

ASA



BARBARA BRADY-SMITH
— Photography and Fine Art —

ASA

A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION,
RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

July/August/September 2023

Blue mutation yellow-naped Amazons An



NEXT ISSUE

Pyrrhura pfrimeri

David Monroger

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: Yellow-naped amazon - blue mutation Photo Barbara Brady-Smith - <https://www.sharethejoyphotography.com/> Inside cover Pyrrhura pfrimeri Photo David Monroger © 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

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July/August/September 2023

President's Message

Hello all!!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the AFA/ASA/OPA conference in Richardson, Texas this year! We have a packed schedule filled with 2 speaker tracks from world renown aviculturists, 2 zoo tours, and another "town hall" style talk with Dr. Cody Yager, USDA veterinarian. We may even have a couple of surprise guests!

I'm happy to report that our vendor hall will also be packed with sponsors who are proud to support our yearly events! Also, for the first time we are offering streaming of conference for those who cannot make it in person. Check it out at asabirds.tv.

I'm so proud to see our community joining together in support of aviculture. The future is looking pretty bright for the birds!

Love always,

Sarah Brabbs

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Tangled up in Blue

Carol Stanley

All photos Grover Bernard, except where noted

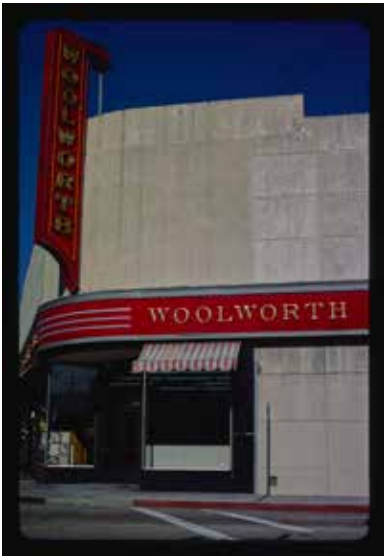


BARBARA BRADY-SMITH
— Photography and Fine Art —

Nestled in the quiet suburbs of Northern California is a hidden gem of an aviary belonging to native Californian, Grover Bernard.

He loves how the Northern California location allows him to keep his collection outdoors. There the birds enjoy sunrise to sunset as well as all the various weather conditions throughout the year.

Grover's first glimpse at aviculture was when he visited Woolworth's department store with his mother as a 5-year-old. Something about the green birds filled him with wonder and resulted in an indelible impression as his first avian experience.



Fast forward to high school. Grover had a friend with a half-moon conure, which provided further exposure to birds. After much research into various species, he set his sights on yellow-naped amazons (*Amazona auropalliata*). After saving enough money from two summers of paper routes, he was finally able to acquire his dream bird.

The goal he worked so hard for was attained, but was tragically taken away when the chick succumbed to psittacosis 60 days later. At the time, many imported birds carried this disease. This setback, however, did not deter Grover from going forward in pursuing aviculture and making it a part of his life.

After marrying, Grover began breeding birds. In 1986, his first pair of love birds had chicks. He then went on to breed many parrot species, including various conures, macaws, cockatoos, caiques, eclectus, amazons, and more.

After seeing blue mutation yellow-naped amazons in Bird Talk magazine during the 80s and 90s, Grover made it a goal to someday acquire and breed this beautiful bird.



Blue mutation yellow-naped amazon (*Amazona auropalliata*) Photo: Barbara Brady-Smith

After several years of breeding yellow nape amazons showing splits and possible splits, his first visual hatched in 2021. Since then, he has been successful in regularly producing this blue mutation. I personally had the privilege of raising and fledging these incredible birds. They possess an amazing personality including being highly interactive, vocal, and affectionate.

Most of Grover's aviculture education came from reading and staying connected to







aviculturists in the avian community. A couple of fellow aviculturists assisted him along the way. The first was a nearby breeder named Beverley, who helped walk Grover through assisting a double yellow-headed amazon chick to hatch. This is a skill he occasionally uses to this day and is very grateful to have.

Another helping hand was Laurella Desborough. While building his aviaries in 1989, he discussed the project with

Desborough, who visited him to assist, explaining the need for double walls between aviaries to prevent toe biting. Although simple sounding, this was a new thought for Grover, who was still relatively new to aviculture.

Even as recent as this year, Grover still finds it helpful to be connected to the aviculture community. For instance, he had a problem concerning a yellow-naped amazon pair that kept



breaking their eggs. When talking to fellow breeder Jason Shane about this issue, Shane recommended a technique new to Grover. Shane also suggested that Grover get a clear egg, remove its contents, and fill it back up with ammonia. After being sealed with wax, the fake egg was put in the nest. Eventually, when the culprit smashed the egg, he doused himself with ammonia, resulting in a very uncomfortable experience. This proved to be successful, for the male has since reformed his egg breaking habits.

