



ASA
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A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION,
RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

July/August 2019



NEXT ISSUE

A Panama Surprise - Simon Degenhard
"The Incredible Collection of Jacobo Lacs"

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: Red-necked amazon (*Amazona arausiaca*) photo by ACTP. Inside Cover: Female Andean cock-of-the-rock (*Rupicola peruvianus*) on Simon Degenhard's camera lens © 2012-2019 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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July/August 2019

President's Message

Greetings, fellow Aviculturists:

As we are firming up our speaker list for the 14th Annual Avicultural Society of America Education Conference, I am pleased to bring you another couple of articles by confirmed speakers.

Simon Degenhard, working closely with ACTP, writes about their progress with Red-necked Amazon parrots. Josee Birmingham, Facility Manager at HARI, shares some of her extensive experience in hand-rearing chicks at the HARI facility in Montreal, Quebec.

I hope you enjoy these two outstanding articles and, please be sure to share with your friends!

We are so excited about the upcoming conference. All the details in this issue start on page 50. I hope to see you in Miami! And, don't forget to stay a couple of extra days so you may attend the OPA meeting, tours and BBQ on Sunday, November 3, 2019.

Yours truly,

Carol Stanley
President, YOUR Avicultural Society of America

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World First Captive Breeding Delivers Hope for Dominican Amazons; Supports Decision to Initiate Ex Situ Safety Net Population

Articles and photos by ACTP

“On the 10th of May 2019 a significant hatching occurred at the breeding facility of the Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots e.V. (ACTP), located near Berlin, Germany; that of the world’s first captive bred Red-necked Amazon (*Amazona arausiaca*). “



Turn the clock back a short 14 months to the 17th of March 2018 and the emergency transfer of 12 amazon parrots from the island of Dominica to ACTP in Germany, backed by the Government of Dominica and the German CITES authority.

This emergency transfer was initiated in response to the devastation brought upon the populations of both of Dominica's

endemic parrot species, the Red-necked Amazon (*A. arausiaca*) and the Imperial Amazon (*A. imperialis*) by Hurricane Maria in September of 2017. Dominica was struggling to come back from this devastation, they needed help, trying to care for the birds they held at their botanical gardens, when at the same time their people were in dire straits, this meant that outside help was the only way to secure the birds. It was recognised by





both the Government of Dominica and German CITES authorities, that immediate action was required in order to take the necessary steps to help safeguard the survival of these two species; therefore, the joint decision to transfer the 12 parrots that were held at the aviary within the Botanical Gardens in Roseau, Dominica to ACTP's state-of-the-art psittacine breeding centre in Germany, was taken. This decision was not taken lightly, and as per all major conservation actions, there was controversy, one can never satisfy everyone. But as with previous conservation decisions that have saved species, they too were marred with negative press until they proved their critics wrong.

With the increasing threat imposed by human induced climate change, and the increase in the frequency of high category hurricanes in the region, it is crucial, to not only work on the in situ aspects of the projects, but also on safety-net populations, to safeguard these species for generations to come. It is for this reason that ACTP and the Governments of Dominica, St Lucia and St Vincent, plus the German CITES authorities, recognise the ever-increasing need for ex situ safety-net populations of the endemic parrots of these islands to be established outside of the Caribbean Region. It is also very clearly recognised that ex situ conservation work **must** take place hand-in-hand with in situ conservation work; without a dedicated and long-term commitment to both, efforts to safeguard the future of these birds

will not be successful. Parrots are not the only family that suffers, Hurricane Matthew in 2016 caused the collapse of the Bahama Nuthatch (*Sitta insularis*) from 2000 individuals to only 5. Hurricane Irma 2017 completely destroyed the native habitat of Barbuda, the endemic Barbuda warbler (*Setophaga subita*) is now under massive risk of extinction with their population dropping from an estimated 1000 - 2500 individuals to a number considered below 100 individuals.

ACTP recognises that a new census of the parrot species will be a crucial next step, to get a better indication of the populations of the species and show how critical these projects are for the parrots of these islands.

In the end, our goal in the production of a safety-net population starts with that very important word "PRODUCTION" and this is exactly what has happened here. Remember this date, the 10th May 2019; the "world first" breeding of the Red-necked Amazon (*A. arausiaca*), and in such a short time after their arrival at ACTP's breeding centre in Germany. We are of course very pleased that we have been able to achieve this incredible and unprecedented success with this species, just 14 months after their arrival at our breeding centre, having been transferred to our care for this very purpose. To be able to share this success with the world, after it having been reported that such success would be most unlikely to occur, gives both, the Government of Dominica and ACTP great confidence

in the decisions that have been taken so far and also the future conservation of the species. **The successful pair produced 2 eggs in their clutch and the first egg hatched on the 10th May, while the second chick hatched on the 14th May 2019.** All the data related to this breeding event and the future breeding events

of this species is being collected and will be published in peer-reviewed journals.

Both chicks are doing well, along with a chick of an amazon species from Dominica's sister Island, St Vincent.

We would like to thank the Commonwealth of Dominica



for their trust and all respective authorities that made this important transfer to our institution happen, along with all of the others involved in this unprecedented success.

Combined with our success with the breeding of the St Vincent Amazon (*A. guildingii*) at our facility in Germany and the funding of in

situ work on and training of Forestry staff from the Caribbean islands, we are further motivated by this latest breeding success and look forward to continuing our pioneering conservation partnerships in the Caribbean Region.



Psittacine Pediatrics: Housing and Feeding of Baby Parrots

*Mark Hagen, M.Ag.
Director of Research HARI*

All photos by HARI



Introduction

Hand-feeding baby birds is an vital part of any successful aviculture operation. Psittacine eggs that are artificially incubated or babies pulled from their parents at a young age, must be hand-fed for three to five months. Hand-fed birds make tamer companions and increase production if the parents re-clutch. Breeding pairs may neglect all or the youngest of their babies or they can cannibalize them. With these pairs there is no choice but to pull the babies and hand-feed.



