

ASA
Avicultural Bulletin



ASA

A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION,
RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

January/February 2019



NEXT ISSUE

SEXY GENES AND PSYCHELEDIC SEDUCTION
JOHN YORK

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 ACTP . Inside Cover: Ocellated turkey (*Meleagris ocellata*) Photo by John York © 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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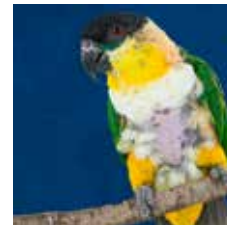
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January/February 2019

President's Message

Greetings, fellow Aviculturists:

The new year brings many legislative bills which are increasingly far reaching, playing on the emotions of animal lovers but, lacking any scientific proof as to the need for a new law.

There is even an instance of a healthy, well fed and taken care of tiger in an abandoned house found by a pot smoker which appears to be “staged” to support current anti-animal keeping bills. Past lawsuit losses by the Humane Society of America and the ASPCA award \$millions to Feld Entertainment for witness tampering proves these organizations do not play fair.

It seems we are the virtual David against the animal rights fanatic’s Goliath. I am encouraged, however, by the plethora of organizations providing pushback to the seemingly endless encroachment on the rights of every person connected with animals in any way. And, we are all connected. Even vegans. What do they think fertilizes the organic food they eat? Manure from cows and chickens!

I encourage everyone to support the organizations on the front lines in this war for our right to keep animals from being totally outlawed in our lifetimes. Speak up, support and share information about our plight outside of our familiar circles.

I will be sharing more in future issues about the organizations leading the fight for our rights to keep animals. In this issue, I’ll start with OPA - Organization of Professional Aviculturists. You may find information about OPA on page 37. They are worthy of our support!

Yours truly,

Carol Stanley
President, YOUR Avicultural Society of America

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ACTIONS MAKE ALL

Sending Spix's macaws back to Brazil is important, but ensuring state of the art facilities are built is crucial. The last few months have found us knee-deep in paperwork preparing all the permits to allow us to build all the needed facilities for a breeding and release project to be successful in the Caatinga's protected area.

In January our construction company in Brazil started breaking ground on an epic Spix's macaw facilities complex in the Caatinga, preparing to build Volunteer/Staff and Managers accommodations, Office/Research, Nursery, Veterinary facilities, Parrot breeding complex and finally the massive release aviary complex. All these buildings are been built together so the entire facility is finished and setup without further construction later when the releases and field research is underway. It is a mammoth

undertaking that will help secure the project and the species in the Caatinga.

We are extremely excited with the progress made in Brazil for the Spix's macaw project, and even more so to share some images of the construction progress with everyone. Brazil is witnessing the rise of a Conservation Facility that will bring their beloved Spix's macaw back to nature... The return of an extinct in the wild species to Brazil!



THE DIFFERENCE



JANUARY 2019: LAND PREPARATION FOR BUILDING OF THE BREEDING CENTRE

JANUARY 2019: LAND PREPARATION FOR BUILDING ACCOMODATIONS, RESEARCH AND VETERINARY FACILITIES



JANUARY 2019: DEMARCATING BREEDING CENTRE



JANUARY 2019: DEMARCATING RELEASE AVIARY AREA



JANUARY 2019: FOUNDATIONS IN PLACE



JANUARY 2019: STARTING THE FLOORS



JANUARY 2019: VOLUNTEER FACILITIES (WALLS GOING UP)



FEBRUARY 2019: ACCOMODATIONS COMING ON



FEBRUARY 2019: BREEDING AVIARY SETUP



FEBRUARY 2019: BREEDING CENTRE TO BE



FEBRUARY 2019: STARTING OF THE RELEASE FACILITY



FEBRUARY 2019: THE WORK MUST GO ON ;)



FEBRUARY 2019: VETERINARY AND NURSERY FOUNDATIONS



FEBRUARY 2019: VETERINARY AND NURSERY FACILITIES COMING ON



FEBRUARY 2019: VOLUNTEER ACCOMODATION





FEBRUARY 2019: VOLUTEER AND MANAGERS ACCOMODATION

There is nothing better than moving forward in parrot conservation projects. We at ACTP are excited about our Spix's macaw project, with the incredible leaps we are making with our valuable partners. Edging closer and closer to a release...

