

ASA
Avicultural Bulletin



ASA

A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION,
RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

September/October 2019



NEXT ISSUE

A REVOLUTION IN NESTING BOXES

RANDY BERRY

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: Female Andean Cock-of-the-rock (*Rupicola peruvianus*) Photo Jason Shane. Inside Cover: Blue-throated macaws (*Ara glaucogularis*; previously *Ara caninde*) Photo Randy Berry © 2012-2019 Avicultural Society of America.
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September/October 2019

President's Message

Greetings, fellow Aviculturists:

The ASA conference team has been hard at work to ensure the coming conference in Miami is the best ever.

I would like to take this time to thank Susie Kasielke for her hard work on coordinating our Zoo Miami tours and dinner and, for creating and printing this year's program and for arranging speaker Matt McHale from Zoo Miami to speak at the conference. Thank you, Susie. Susie is our Zoological Liaison.

Sarah Brabbs is doing an outstanding job coordinating the event details with the Dadeland Marriot and coordinating a myriad of other details that make the event special. Many thanks, Sarah - and Nathan Pizar too for the updated ambiance provided to our setting this year!

I'm delighted that the Organization of Professional Aviculturists is participating in the conference this year by hosting tours of 5 private commercial aviaries. Thank you, Tony Silva for making the tours happen. And thank you to all the OPA coordinators - you know who you are.

Last, but not least, Steve Duncan, the big kahuna that keeps watch over the budget and major decisions. Many thanks, my friend!

These are all volunteers that work tirelessly to make our conferences ones which people come to expect the unexpected.

Yours truly,

Carol Stanley
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A Panama Surprise

The incredible collection of Jacobo Lacs

Text and photos by Simon Degenhard



KEEL-BILLED TOUCAN (RAMPHASTOS SULFURATUS)



In June 2011 I was given the opportunity to visit a breeder in Panama, who by all accounts had an incredible collection of birds. I was scheduled to be in Miami mid-June, so decided to grab the chance to jump on a plane, along with Florida based breeder Jason Shane and world-renowned aviculturist Tony Silva, and head to Panama to see for myself just how incredible this collection truly was. Only minutes after our arrival, it was obvious that this collection would at the very least equal any other collection the world over!

Although he had kept pet birds on and off from a young age it wasn't until 1991 that Jacobo Lacs or Jaco as he more commonly known, really began his foray into the avicultural world. Back in those days it was a common occurrence for large canoes coming from Columbia to land on the Caribbean coast of Panama; the crews came to buy coconuts, which they would then take back to Columbia and use to manufacture coconut oil. On one such occasion, due to a severe storm a canoe was forced to take shelter on an island close by Jaco's beachside property, upon discovery by the local authorities it was found to have numerous birds on board, stowed away illegally in tomato boxes.

The birds were subsequently confiscated, however the local authorities did not have anywhere suitable to house them. Many of the birds were in very bad shape and some were already dead. At the time of this occurrence Jaco was on holiday overseas, however despite this, as there was no time to waste the birds

were placed at his property until it was determined what would be done with them. As a result some 80 odd birds took up residence on Jaco's farm; the species were mixed and included several varieties of macaws, amazon parrots and toucans.

Upon his return home Jaco was told to contact the highly regarded US avian veterinarian Dr. Susan Clubb, in order to determine the best course of action to enable the recovery of the remaining birds.

Many of the species originally inhabited the national park bordering Jaco's property, but had ceased to exist there some years earlier, therefore it was decided that when/if the birds in question were determined to be back in optimum health they would be released to fly free in this area once again. Eventually, with the continued guidance of Dr. Clubb, this saw the release of roughly 60 of the 83 birds that were originally confiscated – the remaining 20 odd birds were deemed unfit for a return to the wild and thus formed the nucleus of Jaco's collection.

Having always liked animals, and birds in particular, this was welcomed and only served to increase his interest – soon more aviaries were being built and an avid aviculturist was born!

Although the collection originally comprised of various parrots, it was not all that long before the lure of softbills was too much to resist. This encouraged the building of yet more aviaries, though this time they were to be much larger, with some



BLUE-BANDED TOUCANET
(AULACORHYNCHUS
COERULEICINCTIS)

also being planted with a myriad of lush vegetation.

These days' toucans form a large proportion of the softbill component of the collection, with around 28 species and subspecies being kept. This fascination with the Ramphastidae family started in the late 1990's, a time when little was known about the captive breeding of toucans; books on the subject were non-existent and it was virtually the same case for documented info in general. So, the decision was taken to set about learning about these magnificent birds the hard way, by first hand experience.

Despite the lack of available info, initial success came relatively quickly in the way of the world first captive breeding of the Curl-crested Aracari *Pteroglossus beauharnaesii* in 1998. Since this first success numerous species have been and continue to be reared within the collection. They remain a firm favourite with Jaco and once you see them in the flesh (or should I say feathers), it is easy to understand why!

Most of Jaco's softbill collection is housed within 3 very large, heavily planted aviaries, each one measuring roughly 30m long x 20m wide x 6m high. These aviaries house a multitude of compatible species including various manakins, tanagers, hummingbirds, contingas, barbets, pigeons, doves, tragopans, tinamous, Mockingbirds and junglefowl to name but a few! Jaco believes that among the most



important things to be considered when setting up a mixed collection is that you must give thought to housing species together that live and/or fly at different levels, so that each species has sufficient territory. For example numerous species of hummingbird are kept within these large aviaries without any



CHANNEL-BILLED TOUCAN (RAMPHASTOS VITELLINUS)

obvious signs of aggression being displayed; this has been achieved by paying particular attention to only mixing species that live and feed at different levels and as such providing feeding stations at different heights throughout the aviaries. Many of the hummingbird

species held are regularly bred within these enclosures.

The toucans are an obvious exception to the rule as they will predate smaller birds and their eggs/young, so therefore they are housed as single pairs within the 70 smaller aviaries that run



around three sides of the large aviaries, with each one measuring

approximately 6m long x 3m wide x 3m high.



CURL-CRESTED ARACARI (PTEROGLOSSUS BEAUHARNAESII)

Cotingas and manakins rate amongst Jaco's favourite's and he

explains that this is not only due to their often spectacular plumage,



4-BILLED ARACARI (PTEROGLOSSUS FRANTZII) - A SPECIES ENDEMIC TO PANAMA AND COSTA RICA



CHESTNUT-MANDBLED TOUCAN OR SWAINSON'S TOUCAN (*RAMPHASTOS AMBIGUUS SWAINSONII*)



FEMALE GREEN-CROWNED BRILLIANT HUMMINGBIRD (*HELIODOXA JACULA*)

but also largely because of their interesting behaviour and amazing courtship displays. Of the species kept, the Andean Cock-of-the-rock *Rupicola peruvianus* is an absolute standout and it was a thrill to say the least to have them come so close you could touch them and even have the odd one land on my head and camera lens during my visit!