Editor's note: Josee Birmingham will be speaking at the ASA conference in Miami this fall. Josee is the Facility Manager for HARI, Editor for Parrot Life Magazine, and works with the HARI TV Channel. Mark Hagen and Melanie Allen-Lowery will join Josee at the ASA conference.

We're told Mark Hagen and Melanie Allen, also of HARI fame, will be in attendance.

See more about HARI at:

<https://hari.ca/>



Most exotic birds kept in captivity, such as psittacines and the many types of “soft bills” are altricial that is their young are hatched blind, helpless in food gathering and are unable to thermoregulate. Since poultry are precocial, little information on their relatively easy care is directly useful for parrots. Aviculturists have by trial and error methods, developed procedures to successfully raise hatchlings right from hatching.

Hygiene and Baby Movement

Nursery management must have as the main goal disease prevention. With chicks lacking fully developed immune systems, normal gut flora just becoming established, and parent pairs previously exposed to many different organisms, stress due to poor feeding or inadequate environment can quickly lead to disease. The nursery usually has a concentration of such susceptible individuals so there is greater chance of an epornitic occurring here, crippling the cash flow of an operation.

The flow of babies within a nursery can reduce the chances of cross-contamination. There should be no mixing of parent raised babies, even if the parents appear perfectly healthy and have been with the



Chicks to be hand-fed should be pulled from the nest box before three weeks of age or the emergence of pin feathers on the wings.

breeder for many years. Subclinical carriers of Psittacine beak and feather disease, polyomavirus and other diseases may transmit these vertically (via the egg) but with greater probably horizontally (directly) to babies in the nest. If these babies are pulled and not properly handled within the nursery, significant mortality could result. Increasing the number of hatchlings from artificially incubated eggs can minimize the chance of parent birds infecting their offspring.

If parent fed chicks are to be hand-fed they should be pulled from the nest box before three weeks of age or the time of emergence of pin feathers on the wings. Older chicks will be stressed for the first few days in the strange nursery and may not want to be fed. However once they

are hungry enough, usually about 12 hours later, they will accept hand-feeding.

Parrot chick to be hand fed

Chicks to be hand-fed should be pulled from the nest box before three weeks of age or the emergence of pin feathers on the wings.

Hands must be cleansed before and also between feeding and handling different babies and clutches. Disposable latex gloves can be changed between each group of babies or allow hands to be wiped with a disinfectant without irritating skin. Babies should not be removed from their containers unless necessary and a clean paper towel placed under each baby when weighing.



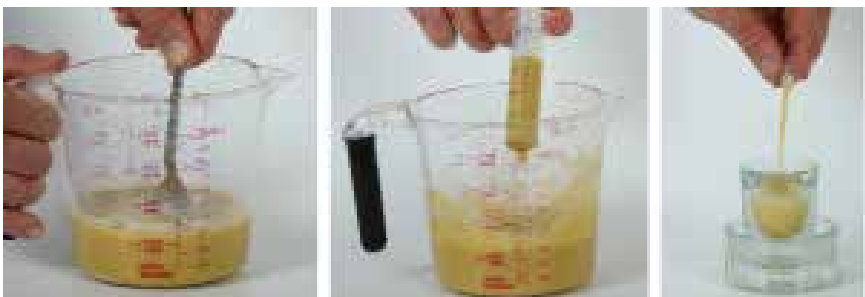
Food Preparation

A fresh batch of formula should be mixed up for each feeding. This is more hygienic and convenient since food does not need to be stored. To properly prepare the diet for feeding, a balance for weighing formula and accurate volumetric container for water should be used. Use accurate measuring devices, clean utensils and stir the food well.

Cooking time will vary slightly with model of microwave oven and type of container. Plastic containers seem to cool the food slower than ones made of glass. The final temperature of the food, just before feeding, should be slightly warmer than human body temperature or about 40°C (100°F). Be careful not to overheat the food as burning the babies can occur if the food contains hot spots or is only a few degrees too hot.

Table 1-Water/Dry Mash Ratio of hand-feeding Formula

Age of baby	Amount of dry mash	Volume of Water	
Hatching to 2 days	1 tbs = 9 g (15 cc) volume ratio 1:5 weight ratio 1:7 (12.5% Solids)	72 ml	
3 days to weaning	1/2 cup = 64 g (120 cc) volume ratio 1:2 weight ratio 1:4 (20% Solids)	240 ml	



Formula food preparation for hand feeding

Formulas for young babies, up to day two to four, should be significantly more diluted, about 5 to 10 percent solids. These young babies may also develop better on less rich diets having lower fat and protein and more easily digested carbohydrates

(another area requiring research).

Older babies should receive formula with a solid content in the 20 to 30 per cent range which usually results in a consistency a little thinner than apple sauce. Do not assume that such a texture represents the correct nutrient

density as thickeners can make a formula with low dry matter levels appear much denser. Formula can be maintained at the correct feeding temperature by setting it in a bowl of hot water.

Methods of Feeding

There are several possible techniques of feeding young parrots. Psittacine chicks produce a feeding response when the commissures of the beak are touched.

Spoon feeding formula for parrot

This bobbing action closes the glottis and food passes into the crop. A bent teaspoon can be used to feed the formula but this can be a messy and time consuming way of feeding. Spoon feeding



may produce a tamer bird because of the increased handling and is the preferred method of feeding of some of the most experienced aviculturists in the world (Low, 1987). However, there may be a greater chance of disease transmission with spoon feeding as the spoon is repeatedly touching the baby's mouth and then dipped into the formula thus contaminating the food for the other babies.

Small plastic pipettes are used by some breeders to feed younger babies. Since these pipettes can only hold a few ml of food they

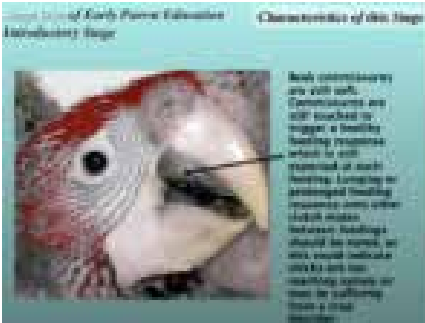
require many repeated dippings into the food container with the same potential for disease spread as with spoons.

