



A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND EDUCATION  
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

**NEXT ISSUE**



*Jurong Bird Park*

Steve Duncan

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: Demoiselle crane (*Anthropoides virgo*) Photo: Nancy Ingram. © 2012-2016 Avicultural Society of America. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced without express written permission by ASA.

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September/October 2016  
President's Message

Change is in the Air.

Change is hard.

Change is opportunity.

I'm referencing the Avicultural Society of America Avicultural Bulletin. That full color magazine we all know and love. The opportunity is that we can make the Bulletin better, whilst cutting a major chunk of ASA's budget.

Time marches on. More and more, young people receive their information digitally. Through the use of current online publishing technology, many exciting benefits may be realized with the creation of an eBulletin: video, sound, animations, unlimited space and savings on printing and mailing.

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Carol Stanley

President, Avicultural Society of America

p.s. ASA board member elections are coming this fall. Let us know if you are interested in joining our team. Email: [info@asabirds.org](mailto:info@asabirds.org) for more information.

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Breeding Gold-breasted Waxbills  
*Amandava subflava*

*Nancy Ingram*

Photos and Article ©Nancy Ingram

Gold-breasted Waxbills are native to much of sub-Saharan Africa. Other common names include Orange-breasted Waxbill, Zebra Waxbill, Golden-breasted Waxbill and Goldbreasts. There are two subspecies of this tiny finch, *Amandava subflava subflava* and *Amandava subflava clarkei*. The *subflava* male has a uniform yellow/orange breast. The *clarkei* has a bright yellow/orange spot high on his breast. Males have a bold red stripe over the eyes from the lores to ear coverts. The markings of the males are much darker after their second year. The female has a pale orange breast with soft shell markings on the flanks. These are the smallest of the African Estrildid finches. Their lifespan is 6-10 years.

Gold-breasted Waxbills are not difficult to breed in captivity. The three most common problems people have with them are egg binding, nest abandonment, and insufficient live food. I bred this species in my sun porch for several years in a collection of other small finches.

The females started having trouble with egg binding. I was afraid I would lose them because every time I put females in my sun porch

to breed they would get egg bound. They ended up in a heated hospital cage until they passed the egg. Then I put them in a cage in the house to recover. People who breed Gold-breasted Waxbills in cages don't have this problem



if they provide soft food which includes vitamin D<sub>3</sub> and calcium because, in a cage situation, birds usually eat the soft food.



Every other day I give soft food to all my birds. I include mashed hard boiled eggs, chopped greens such as broccoli, cilantro, carrots and carrot tops, chard, mustard, Romaine lettuce, plus pulverized turkey starter, crushed oyster shells,

breasted Waxbills in cages eagerly eat this mixture—perhaps out of boredom. In my sun porch, the birds ignore the soft food because there are so many growing vegetables and live insects to choose from! I solved the egg binding problem by stirring



in a little cod liver oil into their seeds. I add just enough to give the seeds a slight sheen; if I use too much, the seeds clump. Fish oil is a commonly recommended treatment for egg binding. Finches shell their seeds but some of the oil must be ingested during the process as I haven't had a problem with egg binding since I started stirring in a little fish oil!

Nest abandonment in my sun porch has never been a problem. It can be a problem in a cage if the breeder does nest checks. Never touch the chicks in the nest with a finger or the parents will abandon them for sure. If you absolutely have to check the nest, use a borescope to look inside. Insufficient live food to feed the chicks may also be a cause for the parents

to abandon a nest. I specifically raise certain plants to support white flies and hang special bowls in my sun porch to raise fruit flies in.

vitamins, cod liver oil, and crushed egg shells. I mix all the greens together but put everything else in separate piles. Indoors, my Gold-

to abandon a nest. I specifically raise certain plants to support white flies and hang special bowls in my sun porch to raise fruit flies in.

*My sun porch  
is heavily  
planted with  
bushes,  
food plants,  
medicinal  
plants and  
plants that  
host certain  
insects.*



I breed my birds in a temperature controlled sun porch which I try to keep between 60° F. and 90° F. This involves several heating and cooling systems in different seasons (vents, heaters, winter blankets, fans, summer screens, misters on timers, an air conditioner) and I try to have back-up systems in place. I have several full spectrum lights in both flights. The ceiling and walls are translucent plastic with air



*Nancy's sun porch in winter*

chambers. Unlike glass, plastic lets in ultraviolet light unless specially treated. My sun porch is heavily planted with bushes, food plants, medicinal plants and plants that host certain insects. Composts in both 10' x 15' flights support small moths and insects. I raise fruit flies in wire covered bowls suspended from a trellis. This fruit fly culture is maintained indefinitely by adding a piece of fruit to each bowl every

three or four days. I grow plants like collard greens, kale, tomatoes, and hibiscus that support white flies. The birds hunt for tiny insects and sprouting seeds in the composts. I hoe the composts weekly. Small mealworms are also readily eaten by these finches. I don't have any birds throwing out babies due to lack of protein.

