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Avicultural Bulletin



ASA

A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION,
RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

July/August 2020



NEXT ISSUE

Eurasian Jays

Lou Megens

The purposes of the Society are the study of foreign and native birds to promote their conservation and protection; the dissemination of information on the care, breeding, and feeding of birds in captivity; the education of Society members and the public through publications, meetings, and available media; and the promotion and support of programs and institutions devoted to conservation. Front Cover: Javan Green Magpie (*Cissa thalassina*) photo Jonathan Beilby. Inside Cover: (*G.g. atricapillus*) Israel photo Wikimedia © 2012-2020 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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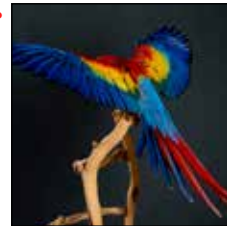


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July/August 2020

President's Message

Greetings, fellow Aviculturists:

This has to be one my favorite issues yet.

The articles on these pages have been written by masters at the profession of aviculture. Their writings convey their real world experiences and methods developed over time through observation and results. I thank them for their openness and willingness to share these valued lessons.

I would like to also take this time to officially welcome Jim Sorenson, of Birds in Shoes fame, as a regular contributor of his artwork to grace our pages. Jim's art is definitely a conversation starter and beautifully mastered. And, I get the honor of picking which one is to be in each issue. Be sure to check out Jim's Birds in Shoes apparel and print offerings on his website.

We are balancing the line between viewing the ASA e-Bulletin on mobile devices and home monitors. In some situations, the photos may be smaller. Hopefully, this will accommodate comfortable viewing by everyone. Let us know what you think about the changes, and how we can further improve your reading experience!

Many of the positive changes have been suggested by our newest editor, Lisa Marun. Lisa's editing is wonderful, and she's making us all look good. Please visit Lisa's website so you can get a feel for her beautiful photography. There isn't enough room here to tell everything about the energetic, positive, and thoughtful person I know as Lisa, but I will be sharing her photos with you in the issues to come. Stay tuned!

I sincerely hope you and your flocks are safe and sound and not suffering during the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant restrictions. Be careful out there.

Stay safe and stay well!

Yours truly,

Carol Stanley

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COMMON GREEN MAGPIE (CISSA CHINENSIS ROBINSONI)
PHOTO JONATHAN BEILBY

Breeding Cissas and Other Asian Corvids
By Roland and Ilana Cristo
All Photos by Jonathan Beilby

Cissa are perhaps the most beautiful of the whole family.
—Jean Delacour¹

—> **All About Cissas**

Of all the birds in the Corvidae family, those of the genus *Cissa* are perhaps the most sought after in aviculture.

There are three species of *Cissa* with 12 subspecies. The green magpie (*Cissa chinensis*), also known as the long-tailed hunting cissa in aviculture, comes from the Malay Peninsula up into Annam (Vietnam) and as far north as China. Four

subspecies are on the mainland, with one subspecies (*C. c. minor*), coming from the islands of and near Sumatra and Burma. We have the mainland subspecies *C. c. klossi*, and *C. c. minor*, the smaller island subspecies.

The short-tailed hunting cissa (*C. thalassina*) comes from two islands, Java and Borneo. We have a female of the Javan subspecies *C. t. thalassina*. The short-tailed has quite a musical song, much like a

songbird's. The other species we keep don't seem to.

Three subspecies of the yellow-breasted magpie (*C. hypoleuca*) come from Annam (Vietnam), Laos, and Thailand. There are two isolated subspecies in China. The yellow-breasted magpies have a longer crest and display it far more often than other *Cissa* species. The species we keep are the nominate *C. h. hypoleuca*.

Habitat

Cissas live along the border of the subtropical and tropical forest from sea level to about 1800 m. In their natural habitat, they spend most of

their time in the lower shrubs and are generally heard but not seen. When not breeding, they gather in small parties and move through the forest, joining forces with laughing thrushes. They feed close to or on the ground, consuming small insects, reptiles, and birds.

They are solitary nesters, the nest being described by Madge and Burn (1994) as a 'large, rather flat platform of twigs interwoven with leaves bamboo and roots, cup lined with finer plant material, built in low shrubbery, bamboo thickets, vine tangles in the canopy of a small tree'.²



COMMON GREEN MAGPIE (*CISSA CHINENSIS ROBINSONI*) PHOTO JONATHAN BEILBY

Cissas, with an adult length of up to 14 inches, are a little larger than American blue jays. They are a beautiful light green color with chestnut red-colored wings, a black mask, and a red-orange beak, feet, and eye rings. The green color seems to fade to a light blue if birds in captivity are exposed to too much sunlight and perhaps not given enough carotenoids in the diet. The males seem to turn more bluish than the females. The young we have raised all had bluish or turquoise feathers. Interestingly, Lynn Hall, Fruit Dove breeder and expert, informed me of seeing recently-caught birds that were entirely blue at bird markets in Singapore. They do seem to spend most of their time in the aviary shelter or in the shade of the plants in the aviary.

