





# NEXT ISSUE

**CAMERAS IN & AROUND THE AVIARY**  
**RANDY BERRY**

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 . Inside Cover: © 2012-2019 Avicultural Society of America.  
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November/December 2019

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November/December 2019

*President's Message*



Greetings, fellow Aviculturists:

If you missed the 14th annual Avicultural Society of America Education Conference, you missed an avicultural extravaganza!

Conference goers and speakers came from around the world and were treated to information packed presentations. And that was just the beginning.

Zoo Miami was gracious and opened their facilities for a behind the scenes tour, the highlight of which was an actual Kiwi chick. See Levi Fuentes' article for more info, followed by lots of photos.

The ASA conference culminated with our annual banquet and awards ceremonies on Saturday night. Awards were present to Sylvia Denton, Stuart Denton, Steve Duncan, Sarah Brabbs and Tony Silva.

The OPA private aviary tours were well planned and exciting. Private buses delivered aviculturists to the designated aviaries, avoiding bottle necks in the tours. Once completed, the buses drove us to the site of the OPA banquet, raffles and auction.

Plans are to repeat this formula next year in Orlando. Stay tuned to the ASA website, [www.asasbirds.org](http://www.asasbirds.org), for breaking information.

I personally took over 900 photos, some of which are in this eBulletin. The photos show the excitement conference goers experienced getting together.

Are you going this fall?

Yours truly,

Carol Stanley  
President, YOUR Avicultural Society of America

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

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A Revolution in Nesting Boxes  
*By Randy Berry*



The macaw-nesting box is often one aspect of aviculture that is often overlooked. This is mainly due to breeders using traditionally built nesting boxes built from boards or plywood or from commonly available items such as wooden barrels, and metal drums. Although these types of have been used successfully to breed macaws, they are plagued with problems.

Wooden nest boxes, do not last very long because of macaws chewing ability and unless you add very thick hard wood, it will not last long and lead to disruption because of the replacement. Using hard wood will result in very heavy nest boxes, which if not installed properly can become dangerous to both the parrots and the breeder. If wooden boards are used this can allow too

much light to enter between the boards and discourage nesting. Wood also encourages insects, fungus growth and is not possible to sanitize properly without eliminating the risk of the birds possibility ingesting chemicals from chewing the wood.

Metal nest boxes have some of the similar problems I mentioned with wooded boxes, one being that they too are heavy. Other disadvantages are they can become very hot which can result in either discouraging the pair from entering them or the death of embryos in eggs or hatched chicks. Sharp edges left in the manufacturing process of the nesting box can cut birds skin.

Based on my experience over the years of breeding macaws, I know that a successful nest box needs to meet basic criteria in order for a pair to be reproductive. Some of these aspects are:

Macaws, like other psittacines, do not like excessive light in the nesting chamber.

Macaws do not like to see people when they are in the box.

Macaws need to understand it is a nesting box and that they can enter it and lay without fear

Disturbance from nest inspection needs to be minimal.

Keeping in mind this criteria I mentioned above, I started designing a horizontal nest box





*Polyvinyl chloride, also known commonly as PVC. It is a very hard material and can stand up to macaws chewing it.*

that lacked the disadvantages but instead focused on the advantages. I first started by selecting the material, Polyvinyl chloride, also known commonly as PVC. It is a very hard material and can stand up to macaws chewing it. It is relatively inexpensive; if you consider that, it outlasts wood. PVC is very lightweight. Lastly, you can wash and disinfect it before the breeding season. Upon selecting the material, I needed to source the color, correct size and form. I ended up selecting grey, because it avoids the birds from getting scared from shadows appearing inside the boxes from objects outside. I choose 50cm (1.64042 feet) diameter (6mm thick = 0.23622 inch) as it is a compromise between anything smaller I risked the birds overheating, and anything larger would be heavier and too











expensive and not be practical. After selecting the material, I had to figure out a way to make it into a nest box.

Once I bought the 50cm (1.64042 feet) pipe, which normally come in 3 meters (9.84252 feet). I made the decision to cut it in three equal sections. I proceed first by making a cut just under the 10 cm (3.93701 inch) flange as it is not needed, and then divide the rest of the pipe in three equal parts. The result should be three sections of about 90cm. I would like to point out that make sure you take the proper measurements and use masking tape as a guide when cutting or else you risk scrapping an expensive pipe. I found the best way to cut the pipe equally was using a metal grinder with a very thin blade.

Next, I proceeded to cutting a 20cm entrance hole. 20 cm (7.87402 inch) was chosen to compensate between light level and heat exchange being a smaller hole would be darker, but hotter and vice versa.

