

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This file is copyright of *Parrots* magazine. It may be copied onto two computers allocated to the downloading user (for example, a desktop and laptop).

Navigation buttons

[NEXT PAGE](#)[PREVIOUS PAGE](#)[CONTENTS PAGE](#)[FRONT PAGE](#)

The navigation buttons above, appear to the right of each spread (two A4 pages).

Full screen mode



This green button will toggle between FULL SCREEN and STANDARD PDF. A quick way to turn full screen mode on or off is to type Control plus 'L', or Command plus 'L' on a Mac.

eMag Navigation tips



Click here to go to a page of tips and instructions if you are new to reading interactive PDF files.

Tell us what you think



Click here to tell us what you think of our new eMag. Your comments will be very much appreciated.

THE WORLD'S LEADING MAGAZINE ON PARROTS AND PARAKEETS

Are you going?
THINK PARROTS - SEE PAGE 21

Issue 232

Parrots eMag

www.parrotmag.com

May 2017

Emotional intelligence in parrots

Healthy Parrots
Do you carry out regular health checks?



Yellow-backed Lory
Saving this iconic bird



Apples and Fruit
What do we really know about them?



Red Palm Oil
The latest developments



Feather Plucking
Another perspective from a veterinary expert

Find Parrots on Facebook - CLICK HERE

Best Bird Food Ever!



The Health Food of Bird Foods



Only our sprouting blends

- Contain complete protein
- Have compatible germination rate and growing needs
- USDA Certified Organic
- Nutrient dense
- Shown to promote good health
- Safe, easy sprouting method
- Versatile - can be sprouted for optimum nutrition or cooked

Your Birds Deserve the Best!

Get everything you need right here - Begin sprouting today!

Only our kit contains:

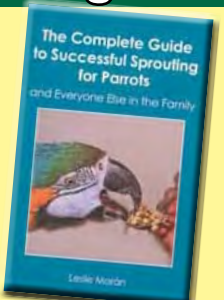
- "The Complete Guide to Successful Sprouting for Parrots"
- a 2 oz. bottle of Grapefruit Seed Extract (GSE)
- and either a one pound or a five pound bag of our 100% Organic Original Sprouting Blend or our 100% Organic Wheat-Free Sprouting Blend.

Now USDA Certified Organic!

Receive the Benefits of:

- Improved health
- Increased longevity
- Better temperament
- Beautiful plumage

This book is written by **Leslie Morán**, nutritional consultant specialising in avian holistic nutrition.



Worldwide Shipping

"This excellent book delivers the current state of knowledge for healthy sprouting. I highly recommend following its advice." **Joerg Asmus, Leader of the Species Conservation Projects / Member of the scientific advisory board of the Association for breeding and conservation of native and exotic birds (VZE), Germany**

Visit our website

www.BestBirdFoodEver.com

or contact

Critter Connection, PO Box 60482, Reno, NV 89506 USA

Tel. (001) 775-800-1231

WHOLESALE & DISTRIBUTOR INQUIRIES WELCOME

EMP

Cares & Protects

Through The Seasons

EMP

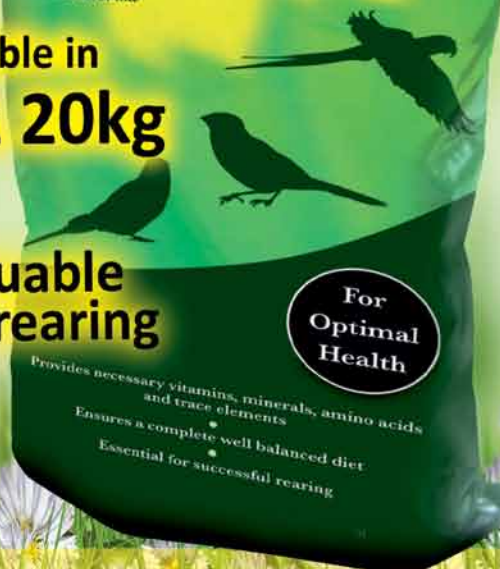
Cares & Protects

SUPERIOR EGG FOOD

For Cage & Aviary Birds
Including: Budgies, Canaries, Finches
and all Parrot-like