A massive thank you to incredible partners, like Pairs Daiza Foundation and Wildlife Reserves Singapore (Jurong) for great contributions to building this incredible facility in the Caatinga habitat. With special mention to Pairs Daiza Foundation not only making substantial contributions to the in-situ facilities but also preparing a mirror ACTP Spix's macaw breeding facility in

Belgium to increase the biosecurity of the population.

We would also like to thank ICMBio, Ibama and the Ministry of Environment/Agriculture for their support, and of course Parrots International and all the Ararinha na Natureza teams on the ground in Brazil helping to make this project a success.

We will send regular updates over the coming weeks and months showing the progress of the Spix's macaw Conservation/Release Complex. With the current progress and weather permitting we expect the facilities to be ready to receive Spix's macaws around the middle of Brazil's winter this year.



Study shows parrots can pass classic test of intelligence

Click on photo to go to story

Plucking

Tony Silva

"My Amazon is plucking, what medicine can I use to get it to stop?" "My caique was feathered last night, this morning it is naked. The bottom of the cage is lined with feathers. What can I do." "Each day my cockatoo pulls out a few feathers. How can it be stopped?" These types of question come to me weekly from aviculturists from all corners of the globe.

My response invariably starts with a series of questions: How is the bird housed, what toys or enrichment does it receive, what diet is it being fed, is the bird a pet or a breeder, is the bird bathed regularly, has a veterinarian seen the bird and what, if anything, suddenly changed that could have contributed to the plucking. The answer generally suggests that the bird is in an aviary and is a breeder or that the bird is a pet and is played with for a few minutes each day, sometimes a little longer; that bathing is very infrequent; and that the diet is often skewed towards items that are not healthy. These and many more scenarios demonstrate a poor understanding of parrots. Most expect the bird to sit idly in a cage. The bird is supposed to behave perfectly, not despoil its feathers and either talk, sing or breed.

Preparing a more varied diet is often regarded as time consuming. In the case of pets, I often hear that

toys have been in the cage for years and have not been changed, often because the bird ignores them. The above typically sees me respond: What would you do if you were forced to live in a small room, were only allowed to eat a few items, were never allowed out or given the ability to bathe, had no means of entertainment and had your wife or partner is with you continuously or you were forced to live alone—would you pull your hair out, chew your fingers nails, fight with the other person or lose all interest in living such a dull life? Many birds live in a similar situation.

Wild parrots display several periods of activity: in the morning they must forage for food, in the hottest part of the day they must rest, then they must again find food and finally find a roosting spot. Throughout the day the bird interacts with its mate, siblings or flock members and has a whole environment to explore or interact with, must be ever watchful for predators and must maintain contact with other flock members. At no time is the bird bored; indeed it can chew, inspect holes, chase insects and lizards, fly as far as it wishes and keep continuously focused on everything in the environment. It only devotes a fraction of its day to keeping the plumage tidy or resting. Its diet varied depending on the season

BLACK-HEADED CAIQUE (PIONITES MELANOCEPHALUS) PHOTO STEVE DUNCAN





GREATER SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO (CACATUA GALERITA GALERITA)
PHOTO STEVE DUNCAN

and it has the opportunity to bathe each time it rains.

My birds are housed outdoors in south Florida. During the rainy season, we can have three or four bouts of rain during the day. Typically the birds seize every opportunity to bathe, even if they have barely dried from the previous downpour.

In a cage, a pet is confined to a small area when compared to the expanse of a forest, may have a clipped wing that prevents it from flying, and, if given toys, a strange object to keep amused that can be present for weeks at a time. The daily change in its environment is limited to seeing changes in its owner's attire or hairstyle and household activity. If the

bird is lucky, its owner will spend quality time with it, breaking the monotony of cage life. Many bathe their bird irregularly or only during the warm months. Few realize that parrots are very cold hardy and that bathing in winter is perfectly normal. In Europe I have seen macaws and cockatoos bathe in the water that replaced ice in a tub on the aviary floor. The temperature at the time was -1°C (30°F).

A breeder may have nothing but a perch, a nest and a mate in the birds immediate environment. It is expected to remain mentally acute and reproductively fit. If it is especially fortunate, it will have other birds of the same species nearby with which to interact.

