

ASA

Avicultural Bulletin



A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

MAY/JUNE 2015



TO BE REPLACED
WITH BETTER
PHOTO

NEXT ISSUE

White-crested Laughing Thrushes
by Carol Stanley



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: Spix's Macaw *Cyanopsitta spixii* Photo by: Simon Degenhard

Inside Cover: White-crested laughingthrush pair *Garrulax leucolophus* Photo courtesy: Carol Stanley
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What a conference!

It would be hard to pick the best of the 10 ASA has put together.

None would be possible without dedication, support and talents needed to pull such an undertaking off. This year's conference is history and it was stellar and much is due to the following people and companies. We thank them all!

Laurie Conrad. Laurie has become the conference queen. Seemingly effortlessly changing hats between being conference director and Assistant Curator of Birds at SeaWorld, San Diego.

SeaWorld, San Diego. Our host this year. They provided a private viewing of the dress rehearsal of their new show, Wild Days Sea Rescue. Attendees also were free to access all of the parks amenities.

Mazuri. Our staunch supporter provides funding and is at every conference.

Vendors. The vendors provide a wonderful opportunity to shop or learn about new food and equipment. This year we thank Lyon Electric and Gamini Ratnivira, as well as Mazuri.

Speakers. The speakers this year, as every year, were diverse in their topics and provided information that transcends species specific limitations.

Raffle. Dick Dickenson spends the entire year collecting items for our raffle, which helps support providing the conference.

Volunteers. Here we have to mention Dot Rambin and Karen Born for their great work with registrations. Nick Pendergrass and Eric Carpenter for being the lovable gophers that retrieved batteries to keep things running.

Joan Embery. Television star, conservationist and a gracious ASA supporter. Joan brought animals from her ranch for conference attendees to meet and greet at the cocktail reception preceding the banquet. Thank you, Joan.

Charles Gailband. We loved seeing Charles' demonstration of his Harris Hawk on the beach at the Bahia. Some of the resident birds really took notice.

The Auctioneer. Maynard Axelson, former conference speaker, provided his expert auctioneer services which helped increase our auction revenue quite a bit.

Attendees. This is why we do it. Kudos and words of appreciation for content, our host and venue keep coming from those who enjoyed the conference.

Next Year. DUCK! The beautiful Pacific Northwest will be our backdrop, Debbie and Arnold Schouten our hosts at their Dry Creek Aviary and, an ensemble of international speakers should make for a conference to rival all others. You should come. You will enjoy it!

Officers & Staff

President

Ivo Lazzeroni 626-339-5059

Vice-President

Alex Culp alex@asabirds.org
714-308-0270

Secretary

Larry Herring 205-907-6326

Treasurer

Steve Duncan 909-599-7577

Board of Directors

Roger Bringas rogerbringas@gmail.com
Jennifer Culp 714-894-6146
Madge Decker 562-421-7981
Larry Herring 205-907-6326
Phyllis Levine 714-248-9138
Carol Stanley 925-698-0191
Jack Wikoff 909-428-5756

Board Advisor

Genny Wall 949-859-0861

Web Master

Steve Duncan 909-599-7577
www.asabirds.org

Legislative Liaison Officer

Laurella Desborough 904-291-9043

Membership Secretary

Sheri Hanna 805-208-1759
email : turacoldy@aol.com

Ways & Means

Alex Culp alex@asabirds.org
714-308-0270

Conference Coordinators

Laurie Conrad
Director
Steve Duncan 909-599-7577

Editorial Panel

Susie Christian winged1s@aol.com
805-772-2038
Sheldon Dingle 626-289-4400
Steve Duncan 909-599-7577
Sheri Hanna 805-208-1759
Carol Stanley 925-698-0191
Art Director
Lisa Woodworth templeaviaries@gmail.com

AFA Delegates

Steve Duncan 909-599-7577

Lifetime Honorary Members

Frank Miser Dick Schroeder
Sheldon Dingle Steve Duncan

Conference Raffle Coordinator

Richard Dickinson 623-544-6973
408-313-4986
rgdickinson@yahoo.com

ASA Meetings

Get the latest meeting info online at : www.asabirds.org/meetings.htm

ASA Regular Meetings are generally held the first Sunday of the Month in southern California. Everyone is welcome to attend. Check the website for updates on speakers and their topics as well as to reconfirm dates and times etc. Come as you are and bring a friend!

ACTP....

The Realisation of a DREAM!

Creating The World's Best Breeding Facility

Text by Simon Degenhard, photos by Simon Degenhard and ACTP



HYACINTH MACAW *ANODORHYNCHUS HYACINTHINUS* PHOTO ACTP

The Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots or ACTP as it is affectionately known, started literally as one man's dream in his humble backyard. The year was 2006 and the man was Martin Guth, a German parrot lover all but unheard of on the world stage. But one thing would prove to set this man apart from the rest; his drive to succeed in the realisation of his dream was and still is, all but unparalleled!