Catheter tipped syringes of various sizes are becoming popular instruments in feeding baby birds.

Syringes can be used to slowly dribble the food into the mouth of the bird. Syringes allow the measuring of the amount of food fed and are easier to use. Silicone rubber and "O" ring syringes last longer than black rubber ones. Better still are syringes with no



Small plastic pipettes are used by some breeders to feed younger babies. Syringes with no rubber gaskets and simply a concave round end can be used easily.



rubber gaskets and simply a concave round end. Soaking in tamed iodine disinfectant between feedings.

Syringes are usually used to shoot the food into the crop of the bird. Hold the baby's head loosely by placing a finger on both sides of the beak and the back of the head.

Place the tip of the feeding syringe into the left side of the birds mouth and once the bird gives a feeding response (head pumping) shoot the food towards the back of the head. This procedure is relatively safe but requires some practice before it is done without a mess. The advantage of syringes is that a separate one can be used for

each clutch of babies so that if one pair produces diseased offspring it doesn't spread to the other babies.

A short soft rubber tube can be attached to the tip of the syringe which can then be placed further back into the mouth to prevent food going down the trachea. However this may have a behavioral effect on the baby and may prolong the weaning process since this is the least natural of all the feeding methods.

Fill the crop well without over stretching it and allow it to completely empty between feedings. Do not confuse the small pouch of loose skin around an empty crop as a crop that still contains food. Babies have looser skin around the crop to allow it to stretch out. Sick babies are more likely to aspirate themselves and

the crop becomes flaccid. These babies should be placed in small containers, like disposable plastic cups, which hold them up prevent them from falling on their crop. Feeding frequency or gut transit time is dependent on the percent solids of the formula, its digestibility and caloric density. Babies less than

*Metal feeding tubes are
only necessary when
force feeding sick birds.*



3 days old get fed six times a day and older ones 4 times a day.

Whatever implements are used they should be disinfected between feedings and replaced periodically. Some aviculturists boil syringes in large pressure cookers or in regular pots but more commonly cold disinfectant baths are used to soak feeding equipment. Gluteraldehyde based products appear the strongest disinfectants however quaternary ammonium compounds or iodophors are acceptable under normal conditions. Phenol based disinfectants are very irritating to skin and chlorhexidines do not effectively kill pseudomonas bacteria which are common in wet environments and water. At HARI we lost several two month old cockatoos to pseudomonas when we used chlorhexidine to disinfect syringes. The bacteria were cultured directly from the syringes and upon close examination colonies

could be seen in the corners of the syringe shafts.

HOUSING BABIES

Brooders and Containers

There are as many different and successful baby brooders as there are hand-feeding formulas. Some are homemade wooden boxes with electric elements or lights to keep the babies warm. Others are adapted metal game chick brooders or glass aquariums with custom made heaters to partially cover the top or bottom of the tank. Brooders set up with heating pads often result in cooked babies, thermal injuries or cold babies since precise, constant temperature maintenance is difficult (Stoddard, 1988). Another problem with homemade or adapted brooders is their usual lack of humidity control. Human baby incubators and specific commercial baby bird brooders have more accurate temperature and humidity



control but are difficult to obtain or can become expensive when many babies have to be housed.

Brooders should be relatively small as an important part of disease prevention with babies is to keep clutches separate and this is limited with large brooders. They should provide constant, even heat that can be finely adjusted, be well ventilated, easily cleaned and have a water receptacle to add humidity.

One set-up which meets many of these requirements uses small aquariums to contain babies which is then placed a much larger aquarium or plastic pan filled with about three or four inches of heated water. The water is maintained at 40°C (100°F) with a submersible thermostat aquarium heater. Salt should be added to the water to keep down the growth of pseudomonas and other pathogenic bacteria. Evaporated

horizontally laid heater remains submerged.

Bedding

Young babies, less than two weeks of age, can be kept on paper towels in plastic cups, re-used yogurt containers or small aquariums. Babies should be sitting on clean and dry bedding which is therefore changed at each feeding. This may not provide firm enough footing for some birds which should be transferred onto paper or wood shavings or towels to avoid splayed legs. When babies are two-three weeks old, we transfer the babies to a small plastic containers that contain a few layers of newspaper under a few inches of wood shavings. Corn cob, walnut shell and pellet type bedding are not popular or losing favour with aviculturists because of various drawbacks.



Some babies may have a tendency to eat shavings, perhaps as a result of other complications such as calorie deficient diets or excess heat. Using towels has the advantage of being able to clearly see the baby's droppings but the feet and feathers can get caked up with feces and time and energy must be spent on washing towels. Disposable diapers are expensive and wasteful. Babies stay cleaner when they are kept on processed paper product or shavings.

Temperature

The ambient temperature and humidity of baby altricial birds must be regulated. Young, up until they are feathered out, need supplemental heat above room temperature to thrive and even survive. Chilled babies, either because of neglectful parent birds or power failure to the brooder heater, will deteriorate quickly. These chicks may die

later even after being warmed up. Nursery room temperature should be kept warm between 78 and 82 degrees Fahrenheit.

The brooder temperature for recently hatched chicks can remain at the hatching temperature of 35.0°-36.5°C (96°-98°F) for the first few days. Once the baby is eating more solid food, at about 2-3 days of age, it should be kept at a lower temperature of 33.5°-35.0°C (92°-96°F) depending on the species and its metabolism. From there up to about two weeks of age babies should be in an environmental temperature of 32.0°-33.5°C (90°-92°F) (Table 2). If temperatures are too high the chick may exhibit panting, unrest, hyperactivity and have dry, reddened skin (Clubb and Clubb, 1986). Cold temperatures may result in death, poor gut motility, crop stasis or other digestive disorders, failure to

Table 2-
Approximate Brooder Temperature

Age	Temperature °C	Temperature °F
Hatch to Day 2-3	35.0-36.5	96-98
Day 3 to Day 14-21	31.1-34.0	88-94
3 weeks to Weaning	25.0-30.0	76-86

feed or beg, inactivity or shivering (Clubb and Clubb, 1986).