Many breeders provide no toys, feeling that they merely distract the birds from their role, which is to reproduce. Equally few provide enrichment, which is generally available locally.

My view is in contrast to the norm expected by most. I believe the caged bird must wake up every morning feeling challenged and motivated.

In many scenarios that I see each month the birds are bored. This is why enrichment is so important. Branches, palm seeds, pods, pinecones, split green coconuts, a small cardboard boxes filled with corn cob that hide a special treat, small sections of wood and

HYACINTH MACAW (ANODORHYNCHUS HYACINTHINUS) PHOTO TONY SILVA



more are important and need to be provided continuously. They will enrich the environment, allow the natural destructive habits of parrots to play out, and will keep the birds amused for a long period of time, this because the branches, coconuts, pods, etc are never the same. The enrichment can be supplemented with toys, which should be changed every few days to prevent monotony, but toys can never require the same energy consumption used to destroy enrichment. Toys and enrichment are thus not of equal importance. I clearly favor enrichment first and then the offering of toys. Both pet and breeders should also be moved around. There is no rule in either case that says the birds should be kept in the same spot for the rest of its lifetime. Moving the birds in fact replicates nature, where they move to different parts of their range to find food, nesting sites or to interact with others of their kind.

Our pets at home are regularly moved around, from one porch to another or from the bird yard to the porch. The same applies to breeding pairs and birds that are not tame and are housed in groups; the suspended cages can be lifted and moved without much effort. The change is also the first immediate step that should be taken when a bird begins to pluck: move the pet or pair to another area, preferably one it does not recognize. This will provide a distraction while palliative measures can be taken.

The next step is a complete medical exam, as some cases are caused by illness (skin fungus, metal poisoning, disease). This needs to be followed by a review of the diet to correct any deficiencies (if they exist) and then to overwhelm the bird with enrichment, the intent being to focus its attention away from its feathers and towards the object being introduced into the cage. Acting immediately rather than later increases the likelihood of stopping the plucking: the behavior has not yet become fixed and the feather follicles have not been damaged to the point that feathers will no longer regrow. The presence of a pathogen (if it is the cause) or a dietary deficiency (if it is the cause) can be corrected once the clinical test results have been obtained.

In the case of a pet bird, if the plucking is because its owner has passed away, no longer has the expendable time to provide the bird the attention that it was accustomed to because of changing lifestyles or is suffering from health issues, then perhaps finding the bird another owner may be necessary. If this is the case, I always recommend that a friend or visitor to the home, which the bird has established a relationship with, be considered a temporary or permanent foster caretaker for the bird. If no one exists, then someone else can be found or the bird can be passed to a rescue or breeder.

Modifying one's behavior is also important, especially when involving pet birds. If a bird pulls its feathers and the owner admonishes it, paying it the attention that it may be seeking, then the behavior may become entrenched: the bored bird has found that by destroying its plumage it is receiving the attention that it demands.

Many former pets when placed in a breeding situation stop plucking. Feather pulling may also stop when bathing is incorporated into the daily regime. Indoor birds should be bathed daily. Outdoor birds can bathe during rainstorms but if these are infrequent, a sprinkler system can be installed above the aviaries. This water can also cool the birds down during very warm weather.

Modifying one's behavior is also important, especially when involving pet birds. If a bird pulls its feathers and the owner admonishes it, paying it the attention that it may be seeking, then the behavior may become entrenched: the bored bird has found that by destroying its plumage it is receiving the attention that it demands. This is also why some birds call hysterically for attention. Like plucking, they trained their owner to respond by being voluble.

When a bird begins to pluck, immediately place yourself in its place and ask yourself why, seek veterinary help and then take prompt action to rectify the causal factor. Only by acting quickly can this vice be stopped.

To learn more about plucking, refer to my recently published book:

<http://www.psittaculture.eu>

Steve's Photo Pick

Masked Grass Finches (*Poephila personata*)





SHOULD WE DEWORM OUR PARROTS ??

Face Beak Aviaries

We get this question a lot, the answer is YES! Regular worming should not be overlooked. Worms can kill birds, even if you only own one.

Just like dogs, cat and even humans, birds can come in contact with some pretty nasty stuff, regular worming will ensure your birds stay healthy and parasite free.

