

# ASA

Avicultural Bulletin



ASA

A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION,  
RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

April/May/June 2023



BARBARA BRADY-SMITH  
— Photography and Fine Art —

## NEXT ISSUE

**Blue Mutation Yellow-naped Amazons An  
Interview With Grover Wonderlin**

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: Male Eclectus (Eclectus roratus polychloros) Photo John Griffith Inside cover: Yellow-naped amazon - blue mutation Photo Barbara Brady-Smith - <https://www.sharethejoyphotography.com/> © 2012-2023 Avicultural Society of America. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced without express written permission by ASA. The Avicultural Society of America e-Bulletin is published quarterly online on our website, [asabirds.org](http://asabirds.org)

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April/May/June 2023

*President's Message*

Hello!

Things are ramping up for the 2023 Aviculture United Educational Conference, hosted this year by the ASA, American Federation of Aviculture, and the Organization of Professional Aviculturists in Dallas, Texas from Sept 28 to October 1. We are fortunate to be welcomed by the Fort Worth Zoo for our annual Zoo Tour & BBQ, and also have something in the works for a bonus day on Sunday at the Dallas World Aquarium. As you know, this is our annual fundraiser, and we are excited to be working alongside the AFA and OPA to bring our fellow bird enthusiasts together from all parts of the world.

We still have opportunities for vendor and sponsor participation, both of which offer a lot of exposure for your business! For \$1500, sponsors receive:

**Sponsor booth**

- Sponsor signage at the venue
- Full page in Watchbird and the program (this can be an advertisement or a written piece about the company or what makes your product special)
- Full page in program
- Display ad in Fast ads (digital) thru the end of December
- Logo on the attendees bags
- 2 full registrations, including the off-site trip and banquet
- Reserved table at the banquet
- Inclusion on all conference flyers
- Full page ad in Avicultural Society of America e-Bulletin for 4 issues

For more information or to become either a member or sponsor, please contact Sarah Brabbs, Jamie Whitaker, and Joanna Roth at [vendors@afabirds.org](mailto:vendors@afabirds.org).

On another note, please remember to join our educational zoom town hall style meeting to discuss the new updates for shipping with Delta, as they've recently updated their policies to adhere to the recent USDA and IATA shipping guidelines. The meeting is scheduled for June 29, 7:00 PM Eastern (4:00 PM Pacific). This conversation will be hosted by OPA attorney David Garcia and OPA President Steve Duncan, and will be available on the OPA and ASA websites, as well as both Facebook pages and Zoom. Learn more or submit your questions early here.

Thank you all! I hope to see you in September!

Sarah Brabbs

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Steve Duncan 909-599-7577

### Conference Coordinators

Sarah Brabbs sbrabbs@gmail.com

Steve Duncan 909-599-7577

### Editorial Panel

Susie Christian winged1s@aol.com  
805-772-2038

Sheri Humphrey

208-849-0637

Lisa Marun

Carol Stanley, Art Director 925-698-0191

Lisa Woodworth templeaviaries@gmail.com

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**The AUSTRALIAN ECLECTUS PARROT**  
**Observations of their diet in the wild on**  
**Cape York Peninsula**

John Griffith

*Edited by Lisa Woodworth*



The Eclectus parrot (*Eclectus roratus*) is unusual in the parrot family for its plumage with its extreme sexual dimorphism. The males are mostly a bright emerald green in coloration and the females mostly have bright red and purple/blue plumage.

They are a parrot native to the Solomon Islands, Sumba, New Guinea and nearby islands, north-eastern Australia, and the Maluku Islands (Moluccas). Some populations restricted to relatively small islands are comparably rare.

In general, the diet of Eclectus parrots in the wild consists of fruits, wild figs, unripe nuts, flower and leaf buds, and some seeds. Eclectus parrots have an unusually long digestive tract, meaning that their dietary requirements are different than many other parrot species.

My observations in the wild centre mostly around the Iron Range district on Cape York Peninsula, although on two occasions I saw the sub species *E.r.polychloros* on islands (inside Australian territory) in the Torres Strait. Saibai and Boigu Islands lie only a few kilometres off the Papua New Guinea coast. The birds, one male and one female, were observed in mangroves.

Flying over the Papua New Guinean mainland to the north of Australia, one could mistake the vegetation types as those found in other parts of Cape York Peninsula. Lowland forests are a mix of eucalyptus

woodlands and gallery forests. The lowland rainforests of the Iron Range district support many species of plants and animals found in New Guinea.

### **Feeding Records from Throughout the Eclectus Parrot Range**

Joseph Forshaw in his book, "Parrots of the World" (3rd revised edition), explains that generally, Eclectus parrots are birds that forage mainly in the treetops. Observations made by Bell (1982c) at a study site in lowland rainforest near Port Moresby suggest that 98% of more than 100 foraging records were of birds feeding in the upper canopy, 30m-35m above the ground.

Forshaw also mentions that on Bougainville Island, Schodde found that *E.r. polychloros* visited gardens to feed on cultivated crops. Sweet corn, papayas and bananas were eaten by the wild Eclectus parrots.

At a grazing property, "Wattle Hills" that borders the Pascoe River on Cape York Peninsula, Bill Crawford told me that Eclectus parrots (*E.r. macgillivrayi*) also visited his orchard.

On Buru Island, Toxopeus observed Eclectus parrots in casuarina trees eating new leaf shoots. Marist priest, Father Kerry Prendeville worked in the Solomon Islands for many years during the 1960s and 70s. He observed *E.r. solomonensis* feeding on the blossom of shrubs

in the rainforest understory that flowered soon after damage caused by tropical cyclones. He also recalled coconut palms coming into flower after such weather events. These flowering palms were also visited by many avian species including Eclectus parrots.

