

ASA
Avicultural Bulletin



ASA

A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION,
RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

January/February/March 2024

Conspecifics & Interspecifics

T.J. Pluid - Florida Avian Conservancy



NEXT ISSUE

Greater Vasa Parrots

Steve Duncan

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: Nicobar Pigeon Photo: T.J. Pluid (Caloenad nicobarica) Photo: Inside cover: Greater vasa corepsis Photo: Steve Duncan © 2012-2024 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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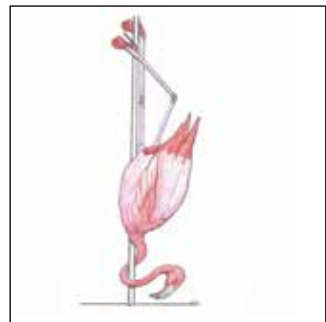


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President's Message January 2024

It's de ja vu all over again! I'm excited to once again serve as ASA President. I last held the position in 2011, and a lot has changed in those 13 years. Back then, a big part of ASA was monthly local meetings in Southern California which have been replaced by an annual ASA Conference with world-renown speakers. The ASA Avicultural Bulletin has gone fully digital and online. A very active ASA email chat list has all but vanished in favor of social media. USDA licensing of bird facilities is now a reality. I am hoping that some future projects yet to be revealed will further allow ASA to adapt and continue to flourish as time marches on.

In only three more years, ASA will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. The world of aviculture and the world in general bears little resemblance to what it was like in 1927. Through all these years, ASA has remained consistent in its mission dedicated to encouraging the study of wild and captive birds, the dissemination of information about their husbandry, and most importantly, the captive breeding of birds to ensure their perpetuation both in captivity and the wild. ASA has had many volunteers and supporters over the years to carry it forward. I am honored to be a small part of that chain.

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T.J. Pluid - Florida Avian Conservancy

Conspecifics & Interspecifics

In a private avicultural setting. Photos: T.J. Pluid



Large-mixed collection in waterfowl specific habitat, photographed at Pinola Aviary.

We all become aviculturalists because of a deep love for birds. If you're anything like me, this love of birds is certainly not limited to only a few species. Many of us, however, are limited by space and/or funds to be able to work with much outside a single family of birds (sticking to just breeding/keeping anseriformes, galliformes, columbids, psittacines, passerines, or ramphastids etc). What is not often considered, is how many of these species have a peaceful overlap even during breeding season in the aviaries you are already maintaining everyday. The following is not, by any means, a "How-to" guide on mixing species and multiple pairs of the same species. My hope is that it just gets creative wheels turning to increase avicultural involvement across the board, and get individuals interested in pursuing knowledge of the natural history and habits of each species in their care.

Conspecifics:

The word is defined as 'belonging to the same species.' In our context it is keeping more than one individual of the same species in the same enclosure. Being that a majority of aviculturalists already have a good understanding of the species they work with, I'm not going to go much in depth on this topic. If you don't know the birds in your care that well, I suggest reading books on them, and above all keep an open-dialogue between other aviculturalists that are actively succeeding with the species. That being said, I still recommend reading in-depth on each species' natural history and actively sharing information between others working with the



Nicobar Pigeon (*Caloenad nicobarica*)
Denver Zoo.

same birds. The previous statement should remain true whether you are a day one novice, or an avicultural legend with fifty plus years of experience.

One thing I do want to touch on specifically with housing the same birds together versus just pairs or individuals introduced only for copulation, is that some "rules" were made to be bent a little and experimented with. Visiting many avicultural facilities and reading far into natural history has shown me

several instances that suggest the accepted standard, might not actually be for good reason. I mean this as ethically as possible, please don't go out

and throw two silvery-cheeked hornbills (*Bycanistes brevis*) together without proper introductions. I don't even want to see what the aftermath of what that would be.

Many of the birds we work with are always kept in pairs, trios, or even-sexed colonies. A lot of the time, when you ask the keeper why they do it that way you'll usually hear in response "Well thats how ___ does it, and they rear offspring every year" or "They have to be in a colony to stimulate breeding". It's sort of an 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it!' ideology, that I really agree with for the most part. In many cases though, we can learn a great deal more than what was previously known by pressing boundaries. The following will be some examples of what I've seen first hand that go against normal avicultural practices and beliefs.



Cabot's Tragopan (*Tragopan caboti*) at Kelly McMullan's aviaries.

Nicobar pigeons are almost always kept in large colonies typically with a 1:1 sex ratio in very tall aviaries with multiple nesting opportunities throughout the habitat. Many breeders suggest at least three pairs in a large flight before you'll see breeding success. I'm not knocking this, it is very much true and successful. A few years back I was visiting the aviaries of a well-known, extremely successful columbid and softbill breeder in Florida. His success extended just as well into his work with nicobars.

What was different, and really caught my attention was how he was breeding them. He had a massive walk-in aviary, beautifully landscaped and very spacious. The nicobars weren't in that habitat, as your brain would immediately think. They were in raised (hardware cloth floor) flights that measured maybe 6'x6'x4' with a single nest maybe a foot and a half below the ceiling. The birds were housed in individual pairs next to other pairs in the same type habitats.

What I particularly enjoyed about him matching success on individual pairs as those 'proven' with colonies, was the fact that with the individual breedings you can guarantee parentage. Breeding this way, with good documentation of records and lineages could be a practice that saves the species in aviculture. In my personal opinion, this also gave the birds better welfare than those in large colonies.

Many nicobars I've seen in large colonies don't get good visual checks daily, often had overgrown toenails and were more stressed during human interaction. When pairs are kept in smaller flights the keeper gets a

much better visual check on each bird, and can catch up birds more easily for routine procedures.