The word 'hunting' does describe the method a cissa pair uses to capture their prey. When the prey (usually a feeder mouse) is spotted in the grass, the pair will stalk it together, like a brace of dogs, on either side of the aviary until it is cornered. At that point the male will usually make the kill.

Housing

We live at an elevation of 1200 m and the temperature gets below freezing at night during the winter, sometimes down to 15 degrees. The birds are housed in walk-in flights, three or four feet wide and between 16 and 20 feet long. The flight sections are six feet high.

The undercover sections are eight feet high and four to six feet long, covered on three sides. The perch in this section is two feet higher than the perch in the flight area. This protects the birds from any wind. We have an automatic water source that drips continuously. The central aisle has a night light. It provides just enough light if the birds were startled off their perches to allow them to see where they are going.

We have a mister system that is controlled by a 96° setting timer (timed for every 15 minutes) and a thermostat. Each one can override the other. When the temperature goes above the thermostat setting it will turn on the misters if the timer is at an on setting.

We try to plant at least one podocarpus in the aviary. In fact, the long-tailed cissas have built their nest in it two years in a row.

Feeding

The cissas are fed 'soft food' mix (appendix A) daily, along with ground beef heart run through a chili grinder and mealworms. The soft food is a moistened mixture of the basic diet. Defrosted mixed vegetables are added to the soft food every other day. Either the dry food mix (appendix B) or basic diet is kept in their cage constantly. Ingredients for both are listed later in this paper.

We feed mice sporadically throughout the year. When the hen starts building her nest, we feed



INDOCHINESE GREEN MAGPIE (*CISSA HYPOLEUCA*) PHOTO JONATHAN BEILBY

live mice in a mixing bowl daily in the early morning. Once the hen is setting, we feed mice again in mid-afternoon. We believe this helps keep the male occupied and we've observed a reduction in egg predation as a result..

A note regarding predation: If this happens, put the male into a "howdy" cage—rest assured that egg fertility will not be an issue if you do this. Once the babies are showing feather color, the male can usually be reintroduced with no problem—but keep an eye out the first couple of days.

In earlier years, we fed mice four times a day when babies were in the nest. By the 21st day, we were feeding 20-25 daily. Since then,

once the young are half feathered or more, at about 12-14 days, we only feed mice in the early morning and in the evening. At noon, they get another serving of ground beef heart.

Breeding and Nesting

We have bred long-tailed cissas every year since 1997 and yellow-breasted cissas since 1999. In that time, we've learned a thing or two we'd like to share.

To start off, we help out with the nesting by buying baskets from import stores and nurseries to use for nesting receptacles for the birds. The approximate dimensions vary from year to year. This year, the baskets measure

nine inches in diameter on the inside at the top, and are five inches deep. What we look for after the nest is built is to only see the hen's head while she is setting. She is still able to see over the edge when she sticks her head up.

We mount the baskets onto an upside down L-shaped platform in such a way that eggs and young can be checked on a regular basis without any difficulty of taking down and putting back up. We place the basket up in a corner of the shelter section. We have had hens that nest from four feet high to the top of the shelter area at seven feet.

We use 'rushes' (appendix C) as nesting materials. We have had hens that built a neat nest in one

day. We have found that if not enough material is provided when needed by the hen for her to complete her nest, she will build and tear down her nest.

There are times when a hen will lay her eggs in a basket without constructing a nest. When we have a hen that doesn't build a nest, we will construct a nest for her out of rushes and mowed grass at the bottom of it. The birds will sometimes immediately lay in such a nest. But most of the time, they will tear it apart until such time as they are ready to lay. Therefore, it is a continual job of us rebuilding their nests until eggs are laid. Once eggs are laid, the birds generally don't tear the nests apart. We have done this with cissas, blue magpies, treepies, and jays with good results.

JAVAN GREEN MAGPIE (CISSA THALASSINA) IN TRADE PHOTO JONATHAN BEILBY



The hen will generally lay three or four eggs, one each day. She will 'set' between the first and the second egg. Incubation is 18-20 days and generally is a problem-free process. Chicks are completely naked, sightless and helpless chicks, and they look like food.

The male keeps vigil. At first, the hen will come off the nest when hearing someone approach the flight. Shortly into incubation, she will 'set tight' unless someone comes into the aviary to drop mice in the feeding bowl. As the incubation continues, she will stay on the nest even after the flight door is opened, especially when the eggs are close to hatching. At this time, the male sounds an alarm or becomes aggressive; she may leave the nest temporarily, always going to a high perch—except for the yellow-breasteds, which always go to the ground. About two days prior to the eggs hatching, the male seems to become even bolder and more aggressive. He will even hit me on the head as I feed mice in the mornings. Once chicks hatch, the parents show devotion to them.