I was lucky enough to have Martin invite me to visit ACTP in September

last year and I can honestly say I was completely blown away by what he has achieved there in the space of just a few short years. From its humble beginnings in a suburban Berlin backyard in 2006, ACTP has now grown to become a stand alone facility that I can confidently say is unmatched the world over. The construction of the new facility commenced in 2011 after the acquisition of a much larger block of land, and as of the time of writing is approaching 50% complete.

Upon entering the facility it is immediately apparent that you are about to view something special. German precision and perfection is instantly evident in terms of the construction and functionality of the facility itself, as is the professionalism and enthusiasm of the ACTP team. I was introduced to Head Keeper Enrico Sydow and his deputy, Katrin Scholtyssek, who is also the resident biologist, and after a short space of time it was very evident as to why Martin had hand picked these two for the job of managing the day to day running of the facility. Not only are they both extremely knowledgeable when it comes to the birds, but their knowledge is matched by their sheer enthusiasm for the birds as well as the dream! It is evident that Enrico and Katrin also have a great feel for the birds, both clearly recognising the differing personalities of individuals within the facility and tailoring their management accordingly to suit their needs.

Martin's passion for parrots began many years ago and his desire to work with and help to conserve some of the world's rarest species has only grown with time. His love and concern for them is immediately evident upon meeting him and even more so when he is showing you around his magnificent facility. Martin is in many ways a rather divisive character, with many people in the international avicultural community not quite sure what to make of the man who, having risen from being a virtual unknown, has become top of the pack in just a few short years! But for him this is of little importance, instead he is only

concerned with the tireless pursuit of his goals and dreams and the care of and ultimately success with the rare charges that ACTP has in its care.

It's all but impossible not to be immediately impressed as soon as you pass through the main gate into the facility; the entire set-up is immaculate. Currently it consists of two long rows of aviaries, though each row is divided into smaller banks of aviaries designed in such a way that each smaller bank can be sealed off completely from the neighbouring banks. Thus preventing the spread of disease throughout the entire collection if a bird was to come down sick. A third bank of aviaries is currently under construction, which once complete will be the biggest bank to date. Construction won't stop there though, as the completion of this third bank of aviaries will only bring the facility to approximately 50% of its planned size. So the evolution of ACTP will continue well into the future. I am very excited at the prospect of following the progress as the facility continues to evolve!

Each flight is huge in itself, with the outdoor flights being between 12m-15m long; in addition to this the indoor flights are another 3m in length. The construction work is second to none and the thought that has gone into the design leaves nothing to be desired. All indoor flights are heated during winter via underfloor heating and the birds can be easily locked in or out as necessary. Video cameras are set-up throughout, within the outdoor and indoor flights and nest boxes, so that

GOLDEN CONURE *GUARUBA GUAROUBA* PHOTO SIMON DEGENHARD



each pair can be easily monitored at any given time. Each aviary is equipped with dual feed stations that double as catching cages and also allow for individual birds to be more easily monitored and medicated if need be.

The outdoor flights are constructed out of aluminium and the highest-grade galvanised weld mesh. And the indoor flights are of brick and tile construction. The materials throughout are of the best quality; quite frankly no expense has been spared. In all honesty, the aviaries at ACTP have been built to a higher standard than most houses that I have ever set foot in!

Food prep is carried out in a kitchen area better equipped than that of many restaurants, complete with walk in fridge and freezer and an industrial dishwasher. Benches and bowls are of food grade stainless steel. Only the best quality foods are fed and variety is paramount. The quantity fed to

each bird is carefully calculated and monitored and portions are weighed out accordingly for each feed.

A fully equipped off-site quarantine station is maintained some 45 minutes away to allow for full-scale isolation and monitoring of new arrivals, even in larger numbers. However, small-scale facilities are also maintained on-site to allow for birds to be isolated in the case

of illness. A number of smaller individual enclosures are housed within this fully contained room, which also features a state-of-the-art air filtration system and surgical operating facilities.

The facility also features two fully equipped hand-rearing stations, featuring multiple

Grumbach incubators and brooders, video monitoring and are climate controlled.