Another example I witnessed, opposite to that with Nicobar Pigeons, was with Cabot's Tragopan Pheasants. Growing up, I was fortunate to have the closest established aviculturist near me being one of the most legendary galliforme breeders since the age of royalty running estates with aviaries. This will be relevant later on, as his taste influenced much of my career.

Usually kept in pairs, as most pheasants exhibit some degree of aggression, especially towards conspecifics. Cabot's are no different, although it's not uncommon to see a breeder have a trio that gets along well. This mentor of mine was incredible with tragopans specifically, and he wanted a way to increase the Cabot's population without sacrificing even more aviaries. To solve this, he artificially incubated eggs from unrelated pairs. After hatching, he kept each lineage marked for identification but



White-headed Buffalo Weaver (*Dinemellia dinemelli*) and Golden-breasted Starling (*Lamprotornus regius*) Reid Park Zoo

continued to rear them together. By the time a tragopan is reaching its full size, signs of sexual dimorphism are already presenting.

Once dimorphism is present, most breeders are trying to place the surplus at other facilities. So during this time, this breeder (Who still had all the lineage's juveniles housed together) selected one unrelated male and three sibling females to hold back for breeding. The following seasons it proved successful with fertility from all three females. By gradually replacing breeder pairs with breeder quads, this aviculturalist was able to triple production while using the same number of aviaries.

These are the two specific examples of going against normal conspecific housing guidelines. There are many others I have seen or have done myself. Helmeted curassow and Hawk-headed parrots breeding in trios instead of pairs. Multiple Trumpeter hornbills housed together, flock breeding versus pair breeding in crested wood partridge. There are lots of right ways to do things, and it can be conducive to explore new ideas and strategies.

Researching into natural history can show you that maybe birds we are pair breeding are actually running a harem, or colony propagation in its wild haunts. Also looking into seasonal movements, weather changes, behavioral shifts, and rearing habits of our birds in their native environments can show us new approaches to how we keep and successfully maintain them in captivity. Maybe you can house all of your breeders of one species in the same enclosure for eight months of the year. You might get better fertility when mate selection or competition is present. The point is we

should avoid becoming complacent in our practices, even if the method is working...maybe it can work better and the birds can live more naturally.

As far as its relevance to conspecifics, housing larger amounts of the same species together can have huge benefits to your collections efficiency. A little exploration outside of the norm might show you a strategy that can work better for your aviaries than the conventional method. From a keepers perspective it is certainly easier and faster to feed and water one aviary with twenty fruit doves instead of ten aviaries separating them into pairs.

Interspecifics:



Hen Fulvous-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus surinamus*)

This one is defined as ‘relating to or occurring between different species’ and in an avicultural setting it’s keeping (and preferably reproducing) more than one species in the same aviary. This is the topic that brings me a lot of excitement and that I feel needs to be practiced and talked about more often. Understanding how to properly house and care for interspecifics has direct relevance to the introduction; most aviculturalists specializing in a type of bird, and the influence to change that practice.

Of all of the different “groups” of bird keepers, waterfowl and finch breeders practice interspecific housing more than any other by far. This is largely due to both types of birds generally having peaceful habits. Even with this general practice, it’s still typically confined to JUST finches or waterfowl. Every breeding setup is different, every individual bird is different, and certainly every aviculturalist is different as well. With that said, nothing in regards to housing interspecifics together should be taken as gospel. Species that do great together in one hundred different locations, may end up bloodied and stressed from each other at your place. With any change to your aviaries, keep a closer eye on the birds and behaviors in relevance to the change. As previously stated, hopefully the following will simply encourage you to open your mind and explore your operations full avicultural potential.

In my career with birds I have maintained my own aviaries with songbirds, gamebirds, waterfowl, pigeons, and shorebirds. I’ve also had the pleasure of working full time in aviculture all of my adult life, both for private breeding facilities and AZA accredited zoos. This unique combination of experience in vastly different scenarios with over one-hundred and fifty



Nocturnal Curassow (*Nothocrax urumutum*) D.W.A.

species has given me a good amount of insight and a different than normal perspective of how we keep certain species and why.

To begin, I will try not to focus on most of the mixed species public aviaries that I cared for at Reid Park Zoo. Most of us don't have 1000+ square foot aviaries over twenty feet in height, and if you do then you likely have experience with most of the following paragraphs. I will also not be touching base on 'California' type psittacine pair enclosures, they are just not a conducive environment for housing anything other than conspecifics.

If you do personally have success with multiple species in the same enclosure in these cage-type facilities, I highly encourage you to document the experience and how you came about achieving such. A bulk of this

article is in reference to two varieties of aviary. One being finch-type cages (Modified from what you'd expect pairs of finches in) and the other being walk-in flights typical of those you'd see at a private facility with hornbills, toucans, pheasants, pigeons, waterfowl, and shorebird specialists.

With the larger walk-in flights, wire specifics are of first importance. Gauge thickness is only really going to be relevant if you're housing hookbills, ramphastids or hornbills. The more important factor is wire spacing. A majority of waterfowl and pheasant aviculturalists utilize chicken wire, a thin gauge 1" spaced hexagonal pattern. This works fine for keeping the species the intended contained, however it is rather fragile against predators. It also rusts and weakens easily, and being one inch spacing, eliminates working with most passerine species.

