

ASA

A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION,  
RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

July/Aug 2018





# NEXT ISSUE

**PHOTOGRAPHER IN OUR MIDST**  
**the photos of Dot Rambin**

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: Chestnut backed thrush chicks *Geothlypis trichas* top. Magpie Robin male *Copsychus saularis* bottom Photos by Ilana and Roland Cristo. Inside Cover: Carunculated caracara Photo by Dot Rambin © 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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*Roland and Ilana Cristo*



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Greetings, fellow Aviculturists:

I think you will find this issue of the Avicultural Bulletin especially exciting.

Long-time ASA supporter and softbill specialists, Roland Cristo and his wife, Ilana Cristo, have contributed "Breeding Softbilled Songbirds" as our featured article. The Cristos share many aspects of husbandry that you may find useful.

I was particularly impressed with the diets the Cristo's have created for insectivore, frugivore, and omnivore species. Thank you Roland and Ilana for the detailed information you have created. This is a keeper!

The next big thing is the announcement of Tony Silva as our keynote speaker at the 14th Annual Avicultural Society of America Education Conference. October 30 - November 2, 2019 at the Marriot Hotel in Miami, Florida and hosted by Zoo Miami.

Another benefit of an online eBulletin is the inclusion of hyperlinks. This allows us to bring you more content from other sources just a click away (sometimes you may need to hold down the Control key (windows) or the Command key (mac) to open the link.

If you have bird content on youtube or facebook you would like to submit for approval to share with a hyperlink, please send the link to [info@asabirds.org](mailto:info@asabirds.org) for consideration. Who knows, you might be sharing your best videos with many like-minded people!

Yours truly,

Carol Stanley  
President, YOUR Avicultural Society of America

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## ASA Yahoo Email Group

Did you know ASA has an email group? It's easy to join. Email: [asabirds-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:asabirds-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and you will start getting messages.

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## Breeding Softbill Songbirds

*Roland and Ilana Cristo*

*Photos by Roland and Ilana Cristo*



*Songbirds have long been the most popular of cage birds in the world.*

Throughout Southeast Asia, Malaysia and surrounding areas they raise softbilled birds, Shamas Magpie Robins, Bulbuls, White- eyes, Zoothera Thrushes, Pekin Robins, Leaf-birds, and many other species for the purposes of breeding and having songbird contests.

In Brazil and other parts of South America they are working with birds like Bicudas (Great- billed Seed Finch), Curios (Lesser Seed Finch), Cuban Bullfinch, Ultra- marine Grosbeaks, Cardinals, Siskins, many of the species in the Sporophila genus and others birds. They are breeding these species and many others for their song. They use regional song dialects from different parts of the country to teach their birds. They will have singing contests and also show them.

For species such as the Bicudas and Curios, breeding is done with the co-operation of the Brazilian government. Indeed, probably the largest avicultural organization in the world is in Brazil. It has been reported that this organization has 30,000 members. They own their own meeting facilities throughout the country where they show their birds for confirmation and song. Many people from these cultures now living in the US have these same song contests. There are also various canary species that are bred in the USA and Europe for their song and for show as well.

### Definition of "softbill"

The word "softbill" is strictly an avicultural term that covers many, many species of birds. There are many classifications of bird species, Anseriformes, Galliformes, Psittaciformes, Passeriformes, etc. Finches—(Passeriformes) basically feed on seeds, they crack the seed using their beaks and tongue to manipulate the seed and take the "husk" off, parrot type birds do the same thing.

Softbill birds do not crack the seeds using their beaks and tongue. They may "swallow" or break the seed open by holding it in their feet and pecking with their beaks, but they don't process the seed with their beaks/tongue first.

Softbills, whether insectivorous, frugivorous, or omnivorous, basically eat items with little preparation. They are called softbill because they feed mostly on "soft items" such as fruit, nectar, insects, foliage and other food items.

The most critical thing that determines whether a species is a softbill species is illustrated by this quote from Richard Mark Martins book, "Unlike most seedeaters, softbills feed their "altricial" young by placing fresh undigested items in their beaks, and not by regurgitation."





Male - White Rumped Shama Thrush

**Shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*)**

They are from Southeast Asia, ranging from Western India, in the west, to Borneo in the east. There are 12 subspecies, from the various areas, differing mainly in tail length and head markings.