Something about Grover that particularly stands out to me is his observational skills. They are very honed and he always has keen insight into his birds. Above all else, he enjoys watching them. He recommends constant observation: "watch them like crazy." He suggests watching how they interact and watching their overall health and well-being.

When asked what his goal is, Grover responded, "to raise the best genetically sound birds." To this effect, he has invested his time and money over the years collecting what now



amounts to four distinct unrelated lines of blue mutation yellow-naped amazons. At this time, it is believed that he is the only aviculturist in the U.S. to be able to successfully breed all four bloodlines. Grover plans to add on to his work, outcrossing the bloodlines to reach the best genetics possible.

When asked what he finds to be the most exciting aspect of aviculture, Grover shared that he especially enjoys finding eggs in the nest box and seeing eggs develop in the incubator, as well as waiting for feather coloration to appear. He is also fond of hearing birds develop their talking and mimicking skills.

Grover has meticulously fine-tuned the diets of his amazons. Being a retired body scan practitioner, his work entailed using a machine that is FDA-approved for bio feedback. Grover has modified his technique to effectively monitor the diets of his birds. Using fresh droppings, the machine creates an energy reading to show the health of the bird. The energy reading ranges from 0 up to 10,000. Birds with vibrant health fall in the 8k-9k range. If not reaching over 2k, Amazons generally won't breed and produce fertile eggs. A bird at this level may take as long as 7-8 months on a perfect diet to reach a number indicative of robust health.



He is currently working on perfecting the diets of his Congo African grey and Solomon Island eclectus. We'll get an update when this is achieved.

And while his biofeedback practice helps him improve his birds' health from the inside, according to Grover, an outward indication of excellent health may be observed in a bird that stands erect, is active, and vocal.

When asked about his biggest setback, Grover explained, "Five years ago, I had just purchased two visual blue mutation Solomon island eclectus and two splits. Our neighbor unintentionally sprayed pesticides next to our property line. All four birds died at one time, not due to disease. I accrued thousands of dollars in vet bills trying to investigate what happened." Another



setback was the loss of a visual blue yellow nape to a racoon. Electric wire was installed and no other casualties have occurred since. If you have livestock, you'll have dead stock."

Grover's philosophy towards birds is to feed them the best diet, provide the largest flight possible, and pair compatible males and females. Amazons may bicker, but if they preen and feed each other, they are generally compatible.

Special thanks to Master Photographer, Barbara Brady-Smith for use of her photos of blue yellow-naped, "Lapis."





Above and left: Blue mutation yellow-naped amazon (*Amazona auropalliata*) "Iris" Photo: Carol Stanley



TRUE BLUE AVIARIES

Blue mutation Solomon Island Eclectus (*Eclectus roratus solomonensis*) Nominat female, blue male, blue female nominat male Photo: Grover Bernard



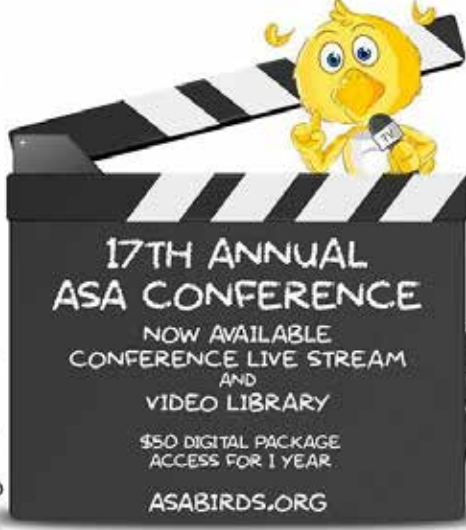


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Above and below: Blue mutation yellow-naped amazon (*Amazona auropalliata*) Photo:
Barbara Brady-Smith



BARBARA BRADY-SMITH
— Photography and Fine Art —



DON'T MISS OUT!