Available in
1kg & 20kg

**Invaluable
when rearing**



Donald Cooke LTD

Tel: 01142 693901

Email: info@donaldcooke.co.uk

Highfield House, Orgreave Lane,
Sheffield S13 9DB

Parrots magazine

Parrots magazine is published 12 times a year by Imax Visual Limited, The Old Cart House, Applesham Farm, Coombes, West Sussex BN15 0RP (UK)

Telephone: 01273 464777

Website:
www.parrotmag.com

Publisher:
John Catchpole
editorial@imaxweb.co.uk

Design:
David Ransom

Editorial:
Tel: 01273 464777

Advertising:
Tel: 01273 464777

Marketing & PR:
Laura Ball

US Office:
Margo Rose
Tel: 800-294-7951
Fax: (978) 246-0209

Contributors:
EB Cravens, Sally Blanchard, John Hayward, Leslie Moran, Rafael Zamora Padrón, Vivian Miller, Rosemary Low, John McMichael, Dr Fiona Froehlich.

Printed by:
Warners Midlands plc,
Bourne, Lincs PE10 9PH

Views expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor.

All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, in whole or part, in any other language, of editorial or advertisements, text, photographs or other images, is not permitted without the written permission of the publisher. While every care is taken, the publisher cannot be held responsible for errors in editorial or advertisements.

IMPORTANT:
All advertisements are accepted in good faith. Parrots magazine cannot be held liable or become involved in any transactions between buyer and seller. Any enquirer should take all reasonable precautions before entering into any commitments.

ISSN 1356 3386

Welcome to Parrots magazine



Aviculture, which includes all of us who keep our birds in captivity, is a significant part of our lives and I am sure most of us will also be very aware of the other side of the coin, that is, those parrots in the wild. The importance of looking after our flora and fauna must not ever be under-estimated, as the balance of nature is vital in ensuring we all survive. Sadly, yet another valuable psitticine, the Yellow-backed Lory, is under threat and in this issue Rosemary Low writes about the importance of saving this iconic bird from the horrific practices of trappers.

On the subject of aviculture, is captivity responsible for the ongoing problem of feather plucking and/or self-harm? This is an issue that affects many parrot owners and one that is incredibly difficult to find an answer to. In this issue, we cover the article from Fiona Froehlich MRCVS who presents yet another view on how we can possibly deal with this difficult issue. It would be great to hear from any of you who have experienced this problem and who have found something that has worked. Please let us know?

Tickets are on sale for Think Parrots Show 2017 in June, so have your ordered yours? And with the sun now shining, let's look forward to a positive year ahead.

John

Get in touch

If you would like to write about your parrots, and have some good photos of them that you can send us by email, we would love to hear from you! If you would prefer not to write it yourself, but would still like to tell your story, please contact us and we will write it up for you. Email us on editorial@imaxweb.co.uk



[facebook.com/ParrotsMagazine](https://www.facebook.com/ParrotsMagazine)



Follow or tweet us
@parrotsmagazine



[pinterest.com/parrotsmagazine](https://www.pinterest.com/parrotsmagazine)

Greetings Cards!



These cards feature a beautiful Blue & Gold Macaw, reproduced from an original watercolour painting by Eric Peake.

Buy packs of either 10 or 20 cards and envelopes, blank inside for your own message.