Humidity

Natural nesting cavities in wooden tree trunks probably have a high relative humidity. Moist droppings from any babies within them will add to this, resulting in an environment of high humidity. These are unfortunately not the humidity levels found in most nursery brooders (Clipsham, 1989b). Most babies are traditionally raised on dry heat with heating pads, light bulbs or electric coils.

A range of 55-70% humidity produces quieter, fatter babies with a greater growth rate than those kept at levels of 15-35% (Clipsham, 1989b). Ambient humidity for hatching eggs and hand fed chicks can be increased by increasing nursery room humidity and, more effectively, by using containers of water as a source of both heat and humidity. A small aquarium submerged in and surrounded by a water bath heated by a submersible aquarium heater is very effective for eggs and up to one week old babies.



Brooder-eggs transferred as hatching

Identifying the Chicks

Babies must be properly identified in order to follow the lineage and pair unrelated birds in the future. If considerable numbers of birds are being raised it becomes difficult to maintain the identity of similar babies from different parents.

Several companies make closed leg bands in many different sizes. These bands can only be slipped to the birds leg when their feet are a small size. The best time to apply the bands is at about 2 – 3 weeks of age. Place the three larger toes through the appropriate sized band



Microchips implants are now available but are not yet commonly used for identifying baby birds.

and then slide the band over the small inside toe which is held back against the foot.

Record Keeping and Growth Rates

The goal of any exotic aviculture venture is to raise healthy babies with minimum losses. Thus achieving the fastest growth rates possible on a particular formula are not as critical as the proper development of the baby. Average weight gains for the particular diet being used do help to monitor the development of individual babies. Weights taken each morning before the first feeding are less influenced by residual food still in the gut of the bird from the previous feeding as babies are usually allowed to empty over night. The time between feedings should slowly lengthen as the baby gets older but any sudden slow down in digestion is an indication of illness.

Weights taken each morning before the first feeding are less influenced by residual food still in the gut of the bird from the previous feeding as babies are usually allowed to empty over night.



Stunted chicks pulled from parental care to be hand reared.

Stoddard (1988) monitors the health and development of young babies by the;

1. Plumpness of the toes, wings and rump.
2. Skin colour – should be a flesh-toned pink.
3. Skin texture – should be translucent and soft.
4. Anatomical symmetry – malnourished babies often have thin feet, toes, and wings as well as a disproportionately large head.

Flammmer (1986) lists other physical characteristics of nestling psittacines.

Complications

1 – Crop Stasis

The crop should completely empty between feedings. Food that remains in the crop too long may “sour” and provide an excellent growth media for opportunist bacteria and fungi.

Hard lumps may form in the crops of some babies if the solid matter of the hand feeding formula separates from water. Treatment consists of feeding a little warm water and massaging the crop/lump until it is dissolved. The next feeding should consist of diluted formula following which the crop should be back to normal.

Under feeding may result in result in some babies ingesting bedding material. In a case of eclectus parrots ingesting wood-shavings they all died due to the gizzard damming up, preventing normal digestion (Smith, 1985).

2 – Crop Burn

If the temperature of the food is greater than 41°C (105°F) it may scald the crop and cause necrosis and fistulation (Giddings, 1986). Even with careful mixing and cooking some of the most experienced facilities may burn babies’ crops by feeding hot formula. Microwaves are usually used when overcooked food is fed. Hot areas within the food may go undetected even with a thermometer. It is best to let the formula stand for a minute, mix well and double check the temperature.



Your avian veterinarian should be consulted if you suspect an experienced pediatric care technician or veterinarian is the cause of the crop disorder and possible

3 – Constricted Toes

Avascular digital necrosis or “big toe” is seen in baby macaws, eclectus and african greys. A ring of fibrous tissue may be initiated by rapid loss of body fluids from a crack of skin and encircles the toe leading to a constriction (Clipsham, 1989b).



immediately should the crop content not empty as a crop wash can be performed by a veterinarian to remove the soured content and the chick evaluated to determine what medical or therapeutic intervention.

Higher ambient humidity levels are reported to decrease this problem (Clipsham, 1989b; Joyner, 1987).

4 – Aspiration

On several occasions very young, less than 3 days old, weak babies were accidentally aspirated at HARI. This may have been due to poor feeding responses and force feeding. It is also


possible to drop a baby onto its full crop resulting in the food being forced out and into the buccal cavity. The baby, not expecting food at that time may aspirate it. Feeding older birds by a tube placed into the crop will decrease the likelihood of aspiration in the more difficult species to feed (Joyner, 1987), such as 2 month old cockatoos.



2022 World Early Parrot Education
Pediatric Symposium

Primary
Lessons

Desensitization to the Physical Exam



Any light touch stimulus should be avoided during the physical exam as it may cause discomfort to the bird.

Slight pressure applied to the tip of the beak, including feeding with syringes, is triggering a feeding response, resulting in a closed beak. If performed slowly and within the bird's field of vision, the bird will tolerate the touch.



Complications Parrot Chicks

Top Left: Constricted Toes; Right: Aspiration Bottom Left: Beak Deformities; Right: Bacterial, Fungal & Viral Diseases

5 – Beak Deformities

At HARI a lateral beak deformity has occurred in a baby macaw and an ingrown upper beak in a cockatoo. These types of deformities have been observed with other aviculturists (Joyner, 1987; Clubb and Clubb, 1989). The etiology of these deviations is not known but may be related to unnatural feeding methods or poor nutrition. The rapid growth and strong feeding response of macaws may exacerbate any deviations in growth.