Aviculture United

Schedule of Events 9/27/2023 - 10/1/2023

Wednesday 9/27	7 PM Legislative Workshop			
Thursday 9/28				
8:15 - 8:30 AM	Salon ABC	Mary Ellen	LePage	Opening Remarks President AFA
8:15 - 8:30 AM	Salon EFG	John	Del Rio	Opening Remarks ASA
8:30 - 9:30AM	Salon ABC	Jamie	Whittaker	Aviculture United AFA Keynote
8:30 - 9:30AM	Salon EFG	Steve	Duncan	Profit is not a Four Letter Word or How to Make a Million Dollars Raising Birds
9:45 - 10:45 AM	Salon ABC	Rodrigo	Leon	Scarlet macaw conservation and recovery at Selva Lacandona, Mexico "
9:45 - 10:45 AM	Salon EFG	Laurella	Desborough	Aviculture - Looking Ahead
11:00 - 12:00 PM	Salon ABC	Chris	Touchton	Parrot Incubation, Hatching, Handfeeding and Troubleshooting
11:00 - 12:00 PM	Salon EFG	Josef	Lindholm	New Guinea Birds and Aviculture
12:00 - 1:30PM		LUNCH		LUNCH
1:30 - 2:30 PM	Salon ABC	Josue	Santigo	Reciprocal Altruism-Mutual Empathy on Humans and Their Birds
1:30 - 2:30 PM	Salon EFG	Taylor	Hains	Comparative Conservation Genomics of the Blue-throated Macaw (Ara glaucogularis) and the Citron-crested cockatoo (Cacatua citrinocristata)
2:45 - 3:45 PM	Salon ABC	Hilla	Niemann	Social Systems of Parrots- How do they affect the lives of our birds in our homes.
2:45 - 3:45 PM	Salon EFG	Brad	Hazelton	Lesser Flamingo Technique Developed at the Ft. Worth Zoo

4:00 - 5:00 PM	Salon ABC	Mindy	Patterson	Going on Offense to Protect Your Animal Enterprise
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Salon EFG	Josee	Birmingham	Holistic First Aid
5:00 PM	Salon EFG	Dr. Yager	USDA	Q&A hosted by Steve Duncan and David Garcia
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Salon A			Quaker Parakeet Society
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Salon B			Commercial Members Networking
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Salon C			NPRPF Meeting
Friday 9/29	Salon D	ABC & D Foyer		Vendor Hall open 8 am-6 pm Free to the public!
8:00 - 8:45 AM	Salon EFG	Susan	Clubb, DVM	The Role of the Avian Veterinarian in Implementation of the Animal welfare Act
8:30 - 9:30 AM	Salon ABC	Jack	Pine	Feathered Fun: Scheduling, Documenting and Soaring to New Heights in Avian Enrichment
8:45 - 2:00 PM	Registration			Fort Worth Zoo Attendees Meet at Conference Registration
9:45 - 10:45AM	Salon ABC	Debbie Schweikardt &	Kim Hatch	Birds Out Loud: Education, Entertainment and Experience
11:00 - 12:00 PM	Salon ABC	Carol-Lynn	Meissner	Viruses and Zoonotic Diseases with Avian Influenza as a Model
12:00 - 1:30PM		LUNCH		
1:30 - 2:30 PM	Salon ABC	Debbie	Goodrich	All for One and One For All: The Future of Parrots.
2:45 - 3:45 PM	Salon ABC	Rainer	Niemann	Healthy Snacks and Treats for Parrots and Parakeets
2:45 - 3:45 PM	Salon EFG	Dick	Schroeder	Great Southern Hornbill
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Salon ABC	Bennett Hennessey & Luz Natalia Mercado		Ensuring the long-term conservation of the Blue-throated Macaw in Bolivia: Strategies and challenges to come.
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Salon EFG	Dr. Sharman	Hoppes	Update on Avian Bornavirus
7:00 PM- 9:00 PM	Salon ABC	Blues Bash		Conservation of the Blue-throated macaw
Saturday 9/30		ABC & D Foyer		Vendor Hall open 8 am-1:30 pm Free to the public!
6:00 - 6:00 PM	Longhorn			"Bird Show: Cockatiels, Parrots, Budgies, Finch, Canaries, Youth "

8:15 - 9:15 AM	Salon ABC	Daniel	Sigmon	"Bird Breath: The Inside Squawk Breath taking insights into Avian Respiration "
8:15 - 9:15 AM	Salon EFG	Elia	Viader Masuet	Professional incubation of psittacine birds
9:30 - 10:30 AM	Salon ABC	Matt	Baird	Australian Birds and Aviculture
9:30 - 10:30 AM	Salon EFG	Tony	Silva	Incubation and hand-rearing more than forty years experience
10:45 - 11:45 AM	Salon ABC	Daniel	Vollmer	Designing the Perfect Meal for You and Your Bird
10:45 - 11:45 AM	Salon EFG	David	Garcia	USDA Regulations and You
11:45 - 1:15 PM		LUNCH		
1:15 - 2:15 PM	Salon ABC	Madeline	Franco	The Thick Billed Parrot...Past, Present and Future: What's Next for Arizona's "Native Son"?
1:15 - 2:15 PM	Salon EFG	Roland	Cristo	Breeding Softbill Songbirds
2:30 - 3:30 PM	Salon ABC	Brandon	Lewis	Inspiring the Undereducated - Using Non-releasable Raptors in Public Education Programs
2:30 - 3:30 PM	Salon EFG	John	Del Rio	Aviculture Outdoors - Success in Extreme Heat & Cold
3:45 - 4:45 PM	Salon ABC	Miel	Niemann	Keeping Budgies
3:45 - 4:45 PM	Salon EFG	Ann Catherine	Knutson	Fostering Birds at the Dallas Zoo
4:45 - 5:45 PM	Salon ABC	Julie	Corwin	AFA for Kidz Youth program Free!
7:00 - 9:30 PM	Salon D			Banquet/Auction?Awards and Keynote
ASA Keynote for All	Salon D	Mindy	Patterson	What's your Why? ASA Keynote
Sunday 10/1				
8:00 AM	Salon ABC	AFA		First Board meeting of the newly elected board
8:30 AM	Dallas World Aquarium			Meet in Hotel Lobby to carpool to Dallas World Aquarium

