



A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION,
RESTORATION AND EDUCATION October/November/December 2022





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: Great reed warbler (Acrophalus arundinaceus)chicks . Inside cover: Black Palm Cockatoo (Probosciger aterrimus) Photo: John Griffith © 2012-2023 Avicultural Society of America. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced without express written permission by ASA. The Avicultural Society of America e-Bulletin is published quarterly online on our website, asabirds.org

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October/November/December 2022

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ASABULLETIN

October/November/December 2022

President's Message

Big things are coming this year!

We are excited to announce that the Avicultural Society of America is partnering with the American Federation of Aviculture for a combined educational conference held at the Hilton Richardson in Dallas, Texas on September 27 through September 30th, with a possible offsite event hosted by ASA and OPA on October 1st. Our "Aviculture United" conference will include two speaker tracks, a vendor/sponsor hall, raffles, live and online auctions. This conference will offer the ability to network and socialize with many world renown aviculturists!

We will be accepting conference sponsorships through July 1st, after which we will open up registration to vendors. For those interested, sponsorship includes a full page ad in the AFA Watchbird, AFA Fast Ads, ASA Bulletin, (available at www.ASAbirds.org), logo placement in our flyers, tote bags, on our websites, Facebook pages, and admission for 2 to all conference events hosted by the ASA / AFA including Zoo admission and banquet dinner.

We can't wait to see you there!

Thank you! Sarah Brabbs Avicultural Society of America, President

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Like Us on Facebook ASA has several pages on facebook. "Like" them all! Avicultural Society of America: https://www.facebook.com/asabirds



Lesser reed warbler eggs (Acrophalus scirpaceus) Photo Lou Megens

Who doesn't know him? This little bird is probably very well known to the general public, but far fewer people will be able to say that they have heard this bird, and very few who have actually seen it! The great fame in name is probably in the remarkable nest building in the reeds, but certainly also the bird enjoys the dubious fame as a host bird for the cuckoo. And indeed the reed warbler functions as a host bird, just like many other species (hedge sparrow, wagtail, redstart, pipit, etc.).

The bondage to reed collars contributes to the fact that few people will ever have heard the bird. After all, not everyone regularly walks in such an area. The sound will be familiar however. After all, the bird sings its own name, which is described in literature as a poor rhythm (arr, orre, orre, orre, er, er, er, orre, orre, er, er, er; iet, iet, iet, arre, arre, iet), with some fantasy one can get his name out of this..... In addition to this "name singing", which the bird actually sings all day and part of the night, the reed warbler



Indeed, a

colorful

plumage is

not to he

expected, but

beauty is in

the details.

isn't it?

has in my opinion a surprisingly varied repertoire. He regularly sings a beautiful melodious song to great pleasure.

To spot the bird requires more patience, because the bird is on the water side of the reed collar, and even then many people will think "is that all" when they see the bird. Indeed, a colorful plumage is not to be expected, but beauty is in the details, isn't it?

The slender bird, with its pointed bill and color shades ranging from bright white to light brown, is indeed beautiful in its simplicity. The reed warbler shows a pale ocher hue on its chest and belly, in good camouflage with the dead reed. Only the throat is lighter, almost white, and the back is even brownish yellow, only on the wings a bit darker, warmer brown. Above the eyes we see indistinct eyebrows. Both sexes are sexually amorphous (no difference between sexes).

Reed warblers (both small and large) belong to the reed warbler family (Acrocephalus), which consists of small, reclusive living insectivorous birds that nest in low vegetation, usually near or above water. The lesser reed warbler (Acrophalus



scirpaceus) and the great reed warbler (Acrophalus arundinaceus) both breed in reed beds, occupying the same habitat. However, the great reed warbler is much more scarce than the lesser reed warbler. The great reed warbler (also called double reed warbler in popular speech) is as large as a song thrush, and has a clearly louder song/call.

The reed warbler breeds in reed collars, the nest is woven from grass stems and flower buds, leaves and flowering stems from reed, plant fluff and cobwebs. Lined with fine plant fibers, sometimes hair, wool and feathers, it is attached to rarely



Reed warbler\Reed warbler nest drawing (Els Kanen-Schets)

The reed warbler breeds in reed collars. the nest is woven from grass stems and flower buds, leaves and flowering stems from reed, plant fluff and cobwebs. Lined with fine plant fibers, sometimes hair, wool and feathers, it is attached to rarely less than 6 reeds, half to a meter above the water's surface.



less than 6 reeds, half to a meter above the water's surface. To prevent the eggs and young from falling out of the nest, the nest bowl is twice as deep as it is wide. This makes it resistant to gusts of wind and waves.