Another spectacular species that is kept within the large mixed aviaries is the Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno*, an amazing species that belongs to the trogon family and heralds from southern Mexico to western Panama. They are roughly 36-40cm in length and overall an almost iridescent green, with a ruby red breast; males also sport a very impressive 65cm long wavy tail. At the time of my visit it was believed that this species of Quetzal was only held in 3 collections the world over.

One species that Jaco is particularly proud of his regular success with is the Blue-headed Quail Dove *Starnoenas cyanocephala*; this species is very rare and only hails from Cuba. Excellent breeding results have been achieved with them and this success is even more satisfying seeing that the chicks are more often than not, parent raised.

Among the other intriguing species that are kept is the Capuchinbird *Perissocephalus tricolor* or Calfbird as they are also known. This species hails from north-eastern South America, almost exclusively north of the Amazon River and east of Rio



GOLDEN-COLLARED MANAKIN (MANACUS VITELLINA)



GOLDEN-HEADED MANAKIN (PIPIRA ERYTHROCEPHALA)



US VITELLINUS)



SAFFRON TOUCANET (PTEROGLOSSUS BAILLONI)



THROCEPHALA)



MALE RED-CAPPED MANAKIN (PIPRA MENTALIS)



MALE RED-CAPPED MANAKIN (PIPRA MENTALIS)

Negro – in Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil and The Guianas. They are overall a rich brown colour, which turns almost orange on the belly; their under-tail coverts and short tail are black. Perhaps the most distinctive feature is their bare almost vulture-like head, which is covered in dull blue skin. The males have two - one on each side of the rump - lighter brown tufts of

feathers that feature prominently during their elaborate display. They attract their alternative name of Calfbird due to their almost calf like call that is regularly emitted throughout the day.

Long-wattled Umbrellabirds *Cephalopterus penduliger* are another fascinating species that are being kept and bred by Jaco.



BLUE-HEADED QUAIL-DOVE (STARNOENAS CYANOCEPHALA)

They have a very limited captive history and have been kept in only a handful of collections. Although a breeder in Chile was the first person to encourage this species to lay in captivity, Jaco achieved the world first successful captive breeding of this species in October 2010. The display of the male Umbrellabird is unmistakable and will no doubt leave a lasting impression on

anyone who is lucky enough to witness it.

Jaco also keeps a number of raptors, including the Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* and the incredible Harpy Eagle *Harpia harpyja*. The Harpy's are a native to Panama. A number of other non-avian species also feature in this magnificent collection including



CAPUCHINBIRDS (*PERISSOCEPHALUS TRICOLOR*)





MALE LONG-WATTLED UMBRELLABIRD (CEPHALOPTERUS PENDULIGER)



MALE LONG-WATTLED UMBRELLABIRD (CEPHALOPTERUS PENDULIGER)



MALE LONG-WATTLED UMBRELLABIRD (CEPHALOPTERUS PENDULIGER)



SNOWY OWL (BUBO SCANDIACUS)



MALE ANDEAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK (*RUPICOLA PERUVIANUS*)



FEMALE ANDEAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK (RUPICOLA PERUVIANUS)



CUBAN TROGAN (PRIOTELUS TEMNURUS)



FEMALE BLACKSPOTTED BARBET (CAPITO NEGRO)



FEMALE GREEN-CROWNED BRILLIANT HUMMINGBIRD (*HELIODOXA JACULA*)



MALE GOLDEN-SIDED EUPHONIA (*EUPHONIA CAYENNENSIS*)



THE LARGE PLANTED AVIARIES THAT HOUSE M

TEMMINCK'S TRAGOPAN (TRAGOPAN TEMMINCKII)





MUCH OF JACOBO LACS SOFTBILL COLLECTION

MALE BLACK-SPOTTED BARBET (*CAPITO NIGER*)



MALE SAPPHIRE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (LEPIDOPYGA
COERULEOGULARIS)



PURPLE-THROATED
MOUNTAIN-GEM (LAMPORNIS
CALOLAEMUS) - YOUNG MALE



SNOWY-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD (AMAZILIA
EDWARD)

MALE RED-HEADED BARBET (EUBUCCO BOURCIER)





TAWNY-CAPPED EUPHONIA (EUPHONIA ANNEAE)



FEMALE YELLOW-LEGGED HONEYCREEPER (CYANERPES CAERULEUS).JPG

various marmosets, jungle cats such as Ocelots *Leopardus pardalis* and Jaguars *Panthera onca*, Capybaras *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris* and Iguanas!

As you can see, Jaco undoubtedly has one of the most magnificent collections of softbills in the world, one that he is immensely proud

of and rightly so. However, the softbills only form half of this all but incomparable bird collection; so stay tuned here for the next installment, when I will showcase many of the wonderful parrots that also call this place home!



**A FEMALE ANDEAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK COMES IN TO LAND ON SIMON'S HEAD!
PHOTO BY JASON SHANE**

Vocal Copying

Avian Conservation & Education
Network

Many species of songbirds learn the specific song elements of their repertoires from one or more adult tutors, most often from the male parent. Such learning, for at least some species, is not confined to the period prior to sexual maturity. For example, territorial male Swamp Sparrows listen to songs from adjacent territorial males and incorporate those songs into their own repertoire. Generally, this type of vocal copying, where the individual copied (the model) is a member of the same species, is referred to as “vocal imitation” and serves as the basic mechanism underlying the evolution of dialect systems -- variation in songs among local populations.

There are, however, many examples of vocalizations characteristic of one species being copied by a second species. Such “vocal mimicry” is well known in the Northern Mockingbird and European Starling. The function(s) of acquired alien sounds is still debated. Even the term “vocal mimicry” is a source of dispute among ornithologists. In biology, mimicry generally connotes deception by the mimic directed toward some signal-receiver, generally a predator or competitor. With most mimicked bird vocalizations, the true identity of the singer is quite clear because the mimic imparts some

characteristic tonal quality, temporal pattern, or context of use that serves to differentiate it from the model's vocalizations. The human ear can detect these differences, and the model's more sensitive avian ear would certainly be expected to detect the rendition of a mimic. In short, in the vast majority of examples it is unlikely that anyone is fooled by vocal mimicry.