Forshaw reports that Cain and Galbraith (1956) found soft, mainly fig-like fruits in gut contents of specimens that they collected in the eastern Solomon Islands. Crop contents of specimens collected by Hoogerwerf near Manokwari, Irian Jaya contained pulp and many

small fruit stones. Crop contents from specimens collected by Schodde on Bougainville Island contained a variety of firm fruits including those of rubiaceous climbers.

Studies of the Australian Eclectus parrot (*E.r. macgillivrayi*) undertaken by Dr. Robert Heinsohn have helped us understand the natural foraging and breeding behaviour of Eclectus parrots in the wild on Cape York Peninsula. His research inspired me to make my own observations of this intriguing species.







Image from "Australia. The Land of Parrots" Available free on the internet.

Over several years I observed male Eclectus parrots returning to nest hollows to feed resident females. I photographed and video recorded these food exchanges on many occasions. Not once did I record large amounts of fruit pulp being feed to females. I decided to follow birds to see exactly what fruits and berries they were feeding on.

### **My Observations**

The lowland rainforest, surrounding eucalypt woodland, heathlands and coastal dunes maintain a great diversity of trees, shrubs, and vines.

I have observed Eclectus parrots foraging in each of these habitat types. I only recorded plant species that I found the parrots eating. My observations were made during most calendar months over a period of many years.

Fortunately, Eclectus parrots are a loud boisterous species. My method of finding feeding parrots was to walk the many tracks and roads that traverse the area around Iron Range. On hearing the raucous call of a male, I would move in the direction from which the calls came.

When flushed, Eclectus parrots alight screeching. I would then seek out the obvious tree in which the bird was foraging when looking for signs of discarded evidence.

**Male Eclectus parrots fly great distances to seek out important food plants.**

For this reason, what the males eat must contain two things.

**1. An important form of nutrition to maintain a female and her progeny**

**2. A readily digestible pulp to provide energy for him to complete his daily tasks. I tasted the pulp of many of the foods that I found male eclectus parrots eating and they were extremely sweet, indicating that they were high in energy.**

**Food Species that I found Eclectus Parrots feeding in at Iron Range Rainforest and Gallery Forest Fruit Trees and Shrubs**

**Corkwood. *Carallia brachiata*** is a large tree in the family Rhizophoraceae, that grows to a height of 25 metres (82 ft) and found from Australia, Malesia, Indochina through to the Western Chats. It is the host plant of the moth *Dysphania numania* in Australia. Corkwood fruit are a favourite of Eclectus parrots. Wherever I found a tree in fruit, the leaf litter below was well turned over by other bird and mammal species.

Corkwood. *Carallia brachiata* Photo: John Griffith





Corkwood. *Carallia brachiata* Photo: John Griffith

**Jam Jam (Satinwood). *Buchanania arborescens***, commonly known as Ilkie by the local indigenous people. It is a small and slender tree native to northern Australia, south-east Asia, and the Solomon Islands. Aboriginal people eat the fruit raw. The plant is also used as a traditional medicine in Australia and Malaysia. The 1889 book «The Useful Native Plants of Australia» records that «The unripe fruits of this plant were gathered, and, when boiled, imparted an agreeable acidity to the water, and when thus prepared, tasted tolerably well. When ripe, they become very sweet and pulpy”.

**Coffee Bush. *Breynia oblongifolia*** grows naturally in Australia and New Guinea as shrubs up to 3 m (10 ft) in height. The species produces alternate, distichous, ovate leaves. Small, green flowers are produced in spring and summer, and these are followed by orange or pink berries about 6 mm (0.24 in) diameter that turn black when fully ripe. The species tolerates wide variety of environments and is found in coastal tropical rainforests in North Queensland and New Guinea through to eucalypt woodlands in south-eastern New South Wales to arid Acacia woodlands in Western Queensland.

This plant proliferates in disturbed areas and can recolonise cleared sites. This plant supports many different animals that feed on leaves, berries and flowers. Sadly, as roads in the Iron Range area are now widened and developed, this shrub is disappearing from many areas where it was once prolific.

### Behind the Dunes

#### **Peanut Tree. *Sterculia quadrifida***

is known as the Red-Fruited Kurrajong. It is a small tree that grows in the rainforests, vine thickets, and gallery forests of New Guinea and Northern Australia. Inside the pods are edible black seeds which have a pleasant peanut flavour. The bark and the leaves of the tree were also used by Aboriginal people to weave baskets and make other products. It was also a medicinal tree, with the leaves used to treat skin wounds and stings.



Peanut Tree. *Sterculia quadrifida* Photo: John Griffith

#### **Red Beech. *Dillenia alata*.**

Commonly known as Red Beech, Golden Guinea Flower, or Golden Guinea Tree, is a tree in the Dilleniaceae Family. It is found in the tropical forests of the Moluccas Islands, New Guinea and northern Australia.



Red Beech. *Dillenia alata*. Photo: John Griffith



Lacewing Vine, *Adenia heterophylla*  
Photo: John Griffith

**Lacewing Vine, *Adenia heterophylla*.** Occurs in Cape York Peninsula and Northeast

Queensland. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 300 m. Grows in beach forest, gallery forests and lowland rain forest following disturbance. Also occurs in New Guinea and other parts of Malaysia.

