ASA
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January/February 2020

NEXT ISSUE

Dispatches from the Superior Unit

John York

ASA
BULLETIN

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: Blue- throated macaw *Ara glaucogularis*. Inside Cover: Grey-headed kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*

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January/February 2020

President's Message

Greetings, fellow Aviculturists:

It is with great disappointment I inform you that the 2020 Avicultural Society of America 15th Annual Education Conference will be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The uncertainty during this unprecedented time in history, makes it impossible to safely plan (financiall and health-wise) a conference. Watch for announcements as to where and when the next ASA conference will take place and make sure to get to it! Stay well until we meet again.

Yours truly,

Carol Stanley
President, YOUR Avicultural Society of America

Officers & Staff

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Cameras in and Around the Aviary

Article and Photos by Randy Berry

The price of surveillance cameras has fallen to the point making them today at the reach of all aviculturists. It is now possible to have a high definition multi-camera setup in ones aviary to monitor all aspects of operations from nest boxes and aviary cams to security cams. Being able to see what was once the secret lives of your birds is now like having a documentary in your home.

Technology

With advancements in technology, cameras have become more than just visual devices that require a user to watch hours of footage in front of a monitor. Digital video recorders can record digital footage and transmit live to a mobile device anywhere in the world 24/7. Analog systems, the ones with audio and video cables, are becoming outdated so my focus in this article pertains mainly to more modern digital systems that connect to the local network in your house with an Ethernet cable.

Cameras have evolved not only in high definition but also in size. Today it is possible to purchase high definition cameras the size of a thumbnail. These small cameras are great to clip to a branch in the aviary and monitor softbills nests. Anti-vandal cameras with aluminum bodies keep even the strongest beaks from damaging them inside the nest boxes and outside the aviary. Sensors are now a standard component of cameras. These sensors can notify the user of image movement to the detail of just a few pixels of the screen. These notifications can alert the user for movement of example of a bird entering a nest box or of movement on the property signaling a possible break in and if programed, the system will send an email to a smart device anywhere in the world in seconds with an attached photo. Additionally, these events can be set to trigger the software to create a bookmark so that you can easily find and review them later. Infrared LEDs give us the added advantage of viewing and recording the aviary and nest boxes even during the night, so to allow 24/7 monitoring. PTZ (pan–tilt–zoom) cameras give the user remote directional and zoom controls, with advanced systems having additional options such as the ability to track objects. POE (Power over Ethernet) cameras is a relatively new technology that allows a router or switch to power the camera. This avoids the need for separate power cables and power units, which greatly reduces installation time. WIFI wireless technology facilitates installation because of no need of installing

wires. Some cameras contain solar panels so that the camera can be completely independent from power wires. WIFI have some drawbacks. Interference can happen between camera and other electronic devices and depending on the technology, they can be "tapped" into. I recommend a wired system whenever possible.

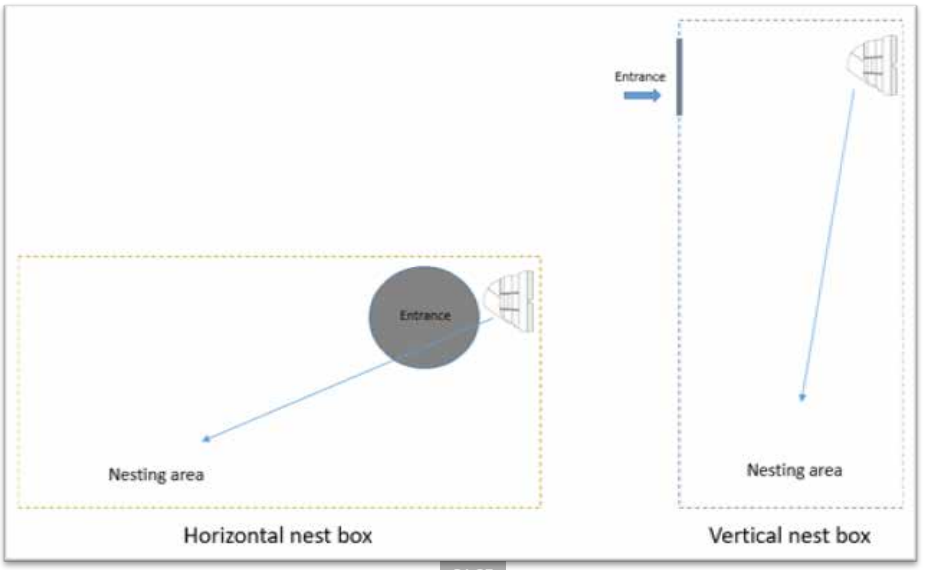
Not only have cameras evolved in technology, but also so have digital recorders. Facial recognition has made its way now as standard technology, where if used will recognize authorized person and create an alarm if unauthorized people are seen. PTZ cameras, as mentioned above, can be programed to turn at intervals or on pre-recorded paths and if movement is detected, track objects in detail.

Now that I highlighted some of the technology, let us go into detail on how to go about installing a system in and around the aviary.

Camera placement

I would like to start with camera placement because this will ultimately define the criteria for your setup. In order to provide added aviary security, proper camera placement is necessary. Vegetation most be avoided whenever possible as it can obstruct camera vision. Try your best to install cameras where you can get wider fields of view. Make sure you film major service aisles and where allowed by law try to get views onto driveways and roads around the property.

Regarding nest box cameras placement, try installing them in the inside top of vertical nest boxes and high up on one of the inside sides of horizontal nest boxes. Assure that the cameras are aimed in the center on the nesting area.



EXAMPLES OF CAMERA POSITIONING IN HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL NEST BOXES

TOP: NEST BOX CAMERA INSTALLATION FOR MONITORING BLUE-RUMPED PARROTS PSITTINUS CYANURUS). BOTTOM: VIEW OF BLUE-RUMPED PARROTS (PSITTINUS CYANURUS) HEN IN THE BOX.

