



**ASA**

A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION,  
RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

JULY/AUGUST 2017



# NEXT ISSUE

AMAZONA AESTIVA  
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: Female *eclectus*, photo Dayle Jordan, Australia. Inside front cover: Venus, raised by George Boscoe, Blue-front amazon *Amazona aestiva*, photo Barbara Brady-Smith, [www.sharethejoyphotography.com](http://www.sharethejoyphotography.com). © 2012-2017 Avicultural Society of America.

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July/August 2017

## President's Message



ASA's first raffle:

Raffle chairs extraordinaire Dick Dickenson and Mary Rose help make the first ASA raffle a reality. ASA applied for and received a Raffle Registration Number: 0011458, and we are now registered with the Justice Department.

The raffle items are spectacular - from original art work to books, jewelry and cash. Wow! Send your entries in right away. Raffle information starts on page 4 of this issue. All raffle and auction money helps ASA pay the bills throughout the year, so, buy all you can (use your return address labels to thwart off those writing cramps)

Lest I forget, I would like that thank former ASA president, Ivo Lazzeroni for his generous donation to the Frank S. Todd Memorial fund. Thank you, Ivo. If you too would like to donate to the fund to help pay our conference speaker expenses, please donate now at <http://asabirds.org/frank-s-todd-memorial-fund/> or, if you prefer, mail a check to:

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Carol Stanley

President, YOUR Avicultural Society of America

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## ASA Yahoo Email Group

Did you know ASA has an email group? It's easy to join. Email:

asabirds-subscribe@yahogroups.com and you will start getting messages.

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- ASA Conference: <https://www.facebook.com/ASA-Aviculture-Conference-324481397748582/timeline/>
- ASA Bulletin: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/asabulletin/>

ECLECTUS ARC:  
The Avian Resource and Conservation Institute  
Laurella Desborough and Lisa Woodworth



THREE BUILDINGS ECLECTUS ARC



The formal mission statement: The Avian Resource and Conservation Institute, (ARC), a not-for-profit organization is established in order to a) maintain a viable gene pool for subspecies of Eclectus parrots through captive breeding and record keeping, b) assist with conservation projects for eclectus and other birds in Indonesia, c) maintain an avicultural library, d) provide information, instruction, and experience for veterinary students, veterinarians, and aviculturists, e) provide a home for eclectus who need to be re-homed, and f) conducting any legal activity involved with exotic birds.

The ARK is managed on-site by Laurella Desborough and Lisa Woodworth. The Board of Directors

consists of the following individuals: Susie Christian, Laurella Desborough, Patricia Gower, Mary Sherlock, Graham Taylor, and Lisa Woodworth. The Advisory Committee includes Dayle Jordan and Taunia Viergutz.

We have been working on the facility here in Oklahoma for over two years now and have erected three metal buildings, 30 by 60, set on cement pads. Since the weather in Oklahoma can be extremely hot in the summer and cold in the winter, these metal buildings are insulated.

Two buildings are primarily breeding and holding facilities with suspended flights. Specifically for visitors, the buildings are entered through a separate pass through shower; (visitors such as avian veterinarians or USDA inspectors). (We follow the closed aviary concept as outlined in







NURSERY ROOM

the Model Aviculture Program, [www.modelaviculture.org](http://www.modelaviculture.org), which means we do not entertain unauthorized visitors.) A separate room is provided for food preparation in these

buildings. One of the buildings includes a nursery room, while the other contains a room that can be used as an isolation room.