The parents feed the chicks mealworms and pieces of mice for the first three to four days after hatching. Over the next couple of days, the parents stop feeding mealworms and the number of mice we give to the parents is increased to three or four per feeding, twice or three times per day. It appears that all parts of the mice are either fed to the chicks or eaten by the parents, as we don't

find any mouse remnants. The parents throw up castings much like a raptor.

Babies have pinfeathers at approximately 11 days. Their eyes open at 12 days. Up to approximately 12-14 days old, the parents are given 10-15 mice per day and served three times per day, while the soft food and beef heart don't seem to be consumed during this time. It was quite hazardous serving the pair. The female would leave the nest calling and complaining and the male would scold and dive at the person entering the aviary. The offering of food meant nothing to him. He even drew blood from my ear.

The babies grow quickly and the food offered is also increased. At approximately 20 days, the oldest or strongest (we assume) baby starts to perch on the edge of the nest. The others will perch within the next few days.

At about 25 days, the chicks will perch away from the nest. They may be found on the ground and are able to hop and scramble up the perches to the highest perching 'branch' and nest. During this entire time, they are always fed soft food and ground beef heart. At about 24 days old, the soft food mix and more beef heart start to disappear. We never actually see the chicks eat the food but even as we increase the amount, it always seems as though less was left. More of the dry mix begins to disappear as well as the chicks consume more of it.



COMMON GREEN MAGPIE (*CISSA CHINENSIS MINOR*) IN TRADE PHOTO JONATHAN BEILBY

The amount of mice served is decreased and the amount of beef heart and soft food is increased. At 29 days, the chicks increase their activity and will fly to the 'outside' perches and hop along the branches and perches. They start to call and scold like the parents. The yellow-breasted nuthatches will fully display their crest feathers. At 31 days, their landings are much more accurate. Soft food consumption increases along with ground beef heart.

The young have all feathered out a powder blue color. We presume this is due to the lack of carotene in the diet the young are being fed, as the basic diet for the first two weeks is meat. They don't become the same color as the parents until they go through their first adult molt. They appear to be a blue-gray color instead of the turquoise or light green of the parents. Their beaks are also grayish in color and their feet

are a fleshy pink color instead of the adult orange color.

——> **Other Asian Corvids: Red-billed blue magpie and rufous treepie**

Red-billed Blue Magpie (*Urocissa erthrorhyncha*)

Red-billed blue magpies are very much the same shape as our common American magpie, and it is also often likened to the Eurasian magpie. The red-billed blue magpie's body size is about twice that of our blue jay, with a long graduated tail and a total length of about 26 inches.

As for appearance, their head, neck, upper mantle, and upper breast are black. There is a large pale whitish area from near or mid crown to nape and hind-neck. The breast is off-white to white in some birds. The upper parts are a dull medium

blue-washed mauve; upper tail coverts scaled black; wings, mantle, and upper-tail mauve blue with each feather tipped white. The bill and legs are red. No obvious sexual dimorphism is apparent.

Habitat

Red-billed blue magpies can be found in subtropical and temperate foothill evergreen forests between 300 m ascending to as high as 3,000 m in the summer. Depending on the subspecies—of which there are five—they range from Eastern and Southeastern Asia, along the Himalayas, north through the foothills, and east through most of eastern China.

These magpies are arboreal birds, moving in small parties, frequenting clearings and ravines. Their diet is much the same as that of cissas, to which they are closely related.

Breeding

It is very interesting to watch the male red-billed blue magpie display to his mate. He will face her and approach her walking along the perch. He will tip his body to one side. He partially spreads his wings and raises and spreads tail while singing a low-pitch song to her. We have bred these magpies for several years. We use a similar, yet larger basket than we use for the cissas, but otherwise our techniques are comparable for the two species.

Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta rufabunda*)

Appearance-wise, rufous treepies are a little bigger than our cissas and smaller than the red-billed blue magpies. They are about 19 inches long, including the tail, and the tail alone is up to one foot long. The head, neck, breast, and upper mantle are a sooty black to black (hens are normally a less intense black). For both sexes, the mantle, back, and scapulars are a darker brown to a rusty orange; wing coverts and tertials are a pale grayish white, continuing with the brownish black of the rest of the wing. Tail feathers are grayish white to white ending in a black terminal band. The two central feathers are elongated.

Habits and Habitat

The rufous treepies range from Pakistan east, through all of India to southern Vietnam. They are found in most habitats throughout their range and are considered one of the most common birds in India. They move about in pairs and small parties, often associating with pigeons and barbets.