Why, then, are sounds of other species (as well as nonavian sounds such as the barking of dogs, screeching of machinery, or human whistling) sometimes incorporated into a bird's repertoire? The answer seems to be that selection has favored a large and diverse repertoire in some species and that one way of increasing repertoire size and diversity is to incorporate sounds from the surrounding acoustic environment, even sounds that do not belong to the bird's own species. Evidence from several studies indicates that an expanded repertoire may improve ability to attract a mate, intimidate rivals, and stimulate females. Thus the effects of sexual selection tend to favor an increasingly large and diverse song repertoire within the limits imposed by the need for species recognition and by the capacity of the singer to memorize sounds. The common, nondeceptive use of such vocalizations has been termed “vocal appropriation” to eliminate the connotation of deceit implicit in the biological use of the term “mimicry.”

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Breeding parrots: some husbandry guidelines

Tony Silva

Commercial breeding operations that supply the pet trade with captive bred parrots were rare outside the US and South Africa until about twenty five years ago, when facilities that specifically produce young for pets started appearing in Brazil, Asia and elsewhere. Today hundreds of young amazons, caiques, macaws and conures, to mention just a few groups, are captive bred each year and many ultimately become pets. Advances in aviculture relating to diet, disease control, incubation and hand-rearing of young have been profound in recent decades and it is these advances that have allowed commercial operations to proliferate.

As I travel the world, I visit breeding facilities. During these visits I always spend time talking to the breeders. This provides considerable information to which I add more than 40 years of experience in breeding parrots ranging from parrotlets to macaws and cockatoos. I have also studied parrots throughout the world and have amassed significant data on breeding biology, diet and behavior. This combined experience and data has led me to some some conclusions that can lead to success.

Water is a source of pathogens throughout the world, resulting

in many avian mortalities. Most aviculturists in the US, Australia and Europe utilize tap water, but in Asia, India and Latin America many treat the drinking water by boiling it. Many then make the mistake of pouring the water into freshly washed dishes that were rinsed in the questionable tap water. This often undermines treating of the water. Placing dishes on the ground can also be a source of pathogens. There is also the risk of bacteria proliferating in a dish of water where food has been dunked; in a tropical climate food added to the drinking water, a habit of many parrots, soon results in bacterial soup. Because of this, I highly recommend an automatic watering system or if the breeder has just a few pairs the use of water bottles. The parrots quickly learn to drink from the nipples—wedging a sunflower seed into the nipple to allow the system to drip for a short while is all that is typically required-- and the water flowing into the system can be filtered, passed through UV filtration and chlorinated. All my birds drink water that has passed through filtration and UV disinfection before being chlorinated and entering a storage tank. From this storage tank the water goes into a pressurized tank than supplies the birds with drinking water. We treat the water thus because in the countryside where the farm is located only well water is available and in a well

bacteria can be a problem. I base this statement on repeated water tests, which are conducted yearly. I test both the incoming well water and the water being administered to the birds.

The water is transported to the cages by dark plastic pipe such as that sold for containing electrical cables; white pipe will grow bacteria and fungus as light can penetrate and should not be used. Each cage has a water nipple that is accessible to the birds. The center spigot, when moved, releases water, which the birds drink; many also learn to bathe by moving the spigot until it drips. The nipple is inspected daily while the birds are being fed. This allows early detection of any malfunction. A tap at each bank of aviaries allows the water in the pipes to be refreshed, so that the birds always have very fresh water. Once weekly, additional chlorine is used to flush the pipes. The tap is then opened to flush all the hyper chlorinated water from the pipes before the birds are allowed to drink again.

If you opt to use water bottles, have a replacement set on hand. This will allow you to wash and dry the bottles between use. Water bottles if exposed to light will grow bacteria. They should therefore be sprayed painted black. The water in the bottles should be replaced daily

to prevent a film from developing inside.

Treating water and then providing it in an automatic system reduces considerable manpower, which can then devote the time to diet and management of the flock. It also reduces pathogens considerably, and healthy birds are more likely to breed than those that are subclinically ill.

The perception of cage size requirements has evolved over decades. Thirty years ago I bred African Greys *Psittacus erithacus* in cages as small as 90 cm (3 ft) square, feeling that the small enclosure met the requirements for security that these parrots need. Over time fertility and reproduction began to wane. This species was at the time readily available as imports and the pairs were replaced. But my curious mind thought of an experiment involving Maroon-bellied Conures *Pyrrhura frontalis* to prove whether the waning reproduction in the African Greys was due to cage size or some other factor. For the trials 12 pairs of Maroon-bellied Conures were acquired. Six pairs were placed in cages 60 cm (2 ft) square and another six were placed in flights 1.8 m (6 ft) long x 60 cm (2 ft) wide x 90 cm (3 ft) high. Within 14 months all of the birds, which were fresh imports, began to breed. After a period averaging 7 years the pairs

in the 60 cm square cages became woefully unproductive, with many clear eggs, while those in the 1.8 meter (6 ft) long enclosures continued to breed successfully. When several of the pairs housed in the small cages were placed in the 1.8 m (6 ft) cages their fecundity returned. The diet, lighting and room temperature were identical in both cases. This suggested that the inability to fly had long term effects. The pairs in the 1.8 m long cages continued to reproduce for another 5 years, when the experiment stopped; the space was needed for another species. These results clearly demonstrated that enclosure size directly affects long term reproductive health.

My minimum enclosure recommendations follow; if the birds can be given more space than by all means it should be offered. All of the enclosures are suspended, so as to reduce the birds coming in contact with the ground, where feces, spilled food and a plethora of parasites can congregate. These cages also make vermin control (including rodents and snakes) easier when combined with a small mesh size; I prefer a mesh of 13 x 75 mm (1/2 x 3 in), which can exclude most snakes and all but the smallest rodents. The floor under the suspended cages should be kept clean. My aviaries are outdoors. The ground underneath is raked of spilled food regularly.

My aviary size recommendations are:

- Cockatoos: minimum 4.5 m (15 ft) long. This length is important

because of the aggressive nature of some cockatoo males, but it must be used in conjunction with a nest having double entrance and clipping the flight feathers on one wing of the male during the breeding season to give the female an opportunity to escape a bellicose fit.