FOAM INSULATION INTERIOR

EXHAUST FANS AT FLOOR LEVEL





MOVE IN OF BIRDS

*We follow the closed  
aviary concept as  
outlined in the Model  
Aviculture Program,  
[www.modelaviculture.org...](http://www.modelaviculture.org...)*

The third building is divided into two individual 30 x 30 sections. One half is intended for pet birds and birds requiring re-homing. The other half is a library focused on aviculture. Since there is likely no entity in the US saving documents, books, and journals related specifically to aviculture and avicultural history, we are attempting to put together a good library which will include everything from bird club newsletters to documents from avicultural organizations related to state and federal laws and regulations. We have been most happy to receive fine collections of



books, journals and other materials from prominent aviculturists and from prominent avian veterinarians who have donated these materials to the library. This library will be accessible to veterinary students, veterinarians, aviculturists, graduate students involved in studying issues related to birds, and so on. Colleges and universities do collect journals and books, but not necessarily the wide range of items that this ARK

*This organization  
was formed to try to  
save eclectic parrot  
subspecies in captivity  
and in the wild.*

library will make available. We are especially looking for bird club materials or publications from the past 30 or 40 years for this library.

In addition to the three main bird buildings, we have two other buildings for birds. One is an open aviary where single birds are placed spring, summer and fall, to fly, enjoy the sun and rain, and interact with each other. Sometimes single individuals will select a mate in this environment. After a significant time, as it becomes clear that these two want to be a pair, we will



remove them to their own personal flight where they will be provided with a nestbox.

The other separate bird building is going to be divided into three parts. One section will hold rare pheasants. We like rare pheasants too. Another part will house several pair of Lesser and Greater vasa parrots, while the final portion will be constructed for cockatoos. We hope to work with several pair of Citrons in order to help maintain a viable gene pool for these rare birds.



## FLIGHTS IN BUILDING

We also have a separate office building which contains a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and main room.

Our off-site work includes conservation of eclectus subspecies in the wild. At this point, we are considering potential projects in two different sites.

One goal is to share information with the avicultural community of breeders and pet owners. We will be putting on seminars, creating DVDs and publishing articles

related to eclectus parrot care and issues related to bird keeping in general, or in relation to legislation and regulations.

In order to run a well-organized and fully functioning organization, we have to deal with issues related to employment of workers, record keeping on pairs and young birds, maintaining a clean and appropriate environment for many birds, preparing a daily great diet for many birds, and planning for the future when others will be managing the




A.M. FOOD

facility and the birds. We have to make sure that the project remains viable and effective in order to meet our goal of saving eclectic subspecies for the future.

This organization was formed to try to save eclectic parrot subspecies

in captivity and in the wild. It would be great to include other species in our work, but we don't have the space, staff or funding to handle the amount of birds that would be needed to work effectively with even one or two other parrot species. We may include Citron cockatoos in our programs since that species is at risk in an area where rare eclectic are found.

We hope that others will follow our example and create special programs to work with specific avian species. All it takes is a mutual interest on the part of several individuals, some serious planning, making a point of working together cooperatively, and finding a location on which to set up facilities. 



FEMALE ECLECTUS, PHOTO DAYLE JORDAN, AUS



Reference: Tony Silva's facebook post August 11, 2017

Guest commentary: A response to often asked questions about Eclectus by Laurella Desborough. Her website is [www.eclectusparrotcentre.com](http://www.eclectusparrotcentre.com).

In an attempt to share knowledge and further aviculture, I asked Laurella Desborough a series of questions. Her reply follows. I thank her and give her full credit for the informative answers, which are based on decades of experience:

Following are my responses to your questions, based on my experience with my birds and also based on many consults with aviculturists who had problems with their pairs.

### **Why are so many pairs producing infertile eggs?**

In order to provide an accurate answer which applies to a specific pair in a facility, there is some information that would be very beneficial. Here goes:

- 1) Was the male in question hand reared and then later flocked with conspecifics or was this male previously kept as a pet or kept alone during early development?(Males that did not have the chance to grow up with others of their kind during their early development tend NOT to be competent in mating. This isn't 100 percent the case, but often the case. However, some do learn over time what to do. Older experienced hens can also teach young males.)
- 2) Is the pair housed next to other parrots that are very noisy or very dramatic in display, or housed

near cockatoos? (I have found that successful breeding pairs will stop producing fertile eggs if housed next to cockatoos or to dramatic amazons. In the wild many eclectus subspecies have to compete with cockatoos for nest sites and this may have an effect on pairs in our facilities if they are in flights near cockatoos.)