I then proceed to make the end caps. Although PVC end caps are found in commerce, they are very expensive. I opted instead to use a combination of sheet metal and marine grade plywood for the end caps. This was done by tracing the inside of the pipe over wood. When you cut it out make sure to cut on the outside of the line to avoid scrapping the wooden sheet. The same was done with the metal sheet. Be very careful as it

can cut you. Make sure to file down any metal burs. You will need to make to end caps, one being an inspection side. For the inspection door, I used my standard guillotine one that consists of a door, a bolt and a wooden block with a retaining plate. In seeing the photo it is clear how it works. Screws hold the end caps in place. You will need to drill pilot holes before installing the screws. I decided to varnish the wooded end caps on the outside since the next boxes would be partially exposed to the elements.

I install a camera in every nest box. I use "anti-vandal" dome cameras made in aluminum. Please read my article on the usage of camera systems in aviaries entitled "Cameras, in and around the aviaries".

Chains are used to hang the boxes up. Use at least five screw with washers through the chain to secure it in the aviary.

I add Versele Laga 8mm wood breeding in the boxes. I have found this the best as it does not create dust in the box and creates a more stable floor bedding.

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

Randy Berry may be reached on facebook at



Berry Brothers Aviaries





## 2019 ASA Conference Experiences

*Levi Fuentes*

It isn't easy being me at this chapter of my life; in my current living situation, I am not allowed to have birds. And since the cherished bird shop I used to visit closed, that has left me with almost no options to "get my bird fix". I want to share a little bit about myself:

I have always loved birds as far back as I can remember. Being a millennial, I grew up during the "Beanie Baby" hype, and my family used to collect them; I preferred collecting bird Beanie Babies. Whenever my family took me to the Sacramento Zoo, I always made it a point to see the "flyin-namingos" (what "little me" called flamingos).

I didn't start my adventure into aviculture until after my grandma's death. I was always a loner, and her death hit me especially hard. I wanted a pet, but not a pet that would eventually die in fifteen to twenty years, and a pet that is "human-like" without being a human. The answer – birds, but more specifically, parrots. I was gifted a pair of cockatiels - a beautiful white-face pied hen and then a normal, or maybe mature pearl male - by my sister's friend's father, who was a bird geneticist. The rest is history (although those who know me even briefly know I have a passion for macaws).

Last year, I told myself that, in order to get my “bird fix”, I would go to “a convention” (well, make that both of the big conventions). Although I was able to go to one convention, I couldn’t pass up this convention – two avicultural conventions into one AND WITH AVIARY TOURS! Heck yes, where do I sign up?! Due to my impulsivity however, I failed to recollect that I spent almost my entire paid leave from my current job, and I gave myself anxiety trying to coordinate how I would have time-off to attend them. After the first convention, I made a mental note to arrive a day before and leave a day after the convention (with the first one, I arrived on the day of and left on the final day of the convention). Long story short, I was blessed big time that I was able to attend (at the expense of four work-days worth of unpaid leave, but hey, I really wanted to go and this was SOOO worth it). Here is where I HAVE to give a shout-out to a prominent, exceedingly magnanimous man – Tony Silva.

In an earlier post about the first convention and my frustrations that (at the time) I wasn’t able to attend, Tony reached out to me and in the post, he said that if I wasn’t able to afford a hotel room for this convention, that I was invited to be a guest at his house. Immediately, I took him up on his offer. I’ve spoken to Tony off and on (I believe) for six plus years. I followed his Facebook page and exchanged messages and e-mails; I even received a draft of the macaw chapter of his new iteration of his

book (and since purchasing it, it has become my reliable reference book) “Psittaculture” (although, at the time, it was in Czech). Two of my dear, local, “macaw mamas” befriended him years earlier and speak very highly of him, and I can say I do too. He is a gracious, generous host and one of the prominent voices of aviculture. Although he never got around to teaching me how to hand-raise macaw babies (and I’m not scolding or faulting him in any way), the privilege to be a guest in his home, meeting his friends and family, and the things I experienced more than makes up for it (although I still want to learn how to hand-raise macaws).

Since I was a guest at his home, walking through his aviaries was something I indulged myself in time permitting. Even in the one instance I was experiencing the blues, all I had to do was walk through his aviary to “reset my emotional buttons”. I saw many species I have only seen in photos – blue-eyed cockatoos (*Cacatua ophthalmica*), blue-throated conures (*Pyrrhura cruentata*), Bonaire brown-throated conures (*Eupsittula pertinax xanthogenia*), Hispaniolan Amazons (*Amazona ventralis*), Rüppell’s parrots (*Poicephalus rueppelli*) just to name a few.

The few talks I was able to attend, I either recorded or took pictures (and now that I’m reviewing the talk line up, the majority of them were on Halloween). All of the talks were quite informative, with Tiago’s talk about the Asian hornbills



being especially illuminating, and Montse's talk about the training processes done at Loro Parque adding heart and passion as to why we were all there.