They rarely spend time on the ground. Their diet includes invertebrates, fruit, small birds, lizards, and rodents.

In Captivity

During display, the birds will face each other bowing and touching beaks. The call is fabulous! It is a loud, metallic, flute/bell-like sound

made first by the male and then the female. We have bred these treepies for three years. Their breeding requirements are similar to our cissas although they are not as dependent on mice to feed their young.

——> **Cissas, Red-billed Blue Magpies, and Rufous Treepies in Aviculture**

Corvids (crows, magpies, and jays) comprise a family of more than 100 species. They are distributed world wide except in the polar regions. As aviary subjects, they are all fascinating and very intelligent.—these three species are particularly so.

They shouldn't be kept in a mixed-species aviary, unless the aviary is very large, well planted, and the other birds are similar or larger sized. They are fascinating kept as pairs. They are easy to care for and long-lived, with some accounts of red-billed blue magpies living for more than 20 years. In captivity, of the corvids discusses here,, the red-billed blue magpie is the most commonly kept bird, followed by the cissas and then the rufous treepies.

Information on keeping and breeding cissas is sparse and inaccurate, likely due to the lack of communication between individuals who keep them. For example, in our research, the information on cissas states that they are reclusive. Our experience from working with the three species is that they are bold and



JAVAN C

curious. Unlike our magpies and treepies, the cissas are at the feed trays every morning as we place the food in the aviary.

Without communication through some kind of forum and studbook set-up, aviculture in the United States will loose most of the fascinating birds it has known. Unfortunately, for several years an American Federation of Aviculture



GREEN MAGPIE (CISSA THALASSINA) PHOTO JONATHAN BEILBY

group has tried to start a Softbill Society with no success.

On the other hand, the National Finch and Softbill Society has been around for many years. It would be of great benefit for all softbill aviculture proponents if the 'AFA Softbill' people join NFFS and start working with their birds in the Finch and Softbill Save Program.

About the Authors

Roland Cristo's fascination with corvids began when, at the age of 12, he helped his brother hand raise more than 20 native magpies and some crows. Through the years, he have found that Corvidae are far more intelligent than any of the other birds he's worked with, including any psittacines.

Regarding learning about corvids' intelligence, Roland suggests reading the work of Plasse (1992) and Angell (19780) to learn about their superior intelligence compared to other avian species.

Ilana's fascination with corvids began in 1964 when she hand raised an eastern blue jay. It proved to be an intelligent, mischievous clown. It kept itself busy and amused by causing chaos and teasing all the other birds in the house. It was very bold and always stole objects from pockets and various places in the house to hide them somewhere else. This is a natural behavior that is both frustrating and comical. It was later acclimated back to 'nature' and set free.

Roland and Ilana Cristo are both true role models for aviculturists. They are involved with avicultural organizations, including the Foothill Bird Fanciers Club, and freely share their hands-on lessons learned over 100 years combined experience working with rare birds.

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APPENDIX A

Soft Mix

- 1 part Kaytee Mynah pellets
 - 1 part Purina Nutriblend Green pigeon feed
 - 1 part Dog food
 - 1 part game bird chow (crumbles)
 - 2 parts defrosted frozen mixed vegetables
- Soak each of the parts above, except game bird chow, individually in one part water each, when the soaked parts are softened, mix all parts together.

APPENDIX B

Dry Mix

- 1.5 parts Purina Nutriblend Green pigeon feed
- 1.0 parts Kaytee Mynah pellets
- 1.0 parts Science Diet light cat food

APPENDIX C

Rushes' Juncus

'Rushes somewhat resemble grasses, with leaf like, cylindrical stems and tiny, inconspicuous flowers clustered near stem tips. Specialists usually suggest planting them with grasses or aquatic plants at the edge of a pond or stream, in water.'

Proper Hygiene, Diet, and Other Hand-Rearing Essentials

Tony Silva

The breeding season is underway (it is currently springtime) as evinced by the number of weekly messages that I currently receive. Most of these messages are regarding issues individuals face while hand-rearing young parrots.

Hand-rearing is a rewarding, challenging, time consuming, and frustrating affair. No one can ever claim that they never face hand-rearing challenges, but it is possible to significantly diminish the problems if some very basic provisos are followed. On the other hand, if breeders attempt to cut corners, they risk a continuous chain of events that will severely affect the health of the chicks being reared.

Setting Up for Hand-rearing Success

So how can a hand-rearer achieve greater success and reduce potential problems? By focusing on two key factors: hygiene and proper diet. Hygiene encompasses keeping the chicks on a clean substrate, keeping the brooder immaculately clean, and thoroughly washing and disinfecting the feeding instruments. Also, a disinfection policy should always be followed, including wiping surfaces after every use, reducing dust, washing and disinfecting hands, and

reducing contact between chicks and outsiders.