Tangara mexicana mexicana
Photo: Frank Tromp

Tangara mexicana mexicana

Female



Male



APEC

(Avian Preservation and Education Conservancy)

A Small Non-Profit Making a Big Difference

APEC, located in Jacksonville Florida, has built a reputation for science-based research to solve conservation challenges. The 501-c3 non-profit, founded by Dr. Caroline Efstathion and Rob

Horsburgh, has worked on avian conservation projects in South Africa, Bonaire, Brazil and Guatemala, focusing on nest site competition between parrots and honey bees.



The Florida Grasshopper Sparrow is a ground nesting sparrow that only occurs in the dry prairie habitat of South Florida.

Their two latest projects, the captive breeding of the Venezuelan red siskin (*Spinus cucullatus*) and the Florida grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*) have had resounding success, and are making “a big difference” in the conservation of these species.

The APEC Florida Grasshopper Sparrow program started in 2020 when APEC entered into an agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC) to be one of only 3 institutions to breed the critically endangered sparrow. The



The Venezuelan Red Siskin once found in Northern South America and the Caribbean now only occurs in a few isolated populations.



The Grasshopper Sparrow is surprisingly beautiful when viewed close up.

Florida grasshopper sparrow, a bird found only in dry prairie habitats of central Florida has been on a precipitous decline for the last few decades. In

2017 only 60 to 80 individual birds were left in the wild, making it North

America's most endangered



This young bird is ready to be released to augment the wild population

bird. As a result, the decision was made to bring a number of individuals into captivity for breeding. APEC constructed large enclosures that were 28 feet long, 8 feet high and 8 feet wide to house each pair. After construction they planted the enclosures with native prairie ecosystem plants to mimic the sparrow's natural habitat. APEC received birds from the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo and a FWC holding facility to start the program. To date they have successfully fledged over 40 Florida Grasshopper Sparrows. These

captive bred sparrows were released back into the wild by FWC to help the recovery of the species. With the help of captive breeding efforts, for the first time in decades, the Florida grasshopper sparrow population has increased in the wild. This is an exciting achievement which underscores how a small non-profit can make a big difference.

The other captive breeding program currently taking place at APEC is with the Red Siskin. The culturally significant Venezuelan Red



Every Sparrow at APEC is banded and evaluated by biologists to gather important research data.

The Sparrows are vaccinated against mosquito-borne diseases





Each Sparrow is examined by an Avian Veterinarian to certify they are healthy for release into the wild.

Siskin (*Carduelis cucullate*), represented on Venezuela's highest denomination bill and celebrated in song and festivals, is declining in the wild. With its attractive song and brilliantly red plumage it has long been sought after for the pet trade.

Poaching and habitat loss have decimated its range and population. It is now only found in isolated pockets of its former range. There may only be around 500 wild birds remaining in Venezuela, and it is critically endangered.



Scanning the dry prairie habitat for Florida Grasshopper Sparrow.



Newly fledged Grasshopper Sparrows

Knowing that this bird is notoriously difficult to breed in captivity, APEC began a collaboration with the Smithsonian led Red Siskin Initiative. The goal was to develop protocols to make captive propagation easier and help Zoos and other institutions maintain a captive breeding population for conservation purposes. These protocols may also eventually make commercial production feasible which would reduce or eliminate the poaching of wild birds and help with the recovery of the species in the wild.

APEC decided to collaborate with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) Red Siskin Initiative (RSI) after being approached by Dr. Brian Coyle with the SCBI. APEC's expertise breeding small passerines and their established relationships with private aviculturists who had experience with this notoriously hard to breed bird, made them valuable partners with the Smithsonian. APEC decided this exciting new project had the potential to make a big difference, and

they recognized that their knowledge and experience could help in the research and propagation of this critically endangered bird.