Size of cards:
116mm x 164mm

10 cards

UK: £2.99
EUROPE: £3.99
REST OF WORLD: £4.99
USA/CANADA: \$8.00

20 cards

UK: £5.25
EUROPE: £6.25
REST OF WORLD: £7.25
USA/CANADA: \$11.50

Prices include delivery while stocks last.



facebook.com/
ParrotsMagazine



Follow or tweet us
@parrotsmagazine



pinterest.com/
parrotsmagazine

If you are having any trouble getting hold of the magazine, please contact Bridgit at our distribution company Warners on telephone 01778 392417

Parrots magazine

Contents

MAY 2017

Parrot News Bites	6
Complete Psittacine	8
Hard-core Aggression, part 3 .	12
Bird Alert	15



16

The Holistic Parrot	16
Why go to Think Parrots? . . .	20



22

News from Loro Parque	22
Super Veg	24



Healthcheck Your Parrots	26
----------------------------------	----



28

Save the Yellow-backed Lory .	28
Apples for Parrots	32



36

Why do parrots pluck?	36
Your parrot queries	40
Letters	42
New eMag Year Collection .	46
Avian Vet listing	48
Parrots calendar	50

TICKETS

Think Parrots 2017 tickets are now on sale at www.thinkparrots.co.uk or call us on 01273 464777

KEMPTON PARK RACECOURSE • SUNDAY 11TH JUNE



eMag

May 2017

Food, Toys,
Cages & More

Fast FREE
Delivery
On orders over £39 or from £3.99

90 Day Guarantee
Free Returns

Rated 9.8/10
For Service
Score based on independent reviews

Best Price
Promise



Adventure awaits with your bird this spring...

THE AVIATOR
HARNES & LEASH

Learning to fly well is the most complicated and important task a Parrot can learn. Your companion will be healthier, more active, fitter and more co-ordinated. Flying helps with everything from self-confidence and self esteem to sociability and intelligence.

- The only harness designed to allow flight
- Escape proof - one piece construction, no buckles or clips
- Easy fitting - slide harness over the head & wings then just tighten belt
- Comes with a 40 minute instructional DVD
- Available in seven sizes - to suit all bird types
- Up to seven colours to choose from

**New mini size now available
Suitable for Budgies & Lovebirds**



£29.99



Available in seven colours and seven sizes to fit all bird types.

Buy the Aviator Harness online at
www.northernparrots.com/aviator
0800 488 0345 | info@northernparrots.com

NORTHERN Parrots
Everything for your Parrot

FULL SCREEN ON / OFF

FRONT PAGE

CONTENTS PAGE

PREVIOUS PAGE

NEXT PAGE



Parrot poisoned pet dogs



An African Grey, called Peaches, accidentally poisoned three pet dogs by mimicking their owner's voice, and calling them over and then feeding them grapes.

Peaches threw the grapes to

the Maltese Terriers, Boris, Cassidy, and Shih Tzu cross Pug, Gus, while the family was out for the afternoon. Unfortunately, grapes contain a substance that can cause acute renal failure in dogs, and could kill them.

When owner Helen Finch arrived back at her Nutley home, she noticed the grapes were missing and realised what had happened, so took all three to Portland Vets in East Sussex. Each were treated with activated charcoal, which helps prevent the absorption of toxins from the stomach and intestine. She said, Peaches has become a fantastic mimic and was calling each dog over by name to be fed, and dropping the grapes on the floor in front of them from her cage. Boris, Cassidy and Gus were then tucking in. Vet, Dr Garvey said, "In cases of poisoning, speed of response is important, so Mrs Finch did exactly the right thing in coming to us quickly, as it meant we could flush out most of the toxins before they had a chance to cause serious harm to the dogs.

This story has had a happy ending and all three were soon home with no ill effects. But in future, Peaches may need to learn to throw them healthier snacks.

Night parrot found



Birdwatchers in Western Australia's Kimberley region are celebrating after they discovered one of the world's most elusive birds, the Night Parrot. According to Bush Heritage Australia, the last living specimen was collected in Western Australia in 1912, but the species was rediscovered in Queensland in 2013.

And now, Broome Bird Observatory warden, Nigel Jackett, and friends, Bruce Greatwich, George Swann and Adrian Boyle, have found a population in Western Australia's northern area. Mr Jackett said he'd been looking for the species, considered the 'Holy Grail' of birdwatchers, for the past seven years, and met with success this month. He said, "We knew that some birds were found following a lot of rainfall in January and February so thought March would be a good time to go looking.