- Large Amazons, large macaws, Hawk-headed Parrots *Deroptyus accipitrinus*, African Greys, Indonesian and Australian parakeets (excluding *Neophema*), Asiatic parrots, *Eclactus*: minimum 3.6 m (12 ft) long x 1.2 m (4 ft) square.

- Small Amazons, large conures (i.e., Patagonian *Cyanoliseus patagonus*), large *Poicephalus*, large lorries, fig parrots, miniature macaws: minimum 2.4 m (8 ft) long x 90 cm (3 ft) wide x 1.2 m (4 ft) high.

- Cockatiels *Nymphicus hollandicus*, Caiques, small conures, *Brotogeris* parakeets, small lorries, small African *Poicephalus* parrots: minimum 1.8 m (6 ft) x 90 cm (3 ft) wide x 1.2 m (high).

- Lovebirds, parrotlets: 1.2 m (4 ft) long x 90 cm (3 ft) x 1.2 m (4 ft) high.

For species that readily breed in colonies (some conures, *Brotogeris* parakeets, etc), the cage should be sized accordingly.

The cages should be constructed of wire, except for very aggressive cockatoos and Amazons, where the side walls at the front near the nest can be constructed of some solid material (to reduce the speed on

an aggressive male whose wings should be clipped) and to block the view of neighboring pairs. This can be achieved using sheets of metal. Perches should be fixed at each extreme. We use perch holders to facilitate perch replacement.

The cages should have doors at both the front and rear to facilitate cleaning, the introduction of enrichment, catching birds and perch replacement. The food bowls should be placed in a hatch to prevent the birds from scattering them throughout the cages. The hatch also deters escapees. In our case and as already mentioned we use 13 x 75 mm (½ x 3 in) mesh for the aviaries, but construct the foot hatches from 25 x 25 mm (1 x 1 in) mesh to facilitate cleaning. The door giving access to the food hatch should open up and should have a piece of PVC pipe affixed horizontally across the lower front, this to prevent the birds from opening the hatch and escaping.

The PVC pipe should be filled with sand and capped. Another solution is to attach a section of metal pipe with wire, which will hold the door closed in case someone forgets to latch it close or the birds manage to open the hatch. The food hatch should be covered with a metal shelf to prevent the birds from defecating into their food bowls should they perch directly above. In my case, my birds are housed outdoors and the covering is also intended to prevent wild birds from perching on the aviary front and defecating into the food bowl.

Before this shelf was introduced, we periodically had health issues as a result of contamination from wild birds, which would defecate into the food bowls. After its use was implemented, such problems have been reduced almost to zero.

In my aviary, we cover the front part of the enclosure but leave the rear part exposed to the elements. This partial roof gives the birds access to the elements. It allows some to sun bathe and others to shower during rains.

Outdoors the nesting boxes should be covered with a mesh cage and have a corresponding door to that of the nesting box. This will prevent birds from escaping. I know of countless cases where the nests fell, or the birds chewed holes and escaped. The cage covering the nest should be affixed to the cage to insure the highest level of containment.

The nests should be attached outside the cage, so as not to reduce flight space and also to facilitate inspection. A nest contained inside the cage can be difficult to access, especially when the pair is aggressively defending it. The year-long management protocol should vary according to species. African Greys should have the nest blocked after the main breeding season. Studies I conducted in Africa showed that the pairs leave the nesting area after the young fledge. They do not sleep in tree cavities like conures or caiques, for example, throughout the year. Blocking the nest after

breeding was found to induce nesting the following season.

Macaws, cockatoos and Amazons benefit from being flown together as a flock after breeding, this to replicate the flocking behavior seen in the wild. In the case of macaws, the pairs can be introduced into a large flight cage. Amazons and cockatoos should be separated by sex and allowed to flock in a large cage. As the breeding season approaches, they should be returned to their breeding aviaries. This simple practice can result in improved fertility. Keen observation while flocking pairs often results in switched mates; divorce is not unknown in parrots.

Dietary management should focus on three important phases: before, during and after the breeding season. Studies I performed on caiques and conures demonstrated how productivity could be boosted by modifying the diet. All of the pairs were placed on a good pelleted mix. During the non breeding season they received maintenance pellets with some very small amounts of seeds or nuts. Two months before the commencement of the breeding season, the birds were placed on breeder pellets and fed very regularly on fresh field corn on the cob (sweet corn should be avoided), peas, steamed pumpkin, carrot, sweet potatoes and broccoli, peas, greens and a little fruit (mainly papaya, guava and mango). In addition, thrice weekly they received a mix containing

rice, the aforementioned steamed vegetables and sprouted mung beans or partly boiled garbanzo and pinto beans. Nuts, seeds and whole grain bread supplemented the diet. This diet continued through the breeding season.

Towards the end of the breeding season the pellets were switched again to maintenance pellets but the birds were fed the foods also offered during the breeding season. These foods were slowly reduced over a period of a month to segue to the more austere non breeding diet.

Results in 12 pairs of caiques showed a 31% higher reproductive rate in the birds whose diet was manipulated compared to birds fed breeder pellets and fruits, seeds, nuts, the aforementioned pasta or brown rice and vegetables thrice weekly. Similar results were seen in the conures.

During the breeding season, the birds need to be managed closely. Aggression, a lack of physical contact in the pair, inadequate incubation, and more can all affect production unless addressed. These breaches can only be detected by direct observation.

To breed parrots requires time, passion, a commitment to hygiene and a good diet. If these requirements are met, success will follow.

*To breed parrots requires time, passion, a
commitment to hygiene and a good diet.
If these requirements are met, success will
follow.*



If you enjoy aviculture, please DO NOT support the World Parrot Trust. They are a menace to bird keeping and aviculture.



Steve's Photo Pick

Ring-necked Dove, *Streptopelia capicola*. This is a very common species in Eastern to Southern Africa. Despite the name, it is not the same species as is often kept in our aviaries. The domestic Ringneck Dove, or Barbary Dove, *Streptopelia risoria*, is likely descended from the closely related wild African Collared Dove, *S. roseogrisea*. There are about 15 species of *Streptopelia* doves in Africa and Asia, most of which have a similar appearance sporting the ring or collar at the back of the neck.





Great Horned Owl by Joe Gallowald

RAT POISON IS RAPTOR POISON



www.raptorsarethesolution.org | A Project of Earth Island Institute

RAPTORS ARE THE SOLUTION
<https://www.raptorsarethesolution.org/>

RAT POISON DOESN'T JUST KILL RATS... (it just moves poison up the food chain)



When a rat eats poison, it doesn't die immediately.



It becomes slow and sluggish, making it easy prey for predators.