ABOVE: AN ELECTRICAL CONDUIT BOX SHOULD BE LOCATED A CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE CAMERA TO AVOID THAT THE CAMERA CABLES ARE DAMAGED BY BIRDS

Keep in mind that larger parrots can destroy cameras with their beaks if they can reach them, so I recommend as previously mentioned to use "anti-vandal" dome cameras with an aluminum body. Additionally, wires need to be out of reach of birds to avoid hurting both the birds or causing damage to the aviaries electrical system.

ANTI-VANDAL TYPE CAMERA IN HORIZONTAL NEST BOX FOR BLUE-THROATED MACAWS (ARA GLAUCOGULARIS)

Choosing the right equipment

Whether you would like to install only nest box cameras or a more advanced system this will determine what you should buy. For a standard setup, you will need the following:

- DVR or NVR Digital recorder (see below)
- Monitor
- IP camera(s) with an installation bracket(s)
- Ethernet cable* (boxes come in 300m length)
- Router with an internet connection, if you would like to have remote access.
- Power access to the camera unless you use a POE system (see above).

*Keep in mind there are limitations to the length of Ethernet cable. An additional Ethernet switch will need to be placed between the DVR and the camera(s) if you are to exceed factory specifications. This is usually about 100 meters. Think of camera network as if a spider web, and that Ethernet switches and cameras can be interlink throughout your property in any order with the DVR communicating to everything. See the example below.

Once you have the camera layout in place the first step is count the cameras to see how many channels your system will need. I would like to point out that the more channels you add the more it cost. With anything above 32 cameras, you may want to consider buying a second system to save money and running it at the same time, as units with more than 32 channels start getting in the expensive end of systems. You could set the separate systems up in a different area of your property, say the nursery and one in the house and have the ability of the two systems to communicate between them. Make sure to use the fastest network speeds that are available. Products you purchase should have 10/100/1000 Mbps in the product specifications to assure you have will have the ability to transmit HD (high definition footage). Now that we talked about the overall system, let us go into detail of what each component of the security system is and what it does.

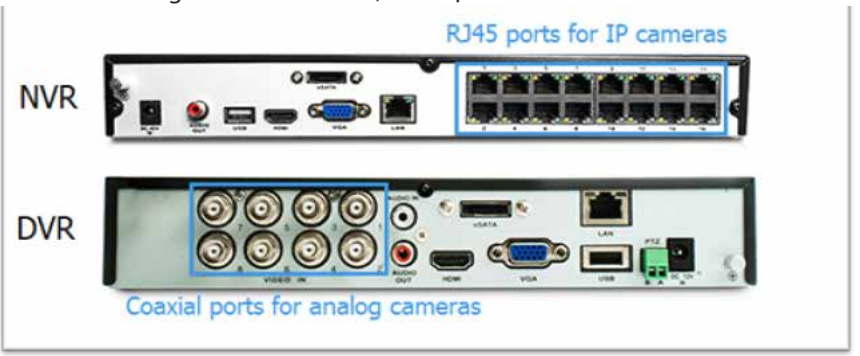
Cameras

There are so many different name brands, but the same producer manufactures many. Our cameras are a mixture of brands that I have never heard of, but if you look inside at the components, they are

manufactured by major brands like Sony or Samsung just to mention a few. I cannot really recommend one-brand vs another, just make sure you read the specifications to make sure it is High definition and has enough LEDs to fit whatever purpose to need. Consider that the more infrared LEDs the camera has the further it can see in the dark. Infrared LED panels can be added anywhere on the property, just like any ordinary light, if there are viewing problems at night. The strong light produced from these panels will only be visible to the cameras and other then a faint red light, not to humans. The number of LEDs on a camera can vastly effect the quality of the image. Cameras with many LEDs in smaller nest boxes will make the image on the monitor look too bright versus using cameras with little LEDs with deeper nest boxes will make it difficult to see chicks at the bottom. Birds seem startled a first with the LEDs, but the get accustom to them quickly and are not bothered.

Close up of an anti-vandal dome camera used in horizontal nest box for large macaws

Security cameras should be at least 2MP cameras if not more. This will give to the possibility to be able to zoo without losing image quality, which is necessary if you are investigating an issue. Keep in mind that the higher the definition, and the more cameras you install, could lead to the overall system to slow down. As a rule, as you go up the camera scale and install many HD cameras, make sure you go up in quality of the DVR unit you purchase.



EXAMPLE OF THE BACKS OF A NVR AND DVR UNIT

NVRs and DVRs

NVRs (Network video recorders) are used with IP cameras whereas DVRs (Digital video recorders) are used with analog cameras, with the exemption of hybrid DVRs models that can have limited NVR functions. It is important to note that a DVR based system is a wired security system, whereas NVR systems can be a wired or wireless system.

Like cameras, there are a vast number of manufactures and models of NVR/DVRs. I have been using models from a company called Dahua. They have many affordable models with excellent characteristics. When selecting a model, the first thing you will need to choose is the number of channels that, you will require (see above) then look at the image quality it will support. As mentioned above the more HD cameras you install the higher quality NVR/DVR you will need.

The operating software is pretty much the same between the Dahua models. Interesting features such as facial recognition, remote access and many other are included. Software updates, when available can be downloaded through the device.

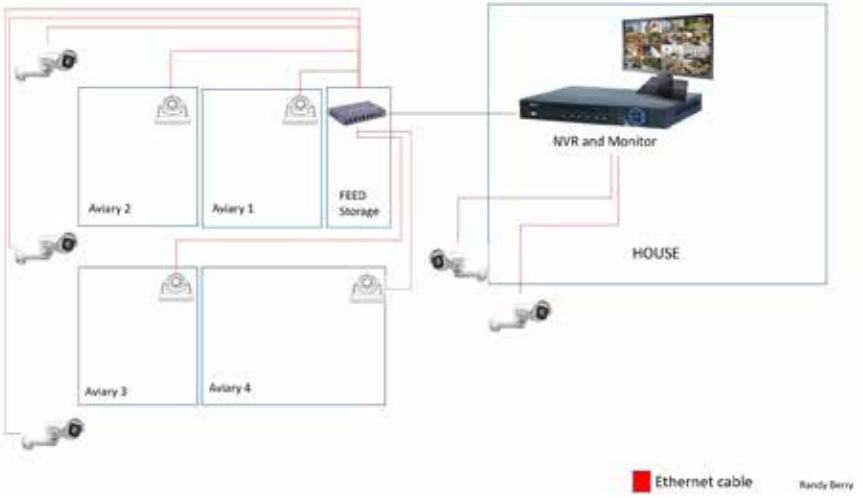
DISPLAY

SWITCHES USUALLY COME IN PORT CONFIGURATIONS OF 4, 8, 16 AND 32 AND MORE.