The group informed WA's Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Night Parrot Recovery Team, which will conduct field trips. Nigel Jackett said, "There's a lot more of this type of habitat through that region so with further surveys, I think we'll find more."



Laughing Kea



For the first time with birds, researchers say they have found evidence that a New Zealand parrot has the avian equivalent of an infectious laugh. They call it "positive emotional contagion", which they define as "outwardly emotional actions that spread from one individual to another." In humans, this is what happens when one person hears another laugh and also starts cracking up.

In research published in "Current Biology", the researchers say that when Kea parrots hear a call associated with play, they start playful tussling, aerial acrobatics, or throwing objects into the air. The Kea, native to the mountains of New Zealand, is known to be particularly intelligent, curious and social. It's also nationally endangered.

Lead author, Raoul Schwing, of the University of Veterinary

Medicine Vienna's Messerli Research Institute tells that during the course of his research, he had noticed the parrots' warbling call almost always happened during times of play.

He and his co-researchers from the University of Auckland and the University of Canterbury decided to test the effect of playing recordings of the playful call to parrots at a lookout point in Arthur's Pass National Park.

Schwing says they were trying to determine the meaning of the call. Was it seen as an invitation to play from another bird or was simply hearing this type of call enough to make the bird want to play, even if it wasn't with the bird making the call?

To their surprise, it appears to be the latter. "In many cases, the bird started to play spontaneously when there was no play going on before," he says.

The Kea, native to the mountains of New Zealand, is known to be particularly intelligent, curious and social.

A5 search triggered by "Hello"



When 10 month old Blue and Gold, called Skittles, decided to fly the open sky, it triggered a search on the busy A5.

It was when a dog walker spotted Skittles in a tree that we all ran into the garden when we realised Skittles had escaped through the back door. He had only ever seen the house ceiling before, so when he was exposed to a gust of wind, he panicked and flew off.

Hayley said, "I heard that several drivers had stopped and had decided to help recover him when they had seen something large, blue and yellow in the trees! Skittles was shouting down "hello", which was the only word he could say as he couldn't talk properly yet, otherwise it's garbled laughter.

We tried to coax him from the tree, but he was not used to roosting, and was on some very thin branches! Hayley said, "Skittles was reported to have been flying strongly and looking healthy when a lady saw him shouting "hello", at her, but as he is quite large, she didn't want to pick him up. As soon as I heard the news, I went round knocking on doors, and soon discovered that that people already knew about Skittles as the WhatsApp group had done a good job. People's kindness has restored my faith in humanity." He has now been recovered and is back at home.



Feathered Friends Photo Competition

We are proud to announce that Hannah Pursall of Manchester, is the winner of the Facebook "Feathered Friend's" group monthly photo competition. The prize is a six month subscription to *Parrots* magazine. The group is located in the UK and run by Sheila Ambrose, who would love to hear from other enthusiastic parrot owners.



Contact details:
www.facebook.com/pages/Feathered-Friends/197863400259322



VETARK
PROFESSIONAL

NEW

NEW PROBIOTIC FOR BIRDS
AVIPRO AVIAN
for all birds



Vetarks unique veterinary input allows us to stay at the forefront - developing new products for birds



NEW WATER SOLUBLE
WORMER
SOLUVERM

joins our top probiotics and vitamin supplements
www.vetark.co.uk



VETARK PROFESSIONAL
PO Box 60, Winchester, SO23 9XN
Tel: 01962-844316
Trade Enquiries Welcome

Improve your hatchability with Buddy



Buy on-line at www.avitronics.co.uk

Buddy. The world's only digital Egg Monitor.

For peace of mind during incubation.

Avitronics, Rose In Valley, Lwr Hugus Road,
Threemilestone TR3 6BD

Tel: (+44) 01209 212775

Email: Jim@avianid.co.uk www.avitronics.co.uk

'FlockTalk'

Monthly email newsletter - free!