### Open Forests, Clearings and Flowers.

**Nonda Plum. *Parinari nonda*** is a small bushy tree (grows to 6m) in the family Chrysobalanaceae that grows in the open eucalypt woodlands. It occurs in northern Australia and New Guinea. The edible fruits are harvested in the wild by aboriginal people. The fruit contain a small seed surrounded by a potato like starchy flesh. Forshaw talks about Eclectus parrots eating these fruits only when there is nothing fruiting in the rainforest. The only occasion that I observed them eating nonda plums was post Cyclone Trevor in 2019.



Nonda Plum. *Parinari nonda* Photo: John Griffith

**Wild Passionfruit.** Also known as **Stinking Passion Vine (*Passiflora foetida*)**. A group of climbing plants with tendrils often found growing in neglected or weedy areas. The flowers can range in colour from white to pale purple. Also they can be a greenish yellow and sometimes red. Flower size can range from 6mm to 10cm in diameter. The leaves are usually 3-5 lobed but in certain species can be undivided with an entire margin. Opposite the leaves are long curling tendrils.



*Passiflora foetida*

By Vvenka1 at en.wikipedia, CC BY-SA 2.5,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3657316>

***Passiflora foetida* is the species of Wild Passionfruit that I found Eclectus parrots feeding on at Iron Range.**



By Leon Brooks - <http://www.public-domain-image.com/public-domain-images-pictures-free-stock-photos/flora-plants-public-domain-images-pictures/flowers-public-domain-images-pictures/passionfruit-cream.jpg>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=24918864>

**Flowers of both Rainforest and Eucalypt Woodland.** On two occasions I observed Eclectus parrots eating flowers (both post Cyclone Trevor, 2019) and on another occasion I found a group that appeared to be drinking nectar.

**Flame Tree. *Brachychiton acerifolius*** is a large tree of the family Malvaceae endemic to tropical and subtropical regions on the east coast of Australia. It is famous for the bright red bell-shaped flowers that often cover the whole tree when it is leafless. It is commonly known as the flame tree, Illawarra flame tree, lacebark tree, or (along with other members of the genus) kurrajong. Post Cyclone Trevor (2019) I observed several species of birds feeding on its flowers.

**Bottlebrush Orchid. *Dendrobium smillieae*** is an epiphytic or lithophytic orchid with large, spongy pseudobulbs, thin, bright green leaves which are shed after their first year and crowded flowers in a bottlebrush-like arrangement. This orchid species is found in some of the Torres Strait Islands, and through Cape York Peninsula to Townsville, Queensland. It is also found in New Guinea and eastern Indonesia (Sulawesi and Maluku). Post Cyclone Trevor (2019) I observed Eclectus parrots feeding on these flowers.

**Blackbean. *Castanospermum australe*** (also referred to as the **Moreton Bay chestnut**). The only species in the genus *Castanospermum*, is a flowering tree in the family **Fabaceae**, native to the east coast of Australia in Queensland and northern New South Wales. It is found on the Pacific islands of Vanuatu, New Caledonia, and the island of New Britain (Papua New Guinea). The seeds of the Blackbean are highly toxic, however, its flowers produce copious amounts of nectar. I have observed Eclectus parrots taking nectar from these flowers.

**In summary**, these fruits and flowers are just a small sample of what an Eclectus parrot eats in the wild on Cape York Peninsula. Why Eclectus and other species of parrot visit mangrove forests remains a mystery to me. It may be that they obtain important



**What Eclectus Parrots Eat in the Wild.**

Two of the reasons why I started looking at what Eclectus Parrots ate in the wild were because I never saw the females being feed large amounts of pulp by the males (as seen in this image taken from the documentary “Land

of Parrots”). It was always seeds. The other reason is that during the Eclectus Parrots breeding season the forest floor is littered with many different fruits that the parrots never eat. I wanted to find out why males travel long distances to feed on certain trees.

minerals from these areas, although I find it doubtful. Minerals are drawn up when water from the ocean is evaporated by the sun. Trees close to the coast absorb these minerals through the rain that falls on the forest.

**References.**

“Plants of Cape York” The compact guide by John Beasley.

“Australian Parrots” 3rd Edition by Forshaw and Cooper.

Wikipedia Encyclopaedia.

**About the author**

Who Am I? My name is John Griffith and I have been interested in birds (particularly Parrots and Finches) all of my life. I started keeping birds as a lad in the late 1960's.



During the late 1980's I realized that Aviculture was losing sub-species of our Australian Parrots so in 1990 I started to specialize in keeping and breeding the sub-species of parrots unique to Far North Queensland where I live.



I am a carpenter by trade and worked for most of my life on remote communities throughout Cape York Peninsula, the Torres Strait Islands and Western Queensland.





In 2012 I met Fulbright Scholar, Christina Zdenek who was doing her honors degree at the time on Palm Cockatoos at Iron Range. That started a working relationship (as a volunteer) with her and other PHD students from the Australian National University that were also studying Palm Cockatoos on Cape York Peninsula.



For the last four years I have worked as a volunteer with the RARES unit (under the guidance of Dr Steve Murphy) at the University of Queensland helping with rot recovery and research on Australia's rarest raptor, the Red Goshawk.





## **THE HAWFINCH:** a Dutch perspective

Lou Megens

Traditionally very difficult to breed, the majestic hawfinch is increasing in popularity both in the UK and on the Continent. LOU MEGENS of Holland, best known for breeding softbills, is definitely a fan and here he captures the essence of this wonderful species of finch

Hawfinch\_(*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*) Photo: Paul Cools



Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*) feeding chicks Photo: Jos van Neer

## HARDBILLS

IN AUTUMN and winter, the chance to see a haw/inch in woodland is a highlight for any birdwatcher, writes Gary Bralsford. It's a truly stunning finch and also the largest finch in the UK. Members of the birdkeeping fraternity love the challenge to keep, breed and show this beauty. On the OC Aviary Youtube channel you can see the excitement of C&AB contributor Oliver Crowther following his purchase of this species!