At that time, the Smithsonian was the only institution with red siskins, having a flock of around 20 birds. APEC was able to obtain a few pairs in 2017 and started compiling diet and husbandry information. APEC's role in the RSI was to be a liaison between private breeders and the RSI institutions. They compiled data from important contributors who had spent years breeding these birds, like Paula Hanson, who has been exchanging birds with APEC to help contribute to the genetic diversity. They also focused on

This group of Red Siskins will be sent to Zoos to establish a captive breeding program



researching and developing protocols on nutrition and breeding of the Red Siskin. Additionally, APEC established partnerships with other zoos and institutions providing them with red siskins so they could join the RSI breeding efforts, as well.

The successful diet and husbandry protocol that APEC developed has produced more siskins than any other institution. They have produced more than 150 of the precious birds since 2017.

A diet rich in high fat seeds like Nijer, hemp and sunflower hearts along with a variety of greens fed daily seems to be the key to success.

So far in 2023, APEC has transferred birds on breeder loan to 6 zoos and soon hopes to transfer the birds and protocols to several other facilities so that they can also join the breeding program. In addition to APEC's breeding efforts, they are working closely with the RSI Venezuelan Non-profit partner, Provita, who has established a captive breeding facility for confiscated red



A female Red Siskin

siskins in Venezuela. Their goal is to breed siskins taken from poachers in a captive breeding program. The offspring can then be released into protected areas in Venezuela. With APEC guidance and protocols, they have already started to successfully breed red siskins.

The hope is that one day these, Smithsonian led, efforts, may result in an AZA Species Survival Plan (SSP) or similar designation, which would lead to the long-term management of this species in captivity. Additionally, this knowledge is being used for *in situ* breeding efforts in

Venezuela, leading to the first offspring produced at the center. This is the first step to reintroduction of captive bred



The diet protocol developed by APEC seems to be the key to successful captive breeding

Red Siskins into protected areas of Venezuela.

APEC is able to share resources and knowledge with the other institutions involved in these programs to work towards solutions that are critical for the species welfare. Their hard work and unique skill set is allowing this small non-profit to make a big difference and become a valuable player in the conservation world.



Red Siskin babies are tiny when hatched



Siskin Fledglings

To learn more, go to Avianpec.org or for the latest happenings and photos check out their Facebook page: [Avian Preservation and Education Conservancy | Facebook](#) APEC is currently entirely privately funded by donors so please consider supporting their efforts to

address conservation issues head on. Donations are tax deductible. You can make a donation at

Avianpec.org

Contact APEC:

By Facebook or at Info@avianpec.org





Key Factors for successfully breeding *Psittacus erithacus erithacus*

Xavier Viader-Teresa Masuet

Our perspectives regarding the keys for obtaining physically and psychologically healthy young African grey parrots. Well-being is the success factor.

Our origin

In 1998, we created the company *Psittacus Catalonia*, SL with the aim of offering a solid project to Xavier's entire life passion for birds and the multiple experiences of breeding diverse species of ornamental and pet birds that had accompanied him throughout his life. The idea was to create a centre focusing on a single species to be able to apply a zootechnical vision to this activity. Therefore, by focusing on one species and with a collection of 350 pairs, valid conclusions could be extracted.

The baggage that came from this collection and the fact that Xavier had specific training in animal nutrition, led us to formulate our own food immediately.

We believe that the conclusions we have obtained from our work over the years can be of general interest. Like everyone, we started off using known models, visiting other centres, reading books and carrying out small pieces of research using what was then a highly incipient Internet. Like everyone, things did not always turn out right the first time. We feel that the tables summarising the diverse factors we worked on and their conclusions are a graphic resource that will provide a general, summarised vision.

The length of this article does not enable us to look at every aspect in depth but we felt that, nevertheless, it was important that they were mentioned to give an idea of the overall vision.

The nursery

Having a nursery to care for new-born and baby chicks has become a fundamental tool for any breeding centre. Independently of our approach



that the young parrots should be reared by their parents, having a suitable area and the necessary knowledge to be able to care for the birds at any stage in their development is a necessary resource for breeders as it enables us to offer a response to the deficiencies typical of reproducers who are not good enough at incubating and/or rearing their chicks. In addition, it is clearly a fundamental tool

when wishing to introduce strategies to stimulate productivity through taking on part of the rearing process; whether from incubation or from an early age of the chicks.

In the design of our nursery, we have opt for having diaphanous facilities where it is pleasant to work and which can be cleaned and disinfected easily. The aim was that our facilities



should essentially reproduce the circumstances in which these birds would live out in the wild. For example, despite the fact that our trays for housing 10-day-old African grey chicks in a heated cupboard do not physically resemble the nest that would be found in a tree trunk; it does in reality reproduce the comfort of the nest: temperature, darkness, comfort and safety.

With this concept in mind, we have designed the different areas of the nursery. We have three differentiated areas in three independent rooms: in room 1, incubation and neonatal, in room 2, shelves and in room 3, aviaries.