6 – Bacterial, Fungal and Viral Diseases

Gram negative bacteria such as *E. coli*, *Klebsiella sp.*, and *Pseudomonas sp.*, are commonly considered pathogens and are often associated with disease (Clubb and Clubb, 1986). The “normal” aerobic alimentary tract flora for baby psittacines may include *Lactobacillus sp.*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Streptococcus sp.*, *Corynebacterium sp.* and *Bacillus sp.* (Drewes, 1983). Candidiasis, caused by *Candida albicans*, is a yeast infection, usually of the crop. It is often a secondary problem associated with slowing

of gut transit time. Digestive function may be upset by bacterial infections or blockage of the crop opening with foreign matter such as bedding substrate. Food which remains in the crop too long may begin to ferment leading to a "sour crop". Dietary causes of a slow down in the digestive tract include food too cold, food with inadequate moisture content or ability to hold water (gelatin quality), food too high in fat or protein or too low in fiber. Babies will often vomit if one of these is not quite right.

Abnormally high Candida infections in Palm Cockatoos may have been due to the simple sugars in the sweetened applesauce and sugar ingredients of the diet used by the New York Zoological Society (Sheppard and Turner, 1987).

Viral diseases can be prevented by only handfeeding incubator hatched babies and leaving parentally hatched nestlings with their parents. A separate nursery for babies exposed to parental feedings could be another alternative.

*Viral diseases can
be prevented by
only handfeeding
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their parents.*

Weaning

Weaning appears not to be a learned process and occurs at a certain age which is not affected by external stimulation of hunger (Roudybush, 1986). Cockatiel chicks which reach a higher maximum weight sooner also wean earlier than chicks which do not gain more than their normal adult weight (Roudybush, 1986). Babies may lose weight (up to 10-15%) during weaning although keeping weight on them is probably better for birds to be shipped out unweaned.

When the babies have about an inch of blood left in their wings they are transferred to a cage which has small openings on the bottom wire for the babies to walk on comfortably. Perches should initially be near the bottom of the cage for the uncoordinated fledglings.

Potential for Breeding

There is concern that hand-rearing imprints the birds on humans and they will therefore not be suitable for breeding when they become sexually mature. Third generation breeding of *Amazona leucocephala* by Ramon Noegel indicates that this is not the case. Hand-reared birds often mature and breed in a shorter period than it takes wild-caught adults to settle down. Captive raised birds lack the stress that causes wild birds not to breed or abandon their nests.

Early Weaning of Early Fledged Pigeons: Pre-Fledging Stage

Feeding strategies for young birds (chicks) with extra opportunities should such as early in the morning and a good feed time later in the afternoon. A good feed time is a shorter day. Feeding is continuously available in the nest. The feed time should be still around 10-15% of the total feed by 10-15% of the total feed. After feeding, the birds should be consuming and the feeding strategy should be to encourage the bird to eat all the feed available in the nest. The birds feeding should be monitored for all the birds in the nest.



Once babies have absorbed the blood in their wings they are transferred to a cage which has small openings on the bottom wire for the babies to walk on comfortably. Perches should initially be near the bottom of the cage for the uncoordinated fledglings. A cup of formulated food should be placed near where they perch. This cup must be placed near where they perch.

To assist in weaning, feed a little amount of food. Syringes of food should be given two or three times a day. If this behavior may increase.

If the babies birds are to be kept for breeding it is probably better to raise them in groups rather than individually.

Research with cockatiels has shown that early rearing experience is important for males to learn characteristics of the opposite sex, and for males and females to learn characteristics of nest-sites (Myers et al., 1988).

Feeding Strategy

Young feeding is
ing of right in between
of balanced weaning
er should also offer the
r many weaned birds
is, but the value of this
is low. The balanced
and generally as the case



For wing feathers they are ready to be placed into a cage. The cage should be large enough for several birds. Perches are better placed near the bottom of the cage where young birds first learn to perch. Parrot food, moistened with hot water, appears to be easier for babies to wean onto. The food should be made fresh daily (or more often in hot climates) to avoid spoilage and should be

fed with a spoon from the cup that the birds should begin to eat from. Additional feedings should be given 2-3 times a day so they do not lose too much weight but avoid always feeding when



Steve's Photo Pick

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)





~Avian Resources~

**Care of Baby Parrot
Environment**

A newly arrived baby parrot should be kept in a warm and quiet place for the first few weeks. A young bird needs to rest during the day and a busy environment may exhaust it. This stress weakens the immune system which may result in disease(s).

EPE care for baby parrot

Provide your bird with a cage big enough so it can fully expand its wings and perhaps jump between perches. Parrots like to climb around their cage and like its security when they rest. Place several toys in its cage, to avoid boredom and change these regularly.

When outside of its cage, you can put your bird on a T perch but this should not be its only territory, since it cannot move around much.

Feeding

A sudden change of diet could lead to weight loss and digestive upset with subsequent problems, so, it is best to continue with the same diet.

If the baby bird is not weaned, follow the directions on the leaflet of the Tropicana hand-feeding formula and provide three food bowls to the baby: one filled with dry Tropicana granules, one with soft Tropicana moisten with warm

*Stage 3 of Early Parrot Education
Fledgling Acquiring Independence*

Housing



Fledgling spends some time alone in day cage to acquire independence from flock mates. Be aware that "separation anxiety" can result in regression, so daily health assessment and interaction with caretakers must continue. It is recommended to revert to daily weight monitoring during this time.

In addition, full spectrum lighting can be introduced to day

water, and a bowl of fresh water. Moist food spoils very fast; so be sure to clean the bowl twice a day. Always use the same bowls for your baby birds unless bowls used by another bird has been thoroughly disinfected.

Exercise

The bird should be allowed out of its cage to interact with people and to exercise each day. Play with the baby every day but do not spoil it too much initially or it will demand this attention later. Do not leave doors or windows open or go outside with an unclipped bird. You can clip the wing feathers but when doing this for the first time, ask someone who is familiar with clipping.

Medical Care

Captive bred birds are not used to the microorganisms carried by a wild caught exotic bird and you should avoid the contact between the two. Species susceptible to Pacheco and Pox diseases should be vaccinated against them if they will be in places with other birds at proximity such as in a pet shop, veterinary clinic, boarding facility or bird shows.