The birds begin nest building and breed from mid-April to mid-June. In general, only one clutch is made. The usually 4 eggs (rarely 3-6) are greenish-white or very light green, usually all spotted, with green or olive green or gray speckled spots. Both sexes breed, which takes about 11-12 days.

The birds begin nest building and breed from mid-April to mid-June. In general, only one clutch is made.



The young are also cared for by both parents. The chicks leave the nest after 11-13 days. In August / September the birds fly to their remote winter habitats in tropical Africa. A year later it must be a strange sensation to the young birds to find, instead of the man-sized, dense, waving reed-wood which they left in August, nothing but a few dry stems and fluttering leaves remains. The birds climb into the reeds and sing along with the strong wind. They still have plenty of time, because the new reeds in which they have to build their nests are only a few centimeters above the water's surface.

For several years I have owned a couple of (DNA-sexed) birds, which I try to breed with. To mimic the natural living and nesting conditions a bit, I filled a large tub in the aviary with water and planted reeds. The dimensions of the aviary are not overly large (5x2.5x2 meters) and this space is shared with a couple of snowy crowned robin chats and grey wagtails. There is a small pond with a watercourse where I regularly let the water run. Breeding is not easy, but it is worth a try. Not every year it is possible to get chicks on the perch, but this year (2022) I still have two beautiful young reed warblers!

To mimic the natural living and nesting conditions a bit, I filled a large tub in the aviary with water and planted reeds. The dimensions of the aviary are not overly large (5x2.5x2 meters)and this space is shared with a couple of snowy crowned robin chats and grey wagtails.



Lesser reed warbler eggs (Acrophalus scirpaceus) Photo Lou Megens

As food they get an insect pate, with pinkies, wax moth larvae, white mealworms, crickets and fruit flies. Everything dusted with a vitamin and mineral supplement. The birds stay together all year round and also in the winter in the outdoor aviary. I am already looking forward to the new setup of the biotope aviary, and hopefully to the nest building attempts of these nice birds next year!





Lesser reed warbler chicks (Acrophalus scirpaceus) Photo Lou Megens

Lesser reed warbler (Acrophalus scirpaceus) Photo Richard Burgmeijer



As food they get an insect pate, with pinkies, wax moth larvae, white mealworms, crickets and fruit flies. Everything dusted with a vitamin and mineral

supplement.



Lou Megens has been caring for, breeding, photographing, and writing about birds since his early youth. Born in the Brabant Valkenswaard, Netherlands, Lou has expertise in European aviculture that he has shared in many publications, including three books written in Dutch: Europese cultuurvogels in opmars, 't Jaar rond, and Dappere Dodo. You can see what Lou is up to on his Facebook page.



Blue-winged Leafbird.jpg

After 52 years, Jurong Bird Park closed yesterday. Here are a few photos from visits in 2017/2018.I can't wait to visit the new Bird Paradise in Mandai!

Jonathan Beilby



Black-winged Myna



Blue-streaked Lory



Blue-rumped Parrot



PAGE Blue-tailed Imperial-pigeon



Coppersmith Barbet

Hooded Pitta.jpg



Laced Woodpecker.jpg



Green Broadbill.jpg

Bushy-crested Hornbill



Javan Pied Starling.jpg

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Malayan Crestless Fireback.jpg

Malay Peacock-pheasant



Milky Stork.jpg

Mindanao Rufous Hornbill



Nicobar Pigeon.jpg

Pale-capped Pigeon



Piñon Imperial-pigeon.jpg





Purple-tailed Imperial-pigeon

Rhinoceros Hornbill



Saffron Finch



Sclater's Crowned-pigeon



Sun Conure







White-crowned Hornbill

2022 Indices

2022 Quarter One

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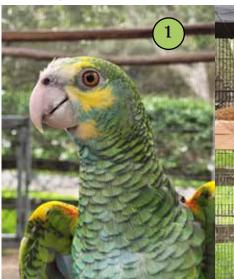
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ASABULLETIN

Wayne Andrews aviary.
Since we have had a little break in the rain. Here's a few pics of some not so common species and mutations from the aviary.



Let's have some fun with this, shall we?

Try to guess each species in the photographs Wayne has provided.