They are an insectivore species eating and spending much of their time in the undergrowth of the forest ranging from sea level to six hundred meters in elevation. In areas such as Thailand and Borneo they range up to 1,500 meters. Pairs spend their time separately only coming together during the breeding season. Males can be very aggressive in captivity and if a female isn't ready to nest he can do extreme harm to her and, if not watched carefully, will kill her. Once they make a nest, problems are reduced.

They will nest up to 4 or 5 times a year. Each clutch can consist of 4- 5 eggs. They are dimorphic but as there are light and dark colored females, dark colored females can be mistaken at first glance as males.



Above: Female - White Rumped Shama Thrush

Below: White Rumped Shama Thrush parents and two fledglings





Above: White Rumped Shama Thrush Below:  
White Rumped Shama Thrush nest box





Above: White Rumped Shama Thrush baby  
Below: White Rumped Shama Thrush chicks





Above: White Rumped Shama Thrush  
Below: White Rumped Shama Thrush





Magpie robin - male

**Dyal thrush/Oriental Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saulae*)**

They are from Southeast Asia, ranging from Western India, in the west, to Borneo in the east. There are 8 subspecies (including all black males with just a patch of white on their wings), from various areas differing mainly in slight coloring variations.

They are an insectivore species eating and spending much of their time in the undergrowth of the forest ranging from sea level to 1,900 meters in elevation. In areas such as Borneo they range up to 1000 meters.

Pairs spend their time separately and together. They like to spend time in “park like” areas and around humans.

Males can be very aggressive in captivity similar to the Shama, but to a lesser degree.

Once they make a nest, problems are reduced. They will nest up to 4 or 5 times a year. Each clutch can consist of 4- 5 eggs. They are dimorphic.



Magpie robin – Eggs in Nest



Magpie robin – Male (left), Female (right) Below: Magpie robin – Chicks





Above: Magpie robin – Chicks Below: Magpie robin – Adult male and 2 chicks







Above: Magpie robin – Adult female and 2 chicks  
Below: Magpie robin – 1 fledged chick and hen





Above: Chestnut backed thrush adult Below: Chestnut backed thrush adult pair



**Chestnut-backed thrush**  
**(*zoothera dohertyi*)**

They are from Southeast Asia, specifically from the Lesser Sundu island chain. There are no subspecies, but there are many other species that look similar to them.

Thrushes of the genus *zoothera* are considered some of the best songsters in the family *Turdidae*. They prefer tall trees and dense canopy and higher elevations, they range from 500-2300 meters in their habitat.

They are an insectivore species eating and spending much of their time in the undergrowth of the forest. Pairs spend their time separately and up to several birds in a group. As with most song birds males can be aggressive in captivity.

Once they make a nest, any aggression problems are reduced, they will nest up to 4 or 5 times a year. Each clutch can consist of 2- 3 eggs.

They are monomorphic.



Chestnut backed thrush hand raised weaned chick



Above: Chestnut backed thrush nest site & nest  
Below: Chestnut backed thrush eggs





Above: Chestnut backed thrush chicks  
Below: Chestnut backed thrush chicks





Snowy-Crowned Robin Chat

**Snowy Crowned Robin Chat**  
**(*Cossypha niveicapilla*)**

They are from western Central Africa east to mid Africa. They range from sea level to 1500 meters in central Africa, to 2500 meters in Eastern Africa.

This is another species, much like the shama, spending much of its time foraging in the lower part of the forest searching for insects. Again, like the Shama, males and females spend time apart until breeding season. Males can be very aggressive toward their hens. They will nest 3-4 times a year, having 2-3 eggs per clutch.

They are monomorphic.

Some Aviculturists refer to them as the African Shama, because of their ability to mimic.



Above: Snowy Crowned Robin Chat nest box  
Below: Snowy Crowned Robin Chat nest with eggs





Above: Snowy Crowned Robin Chat nest with chick  
Below: Snowy Crowned Robin Chat nest with chicks







Above: Snowy Crowned Robin Chat nest with chicks Below: Snowy Crowned Robin Chat fledgling





Above: Snowy Crowned Robin Chat fledgling  
Below: Snowy Crowned Robin Chat Parent and chick



**White-eared Bulbuls**  
**(*Pycnonotus leucotis*)**

They are from eastern Iraq in the west all the way into northwestern India in the east. They inhabit dry woodland to semi desert scrub from the Lowlands to about 2000 meters. There are two subspecies in this genus.

