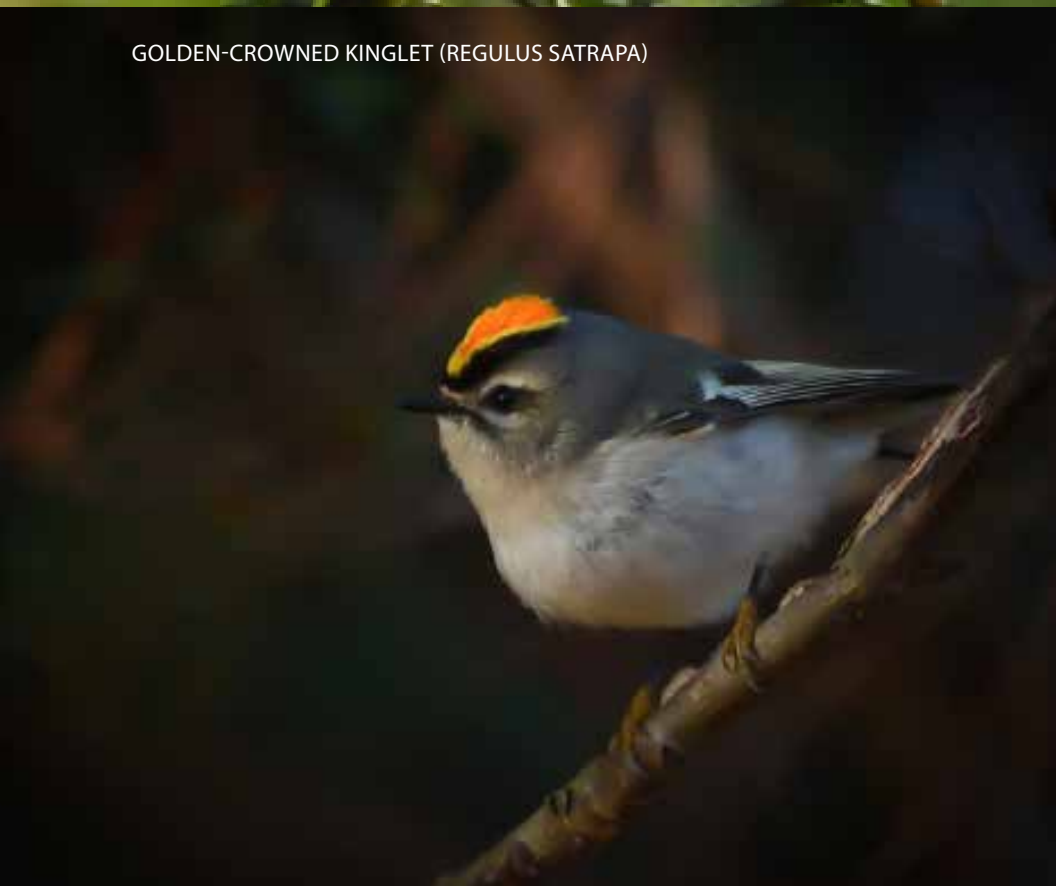


AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (*PELECANUS ERYTHRORHYNCHOS*)





RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (REGULUS CALENDULA)



GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (REGULUS SATRAPA)



GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (REGULUS SATRAPA)

Steve's Photo Pick

Red-crested Cardinals, also called Brazilian Cardinals, (*Paroaria coronata*) are native to South America but in 1930 were introduced to Hawaii where this photo was taken. Sexes are similar to each other, but young birds have brownish red heads and are duller-colored overall. The diet is seeds, insects, and fruits. Cardinals build a cup-shaped nest often concealed in thick brush where they typically lay 3-5 eggs. An abundance of insects is very helpful when they



of insects is very helpful when they are feeding chicks. Red-crested Cardinals can be skittish aviary birds if not provided with enough cover. Hand-reared birds often make wonderful pets.





LITTLE BLUE HERON (EGRETTA CAERULEA)



GREAT BLUE HERON (ARDEA HERODIAS)



GREAT BLUE HERON (ARDEA HERODIAS) ODIAS)





GREAT BLUE HERON (ARDEA HERODIAS)



GREAT BLUE HERON (*ARDEA HERODIAS*)



BLUE BUNTING (*CYANOCOMPSA PARELLINA*)



WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (*ZONOTRICHIA ALBICOLLIS*)



RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (MELANERPES ERYTHROCEPHALUS)







GREAT EGRET (ARDEA ALBA)





PINE WARBLER (SETOPHAGA PINUS)



TUFTED TIT-TYRANT (ANAIRETES PARULUS)

ANHINGA (ANHINGA ANHINGA)



ANHINGA (ANHINGA ANHINGA)



GREEN HERON (BUTORIDES VIRESCENS)



PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*PROTONOTARIA CITREA*)



PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*PROTONOTARIA CITREA*)



Temperature tolerance in parrots: highs and lows

Tony Silva

During the current cold snap across the US, I am receiving countless emails, phone calls and messages. The questions invariably consist of one of various versions of the following: What is the lowest temperature that my parrot can withstand? The general perception is that parrots are solely tropical and that they will sicken or perish if the temperature drops even slightly. In truth parrots are extremely tolerant of cold. Several species occupy paramo highlands, extreme parts of the northern or southern hemispheres and isolated locations where freezing temperatures are common. More tropical species also display a great degree of cold tolerance. In general all parrot species have shown that they can adapt to living in frigid conditions if the exposure to cold is gradual, so that they can molt into winter feather. You cannot take a bird living in a warm house and suddenly expose it to frigid conditions. That can prove detrimental.

The sub Antarctic island of Antipodes is inhabited by a parakeet—*Cyanoramphus unicolor*. It is the largest of the kakarikis. It has adapted to living in an area where summer temperatures average 10°C (51°F) and the winter temperature can drop below 4°C (40°F). That this species can tolerate wet, wind and cold is

expected, given its evolutionary adaptation. But cold tolerance is also seen in tropical species. The Double Yellow-headed Amazon *Amazona oratrix* comes from Mexico's Atlantic coast, where the average winter temperature is 15°C (60°F). It would seem to be the epitome of a tropical species, but in Stuttgart, Germany there is a feral flock that is growing and thriving. It started with a singleton in 1984 and today numbers more than 50 individuals. These individuals experience snow, cold and an average temperature of 0°C (33°F) in January, the coldest month. Ring-neck Parakeets *Psittacula krameri*, Quaker Parakeets *Myiopsitta monachus* and other species thrive across frigid Europe, including the United Kingdom, and also parts of the US north. I have seen Quaker Parakeets in Chicago on a January day where the wind-chill was a blistering -22°C (-9°F) in Chicago's Hyde Park. They survived that winter and many others and today represent a growing flock. Across Europe, from Russia to the UK, I have seen parrots of all species in outdoors aviaries, even though they had access to a heated shelter. One observation vividly come to mind. I was wearing a parka, gloves, hat and scarf. The macaws were playing in the snow oblivious to the cold. Another involved walking across a huge aviary belonging to Kaj Herse



COMMON RAVEN (CORVUS CORAX) IN SNOW PHOTO JOHN DEL RIO

in Denmark. The aviary contained Australian cockatoos, parrots and parakeets. The aviary offered no heat yet even the small Budgerigars *Melopsittacus undulatus* thrived.

The above establishes that parrots can be cold tolerant. The question then is what are the parameters to keep birds safe on cool days. Here is my list:

- 1) They need to have food and water. Fat rich foods are important, as they help the body generate heat.
- 2) They need to have protection from wet and wind. Outdoors a nesting box can offer protection for overnight drops in temperatures. Simple plastic sheets can add further protection; the aviary or cage can be wrapped in sheets of plastic. If the temperature will drop beyond a critical level, a heat lamp or heated room will be necessary.

Indoors a blanket or towels can help.

3) The concern level should start when the temperature drops below 15°C (60°F). Bird that are acclimated to living outdoors will develop a thicker under down that will allow them to survive far more cold, including freezing weather; in such a climate they need protection for their feet to prevent frost bite. This can come in the form of a heated perch. The exposed facial skin on macaws, birds that are plucked, which are elderly or infirm must have access to a heated shelter (warmed to 15°C) in winter.

4) Wooden perches are best, as plastic and metal can chill or freeze, causing toe necrosis and loss.

5) Never should a bird showing signs of cold stress be left outdoors. They should be brought into a warm room immediately. Cold stress includes extremely ruffled

feathers, inactivity, lack of feeding and shivering. On touch the birds will feel cold.

Heat tolerance, like with cold, also has a threshold. Species from the equator can tolerate a lot more heat than those from areas far north or south of the equator. The Slender-billed Conure *Enicognathus leptorhynchus* is found in Chile's temperate forests. It has very thick feathering. They dislike it when in summer the mercury begins to climb. Mine bathe in a bowl to which I have added ice cubes during Miami's strong summer heat. The birds will bathe several times daily if the ice water is provided. Kakariki (*Cyanoramphus* sp.) also show discomfort in very warm weather. When I kept this species, I was forced to bring them indoors into an air conditioned room because they were absolutely miserable outdoors. In winter, on a chilly rainy January, they were bathing. That day the mercury read 6°C (43°F)—a unusually cool day for Miami.

The conditions for parrots surviving the heat are several:

- 1) Shade must be available. The bird must be able to sit in the shade. The food and water must also be in the shade.
- 2) Metal perches should be avoided, as they can become excessively hot.