• PARROT NEWS • TOYS & GIFTS •
• PET ADVICE • CAMPAIGNS •



Delivered directly to your email, this exciting new resource gives you the latest parrot news and features, plus reviews of parrot-related gifts and toys with links to our e-store.

Subscribe today!

www.parrots.org/flocktalk

...from the World Parrot Trust
UK Reg Charity No. 800944





Complete Psittacine

Reflections on Avian Intelligence

By EB Cravens



The Emotional Side of the Story – Part II

Bird trapping techniques

The use of a 'lure bird' in the business of psittacine and other bird trapping has long been documented. Photos of Senegal Parrots being restrained in order to prompt them to screech for their flock mates to come back and help, were decidedly poignant and moving during the Wildlife Defenders push for a wild bird conservation act in the United States prior to that bill being passed by Congress in 1991. In former times, the classic term 'stool pigeon' was applied to the bird which was tied securely and used to decoy great flocks of passenger pigeons down to the trapping nets in the mid 1800s.

All such practices are based on the fact that wild flocks of birds often show some sort of loyalty or empathy or bravery or love for their members who fall into trouble. 'Tis a hard phenomenon to explain: returning to reward of one's death or imprisonment at the behest of plaintive cries from your companions. In us humans, many of us might even term such behaviour "heroic."

Much jealousy comes to the fore in former hand-fed psittacines when keepers are bestowing affection on a nearby bird

That jealousy thing

Amongst several of my aviary parrot species, notably the Amazons, Conures, Mini-macaws, *Poicephalus* group, Lories, King parrots, the predominant upsetting emotion between bird and human handlers is 'jealousy'. I

cannot call this 'territoriality' because it takes place between the same birds even when they are in so many dissimilar locations around our property. It also predominates between various individuals of unlike species that obviously have evolved a certain heartfelt dislike for one another.

Jealousy in psittacines can be very difficult to categorise since it manifests in so many different ways. There is possessiveness over food, over perch location, over favourite toys. Much jealousy comes to the fore in former

Cockatoo species are well noted for being volatile around favourite humans or a mate



Emotional frustrations can cause feather mutilation especially during breeding season

hand-fed psittacines when keepers are bestowing affection on a nearby bird. But it does not have to involve touching. Outbursts can be precipitated by a gentle greeting voice, strong eye contact, or merely holding still and appearing to pay attention where the jealous bird would rather we not! It is definitely emotional, for such aggressive behaviour crosses most bird behaviour guidelines. Attack your favourite toy with a vengeance. Bite that offending bird getting all the attention. Grab a wooden branch and twist and gnaw at it ferociously while fixing an 'evil eye' on the one you truly wish to confront. Chase away your mate or human best friend. Bite your own feathers till they are bare and bleed. Refuse to eat or bathe or preen. Sulk.

Without a doubt, the jealous emotion can be the overriding factor in many aspects of health and behaviour in each parrot or parakeet in your flock, at least all those that are species known to form strong and/or permanent bonding. There are sundry instances of a bird losing condition and feather very subtly without showing outright animosity or jealousy, merely because another parrot or two were added to what was once a happy household. "They have learned to get

along fine," I hear it said often enough in avicultural and pet situations. Well, yes, but that does not mean both birds are as happy now as they used to be.

Needing to know

That brings up a critical point. How do we determine if our pet or breeder birds are actually 'emotionally healthy'? They may seem okay. Their appetite and weight and feather sheen all may appear fine to we humans, but what if there is something on their minds, something eating at them inside?

Anthropomorphising? Perhaps? At least until the pet parrot begins screaming or biting or shaving its leg feathers a bit. Then we take notice. But by then it may be too late, or it may be such a long time since the actual causal factor for emotional unhealthiness took place, that the keeper can no longer recall what change might have begun making the bird unhappy initially.

Parrots that form weak pair bonds often show less jealous emotion



Their appetite and weight and feather sheen all may appear fine to we humans, but what if there is something on their minds, something eating at them inside?