- 3) Does this pair have a sufficiently large cage or flight so that the male can be on a high perch that is far from the other high perch which the female prefers? (When cages or flights are small, the female often tends to "own" the whole area and that causes the male to be stressed and fearful and less likely to copulate with the female. This is especially the case if the cage is 3x3 feet or smaller.)
- 4) Does this pair like each other? (In my experience the eclectus that choose each other as mates are more compatible and less likely to have infertile eggs. In fact, just putting a male and female of the same subspecies in the same flight will not necessarily create an actual pair. They may not like each other at all. In some cases, pairs where the birds do not really like each other, they will go ahead and mate and have fertile eggs, but that is not common. In other cases, putting two strange eclectus together one may observe that both birds are quite excited and happy to see the newcomer. So, observation of the behavior of individuals who are placed in flights together is important during the initial introduction.)



- 5) Is the flight quite open with little shelter and the nest box area also is in a very exposed situation? (Even proven breeding pairs will stop nesting or lay infertile eggs if they come from a rather secluded environment and then are placed into a more open and visually exposed environment. Situations with such proven pairs producing infertile eggs where there was a lot of exposure did change when visual barriers were placed around the nest area. It seems that for some individual pairs, a feeling of security is critical for successful breeding.)
- 6) Were the two birds in this adult breeding pair raised together from a very young age? (It seems that in some cases *eclectus* that have been raised together as youngsters may consider themselves “related” and thus not mate, even though they feed each other and are compatible in their flight. [I speculate that this may be the result of pheromones which apparently exist for other avian species, according to research with quail where birds raised in the same clutch preferred to mate with others outside that clutch, if given the opportunity.]
- 7) What is the age of the male and what subspecies? (While some *vosmaeri* males may be mature and capable of being successful breeding birds, I have on occasion found *vosmaeri* males that were not able to be successful breeding birds until at least 8 years of age. I do not know the factors that would cause this difference in development, perhaps diet, or

perhaps just individual variation. Obviously, the Solomon Island subspecies does come into breeding condition at a much earlier age than the larger subspecies such as *aruensis* and *vosmaeri*.)

- 8) Are the *eclectus* pairs housed in a group where there are several breeding pairs in close proximity? (Personally, I have not noted this as a problem, but I have heard that other parrot species may stop producing fertile eggs if housed in a situation where several pairs of the same species are within visual range of each other. So, this might be a consideration and might require visual barriers.)

### **Do you favor breeding in pairs or in groups?**

From my experience with pairs that are breeding in an open aviary/flock situation, the problem is aggression on the part of females. Some females will be extremely aggressive towards other females and even towards any males that she doesn't like. I speculate that if one has a huge aviary, with lots of foliage, and a great deal of separation between nesting sites, that having several breeding pairs in that aviary would work. I understand that there was such a facility somewhere in Indonesia housing *vosmaeri* pairs that worked.

From my observation of my birds and from knowledge of two facilities where the owners flocked pairs, the end result was very problematic. In my case, there were a lot of single birds of various ages, as well as the

breeding birds. One nesting hen actually killed a male who got too close to her nest site. So, when I observe individual birds that choose a mate from the flock in the open aviary, I remove the pair and place them into their own private flight. In terms of extreme aggression, it seems to me to be based partly on the subspecies (vosmaeri females are pretty territorial), and also on the personality of the individual bird. Some are simply far more aggressive. And, that includes males in pairs where the male is the most aggressive bird in the pair, arus especially.

What five items do you believe must be in an eclectus diet?