For the most part, a standard ½" x ½" hardware cloth can be used for most species in captivity, it can be a little thin for some stronger mandibled species but otherwise good. The more popular option, and my personal favorite is a heavy gauged ½"x3" or ½"x1" welded wire. This is ideal for almost any species, a few times I've seen young avadavats fit through the gaps and smaller snakes can get in. However, for all of the available options, this seems to be the most ideal. Remember though, not all wire is the same. One wire may be visually identical to another, but can be deadly to birds. This is especially true with psittacines, as they tend to chew on nearly everything. Keep yourself informed on wire coatings and zinc toxicities, and no issues should be encountered.

Another aviary feature that I think is heavily important in successfully keeping interspecifics together, is a properly landscaped and planted enclosure. This ties into both cages and walk-in flights, my wire cages are not barren. My personal enclosures are small currently, but all have turf floors, potted plants, hardscape features, and mister systems. I feel each aviary should be viewed as an individual habitat, how you view and maintain that habitat should help direct you in what species you can house together.

In the wild, different birds occupy different habitat spaces and niches. The same is true in your own aviaries. This is where studying the natural history of species of interest comes heavily into play. You can either select birds based on the characteristics of your already established enclosures, or design/redo aviaries with specific habitat types in mind. When getting into the realm of housing interspecifics, well planted aviaries are almost always beneficial. If you're struggling to keep plants alive in your enclosures, they are either overpopulated or the plants are not suited for the environment provided.

So now that we've taken a little look at the habitats themselves, where do we begin to explore converting our avicultural facility into a multi-genera breeding oasis? Let's start quick and easy with how I mixed in my personal battery type habitats.

The first big step, before birds, was converting them from cages to micro habitats. I ripped out the wire floors and replaced with artificial turf. Then added certain amounts of potted plants and hardscape features based on each goal (grassland, jungle, scrub, canopy, understory etc). After creating

their own ecosystem, I wanted southeast asian and south american species so I focused on a hot and humid jungle. Living in southeast Arizona, heat was no problem but humidity was. I rigged up simple patio misters to a timed garden hose to run for 3.5 hours during the afternoon heat. With their own mister apparatus in each enclosure, I successfully created my own jungle in the backyard.

After my setup was complete, I did house many species but am only going to reference a few of them as not each enclosure was focused on interspecific housing. This facilities completion had a convenient overlap with my lifelong love for galliformes and my newfound passion for passerines. I kept two enclosure types with multiple species to cater to this duo.

In my more “Jungle/Heavily foiled” pens, I have had great success keeping Jungle Bush Quail (*Perdica asiatica* kept 1.1) and multiple species of Tanager. I only ever housed one pair of each together both because of enclosure size and conspecific aggression. To date I still house them this way, and have had reproductive success. With the different diets (the quail being granivore/ insectivores and tanagers being frugivores) I simply offer them in a way more natural to the species. Tanagers get a small bowl of their mix high up, whereas the quail get grain at ground level. I do prefer them to be in larger walk-in habitats, but like many of us, I’m a victim of circumstance. Due to this, I explore multi-species housing heavily to make the most of my limited space.

The other habitat style I currently utilize for interspecifics I would describe as more of a grassland/scrub type. I provide the same moisture as

the jungle, but line the perimeter in perennial grasses and keep the centers open and free of obstruction. In these enclosures I house African Harlequin Quail (*Coturnix delegorguei*) with Australian and South American finches/seed-eating passerines. This combination has also yielded a worthwhile amount of reproductive success, but is much easier to feed. Conveniently, all of these birds get a mixed seed, extruded crumble, and chopped greens. Being that everyone involved is mild mannered, I allow all of these aviaries to share a feeding bowl and have noted zero issues.

The other private setting aviary style, that in my opinion is begging for interspecific housing, are walk-in flights. You see these most commonly in facilities working mostly with waterfowl, gamebirds, pigeon, shorebirds, and large softbills like hornbills, toucans, and turacos. Almost the entirety of my experience in private (non-AZA) aviculture has been heavily focused on gamebirds, waterfowl, turacos, and pigeons so I'll apologize in advance as I tend to think more in their regards.

Like stated previously in the article, every avicultural facility is different. For the most part, those who have walk-ins have them in long rows of many aviaries. Typically being very rectangular, averaging around 4-10ft wide, 6-8ft tall, and 8-20ft in length. This is by no means a standard, just my personal observation visiting many North American breeding facilities no matter the type of birds. That's on average, a few hundred cubic feet of aviary space...cubic feet, not square. If we're going to dive into interspecific optimizing, then we need to view the aviary in a 3d perspective.

I don't have tons of examples of private aviculturalists maximizing species compatibility, simply because I haven't seen it practiced much. Several places keep two or three pairs of different species together, which is fantastic, but many of the aviaries could handle more like ten species when well thought out.

Many galliforme breeders have walk-ins along the lines of what I previously described. There's usually a few shrubs, couple perches, a nest or two, and maybe a stump or boulder. Not bad for the intended species by any means, but by improving it you can house even more than you might think. (More bird species in your collection is never bad news, right?) By adding far more shrubs, grasses, small trees, perches, nests and "furniture" in general a pair of what was just curassow could be sharing an aviary with wood partridges, finches, fruit doves, tanagers, and turacos.

Look at a typical waterfowl specialists facility. Spacious aviaries with lots of grasses and water features. Instead of just ducks and geese, you could be running grass finches, rollers, plovers, ibis's, gallinules, crakes, gulls, pheasants, quail, cranes, and many others. Most waterfowlers would just have to replace their top netting and maybe add more plants/nests to their existing structures and they could be housing all of the above,

There are some types of birds that we just do not house with other species no matter what. If you have these species in your collection, then you likely already know this. Toucans, Hornbills, Corvids and most birds of prey carry a reputation for the slaughter of other birds. I don't dare recommend bending rules here, just would like to speak of a few examples that surprised

me. Recently in work and traveling I have seen a few aggressive birds housed with other species.