Providing the proper diet requires understanding the importance of the appropriate water-solids ratio and the dietary needs of the young; feeding the young according to a strict schedule; feeding the formula at the proper temperature; and preparing fresh formula at each feeding. I strongly advise against attempting to mix various ingredients to produce a formula in order to economize. When I get messages regarding this subject, my ire escalates and my response is short and to the point: If you cannot purchase one of the countless formulas available on the market worldwide, why did you venture into breeding? The commercial formulations are not optimal, but they produce results far better than, for example, mashed banana and oatmeal cereal—which are woefully deficient in minerals and calcium.

Why Thorough Hygiene Matters

Newly hatched parrots have an under-developed immune system. This makes them especially vulnerable to infection, so strict hygiene is important. This is also why chicks that are incubator-hatched should be kept separate from those removed from the nest, which have often been fed by



VOSMAERI ECLECTUS FEMALE *ECLECTUS RORATUS VOSMAERI* PHOTO TONY SILVA

the parents and have a different bacterial platform.

With incubator-hatched chicks, I start them on a tissue substrate but quickly transfer them to shavings, which are absorbent and prevent them from sitting on their feces. In over 40 years of hand-rearing, I have only experienced a handful of chicks that have swallowed the shavings. I have such a low incidence of this because I keep the chicks satiated. They are never allowed to empty during the day. Some breeders believe that they must allow the chicks to empty before the next feeding, but in the wild and in the nest, the chicks are kept fed at all times. I follow this evidence as if it were nature's dictum. Visitors to my nursery invariably comment as to how quiet it is. This is because the chicks

are kept fed. They do not have to frantically vocalize or move to capture my attention to let me know that they are hungry.

When chicks are allowed to empty between feedings, they must often be kept singly, or they will grasp and pump each other in an attempt to obtain a feed. In the process, they often damage their tender bills. On the other hand, raising the chicks alone is not recommended as a way to avoid this. It is unnatural and often produces behavioral issues that become evident much later in life. By rearing chicks together they display a natural behavior and can learn from when they first open their eyes that contact is pleasurable. They seek warmth from each other and often play preen or mouth each other's feet. I have observed these same



behaviors in nests in which I have placed a video camera.

To maintain a high standard of hygiene, we change the bedding three times daily; the soiled shavings are used as ground cover for the trees in the yard. The chicks are transferred to clean tubs and the used tubs are washed in soapy water first and then in a disinfectant solution. This means of cleaning must be understood, as most disinfectants lose their properties in the presence of organic matter. By neutralizing the organics, the disinfectant can play its role. We use this same principal of cleaning for all instruments used for feeding, as well as for the nursery walls and floor, the feeding surfaces, and the brooders.

Because all commercial formulas contain some fat, the instruments used for feeding chicks will need to be washed vigorously with soap and water to eliminate the grease

residues. Also, feeding syringes are assigned to specific brooders. They are kept in plastic cups that bearing numbers that correspond to specific brooders. This deters cross contamination. The formula, once made, is poured into the respective plastic cups and from there the chicks are fed.

To avoid the introduction of a pathogen into the nursery, we have two separate areas with their own entrances and air filtration systems: one for incubator-hatched chicks and one for chicks hatched under the parents. Feeding begins in the room containing the incubator-hatched young. Simple disinfection procedures are used when going from one room to the other: hands are disinfected, different smocks are used, and sandals are exchanged.

Visitors are not normally allowed to enter the hand-rearing rooms, but if they are, they must wear

a smock and sandals that we provide, and they are not allowed to touch or handle the chicks. This is important because diseases such as polyomavirus and psittacine beak and feather disease can easily be transported and transmitted to the chicks through contact.

Proper Diet and Feeding

Commercial formulas are the best option for feeding chicks. As mentioned earlier, they are not excellent, but they are good. This is because all formulations are based on poultry science and do not take into account the varying needs of

*When crop
stasis occurs, it
is important
to consider the
cause: bacteria,
chilling, fungus
or the ingestion of
the substrate on
which the chick is
maintained.*



the different parrot species. What the breeder can do is incorporate other ingredients into feedings to make these formulas much more suitable. These include, for example, pureed vegetables for eclectus parrots; fat in the form of nut butters for macaws, conures, Amazons, and African greys; and fruits and vegetables for lorries.

We always have on hand steamed carrots, broccoli, and sweet potatoes, which we liquefy and pour into ice cube trays to facilitate their use. Fruit is always cut fresh. I prefer tropical fruits to temperate fruits, which are less nutritious. The tropical fruits we use are papaya, guava, and mango. Papaya is the staple, but the others are

also employed if in season. For fat, we employ natural creamy peanut butter. We boost the fat in the formula for all species, but especially for those requiring fat. This means that 250 ml of formula contains a teaspoon of peanut butter for the species that don't require fat and a tablespoon for species that do.