The predator that's eaten a poisoned rat, is now a victim of "secondary poisoning"...

OVER 29 WILDLIFE SPECIES HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR RODENTICIDE EXPOSURE IN CA

Can domestic animals also be poisoned by rodenticides? **ABSOLUTELY!**



HOW LARGE ARE THE POPULATIONS THAT ARE AFFECTED BY SECONDARY RODENTICIDE POISONS?

BOBCATS



MOUNTAIN LIONS



COYOTE



Around the Internet

Click on the photo or link to go to the article you wish to see.

BEAK AND FEATHER DISEASE VACCINE COULD HELP SAVE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT



DO'S AND DON'TS FOR AFRICAN GREY PARROTS

https://petcentral.chewy.com/dos-and-donts-for-african-grey-parrots/?fbclid=IwAR0cnBggux9GZMWnNivb7nV0NIY0izPFL6njHk3Awo92IHUG1TjR_zzjE2w





WE JUST LEARNED BABY BIRDS COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER FROM INSIDE UNHATCHED EGGS



Click on the photo or link to go to the article you wish to see.

FIND AN AVIAN VETERINARIAN



THE MORAL COST OF CATS





Did you run across a juicy tidbit of information about birds on the internet? We want to hear from you! Please send us a link at **info@asabirds.org**
Thanks!

THE VOICES OF BIRDS AND THE LANGUAGE OF BELONGING



Click on the photo or link to go to the article you wish to see.

RESUSCITATING BIRDS ON HOT DAYS

<https://www.facebook.com/wesaveblueplanet/videos/2566228960063694/UzpfSTEWMDAwMjE4NTg1NTc3ODoxMDY1NjY0MjEzNjIzMTUy/>

NEW BREEDING FACILITY TO BOOST CAPTIVE BREEDING POPULATION OF THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT



MEET LORI, A TINY DINOSAUR THAT MAY HELP EXPLAIN HOW BIRDS EVOLVED FLIGHT



Overview of Animal Rights Organizations – Direct Action Everywhere



Direct Action Everywhere, also known as DxE, is an emerging radical animal rights group that was founded in 2013. Based out of San Francisco, their cult-like following has spread to numbers of international cells.

Their motto is “Animal Liberation”, and their website has three main headings, “Confinement, Greed, Death.” They do not support incrementalism, a tactic that other animal rights groups employ. Their dream is for people who eat animal protein products to be arrested and prosecuted for crimes. They also plan to have their members elected to political office.

The Founder’s Connections

DxE Founder Wayne Hsuing is a lawyer. Before graduating from law

school at the University of Chicago, he attended MIT. According to Wikipedia, “As a lawyer, Hsiung was involved in environmental advocacy and studied behavioral economics, studying with economics scholars including Eric Posner and Mark Duggan. He partnered with behavioral law and economics scholar Cass Sunstein to write an analysis of the effect of climate change on nonhuman animals.”

To note, Cass Sunstein was the Administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Obama administration from 2009 to 2012. What many may not know is that Cass Sunstein is an animal rights ideologue. He authored a book titled, “Animal Rights: Current Debates and New Directions.” Also of note is that Sunstein is married

to Samantha Power, United States Ambassador to the United Nations from 2014 to 2017. Samantha Power published a book in 2008 about the life of Sergio Vieira de Mello, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of UN. One of his many roles at the U.N. was his involvement in Agenda 21 implementation and the Habitat Agenda.

Committing Crimes for Attention

DxE's radical approach to animal liberation involves breaking and entering, stealing animals from farmers, and invading farms with busloads of their followers which exposes animals to potentially deadly pathogens. They look for confrontation in order to draw attention to their activities and agenda. The founder of DxE, Wayne Hsiung has had numerous arrests and is facing at least four felony charges for crimes he has committed (as of 2018). His arrests, however, have not stopped his illegal activities.

“Open Rescue” - Complete Disregard for Animal Health and Welfare

DxE calls their break-ins and thefts, “Open Rescue.” However, their activities show a complete disregard for animal health and welfare. They are not rescuing animals; they are stealing them and putting the health and welfare of other animals at great risk. The results of the break-ins and thefts of animals by DxE

has led to the necessity of mass destruction of an entire flock of chickens. To date, DxE has stolen a piglet, pigs, kid goats, turkeys, and chickens. In one case, they stole backyard chickens from an 8-year-old girl.

Targeting Organic Farmers and Businesses

Unlike other animal rights groups that use cloak and dagger “cooperation via legislation” and animal welfare as a ruse to fool voters, DxE is straight-forward about their agenda. True to the animal rights/animal liberation ideology where all animal ownership is considered slavery and therefore abuse, DxE has determined to also focus on smaller, organic farms. They have been doing this to demonstrate their belief that all animal agriculture is abuse and no forms of animal agriculture are acceptable to their ideology.

Videos

One of the ways DxE has increased their following is by producing numerous, heavily edited videos of their break-ins. These videos grossly misrepresent farming practices. According to the website Activist Facts, “In 2015, DxE released a video of hens filmed when some activists broke into a farm and stole livestock. The hens were from a Whole Foods supplier. After the video was made public, the local sheriff department investigated the farm and reported the farm to be

operating at ‘industry standards.’”
The owner of the farm responded to the video stating that the footage “isn’t anywhere indicative of our operation — they had to go through 15 barns off and on over a year to find three chickens they could use to make their point in this video.”

The Dalai Lama
For more detailed information about DxE and their agenda visit: <https://www.activistfacts.com/org.../direct-action-everywhere/>

Harassment

This group tends to focus on a target, and then they exert relentless harassment.

Some of their many tactics include disrupting political events, covering themselves in blood and laying down in front of a butcher shop, protesting inside stores and restaurants, screaming at restaurant patrons, covering themselves in feces, damaging meat in grocery stores, and most recently a DxE group invaded a restaurant and played tapes of what they claim are animals dying. To date, some of their targets have been:

- Whole Foods
- Costco
- Safeway
- Trader Joes
- Los Angeles Dodgers
- Organic egg farms in Petaluma
- Dairies
- Urban eateries
- Organic butcher shops
- Chipotle
- Small, backyard farms
- Anglers fishing at community parks
- Senator Bernie Sanders
- New Jersey Governor Chris Christie
- Ohio Governor John Kasich

Click on the photo or link to go to the article you wish to see.