Most of the following were in zoo's not private collections, but were all enclosures very similar to ones we might have. The first that absolutely blew me away was a pair of toco toucans housed with a colony of tinamou. The tinamou were actively laying, and there was zero evidence of nest predation from the toucans. Ground hornbills and pelicans at first seemed a peculiar one, but after considering each birds size and intellect it did make more sense.

A combo that I had the pleasure of being the keeper of was multiple plush-capped jays with a pair of king vultures. Initially during the introductions I was terrified, but after a few days of watching the two species interact with each other I could breathe. They were extremely conscious of each others presence in the habitat, however it seemed that both could not care less about the other. When I thought about vultures and corvids' relationship with the other in the wild, it made perfect sense. No matter the individual species, corvids and vultures can almost always be seen feeding together. Both species have the same food source, yet hardly run into actual competition between them.

Touching base on each bird being an individual, and taking that into consideration for housing with others can create some fun combinations as well. My favorite that I get the pleasure of visiting annually is a private breeder that houses a breeder pair of black curassow with a female black crowned crane. I do not recommend anyone do this, the aviculturalist who



Bornean Crested Fireback (*Lophura ignita ignita*)

houses them together did so knowing very well the individual temperament of each bird and this is the only instance like it on their property.

To wrap things up, my intentions of this article were clearly not instructions on how to keep multiple species together, or how to colony breed monogamous birds. It is my hope that after reading this you can go out and look at your own set-ups. Maybe this will get you asking yourself why you do things the way you do, or how you can improve your habitats to get the most out of your journey in aviculture, Is there a valid reason that you're only breeding parrots, ducks, or finches? Or is it just because thats what you've focused on and are comfortable with?

I will repeat, and always be an advocate of, keep studying natural history as often as time and budget allow. Keep open dialogue between other aviculturalists, make an effort to speak with others that you're not familiar with. Both with successes and failures, the more honest and open discussion we are having, the more we ALL learn how to improve our husbandry. We know this in-turn, improves the birds quality of life, which leads to more production for the avicultural setting.

I have had some incredible avicultural mentors so far in my life, for that I'm fortunate and extremely grateful. Of all of the teachings they had to give me that they all wanted to resonate with me, was to never stop learning. Every bird person has something to teach you, whether they are a day-one novice or a near retirement legend. You will learn more from in-person conversation with fifty breeders than you can from a lifetime spent in a library.

While my intentions were to get aviculturalists just giving more thought to their operations and facilities, the sharing of these thoughts, ideas, and trials with others is also vital. So I'll end with never stop trying to improve your birds, and talk more with your (avicultural) neighbor.



Sunbittern (*Eurypyga helias*) Reid Park Zoo

**"The African Queen" Jean Ekhart Pattison
Memories and Moments**



April Shannon Threat

I have these pics of Jeannie and me at a Bird Clubs of Virginia convention. I'm not sure what year this was- late 90s/early 2000s. I had my hair like a female eclectus and of course she had her grey

Rebecca K. O'Connor

March 9, 2024 Today was Jean "The African Queen's" celebration of life. I wish I could have been there. All the same, just knowing there were people gathered near and far made me feel like I was still a part of all the wonderful -and probably many hilarious- stories about Jean's generosity of knowledge, compassion, and humor. Still, I have two of my own.

The way I met Jean was that she was the President of the African Parrot Society, which I joined when I got Ty in 1996. Their journal, "The African Ark" was a pink magazine with black print that you had to send a check for and came in the mail. It was also a wealth of information when information was hard to come by. More than that, the first piece of writing I ever had published was printed in that magazine. It was 1997 and Jean was also the editor. Honestly, she probably photocopied it, stapled, and mailed it herself. I didn't care!! I was in my favorite magazine and I had my first "clip". (You used to have to photocopy and mail these with your pitches to magazine editors.)

Jean and I stayed in touch as I went on to train birds professionally and kept writing. A decade or so later, I wrote A Parrot for Life, which was published by TFH. It was the book I wanted on my shelf when I was a kid and parrot books were hard to come by. More than that, I wanted it to share the positive reinforcement style of training I had been taught professionally. My parrot books as a kid told me to corner my cockatiel and wrap it in a towel until it decided to like me. It did work. I got bit a lot. But

it worked. I thought that way I was taught in bird shows was better. Writing this book, put me on the speaking circuit in the parrot world, but in my experience people weren't receptive. I had been hawking my book to parrot stores and parrot groups and the conversations were sometimes argumentative, and mostly very combative. When I went to speak at my first parrot conference in Victoria, Canada, I was terrified. This was first time I met Jean in person. She wasn't hard to spot with her appropriately silver grey hair with dark wings and a red ducktail. I sought refuge in her immediately and she encouraged me, joked with me, and bolstered my spirits. More than that, as I stood at the podium, heart pounding and clearing my throat, Jean came racing up with a perfectly balanced pint and somehow not spilling a drop, she set in front of me and a confused crowd.

I said, "I told Jean I was going to need a beer to get through this." The crowd chuckled and then roared when I downed half the glass. And I sailed right through that presentation. Jean didn't just break the ice for me, she taught that I could handle anything on stage as long as I kept my sense of humor and stayed compassionate. Cheers, African Queen! You are loved! And long my your legacy reign!

Michelle Selig Milavetz

I apologize... for the long post, but every bit of it must be said!

On February 24 a bright light was extinguished that has been a beacon in my life for 39 years and today we say our final goodbye to her with family and friends, though processing this grief will be a lifetime task.