The behind the scenes tour at Zoo Miami was quite the experience, further expanding my list of species I've only seen in pictures now in front of me in person – a Guam kingfisher (*Todiramphus cinnamominus*), a species that's declared "Extinct in the Wild" but zoos are working with, Bali mynahs (*Leucopsar rothschildi*), a "Critically Endangered" species that zoos are also working on building their numbers, my favorite peacock-pheasant species, a beautiful male Palawan (*Polyplectron napoleonis*), and a green woodhoopoe (*Phoeniculus purpureus*) to name a few, and lastly, their new addition – a young North Island brown kiwi (*Apteryx mantelli*) rounding out the surprise, the zoo is currently raising and that will be display in their collection in the future. Aside from these marvelous surprises, perhaps the most memorable experience for me during the visit was after the tour, walking through their "Wings of Asia" aviary.

Coming from Northern California, the one zoo in my area that has walk-in aviaries is the San Francisco Zoo, where they have their "African Aviary" and their "South American Tropical Rainforest and Aviary" (although based on some of the species in these aviaries, my pedantic side notes that the species

shown don't quite fit within their respective aviaries). However, I absolutely love the San Francisco Zoo for having these two aviaries where you can go in and be among the birds.

I was impressed by how large the aviary was and how beautifully planted and constructed it was. Although I was amazed by the many species that called this flight their home, given how large the aviary was, I shouldn't have been surprised by how (at least in my eyes as a visitor) harmoniously all the different species got along together. Like the San Francisco Zoo, the "Wings of Asia" aviary doesn't quite have birds exclusive to Asia; based on their placard that the zoo provides, the species NOT native to Asia proper include the Australasian shoveler (*Spatula rhynchotis*) and the crested pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), species both native to Australia. All of the other species listed on the placard can be found in one or more of the many countries of Asia. The species that have forever imprinted themselves on my mind was the white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), the white-crested laughingthrush (*Garrulax leucocephalus*), the Chinese hwamei (*Garrulax canorus*) – a species not listed on the placard, the grey-headed swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*), the Mandarin duck (*Aix galericulata*), red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*), the Nicobar (*Caloenas nicobarica*), Victoria crowned (*Goura victoria*), and Luzon-



bleeding heart (*Gallicolumba luzonica*) (three pigeon species I would love to have if I were to build a public aviary), what I presume is a Javan green peafowl (*Pavo muticus muticus*), the Green-naped pheasant pigeon (*Otidiphaps nobilis nobilis*) (this species was the most difficult to get pictures of because they were timid), and the great argus (*Argusianus argus*). The one species I was hoping to see but never did was my favorite species of tragopan – the satyr (*Tragopan satyra*).

During my time at Zoo Miami, I met a gentleman named Joe Carvalho – he and his family run their own bird show called “Carvalho’s Friends of a Feather, Inc.” where they train and educate the public with their bird shows. Me, along with several of Tony’s housemates – Randy Berry, Montse, Guiseppe, and Alberto, were invited to see their last show at Jungle Island. Boy, those memories will stay with me for the rest of my life. The show was marvelous and well done, showcasing a buffwing (a hybrid



macaw crossed with a Great green or Buffon's (*Ara ambiguus*) to a Green-winged (*Ara chloropterus*) and scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*), sun conures (*Aratinga solstitialis*), yellow-naped Amazon (*Amazona auropalliata*), a grey-headed swamphen (again), a grey-crowned crane (*Balearica regulorum*), an emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*), an Andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*), a marabou stork named Edna (*Leptoptilos crumenifer*), and a gorgeous female southern cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius*)

named Mama Cass. We stayed after the show to hang out with the trainers and meet some of the birds. How many times in anyone's life will you be able to be up close and personal to a cassowary?! (Disclaimer: I was seated in the first row of the audience a couple of feet off the stage with rails between me – see pictures provided). Thank you again Carvalho family in gifting us with that awesome experience.

The aviary tours were marvelous. Seeing all the different set-ups and



how they operated gave me not just ideas for the future but deeper appreciation for all the people who dedicate their time, resources, and their very being in providing companion birds for us to enjoy.

Aside from being the largest convention the organization has hosted in decades, this convention was the best one I attend – no contest. It had everything I wanted from this trip – seeing and being around multiple, gorgeous species and meeting phenomenal people

who have the same love and appreciation for these marvelous modern day dinosaurs as I do. Thank you again, Tony Silva, for opening your home to me so I could attend this one-in-a-lifetime conference. I don't know how I would have made it if it weren't for your magnanimity. While aviculture is far from dead, now more than ever we need to put aside whatever differences we must have and work together for the love and passion we have for our birds. Zoos and aviculturists need to come together



to ensure the survival of many species, some of which (at least in the United States) are on their way out and their gene pool becoming limited. While I'm not saying it is a bad thing to obtain this, I fear that if we continue to be divided, the only way I will be able to work with birds of any species is by becoming either a zookeeper or a curator of birds. While at this time I do not have even pet birds, let alone breeding pairs, all I can do is keep writing, sharing what little experiences I have, share the knowledge I have

accumulated, and continue to promote aviculturists and zoos so that we may enjoy the company of these otherworldly creatures for years to come.