Answers will be in the next ASA e-Bulletin

















WHAT IS THE CROWBOX? The CrowBox is an experimentation platform designed to autonomously train corvids (the family of birds crows belong to). So far we've trained captive crows to deposit dropped coins they found on the ground in exchange for peanuts. The next step is to work with wild corvids and see if we can get them to learn to use the box, then to optimize the training protocol to see how quickly they can learn from each other.

That's where you come in. Different corvids learn at different speeds and in different ways, and the only way to figure out the best way to teach them is experimentation. The more people try different things the faster we'll all figure out how to work cooperatively with crows.

Once we've got the system optimized for teaching coin collection we can move to seeing how flexibly they can learn *other* tasks, like collecting garbage, sorting through discarded electronics, or maybe even search

and rescue. The idea isn't to get rich off found coins - we want to change the world through learning how to cooperate with other species.

HOW DOES IT WORK? Based on established Skinnerian training principles, the action of the device is divided into four stages:

Stage One: Discovery and Free

Feeding

Stage Two: Food Available On

Landing

Stage Three: Food Available on

Deposit, Training Coins Provided

Stage Four: Food Available On

Coin Deposit

So far the crowbox has been shown to work with captive crows. Now we're releasing the open sourced designs of the new CrowBox so anyone can try it with their own wild corvid populations!



Watch the TED Talk >>

Learn more about Josh Klein >>

Want some more inspiration? Check out Hans Forsberg's training video using his own Crowbox design to train wild magpies! Click here.

NEW CROWBOX RELEASED!!

Redesigned from the ground up for maximum reliability and configurability. Featuring:

- Less expensive parts
- More reliable, weatherproofed design
- Complete CrOS modular software platform
- Plugins for cameras and other sensors
- Easily configurable training stages
- A complete guide with support documentation and assembly videos



WANT A CROWBOX?

Follow our quide creative commons

to download and make or order the housing, order

the electronics, and use our build videos to make your own.

The design of the CrowBox is Open Source, so you're free to make your own, edit the files, and contribute to the project. Total cost will depend on where you buy your



parts plus shipping, but we worked hard to keep it below USD \$100.

Once your box is built, choose your location and start seeding your local corvid community. Need help? Access the Google Forum, check out the wiki, and/or join the mailing list (this link did not work)!

WHY BUILD A CROWBOX?

Nobody's going to get rich training corvids, but we might just change how humanity engages with other species. The CrowBox is an appliance for experimentation in training and interacting with these birds: it's our goal to get people to think differently about how humanity is

already training animals like crows, rats, racoons, deer, and other animals that live near us. Right now we're teaching them to survive as parasites; what would happen if we could find mutually beneficial working relationships instead?

LEARN MORE

Access the Google Forum, check out the wiki, and/or join the mailing list (not working) to let us know how it works for you - it's only by working together that we'll be able to create the most efficient method for training these birds!



Christmas Parrot Conservation Status Update Merry Christmas / Happy Holidays everyone!

Levi Fuentes

I'm want to try and make a tradition of checking the conservation statuses of all the parrot species every Christmas.

Please note: The list of parrots I've mentioned are listed as CITES Appendix 1, meaning that, without proper permits and documentation, cannot be traded internationally. -Levi Fuentes

I have concluded my count on the number of extant (living) species of parrots, including subspecies. However, when looking the species and subspecies over, there are 4 subspecies that are listed as "possibly extinct", so I will include the revised number here as well.

If you were to follow Cornell Lab's Bird of the World taxonomy, there are 374 species; when accounting for subspecies, the number is 751 (subtract 4 "possibly extinct" subspecies and you get a total number of 747).

Now, if you were to follow both the IUCN Red List and BirdLife International's taxonomy, there are 405 species; when accounting for subspecies, the number is 748 (total number being 744).

According to the IUCN Red List, the majority of parrot species are seeing declining populations, we several species seeing stable populations while others are seeing an increase in numbers. Something worth noting is the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) statuses on parrot species. With the exception of cockatiels, "roseringed" parakeets (African ringnecked, Abyssinian ring-necked, "Himalayan" ring-necked, and Indian ring-necked), budgies, and peach-faced lovebirds, ALL parrot species are listed under CITES Appendix II with the exception of the following species: Kakapo (Strigops habroptila) Palm cockatoo (Probosciger atterimus ssp.)

Goffin's cockatoo (Cacatua qoffiniana)

Philippine red-vented cockatoo (Cacatua haematuropygia)

Lesser sulphur-crested cockatoo (Cacatua sulphurea ssp.) and Citron-crested cockatoo (Cacatua {sulphurea} citrinocristata)

Moluccan cockatoo (Cacatua moluccensis)

Ground parrot (Pezoporus wallicus ssp.)