Lila Jean Pattison (Jeannie) came into my world when I was 15 years old. I showed up at her home/business and practically proclaimed that she needed to hire me. I had just learned how to airbrush & told her that I would do anything from sweeping the floors to getting her coffee for free if she would just let me watch her employees paint and then practice after hours until I knew what I was doing enough to work for her. She just chuckled and said, "Well alright, we can try that..." I don't think that either of us could imagine that day, what our relationship would eventually become. Jeannie and Tim have been present for every major milestone in my life since that day I met them in March 1985. My Sweet 16, my Graduations, she was a bridesmaid in my wedding, at the hospital for both of my cancers, open heart surgery and all of the others, she was there for my baby showers, Alec's Bar Mitzvah... and everything in between along with weaning baby birds to creating an African Grey jewelry line and many other works of art together.

Jeannie was a FORCE! I don't know any other way to describe her. She was confident, strong, and knew her mind and spoke it freely. You could not be in her presence without feeling her there! She did not mince words, regardless of the person or topic and yet she never came off as rude or insensitive. As a matter of fact, she was also always acutely aware of her words, actions and the manner in which they would be heard, always balanced by an empathetic heart, and always intended to be helpful. Over the past 39 I find myself either thinking of advice she has given me or sharing it with others so frequently that she is never far from my thoughts.

Jeannie was without a doubt the most pivotal person in my 54 years of life, meeting her only a week after meeting

David. It is difficult to quantify who she came to be to me. She was my employer, mentor, therapist, idol and friend. We could talk and laugh for hours, inspire one another's artistry and creativity, discuss life, religion, politics, morality, sexuality, personal growth, spirituality, history, psychology, relationships, business, education and mortality.... there were truly no limits to our discussions on any topic. We could discuss things that might cause the best of friends or married couples to never speak to one another again and yet she and I could do so with no qualms or fears of reprisal. We would genuinely hear one another's side and at least try to understand it even if we didn't ultimately agree with it and still not have an unkind word between us. For 39 years, we never had an argument, always heard and respected one another for our similarities and our differences. There was true unconditional love between us! The kind of love that is shared by a parent and child. How many people can truly say that about someone in their life who isn't their child or parent? How many people can say they have someone in their lives whom they trust so implicitly that they would do absolutely anything that person said with 100% certainty of being fine, because they have that much trust in that person and that they would never be asked to do something that would cause them even the slightest bit of harm? Jeannie has been that person in my life since I was only a child! Jeannie was one of the wisest souls I have ever had the pleasure of knowing and she was blessed to be self-aware of the importance of sharing the lessons & knowledge she carried. Over the course of my adult life, I have found myself frequently passing on her wisdom. In high school & college, and when David & I had children ... I was grateful to be able share Jeannie's wisdom with

them and even more grateful to have Jeannie in their lives to share it with them herself. She had a way of being heard that never felt aggressive but always felt like guidance from a soul who KNEW better. The energy that she had, allowed her to speak when it was something that was important for you to really hear. I will forever hear her voice in my head and I will continue to pass along her knowledge for as long as I am able.

I know how incredibly fortunate I am for having had her in my life for so many years... and yet it was still not long enough! I know she will be watching over me and my family right along side of my Mom, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles etc. and is hugging my birds and dogs along with them. I hope she smiles and laughs every time she hears me pass on her wisdom, or talk to her while I am thinking of her! If it is possible for anyone to make themselves known from beyond..... JEANNIE WILL! I will LOVE and MISS her beyond measure!

Kirsten Cunningham

Rest in Peace Jean Eckart Pattison - the African Queen! Thank you for always being so helpful, especially when I was new at this



Randy Berry with Jean Pattison



Jorge Sanchez and sister, Diana, from Just4Birds





ASA/OPA 2018 education conference get-together at Tony Silva's.



Two t-shirt designs commemorating the life of Jean Ekhart Pattison.



Levi Fuentes

Dearest Jean :

I am grateful and thankful that I was able to meet you and talk to you, both in person and virtually. I am grateful for the time we had and the conversations we have. Thank you for sharing all the knowledge and your passion about the African parrots that you've raised and advocated for. You've stoked in me the desire to raise some of the Poicephalus parrots we've talked about. I will never part with the book you and Rick Jordan wrote on African parrots; I'll be using it as one of my principle guides for when my time comes when I can keep birds again. Cheers to you, Jean. May your spirit fly alongside the greys you championed for. I'll be seeing you again.

"There is no death, only a change in worlds." - Chief Seattle.

Tiffany Eckart

I will always cherish the memories that I made with you aunt Jean Eckart Pattison

Debbie Goodrich

An amazing lady and contributor to all things African Parrot! You will be sorely missed!



Tony Silva

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Jean Eckart Pattison (in the middle), the so-called African Queen because of her passion for African parrots. She was a kind person, always laughing and always willing to share her experience. Aviculture has lost a great person. One day we will meet again dear friend. Rest in peace.

Zeb Ernest

You will be missed, Jean Eckart Pattison! I don't know what your version of heaven is, but I'm sure it has greys for you.

Alex Boon

Jean Eckart Pattison

Truly generous with her time and expertise. She put so much love into the world. Let's all keep paying that forward, best we can.

Thank you, Jean.

Fly high!...

Keriellen Lohrman

Well said , we will all miss her so much!

Robin Shewokis Sullivan is with Jean Eckart Pattison.