It is not a free breeder in an aviary. In fact, it is a complete challenge for breeders of finches. On the exhibition scene, the species draws crowds around its show cages.

*My friend in Holland, Lou Megens, has kept and bred this species and here he describes the process. Lou writes:*

- Anyone who has ever held a hawfinch, and in a unguarded moment has been surprised by its massive beak, knows

what it means when it is said that a hawfinch can exert pressure of up to 68kg/cm<sup>2</sup> with its beak!

This, the largest European finch, measures 18cm in length - and that is with just a short tail. With its mighty beak it can crush cherry stones and sloe kernels with ease.

To crack a kernel, the bird takes it vertically in the beak. This way, the kernel splits with the least force, though

from Scandinavia and North Africa, throughout Asia to Japan. In winter, birds in the north migrate to central Europe, replacing local breeders which head south. In Holland the breeding population is estimated at 10,000 pairs.

It can best be spotted near the very tops of trees, where it picks fruit and strips the fruit for the kernel. Often the birds remain unseen but you can hear the cracking of kernels. The call is a short, dry ptik ... ptik ... ptik.



Hawfinch\_(*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*) Man Appelvink Photo: Theo van de Mortel

it is still an amazing feat. The palate and lower beak have a kind of ribbed structure, which gives the bird a grip on hard kernels. The bird's folk names in Holland refers to his appearance and behaviour: "king's finch" or "cherry finch".

Wild hawfinches are very shy and also live mainly in the tops of trees. As a result, few people ever see this beauty in nature. The male in summer plumage is a gem, with a heavy dignified shape. The species is found in a vast area

#### **My Own Hawfinches**

The nest of a hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*) is quite large and mine have typically been built in April. The male is responsible for the structural work, and the hen acts as the "interior designer". In the aviary they like to use a large-format barred nest-box or a bullfinch nest. They will use coconut fibre in a wire basket. I put camouflage around the nest using Christmas tree



Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*) Nest Appelvink Photo: Theo van de Mortel

twigs. Being dark in colour, coconut fibre is an excellent material.

In an aviary hawfinches are still shy and can fly wildly, though now that more are being aviary-bred, this problem is gradually being bred out of them. The first ones I bred were erratic flyers and would crash into the aviary wire. Hawfinches are also quite ready to abandon their nest in the event of disturbance or danger. Once when my birds were brooding a nest of four fertile eggs, the local community had an event with fireworks. The clutch was abandoned and their season was over. A single brood is usual; two is less common.

Normally, the clutch is four to six blue eggs with dark markings and spots. The hen sits for two weeks and sometimes the male takes a turn. When hatched, the young are fed on a variety of insects. We also offer eggfood and



Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*) chicks Photo: Jos van Neer)



Hawfinch\_(Coccothraustes coccothraustes)Photo:Bart Biemans

soaked seed. Additional buffalo worms and waxworms were only offered after being cut up.

The young have a blue/violet red inside to their beak. They fledge after two weeks but carry on to learn life lessons from the parents. Initially, the fledged chicks eat soft seed. Then, as the inside of the beak develops, they try bigger

seeds. Young hawfinches lack black on the head and have striped and mottled chests.

These fantastic hardbills are still not at all easy to breed and in Holland they are even now "one for the specialist". As a companion bird, the hawfinch remains under-appreciated.



Hawfinch\_(Coccothraustes coccothraustes) Photo: Richard Burgmeijer



Hawfinch\_(*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*) in nest Photo: Huub Vervest



Lou Megens has been caring for, breeding, photographing, and writing about birds since his early youth. Born in the Brabant Valkenswaard, Netherlands, Lou has expertise in European aviculture that he has shared in many publications, including three books written in Dutch: *Europese cultuurvogels in opmars*, *'t Jaar rond*, and *Dappere Dodo*. You can see what Lou is up to on his [Facebook page](#).

## Why are there so many parrots in Los Angeles?

"There were like a million stories about how they got here."



San Francisco Sea Lion Lovers Call The Decision "Hasty,"  
But The Wild Parrots Are Now SF's Official Animal





A large bald eagle is shown in profile, looking down at a small, fluffy hawk chick in its nest. The eagle has dark brown feathers and a white head with a prominent white patch on its forehead. The hawk chick is much smaller, with light-colored downy feathers and a dark beak. They are situated in a nest made of twigs and branches, surrounded by green foliage.

**BALD EAGLE ADOPTS  
AND RAISES  
BABY HAWK IN CA**

## Double Yolk Dusky Conure

Photo: David Garcia



### Double Yolk Conure Results

David Garcia and Èlia Viader report a lone chick survived from their double yolk egg.



## How a High-Tech Egg Could Help the Endangered California Condor

Scientists are working to improve the breeding success of the condor. Their secret assistant: a plastic, 3-D printed, sensor-laden “smart egg.”





**Check your bird's feet!**

Parrots have small rounded raised areas of the skin on the feet called papillae.

If parrots have incorrect perches or are lacking vitamins in their diet, then the papillae can become flattened and disappear. They can also develop very painful sores that can become ulcerated.

We recommend a balanced diet with adequate vitamin levels along with multiple natural perches in their cage.

# Efficient Sample Collection for DNA Test

Jan Nichols

This blood sample collection hack comes from Jan Nichols at Nichols at Jan Nichols Birds.

Lancing devices are generally used by people monitoring their blood sugar and are available on amazon.com

The lancing device is used to hold the lancet, which is the sharp end of business. A draw and release mechanism thrusts the lancet out of the device and makes a small puncture in the skin from which a blood sample may be collected.