- 1) Dandelion, endive, kale or a similar green. I note that hens feeding new chicks go for the dandelions or greens first. These greens contain important nutrients.
- 2) Celery or similar roughage food.
- 3) Non GMO yellow fresh corn on the cob.
- 4) Millet sprays.
- 5) Sprouted striped sunflower seeds. Obviously, we feed a lot of items besides the above. But, the above are what the parents select when they have chicks in the nest. Hens and their mates feeding new hatches will take the germ from the corn kernel and feed that. Later as the chicks are older and larger, they will remove the skin of the corn kernel and feed the germ and the rest of the kernel too.

What recommendations would you give a person wanting an eclectus as a pet?

- 1) If you have any experience with any other parrot species, do not expect that experience to apply to an eclectus parrot. Eclectus parrots behavior varies somewhat according to subspecies, but also according to individual personalities of the birds.
- 2) While doing your research on the internet, take note that there are many opinions that are accurate, but are often based on a very limited number of birds and may not represent the majority of pet eclectus parrots.
- 3) Understand that two circumstances are critical for pet quality in an eclectus parrot: a) the handling and care during hand rearing, and b) the experiences of the bird with the new owner during the transition into the new home. Because these two circumstances are so important, a caring aviculturist will probably provide a great deal of information to the new owner regarding how to make the transition process successful.
- 4) For owners with other pet parrots or birds, do not expect that all the birds in the house are going to be living as one happy family! Parrots in the wild are competitive for food, mates, and nestsites, so competition is natural. Some individual birds of different parrot species MAY form a bond of friendship.  
(Example: an umbrella cockatoo and a male eclectus formed a friendship where the male eclectus would groom the cockatoos head feathers. Other

examples exist, but that may not always be the case.)

- 5) Provide a reasonable routine in terms of morning and evening feeding times. Be sure to provide the morning food sometime between daylight and a couple hours afterward. Most parrots expect to eat their morning food in the early morning, not at 11 am or noon. Random timing of feeding can be very stressful to most parrots. Routine feeding times will prevent stress, which has been known to stimulate screaming in parrots.
- 6) Do not expect to scratch the head feathers of your eclectus parrot. They do not like the kinds of head scratches that cockatoos and amazons that macaws like. Petting on the body may be an issue for some birds when they are in a new home. It is also not advisable to pet adult females on the body as that can stimulate egg production.
- 7) Note that an eclectus parrot's diet should include fresh vegetables and fruits, a variety of seeds, perhaps a few pellets, definitely greens, and occasional nuts. Never eggs. (Birds end up with plaque in the arteries and die of stroke; this info is based on necropsy reports.) Never colored pellets. (Dyes in colored pellets cause extreme irritation, sometimes to the point of the bird chewing on the flesh; this info based on veterinary statement.) Never commercial birdy treats. (Commercial treats contain too much man made vitamin A which cannot easily be flushed by the bird's system and ends up causing muscle spasms. This info based on Dr. Debra McDonald's reports on vitamin A in avian diets.)
- 8) Be sure to obtain your pet eclectus from a source that provides a contract which identifies the bird, specifies the subspecies and states the warranties. It is also advisable to find a source that will offer after sale consults regarding any questions that you may have.
- 9) Of course, you do NOT want to purchase an unweaned eclectus parrot. Eclectus parrots being handfed recognize their hand feeder. If these babies go to a new person, at first they will take some formula, but they don't take enough to develop into a healthy normal bird. They just take enough to survive...or may even refuse to take any formula. I have answered too many phone calls from new owners with sick and dying baby eclectus. A new owner is not going to recognize that the baby is going down. By the time the owner sees there is a problem, it is often too late. Along with never purchasing an unweaned eclectus, one should avoid taking home a bird that is said to be weaned...when it is too young to be totally weaned. Most eclectus youngsters need to be at least five months of age before going to a new home. This gives them a couple weeks after weaning to make sure they are eating a good variety of foods and comfortable in a cage and know how to fly. 