The facility has been designed with the housing and breeding of



RED-TAILED AMAZON *AMAZONA BRASILIENSIS*
PHOTO ACTP



YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO
CALYPTORHYNCHUS FUNEREUS
PHOTO ACTP



GANG-GANG COCKATOO *CALLOCEPHALON*
FIMBRIATUM PHOTO ACTP

some of the world's rarest parrots in mind and, to this end, a number of target species already call this place home. This includes the Holy Grail of the parrot world, the Spix's Macaw, a species considered extinct in the wild and only numbers approximately 100 individuals in captivity. Regarding the Spix's Macaw, ACTP work's very closely with the Brazilian Government, and now plays an integral part in the recovery programme, the end goal of which is the reintroduction of the species into the wild. Martin set his sights on working with this incredible species over a decade ago and it has been his extraordinary drive and foresight alone that has seen the realisation of this goal. Although still

in the early stages of their breeding programme with this species, ACTP has already achieved notable success with them and all signs are pointing towards another successful season in 2015. The success to date has been duly recognised by the relevant official representatives from the Government of Brazil and it must be noted that ACTP maintains a very close working relationship with Brazil's Spix's Macaw recovery team. In fact I can personally attest to the fact that the Brazilian Government holds both Martin and ACTP as a whole in very high regard. The achievements made by Martin and ACTP thus far in regards to this little blue macaw are to be commended and give me great confidence in



GOLDEN CONURE *GUARUBA GUARUBA* PHOTO
SIMON DEGENHARD

Aviary

PALM COCKATOO *PROBOSCIGER ATERRIMUS* AND
HOMOSAPIEN AVIARY LIFE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF SIMON
DEGENHARD PHOTO: AVIARY LIFE



terms of the positive role that they will play in the conservation of this species well into the future.

The Spix's Macaw Recovery Programme isn't the only endangered species breeding programme that ACTP is heavily involved in, they are also working very closely with the governments of St. Vincent and St. Lucia in establishing viable breeding populations of the St. Vincent Amazon and St. Lucia Amazon to help safe guard the survival of these two magnificent and rare Caribbean parrots. And to complement the work that they are doing from a

captive sense, ACTP has also donated considerable funds to the respective authorities in both of these countries to facilitate education programmes aimed at educating the public as to the dangers faced by these amazons and the importance of preserving them and their habitat. Again the governments of both countries hold ACTP in very high regard and have placed much faith in Martin and his team, faith that I am all but certain will be repaid in full in time.

A number of other parrot species also call ACTP home, including: Palm Cockatoos, Red-tailed and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, Gang-gang

SAINT LUCIA AMAZON *AMAZONA VERSICOLOR* PHOTO SIMON DEGENHARD



SOME OF ACTP'S MAGNIFICENT OUTDOOR AVIARIES PHOTO SIMON DEGENHARD



SAINT LUCIA AMAZON AMAZONA VERSICOLOR PHOTO ACTP



Cockatoos, Hyacinth and Scarlet Macaws, Red-tailed Amazons and Golden Conures, all of which I am sure they will have great success with.

All in all you can't help but be hugely impressed by ACTP and the man behind the dream, Martin Guth, who's achievements to date are immense, especially given the relatively short amount of time in which they have taken place. Having had the absolute honour and pleasure of spending a few days with

Martin and his team at ACTP back in September 2014 I am in no doubt that this organisation will go from strength to strength and go on to play an increasingly vital role in the conservation of many endangered parrot species.

So, thank you Mr Guth and co for affording me the time to show me around and to help me familiarise myself with your magnificent breeding centre, my visit certainly exceeded all expectations and I simply can't wait to return!



ST. VINCENT AMAZON *AMAZONA GUILDINGII* PHOTO SIMON DEGENHARD





SPIX'S MACAW *CYANOPSITTA SPIXII* PHOTO ACTP



SPIX'S MACAW *CYANOPSITTA SPIXII* PHOTO SIMON DEGENHARD



BREAKING NEWS!

In very exciting news just at hand at the time of publication, I can reveal that Martin has informed me of ACTP's latest success with their Spix's Macaws! At the time of

writing the ACTP Team is proudly rearing three healthy babies, which are yet more very valuable additions to the worldwide population of this extremely rare macaw. Very notably, this success



represents the first breeding of the Spix's Macaw worldwide for 2015! Huge congratulations go out to the whole ACTP Team on this most recent success. 🦜

SPIX'S MACAW *CYANOPSITTA SPIXII* PHOTO ACTP



Steve's Photo Pick

Comb Duck or Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* is a duck from the tropical regions around the globe. It occurs in Africa, Asia and South America. They are common throughout most of their range. The Comb Duck gets its name from the fleshy knob or comb on the male's bill. Females do not have this feature. Comb Ducks are one of the largest ducks. They are residents of freshwater habitats, and despite their large size, they do perch in trees. Males will often mate with multiple females. They are not fussy about nesting sites and will nest in tree cavities or in tall grasses. Comb Ducks in Africa will often nest in old Hamerkop nests.





What a Conference! Have you been?