Birds will be birds

I hate to belabour a point, but it is precisely for my birds' emotional health that April and I take such pains to raise any baby psittacines birthed here at The Perfect Parrot in as natural a way as possible. We provide greenery, trees, sun, wind, rain, moonlight

Animal Genetics

AVIAN BIOTECH IS A SUB DIVISION OF ANIMAL GENETICS

Avian sex and disease testing from £14 per sample

PLEASE NOTE OUR ADDRESS For All Correspondence

1 Mount Charles Road, Mount Charles, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 3LB

Tel: 01726 247788 • Email: info@avianbiotech.co.uk • Website: www.animalgenetics.eu

and fresh raw foods. Also interaction and physical contact with parents and grandparents, siblings and cousins and dealings with as many different kinds of birds and new people as possible. This is an environment that emphasises our pets' 'birdness'. And no, babies such as these will not always be living like this the rest of their lives. Not every homeowner with a hookbill has the time or imagination to keep his or her avian companions in such a diverse habitat.

That does not always matter. It is the foundation of birdness that is important. The childhood, if you please. It is the formative stages that leave an infant psittacine confident and curious, and assured of its place in the world, ready to go out and undertake life as a parrot among humans and sometimes other parrots.

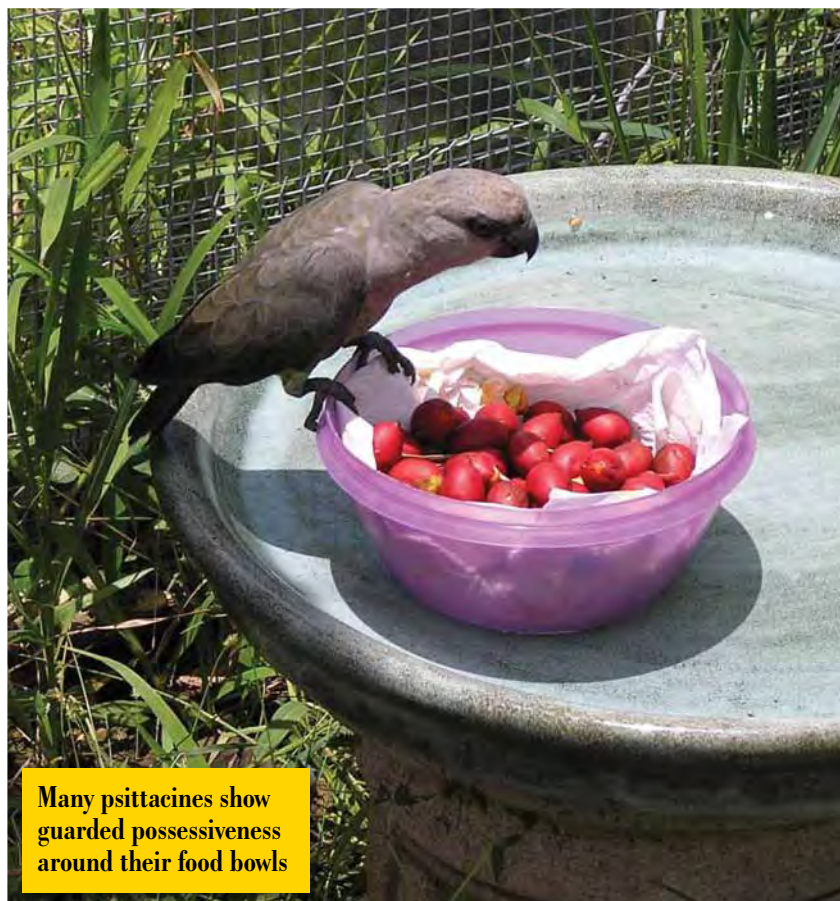
Emotional healthiness

Does it cure all the fits of anger or jealousy or aggression in our companion birds? No. But we truly believe that it alleviates some of the worst 'going off the deep end', problems that are increasingly showing up in puberty-stricken parrots that were coddled and spoiled, mass produced and over-impressed on humans. And it all starts with the admission that our birds have emotions.