SEXING GROUND HORNBILL EGGS

https://www.safari.com/news/world-news/boy-or-girl-sexing-ground-hornbill-eggs/?fbclid=IwAR3_xArVcAPSZgHYaQyAJR5kt2-sXYvDtRbP63xV1K_ZJ1W51Orkwnezgc

HYACINTH MACAW HATCHING/GROWING

<https://www.facebook.com/TryNotToCryDM/videos/2355493398016793/>

TEACHING KIDS TO ID HUNDREDS OF BIRDS.

https://www.weareteachers.com/teaching-about-birds/?fbclid=IwAR0RNhnoocr82X6ZyYiSD812Rdp7c5m1Eg_NjDM3DNbGQ_FSCIMKGik3QSO

HAWAII BIRDS

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/04/07/alien-bird-species-can-help-native-plants-move-around-say-surprised-scientists/?fbclid=IwAR0db2ZB-WXCOO7UScl59g3clpP1VF-HAubkuAFwtmJGB7h4DHFYu9wh7Mw#5fba425b4354>

BIRD BREEDERS LUNG

http://www.multiscope.com/hotspot/articles/bird_breeders_lung.htm

AUSTRALIAN RAPTORS START FIRES TO FLUSH OUT PREY

https://cosmosmagazine.com/biology/australian-raptors-start-fires-to-flush-out-prey?fbclid=IwAR2S7h0hmN3p-3oPBHQMoovK23zcbX9MzEWq_D3hpMJy5tg25jJ_s-Hzjhg

UNHATCHED BIRD EMBRYOS COMMUNICATE WITH SIBLINGS BY VIBRATING THEIR SHELLS

Baby seabirds exposed to nestmates' warnings exhibit behavioral and physiological adaptations designed to help avoid predators

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/unhatched-birds-communicate-siblings-vibrating-their-shells-180972711/?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=socialmedia&fbclid=IwAR3WqgXJ98DvV6CCXMIoTENLfyXlxfhnemf3NwZyQIbZ-GyXkDTADsxnlg

HOW BIRDS BECOME MALE OR FEMALE, AND OCCASIONALLY BOTH

https://theconversation.com/how-birds-become-male-or-female-and-occasionally-both-112061?fbclid=IwAR2ES_p_0hyXYeRajf62jmB-P4ijPtHxCctKTHBA_GBfJUUPXhS7ikFiT8tA

THESE PARROTS ARE THE FIRST ANIMALS TO USE GRINDING TOOLS



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AVIAN CONSERVATION & EDUCATION NETWORK
EGGS AND THEIR EVOLUTION

[https://www.facebook.com/Wildlifeconservationwithwings/
posts/518716712001821?_tn_ =K-R](https://www.facebook.com/Wildlifeconservationwithwings/posts/518716712001821?_tn_ =K-R)



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Click on the photo or link to go to the article you wish to see.

PARAKEET HOUSING

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1733957540081052>

WORLD'S LARGEST PARROT FOUND IN CENTRAL OTAGO - AND IT'S TWICE THE SIZE OF A KĀKĀPŌ



WHY PARROTS CAN TALK LIKE HUMANS

MALABAR TROGON

<https://www.facebook.com/reddy5460/videos/10157683629091694/UzpfSTEWNTI1NjAyMTU6MTAyMTYzMzQ3NDE0OTUxNDA/>

BIRDS ARE VANISHING FROM NORTH AMERICA

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/19/science/bird-populations-america-canada.html?smtyp=cur&smid=fb-nytimes&fbclid=IwAR0uTBBE4J2D5NmRCLtsQY4KLALMnzRmH-UhCVGO7d8XiScnqB6UHXaSXi8>

VIDEO: ZEBRA FINCH CALL PREPARES THEIR EGGS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

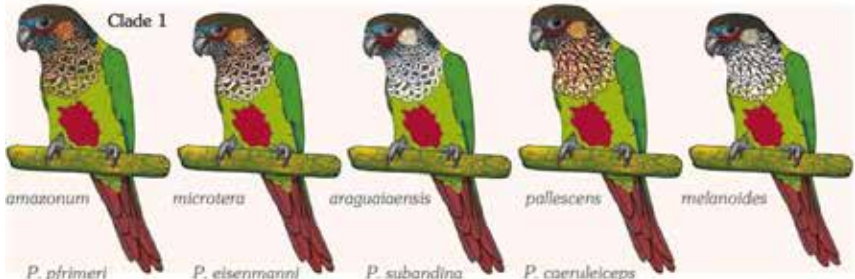
https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/08/video-zebra-finch-call-prepares-their-eggs-climate-change?utm_source=newsfromscience&utm_medium=facebook-text&utm_campaign=zebrafinch-6739&fbclid=IwAR2ytyvvr5uy0lwqBZ8zY9s53i5WliGZIV1ZdzbWrE1XNpRYWjTMD5f4QU