Carol Stanley



HARRIS' HAWK PARABUTEO UNICINCTUS WITH FALCONER CHARLES GAILBAND PHOTO STEVE DUNCAN

As an aviculturist that enjoys the company of other aviculturists, my vacations have become attending avian conferences and conventions.

Each is dear to me for different reasons but, the ASA conference is one I am partial to as a board member and Art Director for the ASA Bulletin. It is low key, yet packed with first rate speakers, mostly from zoos and our hosting venues are welcoming and fun places to go.

The 2015 ASA conference was no exception. During the 10 years since its inception, that's right, 10 years, the conference has been held mainly in Western states with the exception of Rosarito Beach, Baja California, Mexico - my personal first - and probably the one that got me hooked.

Just imagine sitting in a bar with legends such as Mike Lubbock of Sylvan Heights Bird Park, Frank Todd, penguin expert and penguin encounter designer, Toucan expert Jerry Jennings of Emerald Forest Bird Gardens, Hancock curator Myles Lamont, Dove and pigeon expert Lynn Hall, ASA President Steve Duncan and Keynote speaker Joan Embery.

It was the first time I wished I could have been a fly on the wall with a tape recorder. These were the pioneers, the ones in the fields, on the glacier, in the dessert or savannah or jungle and in their own private nursery, trying new methods and sharing what was learned. Wherever birds were, they were. And they shared their living legacies at zoos, bird parks, conservation

organizations and aviculturists around the world.

Their stories genuine, real, and often funny. I won't disservice them here by retelling from my vague memories.

The point is if you don't attend a conference, you might never get to hear the stories and get to know the legends that have paved the way to what we know as being an aviculturist.

The 2015 conference was sponsored by Mazuri. Laurie Conrad, Assistant Curator of Birds, SeaWorld, San Diego was pivotal in arranging the amazing speakers and the BBQ at SeaWorld, all whilst rehearsing for a major stage show that conference attendees were invited to preview the dress rehearsal. I personally cannot thank Laurie enough. It was a major undertaking.

THE ATTENDEES

ASA conference attendees are a wonderfully varied mix of private aviculturists, local zookeepers, curators, conservationists and ASA members. International travelers such as Daniel Shearing of Cheddar, UK is a welcome annual attendee.

Traditionally, local zoo employees may attend all talks at no charge. Many of them are presenters.

THE RAFFLE

Much of the expense of the conference is covered by our raffle. Dick Dickensen works, and shops, tirelessly throughout the year collecting items for our 4 day extravaganza.





We want to curb Dick's spending to fill the tables so will appreciate any raffle items you may have to donate!

Dick even went so far as to buy material and have flamingo pillows made. Not sure who that was for but am positive she really appreciated it.

THE VENDORS

Our staunch supporter, **Mazuri** gave free samples, custom measuring cups, pens and paper to anyone visiting their booth.

Lyon Technology participated and donated a nebulizing unit for the raffle. We were happy to see them at our conference!

Gamini Ratnavira and his lovely wife Lisa displayed Gamini's beautiful, original artwork and offered custom necklace/key fob painting (I purchased one of The I5 (Chilean flamingo) and a Southern Ground Hornbill as a gift.)

THE PRESENTERS

The speaker program was bursting at the seams but the schedule and pace was so comfortable. You never feel rushed to get up early. This allows plenty of time for socializing over breakfast or lunch.

Space doesn't allow proper reviews of all the speakers so I will thank them by name. Video of presentations, if approved by the presenter, will be available later this year.

- Justin Brackett Micronesia Kingfisher rearing and SSP overview
- Laura Chee, US Fish and Wildlife Service – Smuggling and Birds
- Charles Gailband Raptor Bird

Demonstration

- Dick Zembal – Southern California Conservation Projects
- Liz Koustos, Mazuri – Current Concepts in Avian Nutrition
- Bill Robles Project Puffin
- Gamini Ratnavira – Birds of Sri Lanka
- Linda Henry, SeaWorld – Lighting and Birds
- Rebecca Schwartz, San Diego Audubon - Audubon's Important Bird Area Program and Conservation Planning
- Johnpaul Houston – Blackpool Zoological Society Scaly-sided Merganser Program EAZA
- Jessica Theule, San Diego Zoo Global-2014 Highlights at the SDZ's Avian Propagation Center
- Cynthia Gitter Crowned Crane Conservation: African Crane Trade Project
- Beau Parks, San Diego Zoo Global - The Mangrove Finch project in the Galapagos Islands
- Jerry Jennings Breeding Behavior in the Chestnut-mandibled Toucan (Ramphastos swainsonii)

HIGHLIGHTS

Charles Gailband brought 2 of his birds of prey. One for an indoor talk and a Harris Hawk for an outside demonstration near the beach. Raptors are highly specialized by nature and seeing them in action was a real treat that had all looking to the skies. Thank you, Charles!