I began this fat supplementation as part of my regular feeding regimen after having examined the crop contents of many wild chicks. I found that these chicks are invariably fed by their parents the foods with the highest fat content. Fieldwork also shows that wild parrots nest when the highest-fat foods are available. As an example,

during a recent visit to Argentina, I observed several subspecies of the Patagonian conure, or burrowing parrot (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*). The large, somber-colored conures had not yet started to nest because the algarrobo (*Prosopis* sp.) trees had not produced their fatty pods, which form the primary food for the young. In the wild, as in captivity, the fat satiates hunger and deters the desperate agitation seen in hungry chicks.

Other Important Considerations for Breeders

Areas of importance not directly related to hygiene and diet are brooder and formula temperature. Newly hatched chicks cannot thermoregulate, so they must be kept warm. We start by keeping the brooder at 36° C (96.8° F) and slowly drop this as the chicks grow and feather. Unless they are kept sufficiently warm, the chicks will become either listless or hyperactive as they move incessantly to try and warm themselves, injuring their toes and wing tips in the process. Chicks that are cold also display a slow digestion.

Formula temperature is also important, as cool food will be rejected and hot food may cause severe burning to the tender crop walls. We feed formula at 40° C (104° F). We heat the water in the microwave with the peanut butter or pureed vegetables (fruit is added later) and vigorously stir this before adding the powdered formula.

This is then stirred again until the ingredients are thoroughly mixed and all hot spots are eliminated. The thorough stirring also gives the microwave-heated water the opportunity to reach its peak temperature (as the temperature increases after microwaving), which we can measure and thus prevent burned crops. The formula temperature is read using either a standard or a digital thermometer.

Despite all of your best efforts, some chicks will need extra attention. If you have issues with a chick not digesting, please do not administer tonics. They are not intended for birds and often contain high amounts of iron and occasionally arsenic and lead. You can use black tea, cumin water, or what I refer to as papaya cream, which is made by adding the seeds and some of the flesh of a ripe papaya to a blender, liquidizing this with some Pedialyte (or a comparable oral electrolyte solution) and then passing this through a fine colander to remove any large seed particles. This is warmed and fed to the chicks. The unused portion should be refrigerated, where it will set like jelly. Once warmed it reverts to a liquid. This works far better in starting crop motility than any other product I have used. Once digestion has resumed, you can slowly start incorporating formula into the papaya cream.

When crop stasis occurs, it is important to consider the cause: bacteria, chilling, fungus, or the

ingestion of the substrate on which the chick is maintained. These are management issues that must be addressed along with stimulating the crop back into movement.

Learn and Practice Before Diving In

If you have never hand-reared, begin by doing research using credible sources to grasp a basic understanding, and then observe a breeder over a period of time. This internship is important for both your success as a breeder and also to avoid unnecessary suffering for chicks. In my opinion, responsible breeders should never sell chicks to someone who lacks experience. The countless messages I receive every year indicate to me, however, that this does happen. In my own home, I have help in the nursery. My helpers spend many days observing me and hearing explanations of the process time and time again before being allowed to prepare formula and feed a chick.

Finally, hand-rearing cannot be seen as simply feeding and cleaning young. The chicks will need to be socialized. In my home, chicks are trained to jump into a tub, go into a kennel, give a foot so that the nails can be trimmed or filed, socialize with people and other birds, and more. We prepare the young for their future lives. They are not simply cleaned, fed, and ignored.

In sum, when you have the experience and follow a proper protocol, hand-rearing is an incredible experience that can yield

excellent results. When properly hand-reared, the young can make excellent pets or future breeders.



TONY SILVA AT 2019 ASA/OPA
CONFERENCE IN MIAMI
PHOTO CAROL STANLEY

You can follow Tony's valuable avicultural insights on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tony.silva.1441> and on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tony.silva.aviculture/>



The Eye Revealed

You may recall the beautiful blue eye with the striking eye lashes (really, they are feathers) on page 15 of our last issue. Introducing “Teddy”, a Papuan hornbill (*Rhyticeros plicatus*).



Not Steve's Photo Pick

Scarlet macaw *Ara macao*

In this photo, the striking and intricate coloring of the feathers is emphasized.

It is about 81 centimeters (32 in) long, of which more than half is the pointed, graduated tail typical of all macaws, though the scarlet macaw has a larger percentage of tail than the other large macaws. The average weight is about 1 kilogram (2.2 lb). The plumage is mostly scarlet, but the rump and tail-covert feathers are light blue, the greater upper wing coverts are yellow, the upper sides of the flight feathers of the wings are dark blue as are the ends of the tail feathers, and the undersides of the wing and tail flight feathers are dark red with metallic gold iridescence. Some individuals may have green in the wings.