Night parrot (Pezoporus occidentalis)

Orange-bellied parrot (Neophema chrysogaster)

Horned parakeet (Eunymphicus cornutus)

Ouvea parakeet (Eunymphicus uvaeensis)

Red-fronted kākāriki (Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae ssp.); if



following Cornell's World of Birds, this will also include the Reischek's parakeet (Cyanoramphus hochstetteri), the New Caledonian parakeet (Cyanoramphus saisseti), and the Norfolk Island parakeet (Cyanoramphus cooki).

Chatham Island parakeet (Cyanoramphus forbesi)

Golden-shouldered parakeet (Pseophotellus chrysopterygius)

Ultramarine lorikeet (Vini ultramarina)

Red and blue lory (Eos histrio ssp.) African grey parrots (Psittacus

erithacus ssp.)

Pileated parrot (Pionopsitta pileata) Vinaceous Amazon (Amazona vinacea)

Tucumán Amazon (Amazona tucumana)

Red-spectacled Amazon (Amazona pretrei)

Mexican red-headed Amazon (Amazona viridigenalis)

Lilac-crowned Amazon (Amazona finschii)

Red-browed Amazon (Amazona rhodocorvtha)

Red-necked Amazon (Amazona arausiaca)

St. Lucia Amazon (Amazona versicolor)

Yellow-naped Amazon (Amazona auropalliata ssp.)

Yellow-headed Amazon (Amazona oratrix ssp.)

Yellow-shouldered Amazon (Amazona barbadensis)

Cuban Amazon (Amazona leucocephala ssp.)

Puerto Rican Amazon (Amazona vittata ssp.)

Imperial Amazon (Amazona imperialis)

Red-tailed Amazon (Amazona brasiliensis)

St. Vincent Amazon (Amazona quildingii)

Blue-throated conure (Pyrrhura cruentata)

Hyacinth macaw (Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus)

Glaucous macaw (Anodorhynchus alaucus)

Lear's macaw (Anodorhynchus leari) Thick-billed parrot (Rhynchopsitta

pachyrhyncha)

Maroon-fronted parrot (Rhynchopsitta terrisi)

Spix's macaw (Cyanopsitta spixii)

Illiger's macaw (Primolius maracana)

Blue-headed macaw (Primolius couloni)

Blue-throated macaw (Ara glaucoglaris)

Red-fronted macaw (Ara rubrogenys)

Military macaw (Ara militaris ssp.)

Great green {Buffon's} macaw (Ara ambiguus ssp.)

Scarlet macaw (Ara macao ssp.)

Yellow-eared parrot (Ognorhynchus icterotis)

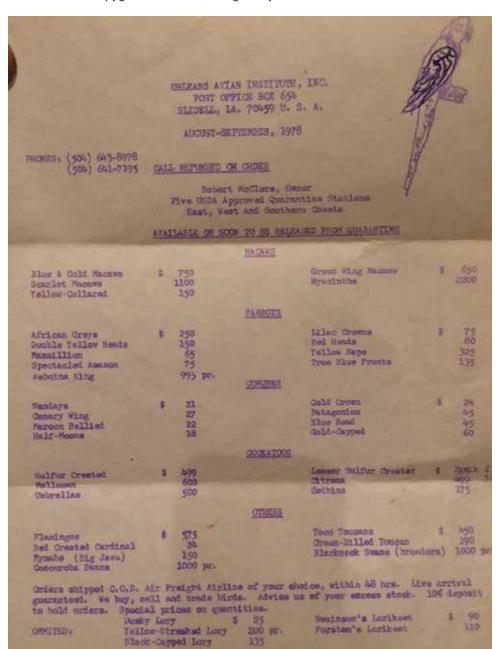
Golden conure (Guaruba guarouba)

About the Author

Levi Fuentes is a lifelong bird admirer who enjoys researching and learning about the avian world. He first became a bird owner at the age of 12.

Tony Silva

While organizing my library, I found this old price list. (1978). Note that they are offering true Blue-fronted Amazons Amazona aestiva aestiva, Forstern's Lories and many other species that today are rare or very valuable. I remember buying from this same dealer Red-vented Cockatoos Cacatua haematuropygia for \$350.00, though they were all males.











Papillomas in a Blue and Gold Macaw Tony Silva

Some week ago I posted the photos and text below. I want to give an update. The last photograph was taken by pest.