Laura Chee of US Fish and Wildlife displayed examples of confiscated illegally smuggled animals which

included a tiger head and skin, zebra skin, various other animals, seahorses, alligator, ivory and more.

Bird curator at the Los Angeles Zoo, Susie Kasielke, gave an impromptu update on the current status of Avian Influenza in the United States, its history and preventative measures the Los Angeles Zoo is taking to protect its charges from this pathogen so little is known about. Refer to the website for Susie's updated presentation slides at www.asabirds.org/AvianInfluenza

SEAWORLD, SAN DIEGO

After two morning talks, ASA conference attendees headed to close-by SeaWorld.

By special invitation, attendees were able to preview the dress rehearsal to Wild Days Sea Rescue in the 4D theatre.

This well produced show featured a combination of live presenters and video and highlighted some of the until now little known efforts SeaWorld makes toward animal rescue and rehabilitation. SeaWorld's work with injured sea mammals, birds and turtles has been going on for decades with little boasting or fanfare. They just do it.

Flamingos, an African porcupine, Scarlet Ibis and more crossed the stage and delighted the audience during this special invitation only preview. What a treat!

THE BBQ AT SEAWORLD

ASA Conference registration included the day at SeaWorld, followed by the BBQ and live band, The Tighen Ups.

After a slight mix up adult beverages were made available and the fun began. For those that stayed, the Flamingo conga line proved fun and got people to their feet!

JOAN EMBERY AND HER MENAGERIE

Long-time ASA supporter, Joan Embery provided a special treat during the pre-banquet cocktail reception - she brought part of her private zoo for conference attendees to see and touch. Conference attendees got to schmooze with Joan's animals which included a 3 plated armadillo, an African porcupine, Wallaby, a barn owl and more! Joan receives nothing from ASA for bringing her animals. Thank you, Joan!

BANQUET AND AUCTION

After an above average meal and dessert, the keynote presentation was given by Jerry Jennings on Swainson's Toucans. Jerry is one of my favorite speakers and his toucan knowledge spans decades of working with them at his Emerald Forest Garden ranch in Fallbrook.

Despite recent health setbacks, Jerry delivered a well received and very informational keynote.

Guest auctioneer Maynard Axelson helped ASA bring in big bucks during the auction for higher priced items.

I was delighted to win, and wondering how I would get home, a beautiful serigraph painting and Walt Sturgeon framed red-crowned crane photograph taken in Japan during one of his recent guided tours.

NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE

Conference preparation comes to a frenzy days before it starts and continues until arrival at the conference venue where volunteers assist with registration and all the little details that help is needed for.

It is customary to begin discussion of the next year's conference and this was the case this year in San Diego.

As it stands, we will be hosted by Arnold and Debbie Schouten of Dry Creek in Port Angeles, Washington, near Seattle in the spring of 2016. The Schoutens specialize in sea ducks, which are in maximum breeding condition in May. Details are still being worked out but this conference has the makings of one of our best in the beautiful Northwest.

As I review and lay out all the pictures the one thing that stands out is that everyone is smiling.

Come Smile With Us!





Today's Aviculturists →
Past - Present - Future
left-right Steve Duncan, Ivo Lazeroni and Greg Sercel







The Birds Down Under with Mike Owen

Nutrient Values Of Fruit, Vegetables And Nuts

by Mike Owen

Good nutrition is probably the single most important aspect of aviculture—unless a bird receives an adequate, balanced diet it is less likely to be healthy, less likely to want to breed and less likely to successfully raise chicks. Part of giving a bird good nutrition is knowing what the nutritional needs of the birds are—and what the nutritional contents of the food is that we feed them. Hence the focus of this issue of the magazine on the nutritional content of common seed, fruit, vegetables and nuts.

The needs of parrots at least is becoming pretty well known—unfortunately there seems to be few, if any, studies of the needs of finches and other groups of commonly kept birds. So I will concentrate on the needs of parrots.

We know that parrots need as a maintenance diet (outside of breeding season) of around 10% protein with a proper balance of amino acids making up that protein, and around 2% to 4% fat. Leading up to breeding and during breeding those levels need to increase—perhaps to 15% to 20% protein and around 6% to 8% fat. Similarly

calcium needs for maintenance is around 0.3% but increase to 0.6% or more leading up to egg laying.

One of the developing ideas in parrot nutrition is the concept of high, medium and low energy foods—the calorie content of the food basically. Like us—too many calories means too much fat, and like us too much fat can be dangerous for a parrot—fatty liver disease being a major killer of companion and aviary birds. So I have prepared a table that gives the energy (in calories per 100grams), protein, fat, sugar, beta-carotene (made into vitamin A by the bird), calcium and phosphate levels of most commonly fed foods. It is arranged according to energy content—and most of the fresh food needs to be fed from the low energy list with small amounts from the medium and high energy lists. This should ensure that the birds do not get more energy than they can use and hence should not get overweight. And to give an idea of how many calories a parrot needs, a 250 gram bird—say an Alexandrine - in an aviary needs around 75 calories a day.