There's a hole in the heart of the avicultural world today. A dear friend and mentor has earned her wings. I remember when Jeannie asked my opinion once and I was on cloud nine...this titan in the bird world asked my opinion! But as time went on I realized she was so much more than an aviculturist; she was a friend, someone who had my back even when I was unaware. She was so much to so many... friend, mentor, confidante. Love and hugs to all who will miss her deeply but especially her family. Fly high and fast African Queen. You were a force to be reckoned with.

Tom Marshall

Jean was a true aviculturist in that she worked with African species extensively. She wanted to learn as much as she could about the needs of these parrots, not how much she could sell them for at a profit

Tom Marshall, former AFA President

John Del Rio

My friend for over 20 years. She was a pistol! Tough as nails. Very generous of her great knowledge of African parrots. Staunch defender of Aviculture. Jeannie was always kind to me and took a sincere interest in my children. I will never forget The African Queen.

OPA

The Celebration of Life for our beloved Jean Eckart Pattison will be at Lakeland Funeral Home, 2125 Bartow Rd, Lakeland, FL 33801 On Saturday, March 9th, 2024 at 3 PM

Reception To Follow

African Grey attire is encouraged In lieu of flowers, the family requests any donations go to the

Organization of Professional Aviculturists

<https://www.paypal.com/donate/...>
For those who are unable to attend, Jeannie had a song she wanted to be played at her service -[Dancing in the Graveyard by Delta Rae](#). So we invite you to play this song for Jeannie at 3:15 PM ET on March 9th.

Gareth McGiffert Vandegrift

I knew Jean in the 90's! Such a talented, & skilled Aviculturist! She provided such enjoyment w/ her birds, jewelry, drawings on note cards & unending knowledge. RIP, Jean. You are remembered w/ love & much respect! Fly free w/ your flock !!!

Melanie Allen-Lowrey

The last few days have been hard for the Pattison and Eckart Family- but let's all pay tribute to our Jean Eckart Pattison and if you can't attend her Celebration of Life, please Celebrate with your hearts & spirit! Jean Eckart Pattison, you will forever be in our hearts! Much love as you sore the skies! XOXO My Friend.

Jen Marchant

Plz continue to pray for the family. Heaven gained another angel. You will be missed Aunt Jean Eckart Pattison Love you Kelly Brown Auntie Sue and Uncle Tim Jen Marchant

Steve Duncan





Above: Jan Schottenloher with Jean who was speaking at the 2010 AFA conference Photo: Carol Stanley

Right: Not sure what Jan was looking for but, clearly Jean was surprised. Photo: Carol Stanley



SoCal Parrots FaceBook

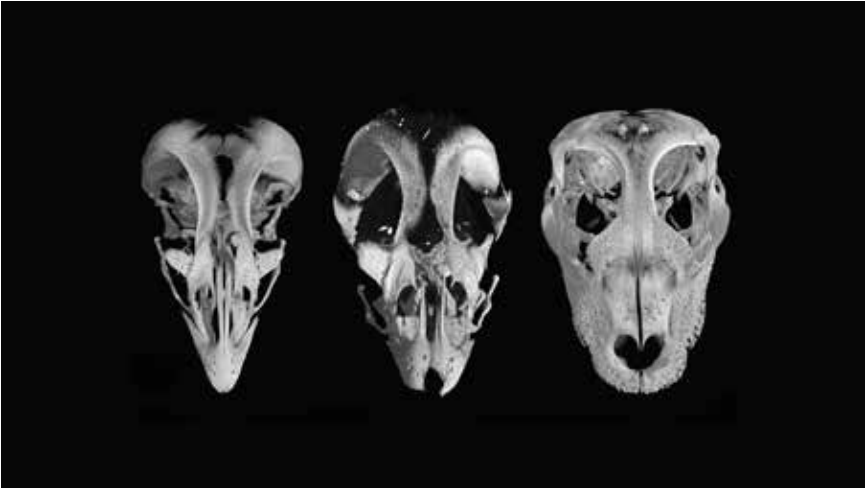
Our fabulous volunteer, Emily Routman made an interesting observation today- for the first time she saw a flock of Patagonian Conures (Cyanoliseus patagonus) in El Cajon! Over the years we have received reports of Patagonian Conures randomly throughout San Diego county and have even seen them in person, but it's been very few individuals (usually 4-5, sometimes up to 7) and nowhere near El Cajon! Today Emily spotted 15 of them and was kind enough to send us some fabulous photos.

Patagonian Conures (also called Burrowing Parrots) are native to Argentina and Chile. They are known for nesting in large colonies on cliff sides and are currently highly persecuted as agricultural pests. Unfortunately, their numbers are declining, so what a joy to see them hanging out here in San Diego! Fellow San Diegans- have you seen these parrots in your neighborhood? If so, snap a photo/ video and share it with us!



Australia's oldest man Alfie Dates (109) knits tiny sweaters for injured penguins!





How birds got their beaks

Combining fossils and lab studies, researchers home in on genes that transformed a snout into a bill

Tony Silva

African Greys display sexual dimorphism. The under tail coverts in the female (right) are bordered in grey while in the male (left) this feature is absent.