Before using, alcohol wipe the foot pad. Jan suggests to adjust the device to the #3 setting (may be different on other lancing devices so, results may vary.)

Jan used largest gauge lancette.

This method is very easy, quick and is not as messy as clipping toenails and is great for young when it's not possible to clip a toenail.

Blood samples are less expensive than processing feather or egg shell DNA testing. Follow your DNA testing company's requirements for submittal.



## Scientists just found velociraptor's feathered Chinese cousin



Parrots taught to video call each other become less lonely, finds research  
US study got owners to train their pets to contact other birds using a touchscreen tablet



Follow the link in the article to view two videos.  
<https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3544548.3581166>

## Not extinct! Ivory-billed woodpecker is alive in Louisiana, National Aviary says





Dario Martins  
April 26 at 5:27 PM ·  
Incredible but true!

Anting is a behaviour in which birds land on a nest of ants and allow the ants to invade their feathers. The ants will then spray formic acid on the invader. This acid will act as an insecticide, a fungicide and a bactericide that will rid the bird of all its pathogens!





## Murphy

[worldbirdsanctuary.org](http://worldbirdsanctuary.org)

This is 31 year old Murphy, the adult eagle. He has lived at World Bird Sanctuary for almost his whole life. He is sort of a celebrity right now. You may have heard about him. It's a good story. Listen. Murphy can't be released because he can't fly. He has never had a mate. This year he decided he wanted a baby so he found a rock, made a nest and incubated the rock all by himself. (The rock is in the one picture) But look what happened! The Sanctuary received this little eaglet when it's nest was destroyed. It's a couple of weeks old. So they decided to try

to let Murphy raise the eaglet. They removed the rock and put the little guy in his enclosure with him. They have bonded! And Murphy has started feeding it! Some fans think the baby should be named Rock-et or Rock-y. (they don't name birds that will be released though) The baby will hopefully be able to be released this summer and Murphy will have gotten his wish to be a dad. Pix from the WBS FB page.

For those of you just joining us - and for those who might need a catch-up... today we're presenting



a synopsis of the continuing saga of Murphy, RockBaby, the eagle aviary, and eaglet 23-126.

Waaay back on March 8th, our story began when Keeper Kerstin noticed Murphy the eagle protecting a large depression in the ground. The spot was sparsely but carefully decorated with leaves and branches, and featured a simple rock right in the center.

Later that day, Keeper Kerstin saw Murphy sitting on the rock as if it were an egg, and he continued to do so day after day.

Soon Murphy's strange behavior began attracting the attention of visitors to World Bird Sanctuary, and they pointed at Murphy and began asking The Keepers if he was sick, since he was just sitting on the ground. At one point, SO many

people were asking about Murphy's behavior that Keeper Tess put a sign on the enclosure that read, "Is That Eagle Hurt? If you see an eagle lying down in the back left corner under a perch, that's Murphy! Murphy is not hurt, sick, or otherwise in distress. He has built a nest on the ground, and is very carefully incubating a rock! We wish him the best of luck!"

We shared Murphy's story on our social media pages, and a cool lady called "Lonesome Toast" shared it on Twitter, and within days, Murphy's story was being shared all over the world! Murphy has been featured on 3 local TV stations, radio, CNN, Fox, and HuffPost among others. Everyone loved Murphy's story, but they also felt bad for him. So many questions and comments flooded in.

“Give Murphy a mate!” - there are two female eagles in the aviary, one non-flighted just like him. None of them had any interest in the other! “Give Murphy a real egg!” - There would be no reason to exchange Murphy’s beloved RockBaby for a plastic or wooden egg. A chicken or goose could be in danger if it was hatched out by an eagle, plus we just don’t need a chicken or goose that imprints on a bald eagle! Additionally, chickens and geese are not obligate carnivores, so Murphy could not feed & raise it. “He’s going to be sad when it doesn’t hatch” - Murphy is just acting on spring hormones. Once they’d run their course, RockBaby would’ve been abandoned and Murphy would’ve moved on to other eagle activities.

Meanwhile, back in the aviary, tensions were building amongst the 5 bald eagles that shared the giant enclosure. Murphy was becoming SO protective of his nest, that he began to scream and charge at any of the other eagles that came anywhere NEAR the nest. The rest of the eagles were becoming stressed and a little scared to move around. The staff had a meeting, and decided to move Murphy and his RockBaby to their own private enclosure, so all the eagles involved would be less stressed.

That same week, an eagle nest containing two chicks near Ste. Genevieve, Missouri was blown down by very high winds. One chick perished in the fall, but the other was found and rescued by faithful nest watcher, Cindy, and brought to World Bird Sanctuary’s Wildlife Hospital.

This little eaglet was bruised and battered, but otherwise in good shape. We estimated an age of

about 14 days. Our Dr. Allison Daugherty gave the chick a very good prognosis, and a plan was made to introduce the chick to one of our adult bald eagles to foster, but which one?

In the meantime, the little eaglet was healing in the hospital and needed to be fed. Eaglet was fed by staff dressed in a full camouflage suit, and holding an eagle stuffy - to prevent imprinting on humans. The eaglet was/is eating 250 grams of food every day! Most of our adult bald eagles eat between 300 and 400 grams a day!

It was then decided that we would give Murphy a chance at fostering the eaglet. Murphy’s dad instincts were already in high gear, but at 31 years old, he had never raised a chick before. It’s definitely a gamble, but also the chick’s best chance. BabyRock was removed, and the chick was introduced to his enclosure in the “baby jail.” When introducing the first baby of the year to any of our foster parents we use an item that we refer to as the “Baby Jail”. This is largely due to the fact that “Baby Introduction Enclosure” is a bit of a mouthful while “Baby Jail” just kinda rolls off the tongue!