	Energy Kcal/ 100grams	Protein%	Fat%	Sugar%	beta-carotene ppm	Calcium ppm	Phosphorus ppm	Ca:P Ideal
VERY HIGH ENERGY								
pine nuts	673	13.7	68.4	3.6	17	16	575	2 : 71.9
brazil	656	14.3	66.4	2.3	0	160	725	2 : 9.1
walnut- English	654	15.2	65.2	2.6	12	98	346	2 : 7.1
almond	579	21.2	49.9	4.2	1	269	481	2 : 3.6
peanut	567	25.8	49.2	4.0	0	92	376	2 : 8.2
pistachio	562	20.3	45.4	7.7	249	105	490	2 : 9.3
pumkin seed	559	30.2	49.1	1.4	9	46	1233	2 : 53.6
cashew	553	18.2	43.9	5.9	0	37	593	2 : 32.1
wheat grass	198	7.5	1.3	0.0	0	28	200	2 : 14.3
HIGH ENERGY								
grapes - white	114	1.6	0.5	25.6	130	54	24	2 : 0.9
passionfruit	97	2.2	0.7	11.2	742	12	68	2 : 11.3
corn	86	3.3	1.4	6.3	47	2	89	2 : 89
sweet potato	86	1.6	0.1	4.2	8509	30	47	2 : 3.1
peas	81	5.4	0.4	5.7	449	25	108	2 : 8.6
MEDIUM ENERGY								
mango	60	0.8	0.4	13.7	640	11	14	2 : 2.5
Pear	57	0.4	0.1	9.8	14	9	12	2 : 2.7
kale	49	4.3	0.9	2.3	5927	150	92	2 : 1.2
apple	48	0.3	0.1	10.1	17	5	11	2 : 4.4
orange	47	0.9	0.1	9.4	71	40	14	2 : 0.7
dandelion	45	2.7	0.7	0.7	5854	187	66	2 : 0.7
paw paw	43	0.5	0.3	7.8	274	20	10	2 : 1
beetroot	43	1.6	0.2	6.8	20	16	48	2 : 6
brussel sprouts	43	3.4	0.3	2.2	450	42	69	2 : 3.3
carrot	41	0.9	0.2	4.7	8285	33	35	2 : 2.1

Ideal Ca:P ratio is 2:1 —anything less than 2:2 is OK
(1 Kcal = 1 calorie)

unit	Energy Kcal/ 100grams (1 Kcal = 1 calorie)	Protein %	Fat %	Sugar %	beta-carotene ppm	Calcium ppm	Phosphorus ppm	Ca:P ideal is 2:1
LOW ENERGY								
dwarf beans	31	1.8	0.2	3.3	379	37	38	2 : 2.1
capsicum - red	31	1.0	0.3	4.2	1624	7	26	2 : 7.4
red cabbage	31	1.4	0.2	3.8	670	45	243	2 : 10.8
Mung beans sprouted	30	3.0	0.2	4.1	6	8	54	2 : 13.5
chilli - jalapeno	29	0.9	0.4	4.1	561	12	26	2 : 4.3
broccoli flowers	28	1.6	0.4	0.0	0	48	66	2 : 2.8
broccoli stalks	28	3.0	0.4	0.0	0	48	66	2 : 2.8
pumpkin	26	1.0	0.1	2.8	3100	21	44	2 : 4.2
rocket (arugula)	25	2.6	0.7	2.1	1424	160	52	2 : 0.7
cabbage	25	1.3	0.1	3.2	42	40	170	2 : 8.5
cauliflower	25	1.9	0.3	1.9	0	22	44	2 : 4
spinach	23	2.9	0.4	0.4	5626	99	49	2 : 1
alfalfa sprouts	23	4.0	0.7	0.2	87	32	70	2 : 4.4
chicory	23	1.7	0.3	0.7	3430	100	47	2 : 0.9
Alfalfa sprouted	23	4.0	0.7	0.2	87	32	70	2 : 4.4
zucchini	21	2.7	0.4	0.0	0	21	93	2 : 8.9
bok choy	20	2.7	0.3	1.4	4334	158	49	2 : 0.6
capsicum - green	20	0.9	0.2	2.4	208	10	20	2 : 4
silver beet	19	1.8	0.2	1.1	3647	51	46	2 : 1.8
tomato	18	0.9	0.2	2.6	449	10	24	2 : 4.8
endive	17	1.3	0.2	0.3	1300	52	28	2 : 1.1
lettuce - cos	17	1.2	0.3	1.2	5226	33	30	2 : 1.8
celery - stalk	16	0.7	0.2	1.8	270	40	24	2 : 1.2
Chinese cabbage	16	1.2	0.2	1.4	190	77	29	2 : 0.8
water cress	11	2.3	0.1	0.2	1914	120	60	2 : 1
PELLET FOR COMPARISON								
Mazuri Parrot maintenance	315	16.0	8.0	0.0	960	5226	770	2 : 0.3