Q: I only own one bird, do i still need to treat it for worms? By FaceBeak Aviaries

A: Yes, worm eggs can lay dormant for months and even years. Birds can get worms by adding new perches, natural foraging toys, new cage mates and even from their owners. How do i know my bird has worms? Signs your bird has worms is not always obvious but here are some signs your bird may have worms. Symptoms of worm infestation;

Worms in droppings or hanging from the cloaca (bum)

Diarrhea

Weight loss

Feather plucking

Sick looking appearance

Young infested birds will cry excessively and never gain weight

A few important things to remember when worming your bird;

Follow the directions to the ml - mixing an incorrect dose could harm your bird or if made to weak will not kill the worms.

Don't treat in extreme weather events like very hot days or rainy weather. If it's raining birds will drink water from the wire instead of the treatment. By FaceBeak Aviaries

Ensure the worming treatment is their only source of water.

Do not feed any fruit, vegetables etc - most fruits and vegetables contain a lot of water, they will eat these and not drink the treatment.

Most treatments last two days - make a fresh batch every day.

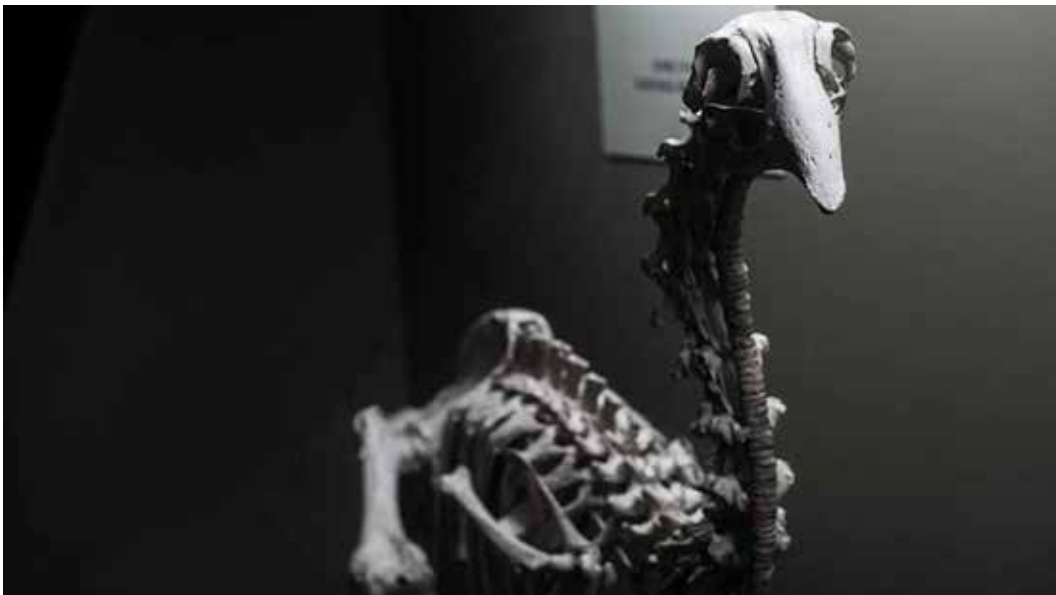
Don't treat birds that have chicks - ensure all birds are wormed before the start of the breeding season. By FaceBeak Aviaries

Check the expiry dates - pick the bottle with the longest expiration date, because treatments are usually 3 months apart, you need it to last.



New Zealand's Mystery Giant Bird Had Tiny African Relatives

Click Link <https://www.iflscience.com/plants-and-animals/new-zealands-mystery-giant-bird-had-tiny-african-relatives/>



Videos and photos from 2017 & 2018 ASA Conferences



<https://youtu.be/c5IF6K-C4ew>



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Avicultural Society
14th Annual Education Conference

Hosted by
October 30 to November 1, 2014

Conference: Marriott Marquis
Guest Rooms: Conrad

Hotel link: <https://t.me/asabirds>

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



Keynote Speaker
Tony Silva

Society of America
Education Conference

Zoo Miami

November 2, 2019

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www.asaurl.com/ASAHotel

AVICULTURAL SOCIETY of AMERICA

14th Annual Education Conference

Hosted by Zoo Miami



October 30 to November 2, 2019

More info: www.asabirds.org

PROGRAM

• Wednesday

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

• Thursday

Full day of Aviculture Talks

• Friday

Zoo Miami Tour and BBQ

• Saturday

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

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your spot on the after-
conference activities!