WORLD'S FIRST BIRD BRAIN SURGERY PERFORMED ON PARROT



P. amazonum

P. pallescens



amazonum

microtera

araguaiaensis

pallescens

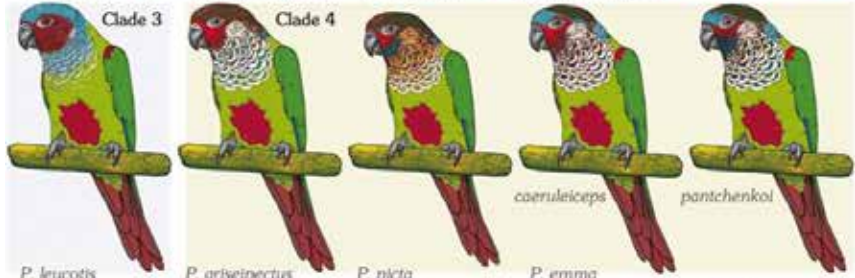
melanoides

P. pflimeri

P. eisenmanni

P. subandina

P. caeruleiceps

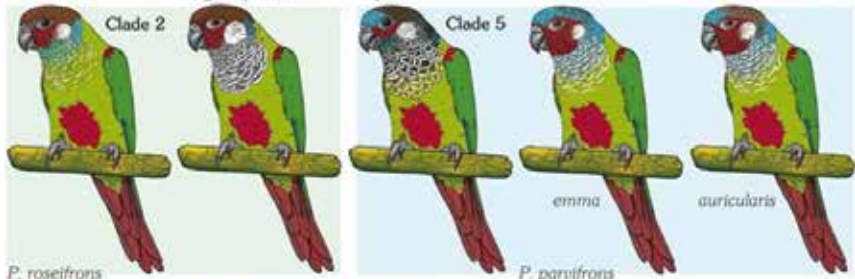


P. leucotis

P. grisepectus

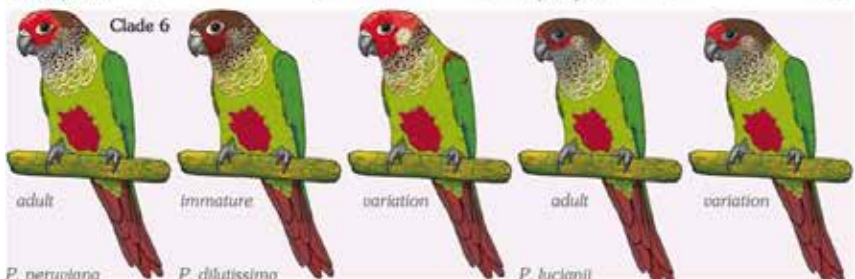
P. picta

P. emma



P. roseifrons

P. parvifrons



adult

immature

variation

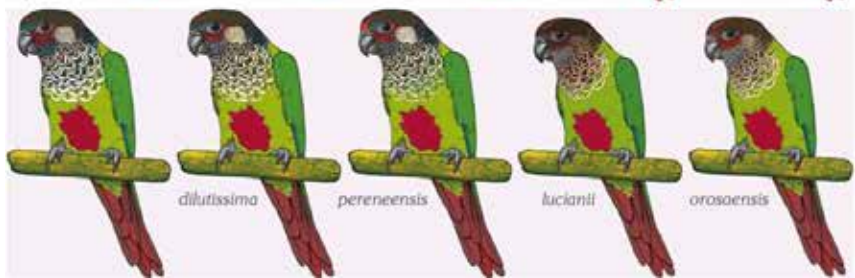
adult

variation

P. peruolana

P. dilutissima

P. lucianii



dilutissima

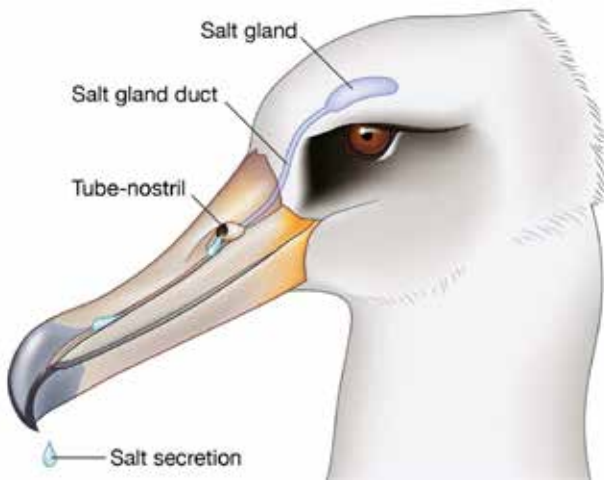
pereneensis

lucianii

orosaensis

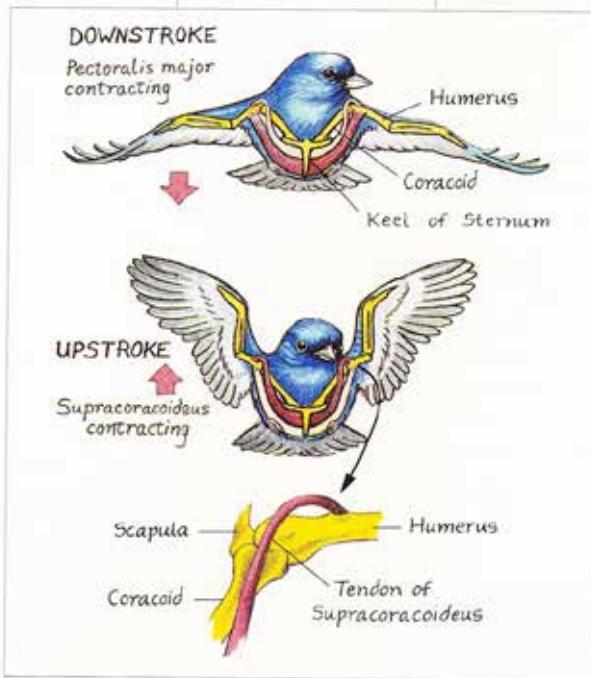
OVERVIEW OF THE PLUMAGE PATTERNS OF ALL TAXA OF THE PYRRHURA PICTA-LEUCOTIS COMPLEX

Click on the photo or link to go to the article you wish to see.



WHY CAN SOME BIRDS DRINK SALTY SEAWATER?

THE AMAZING MUSCLES AND BONES THAT MAKE BIRDS FLY



Click on the photo or link to go to the article you wish to see.

TRENDS IN LEGAL AND ILLEGAL TRADE OF WILD BIRDS: A GLOBAL
ASSESSMENT BASED ON EXPERT KNOWLEDGE



VACCINE COULD PREVENT 'HORRIBLE' BEAK AND FEATHER DISEASE





NAMING CONVENTIONS FOR GROUPS OF BIRDS

VOLANCY = FLIGHT!



WOW! OPA workshop and tours on Sunday - st



**Avicultural Society of America
14th Annual Education Conference**

Hosted by Zoo Miami

October 30 to November 2, 2019

**Conference: Marriot Hotel, Miami, FL
9090 S Dadeland Blvd, Miami, FL 33156**

Guest Rooms: Courtyard by Marriot

Hotel link: <https://tinyurl.com/ASAHotel>



SPEAKERS

Tony Silva – ke
Josee Birming
James Pfarr - F
Matt Baird - BL
Simon Degen
Montse Buch
training
Tiago Naboço
Clyde Robinsc
Management
Chris Touchto
Incubation an

More informat
<http://asabird>

Pay the extra day - you won't regret it!



Keynote Speaker

Tony Silva

Keynote
Ham - HARI
Pheasants
Black cockatoos
Hard - ACTP
Martinez - Loro Parque - Bird
Wisbroek - Knobbed Hornbills
on - Contemporary Waterfowl
n - Lory Aviary Management,
d Hand Rearing Procedures

PROGRAM

• Wednesday

Afternoon, Check-in & Open Bird
Photography Slide Show
Evening – Cocktail Ice-breaker party

• Thursday

Full day of Aviculture Talks

• Friday

Morning talks
Zoo Miami Tour and BBQ

• Saturday

Full day of Aviculture Talks,
Evening – Banquet and Keynote

Presentation by Tony Silva

tion:
[s.org/conference/](https://www.birds.org/conference/)

STAY an Extra Day!