Their diet is mainly fruit, flower buds and nectar, consuming some live insects (especially when they have young). They will nest 3-4 times in a year having 4 eggs per clutch.

They are monomorphic.



White Cheeked Bulbuls





Above: White Cheeked Bulbul nest with chicks  
Below: White Cheeked Bulbul nest with chicks





Above: White Cheeked Bulbul fledglings  
Below: White Cheeked Bulbul fledglings and parent



**Red Vented Bulbuls (Pycnonotus cafer)**

They range from Pakistan in the west, east to Thailand. They live in drier deciduous habitat, forest scrub, orchards, and gardens. Their diet is much like the white eared being mainly a fruit eater (feeding on insects when they have young). They will nest 3-4 times in a year having 4 eggs per clutch. There are 8 sub-species. They are monomorphic.

Red Vented Bulbuls





Above: Red Vented Bulbuls

Below: Red Vented Bulbul nest with chicks





Above: Red Vented Bulbul fledgling  
Below: Red Vented Bulbul fledglings





**Red crested Cardinal (Paroaria coronate)**

They range from eastern Bolivia south to Argentina, including Paraguay and southern Brazil. Habitat includes semi open forest, scrub forest, agriculture areas, parks, towns and cities They eat a variety of food, seed, buds, berries and insects foraging mainly on the ground.

They are considered by many to be a super-species with the Red-cowled (poor cardinal in the US) (*Paroaria dominicana*). They will nest 3-4 times in a year having 3-4 eggs per clutch.

There are 5 "color" mutations being bred in Brazil.

They are monomorphic.

Red Crested Cardinals





Above and Below: Red Crested Cardinal nest with chicks





Above: Red Crested Cardinal fledgling

Below: Red Crested Cardinal fledgling with Diamond dove







*Steve's Photo Pick*

Wreathed Hornbills (*Rhyticeros undulatus*) are sometimes called Bar-pouched Hornbills and have a large range from eastern India across the SE Asia mainland and out to islands such as Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali. Pictured is a male. Females have an attractive blue pouch with red skin around the eyes. They can be locally common but are declining in some areas due to habitat loss. These large hornbills prefer primary forest and they require large nesting cavities for successful reproduction. Wreathed Hornbills are primarily fruit-eaters, but they will also take some animal protein. In captivity, the diet generally includes a variety of chopped fruits, softbill pellets, insects and some chopped mice. Like most hornbills, the female will seal herself inside the nesting cavity where she will remain during the incubation period and early chick development.



Above: Red Crested Cardinal fledglings

Below: Red Crested Cardinal fledgling with parents



**Pekin Robin (*Leiothrix lutea*)**

They range from N.E. Pakistan in the west to eastern china in the east, from 75m-3400m in elevation.

Habitat includes thick under growth and mixed forest, bamboo clumps. They are basically an insectivore species, also consuming some seeds, fruit and berries. They move about in the non-breeding season in flocks of up to a hundred birds, breaking up into pairs to go to nest

in the breeding season. They build a neat open nest laying 3-5 eggs per clutch. They will have 2-4 clutches a year.

There are 5 sub species, differing in the intensity and amount of coloring.

They are monomorphic.

Pekin Robin





Pekin Robin







Above: Pekin Robin nest with chicks Below: Pekin Robin fledgling



**Magpie Shrikes (Corvinella melanoleuca)**

They range from north west Kenya in the north, south Zimbabwe and northern south Africa. Their habitat ranges from savanna woodlands, scattered acacia, more commonly in moist areas up to 1800M.

They feed on arthropods, termites, insects, lizards, mice, fresh or rotting meat and fruit.

They are a boisterous species and when nesting, young birds from previous nests will help raise the current clutch. They build a neat open nest laying 4-5 eggs per clutch and having 2-3 clutches a year.

There are 4 sub-species, differing in the amount of white in the plumage.

They are Dimorphic.

Magpie Shrikes





Above: Magpie Shrikes Left -Male, Right- Female Below: Magpie Shrike in nest





Above: Magpie Shrike nest with eggs  
Below: Magpie Shrike nest with chick





Above: Magpie Shrike nest with chicks  
Below: Magpie Shrike nest with chicks





Above: Magpie Shrike fledglings Below: Magpie Shrike Family



**Blue-Black Grosbeak**  
**(Cyanocompsa cyanoides)**

Ranging from Southern Mexico in the north, south to Bolivia and N. Brazil and east to the Guianas, a wide spread species. Their habitat is evergreen forest thickets and dense vegetation (probably the reason for being so scarce in captivity) from sea level to 1400 M elevation.