If your bird shows one or several of the following symptoms, it may be sick: sleeping during its usual peak activity, not eating or eating less than usual, diarrhea and feathers puffed up. In that situation, contact immediately your usual avian veterinarian. Isolate the bird. Keep it warm (30°C – 86°F) and try to give it some food.

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Significant U.S. Supreme Court FOIA Decision Likely To Complicate Activist Agendas

by John M. Simpson.



As many lawyers representing animal-related businesses regulated by U.S. federal government agencies can attest to, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) litigation by animal activist interests has become what amounts to a cottage industry. Animal activist groups are prolific in their FOIA requests to various federal animal-related agencies — such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which regulates animal exhibitors and researchers under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) — for information on the persons and entities subject to USDA regulation. This quest for business information typically unfolds as follows: a business will mark its internal commercial and financial information “confidential” when submitting it to the agency in connection with an agency proceeding; the information is then requested through FOIA; the agency withholds it under FOIA Exemption 4; and then the fight

Animal activist groups are prolific in their FOIA requests to various federal animal-related agencies — such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which regulates animal exhibitors and researchers under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) — for information on the persons and entities subject to USDA regulation.

becomes whether the release of the information will inflict “substantial competitive harm” on the submitter. This all changed today with the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Food Marketing Institute v. Argus Leader Media*, No. 18-481, Slip opinion (U.S. June 24, 2019).

The FOIA requester in this case, a newspaper, had sought records from USDA collecting data from retail grocery stores participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). USDA withheld store-level SNAP data on the basis of Exemption 4 which exempts from mandatory disclosure “trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b) (4). In the ensuing litigation, both the trial and appellate courts followed the rule, developed in prior FOIA cases, that “commercial information” under Exemption 4 cannot be deemed “confidential” unless disclosure is likely to cause “substantial harm to the competitive position” of the person from whom the information was obtained. This test originated in a 1974 D.C. Circuit case, well known to FOIA practitioners — *National Parks & Conservation Ass’n v. Morton*, 498 F.2d 765 (D.C. Cir. 1974). After a bench trial in the instant case, the trial court determined that disclosure would not cause substantial competitive harm to the retailers, and the Eighth Circuit affirmed, declining to reconsider the validity of the *National Parks* test.

In a 6-3 decision authored by Justice Gorsuch, the Supreme Court rejected the “substantial competitive harm” test in its entirety.

Agreeing with the government’s characterization, the Court described *National Parks* as a “relic from a ‘bygone area of statutory construction.’” Slip op. at 8 (citing government brief). The Court instead focused on the plain language of the statute itself. The information here was “confidential” because (1) the retailers did not share the SNAP data or make it public in any way; and (2) it did not lose confidentiality by being shared with USDA because the agency had promised to keep the information private. *Id.* at 6. Thus, as the Court summarized the outcome here:

At least where commercial or financial information is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner and provided to the government under an assurance of privacy, the information is “confidential” within the meaning of Exemption 4. Because the store-level SNAP data at issue here is confidential under that construction, the judgment of the court of appeals is reversed and the case is remanded for further proceedings consistent with this opinion.

Id. at 12.

The *Food Marketing Institute* case is a significant decision for

businesses who are regulated by federal agencies and participate in federal programs by submitting information to the respective agencies and who also face attacks from activist groups who oppose them. It is not an unusual case in which a business submits internal, private business information to a federal agency in connection with an agency proceeding and then faces a FOIA request from an activist group seeking disclosure of that information. The requested information, if released, is then used by the activist group to fuel litigation or other initiatives against the business who submitted the information to the government. Prior to Food Marketing Institute, the submitter would have to establish “substantial competitive harm” in order to stave off disclosure. Making such a showing is often a tall order, given the facts that competitive harm is not easy to show and the activist group seeking the information usually is not a competitor but rather an organization dedicated to ending the submitter’s business.

Under Food Marketing Institute, competitive harm, substantial or otherwise, is no longer relevant. The information remains confidential if it was treated as private by the submitter and provided to the government under an assurance of privacy. The keys, then, are how the submitter and the agency treat the information, not whether it would be useful to a competitor. If the submitter and

the agency treat it as confidential, the information will remain exempt from mandatory disclosure under Exemption 4.

There is much private or internal commercial and financial information that can flow from a regulated business to the regulator that is useful to interests who oppose that business on ideological or other grounds, but the disclosure of which the business cannot readily show will inflict substantial competitive harm. Food Marketing Institute materially changes that dynamic.

Virulent Newcastle Disease Update

Posted on July 2, 2019 by Office of Public Affairs
Statement from California State Veterinarian Dr. Annette Jones

Thanks to cooperation from Southern California residents in very difficult circumstances, and a tremendous commitment from emergency response teams, the joint CDFA/USDA Virulent Newcastle Disease Project has found no new positive detections of the disease since June 4, 2019.

While this potentially moves us closer to eradication, we must emphasize that any subsequent detections would represent a significant setback.

This is an extremely critical time. It is imperative that bird owners continue to work together to ensure that previously-infected areas remain free from disease, and it is vital that all bird owners within the regional quarantine area of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties continue practicing enhanced biosecurity and do not move birds.

The VND project team will now survey and test in areas where disease has previously existed to make sure there are no remaining residual pockets of virus in poultry. However, it is important to recognize that the virus will remain

in the environment for several more months, and that the risk of infection remains. If additional birds test positive, those birds and any exposed birds on adjacent properties will be euthanized.

Remember – we’re all in this together, and we must continue working together until virulent Newcastle disease is eradicated in California.