Aggrievement

Legend has it that "Incas" the last known Carolina Parakeet in captivity in the United States died in the Cincinnati zoo of grief and forlornness after the passing of his mate. This is but one of the parrot stories recounting debilitating loneliness behaviour in birds when a beloved friend, avian or human, passes on or goes away

While on one hand we know them as short-tempered, protective, spiteful and sneaky, they also can exhibit much tender emotion to those they care about



Many psittacines show guarded possessiveness around their food bowls

also can exhibit much tender emotion to those they care about. Compassion, desire to comfort or console or cheer up, frolicsome wrestling and play that dissolves into the gentlest of caresses, vocalisations so low and private that only the one beside you might hear. That's the other side of avian emotions.

Can a bird actually feel so much emotion towards a lost companion that it would rather languish away than wake up and eat and drink and go on with living? It would seem so from the anecdotal evidence I have read. And if that is the case, then there is a strong likelihood that our birds can sometimes feel more deeply than we humans do. Now there sits a thought-provoking concept for the behavioural science

books - do birds have stronger emotions than humans? Moreover, in all probability I would surmise that they have a harder time overcoming them, or turning them off.

Conclusions to this series

I truly hope you all have enjoyed this unique Parrots article series as much as I have enjoyed writing it. Somewhat longer than any of my usual writings, this has proved to be one of the most difficult group of pieces I have ever undertaken. I thank publisher John Catchpole again for his patience and the space to publish it.

For those of you with avian species who

were left out of the bird ratings I chose herein, my apologies. I might add, the time is ripe for you to send *Parrots* magazine a letter or long email on why I should not have forgotten your favourite species!

Verily avian intelligence is a topic fraught with controversy and strong opinions, while being devoid of much subjective scientific study. That is why there is not all that much published species-specific material directly relating to hookbills' mental prowess. It means the author is going out on a limb!

Suffice to say, the main gist of this series has been that the vast majority of our pet and breeder birds are more highly intelligent, more innovative, and more emotional than we humans give them credit for. Hopefully the decades ahead will change humans' conception of that. Perhaps the Alex (Irene Pepperberg's Grey) studies were merely the tip of an astounding mindful iceberg.

May these writings encourage just such consideration for not only all birds, but for all living things. ■



Aviform Avigold Advance
1 + 1 Free (while stocks last)

250ml + 1 Free	£ 9.95
500ml + 1 Free	£ 17.95
1000ml + 1 Free	£ 27.95
2500ml + 1 Free	£ 39.95

Did you know: we supply over 500 different types of parrot and parakeet foods including seed mixes

Johnston & Jeff Premium Parrot Fruit	12.75kg	£ 31.99	Deli Nature 72 Parrotlet & Lovebird	20kg	£ 28.99
Johnston & Jeff Low Sunflower African Grey	12.75kg	£ 28.50	Deli Nature 68 Parakeet no Sunflower	20kg	£ 25.99
Johnston & Jeff Low Sunflower Large Parrot	12.75kg	£ 29.99	Deli Nature 69 Parakeet with Sunflower	20kg	£ 25.99
Johnston & Jeff No 1 Parrot	12.75kg	£ 19.99	Deli Nature 59 Large Parakeet Standard	15kg	£ 21.99
Countrywide Parrot (new formula)	12.5kg	£ 15.99	Countrywide Parakeet / Cockatiel	20kg	£ 18.25
Countrywide Deluxe Parrot with Fruit	12.5kg	£ 20.99	Countrywide Grass Parakeet / Lovebird	20kg	£ 19.50
Deli Nature 61 Parrot Brilliant (low sunflower)	15kg	£ 30.99	Countrywide Neophema	20kg	£ 21.99
Deli Nature 64 Parrot Supreme (with fruit)	15kg	£ 28.99	Deli Nature 33 Germination Seed	15kg	£ 21.99
Deli Nature 57 Parrot Excellent (heavy mixture)	15kg	£ 32.99	Millet Sprays (Yellow)	15kg	£ 34.00
Deli Nature Amazonas Park Serengetti	15kg	£ 37.99	<div>Most mixes also available in smaller quantities</div> <div> </div>		
Deli Nature Amazonas Park Amazonia	15kg	£ 32.99			
Deli Nature Amazonas Park Down Under	15kg	£ 34.99			
Deli Nature Amazonas Park Pantanal	12.5kg	£ 37.99			
Versele Laga Parrot Fruit Mega	15kg	£ 25.99			
Versele Laga Loro Parque African	15kg	£ 34.99			
Versele Laga Loro Parque Amazon	15kg	£ 34.99			