I put a variety of nesting sites around the aviary at about eye



My "corners" are made of 10" square sides of 1/2" wire screen, wire triangle top and bottom, rough edges smoothed with abrasive disc, top and sides covered with shade cloth and artificial foliage. A bamboo nest is fastened high in the corner.

level. This species is happy in my sun porch with the extra privacy provided by some versions of my "corners" and "tubes"; see photos above. These nesting structures have closed or open bamboo nests attached. I put long blades of fresh grass out so the birds can line their nests. The birds prefer these secluded nesting sites but will accept closed split bamboo nests in a cage.

I have three pairs of Gold-breasted Waxbills in a flight with other small finch species. I have observed that the female spends a little more time in the nest than the male although both parents sleep in the nest at night. The eggs are incubated for

12 days. Many people band finches at 10 days of age but this species frequently abandons their chicks if they are touched before they fledge. I recommend banding Gold-breasted Waxbills two weeks after fledging so the band will be more likely to stay on. If I absolutely have to check the nest, I will look inside with a borescope.<sup>1</sup> I have made a chart to keep track of how long incubation takes for this species, days to fledging, and the length of time they are dependent on their parents. I write these milestones on a calendar as they occur.

Gold-breasted Waxbills are wonderful parents if provided with sufficient

<sup>1</sup> A borescope is a fiber optic tool used to see into small spaces. \*See next page for more detailed description.



My "tubes" are rolled ¼" wire screen about 11" square, upper side covered with greenhouse cloth and artificial leaves with a short entry perch and a small open nest fastened at the far end.

live food to feed their chicks and left to do their job without interference. They are constantly feeding and grooming their chicks. The chicks fledge 21 days after they hatch but are dependent on their parents for another 28 days after they leave the nest. I keep only small compatible finch species together. These are gentle birds in a mixed collection of small finches.

For years I banded all the chicks with the smallest band I could find (2.20mm NFSS, size A). Almost all of these bands fell off. I stopped breeding them for a while because I couldn't keep track of the families without bands. Now I am colony breeding and not banding them or keeping track of bloodlines. I remove chicks as they become

independent. I am careful to remove young birds before their beak turns from grey to black/red so I can distinguish them from the adults. Colony breeding requires three or more pairs of Gold-breasted Waxbills. Many commercial cages are designed for larger birds. Bar spacing for this species should be 3/8" or less. Young chicks can easily slip through these bars so extra precautions must be taken to keep them with their parents if breeding in a cage.

The price of this species in the bird trade is artificially kept down by imports. Gold-breasted Waxbills will be among the first finches to disappear from bird marts and shows should their importation be interrupted or stopped. Domestic breeding does not keep up with demand.



# Borescope/Endoscope

*Carol Stanley*

Nancy Ingram's Gold-breasted Waxbill article mentioned an item I was not familiar with, so, I did a little research and will share the results with you here.

The wikipedia definition is:

"A borescope (occasionally called a boroscope, though this spelling is nonstandard) is an optical device consisting of a rigid or flexible tube with an eyepiece on one end, an objective lens on the other linked together by a relay optical system in between. The optical system in some instances is surrounded by optical fibers used for illumination of the remote object. An internal image of the illuminated object is formed by the objective lens and magnified by the eyepiece which presents it to the viewer's eye.

Rigid or flexible borescopes may be fitted with an imaging or video device. For medical use, similar instruments are called endoscopes."

My go-to online shopping place is [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

When doing a search for "borescope," over 1800 results appear. By looking through the listings, I noticed the primary use is for the automotive industry - checking engines and looking in tight spaces usually not visible to the naked eye.

Some sellers call them endoscopes, which is the instrument used by a veterinarian to perform dna sexing and investigating internal cavities.

Starting around US\$17, these handy devices can be hooked up via usb to a laptop or to an iPhone or Android phone and provide a clear view of wherever it is pointed at.

Some are waterproof and some have their own attached viewing screen.

This seems like a handy device, especially for those hard-to-reach places. I will definitely try one for myself.



# Lory League at ASA Conference

*Julie Corwin*

*The Lory League was very excited to be invited to participate in the ASA Conference held in Port Angeles, WA. It was fun to be included with the ASA attendees from many different parts of the country. It was the first time ASA has had an Exhibition Bird Show at their Conference.*

The shows were hosted by Lory League and sponsored by NFSS. Two NFSS shows were held and judged by Sally Huntington, and a Pet Parrot Division was held for fun. Lory League also set up their huge Walk Through Aviary which is 21 feet by 42 feet. The aviary boasted 27 different species for attendees to see and learn more about.