It also kinda looks like a jail.

The baby jail is a box we constructed with wood framing and wire siding. It is small enough to easily move but large enough to comfortably house the baby. Soft blankets covering a heating pad are placed in the bottom before adding the baby to the jail.

The jail is then placed in the larger enclosure where the adult is being housed. The wire siding allows the baby and the adult to see each other before being able



to physically interact. This helps get the adult into baby mode and avoids the risk of injury to the baby while the adult is getting into baby mode. Interactions are then monitored closely via security camera.

Once the adult appears to have accepted the baby, the baby is let out of the jail to interact freely with the adult. Interactions continue to be monitored over the security camera to see if the adult is feeding the baby or if we still need to come in and do so in our camo gear.

And that brings us to today! The eaglet (inside the baby jail) was introduced to Murphy's new enclosure last week, and Murphy has displayed the behavior we were looking for. He has responded to the peeps of the baby, and begun protecting the area. For temperature reasons, the baby has been brought inside and fed in the evenings, but the chick's feathering has now developed to the point that it can now regulate its own body temperature.



And that is the story so far! This week, Murphy will get the chance to have direct access to the chick and we will see if he accepts it completely. There is absolutely no guarantee that he will do so, but hopes are high, and he has SO many people - including all of you - cheering him on.

We will keep you posted!!



Bali mynah prepared to be released into the wild perch on branches inside an enclosure in Tabanan, Indonesia on Apr. 17, 2022. Tatan Syuflana / AP

## In Bali, bird sellers help endangered mynah make a comeback

The Bali mynah has been a highly sought collector's item in the international cage bird trade for more than a century due to their striking white plumage and song

Celebrating 40 years since Sisquoc became the first California Condor, hatched in captivity, at the San Diego Zoo's Avian Propagation Center, on March 30, 1983. He's still fathering chicks at the San Diego Zoo/ Safari Park Condominium - 27 so far.. From only 22 left on Earth to over 500 now, and so many soaring once again in expanded ranges. Wildlife conservation at its finest. Ban lead bullets.



**Denise Gillen**

**Sisquoc - Love at first bite!!! SD Zoo - 3/30/83 — with Bill Toone.**

## Shipper's Certification and Journey Declaration

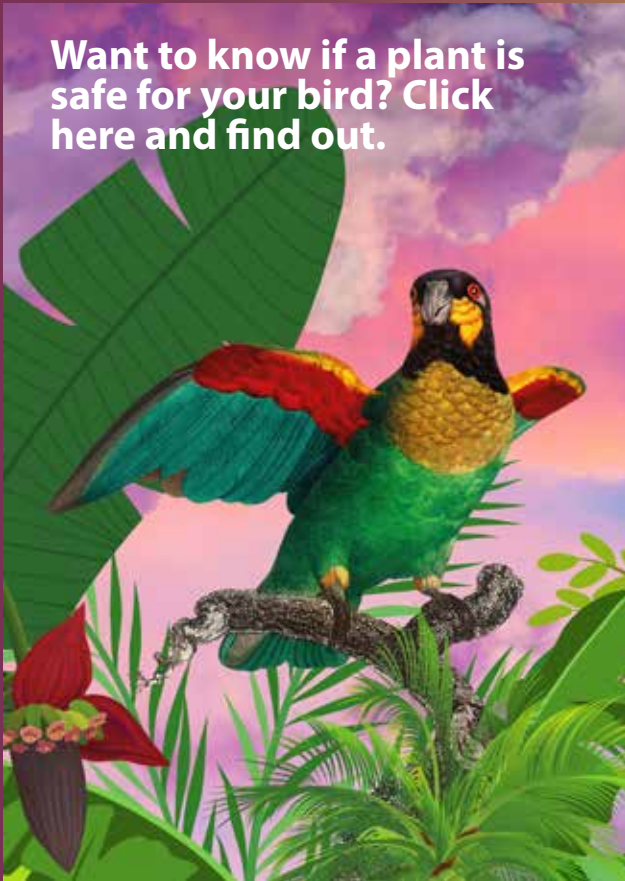
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If you ship frequently, it might be a good idea to print several of these out and have them in your vehicle, just in case.

**Want to know if a plant is safe for your bird? Click here and find out.**



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## **Elderly penguins receive ‘world first’ custom lenses in successful cataract surgery**

Lou Megens

The first dandelions have bloomed and are forming seeds. Even before the seed screens unfold, these semi-ripe weed seeds are perfect for many species of birds! The birds are loving it! My wife uses the other parts of the plant; leaves for salad, buds she uses to make salty “cappers” and the flowers she makes tea!



Stunning image of flamingos gathered as one flamingo the 'holy grail' of wildlife photography



Science Says Being Surrounded by Birds Can Make You Happier





Kenya power and lighting company replaced the poles but retains the woodpecker's home



Photo: Edgar/Unsplash

## Flamingos Form Cliques, Just Like Humans

Lories Eating Seeds

<https://youtu.be/Hg7v2A6H53w>



Dot Rambin

There is lots of preening being done as the birds molt into their nuptial plumage or breeding plumage. You can see the tiny white feathers on this egret's beak. Also note you can only see the bird's right leg. Birds do not lie down so to rest a leg and keep it warm, they tuck the leg into their feathers.