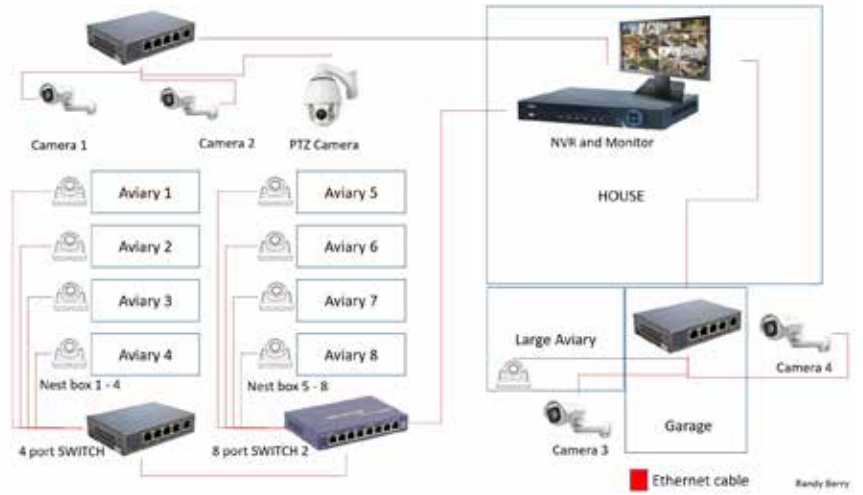
Ethernet switches
Switches are hubs that allow you to connect Ethernet devices to your local network. Switches usually come in port configurations of 4, 8, 16, 32 and more. Some have POE (Power over Ethernet) hubs that are capable then is can even provide power to the cameras. Switches, in a security system make it possible to collect a group of IP cameras and extend them away from the DVR recorder using a single Ethernet cable to any area of your property. Purchase a switch with the minimum number of ports that you will require for your camera set up. It may be good idea to purchase a larger switch if you plan to add additional cameras in the future.

System setup
To give you an idea on what a camera looks like once complete, take a look at some of the drawings below that show different ways of setting up an IP camera setup.

Although there is no correct and wrong way to go about setting up the system, the best approach would be to avoid running to many Ethernet cables to and from the house, rather relaying on a switch to collect them



EXAMPLE OF MULTI IP CAMERA SETUP USING A SINGLE ETHERNET SWITCH



EXAMPLE OF A MULTI IP CAMERA SETUP USING MULTIPLE ETHERNET SWITCHES

Although there is no correct and wrong way to go about setting up the system, the best approach would be to avoid running to many Ethernet cables to and from the house, rather relaying on a switch to collect them and run as few possible Ethernet cables to the house.

and run as few possible Ethernet cables to the house. Once you are ready to plug everything together, do not worry about which jack goes into what, as the NVR system will auto detect the cameras as they are plugged into the Ethernet ports within the system. Once all the Ethernet cables are plugged in and the system is running, you can move the camera images between the grids as you please. Most software is very straightforward and easy to understand so within a short time you will be tweaking it to your choosing.

Conclusion

Today's security technology gives with features such as of remote access, movement detection and ability to record us gives peace of mind. We now have the ability To be less invasive with physical nest inspection and check up on the chicks in the nest at will on the monitor.
Check in on our aviaries when we are away from home.
Receive alert messages and photos from detected movement.

In conclusion, I would like to say that we as aviculturists need to continue to push the boundaries of standard practices, think more "outside the box", and use technology to our advantage so that we can enhance aviculture to the next level.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

RBPARROT74@GMAIL.COM

RANDY BERRY

RANDY BERRY

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Editor's note: Randy Berry has supported the Avicultural Society of America by attending and speaking at our annual education conference and providing his valuable experience and insights in the form of articles to help educate all aviculturists. Thank you, Randy!

I FOUND A **BABY BIRD** OUT OF ITS NEST.

WHAT DO I DO?

Is it visibly injured?

NO — YES

YES → **Contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.**

NO → **Does the bird have feathers?**

YES → 

Is it a fledgling.

NO → 

It is a nestling.

Can you see a nest?

NO → **Contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.**

YES → **Put the nestling back in the nest.**
It is a myth that touching a baby bird will cause its parents to abandon it.

Is it in immediate danger?
For example:
cat, dogs, cars or people

YES → **Move it to a sheltered spot nearby.**
For example: under a bush

NO → **Do nothing.**
Fledglings can spend two or three days on the ground waiting for their feathers to fully develope before they can fly. Mom is hiding nearby and will feed the fledgling only when you are out of sight.

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Infertility in Parrots

Tony Silva Instagram @tony_silva_aviculture

By Tony Silva
Instagram @tony_silva_aviculture

Infertility is the bane of the breeder. There is nothing more disheartening than discarding a clutch of eggs because they are infertile. This problem of infertile eggs affects all species, but is most common in macaws, amazons and Eclectus *Eclectus roratus* parrots. Indeed on a daily basis I receive messages from breeders across the globe describing the frustration they feel at the number of infertile Eclectus eggs that they discard. Seasonally I hear the same complaints on macaws and amazons. No one has a secret elixir that can guarantee success. Rather it is often changing husbandry principals, improving diet, treating subclinical health issues, offering a more suitable nest or providing the birds new mates because they are incompatible.

Let me address each issue separately:

1) Husbandry.
Parrots have evolved to fly, to explore and to interact, being in the main very sociable creatures. Very few species are solitary.

Kakapo *Strigops habroptilus* live as isolated individuals, but virtually all other species live in pairs or more commonly in groups, often even in large flock. In all groups, mates are carefully selected—they are just not found by coincidence. As an example male Kakapo prepares a special arena and employ a unique display, including the production of a loud booming sound, to attract females, who may find the display attractive and permit mating or reject the advances. This is how a solitary bird finds and then selects a male.