## Avicultural Society of America 2019 Education Conference

The following pages contain photos from the Avicultural Society of America 14th annual Education Conference which was combined, as a first, with the Organization of Professional Aviculturists (OPA) aviary tours and post tour banquet.

The turnout was exceptional. International speakers graciously provided information packed presentations as did many U.S. aviculturists.

The speaker list was a who's who of renowned aviculturists with Tony Silva providing the keynote. Speakers and their presentations were:

- Tony Silva – keynote
- Randy Berry - Cameras in and around the aviaries
- Greg Sercel - Youth in Aviculture
- Jean Pattison - Saving Our African Greys
- Josee Birmingham - HARI
- James Pfarr - Pheasants
- Matt Baird - Black cockatoos
- Montse Buch Martinez - Loro Parque - Bird training
- Tiago Nabiço - Wisbroek - Knobbed Hornbills
- Stuart Denton - Peacock pheasants
- Matt McHale-Zoo Miami "Avian Breeding & Propagation at Zoo Miami"
- Clyde Robinson - Contemporary Waterfowl Management
- Eric Antheunisse - Breeding Parrots at Cedar Hill Birds. Not a Hobby.
- Chris Touchton - Lory Aviary Management, Incubation and Hand Rearing Procedures



**GREGORY SERCEL**



**CLYDE ROBINSON**





# PEAKERS



**CHRIS TOUCHTON**



**ERIC ANTHUENISSE**



# PEAKERS



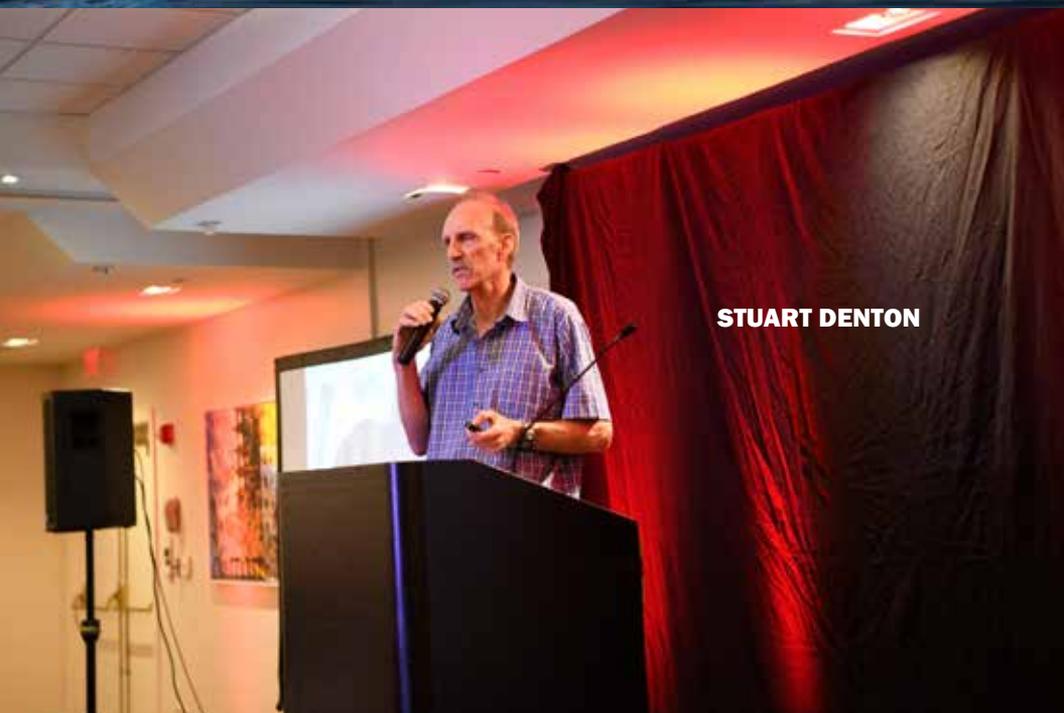
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# PEAKERS



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**MARK HAGEN**



# PEAKERS



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**RANDY BERRY**



# PEAKERS



# ASA BANQUET



# ASA BANQUET





# ASA BANQUET





# ASA BANQUET





## Pellets in Ornithology, not Only Owls....

*Avian Conservation & Education Network*

A pellet, in ornithology, is the mass of undigested parts of a bird's food that some bird species occasionally regurgitate. The contents of a bird's pellet depend on its diet, but can include the exoskeletons of insects, indigestible plant matter, bones, fur, feathers, bills, claws, and teeth. In falconry, the pellet is called a casting.