They are mainly a seed eating species, eating green food and some insects.

They build an open nest and a normal clutch is 2 eggs. There are 4 sub- species, the difference is in the amount of blue coloring on the birds.

They are Dimorphic.

Blue-black Grosbeak Male





Blue black  
Grosbeak Female





**Black –crested finch**  
**(Lophospingus pusillus)**

They range from southern Bolivia in the north east to western Paraguay and south to central eastern Argentina, up to 2000 M in Bolivia, living in grassy pastures adjacent to woodlands. They forage on the ground in pairs or small flocks consuming seeds and some insects.

They build an open nest and lay 2-3 eggs, they will have 2-3 clutches a year  
They are dimorphic.

Black Crested Finch





Black Crested Finch nest and with chick

Black Crested Finch nest and with chick



## DIET

Attachment "A", shows how we mix our diet and what is fed to each flight/species.

We are presently working with insectivore, frugivore, and omnivore species.

All insectivore species are fed using a high and low feeder. We do this because the insectivore species can be very aggressive. During the breeding season males can dominate a hen and not let her feed.

It is very important when working with these birds when they have

babies, that they are fed first thing early in the morning, especially the insectivores. If they don't have live food first thing in the morning to feed their young, chances are the young will be thrown out. So, we make it a priority to be up just after sunrise to feed any of the insectivore species with babies.

At that time any other species with babies are also fed live insects.

The insectivore species that have babies are fed at three to four hour intervals throughout the day. The fruit eating species are fed three to four times a day.

Bulbul & Finch-Soft food mix, chopped mixed fruit, tofu mix, egg food, mealworms. greens



## Feeding Instructions- Attachment "A"

### Softbill Food

- 2 scoops Zupreem natural cockatiel
- 1 scoop Purina nutri-blend Pigeon Green
- 1 ½ scoops cat food
- 1 ½ - 2 scoops Purina Game Bird Startena crumbles

Place pigeon green in a container , Fill ½ with water. Set aside but keep turning it upside down.

Scoop cat food in container with enough water to cover food. Put lid on and rotate the same way as the green.

Scoop Zupreem natural cockatiel in a container and place enough water to submerge 3/4 of the Zupreem natural cockatiel, rotate container.

Let sit over night in the refrigerator.

Next day, take off lids and place a large container (green) and the Zupreem natural cockatiel in microwave for 3 minutes. Then place the remaining large container (cat food) in the microwave for 1.5 minutes. Do not stop plate from rotating.

Mix all in large bucket , add crumbles and mix to a friable consistency.

Bird	Soft food	Beef heart (ground)	Sliced beef Heart	Fruit	Egg food	Dry egg	Insect dry	Meal-worms	Tofu mix
Shama	X				Opt		X	X	
Amethyst	X			X			X	X	X
Touraco	X			X					X
Kooks	Little		X/Mice						
Diamond Sparrows	X				X	X			
Hawfinch	X				X	X		X (6)	
Cardinals				little	X	X	Little	X (6)	X
Barbets	X			X			Little	X (6)	X
Pekin Robins	X			little	X		X	X	little
Vasa	X			X					
Magpie	X	X					X	X	
Shrike									
Barbary	X	X					X	X	
Shrike									
Bulbuls	X			X			X	X(6)	X
Robin Chats	X						X	X	



Fruit eater-soft food, chopped mixed fruit, tofu mix, chopped greens



Typical Shrike/Corvid plate-Ground beef heart, mealworms, soft food, insectivore diet

**Fruit mix:**

We use Apples, Maradol papaya, Carrots, Blueberries These are processed in a food chopper, then we add Green peas.  
It is mixed well and served as needed.

All birds have a dry mix in front of them at all times.

The fruit eaters (bulbuls , barbets and such) always have a bowl of Zupreem “fruit blend” in their flights.

The insectivores always have a dry mix that is made up by our facility, it is as follows:

**Softbill Insectivore diet:**

- 2 parts Calf manna (ground thru a coffee grinder)
- 2 parts Trout chow 35% protein (ground thru a coffee grinder)
- 1 part Sunflower chips
- 2 parts Game Bird Startena (purina)
- 2 parts Trout Chow (whole)
- 2 parts Mazuri Insecivore diet
- 1 part Zupreem Fruit Blend (Cockatiel)
- 3 parts Freeze dried Shrimp
- 2 parts, Freeze Dried Insect Medley
- 1 part +/- Olive oil (Extra virgin)

*Freeze dried Shrimp & Freeze Dried Insect Medley are purchased from <https://www.natureswildbirdfood.com/>*

We use a commercial coffee grinder.