More sociable species bond before they mature. I have seen young Mitred Conures Psittacara mitratus, which are primarily green, find a mate and then continue to produce young with that individual at the onset of maturity.

Parrots are active. In a cage, a sedentary life is often the norm. The birds become bored. By adding enrichment, toys, providing a larger aviary that meets their biological needs (parrots that are arboreal do well in a suspended enclosure while terrestrial species may be stressed when they are unable to forage on the ground) and offering a surrounding that is conducive to breeding, one can turn a pair of birds that are indifferent to each other into a bonded pair that mate and reproduce successfully. In conures and caiques (Pionites), for example, providing enrichment strengthens the pair bond and having others of their kind that they can see and hear has a cascading effect: pairs that may be apart and indifferent to each other will suddenly bond well in order to challenge the other pairs.

Part of the act of maintaining the pair bond is mating. This is done during, before and after the breeding season. Actual mating is no guarantee that the pair will nest, but mating combined with nest inspection, increased aggression and the consumption of more than a normal share of food are a good sign. Infrequent mating without other

Actual mating is no guarantee that the pair will nest, but mating combined with nest inspection, increased aggression and the consumption of more than a normal share of food are a good sign.

signs of nesting usually suggests that the pair bond is weak. If most or all the eggs in such a pair are infertile the pair is showing a sign of requiring new mates.

Many factors can influence successful nesting. We have found that in Galahs Eolophus roseicapillus if we do not provide many fresh branches and fill the nest with wood to the entrance, infertility is a problem. By providing both the wood and fresh leafed branches, the male and female must work together at making the nest accessible. They must evacuate the clutter, which must first be chewed, and finally they must make their nest of leaves. This activity brings a pair of birds into direct contact for quite some time, heightening sexual activity.

Wild parrots do not find a readily suitable nest where the hen can lay. In the wild, they must not only find a cavity where they can bring forth their young, but must prepare it to make it suitable. By adding wood chunks to the nest—nature does not provide sawdust or shavings for the hen to lay on!—the pair is forced to spend many hours making the nest suitable; they must chew the cavity to enlarge it. This darkness inside the nest has been found to induce gonadal development.

Some decades ago I had pairs of Blue and Gold Macaws *Ara ararauna* endoscoped during the breeding season. Three pairs were offered a standard nest with shavings and three pairs were offered nests filled with wood. The pairs offered shavings in their nest displayed

poor gonadal activity, while the pairs that were forced to spend time in the dark nest preparing it had gonads that were engorged. Fertility was almost a third higher in the latter than in the former group.

In some species (amazons, for example) males appear to stimulate each other by both visual and vocal contact. Once actual breeding approaches, the pairs should be visually blocked but still allowed vocal contact. In a group that is notorious for laying clear eggs, this has helped produce far more fecund eggs than simply keeping one pair per aviary away from each other.

Having a basic understanding of the biology of the parrots that you are attempting to breed is key to success. This can include diet, nest type and level of socialization. It can mean the difference between fertility and infertility in the clutch.

2) Diet.

In aviculture, it is common for the breeder to try to manage all birds in the collection using the same diet. This simplifies the daily care. Unfortunately not all parrots are the same. The Galah *Eolophus roseicapillus* has evolved to feed on low fat grass seeds while the large macaws have a beak that developed to crush hard palm seeds, which are fatty. The two species cannot be fed the same. Feed a Galah a diet high in fat and the birds will become obese, this affecting fertility. Inversely, fertility can also be affected when a macaw is fed a diet low in fat. Providing the proper diet is key to success. This means having a basic diet of a good seed mix or pellets, but varying this to meet the biological needs of the species; as an example a seed diet with virtually no sunflower or safflower seeds should be provided to the Galahs while a diet with a higher component of these seeds would be acceptable for macaws. Pellets are also available in higher and lower fat content types and these could replace seeds for most species. The pellets can also be sprayed with nut oils to augment the fat. Adding vegetables, fruits, nuts, whole grain bread and greens,

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amongst a lost list of items, to provide the individual requirements of a particular species is important to balance out a diet.

3) Clinical issues.
When a pair has produced in the past but suddenly starts laying clear eggs, or the eggs contain fine bubbles, or the pair is compatible and paired from a group but lays only clear eggs, I would look for disease. Culturing from a swab taken from the mouth and another from the cloaca can often reveal pathogens that affect fertility. In such cases, the culture and sensitivity will identify the best drug to use. We invariably culture birds that produce clear eggs and in 37% of the cases have found a pathogen that when treated resulted in the pair producing viable eggs.

We invariably culture birds that produce clear eggs and in 37% of the cases have found a pathogen that when treated resulted in the pair producing viable eggs.

4) Alternate nest. The belief that all parrots will accept a rectangular or L-shaped nest is very erring. The modern aviculturist must employ different nest styles, always keeping in mind the individual needs of the species. For cockatoos I like a T-shaped nest with a narrow and long base. For Psittacara conures I like a nest that has an entrance from the bottom, forcing the pair to enter upwards. For Pyrrhura conures which break eggs or are hesitant to nest, Hawk-headed Parrots Deroptuys accipitrinus and most Australian parrots I like a narrow and very deep nest, often incorporating baffles to augment the darkness at the bottom. For small termite nesting conures (mainly Eupsittula species), Brotogeris parakeets and Red-faced Lovebirds *Agapornis pullarius* a horizontal nest filled with cork, which emulates the termitarium in color and texture, may prove irresistible.

5) Incompatibility.
If two birds are incompatible, they will not breed successfully. Sitting on opposite perches, feeding

independently of each other, forcing the other bird to move away when one bird moves across the cage and outward aggression will rarely produce fertile eggs. With such birds, offering them new mates is the best course of action and will eliminate years of eggs being tossed in the trash bin because they are infertile.