From wikipedia and Carol Stanley





FLEDGING SCARLET MACAW *ARA MACAO* PHOTO CAROL STANLEY



Jim Sorenson, Birds in shoes
A Tawny frog mouthed and baby in low cut
Converse.

About

I enjoy nature and adding something out of the ordinary. All my drawings are available at https://www.redbubble.com/shop/?query=jim%20sorensen%20birds%20in%20shoes%20series&ref=search_box

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

The incredibly talented Jim Sorenson has agreed to let ASA publish his artwork in every issue!

Thanks, Jim!





Five Lebanese poachers are showing hundreds of birds killed.

SPNL and The Middle Eastern Sustainable Hunting Centre (MESHC) are conducting field investigations to know more details about this violation. If you have information kindly send it to our inbox.

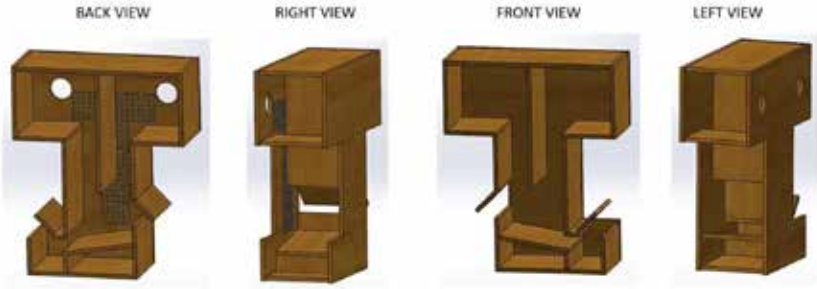
We believe industrial-scale trapping is happening in many areas in Lebanon to target and kill songbirds for illegal sale on the black market. Together with the Lebanese Internal Security Forces SPNL and its partners will do their best to bring poachers to justice.

10 Common Causes of Infertility in Birds



Destroy Mouse Infestation With Trained Lizard?????!!??





Drawn by: Kaushik Modak

Egg breaking or egg eating is a problem that can be faced by many Aviculturists. This is a modified Pietro Maccari nest. I am not giving the size because it will need to be adapted to the species for which it is intended. This nest type works quite well. Thank you Kaushik Modak for putting a design into a drawing. Please follow me on Instagram @tony.silva.aviculture.



The Goose Who Wore Nikes, and the Mystery of Who Murdered Him

'It's very easy to save a species': how Carl Jones rescued more endangered animals than anyone else



The penguin watching Pingu so he doesn't get lonely



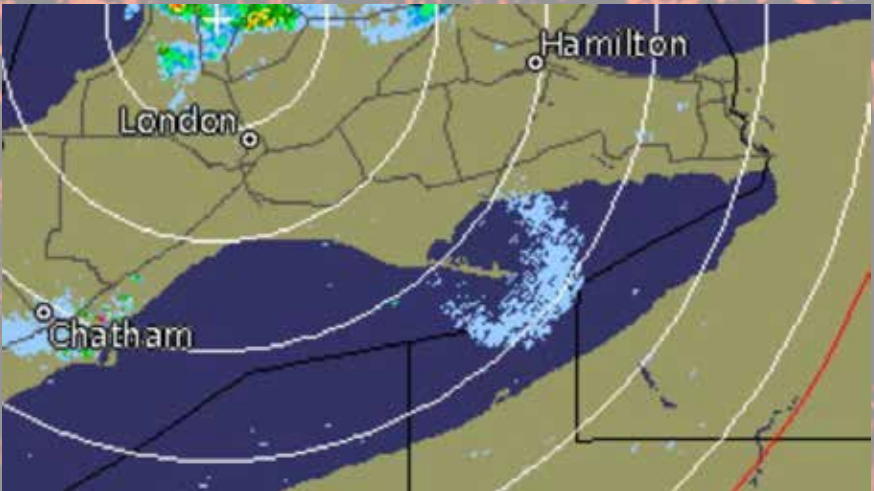
Painting one turbine blade black reduces bird fatalities by 72%, says study



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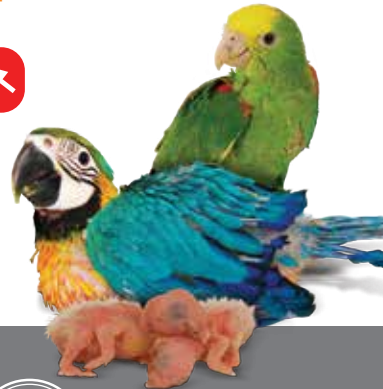
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Who's Your Daddy?