## *Steve's Photo Pick*

The Roul Roul Partridge, aka Crested Wood Partridge, *Rollulus rouloul*, is native to the tropical rainforests of southeast Asia. The sexes are easily distinguished. The males (pictured) are dark metallic blue and black with a flamboyant, lacy, ruddy crest. Females are mostly green with brown wings and a gray head without a crest. Both sexes have the wiry tendrils on the forehead. Roul Rouls are very peaceful aviary birds and can be kept safely with small finches, doves, and peaceful softbill species. They will spend the day on the ground but do like to roost up high. The males often are eager to catch insects only to instantly offer them to their mate. Roul Rouls build a dome-shaped nest of grasses and twigs on the ground typically hidden in undergrowth if available.

Steve Duncan

Avian Resources







## On my soapbox...


...for a moment - This may not be an impressive photo, but it is very significant because of what it shows. That green patch down there is a few acres of mangrove forest on Isla Isabela, Galapagos. It is significant because almost the entire world's population of Mangrove Finch lives there. There is one other smaller

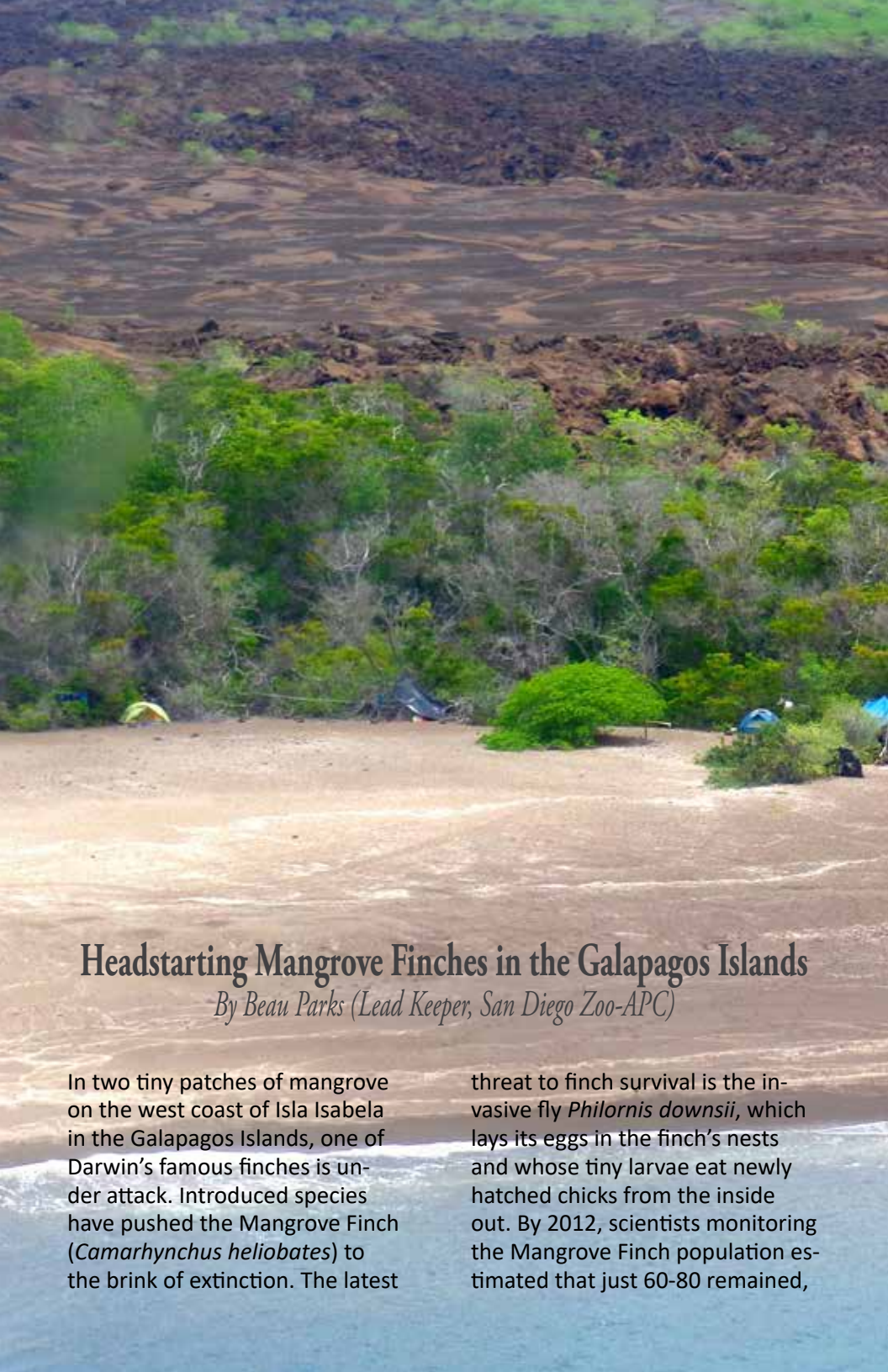
*Steve Duncan*

patch of Mangrove nearby that contains the rest. The Mangrove Finch is critically endangered with somewhere around 100 birds left. The main threat to their survival is an introduced parasitic fly that causes nearly all the baby birds to die before leaving the nest. The Charles Darwin Foundation and San Diego Zoo



Global began a program in 2014 to remove the finch eggs from wild nests, hand-rear the chicks and release them when they can survive on their own and not succumb to the parasite. This intervention is the only reason Mangrove Finches can continue to exist until it is figured out how to eradicate the parasite from

the environment. There are people who think that zoos are bad and keeping birds in captivity is bad, but it is thanks to San Diego Zoo and the experience of their staff working with hand-rearing finches and other birds that the Galapagos Mangrove Finch has a chance of survival. This is not trivial, in my opinion. 