**Tours, tours and more
tours**

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attendees have
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unexpected!**

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

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



Stumped? See answer on page 44



HOMES
for Animal
Heroes

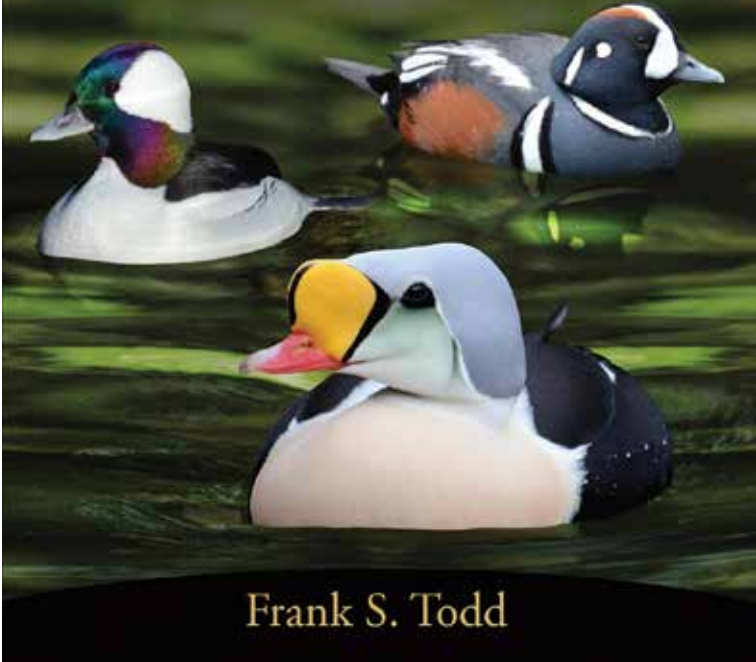
A National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) Initiative

<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!

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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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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SOUTHERN CASSOWARY OR DOUBLE-WATTLED CASSOWARY (CASUARIUS CASUARIUS)
PHOTO VISITING CASSOWARIES


Who's Your Daddy?

From page 41, Answer:

Southern or double-wattled cassowary (Casuarus casuarus)

Southern or double-wattled cassowary
(Casuarus casuarus)

Cassowary foot- adult and junior
A cassowary's three-toed feet have sharp claws. The second toe, the inner one in the medial position, sports a dagger-like claw that is up to 125mm (5in) long. This claw is particularly fearsome since cassowaries sometimes kick, just like kangaroos and emus with their enormously powerful legs to defend themselves. (Always treat wildlife with respect) Cassowaries can

run up to 50km/h (31mph) through the dense forest and they can jump up to 1.5m (4.9ft), they are also good swimmers, crossing wide rivers and swimming in the sea as well. 

From Visiting Cassowaries. <https://www.facebook.com/cassowaryatwongaling/>

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2019 EVENTS

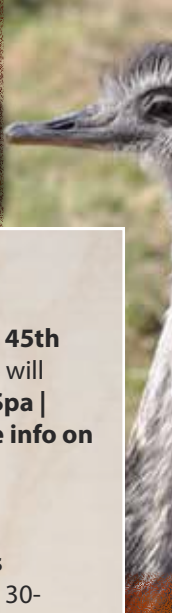


AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE - AFA's 45th Annual Educational Conference and Avian Expo will be held **August 8th – August 10th B Resort and Spa | 1905 Hotel Plaza Blvd. | Orlando, FL 32830** More info on www.afabirds.org



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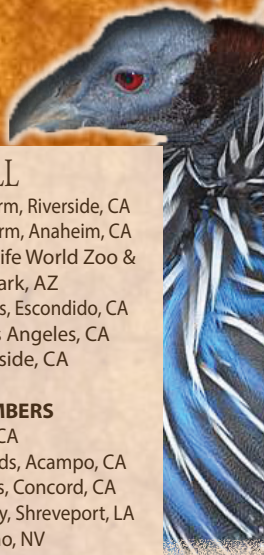
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