Follicular choristoma in the third eyelid of an eclectus parrot (*Eclectus roratus*)  
Click on AVMA to go to article online



Journals

## Zinc: Lead's Ugly Cousin



#AAVBirdTales



click on photo to go to website

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# EverythingBIRDSOnline.com

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

The mission of Everything Birds is to pair individuals and families with the right species for their lifestyle and family dynamics to achieve a satisfying, long-term companionship.

We feel if our customers or a potential bird owner understands and embraces the species they are interested in, then through our guidance, continued education and support they will commit to these creatures for the rest of their lives and sometimes into their children's lives.

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There is always an impressive variety of birds flying, pecking and waddling around our sprawling, 5000+ sq ft store so come in and find a cuddly baby to hold! The store is also filled to bursting with an extensive inventory of cages, toys, food, treats and every other item imaginable that contributes to making your companion bird happy and healthy.

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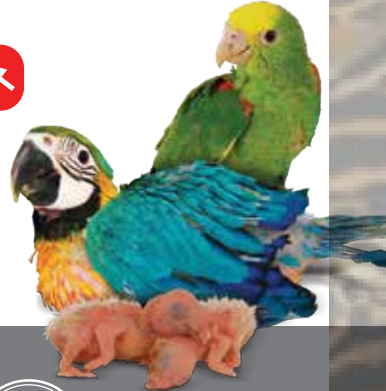
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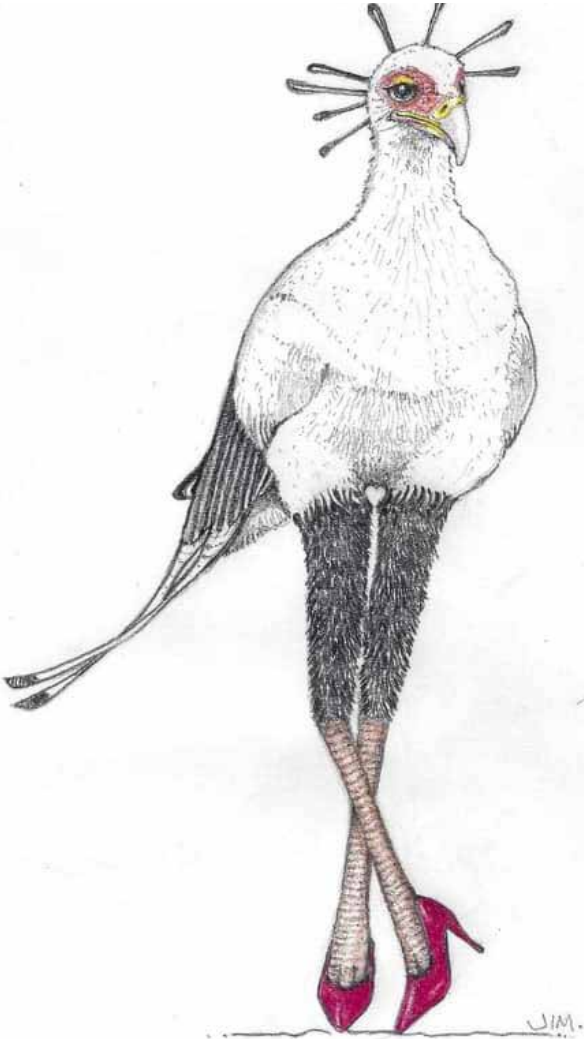
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**Birds in Shoes**

Jim Sorensen

From my memories 3 years ago. Secretary bird in red high heels. I had 2 suggestions from friends that wanted a bird in red high heels. [www.jimsorensen.com](http://www.jimsorensen.com).



Thank you, Jim Sorensen for allowing ASA to share your beautifully creative images!

# Who's Your Daddy?

Stumped? See answer on page 53



Photo: Carol Stanley



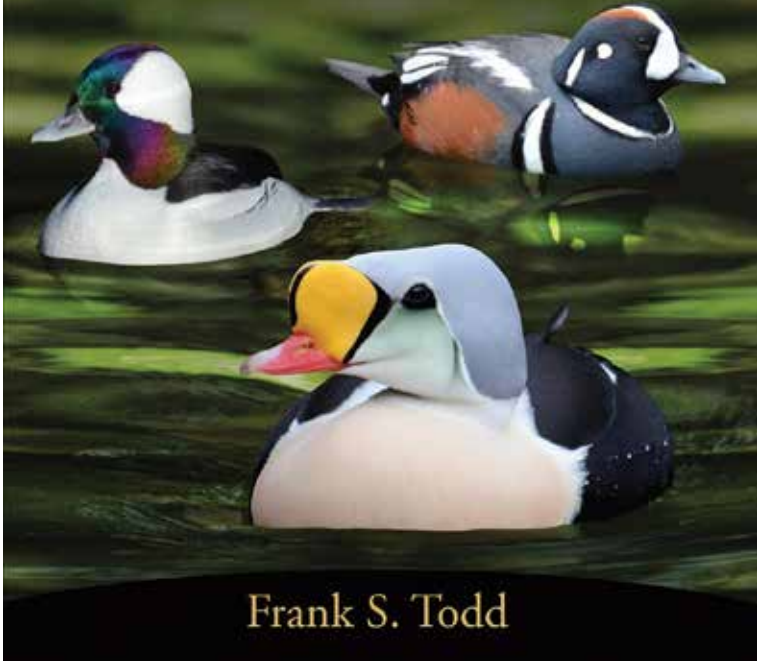
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# NORTH AMERICAN DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS

## IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



Frank S. Todd

In honour of our friend, colleague, and author, Frank Todd, Hancock House is pleased to commit a percentage of all revenues of books sold through our website to the Frank Todd Memorial Foundation to continue to promote the work Frank spent much of his life striving towards wildlife conservation and education. You can purchase Ducks, Geese & Swans of North America: Identification Guide at: <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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Photo: Carol Stanley