## Headstarting Mangrove Finches in the Galapagos Islands

*By Beau Parks (Lead Keeper, San Diego Zoo-APC)*

In two tiny patches of mangrove on the west coast of Isla Isabela in the Galapagos Islands, one of Darwin's famous finches is under attack. Introduced species have pushed the Mangrove Finch (*Camarhynchus heliobates*) to the brink of extinction. The latest

threat to finch survival is the invasive fly *Philornis downsi*, which lays its eggs in the finch's nests and whose tiny larvae eat newly hatched chicks from the inside out. By 2012, scientists monitoring the Mangrove Finch population estimated that just 60-80 remained,





FIELD SITE AND CAMP AT PLAYA TORTUGA NEGRA, ISABELA. PHOTO BY SWEN LORENZ

inhabiting just 80 acres of habitat.

In late 2012, the Charles Darwin Research Station and the Galapagos National Park proposed initiating a “head-start” program for the Mangrove Finch. Head-starting is a conservation technique where an-

imals are brought into captive care during a life stage when they are especially vulnerable to whatever is threatening their survival then released once they are beyond that stage. In this case, the team would collect Mangrove Finch eggs from wild nests, hatch them



© Liza Díaz Lalova | Charles Darwin Foundation

APC KEEPER ANN KNUTSON FEEDS A YOUNG MANGROVE FINCH (GEOSPIZA HELIOBATES ) AT THE CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION IN PUERTO AYORA, SANTA CRUZ. PHOTO BY LIZA DIAZ LALOVA

in incubators, then hand-raise the chicks beyond the fledgling stage before releasing them back into the mangrove.

*After 4-6 weeks in the aviaries, the birds were fitted with tiny radio transmitters and released.*

For help with this project, the Darwin Station and National Park approached the San Diego Zoo's Avian Propagation Center (APC). The APC houses the Zoo's off-exhibit bird breeding enclosures and purpose-built facilities for artificial incubation of eggs and hand-rearing chicks. Since it was built in 1980, keepers at the APC have hatched and reared thousands of birds representing over 300 species. They had the specific skills and experience that the project needed to get started and they jumped at the chance to help.