- **Tour Tony's Aviaries**
- **3 additional aviary tours TBA**
- **Talks - OPA board members and legal counsel**
- **BBQ**

David Garcia



The Avicultural Society of America will be holding its annual convention in Miami from October 30-November 2, 2019. If you have not planned to attend, register now as the list of speakers is fantastic. On November 3 the OPA (Organization of Professional Aviculturists) will be organizing an aviary tour that includes a visit to Tony Silva's home where Diane McKinney and Tony Silva will show you the birds. Three other aviaries will also be visited and the day will culminate with food, drinks and a talk by OPA board members and legal counsel David Garcia. As additional details become available they will be

**Dont leave so soon. Join us
Sunday Nov. 3, after the ASA
Conference for a fun
filled OPA
Day!**



announced.

The event will allow the OPA to raise funds to continue to defend aviculture. For additional information about the ASA conference, go to [http://www.asabirds.org/conference/...](http://www.asabirds.org/conference/) contact Carol Stanley, Sarah Brabbs, or Steve Duncan and for the OPA aviary visit contact Diane McKinney, George Reymann or Jean Eckart Pattison. We look forward to receiving all of you in Tony's home.

There's no better place to be this fall!



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Who's Your Daddy?



PHOTO MIAMI HERALD

Stumped? See answer on page 70



HOMES
for Animal
Heroes

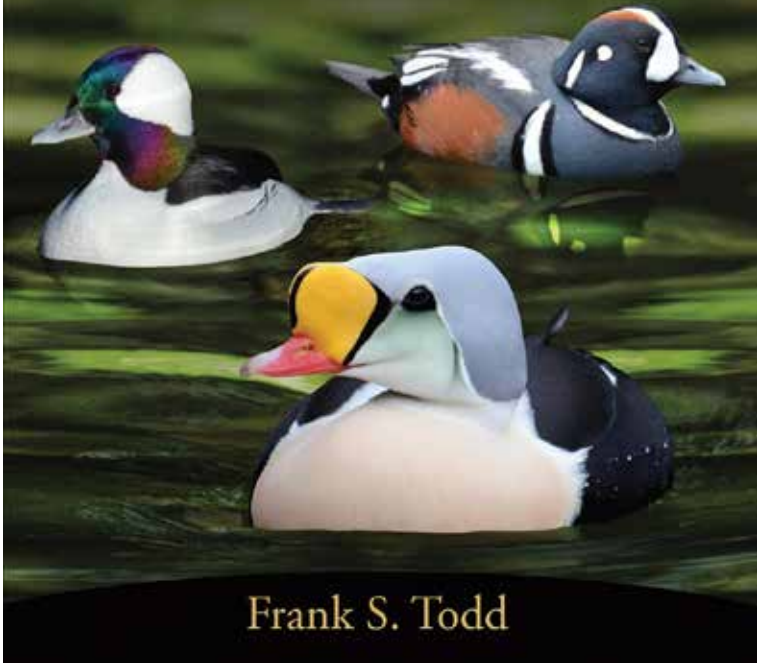
A Program of the National Animal Interest Alliance

<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.

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

PLEASE DONATE NOW

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

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



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SECRETARY BIRD (SAGITTARIUS SERPENTARIUS) BY YOKY - OWN WORK, CC BY-SA 3.0, [HTTPS://COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG/W/INDEX.PHP?CURID=4383914](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4383914)


Who's Your Daddy?

From page 65, Answer:

Secretary bird (*Sagittarius serpentarius*)

The secretary bird is instantly recognizable as a very large bird with an eagle-like body on crane-like legs which increases the bird's height to as much as 1.3 m (4.3 ft) tall. This bird has an eagle-like head with a hooked bill, but has rounded wings. Height can range from 90 to 137 cm (35 to 54 in). Total length from 112 to 152 cm (44 to 60 in) and the wingspan is 191–220 cm (75–87 in). Body mass can range from 2.3 to 5 kg (5.1 to 11.0 lb) with 20 birds from southern Africa found to weigh an average of 4.02 kg (8.9 lb). From a distance or in flight it resembles a crane more than a bird of prey. The tail has two elongated central feathers that extend beyond the feet during flight, as well as long flat plumage creating a posterior crest. Secretary bird flight

feathers and thighs are black, while most of the coverts are grey with some being white. It has a large wedge-shaped tail with alternating white and black banding at its ends. Sexes look similar to one another as the species exhibits very little sexual dimorphism, although the male has longer head plumes and tail feathers. Adults have a featherless red-orange face as opposed to the yellow facial skin of the young.

Secretary birds are endemic to Sub-Saharan Africa and are non-migratory, though they may follow food sources. 

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

EVENTS

2020 EVENTS



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE - AFA's 46th Annual Educational Conference and Avian Expo will be held **August 8th – August 10th** The Hotel RL, Salt Lake City, Utah August 6 - 8, 2020 More info on www.afabirds.org



AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA - ASA's 15th Annual Education Conference Will soon be announced. Watch for more details online at www.asabirds.org



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



ASA MEMBER CLUBS

Central California Avian Society
PO Box 5067, Fresno, CA 93755
www.ccasbirds.com

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

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

Orange County Bird Breeders
www.ocbirdbreeders.org

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

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

Arizona Seedcracker Society Inc
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Finch Society of San Diego County
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The Avicultural Society of America is proudly affiliated with:

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American Federation of Aviculture
LoryLeague.org

National Animal Interest Alliance
National Finch and Softbill Society
Orange County Bird Breeders
Saudi Federation of Parrots Aviculture
Zoological Association of America

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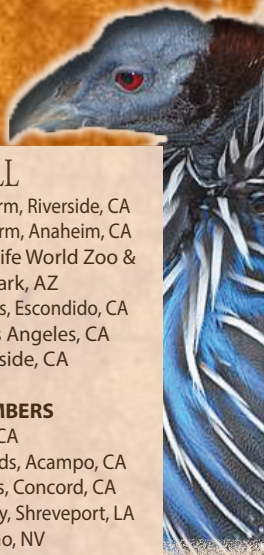
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Center, CA

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- No artificial preservatives, colours, or flavours
- Every batch undergoes 3-step Quality Control Process – with final feeding trials on live parrots at the HARI facility.

Since 1987, three generations of parrot species bred and raised on Tropicant!



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HIGH CALORIC DENSITY



OPTIMAL PROTEIN LEVEL

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