Allowing a pair to select their mates is often the key to success. A male that a female does not find attractive may be rejected. As an example, I have a Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao* who had 5 potential partners, each one selected by the breeder and offered in succession. She never produced fertile eggs with any of these. When I purchased her, I offered her three available males at once. She picked one almost immediately; she climbed the perch, they opened their wings, screamed and began to preen. Seventeen days later she produced a fertile egg—the first out of many. Infertility is often as result of two incompatible birds living peacefully but not amorously together.

As can be seen from the above, many factors can contribute to failure. Identifying and correcting these is always a challenge, but when this obstacle is overcome, the gratification that the breeder receives is part of what makes aviculture so fascinating.

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Egg breakage in Galahs
By Tony Silva

Every year during the breeding season, I receive dozens of messages from individuals whose pairs break eggs. The number of species ranges across all genera, though one species in particular is the most commonly named—the Galah or Rose-breasted Cockatoo Eolophus roseicapillus. This Australian species is beautiful, active, sometimes vocal and a willing breeder. It is naturally hyperactive and this along with a poor understanding of its nesting

habits often results in pairs breaking the eggs as they are laid. During the early 1980s I spent many weeks in Australia and one area that I researched was the size, height and location of cockatoo nests.

The cockatoos are a group that has always been of interest and which I regard as the least understood of the Australasian parrots.
Many days were spent observing Galahs. Their nests were

distinguishable from those of other cockatoos that I encountered in having a burnished area around the entrance. The pairs would strip the bark from the immediate vicinity of the nest and then rub either leaves or powder downs around the entrance. This was intended to obstruct access to the nest by goannas, a large iguana-like lizard that preys on the eggs and young. When pairs left the nest, they would cover the eggs and even small young with the leaves they constantly carried into the nest. The nests were typically deep and narrow. The intention was to exclude goannas first by making the area around the nest smooth and slippery and then by dissuading them from entering by making it seem that the hollow was empty; the dark bottom and leaves made the white eggs difficult to see unless a flashlight was employed.

In aviaries the most commonly used nest for Galahs is a large, typically not very deep box, sometimes slightly rectangular and with a large entrance. Everything about these nests goes in discord with what they use in nature. This I believe is part of the reason why so many pairs break their eggs.

My pairs are very successful.

This is not because I am a better aviculturist than others, but rather because I replicate nature were possible. My pairs of Galahs are offered nests 25 cm (10 in) square x 90-120 cm (36-48 in) deep. The entrance is small (9 cm, 3.5 in), making it a tight squeeze for the birds. The small entrance blocks out most light and this along with the depth makes the bottom difficult to see from the entrance. To induce nesting they are given palm fronds, which the birds tear into pieces and take to the nest, creating a nest-like structure as illustrated in the photograph accompanying this article. We provide a palm frond every few days until the first egg appears and then once weekly until the eggs hatch. From that point until the chicks fledge they are given a frond every other day. This is important because it heightens the interest in nesting, allows the pairs to cover the eggs when they emerge (and thus not fly back and dive into the nest when someone approaches their nest) and allows the pair, once the chicks hatch, to keep the nest clean.

If palm fronds are not available, willow, bamboo or eucalyptus leaves can be used. If these cannot be obtained, I have used oak, elm, guava, mango and even an old phone book. The idea is to allow a natural behavior to occur.

Should a pair still break the eggs, we take pigeon eggs, white Bantam eggs or addled parrot eggs, blow them (suck the contents out), wash them by injecting water repeatedly through the hole until the water comes out clean, and then fill them with cleaning ammonia or Vick´s® Vaporub™. These items are injected into the eggs using a 10 ml syringe. The opening is capped using a piece of shell, which is glued to cover the opening and then early in the morning the pair is given one of the eggs. They will break one or two

An explanation why museum specimens are important. In this case we were measuring Yellow-winged Amazon Amazona aestiva xanthopteryx skins at the Natural History Museum in Buenos Aires, Argentina. We were confirming the body size, tail length and body color of specimens from throughout the range to permit Aviculturists to keep these often isolated populations separate.

and in almost all cases then stop. I have used this method successfully for many species.

If the breeder can overcome egg breakage with the Galah, pairs can be allowed to rear their young. They tend to be devoted parents. Watching the interaction of a family is one of the joys of being an aviculturist.

Why do birds eat their chick's poop?

Augustin Piya

In the first few days after hatching, a baby bird's digestive system is very inefficient - partially because they have not ingested many of the bacteria they need to finish the digestive process. Thus, after only partially processing the food, it would be a shame for Mom or Dad to waste the nutrients in that membrane-covered package. This is especially so because Mom and Dad are so busy finding enough soft food for the kiddies to eat that they don't have much time to feed themselves. So to not look at a gift horse in the butt, they swallow the fecal package, gain some well-earned nutrition and only stop doing this when the flavors indicate the babies' digestion has become more efficient.

As to removing the feces to keep the nest clean, behavioral biologists have a different slant on nest sanitation: we feel cleaning the nest is an attempt to reduce the chances that a predator can find the nest by zeroing in on the odor of the young birds' waste. Parent birds do not just remove the feces, they carry them quite a distance from the nest before dropping them. In addition, each trip with feces goes in a different direction so that there is no nearby accumulation of waste to give predators clues to the nest location. And also in support of carrying away feces being helpful in reducing predation, grackles and several other species carry the feces to a body of water and drop the feces into the water. Since the fish in the water race to the dropped sac and gobble it up almost immediately, there are no feces lingering at all when they are dropped in water.

Finally, there are many birds that do not carry the babies' feces away. The feces seem to cause very little problems for the babies - or for the parents that come to feed them. In fact, kingfishers dig deep burrows into sand banks and put in a chamber at the deep end of the tunnels. The parents do not remove the waste that is composed of mostly digested fish and is quite odoriferous. Since the stench coming from the nest hole is enough to deter dedicated biologists from sticking their heads into these nest holes, a snake or small mammal (both of which have much higher developed senses of smell than us mere humans) seem also to be repulsed by these nest burrows. It's a wonder the young birds do not suffer from asphyxiation. But then, some birds have an extremely underdeveloped sense of smell.

So, removing poop may be a means of reducing predation and keeping extremely stinky poop may have the same effect.