The passing of pellets allows a bird to remove indigestible material from its proventriculus, or glandular stomach. In birds of prey, the regurgitation of pellets serves the bird's health in another way, by "scouring" parts of the digestive tract, including the gullet. Pellets are formed within six to ten hours of a meal in the bird's gizzard (muscular stomach).

Ornithologists may collect one species' pellets over time to analyze the seasonal variation in its eating habits. One advantage of collecting pellets is that it allows for the determination of diet without the killing and dissection of the bird. Pellets are found in different locations, depending on the species. In general, roosting and nesting sites are good places to look: for most hawks and owls, under coniferous trees; for barn owls, at the bases of cliffs or in barns and silos; for yet other species of owls, at their burrows or in marsh and field grasses.[1]

Hawk and owl pellets are grey or brown, and range in shape from spherical to oblong or plug-shaped. In large birds, they are one to two inches long, and in songbirds, about half an inch. Many other species produce pellets, including grebes, herons, cormorants, gulls, terns, kingfishers, crows, jays, dippers, shrikes, swallows, etc...



**Tawny Owl**



**Kestrel**



**Barn Owl**



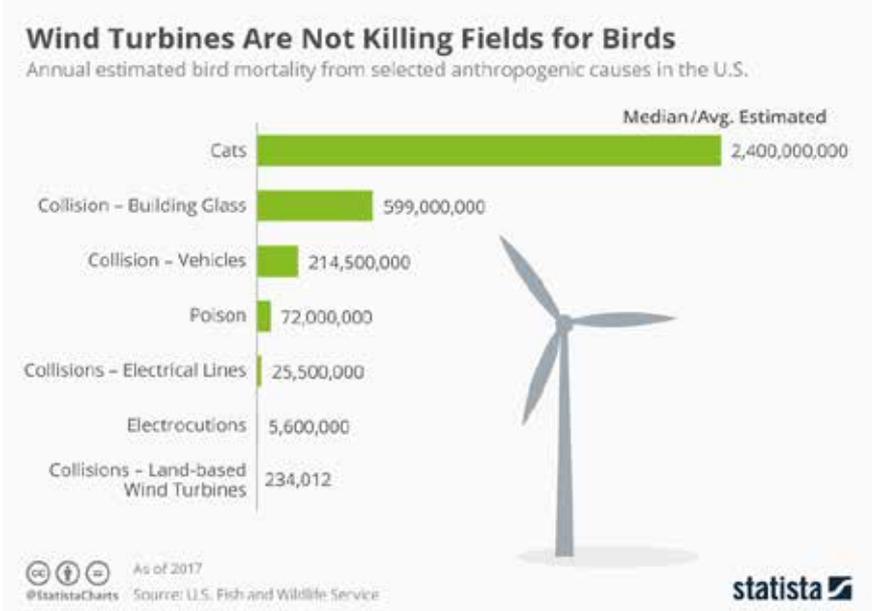
**Little Owl**



**Jackdaw**



## Wind Turbines Are Not Killing Fields for Birds



## The Thick-Billed Parrot Is Not Extinct—Not Yet

BUT ONE HASN'T BEEN SEEN IN THE U.S. SINCE 1995, NOT LONG AFTER THE END OF THE LAST REINTRODUCTION PROGRAM.



# Avian Respiratory Anatomy, Physiology & Diseases: An Overview



Keepers Help California Condor Chick To Hatch! | The Zoo: San Diego



# SOUTHERN GROUND-HORNBILL ID KIT



**ADULT FEMALE:** Facial skin red with violet blue below the bill.



**ADULT MALE:** Facial skin entirely red.



**SUB-ADULT:** Facial skin entirely red, still white on the bill.



**IMMATURE 2:** Facial skin red, white/cream at the edges, white on the bill (~2-3 years)



**IMMATURE 1:** Facial skin still pale with some colouring (~1-2 years)



**JUVENILE:** Pale facial skin (grey then cream) (~0-1 years)

## The Mabula Project

Ground Hornbills (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*) are classified as Vulnerable in South Africa. They have a naturally low reproductive rate, exacerbated by their cooperative breeding habits whereby only the alpha male and female breed. Individuals reach sexual maturity at between 5 and 10 years of age, and on average only one chick hatches every 9 years. They live for approximately 50/60 years. In 2005 the population totaled around 1500 individuals and numbers were still rapidly declining.

The Ground Hornbill Project was founded in April 1999, at Mabula Game Reserve, near Warmbaths, Limpopo. Their program is to harvest second-hatched chicks (these chicks never survive naturally in the nest) from Kruger National Park - which houses around 41% of the RSA population - hand rear them and release them into existing groups in the veld as fledglings. They are prepared over a four-year period to become self-sustaining and free-roaming.