Seed mixes vary considerably but a standard small parrot mix will probably have an energy value in the mid to high 300's



Treating Mate Aggression Wounds in Beaks

Carol Stanley

The worst site to see when caring for your birds in the morning, is an injured bird huddled in the corner of its cage.

Some cockatoo species may be the most notorious for beak damage or maiming but, I've had it happen between Hyacinth Macaw siblings who were playing.

In either case, veterinary care is required for antibiotics and repairs, where possible. Birds are able to survive the loss of an upper beak and do quite well.

The wounded bird needs to be removed from the cage and placed in a safe environment.

Establish an appointment with a veterinarian, preferably avian.


Meanwhile, soft foods should be offered and observations should be made as to whether the bird is eating.

The veterinarian's initial examination will provide the extent of the damage

and prognosis.

If repairable, after cleaning the the site of the injury, an epoxy will be mixed and applied over the wound. The epoxy adheres to the beak and protects it. The epoxy will last up to three weeks. This procedure does not require anesthesia and can be done on an outpatient basis.

In the event the "patch" falls off, you may replace it using super glue in a well ventilated area.

Normally, the beak will grow back out in time, leaving no visible evidence of injury. 



THE AVICULTURIST'S TOOL BOX

Laurella Desborough

Aviculture, the practice of keeping and breeding birds, has been around just about as long as humans have established relationships with other creatures on the planet. We today are a part of that long line of individuals who find birds fascinating and want to spend time enjoying them. It seems to me that there are some basic tools that make it possible for us to enjoy our birds as well as provide them with a good life.

OBSERVATION

In my opinion the most critical tool we have at our disposal is observation. Much of the extremely valuable information that the respected and honored aviculturists of years past have shared with us has come from their daily observations of their birds. These skilled and dedicated aviculturists focused their attention on details of appearance and behavior of the various avian species kept and bred in their aviaries. We are indebted to them for providing records of what they learned from observing their birds.

Observation is important for two reasons: it gives us pleasure and it provides valuable information about our birds. Each day when we go into the aviary and see the remarkable beauty and unique character of the various species we keep, whether they are parrots or finches or flamingos or any other avian species, we experience a great joyfulness. Aviculturists are blessed to have the opportunity to experience this special joy each day with their birds.

It is probably the primary reason we keep birds.

However, the second reason observation is important is the valuable information we obtain when we observe our birds. This is how we gather data on the condition of their health and on the details of their behavior. With this information we gather, we build a storehouse of data on the specific species.

While most of our observation is enjoyable, sometimes we happen to observe very unusual behavior, sometimes in a breeding pair. With a normally well bonded pair that routinely interact peacefully we may now find serious fighting, with each one showing extreme aggression. If we have observed many breeding pairs of this species, we know from prior observation of the species that this is abnormal behavior. This may be a clear indication that those two birds must be separated immediately, and perhaps permanently.

One consideration that is important with the process of observation is that one needs to simply see the behavior and note the behavior, without putting any "human values" onto the behavior. A problem which can occur with new bird keepers or pet owners, is to assume that behavior xxx means yyy, because that is what it would mean for humans!

Another problem is to assume that behavior xxx means yyy, because

that is what it would mean in another species with which one is familiar. We must remember that avian species have developed very different behaviors which may have very different meanings according to the species.

Certainly when working with a new bird species, and observing a behavior which gives us cause for concern, it is a good idea to consult with someone who has a lot of experience with that species in order to be sure we are not making the wrong interpretation of the behavior. Even well informed biologists can make assumptions about bird or animal behavior that doesn't fit with what long term aviculturists know about the species. That is why sharing information on bird behavior is important for both those who work with the species in captivity and those studying the birds in the wild.

There are two kinds of observation: casual and focused. Casual observation may be described as what happens when you walk down the row of breeding flights or into the aviary and glance here and there, noting feces, molted feathers, birds moving about, and the condition of the food and water bowls as you continue down the row. Everything looks normal, no unusual activities, bowls look typical at this time of day, and so on.