Olive oil is added to make the ingredients a little oily , that way the mix when put out is less apt to draw moisture and go bad . All ingredients are put in buckets with lid firmly attached and allowed to equalize.

The mix is kept covered at room temperature for several months with no problems.

**Tofu mix**

- 1 pkg. firm tofu (not organic), the typical is 14-17 oz.
- 1/4 cup of olive oil
- 3-5 Tbsp. lory powder
- 1/4 tsp vitamin mineral supplement
- A pinch of canthranthine if feeding birds with red/orange feathers.

Mash all the ingredients with a pastry knife,which is faster than a fork-to the consistency of cottage cheese. You can keep the mix in a fridge for a couple of days . Any longer and it has to be frozen.

**Automatic feeder**

When we are working a full time off the premises job, we use an automatic (battery operated) feeder. It has 5 feeding stations and can be set to come on at any time interval you wish in a 24hr. period. We put live food into each container and set it to rotate every 2-3 hours starting at 7 am. We then feed more live food when we get off work.



Above: Automatic Feeder

Below: Mason jar used for insectivore diet



### **Nest building**

We give the birds coconut fiber that we purchase in bundles, along with fine grass to use as nesting materials. We put enough of this material into the flights so the parents can complete a nest. This normally takes two to five days. If there isn't enough material available while they are building their nest, they will tear apart what they have constructed and start over again. It is very important that they are furnished with enough material to complete their nest from start to finish! We use wicker type baskets for the birds to make the nest. We attach at least one basket to one of the silk trees and attach another basket into the homemade half open wooden box that we construct on site. The nest is a very neat structure when completely built.

From the time they lay eggs to when the young fledge the nest is kept as neat as when it was first built. The young defecate in a fecal mucous sack capsule. Most of the nesting passerines do this. The parents take the capsule, fly away from the nest and drop it. This is done so the perimeter around the nest shows no sign of the babies. Predators that might eat the chicks are not attracted to the nest. Cavity nesting passerines such as starlings also remove the fecal capsules for protection and hygiene.

### **Fledglings**

In most species, young come off the nest at 12+/- days old. Their tail is barely ¼ inch long. Their ability to fly is limited and it will take 2-5 days before they can fly to the higher perches. For the first couple of days when they aren't able to fly to the higher perches, it's important that they can get up off the ground to roost at night.

Therefore, there needs to be a lot of branches on the ground for them to roost up off the ground. If they roost on the ground the dampness makes them lethargic and they don't respond when the parents go to feed them. The parents feed the young that do respond, thus you lose the ones that don't respond! This is very important with the insectivore species, Shamas, Robin chats, and Pekin robins. We have gone so far as to catch the young at dusk, put them into a small container and into a brooder take them out at day break and the parents go right back to feeding them. We do it for couple of days till the young are able to fly. We have done that with 4 different pairs of Shamas without problems.



## INTERESTING READING FOR PEOPLE BREEDING PASSERINES

### **Medications**

Black Spot and Coccidiosis  
(Atoxoplasmosis)

A blood form of Coccidiosis called Atoxoplasmosis may cause Black Spot. Coccidiosis infection caused by *Isospora serini* remains the most likely cause of the Black Spot disease in juveniles under a year of age. This disease is also known as Atoxoplasmosis.

It is a coccidiosis parasite that differs from the common form of coccidiosis infection caused by *Isospora canaria*. Coccidiosis is normally restricted to the intestinal epithelium whereas Atoxoplasmosis (a form of coccidiosis caused by *Isosporaserine*) multiplies in the intestine, invades blood cells and then spreads by the blood stream to infect the liver, lung and spleen. Atoxoplasmosis infection produces black spots on both sides of the abdomen, a sign that indicates both spleen and liver enlargement. Atoxoplasmosis is thought to be an intermediate form of part of the life cycle of Coccidiosis (*Isospora* spp).