[Link to CDFA's Virulent Newcastle Disease page](#)

BIRDS *on the* Internet



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

Find an Avian Veterinarian



Association of
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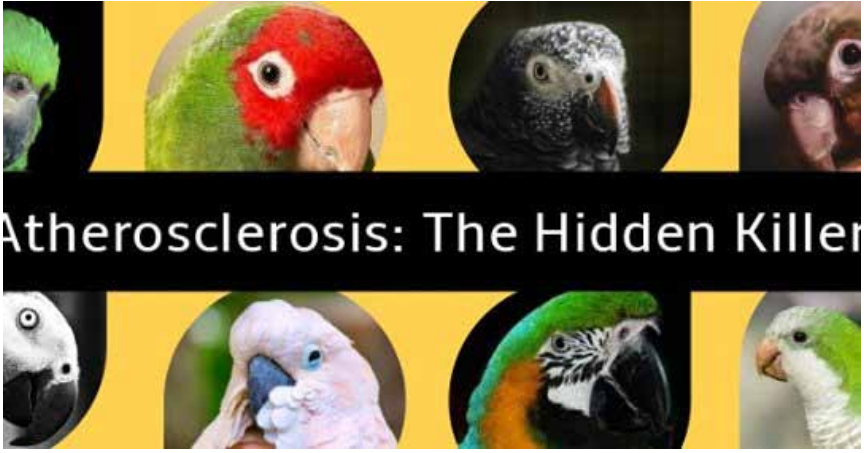


Exclusive video clip features birds' evolution from dinosaurs

A Flock by Any Other Name



Atherosclerosis: The Hidden Killer



Why Perform a Necropsy on Your Parrot?

The objective of this article is to become familiar with this unique medical discipline, to discover the various aspects of a necropsy and its numerous benefits.



Cheeky Australian birds take over town, hog basketball hoops and sleep in traffic lights



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Everything We Know About Birds That Glow
Owls, puffins, and lots of other flying friends exhibit fascinating patterns under blacklights.



How to Use Baking Soda to Wash Off 90% of All Toxic Pesticides from Your Fruits and Vegetables



Parrot Safety Net Made Stronger with New Arrivals



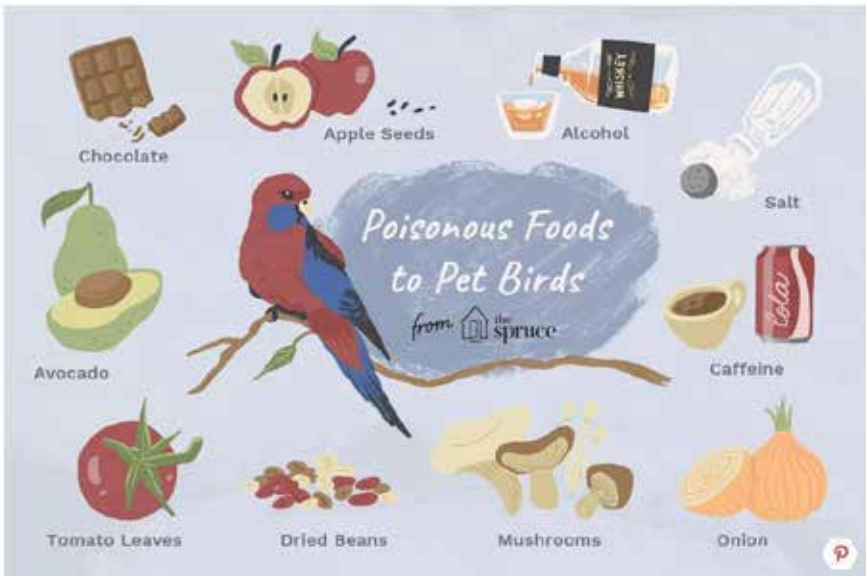
One Egg - Two Chicks - Watch Them Hatch



THE THUNDERBIRD
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10 Common Foods That Can Poison Your Bird



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When You Should—and Should Not—Rescue Baby Birds



Who Liked Hurricane Sandy? These Tiny Endangered Birds



Beak and feather disease vaccine could help save critically endangered orange-bellied parrot



This parrot got addicted to mobile, can't live without it



WOW! OPA workshop and tours on Sunday - st



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

Hosted by Zoo Miami

October 30 to November 2, 2019

**Conference: Marriot Hotel, Miami, FL
Guest Rooms: Courtyard by Marriot**

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



SPEAKERS

Tony Silva – ke
Josee Birming
James Pfarr - P
Daniel Almagu
Matt Baird - BL
Simon Degen
Montse Buch n
training
Tiago Nabiço -
Clyde Robinsc
Management
Jan Schottenl

Chris Touchto
Incubation an
More informat
<http://asabirds.org>

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



Keynote Speaker
Tony Silva

PROGRAM

• Wednesday

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

• Thursday

Full day of Aviculture Talks

• Friday

Morning talks
Zoo Miami Tour and BBQ

• Saturday

Full day of Aviculture Talks,
Evening – Banquet, Raffles and Keynote
Presentation by Tony Silva

Keynote
Ham - HARI
Pheasants
uer - Building Aviaries
ack cockatoos
hard - ACTP
Martinez - Loro Parque - Bird
Wisbroek - Knobbed Hornbills
on - Contemporary Waterfowl
opher - Bird Theft
n - Lory Aviary Management,
d Hand Rearing Procedures
tion:
www.iaab.org/conference/

STAY an Extra Day!

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



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

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

Invitation from Tony



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

**There's no better place to
be this fall!**



**Organization
of
Professional
Aviculturists**

***Fighting for your right to
keep birds!***

AVICULTURAL SOCIETY of AMERICA

14th Annual Education Conference

Hosted by Zoo Miami



October 30 to November 2, 2019

PROGRAM

• Wednesday

Afternoon, Check-in & Open Bird
Photography Slide Show
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Full day of Aviculture Talks

• Friday

Zoo Miami Tour and BBQ

• Saturday

Full day of Aviculture Talks,
Evening – Banquet and Keynote
Presentation by Tony Silva

**RAFFLE ITEMS NEEDED. Contact Dick
Dickinson at rgdickinson@yahoo.com**

Register today to assure
your spot on the after-
conference activities!

**Tours, tours and more
tours**

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attendees have
come to expect the
unexpected!**

***Come see why for
yourself!***

Donations for the Frank S. Todd Memorial Fund may be made
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Who's Your Daddy?