In January of 2014, after over a year of planning, APC staff along with staff from San Diego Zoo



HUNGRY MANGROVE FINCH CHICK DURING HAND-REARING AT THE CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION IN PUERTO AYORA, SANTA CRUZ. PHOTO BY BEAU PARKS

Global's Institute for Conservation Research and Hawaii Endangered Bird Conservation Program traveled to the Galapagos for the initial season of the head-starting program. The first staff members to arrive cleaned a vacant lab at the Darwin Station on Santa Cruz Island and set it up as an incubation and chick rearing facility. A team of scientists and volunteers from the Station traveled to Isabela to monitor nests while Zoo staff remained on Santa Cruz to put finishing touches on the lab and gather supplies and food.

When the field team had identified several nests with incubating females, they summoned the

*Field team members used their own unique skill set to collect eggs that weighed as much as a penny from the highest, spindliest branches of the mangrove trees.*



FIVE MANGROVE FINCH HAND-REARED FLEDGLINGS AT THE CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH

hand-rearing team to the field site to collect eggs. Field team members used their own unique skill set to collect eggs that weighed as much as a penny from the highest, spindliest branches of the mangrove trees. After receiving the

eggs (and in some cases young chicks) from the climbers, Zoo staff placed them in a portable brooder and transported them by helicopter or boat 80 miles back to the rearing facility on Santa Cruz Island.



APC ANIMAL CARE MANAGER NICOLE LAGRECO FEEDS A YOUNG MANGROVE FINCH AT THE CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION IN PUERTO AYORA, SANTA CRUZ. PHOTO BY BEAU PARKS



STATION IN PUERTO AYORA, SANTA CRUZ. PHOTO BY BEAU PARKS

Newly hatched chicks weighed less than 2 grams and were fed every hour from 6 AM to 8 PM. Quarantine concerns limited what food items could be brought onto the islands, so staff were forced to find substitutes for the usual pinkie mice and live insects that are staples of typical passerine hand-rearing diets at the APC. Chicks were raised on locally harvested wasp larvae, ground day-old chicken, papaya, scrambled egg and Mazuri ZuLife Low Iron Softbill Diet. The first chicks weaned in about 30 days but later

chicks weaned faster with the older fledglings to teach them and the last chicks to hatch weaned in just 15 days!

After a group of chicks was weaned, hand-rearing staff accompanied them back to Isabela aboard a National Park boat and released them into a pre-release aviary in the mangrove. Due to quarantine concerns at the lab on Santa Cruz, this homecoming was the first time that staff could provide the young finches with natu-



NEWLY HATCHED MANGROVE FINCH AT THE CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION IN PUERTO AYORA, SANTA CRUZ. PHOTO BY BEAU PARKS

ral substrates to practice foraging prior to release. After 4-6 weeks in the aviaries, the birds were fitted with tiny radio transmitters and released. The field team remained on Isabela for about a month after the release to track and observe the finches post-release.

Over four breeding seasons, the head-starting program has reared

and released 39 young Mangrove Finches (and two Woodpecker Finches, *Camarhynchus pallidus*), supplementing the meager production of the wild population while scientists search for a way to eradicate *Philornis downsi*. In 2016, the field team observed hand-reared Mangrove Finches from previous seasons nesting and breeding for the first time. This

exciting discovery is an important indication that the program is effectively bolstering the dwindling population of – and buying time for – Darwin’s rarest finch.

For more information on the Mangrove Finch Head-starting Program, see:

Cunninghame F, R Switzer, B Parks, G Young, A Carrión, P Medranda and C Sevilla. 2015.

Conserving the critically endangered mangrove finch: Head-starting to increase population size. Pp.

151-157. In: Galapagos Report 2013-2014. GNPD, GCREG, CDF and GC. Puerto Ayora, Galapagos, Ecuador.