There were many exciting happenings during the weekend. Debbie Goodrich of Parrot Ambassadors provided a bird trick show for the attendees. A bird managed to escape and many of the

JULIE CORWIN DISPLAYING HER PRESIDENT'S AWARD PHOTO GLEN BROWNING

hotel staff and ASA attendees helped in the recovery. A special thanks to David Hancock for the actual capture.

The very first Presidential Award of ASA was presented to Julie Corwin during the Saturday evening banquet dinner for her coordination and presentation of the Bird Shows and the Walk Through Aviary.



Sally Huntington was presented a special gift from Lory League for judging the show. A ceramic tile with the featured Lory for 2016, a Red-collared lory *Trichoglossus rubritorquis*, specifically made for her with her name and "Show Judge" included.







JUDGE HUNTINGTON WITH LORY LEAGUE GIFT PHOTO JULIE CORWIN

**Morning show** results from NFSS show hosted by Lory League at the ASA Conference in Port Angeles, WA: Show Judge—Sally Huntington  
13 Birds – 3 Exhibitors:

- 1st - Tri-colored Society Finch – Dezirae Lord
- 2nd - Fawn Pied Society Finch – Dezirae Lord
- 3rd - Dilute Fawn Society Finch – Dezirae Lord
- 4th – Red-crested Turaco – Julie Corwin
- 5th - Dilute Pied Finch – Dezirae Lord

**Afternoon show** results from NFSS show hosted by Lory League at the ASA Conference in Port Angeles, WA:

Show Judge—Sally Huntington

27 Entries – 6 Exhibitors

- 1st - American Chocolate Society Finch – Ivan & Claudia Montes
- 2nd - Pearl Society Finch hen – Ivan & Claudia Montes
- 3rd - American Chocolate Society Finch pair – Ivan & Claudia Montes
- 4th - Silver Gouldian Finch cock – Kelsey Hartsell
- 5th - Dilute Pied Society Finch – Desirae Lord
- 6th - Grey Zebra Finch cock – Amber Adamson
- 7th - Grey Pied Society – Ivan & Claudia Montes
- 8th - Fawn Society Finch – Amber Adamson
- 9th – Red-crested Turaco – Julie Corwin
- 10th - King Frill Society Finch – Ivan & Claudia Montes
- Best Novice- Red-crested Turaco- Julie Corwin
- Best Junior – Dilute Pied Society Finch – Desirae Lord

Judge's Favorite– King Frill Society Finch – Ivan & Claudia Montes

**Pet Parrot Division** – hosted by Lory League at the ASA Conference:  
20 Entries – 3 Exhibitors

- 1st – Conclurry Parrot – Julie Corwin
- 2nd - Blue-fronted Amazon – Renee Landin & Robert Cumpston
- 3rd - Blue-crowned Conure – Debbie Goodrich
- 4th - White-bellied Caique – Julie Corwin
- 5th - Rose-breasted Cockatoo – Julie Corwin
- 6th - Green-winged Macaw – Debbie Goodrich
- 7th - African Grey Congo – Debbie Goodrich
- 8th - Senegal – Debbie Goodrich
- 9th - Blue Pied Parrotlet – Julie Corwin
- 10th - Duyvenbode's Lory – Julie Corwin
- Best Novice – Blue-fronted Amazon-Renee Landin & Robert Cumpston
- Judge's Favorite- Rose-breasted Cockatoo – Julie Corwin





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Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and select the Avicultural Society of America as your charitable organization.



Photos on previous page taken at Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, Washington by Steve Duncan and Carol Stanley during complimentary zoo tour after ASA conference. Thank you Shawn Pederson and Mark Myers!





### *Steve's Photo Pick*

White-breasted Kingfishers, *Halcyon smyrnensis*, also known as the White-throated or Smyrna Kingfisher, have a huge range from the eastern shores of the Mediterranean across the Middle East, through India and all the way across southern China, SE Asia, and out to the Pacific islands of the Philippines and parts of Indonesia. They are common within their range which is actually expanding. Kingfishers live on every continent except the Antarctic. Many Kingfishers do catch and eat fish, but most, including the White-breasted, will also eat more terrestrial prey such as insects, amphibians, reptiles, and even small rodents and birds. They most often hunt from an exposed perch and dive to the ground or into the water to catch prey. Nests of the White-breasted are typically tunnels that they dig into cliff faces.