Symptoms of Black Spot due to Atoxoplasmosis appear in birds under a year old. After this time adult birds may remain infected but show no outward signs of infection. Adult carriers may continue to be contagious for 8 months. Infected youngsters become listless and huddle, ruffle their feathers into a ball, go light, develop a bloated abdomen,

diarrhea and sometimes exhibit neurological signs. Mortality rates may reach as high as 80% of the young bird flock. Infection is more common in outdoor aviaries and crowded flights. Dr. Rob Marshall recommends the regular use of BAYCOX during the winter cleansing program to control Black spot. The hygiene of the bird room is most important at all times. The use of Baycox at 1 ml per liter of water for 3 consecutive days each month will help prevent the outbreak of coccidiosis.

We use ASB-3 as recommended by Association of Zoo Veterinarians @<https://www.aazv.org/page/545?> Those of you raising Passerines this is an excellent read!

### **Reference Material**

Handbook Of Birds Of The World  
The slide with the singing birds from Singapore was taken by Steve Duncan, thank you for the use of it Steve Duncan.

Purina Nutri-blend Green pigeon pellet

Purina Game Bird Startena

Diamond Cat food Active cat 40% protein

Zupreem Cockatiel pellets natural & fruit blend

Automatic feeder- Pet-safe 5 meal pet feeder

Hearty Bird - Vitamin/Mineral mix,

Lory powder—Any name brand





Avicultural Society  
14th Annual Education Conference

Hosted by  
October 30 to November 1, 2013

Conference: Marriott Marlin Hotel  
Guest Rooms: Coral Gables Marriott

Hotel link: <https://tinyurl.com/833333>

More information:  
<http://asabirds.org/conference/>



**Keynote Speaker**  
**Tony Silva**

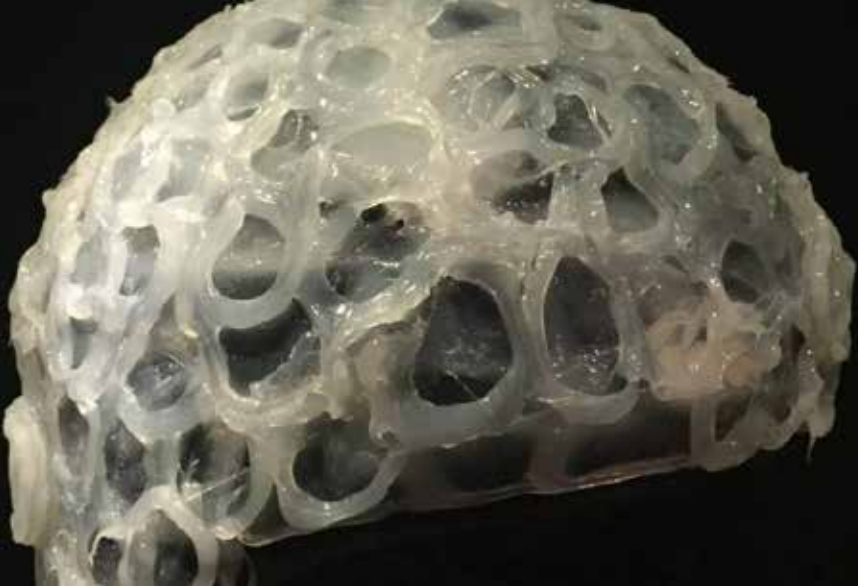
Society of America  
Education Conference

Zoo Miami

November 2, 2019

Marriott Hotel, Miami, FL  
Courtyard by Marriott

[myurl.com/ASAHotel](http://myurl.com/ASAHotel)



The kākāpō ejaculation helmet and efforts to save the bird population. Click link below for full story and video.

[https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/102033870/the-kkp-ejaculation-helmet-and-efforts-to-save-the-bird-population?rm=m&fbclid=IwAR2egbf4gP7KbM9w3oghz1qrkY-0ub3M81G4XNJYj-\\_7StRfQzMoHGzn4Ew](https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/102033870/the-kkp-ejaculation-helmet-and-efforts-to-save-the-bird-population?rm=m&fbclid=IwAR2egbf4gP7KbM9w3oghz1qrkY-0ub3M81G4XNJYj-_7StRfQzMoHGzn4Ew)



COMMON RAVEN (CORVUS CORAX) IN SNOW PHOTO JOHN DEL RIO

Why Birds Feet Don't Get Cold in the Winter

Link: [https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/stories/why-bird-feet-dont-freeze-in-winter?fbclid=IwAR1A4xbE\\_Wj20MuaG3CVrIRjebzsesYAbJ3J14YEf6ic43NBy\\_JhAyrdUc#disqus\\_area](https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/stories/why-bird-feet-dont-freeze-in-winter?fbclid=IwAR1A4xbE_Wj20MuaG3CVrIRjebzsesYAbJ3J14YEf6ic43NBy_JhAyrdUc#disqus_area)