NEWLY HATCHED MANGROVE FINCH AT THE CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION IN PUERTO AYORA, SANTA CRUZ. PHOTO BY BEAU PARKS

MANGROVE FINCH CHICKS DURING HAND-REARING AT THE CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION IN PUERTO AYORA, SANTA CRUZ. PHOTO BY ANN KNUTSON









HAND-REARED MANGROVE FINCH AFTER RELEASE AT PLAYA TORTUGA NEGRA, ISABELA-TRANSMITTER ANTENNA VISIBLE. PHOTO BY FRANCESCA CUNNINGHAM.

# Who's Your Daddy?



Stumped? See answer on page 34

Puerto Rico's rainforest sustained massive destruction during hurricane Maria this year. The Avicultural Society of America has donated \$5,000 towards repair and rebuilding for the Puerto Rican Parrot Project. 100% of donations will be sent to the project with no deductions for administrative fees. If you would like to contribute, please go online to: <http://asabirds.org/puertoricanparrot/>

You may also mail a check to:

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P.O. Box 3161  
San Dimas, CA 91773  
Write Puerto Rican Parrot Project as a reference on the check.



HURRICANE MARIA'S DEVASTATION CAN BE SEEN AT EL YUNQUE NATIONAL FOREST IN PUERTO RICO PHOTO PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE



# PLEASE DONATE NOW

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

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



SOUTHERN OR CRESTED SCREAMER (CHAUNA TORQUATA) PHOTO CAROL STANLEY

## Who's Your Daddy?

*From page 30. Answer: Southern screamer (Chauna torquata)*

The southern screamer (*Chauna torquata*), also known as the crested screamer, belongs to the order Anseriformes. It is found in southeastern Peru, northern Bolivia, Paraguay, southern Brazil, Uruguay and northern Argentina.[2] Its diet consists of plants stems, seeds, leaves, and, rarely, small animals.

The southern screamer averages 81–95 cm (32–37 in) long and weighs 3–5 kg (6.6–11.0 lb). It lives in tropical and sub-tropical swamps, estuaries and watersides.

**Behaviour and ecology** - The southern screamer is a good swimmer, having partially webbed feet, but prefers to move on the ground. The bony spurs on its wings are used for protection against rival screamers and other enemies. It lives in large flocks, feeding on the ground in grasslands and cultivated fields until nesting season, when birds pair

off. Their unfuzzy diet makes them amenable to domestication and they make excellent guard animals due to their loud screams.

**Breeding** - The southern screamer establishes monogamous relationships that last its lifetime, estimated to be 15 years. Courtship involves loud calling by both sexes, which can be heard up to two miles away. For the nest the couple makes a big platform of reeds, straws, and other aquatic plants in an inaccessible place near water. The female lays between two and seven white eggs. The couple share incubation, which takes 43 to 46 days. Chicks leave the nest as soon as they hatch, but the parents care for them for several weeks. The fledging period takes 8 to 14 weeks.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

# EVENTS

## 2018 EVENTS



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE - AFA's 44th annual Educational Conference and Avian Expo** will be held in **San Antonio, TX, August 16-18, 2018**. More info on [www.afabirds.org](http://www.afabirds.org)



**AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA - ASA's 13th Annual Education Conference** in Fall of 2018 will be announced soon. Watch for more details online at [www.asabirds.org](http://www.asabirds.org)

**LORO PARQUE IX International Parrot Convention September 24-27, 2018** [www.loroparque-fundacion.org/congresso](http://www.loroparque-fundacion.org/congresso)

## IX INTERNATIONAL PARROT CONVENTION



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Ensure now your place for 2018 and follow our news on

Let us know of your avicultural event to be posted on our Events page at:  
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Contra Costa Avian Society  
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LoryLeague.org

National Animal Interest Alliance

National Finch and Softbill Society

Zoological Association of America

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