This macaw was brought to me by Walker Blanco who had adopted it. The first photo depicts the bird the day I first saw it. Papillomas are viral and contagious. We discussed various traditional treatments (surgery, autogenous vaccines, etc) to be performed by a veterinarian, though from experience recommended something that at first I am sure sounded bizarre. Giving it hot peppers daily in the food. The best means of providing the hot peppers

is in corn bread, which is made the traditional way but is heavily spiced with freshly ground peppers. If you can acquire ghost peppers they work the best but serrano and habanero also work. The last image depicts the bird today with the papillomas in remission. The bird will have to eat hot peppers for some years but persistence will yield results. I share this not to provide veterinary advice-- I am not a veterinarian-but to share knowledge that was common in aviculture last century and which unfortunately has been lost in this modern day.









Ray Varella the Coffee Man! West Coast flyers in Northern California. See Ray's post and boutique coffee offerings on his facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/raymond.varella.7

This Greenwing, White Ear, are amazing.

A couple years ago she was sitting on my shoulder while I was playing with my iPad.

She reached down with her beak and tapped the screen. Because birds have blood flow to their beak, it produces the needed heat to activate the touchscreen.

I opened my photos and asked her if she knew any of the birds I named. She successfully identified herself, her brother and one of our friends birds.

I thought it was really cool. Today while I was having coffee she was sitting with me and started making funny sounds and bobbing her head at the iPad.

I picked up the iPad and opened the photos and started asking her if she

could pick out specific birds when there were three to ten birds in the picture.

I named the individual birds and she tapped on their image. I asked her if she could identify our dog and she did.

When there were several birds of the same species, she correctly identified the right bird.

She seemed very interested in the iPad and this was a couple years after we played this game the first time.

I have long been a proponent of naming objects with my dogs and birds.

This is something Kayce Cover and I have discussed over the years. The cognitive abilities of our animals goes far beyond simple tricks and behaviors.



Dot Rambin

Bufflehead (Bucephala albeola)

The bufflehead does not have purple or green pigments in its feathers. The iridescent feathers we see in birds are caused by the refraction of light caused by the structure of the barbules. Iridescent feathers are called structural colors.



Follicular choristoma in the third eyelid of an eclectus parrot (Eclectus roratus) Click on AVMA to go to article online



Journals

Zinc: Lead's **Ugly Cousin**











click on photo to go to website

ABOUT US

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Everything Birds is a locally owned business. We've been located in the Tampa Bay area for more than 17 years. Exotic companion birds started as a hobby. As I learned about them and lived with them, I have loved their inquisitive, intelligent, and loyal nature, and soon our birds became our passion.

The mission of Everything Birds is to pair individuals and families with the right species for their lifestyle and family dynamics to achieve a satisfying, long-term companionship.

We feel if our customers or a potential bird owner understands and embraces the species they are interested in, then through our guidance, continued education and support they will commit to these creatures for the rest of their lives and sometimes into their children's lives.

For us, the animals are the number one priority because if they aren't happy, healthy and well-adjusted birds then the flock is not in harmony. We offer care and support to our customers through free educational workshops, free grooming, and there is always a free sample to be had somewhere in the store each day we are open.

There is always an impressive variety of birds flying, pecking and waddling around our sprawling, 5000+ sq ft store so come in and find a cuddly baby to hold! The store is also filled to bursting with an extensive inventory of cages, toys, food, treats and every other item imaginable that contributes to making your companion bird happy and healthy.

Prices are always low and beyond reasonable, and our bird crazy staff go out of their way to make sure your every visit is a great experience. If you like birds, you'll love Everything Birds!

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Birds in Shoes

Jim Sorensen

In my memories today. My Toucan Chick in Clogs. Baby Toucans have bright yellow beaks so I thought yellow Crocs would fit well. I put clogs instead of Crocs because I didn't want to get into the same trouble as I did with Vans. www.jimsorensen.com. www.jimsorensen.com.



Thank you, Jim Sorensen for allowing ASA to share your beautifully creative images!

Who's Your Daddy?