5 reasons birds make the best support animals



Zoo honors Alaska Airlines flight attendant who saved rare flamingo eggs mid-flight



Image of flamingo chick alongside the Alaska Airlines flight attendant, Amber, that saved the eggs before they hatched and her granddaughter Sunny. One of six flamingo chicks were named after Amber's granddaughter. (Photo: Alaska Airlines)



The Great Emu War:
When Australians Lost to Flightless Birds

8 Exotic Birds Driven to Extinction in Modern History

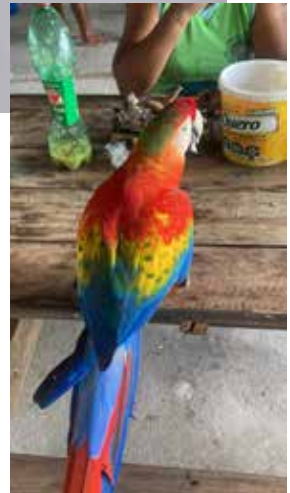


Brazilian Amazon Scarlet Macaw

In the past I have posted photos of the two recognised subspecies of the Scarlet Macaw. The Brazilian Amazon form has never been described but is distinguishable by the green nape. I thank Kapil Mandrekar for these images. They depict the rarely photographed form found deep in Amazonia. *Muito obrigado meu amigo for these images.*

This is NOT a hybrid but a bird obtained from the wild. It is typical of the Brazilian Amazon population. - *Tony Silva*

All photos by Kapil Madrekar



To celebrate the upcoming television broadcast of the “Monty Python Live (mostly)” farewell show, UKTV channel Gold installed a giant dead parrot



These five countries fought a war that was literally over bird sh-t



Tony Silva

There are two subspecies of the Scarlet Macaw: nominate macaw with the green in the wings and limited amounts of yellow and cyanoptera, the Central American form with the blue and wide yellow band.







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We use various wire sizes, including 14 gauge 1x2 and 1/2x1 GAW wire from WA Davidson in Jacksonville, Florida. This is a family owned company. I have visited their facility and received excellent service. The wire is Riverdale made in the USA. We have used this quality wire for many years and now living in Oklahoma, we

have it shipped to our facility. In the past I have found that imported wire is terrible...rusts even before use...not made uniformly, etc. So, buy American made wire for good quality. We double wire all outside aviaries to protect from predators like raccoons and hawks.

The wire company in California is Commercial Mill and Builders Supply in Milpitas. Kevin Norred owns CMBS and can answer any questions. The wire is USA and Italian made. Both are top quality wire. It's not Chinese made wire.

A penguin wandered onto a New Zealand airport runway. A rescue ensued.





Badass birds are the latest trend in wedding ringbearers: 'We were nervous'



Potty-mouthed parrots teaching other birds to swear as zoo hatches plan to stop problem





Guam Rail

Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV)

For nearly 40 years, dedicated teams of aviculturists have worked to restore populations of the Guam rail, which is a ground-dwelling bird that was declared extinct in the wild. The Guam rail (referred to as ko'ko' by the native peoples) is endemic to the island of Guam and was traditionally kept for food. The brown tree snake was introduced to Guam by a military cargo ship during World War II. Unfortunately, this arboreal snake proved to be a prolific predator on the island, and soon 12 species of birds were wiped out (5 of which were endemic, including the Guam rail).

In the 1980's, Guam's Department of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources recognized the dire situation and captured the last remaining Guam rails – 17 birds – to begin a captive breeding program. A team of dedicated aviculturists worked to orchestrate the best possible genetic pairings for success of the population, and this effort was also extended to zoos in America.

This captive breeding program was highly successful, and Guam rails were released onto the nearby islands of Rota and still small and require active management, but successful breeding has been confirmed in these areas.

Efforts are still underway in Guam to eradicate the invasive brown tree snake and make their native island safe again. Though still considered critically endangered, the Guam rail was declared no longer extinct in the wild by the IUCN Red List in 2019! This

is the second bird to ever return to the environment after extinction in the wild (after the California condor), and its success is entirely attributed to the hard work and dedication of aviculturists.

Photo By Greg Hume - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=15405194
<http://aav.org/.../Another-Conservation-Success-Story...>

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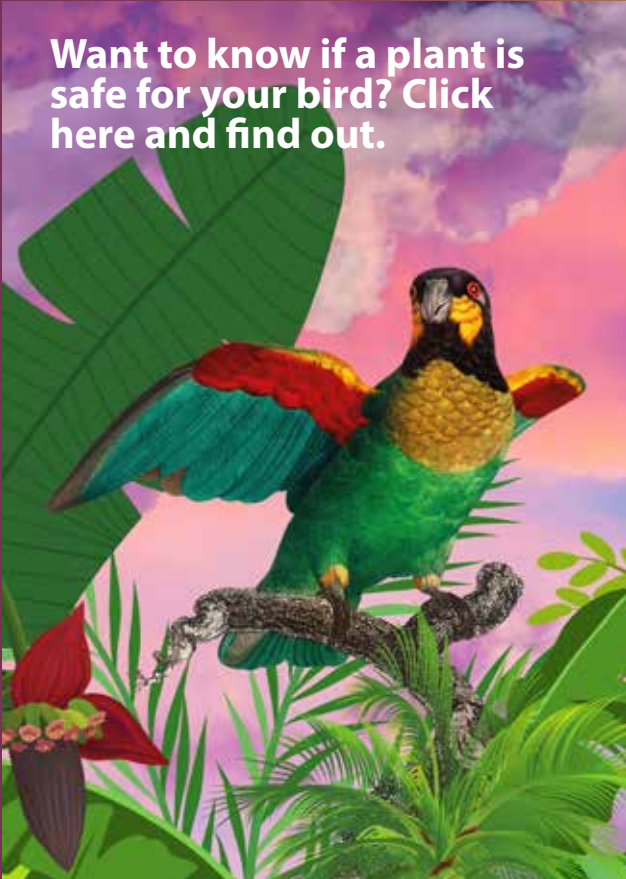
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Reintroduction of the Extinct-in-the-Wild Spix's Macaw (*Cyanopsitta spixii*) in the Caatinga Forest Domain of Brazil

by Cromwell Purchase 1, Camile Lugarini 2, Candice Purchase 1, Ariane Ferreira 2ORCID, Ugo Eichler Vercillo 3,4ORCID, Mark L. Stafford 5 and Thomas H. White, Jr. 6,*

1. Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots, Curaçá 48930-000, Brazil
2. Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade, Florianópolis 88053-007, Brazil
3. BlueSky Caatinga, Curaçá 48930-000, Brazil
4. Center for Sustainable Development, University of Brasília, Brasília 70910-900, Brazil
5. Parrots International, Box 1684, Wrightwood, CA 92397, USA
6. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program, Rio Grande, PR 00745, USA



The first captive-reared reintroduced Spix's Macaw leaving the training and release enclosure on 11 June 2022. Photo credit: Tim Flach/ACTP.