### Who's Your Daddy?

From page 51, Answer: Blue mutation yellow-naped Amazon  
(*Amazona ochrocephala auropalliata*)

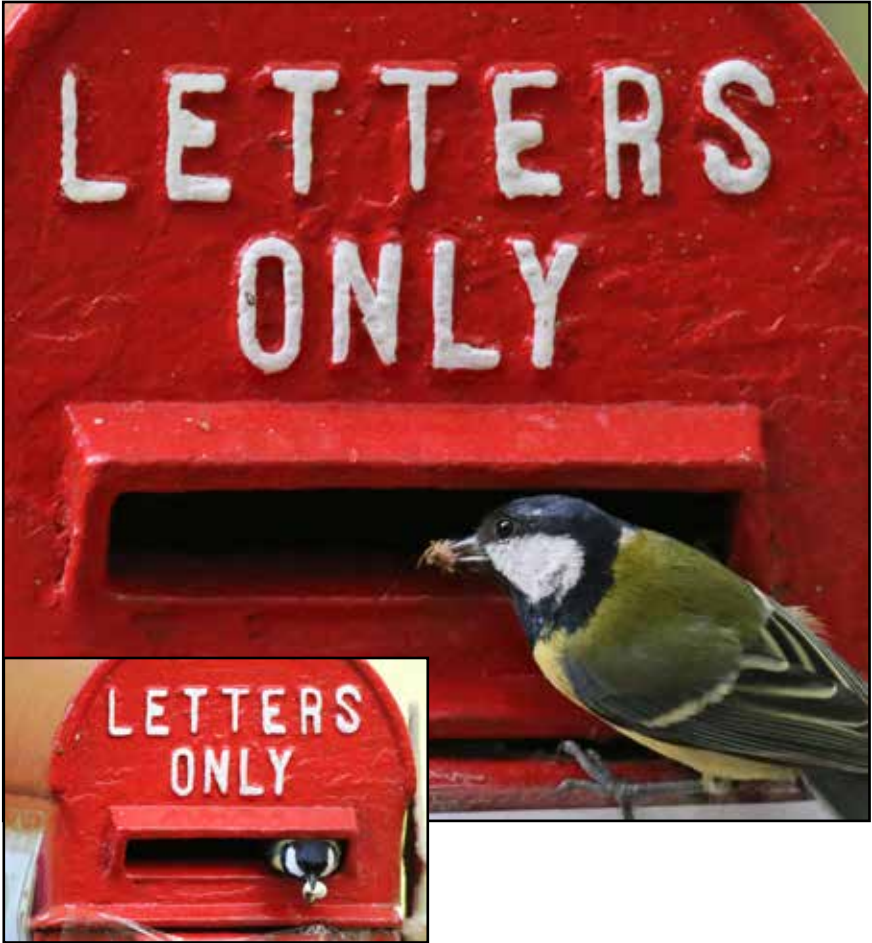
The Blue Mutation Yellow-Naped Amazon, (*Amazona ochrocephala auropalliata*), is one of most sought after parrots in the world. These Blue Amazons are more intelligent than most of their green relatives and their gorgeous blue color and larger size give them an impressive presence that cannot be captured in a photo.

Yellow Naped Amazons, as they mature, will naturally lose the ability to produce blue in the area of the nape. This is what causes that area to “turn” yellow in normally colored birds. In actuality they are not really “turning” yellow but losing blue which allows

us to visualize the remaining yellow. In Blue Yellow Napes, this area will become white as their genetic tendency to lose the blue coloration in the area, combines with their genetic lack of yellow.

#### SIZE & PERSONALITY

They are more intelligent and larger than most Yellow-Napes and that has been the opinion of all that have worked with them. Their talking ability and desire to engage in speech is incredible and they will talk whether you choose to formally teach them or not. This is also true of those that are kept as future breeders and therefore not kept tame or interacted with as family or personal pets.







# EVENTS

## 2023 EVENTS

### AVICULTURAL UNITED AFA/ASA/OPA COMBINED CONFERENCE DALLAS, TX

September 28 thru September 30, 2023  
Combined conference with AFA



This year the AFA (American Federation of Aviculture) and the ASA (Avicultural Society of America) and Organizations of Professional Aviculturists (OPA) are combining their annual Educational Conference. Hilton Richardson, in Dallas, Texas from September 28 thru September 30, 2023

<http://afabirds.org>

This not-to-be missed combined conference features a plethora of notable speakers and Ft. Worth Zoo will host our off site tour.

### STAY AN EXTRA DAY AND VISIT DALLAS WORLD AQUARIUM

Enjoy reduced entrance fees on October 1, 2023 at Dallas World Aquarium.



## ASA MEMBER CLUBS

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Long Beach, CA 90815  
[longbeachbirdbreeders@gmail.com](mailto:longbeachbirdbreeders@gmail.com)

Contra Costa Avian Society  
P.O. Box 23115  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
[www.contracostaaviansociety.org](http://www.contracostaaviansociety.org)

Orange County Bird Breeders  
[www.ocbirdbreeders.org](http://www.ocbirdbreeders.org)

Acadiana Bird Club  
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Youngsville, LA 70592  
[acadianabirdinc@hotmail.com](mailto:acadianabirdinc@hotmail.com)

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Arizona Seedcracker Society Inc  
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American Dove Association  
American Federation of Aviculture  
[LoryLeague.org](http://LoryLeague.org)  
National Animal Interest Alliance  
National Finch and Softbill Society  
Organization of Professional Aviculturists  
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