Thaba Tholo initiated a conservation campaign to re-introduce Ground Hornbills to the property, after an absence of 50 Years. The extensively wild, but well monitored expanse, seemed ideal for this project. It took 10 years

from initiation date to first arrivals on the property, in February 2013. The founder group consisted of two males and one female. The new arrivals were housed in a specially erected release boma. The birds were settled and acclimatized here, before their release. New youngsters were introduced to the group over a period, as suitable birds became available. Many challenges were encountered, amongst which, the loss of three birds due to suspected accidental poisoning on a neighboring property. However challenges led to innovative ideas. After 16 years from inception, Thaba Tholo houses a population of 6 Ground Hornbills. In 2018 the first chick hatched in a nest on the property, but unfortunately succumbed during the heat wave conditions.

Thaba Tholo is proud to be associated with the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project. Without the exceptional drive of Dr. Lucy Kemp, along with her dedicated team of super-efficient people, this conservation initiative would never have materialized. We and the Ground Hornbills salute them! The project is still in its infancy, but we are confident that this small beginning may lead to great success in the future for the Ground Hornbill population of the bushveld.



### *Steve's Photo Pick*

Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill, *Tockus flavirostris*, sometimes called the Northern Yellow-billed Hornbill, occurs in the arid habitats around the Horn of Africa including Kenya where this photo was taken. These hornbills spend a lot of time foraging on the ground often picking through elephant dung to find insects and seeds. They will often follow groups of mongoose to capture insects stirred up by them, and in return will warn the mongooses of any predators that they spot.



## 5 Facts About Shoebills

San Diego Zoo Safari Park



## The Egyptian Egg Ovens Considered More Wondrous Than the Pyramids

A HATCHING SYSTEM DEvised 2,000 YEARS AGO IS STILL IN USE IN RURAL EGYPT.



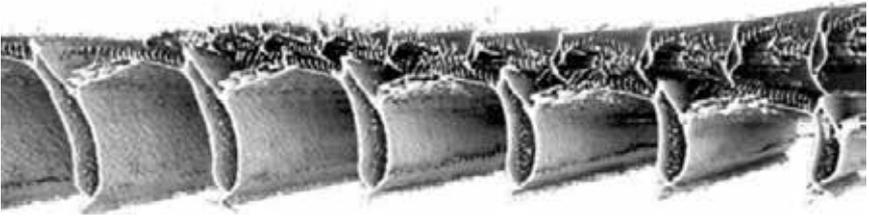
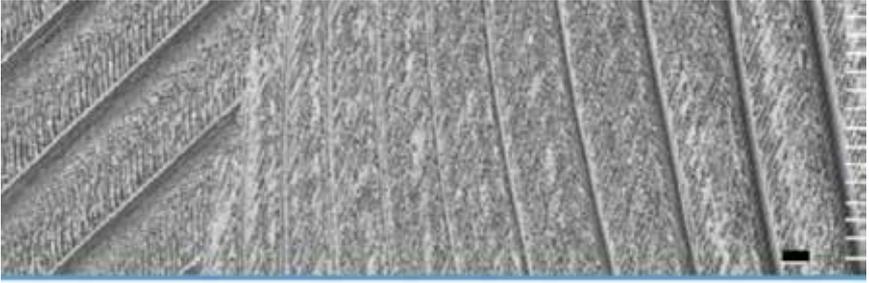
## Hawaii's State Bird Soars Back From Brink of Extinction After Only 30 Birds Left on Islands



# People Are Suddenly Realizing Toucans Are Weirder Than They Thought, Share Facts About Them In A Viral Thread



Birds contain 'natural Velcro' which sticks feathers together and creates a fixed wing



*Margaret Morse Nice thought like a song sparrow and changed how scientists understand animal behavior*





What You Need To Know...HSUS:

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), is not what they have been leading people to believe:

They are NOT a humane society. They are an animal rights organization.

They do not own, run, or operate any animal shelters  
They use their donors' money to write fund and push legislation. They also use it for marketing, advertising, fundraising, salaries, retirement plans, for investments in offshore bank accounts and publicly traded securities.

The closer you look at the labyrinth of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), its leadership, its staff, and its associates, you begin to see the truth behind an organization that is trying to obliterate a large portion of American culture and heritage.

## Not Your Local Animal Shelter

HSUS uses the name "Humane Society" but is not affiliated with any local animal shelters or local humane societies. In fact, their national fundraising efforts hurt community organizations by diverting local donations. In recent years HSUS IRS Form 990's have shown that less than 1% of the funds they raise actually make it to shelters. When they do send money to a shelter, it is typically a small amount (\$1,000 to \$2,000) to be used to promote low-cost spay and neuter clinics.