As the name itself suggests, the new-born nursery houses the baby chicks during their first month of life. At this time, the

birds are highly dependent on the temperature. Their ability to generate it endogenously is very limited. They need to receive the amount of heat suited to their needs; no more and no less. The facilities are designed to be able to care for the birds during the first week of life in "closed" brooders, the common brooders. On their first day of life they are kept at 37°C. We progressively decrease the temperature so that on their seventh day it is set to 34°C. For just these first seven days of life, the parrots are housed in individual trays. They are accompanied by a cuddly toy to keep them company.

Once they are a week old, they are moved to some shelving units with heated departments at an average temperature of 33°C, but open at the front. Here, the tray-nests contain



broods of three parrots. From their seventh day of life, they are always together with other parrots. Each tray is in a differentiated area and the temperature can be programmed independently. The heat source consists of a ceramic bulb placed on the side to create a temperature gradient. This design means that the chicks can move closer to or further away from the heat source according to their needs. When they are cold, they get closer to it and huddle together; and when they are hot they move away from it and separate. When chicks are a month old, the temperature of their micro-area is around 28°C. It is very important that the birds that grow strong and brave, as they would do with the best breeding pairs, should not be overheated. The significant growth obtained from the first day, thanks to the characteristics of our hand-rearing formulas for chicks, go together with a greater endogenous generation of heat by the chicks and involves the need to adopt a dropping rate in the environmental temperature at a much greater pace than that required when the chicks' growth rate is feeble.

The chicks are fed with Psittacus Psittacine Crop Milk during their first seven days of life. This formula allows African grey parrots to double their birth weight by their third

day of life and to triple it by the sixth day. We gradually change to Psittacus Neonatal formula. They are fed this formula until they are four weeks old when we introduce the follow-on hand feeding formula, Psittacus High Energy. Our experience has taught us that the neonatal phase is a determining phase for the bird's health. The parrots must grow at a good pace from their first day of life, as they would out in the wild. This is fundamental from the perspective of their physical health, as well as their psychological health. Healthy chicks eat and sleep; they do not spend the day being hyperactive and "crying". Our breeding protocol must achieve this. The psychological stability of our birds must also be a goal to be met.

It is important to pay special attention to the fact that this stage is the most critical one of the hand-rearing process and it is in this stage where most casualties occur. In our case, and as a result of the progressive improvements that we have been implementing in the hand-rearing protocol, the percentage of casualties in our nursery does not reach 1% (throughout the hand-rearing process). This level of mortality is obviously much, lower than that found in nests when the breeding pairs are the ones who carry out the rearing process.



The **second nursery** is the one we call shelves. We realise that this is a rather simple word for it. The empty nursery consists of shelves at a suitable height so that carers can interact with the birds comfortably and the birds can observe the carers from a height so that they do not see them as giants. It is important that the chicks have visual control of their environment from a suitable height as this gives them security. Each "nest" is a tray with three parrots. Trays are placed one next to the other. All of them together make up a "large nest". The birds are in the socialisation stage. Now they are neither blind nor deaf and may start to interact with their environment and to explore. Our concept of the nursery aims to favour socialisation with the other parrots as well as with the

humans (their carers). We aim for double imprinting. Perhaps these parrots will become pets or they may become future breeders. They must be able to recognise themselves as parrots and we must prevent them from being frightened of humans. These birds will always live in environments linked to the human figure and there is nothing better than preventing fear of humans. We have introduced a highly comprehensive environmental enrichment programme. All the activities that the carers carry out in this space have a meaning, nothing is done in vain. From the cleaning to the distribution of toys, everything follows a strict programme and humans intervene using a body language that enables the birds to recognise what they are being told. Little by little, we



start basic training with positive reinforcement. Our gestural signs are a language that they interpret and they even obtain a reward. It is essential to achieve communication: they must understand what is asked of them. In addition, their body signs are a language that our carers must understand: Psittacines are not cuddly toys and they are not always receptive to being stroked, for example. The carers must be empathetic to the birds and understand what the bird is communicating at all times.

At this age, the chicks are fed Psittacus High Energy Hand Feeding formula. And they progressively start to discover solid food and start to eat by themselves spontaneously. They have available a food for young birds which is highly nutritious and palatable,

Psittacus Omega. It has a long shape and the birds can manipulate it with their feet. In addition, they have fruit salad in a feeder, hangers with fruit, etc.

The young grey parrots stay in this room until they make their first flight.

The **third nursery** is a large room with five good-sized aviaries. The carers go into the aviaries and interact with the birds who move around in an environment with a great diversity of components. They have swings, spirals, hanging ropes, wooden perches, nail trimming perches, platforms, etc. They have feeders with fruit, complete food and water distributed throughout the aviary and they have more than is needed to prevent them from ever having to compete for food.