# Raising Green-naped Lorikeets

by Gregory Sercel

Photos by Gregory Sercel

Green-naped lorikeets, *Trichoglossus haematodus haematodus*, are medium sized parrots native to New Guinea and Indonesia. The green-nape lorikeet is one of 22 subspecies of the rainbow lorikeet. It was accidentally introduced in southwestern Australia in the 1960s near the University of Western Australia. It has also been introduced to New Zealand and Hong Kong. Since then, their population has grown so large that fruit farmers consider them a pest. The lorikeets' diet consists of fruit, nectar, parts of flowers, and insects. Because of the fruit and soft food diet, lorikeets have hairs on the tips of their unusually long tongues to lap up nectar. These hairs are called papillae. In captivity, lorikeets can eat lorikeet nectar mix with chunks of fruit. In Australia, lorikeets normally breed in spring (September to December in Australia). In captivity, they can breed multiple times throughout the year. The clutch size varies from one to three eggs, and the eggs are incubated for about 25 days.

Green-naped lorikeets are generally polygamous in the wild, and do not bond for life. In captivity, lorikeets can be bred in pairs in large cages or aviaries.

I hand raised two green-naped lorikeet chicks hatched by a breeding pair and owned by a friend of mine. The parents were housed in a large outdoor aviary. When I began to hand rear the chicks, they were three



3 week old baby green-naped lorikeet

weeks old and weighed roughly 60 grams. I fed them Kaytee Exact® hand-feeding formula until they were five weeks old and weighed over 80 grams, then I began supplementing their diet with lorikeet nectar. I fed them using a combination of a bent spoon and a syringe. Bent spoons are great feeding utensils and they give you more interaction time with the chicks and, as a result, they are tamer. Syringes works equally as well, and they are much faster for filling a chick's crop. They also require less prep time.

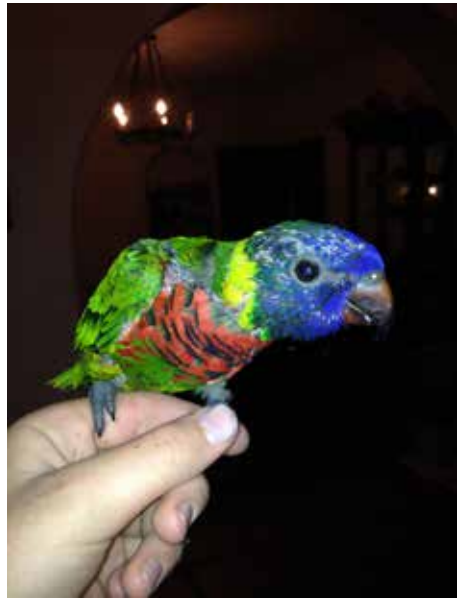
At five weeks old, both chicks started eating on their own, and by six weeks, they weighed over 100 grams. The attached chart shows the growth rate of both lorikeets over a 5-week period.

Lorikeets begin to grow feathers around four weeks and are mostly

feathered by 6-8 weeks old. These images show the feather development at 3 weeks and 8 weeks.

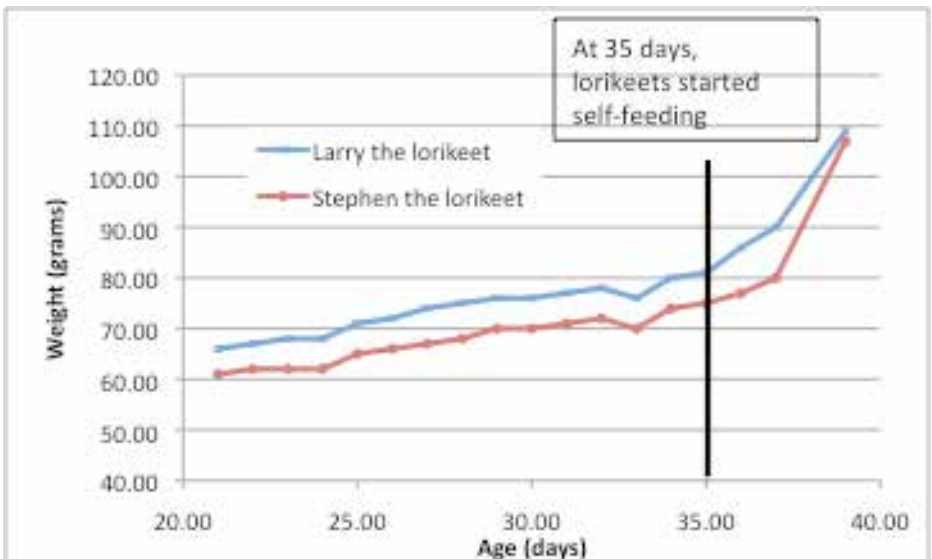
Around five weeks of age, rainbow lorikeets begin to have a beak color change from black to orange. Adult rainbow lorikeets have a bright red or orange beak, but the chicks only begin to get the pigment around the time they are fledging.