# Who's Your Daddy?



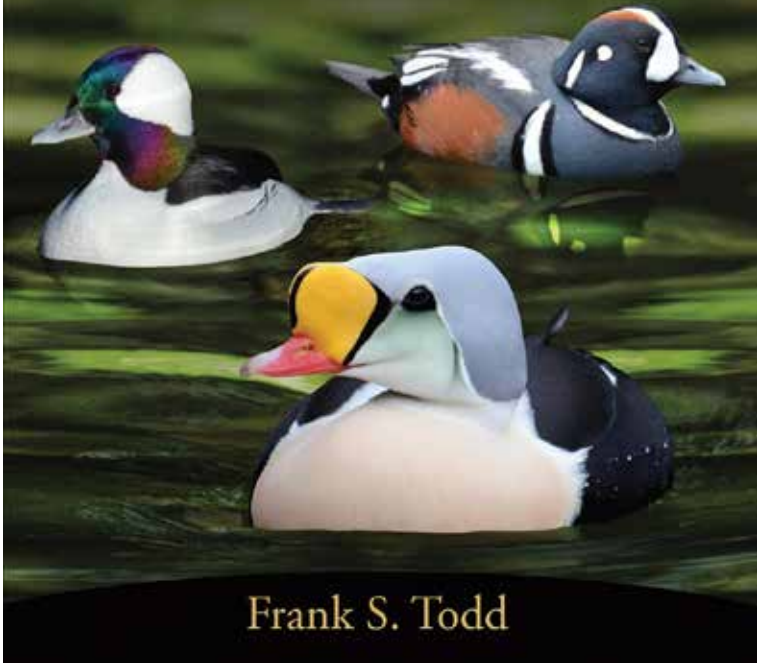
PHOTO SARAH BRABBS

**Stumped? See answer on page 62**



# 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.

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RED-FRONTED MACAW (ARA RUBROGENYS) AT TULSA ZOO, OKLAHOMA, USA

## Who's Your Daddy?

*From page 59, Answer: Red-fronted Macaw*

The red-fronted macaw (*Ara rubrogenys*) is a parrot endemic to a small semi-desert mountainous area of Bolivia. It is a critically endangered species; it has been successfully bred in captivity, and is available, if not common, as a pet. It is also sometimes known in the literature as Lafresnaye's macaw, named for the French ornithologist Frédéric de Lafresnaye, who was one of the first to describe the species.

The red-fronted macaw is 55–60 cm (21.5–23.5 in) long. It is mostly green, and has a red forehead, a red patch over the ears and bright red to orange edged under wing coverts. It has an area of pinkish skin around the eyes extending to the beak. It has red at the bend of wings and blue primary wing feathers.[3]

### Range and habitat

The red-fronted macaw is native to a small mountainous area of south-

central Bolivia situated about 200 km west of Santa Cruz, in the department of the same name, where the climate is medium altitude semi-desert. The natural vegetation consists mostly of cactus (large and small) and thorny trees and scrub. The climate is semi arid with cold nights and hot days. Rain comes in infrequent heavy storms. It is unusual in that it is the only macaw to inhabit such a climatic zone. Most macaws nest in holes in large trees, however here there are no very large trees in its range so it nests in vertical fissures in cliff faces.[4] The bird has been captured for the pet trade in the past and killed by local farmers because it raids their crops.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



# 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](http://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](http://www.asabirds.org)

Let us know of your avicultural event to be posted on our Events page at:  
[info@asabirds.org](mailto:info@asabirds.org)



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www.ccasbirds.com

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Long Beach, CA 90815  
longbeachbirdbreeders@gmail.com

Contra Costa Avian Society  
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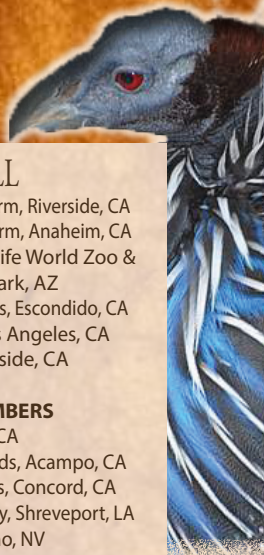
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