Statement from HSUS Ex-CEO Wayne Pacelle:

"We never said we funded animal shelters...That's not in our history or in our statement."

## HSUS Is an Animal Rights Organization – Culture Starts At The Top

It is a well-known fact that the culture of an organization starts at the top. The current CEO of the HSUS, Kitty Block, is a past PETA Employee. The ex-CEO, Wayne Pacelle, who was in a leadership position within the HSUS for almost two decades has repeatedly revealed his animal rights ideology. Wayne Pacelle believes that the differences between animals and humans are "differences of degree and not kind."

For more information about Pacelle and his ideology: <https://www.activistfacts.com/person/3366-wayne-pacelle/>

# Overview of Animal Rights Organizations – The Humane Society of the United States

<https://www.facebook.com/avianbehaviorinternational/564145817417989/UzpfSTY00TAyNDU5MT0xMDE1NzE1NTIxNzUyNDU5Mg/>



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**



*“We never said  
we funded animal  
shelters... That’s not  
in our history or in  
our statement.”*

The Animal Rights Culture is Perpetuated Via Hiring Practices  
Most people are not aware that the HSUS has absorbed some of the smaller, more radical, animal rights organizations. When the HSUS brings staff over from these extreme animal rights groups, it would be extremely foolish to assume they check their radical ideology at the door.

## **True Agenda Exposed**

**Food and Agriculture**  
In its own “Statement on Farm Animals and Eating with Conscience”, the HSUS reveals its true beliefs about food. Outlined on their website, you’ll find their “Three R’s” approach:

Reducing the consumption of meat and other animal-based foods;  
Refining the diet by eating products only from animals who have been raised, transported, and

slaughtered in a system of humane, sustainable agriculture that does not abuse the animals; and Replacing meat and other animal-based foods in the diet with plant-based foods.

As you can see, any move the HSUS makes towards agriculture is all in pursuit of the goal of reducing the demand for animal products and drying up the market for these goods.

### Funding

Animal rights has become a billion-dollar industry. The HSUS is

very well funded from donations given to them by goodhearted people who have been duped into believing they are a national animal shelter organization and that their donations go to help animals in need. The HSUS has hundreds of millions in their coffers, stored in off-shore bank accounts and publicly traded securities. Tens of millions more are spent on fundraising and advertising. Then there are the high salaries of their executives, including millions invested in their retirement funds and other benefits.



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## Where Can I Find a Breeder?

Lewis "Buddy" Waskey

I see nearly daily someone posting asking "Where can I find a breeder or a bird in my area? I want to address where the breeders are. Why breeders are often hard to find? Then I want to make some suggestion on how to find the bird you want.

We tend to think that breeders of a certain species we are looking are in every community and state. Breeders are not like hospitals or grocery stores in that there is one in our area. First the majority of parrot breeders are located in three states, Texas, Florida and California. Breeders in these states often have larger facilities and more birds than in the other states. While there is not any research, I would venture to say between 50% and 80% of baby parrots come from these three states. The biggest reason for this concentration of breeders probably is the climate compliments raising parrots. Then many of the breeders in other states usually are smaller because the climate is not as good, and their birds are housed inside. Keeping breeding parrots inside is fine it is just harder to keep as many parrots inside as outside. So now we have determined that if you are not in Texas, Florida or California there is a lesser likelihood that you will find a breeder close to you. So now you know where most of the breeders are located.

As we have learned more about aviculture and the best practices for keeping and raising parrots, breeders have learned a lot and have gotten much better at what they do. That is raising parrots. Most breeders have focused on keeping breeding pairs of birds healthier and happier. They have learned what conditions are best suited to help pairs to bond, breed, lay fertile eggs, sit on eggs, and get healthy chicks to hatch out of these eggs. Most breeders have learned it is easier and better to let the parents feed the chicks until they are 3 to 6 weeks when possible. Please note that is difficult to get many parrots especially medium and large parrots to lay fertile eggs and hatch them. Then many parents do not feed the babies, so the breeder has to hand feed the babies. Breeders do a great job of raising babies and getting them to the age of 3 to 6 weeks. I am not saying that breeders aren't able to do a good job of getting babies to fully wean.

The market for baby birds has evolved over the years to where most retailers want young babies straight out of the nest which are 3 to 6 weeks of age. The retailers get a better price on the birds because they are going to do most of the work to get the baby bird to the point of weaning. I find that the retailers are doing a great job of hand feeding the babies, getting them to socialize with people and getting babies to wean properly. The retailers have learned to help the baby make a smooth transition into a new home.