For the first two weeks I had the baby chicks, I kept them in a tub inside an incubator at 80 degrees F. I was using paper towels and nesting box material as bedding and was having to clean it about two times a day. Then, Carol Stanley at Feathered Nest Aviary in Northern California recommended that I use equine pellets (a compressed pine shaving that acts like kitty litter), and a tub with a trash bag as a liner so that I didn't have to scoop the bedding every time I cleaned it. I took her advice and I only had to clean the brooder every two days. When I did, I just had to lift the trash bag out



8 week old baby green-naped lorikeet

and replace it. Carol gave me other tips about food consistency, brooder temperature, and how to wean the chicks. Lorikeets are great birds to raise, and I hope to keep them again.





BLACKSMITH *VANELLUS ARMATUS* PHOTO KATERI DAVIS-LUND





Try the Unusual - Try Plovers!

*by Kateri J. Davis*

*Davis Lund Aviaries*

*Have a large outside aviary, no close neighbors, and want something easy to care for and different in appearance? Want a boldly patterned ground bird that is not a hider? Plovers are an excellent choice for zoos and private aviculturists!*

Plovers are found throughout the world, except for Antarctica, and comprise a large family, Charadriidae, of which there are about 63 species. They are typically found around water. Different species can be found on ocean beaches, around lakes and rivers, and some live in grassland environments. They are strictly ground birds; never perching. All plovers have similar body shapes and behaviors, and are monomorphic so sexing is required to ensure a true pair. In the wild, plovers eat a variety of animal food, mainly insects, small fish, crustaceans, and other small invertebrates.

The larger plovers are also known as lapwings and are in the Vanellus genus. They have long legs and large spurs or sharp, bony projections on the wrists of their wings.

Stunning and beautiful shorebirds, unfortunately plovers are not often found in private aviculture and are more commonly found in zoos where they are provided with the large enclosures they require. They make perfect display birds as they prefer to be in the open so are easily seen by all. Lapwings are alert and active, constantly wary, even at night. They seem to never sleep.

Two of the most attractive lapwings are the Blacksmith (*Vanellus armatus*) and Spurwing (*V. spinosus*) species. The *Vanellus* lapwing species native to Africa are among the most popularly kept plovers, but there are other species native to Australia, such as the Masked Lapwing (*Vanellus*

BLACKSMITH VANELLUS ARMATUS PHOTO KATERI DAVIS-LUND





BLACKSMITH *VANELLUS ARMATUS* PHOTO KATERI DAVIS-LUND

miles) that are also occasionally seen in USA aviculture. A few individuals of different species have been imported here and there throughout the years, and some are being domestically bred by private individuals as well as by zoos in the USA.

Adult lapwings are hardy, long-lived, and adaptable. Individuals living over fifteen years old is not unusual. One of our Spurwings is over 35 years old and still laying eggs.

We have been working with and raising plovers since the late

1990's. This article will address the husbandry and care of the lapwing species, as care for the smaller plovers varies somewhat.

### **HOUSING**

Large and open is the key to housing plovers as it makes the birds very nervous to be in a confined space. Aviaries need to be comparable to 10 foot x 10 foot in size. They like to stay in the open areas, avoiding tall plants and other barriers to their vision. Plovers stay on the ground continuously unless scared into flight and never

perch. They will use low mounds or rocks to stand on to better watch over the area. Dirt, decomposed granite, or similar substrates can be used as flooring, with short plants for ground cover.

Mature, healthy lapwings are tolerant of cold weather down to mid-30's Fah. with no supplemental heat if protected from the elements such as wind, rain, and snow. Lapwings with their long legs do not do well in snow. Short periods of low 30's can be tolerated if the weather is dry. Supplemental heat helps avoid problems with frostbite. In areas with harsher weather, plovers need to be housed inside with clean substrate to avoid foot problems arising. Younger birds less than a year old are not as cold hardy.

Plovers tend to jam their beaks through the wire of an enclosure when nervous, such as when being caught, harassed by other birds, or introduced to a new enclosure. This behavior can cause injury to the bird's beak so wiring is best if the openings are large (1") or run vertically. Plovers can also be injured when scared by hitting the enclosure roof or other items when they fling themselves into flight without aiming, much like quail launching into air.

Ponds and waterfalls are enjoyed by plovers for bathing and foraging, but they do not swim. No worries if a large water feature is not available because a kitty litter pan does just fine for these waders.