Details by Mr. Albert Burchstead

Presidents & Their Pet Parrots

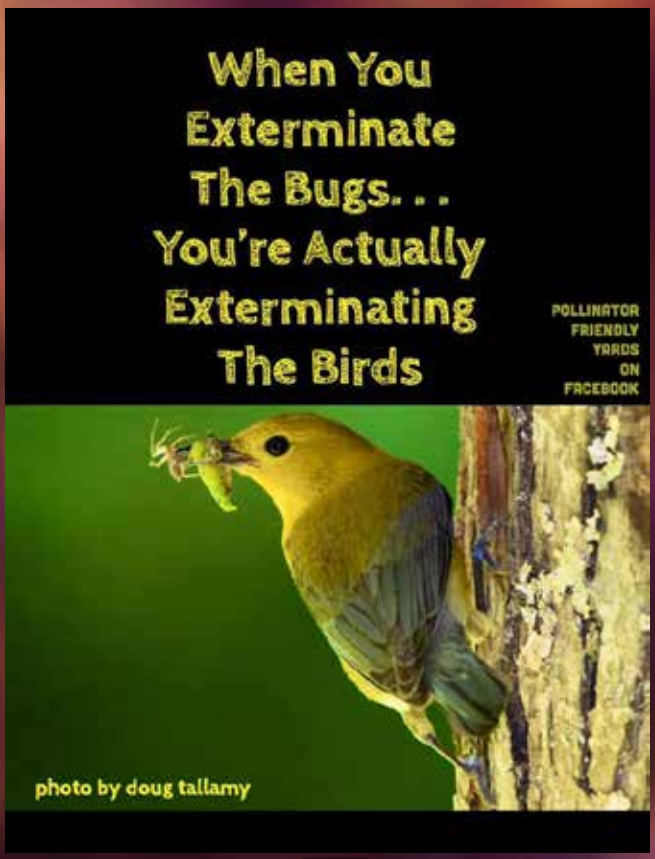
I Visited Peru And Here Are 31 Beautiful Birds That I Found

Ravens might possess a Theory of Mind, say scientists

The Dark Side of Animal Rights


50 BIRD SPECIES
and the Sounds They Make
AAA STATE OF PLAY

Vaccine could prevent 'horrible' beak and feather disease



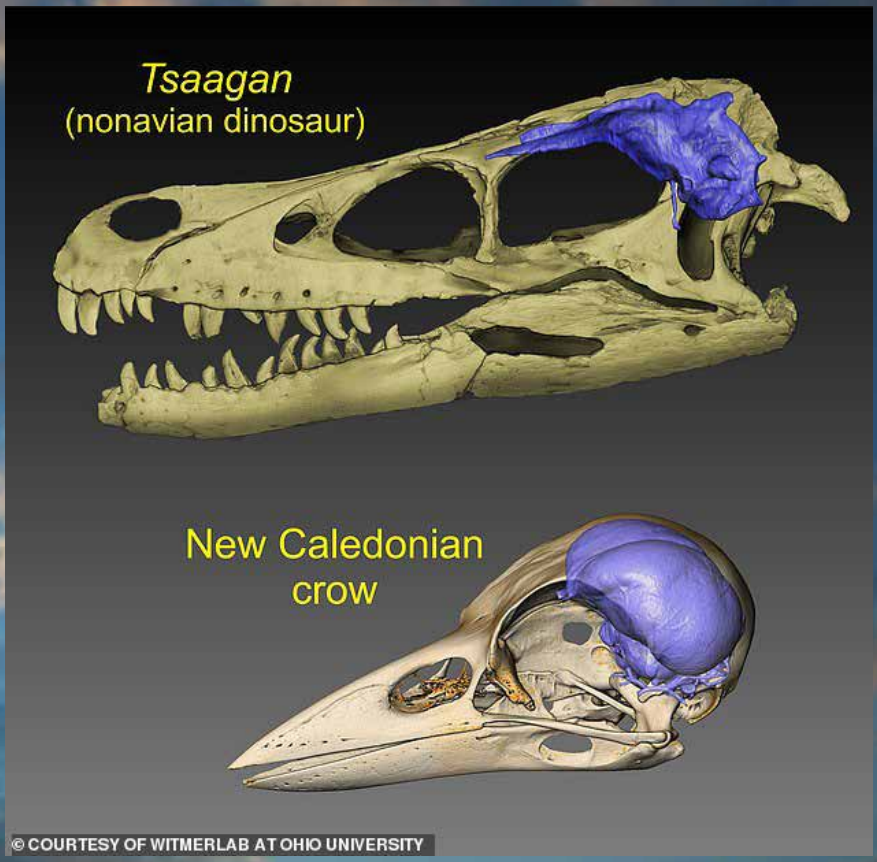
Steve's Photo Pick

Orinoco Goose, Neochen jubata, is widespread in its native South America, but their numbers are declining. These geese typically nest in tree cavities and prefer to be near bodies of water with tree-lined banks. They do perch on tree limbs and spend more time walking on land than swimming in the water. Breeding pairs are territorial and will aggressively chase any competition.

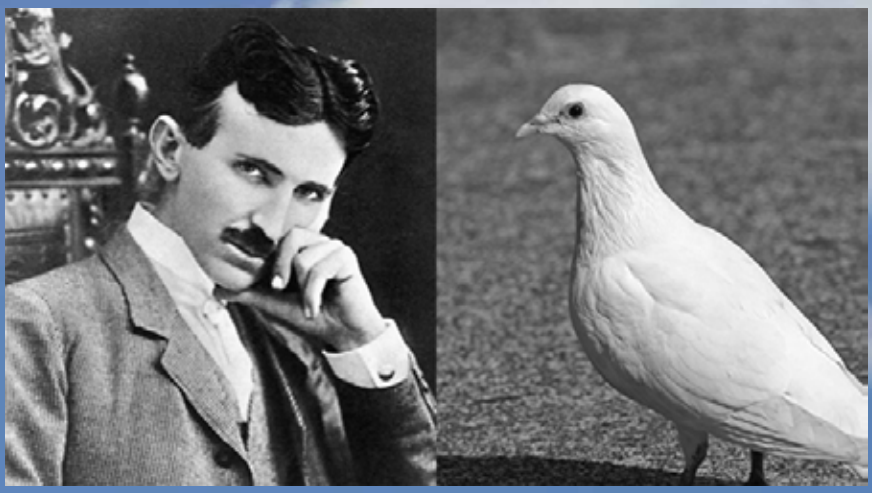
This Bird Can Stay in Flight for Six Months Straight