They are put into the aviary just before they are three months old and are fed half a dose of hand feeding formula in the morning and a full dose of hand feeding formula in the evening. According to our protocol, we feed them hand feeding formula until they are four months old, at which time they themselves stop begging for it. Forcibly emancipating African grey parrots before the age of four months is not at all recommended; it is something to be avoided. If we forcibly emancipate them by means of an accelerated reduction in the amount of hand feeding formula, the chicks will very likely show a behavioural regression, dependence and insecurity.

This age is a fundamental moment in the birds' education/communication/training. It is absolutely essential that our team of carers work with a common philosophy. The young grey parrots are highly intelligent, they learn from what we teach them particularly and from what they see their peer parrots doing.

Our breeding task leads to healthy birds that are adapted to their environment, that are confident and that have the capacity to understand humans.

Our aims

Research into well-being is the path to be followed to get high-quality birds that are physically and psychologically healthy. Birds that will be good pets and good breeders because they have the ability to adapt easily to the different environments and circumstances that they may come across throughout their lives.

It is increasingly clear to us that our mission is to work to improve our knowledge day after day. And that our knowledge must be shared with other breeders. Magazines such as Papagaien are an enormous help to strengthen the bonds between breeders.

Xavier Viader Anfrons
Teresa Masuet Cullell
PSITTACUS CATALONIA, SL
info@psittacus.com
www.psittacus.com



How to make a nest log for Caciques, Troupials, Oropendulas etc. Pictorial Guide

Masashige Roberto Yoshida

This is how I do nests for Caciques, Troupials, Oropendulas etc. This is me, I am not saying that everyone should do, or that the birds will only breed if you do this, no. If you have any questions or need any details information just let me know. Roberto may be contact on facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/masashige.yoshida>

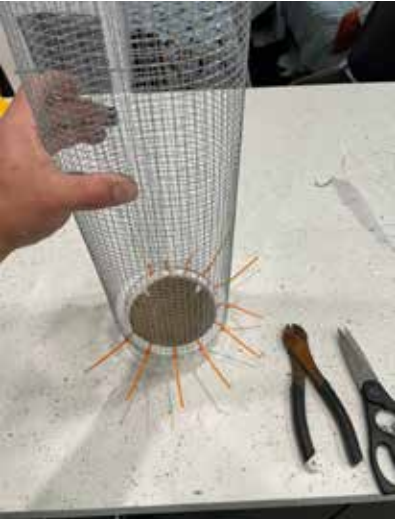
Supplies

- 1/4 inch galvanized wire
- XL canary nest with pad
- Zip ties - small and large
- Burlap fabric for wrapping
- Hot glue gun
- Wire snips/diagonals
- Needle nose pliers
- Scissors
- Straw
- Metal plant hanger



The bottom is an XL canary nest with a pad, but not the smaller one, it is the big one I believe 6 inches. The 4 zip ties on the entrance is just to hold the pieces I folded, I decided





Skeleton of log before covering in burlap cloth. Opening in log is 2.5 inches and is not cut but, rather, corners folded back and zip tied to prevent cuts from wire on birds.



Looking from top opening to canary nest.





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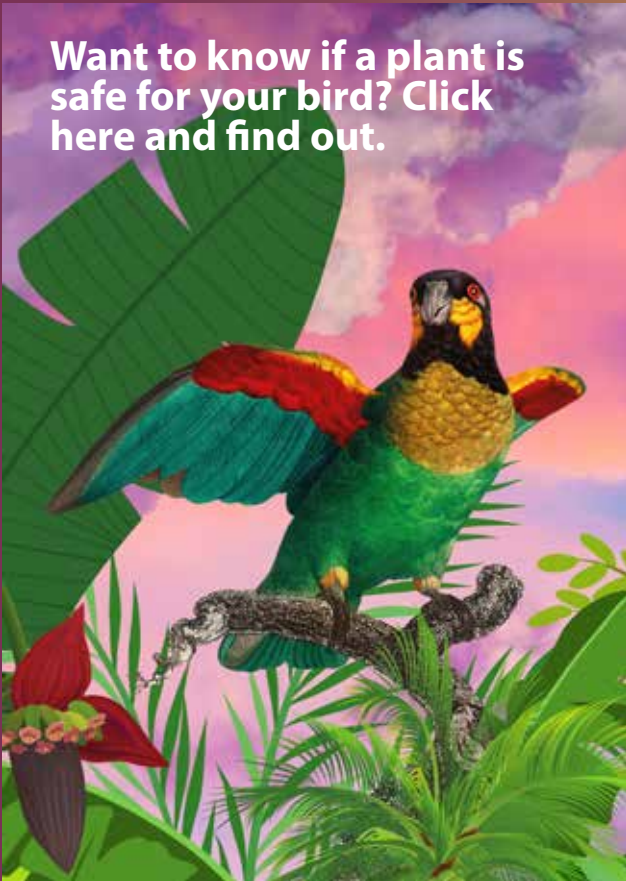
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Inside the Race to Save a Single Condor Egg After Avian Flu Killed Its Mother

After a female California Condor stricken with avian flu left an egg and potentially sick mate behind, staff at The Peregrine Fund swooped to the rescue, collecting the egg and transporting it to Liberty Wildlife, where the egg was dutifully tended to until it finally hatched. Take a look at the dramatic effort to save the chick, who is healthy and currently being watched over by a pair of doting condor foster parents.