Although they enjoy bathing in the shallow parts of ponds or their water

dishes, they do not like to be misted or sprayed with water. They will walk in very shallow water and wiggle their feet in the mud, one foot at a time, in front of them to grab any yummy tidbits they find. They do not have extra long bills to probe through mud or deep water.

## **COMMUNITY BIRDS?**

Mixing plovers with other avian species can be done. They can be housed easily with many aerial bird species (finch, softbill, parrot, etc.) as they do not compete with perch space. Other ground birds or other plover species should only be housed with them if there is adequate space for all.

Being territorial, plovers will often kill fledging chicks of other species on the ground and small ground birds, such as button quail, if given the chance. They get especially aggressive during breeding but otherwise do not bother smaller birds that come to water or food dishes on the ground as long as the birds keep some distance between themselves and the plovers. Raised or multiple feeding stations are recommended.

Two plovers of the same gender or a pair of different Vanellus species can be housed together.

We have raised plovers in aviaries with finches, tanagers, starlings, parakeets, and even breeding turacos and mousebirds. With some planning and foresight, plovers make great additions to mixed species aviaries.

## **DIET**

Plovers are one of the easiest and cheapest birds to feed. The staple diet for plovers and lapwings in



PARENTS, NEW CHICK & SUBADULTS - SPURWING *VANELLUS SPINOSUS* PHOTO KATERI DAVIS-LUND

captivity is a dry pelleted diet and some livefood. We feed a mixture of Mazuri Softbill and medium-sized Purina Trout Chow. Livefood is given occasionally when non-breeding. Plovers will eat mealworms, waxworms, small goldfish or guppies, and crickets.

During breeding and raising chicks, we feed livefood daily and Paradise Earth Insectivore mix. Water-soaked pellets and hard-boiled egg are also offered.

### **VOCALIZATIONS**

While they spend most of the day quietly, lapwings make a clicking call that can carry. Pairs and multiple plovers are noisier than a single individual. Breeding pairs are very vocal. Blacksmiths are actually named for their alarm call

that sounds like the clinking of a blacksmith's hammer on an anvil.

Day and night, they are "watchdog" birds at aviaries as no strange person or animal can approach the aviaries without warning us with their cries. Not birds for those people with complaining neighbors, these birds can keep up the alarm call for long periods of time if nervous. Some nights, especially when nervous or during a full moon, plovers may click for fifteen minutes or so at a time.

### **BREEDING LAPWINGS**

Although not the easiest birds to breed, success can be accomplished. Lapwings usually live in pairs or small groups in the wild, but single birds are quite happy in captivity. Pairs seem very aloof with one another, never allopreening or even touching



SPURWING *VANELLUS SPINOSUS* CHICK IN FREEZE POSTURE PHOTO KATERI DAVIS-LUND

each other, but they actually form tight bonds with each other. One breeding pair per aviary works best unless the aviary is really large. New lapwings need to be introduced to each other carefully with howdy cage techniques, otherwise the weaker bird may be killed.

Breeding season starts in early spring with lots of calling and displaying to one another. Frequent mating with a characteristic call can be observed. Interestingly, mating often occurs right after mild disturbances in the flight.

Nests are simple scrapes on the ground when eggs are laid. Pebbles and twigs are usually added to the scrape as the weeks of incubation go by. Clutches are between 3-5 well camouflaged, brown speckled eggs. Incubation is 28-32 days. Both sexes incubate.

Plover chicks are the cutest! Being that they are born precocial, they spend the first few hours in or about the nest scrape with the adult, but then start exploring the flight. Parents vigorously chase away any birds that come near the chicks.

Parents squat and brood chicks frequently as the chicks are easily chilled. Brooding continues for a few weeks, and less and less as chicks grow. In cold weather, brooding of chicks can continue for three months, at which time the chick is as big as the adult.

Chicks must be strong enough to feed themselves but do follow parents to the dishes. We serve shallow bowls of Paradise Earth Insectivore Mix, small mealworms, hard-boiled egg, and water for the chicks.

When the parents feel the chicks are in danger, they give an alarm call,



SPURWING *VANELLUS SPINOSUS* DAYS OLD CHICK PHOTO KATERI DAVIS-LUND

and the chicks instantly lay down and freeze. Their camouflage is so perfect that they are extremely hard to see. This freeze is held even if the chick is picked up. This makes the chicks very easy to band ... if the keeper can find them! Keepers need to be very careful moving about a flight with baby plovers as chicks can be stepped on without even seeing them.