- 3) There must be good airflow; stagnant air can make it intolerable.
- 4) Fresh, cool water must be available for bathing and drinking. A fog mister can help the birds stay cool during the hottest part of the day. Multiple 15 minutes runs of a mister during the hottest part of the day can make it more tolerable for the birds.
- 5) Fatty or carbohydrate foods should be limited, as they will merely contribute towards obesity. In summer we feed some fruit, which normally is offered in very limited quantity to the birds; their diet is rich in vegetables.
- 6) Discomfort for most species is evident above 40°C (104°F), which is the parrot's average core body temperature. Panting, holding the wings away from the body, perching on the aviary floor in traditional walk in aviaries and inactivity suggest that the birds will need to be cooled.

The goal of the aviculturist is to provide the best conditions for the birds. Insuring that they are neither too cold or too hot is the task of many across the globe. Both forms of stress can contribute to illness and even death.

Finally, if you enjoy aviculture, please Do NOT support the World Parrot Trust. I kindly ask that you



If you would like to learn more about cold and heat tolerance please refer to my book Psittaculture, which is available from www.psittaculture.eu.

visit the Facebook page Stop the World Parrot Trust (click the graphic above) and leave a like. This entity is a menace to bird keeping and aviculture.

Pigeons Are Actually the Most Magnificent Bird (click on photo)



VICTORIA CROWN PIGEON (GOURA VICTORIA)
PHOTO CAROL STANLEY



The Helmeted Hornbill Is a Living Treasure—and That's a Problem Story, photos, and video by Tim Laman (click on photo)

Book Review – Psittaculture

A Manual for the Care and Breeding of Parrots

By Tony Silva
Hardcover, 597 pages

Psittaculture – A manual for the Care and Breeding of Parrots by Tony Silva is fresh off the press. The copy I was provided for review was purchased at the recent Parrot Conference at Loro Parque in Tenerife.

What started as an update to Psitticulture published in 1991 has ended up as a complete rework by the author taking into account all of the changes to the avicultural landscape over the past 28 years. Speaking of the author, Tony Silva has worked with parrots for most of his life. His knowledge is extensive and his commitment to seeking information seems boundless. He has worked at Loro Parque, the largest parrot park in the world, written numerous articles and given countless lectures on parrot husbandry and breeding.

I'll now take you through my impressions of this book which is an incredible reference point for anybody interested in parrots. The first thing that will strike you when you pick it up is the sheer weight of it. The book weighs in at over 2kgs in hardcover and it is finished very well. You really know where your money went.

Quality of Content

The book contains close to 597 pages of information with the first 206 dedicated to general

topics such as husbandry, avian health, breeding and species selection. The next section of the book covers the species individually and discusses their particular requirements. In the time I had, I couldn't read the entire contents but instead chose to read sample chapters and made observations around consistency and quality. The information appeared incredibly well researched.

Observations and comments were supported with in text referencing accompanied with an impressive 11-page bibliography.

There was a clear lack of bias towards particular methods and opinions, instead Tony has tended towards describing alternative methods that have been successful for different people. Examples being the various diets for exotic lorries and the comparative methods of housing African Grey Parrots.

Worth noting is the spread of expertise used in this book. The author did not rely entirely





on his own knowledge and had the foresight to send chapters of the book to various aviculturists that specialise in the species mentioned. These included Barry Blanch and Gordon Dos in Australia and a number of fellow keepers across the globe. Stacey Gelis was also greatly involved in the sections relating to avian health. The quality of the

information that has been compiled is excellent. The chapters that I read were equally consistent and I found myself wanting for nothing when it came to diet, breeding, housing and sub-species identification.

Communication with the Reader

This is an equally important area to discuss, for a book can be the finest researched log of information but if it is not communicated well - it is at a loss.

Firstly, it is very well laid out. The areas of husbandry are well defined and the entire book

is colour tabbed so the reader can skip to sections quickly.

Technical information can be easily digested with the use of tables for items such as seed mix ratios, nutrient analysis and species classifications.

However, one of the strongest assets of this publication is the photography. There are over 1,000 colour images throughout the book and they are sharp, vibrant and colourful. They make an incredible impact on the reader and help connect the detail of the text to the practicalities of keeping the species.

Possibly the most impressive images are of the colour mutations. These images have been sourced from all across the world and show colour forms that I had no idea existed.

Summary

This publication stands as one of the best resources for the aviculturist that I have had the pleasure of reading. I have been an avid collector of information when it comes to the birds that I care for and this book will soon become a permanent reference in my home library.

With countless incredible images complementing well researched text, *Psittaculture – A manual for the Care and Breeding of Parrots* is a book I highly recommend. The only regret I had was handing it back!