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Imposter Eggs



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Dot Rambin
Great egret on Cross Lake.

Follicular choristoma in the third eyelid of an eclectus parrot (*Eclectus roratus*)
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Journals

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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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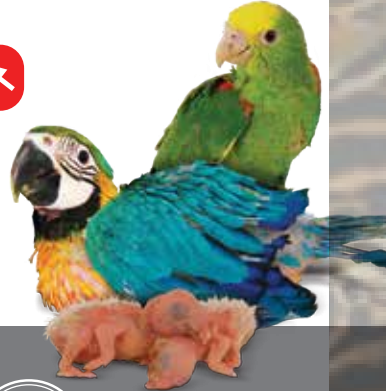
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Jim Sorensen

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

Who's Your Daddy?

Stumped? See answer on page 53



Photo: Donald Jasper



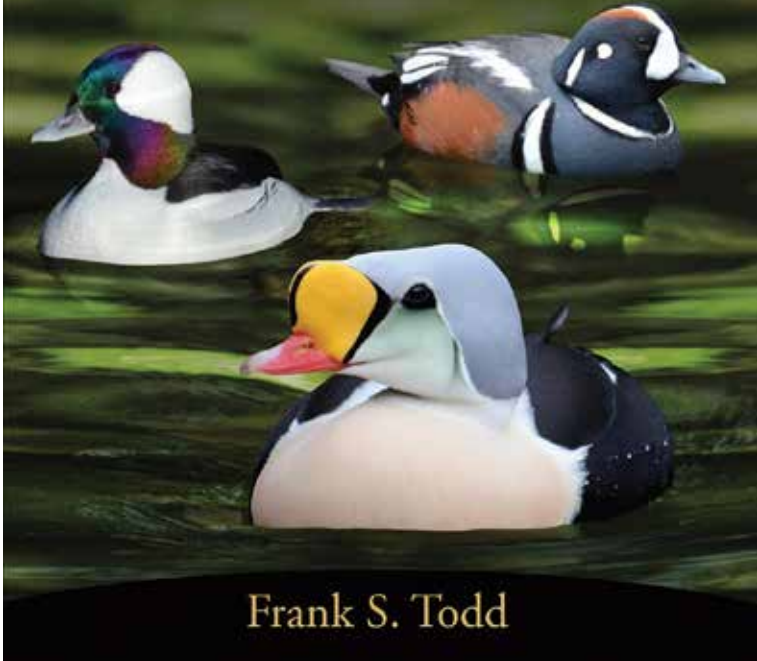
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NORTH AMERICAN DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



Frank S. Todd

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

Who's Your Daddy?

From page 51, Answer: Victoria crowned pigeon (*Goura victoria*)

The Victoria crowned pigeon (*Goura victoria*) is a large, bluish-grey pigeon with elegant blue lace-like crests, maroon breast and red irises. It is part of a genus (*Goura*) of four unique, very large, ground-dwelling pigeons native to the New Guinea region. The bird may be easily recognized by the unique white tips on its crests and by its deep 'whooping' sounds made while calling. [3] Its name commemorates the British monarch Queen Victoria.

Seen walking in zoo aviaries as guests stroll by, these handsome birds are calm and regal with their "crowns." This species is typically 73 to 75 cm (29 to 30 in) long. Some specimens may exceed a length of 80 cm (31 in) and a weight of 3.5 kg (7.7 lb).[5] It is marginally larger than the two other crowned pigeons on average, at a mean of 2.39 kg (5.3 lb)

in adult body mass, thus is considered the largest surviving species of pigeon of Earth.

Like other crowned pigeons, the Victoria crowned pigeon is a gregarious species. They usually travel in pairs or small parties as they search for food. They walk with an unhurried gait along the forest floor. Their food typically consists of fallen fruit. Birds of this species in captivity are particularly fond of eating figs. Seeds and invertebrates may occasionally supplement the diet.

The Victoria crowned pigeon is listed as NEAR THREATENED by IUCN 3.1

[Wikipedia](#)

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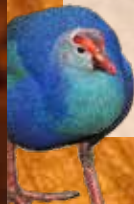
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