Chicks start getting more adult plumage at about 3 weeks. By the 4th or 5th week, the parents start a new clutch. The older chicks may be kept with the next clutch if the parents tolerate it. The older chicks just ignore the younger siblings. When the parents start chasing the young birds, they need to be removed from the flight otherwise

they will be killed. Pairs can lay up to four clutches in a season.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

Plovers are deserving avicultural subjects and need more people in the USA to give them a try. To learn more about plovers and lapwings, the following are recommended:

1. Schroeder, Dick & Holland, Glen. PLOVERS Husbandry
2. Vince, Martin. Softbills - Care, Breeding and Conservation. Hancock House, Publishers, Blaine, WA, USA. 1996.
3. Johnson, Ron. "Artificial Incubation and Hand-rearing of Red-Wattled Lapwings". A.F.A. Watchbird. Volume XVI, Number 6. Dec/Jan 1990, Page 4.



An all too common breeder's dilemma occurs when a pair is doing everything right whilst sitting on their eggs. Then, an egg is missing and there is no chick to be found in the nest. The parents continue attending to the remaining eggs as, one by one, they disappear. Compounding the frustration is not knowing what happened to the eggs and chicks. One way to find out is to employ surveillance cameras to help you keep an eye on things.

Technological advances have made high quality, wireless cameras available at very reasonable prices.

\*An Internet protocol camera, or IP camera, is a type of digital video camera commonly employed for surveillance, and which, unlike analog closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras, can send and receive data via a computer network and the Internet. Although most cameras that do this are webcams, the term "IP camera" or "netcam" is usually applied only to those used for surveillance. The first centralized IP camera was Axis Neteye 200, released in 1996 by Axis Communications.[1]

There are two kinds of IP cameras:





## Watch The Birdie!

*Carol Stanley*

Centralized IP cameras, which require a central network video recorder (NVR) to handle the recording, video and alarm management.

Decentralized IP cameras, which do not require a central NVR, as the cameras have recording function built-in and can thus record directly to any standard storage media, such as SD cards, NAS (network-attached storage) or a PC/server. \* from wikipedia.com

For the purposes of this article, we will focus on a single camera and its effective use in monitoring bird nests.

I personally prefer a camera with PTZ - Pan, Tilt and Zoom. "Pan" is used to adjust the camera either left or right. Tilt allows up and down adjustment and "ZOOM" adjusts the area being viewed by zooming in (getting closer to the subject) or zooming out (showing more of the subject's surrounding area.) It must be pointed out that the mechanism used for all remote camera movements may make an audible noise that may spook the birds. However, there are some new cameras that rely entirely on digital PTZ which eliminates all moving parts and associated noise, but these options are still fairly expensive at this time.

The features available on these relatively inexpensive cameras are great. Control of the camera is done on either your smart phone or computer. The camera comes with instructions to download and install software.

Though these cameras may be called "wireless" they do require electricity.

When shopping online, I've signed up with the Smile.Amazon.com which benefits the Avicultural Society of America by donating a percentage of my purchases to ASA. More info on how the Smile Amazon program benefits ASA later in this issue.

When I look at the online reviews and descriptions of the product, here are the features I look for in an IP camera:

**Indoor/outdoor**-Outdoor units are designed to operate in moist conditions and a range of temperatures.

**1080p resolution**-\*\* 1080p (also known as Full HD or FHD and BT.709) is a set of HDTV high-definition video modes characterized by 1080 horizontal lines of vertical resolution[1] and progressive scan, as opposed to interlaced, as is the case with the 1080i display standard. The term usually assumes a widescreen aspect ratio of 16:9, implying a resolution of 1920x1080 (2.1 megapixel) often marketed as Full HD. \*\* from Wikipedia.com

**Pan/Tilt/Zoom**-Explained earlier in this article.

**IR/low light/night vision-Infrared/low light** - This feature

incorporates the use of infrared lights to illuminate dark places such as nest boxes or night time viewing of an outdoor nest at night.

**Software for camera control**-many features are available for controlling and viewing on your phone or desktop over the internet.

**IP/Wireless**-Look, Ma, no wires! this feature really makes installing and using ip cameras a snap. You will need electricity but, no other wiring. Optionally, you may connect an ethernet cable in some cameras.

**Price**-You could pay close to \$1000 per camera but, many less expensive cameras provide excellent results. Under \$100 will get you a very good camera.

**Mounting Options**-Consider where you plan to use the camera when looking online. I move my cameras from place to place to watch wherever my birds have built their nest. This method can require some creative mounting techniques. More permanent options may include drilling holes in nest boxes and mounting the camera or, mounting the camera so a view of an entire aviary may be seen remotely. Choices are endless. Nestbox mounting requires a different type of camera - shaped more like a bullet and, PTZ is not needed.