Reviewed by Alex Lannan 

Available at: <http://www.psittaculture.eu/books/>



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Tony Silva

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Zookeepers wanted to improve the birds' living spaces but it seemed too costly, until the zookeepers stumbled upon Tami Gamble-Gurnell and her students. By Ray Carter [CLICK HERE](#)



This extremely rare bird is half female & half male. Now it has a boyfriend.

Link: <https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2019/02/extremely-rare-bird-half-female-half-male-now-boyfriend/?fbclid=IwAR2Mpd0Q7R07asnjwt9P9euR4dZXmZtdkV9hDCP6U-z8nlll1sDVkKe5tnl#.XFiazAMXjC.facebook>

Who's Your Daddy?



PHOTO SARAH BRABBS

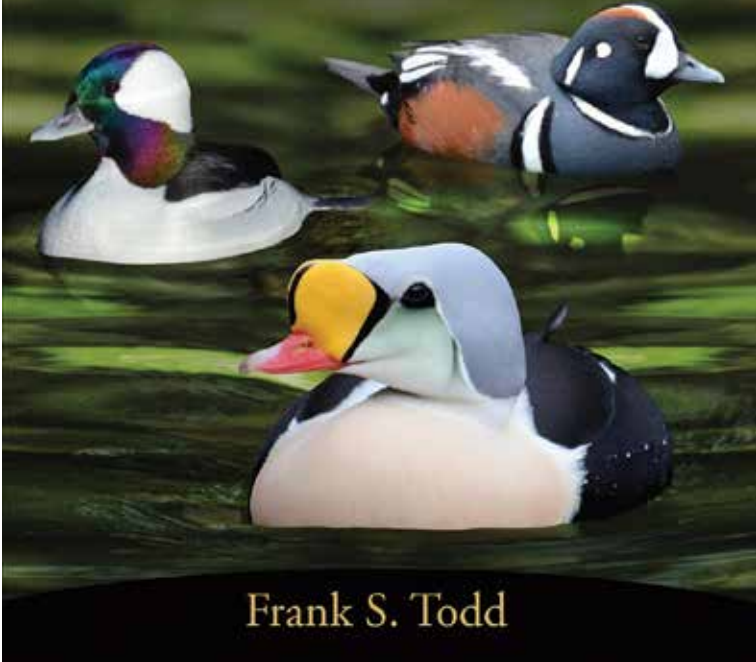
Stumped? See answer on page 44



Simple Mouse Trap - How To Make Mouse Trap With PVC Water Pipe:
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NORTH AMERICAN DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



Frank S. Todd

In honour of our friend, colleague, and author, Frank Todd, Hancock House is pleased to commit a percentage of all revenues of books sold through our website to the Frank Todd Memorial Foundation to continue to promote the work Frank spent much of his life striving towards- wildlife conservation and education.

Link: <https://www.hancockhouse.com/collections/ducks-waterfowl/products/north-american-ducks-geese-swans>

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Help us keep Frank S. Todd's memory alive by continuing the tradition he started with the first Avicultural Society of America Educational Conference. Frank developed the conference and, for many years, arranged for speakers from around the world to attend and make presentations.

Your donation will allow ASA to continue the tradition and help with travel expenses for our conference speakers. <http://asabirds.org/frank-s-todd-memorial-fund/>



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BLUETHROATED MACAW (ARA GLAUCOGULARIS) PHOTO SARAH BRABBS

Who's Your Daddy?

From page 41, Answer: Blue Throated Macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*)

Blue Throated Macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*)

also known as the Caninde macaw or Wagler's macaw,[2] is a macaw endemic to a small area of north-central Bolivia, known as Los Llanos de Moxos. In 2014 this species was designated by law [3] as a natural patrimony of Bolivia, where it is known as barba azul, which means 'blue beard' in Spanish. Recent population and range estimates suggests that about 350–400 individuals remain in the wild. The main causes of their demise is capture for the pet trade. It is currently considered critically endangered and the parrot is protected by trading prohibitions.



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

EVENTS

2019 EVENTS

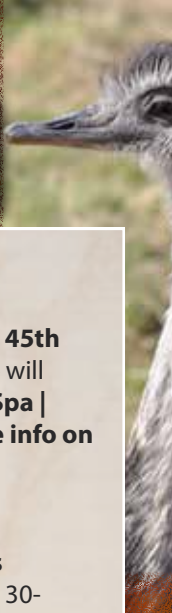


AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE - AFA's 45th Annual Educational Conference and Avian Expo will be held **August 8th – August 10th B Resort and Spa | 1905 Hotel Plaza Blvd. | Orlando, FL 32830** More info on www.afabirds.org



AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA - ASA's 14th Annual Education Conference October 30- November 2, 2019. Hosted by Zoo Miami. Conference activities: Marriot Hotel Miami. Guest rooms are at the Courtyard by Marriot in Miami. Watch for more details online at www.asabirds.org

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