Bird flu wreaking havoc in California's 'Egg Basket' region



Journals

Zinc: Lead's Ugly Cousin



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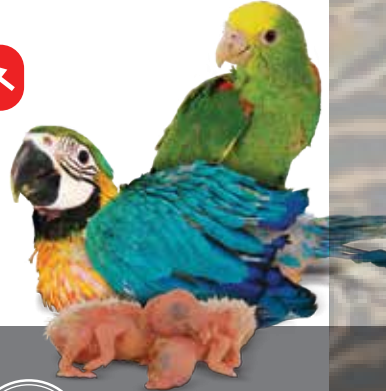
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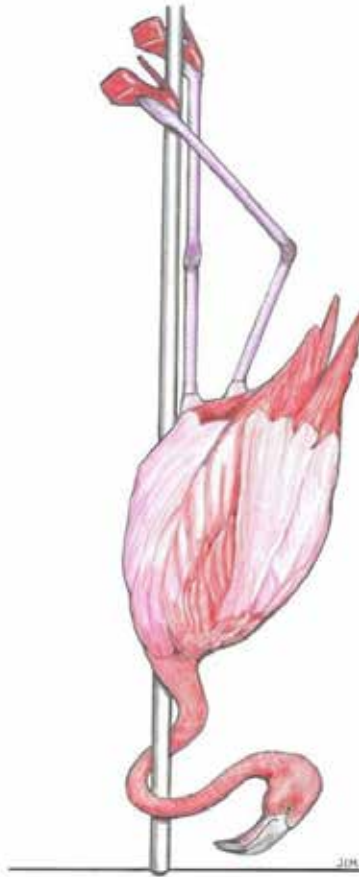
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My newest, Flamingo in Flamingo Heels. I had many people suggest I do a bird on a stripper pole. I found out that very tall high heels are often called flamingos so it was easy to pick a flamingo to grace the pole. www.jimsorensen.com.



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

Who's Your Daddy?

Stumped? See answer on page 53



Photo: T.J. Pluid



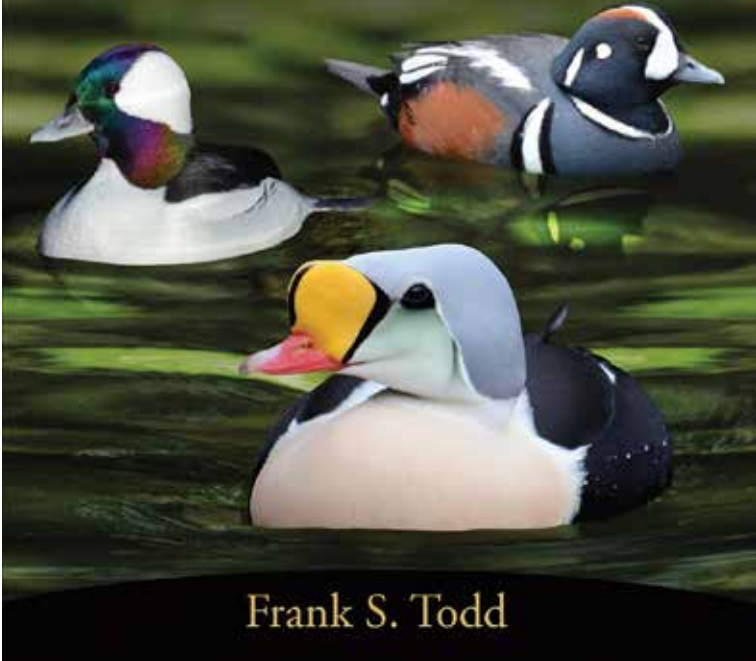
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Bruce's Green Pigeon (*Treron waalia*) (Photo: T.J. Pluid)

Who's Your Daddy?

From page 55, Answer: Bruce's Green Pigeon (*Treron waalia*)

Bruce's green pigeon (*Treron waalia*), also known as the yellow-bellied fruit pigeon or the yellow-bellied green pigeon, is a species of bird in the family Columbidae.

It is found in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, and Yemen.

Unlike most birds, it does not have a uropygial gland, also known as the preen gland. It is used to secrete oil to be distributed through the plumage.

It is a frugivore bird species that specialises on eating the fruits of a single species of fig tree, *Ficus platphylla*.

Despite its name, Bruce's green pigeon is mostly grey with a light yellow breast and olive green upper wings.

Bruce's green pigeons are classified as least concern in the IUCN 3.1 conservation status.

Portions of this text are from [Wikipedia](#)

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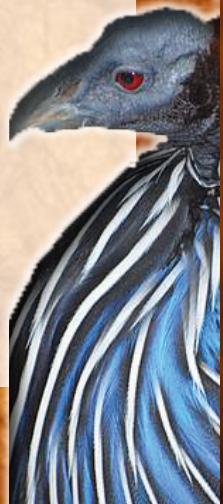
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