Now why are breeders hard to find? They are hiding! Just kidding. We now know where the breeders are Florida, Texas and California. Many breeders have developed relationships with bird specialty stores and sell all their babies to these retailers across the country. The majority of babies raised today are being sold directly to retailers. These breeders not only don't advertise they have more than enough retailers buying their birds. So who are these retailers I have referred to several times? I am NOT referring to your big corporate pet chains. The retailers are local small bird specialty store. Some are probably near you. Some people may not have a bird specialty store near them.

So how do you find the bird you want?

There several avenues you should try. First check all your local bird specialty stores. If you don't have one near you or they can't get the species of bird you are looking for you will have to venture out of your local area to other parts of the country to a bird specialty store. But you say you can't travel that far. Most of the bird specialty stores will ship to you. So you don't want your new bird shipped. It is perfectly safe. I have birds from Florida, Washington State, California, Texas and Arizona. Maybe I will post later on why shipping is safe. You say you want to see the bird first. Well get the bird store to do a live video for you. Or if you are making a commitment to a large bird, fly out and see the bird or pick it up. Many airlines allow birds to be flown in the cabin with you.

In summary chances are the breeder you are looking for 30 minutes away, is riding his unicorn around unless you are in one of those three states. Then the breeder that is 30 minutes away probably has sold all their babies to a bird specialty stores for the last 10 years. So go to or contact a bird specialty store. Most of the birds are there and not online.



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BIRDS ARE MORE LIKE 'FEATHERED APES' THAN 'BIRD BRAINS' FOR CENTURIES SCIENTISTS DISMISSED BIRDS AS DUMB BASED ON PHYSICAL DIFFERENCES IN THEIR BRAINS. HOW WRONG WE WERE.



HAND-BUILT PAPER BIRDS BY NIHARIKA RAJPUT DRAW ATTENTION TO ENDANGERED





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# Who's Your Daddy?



PHOTO LI CHIEH HSU

**Stumped? See answer on page 62**



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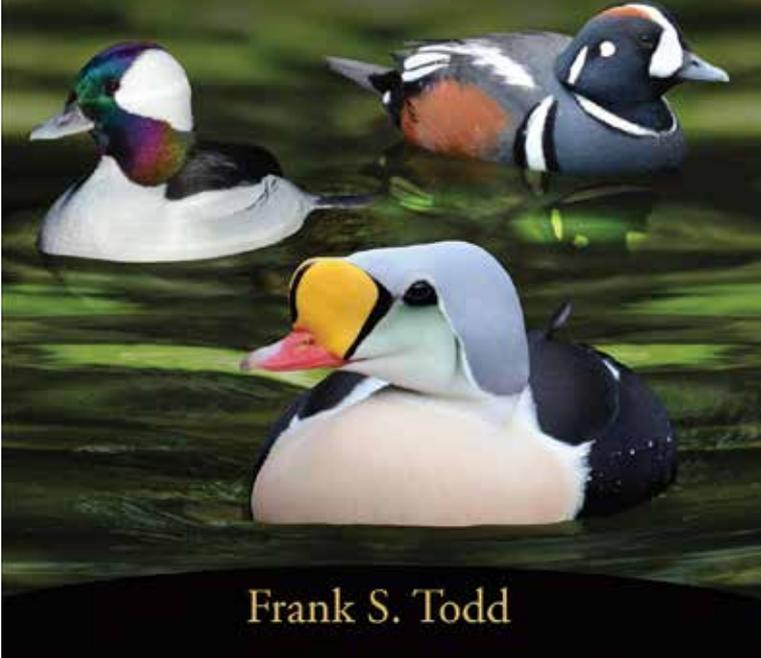
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## IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



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SULAWESI MYNAH (BASILORNIS CELEBENSIS) PHOTO BY LI CHIEH HSU

## Who's Your Daddy?

From page 59, Answer:

### Sulawesi mynah (*Basilornis celebensis*)

The Sulawesi myna grows to a length of 23 to 27 cm (9.1 to 10.6 in). It is a glossy black bird with a permanently raised crest which is larger in the male. The sides of the face and throat have white patches. The eye is surrounded by a bluish-black ring of bare skin, the beak is pale bluish-green and the legs are yellowish. Juvenile birds are chocolate brown.

This myna is endemic to the humid forests of hilly districts of the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. Its main habitat here is forest fringes, clearings, scattered areas of woodland and secondary forests, although it is sometimes found in primary forests.

The species usually feeds high in the forest canopy. It usually occurs

in pairs or small family groups, but sometimes solitary individuals can be seen. Immature individuals may join flocks of fiery-browed starling (*Enodes erythrophris*) and it often associates with groups of other fruit-eating birds.

Little is known about the breeding habits of this bird. Its diet is estimated to consist of about 44% fruit and 52% invertebrates, the balance being taken up by small vertebrates.[3] It is a non-migratory species but presumably moves about the forest in response to the ripening of fruits on different species of tree. 

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

# EVENTS

## 2020 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 15th Annual Education Conference** Fall 2020

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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