Seizures in Birds

Bird-brained: Parrots and crows have evolved 'truly exceptional' brain sizes while pigeons and emus have the same brain-to-body ratio as dinosaurs did 66 million years ago



Nikola Tesla Once Spent $2,000 To Help An Injured Pigeon



New Experiment Reveals Just How Disturbingly Clever Crows Really Are

The Birdman

Pelican Politely Waits in Line at a Fish and Chips Shop

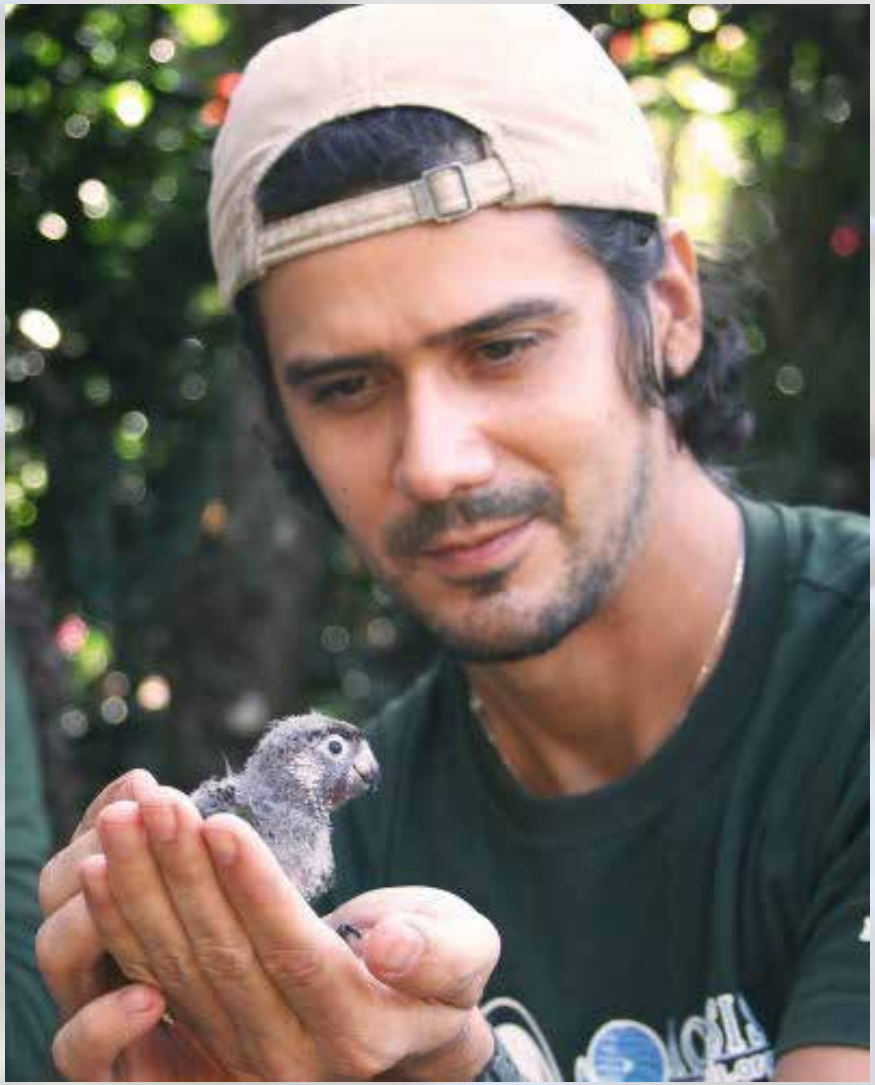
Sylvan Heights Receives STEM Grant from NCCF

This weird-looking pigeon is actually a drone that flies with real feathers

The Secretary Bird Is So beautiful It Could Easily Become A Pixar Movie Character

‘Solitary’ lyrebirds band together to save themselves in ‘incredible’ show of unity under bushfire threat

How the Stunning Scarlet Macaw Came Back From the Brink



Fresh hope for grey-breasted parakeets in Brazil

Automatic Waterers

Tony Silva

I have been asked about the feed hatch and automatic watering system. Here are the images. The hatch cover prevents food from getting wet when rain blows and also stops birds that are climbing around from defecating on their food; we feed G18 pellets from Versele Laga. The empty bowl is for vegetables and other foods. The nipples we use are hog nipples made from stainless steel. The nipples are positioned at a downward angle to insure water does not collect at the tip with food, which birds often take in their beak to wet. The water travels through grey PVC pipe to deter fungal growth. The pipe is buried so that water is always cool and the system can be flushed as needed.

Please follow me on Instagram @tony.silva.aviculture

Editor's note: Tony uses a pressure tank that is fed from a storage tank. The water goes through RO (reverse osmosis), UV (ultraviolet light) and then chlorination.

Cats Kill more than 2 billion wild birds in the United States

Jak Wonderly

I'm honored to have been awarded First Place in the prestigious BigPicture Natural World Photography Competition (Human/Nature). I'm humbled by the other photographers that were recognized this year. Thank you to the California Academy of Sciences and the esteemed judges for recognizing my photograph.

This image is a composition of more than 200 animals that were attacked by domestic cats and brought to WildCare (San Rafael, CA) and did not survive their injuries. The bodies were collected and preserved for one calendar year.

Each year house cats kill more than 2 *billion* birds in the United States alone, in addition to mammals, reptiles, and other animals.
Thank you to WildCare: Melanie Piazza (Director of Animal Care) and Alison Hermance (Director of Communications and Marketing) were the driving force behind this project.
It was a challenge to envision something somber, dignified, truthful, and not causing revulsion. I also wanted to honor the difficult work of wildlife rescue and WildCare's hospital staff.
Conservation starts in our own backyard with the choices we make about our pets, fences, plants, and feeders. I hope this photograph will encourage dialog about how our choices impact the animals around us.