Stumped? See answer on page 40

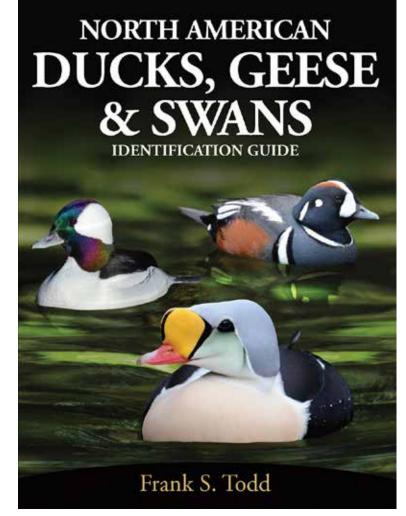


Photo: Dan Wake



A National Animal Interact Alliance (NIAIA) Initiative

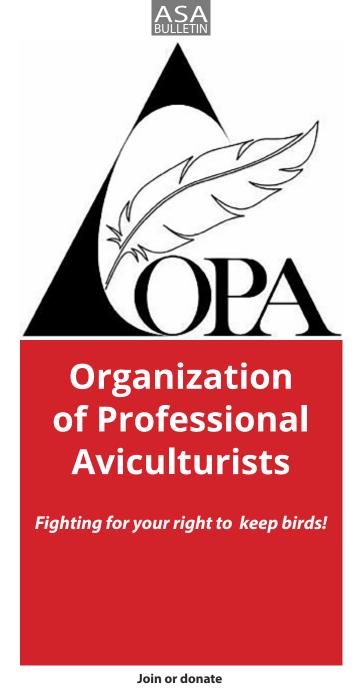
http://www.homesforanimalheroes.org/ Homes for Animal Heroes is the first and largest nationwide network for rehoming research dogs that supports biomedical progress and all of the heroes who make it possible. It's time for transparency and time for us to share our love for animals and people...with 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. You can purchase Ducks, Geese & Swans of North America: Identification Guide at: https://www.hancockhouse.com/collections/ducks-waterfowl/products/north-american-ducks-geese-swans

PLEASE DONATE NOW 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/



OPA

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OR

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Video: https://youtu.be/ppHhY3-YVcM



Photo: Dan Wake

Who's Your Daddy?

From page 37, Answer: Blue-naped mousebird (Urocolius macrourus)

The Blue-naped mousebird (Urocolius macrourus), also formerly called the blue-naped coly (Colius macrourus) is a species of bird found in the wild in the drier regions of East Africa. It is one of the remaining six species of Mousebirds. The term "mousebird" comes from its habit of running along branches in a way that resembles the scurrying of a mouse.[2]

Description

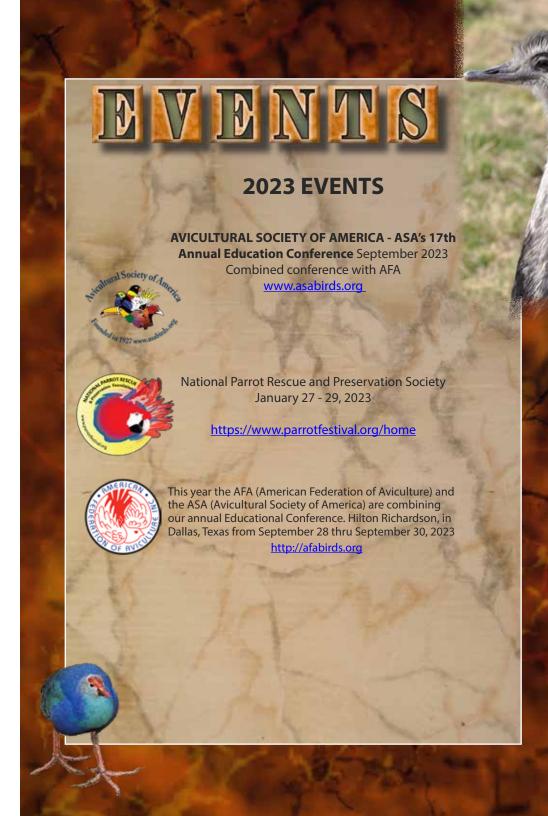
The blue-naped mousebird is a fairly small to medium-sized bird, measuring 13-14 inches in length. Adults have an ash brown, grayish body, crested head with a turquoise nape, and a black-and-red bill, whereas juveniles lack the blue on nape, and have pink facial skin and greenish bills.[3]

Characteristic of mousebirds, the bluenaped mousebird has widely spaced and large feet for its body size, which are pamprodactylous; they are able to rotate all four toes to face forward at will. Their toes are strong and dextrous, allowing the birds to climb and scurry along branches, to hang by a toenail, or to use one foot to hold food.[2]



From Wikipedia.com

2."Mystery bird: Blue-naped mousebird, Urocolius macrourus". The Guardian. London. 2011-11-07. Retrieved 2013-02-04. 3. "Blue-naped mousebird". Retrieved 2013-02-04.



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