Okay, so you're ready to get your first camera and give it a try. Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and, after you designate the Avicultural Society of

America as your non-profit. Then, start your search similar to this:

### **ip outdoor ptz camera**

If multiple categories are available in a drop down list, select "all departments" and press enter and have fun shopping!

Follow the instructions that come with your new IP camera to install the software and test all is working correctly. You will need the password for your router during installation. If you have problems during installation, contact support using the method outlined in the instructions.

Once you have the software installed and working, it's time to place your camera where you plan to use it in your aviary. The camera will need to be placed within reach of access to your router. If your aviary is too far from the router, you may need to get a wi-fi extender. This could also be found on [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com).

Once your camera is up and running, be ready to be amazed. The clarity of the view being captured is astounding - whatever device you use to watch on.

Most ip cameras offer capturing onto an optional micro sc card - located

in the camera. You may also set alarms to start recording if there is movement detected. Although this option is a security feature, I plan to test it out to see if entry into the nest area will activate the camera.

Low light or night vision provides a black and white picture but is still very clear.

My first use of an ip camera allowed me to watch my pair of Hwameis as they incubated eggs. Amazed, I watched as they ate the blue eggshell - indicating a baby had hatched. I then was able to see when one of the parents grabbed the baby by the head and flew off the nest. I immediately went out to the aviary and actually found the bloody nestling on the ground.

If you want to watch later, the software allows capture of the video for later viewing. And, you can watch your birds live on your phone or laptop from Steve Duncan's house. Or, anywhere you have a wireless connection.

I highly recommend ip cameras for watching your flock but, be forewarned, it may become addicting causing you to miss appointments, meals and interaction with your family.

FRAME 1 - HWAMEI ON NEST OF EGGS, FRAME 2 - FIRST BABY HATCHES, FRAME 3 - PARENT CARRYING BABY AWAY PHOTOS CAROL STANLEY VIA IP CAMERA



# Avicultural Society of America Annual Auction

Sunday, October 15, 2017

535 South Old Ranch Road, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675



## Auction

Get ready to buy birds, books, cages, nest boxes feed, pictures, bird toys, plants, feeders, bird baths and other bird related items. All purchases benefit the Avicultural Society of America and help support programs for propagation, education and conservation.

**Bring your folding chairs** for relaxing and mingling in the grassy, partly shaded area. Dress comfortably and use sun protection.



# Society of America on & Pot Luck

er 2, 2016 - 1 p.m.

oad, Anaheim Hills, CA

*This free event is one of the highlights of the Southern California bird community!*

## Potluck

Bring your signature dish, enough to serve 10 people, for the pot luck which is after the auction. Water and drinks are provided. Frank's homemade ice cream will tempt your tastebuds!

**Donations welcome!** Please have all donations in by 12 p.m. for check-in! (approximately 1/4 mile). Hosted by Frank and Martha Miser, 714/281-2198.

### Directions:

Take the 91 freeway to Imperial, go south on Imperial to Santa Ana Canyon Road, go east on Santa Ana Canyon Road 1 mile to Mohler Road. Stay on Mohler to the second fork in the road - take the right fork onto South Old Ranch Road to the end.



## ASA MEMBER CLUBS

Central California Avian Society

PO Box 5067, Fresno, CA 93755

[www.ccasbirds.com](http://www.ccasbirds.com)

Contra Costa Avian Society

P.O. Box 23115 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

[www.contracostaaviansociety.org](http://www.contracostaaviansociety.org)

Acadiana Bird Club

480 Almonaster Dr Youngsville, LA 70592

[acadianabirdinc@hotmail.com](mailto:acadianabirdinc@hotmail.com)

Arizona Seedcracker Society Inc

P.O. Box 26899 Mesa, AZ 85214

Long Beach Bird Breeders

6444 Spring St # 132

Long Beach, CA 90815

[longbeachbirdbreeders@gmail.com](mailto:longbeachbirdbreeders@gmail.com)

Fort Worth Bird Club

P.O. Box 1712 Keller, TX 76244

[fwbc@fortworthbirdclub.com](mailto:fwbc@fortworthbirdclub.com)

Finch Society of San Diego County

4256 10 Ave San Diego, CA 92103

[www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com](http://www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com)

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[www.foreignbirdleague.com](http://www.foreignbirdleague.com)

## ASA Affiliations

The Avicultural Society of America is proudly affiliated with:

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American Federation of Aviculture

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

National Animal Interest Alliance

National Finch and Softbill Society

Zoological Association of America

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## 2016 EVENTS

**October 2, 2016 - AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA** Annual Auction at  
Frank Miser's - [www.asabirds.org](http://www.asabirds.org)



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