Please visit www.discoverwildcare.org/wildlife-resources/cats-and-catios/ to learn more.

https://www.bigpicturecompetition.org/2020-winners
WildCare

Bird Photography Tips: How To Get Close To Birds Without Disturbing Them

Rosemead, CA - The sculpture consists of an iron beam pulled from the rubble of the World Trade Center held up by two stainless steel hands. The hands holding it up are constructed from 2,976 individually crafted stainless steel doves - each representing a victim of the attacks.

USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

The Puerto Rico Breeding Bird Atlas

Jessica Castro-Prieto, Joseph M. Wunderle, Jr., José Salguero-Faría, Sandra Soto-Bayó, Johann D. Crespo-Zapata, William A. Gould

Published by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service International Institute of Tropical Forestry. General Technical Report IITF-GTR-51. Month, 2020.

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Who's Your Daddy?

PHOTO FRANK TROMP

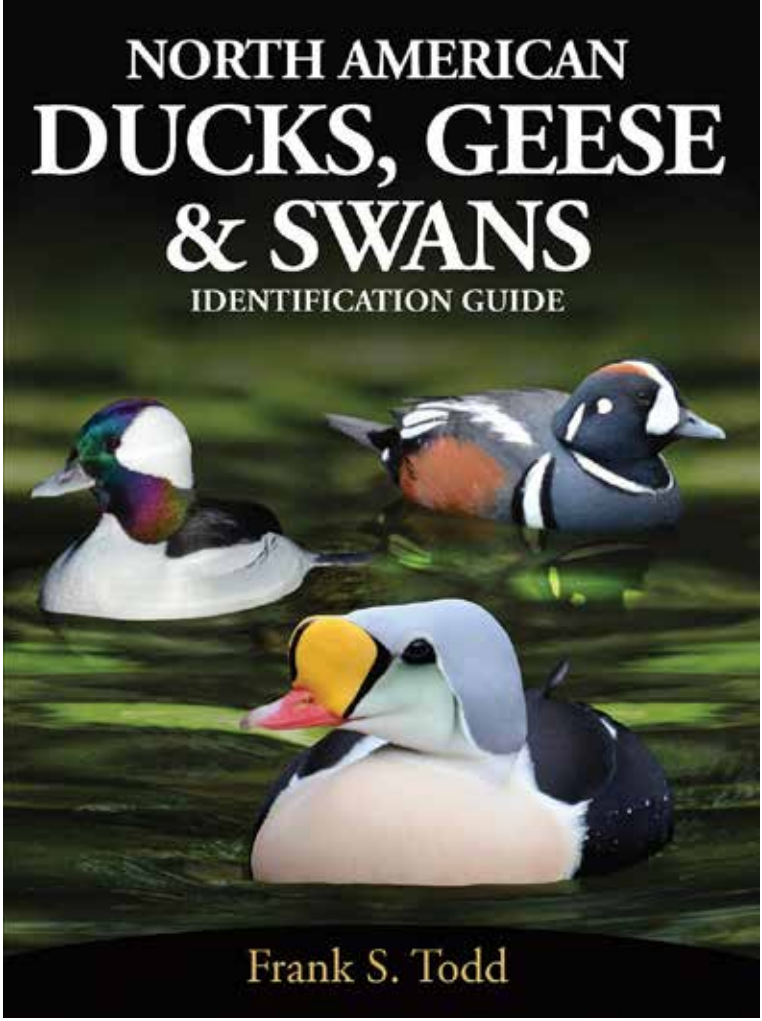
Stumped? See answer on page 56

HOMES for Animal Heroes

A National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) Initiative

http://www.homesforanimalheroes.org/

Homes for Animal Heroes is the first and largest nationwide network for rehoming research dogs that supports biomedical progress and all of the heroes who make it possible. It's time for transparency and time for us to share our love for animals and people…with the world. Thank you for supporting our vision of truth!



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

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Help us keep Frank S. Todd's memory alive by continuing the tradition he started with the first Avicultural Society of America Educational Conference. Frank developed the conference and, for many years, arranged for speakers from around the world to attend and make presentations.
Your donation will allow ASA to continue the tradition and help with travel expenses for our conference speakers. http://asabirds.org/frank-s-todd-memorial-fund/

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PHOTO FRANK TROMP

Who's Your Daddy?

From page 53, Answer: African Olive Pigeon (Columba arquatrix)

The African olive pigeon or Rameron pigeon (Columba arquatrix) is a pigeon which is a resident breeding bird in much of eastern and southern Africa from Ethiopia to the Cape. Populations also are found in western Angola, southwestern Saudi Arabia and northern Yemen. It is locally common, although sizeable gaps in its distribution occur due to its habitat requirements.

The adult male African olive pigeon is a large pigeon at 37 to 42 cm (15 to 17 in) in length and a weight of 300 to 450 g (11 to 16 oz). Its back and wings are maroon, with the shoulders heavily speckled with white spots. The underparts are maroon with heavy white spotting, and the head is grey with yellow patches around the eye, and a yellow bill. The neck plumage, used in display, is streaked maroon and white, the underwing and undertail are dark grey, and the feet are yellow.

Females are very similar but somewhat duller. Juvenile birds have the maroon and grey replaced with dark brown, the bare parts are a dull greenish-yellow, and the wing feathers have pale fringes. In flight, this pigeon looks very dark. Its flight is quick, with the regular beats and an occasional sharp flick of the wings which are characteristic of pigeons in general. The call is a loud coo coo.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

EVENTS

2020 EVENTS

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE - AFA's 46th Annual Educational Conference and Avian Expo - watch www.afabirds.org for more information.

AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA - ASA's 15th Annual Education Conference Fall 2021. There will be no 2020 Conference due to the uncertainty of the Covid 19 pandemic.

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

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PO Box 5067, Fresno, CA 93755
www.ccasbirds.com

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

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

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

Orange County Bird Breeders
www.ocbirdbreeders.org

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

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