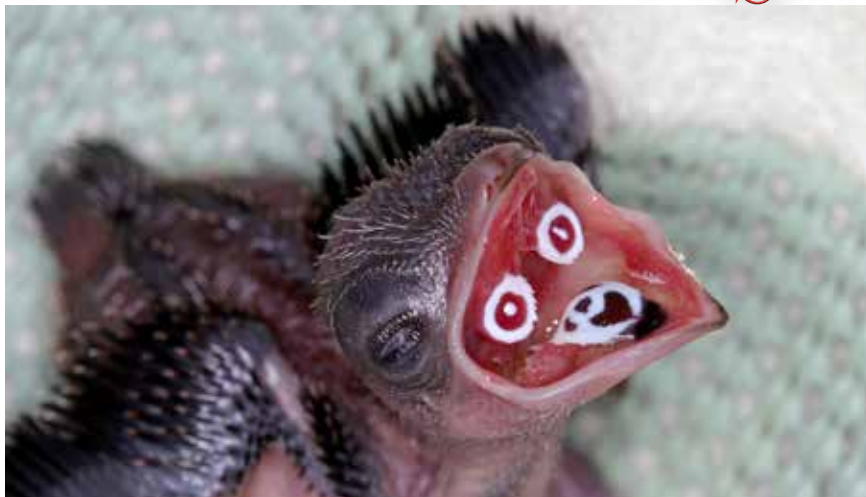


PHOTO DALLAS ZOO

Stumped? See answer on page 58



HOMES
for Animal
Heroes

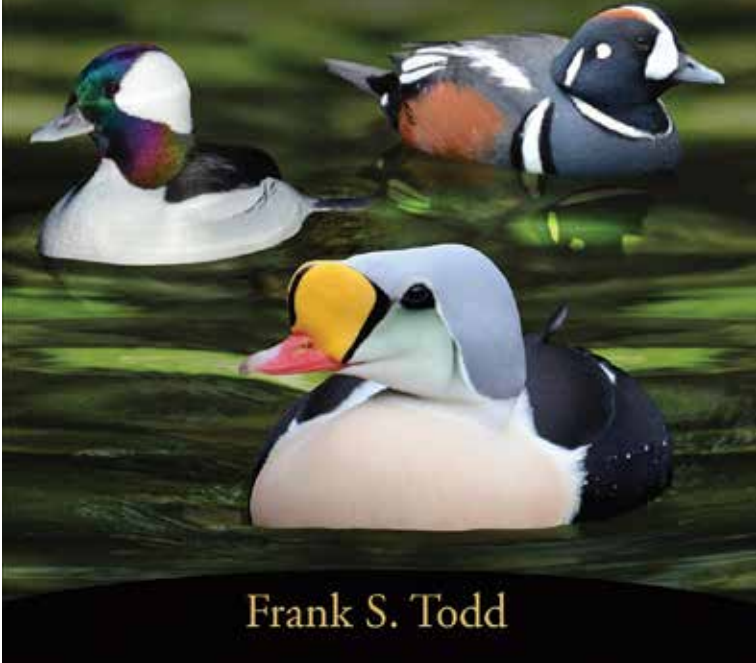
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<http://www.homesforanimalheroes.org/>

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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.

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

PLEASE DONATE NOW

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

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



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CRESTED COUA (COUA CRISTATA) PHOTO CAROL STANLEY

Who's Your Daddy?

From page 55, Answer:
Crested coua (*Coccyzoides cristata*)

The Crested coua (*Coccyzoides cristata*) is a medium-sized, approximately 44 cm long, greenish-grey coua with grey crest, blue bare orbital skin, rufous breast, brown iris, black bill and legs, white belly and long white-tipped purplish-blue tail feathers.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The crested coua is distributed and endemic to forests, savanna and brushland of Madagascar. It is found from sea-level to altitude of 900 metres.

EVENTS

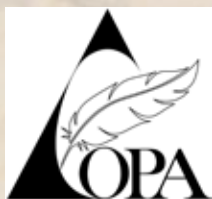
2019 EVENTS



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE - AFA's 45th Annual Educational Conference and Avian Expo will be held **August 8th – August 10th B Resort and Spa | 1905 Hotel Plaza Blvd. | Orlando, FL 32830** More info on www.afabirds.org



AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA - ASA's 14th Annual Education Conference October 30- November 2, 2019. Hosted by Zoo Miami. Conference activities: Marriot Hotel Miami. Guest room are at the Courtyard by Marriot in Miami. Watch for more details online at www.asabirds.org



ORGANIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL AVICULTURISTS
OPA Meeting, Aviary Tours and BBQ
November 3, 2019 (after ASA conference)
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Let us know of your avicultural event to be posted on our Events page at:
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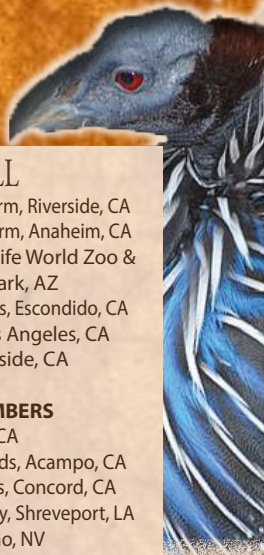
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The vast and exciting world of a bird in a person's life. Many are first introduced to birds as young children and are able to form a lifelong bond with their feathered friends throughout their lives. Some later in their adult life with as much passion as the case the outcome is the same, a lifelong love and an endless thirst for knowledge about natural history. Few things can make a person more excited like the discovery of a fertile egg, the hatching of a young bird. The only comparable experience inspire another person to enter our

OUR WORLD



Aviculture can be entered at any point fortunate to be exposed to their first experience to maintain that connection to their lives. Others learn to appreciate birds with enthusiasm as a child. Whatever the long passion for the variety of birds and the knowledge of their proper care, breeding and raising an aviculturist's heart fill with joy from the hatching of a chick or the fledging of a young bird. One of the most pleasurable feelings is when an aviculturist can share their passion with the world.....

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