Suddenly you see a female parrot sitting still on a perch and just slightly hunched with her head held close to her body. This requires focused observation. When you see this bird, you realize that this bird doesn't look just quite right. You

The avicultural community provides those of us with different species interests an opportunity to meet and communicate with colleagues who have similar interests.

ask yourself, what is going on? This becomes a situation where you need to observe the bird in a more focused manner. Where is the mate? What is he doing? Has this hen been working the nestbox? Is there anything unusual in the bird's body posture? Is this a young hen? Could the bird be feeling poorly due to possible egg binding? Or could the bird be suffering from a bacterial infection? You check the feces to see if they are normal or unusual. Take a look into the nestbox and see if she has been working it. Based on what you find and how she responds to your movements around the area, you may decide she needs to be pulled out and examined carefully. Then, depending on what you determine, you may decide on a trip to the vet or to wait and check again later.

RECORD KEEPING

The second critical tool in the aviculturist's tool box is record keeping. While this activity is not exactly entertaining, it is very valuable. Record keeping is necessary

for a bird breeding facility in terms of having a means of identifying pairs, location of pairs, noting breeding behavior of pairs, dates eggs are laid, dates of hatches, dates chicks are pulled or fledged. Foods provided to breeding pairs with young may need to be adjusted accordingly, if one expects to have successful rearing of the youngsters. It is also important to be able to record whether or not a pair is producing infertile eggs, destroys eggs, fails to feed new hatches, plucks the chicks, or does a good job of feeding and rearing chicks. These kinds of records enable the bird breeder to be able to respond to the different behaviors of pairs and find a way to do what is needed so that eggs and young survive. When the aviculturist has a large facility, it is difficult to keep all this kind of data in one's head. Keeping written or computer input records makes managing the birds a lot easier.


Even pet owners can benefit from keeping records on their birds. Records of weights, vet visits, changes in behavior, changes in eating habits, changes in feces, etc. because these changes may be of importance in monitoring the bird's health and when very helpful when consulting a veterinarian.

EQUIPMENT

The third critical tool in the aviculturist's tool box is equipment. Some equipment is very important, such as an accurate scale on which to weigh birds, babies or adults. Other tools of importance are accurate thermometers to use in testing formula temperature, or in

monitoring brooder or incubator temperatures. Using a laboratory grade thermometer to check the temperature in a brooder or incubator can make the difference between live or dead eggs and chicks, because some computer driven temperature controls can be off by degrees. Thus, having a laboratory grade thermometer can provide a safety check. For daily use one can use ordinary thermometers that have been checked against the laboratory grade thermometer. With an accurate scales and accurate thermometers, one can work well with the rest of the equipment used in bird care and breeding.

COLLEAGUES

The fourth tool in the aviculturist's tool box is colleagues. While I am sure most of us do not think of our colleagues as tools, yet they are important for our enjoyment and success with birds. Thus I think it bears mentioning that we do need to have a relationship with others who keep and breed birds. The camaraderie is important, but it is also the sharing of information that is valuable to each of us when we need to ask questions, when we have problems, and when we want to share what we have learned. The avicultural community provides those of us with different species interests an opportunity to meet and communicate with colleagues who have similar interests. Thus, over many years with many individuals sharing information, we build a valuable library of knowledge about many different avian species. 

ASA MEMBER CLUBS

Central California Avian Society
PO Box 5067, Fresno, CA 93755
www.ccasbirds.com

Long Beach Bird Breeders
6444 Spring St # 132
Long Beach, CA 90815
longbeachbirdbreeders@gmail.com

Contra Costa Avian Society
P.O. Box 23115 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
www.contracostaaviansociety.org

Fort Worth Bird Club
P.O. Box 1712 Keller, TX 76244
fwbc@fortworthbirdclub.com

Acadiana Bird Club
480 Almonaster Dr Youngsville, LA 70592
acadianabirdinc@hotmail.com

Finch Society of San Diego County
4256 10 Ave San Diego, CA 92103
www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com

Arizona Seedcracker Society Inc
P.O. Box 26899 Mesa, AZ 85214

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The Avicultural Society of America is proudly affiliated with:

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Frank Miser, Jr., Magnolia Bird Farm, Riverside, CA

Frank Miser, Sr., Magnolia Bird Farm, Anaheim, CA
Connie & Mickey Ollson, Wildlife World Zoo &
Aquarium, Litchfield Park, AZ
Dick Schroeder, Avian Enterprises, Escondido, CA
Wm. N Smith, C.T.C., Inc., Los Angeles, CA
Helen Teunissen, Riverside, CA

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2015 EVENTS

July 29 - August 1, 2015 **AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE CONVENTION** - Hyatt O'Hare, Chicago, IL - www.afabirds.org

July 30-August 2, 2015 **AVES INTERNATIONAL**, Grafton, Australia
- www.avesconvention.com www.facebook.com/avesconvention

November 29, 2015 **EVERYBODY'S BIRDMART.**, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM. Pomona, CA

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