PHOTO BY LISA MURAN

Stumped? See answer on page 38



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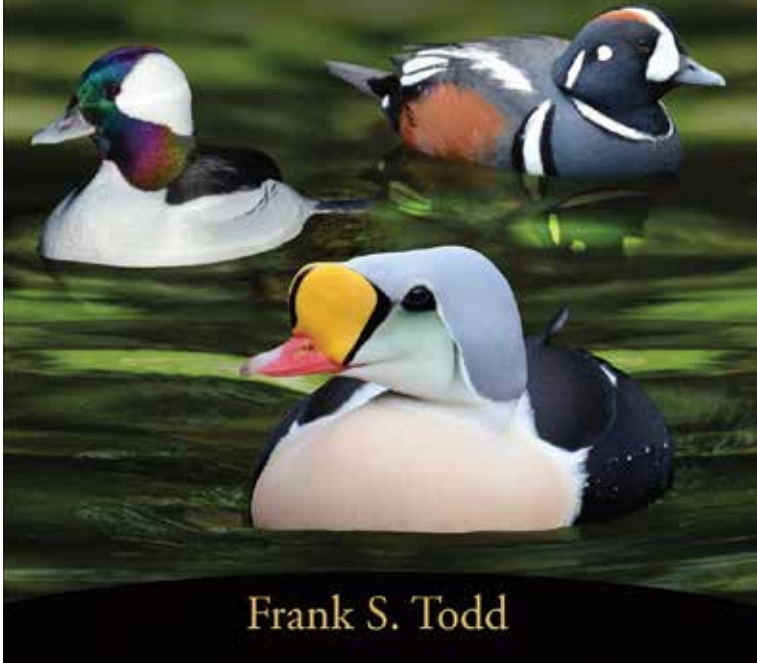
A National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) Initiative

<http://www.homesforanimalheroes.org/>

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

NORTH AMERICAN DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



Frank S. Todd

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

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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.

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SLENDER-BILLED CONURE *ENICOGNATHUS LEPTORHYNCHUS* PHOTO STEVE DUNCAN

Who's Your Daddy?

From page 35, Answer:

Slender-billed conure (*Enicognathus leptorhynchus*)

The slender-billed parakeet, also called the long-billed parakeet (*Enicognathus leptorhynchus*), is a medium size South American parrot. It belongs to the smaller long-tailed Arinae (macaws and parakeets). It is known by the local common name choroy.

The species is reported to be locally common and is in the IUCN Red list category Least Concern.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Distribution and habitat

The slender-billed parakeet is endemic to southern Chile. Its natural habitat is temperate forests, and its range stretches from central Chile, at the level of Mount Aconcagua, down to the island of Chiloé and the continental section of the country. The birds are social and flock together in large numbers. They are not especially afraid of humans, and the sighting of flocks in urban areas is not uncommon.

EVENTS

2020 EVENTS



AFA 2020 ZOOM Educational Conference: "Celebrating Aviculture with Social Distancing - No Masks Required"

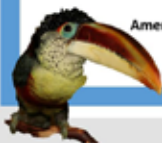
Our 46th annual educational conference was cancelled due to COVID-19
Our 1st ONLINE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE will launch Friday, Oct. 16th
Oct. 16th Icebreaker | Oct. 17th 10am - 6pm | Oct. 18th 10am - 6pm
This "first flight" AFA Zoom educational conference is only \$25
\$25 includes: Friday icebreaker, all Saturday and Sunday presentations.
Stayed tune for more details. Sign up at the link attached to this feed or
go to www.AFABirds.org



Speaker list: Dr. Scott Echols, Dr. Jason Crean, Dr. Caroline Efstathion,
Dr. Ranier Niemann, Hilla Nieman, Robin Shewokis, David Skidmore,
Mindy Patterson, Laurella Desborough, Erik Peake and more speakers to be announced...



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2021 EVENTS



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE - AFA's 45th Annual Educational Conference and Avian Expo will be held **August 12-14, 2021**
Hilton Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport More info on www.afabirds.org



AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA - ASA's 15th Annual Education Conference Fall 2021
www.asabirds.org

Let us know of your avicultural event to be posted on our Events page at:
info@asabirds.org



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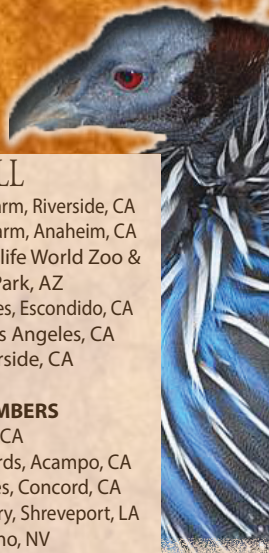
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