Leslie Moran's "Best Bird Food Ever"

Two unique sprouting blends that provide complete protein for your parrots. USDA Certified Organic. Available on their own or as a full sprouting kit, including book and Grapefruit Seed Extract (GSE).

Original & Wheat Free Sprouting Blends

1lb (454g) £12.99 5lb (2.26kg) £49.99

Sprouting Kits - with sprouting blend, book & GSE

With 1lb (454g) Sprouting Blend £32.99

With 5lb (2.26kg) Sprouting Blend £64.99



BIRD KABOB

"The Ultimate Shreddable Bird Toy"
From just £3.25 !

20% off all Bird Kabobs during April and May



Coming soon...Goldenfeast! Top quality fruit, nut and vegetable mixes for all parrots & parakeets.

Hard-core Aggression

Working with

in Parrots. Part 3

by Sally Blanchard

In this third part of Sally Blanchard's behaviour series, she suggests parrot owners can use the following tips to get past the resulting fear, once a bite has occurred.



Some parrots may go into an overload excitement and seem to be aggressive. This is not true aggressive behaviour and the bird should just be allowed to calm down before being handled again

1. Was Your Parrot Really Being Aggressive When He Bit You?

play? Lots of parrots go into 'overload' behaviour when they get excited. During this time, they may get a little rough with their beaks. The best thing to do when this happens is just to leave them alone to let them calm down before you try to handle them again. Getting mad

and grabbing them up for discipline or punishment will just escalate their energy level, making them more likely to bite again – this time out of aggression! Quickly ladder an already over-stimulated parrot to seem like 'the boss' will get him even more excited and almost always guarantees another bite.

2. Avoid the Vicious Cycle

When bitten, some people become apprehensive about being bitten again and, as a result, their attitude and energy changes towards the parrot. The parrot senses this change and may, in turn, become apprehensive about being handled again by that person and bites again out of confusion. Consequently, the person becomes more wary, and the parrot becomes more confused. The parrot's confusion results in behaviour that then makes the person even more frightened of being bitten. This continuing mistrust escalates until the bond is broken.

When a parrot can no longer be handled by the people in his life, his ultimate pet potential is severely threatened. Understanding why and how the situation occurred is the best way to avoid the behaviour again. Parrots that bite usually do so because of a situation, so if you can figure it out, the best advice is to be careful not to repeat that situation. When you handle your bird the next time do your best to be comfortable enough to rebuild a trusting parrot/human bond?



It is a good idea to use the same words, like "Do you want to come out?" to let your parrot know what you are going to do with him and to use a simple "UP" cue to ask him to step on your hand

Or did he become a little beaky when his energy level increased during

3. Don't Blame the Parrot

Biting behaviour in a companion parrot may become a pattern, but it is not a natural behaviour unless a parrot is severely confused, traumatised or provoked. How can we blame an animal that has no idea how to live successfully in our environment? Parrots don't know how to be good pets — we need to teach them how. Often, we are the ones who actually teach our parrots to bite by rewarding that behaviour with 'negative' drama. Yes, some parrots become wilful and stubborn, but blaming the bird will get you nowhere. It will also keep you from taking the necessary responsibility for doing the work you need to do to restore the bond between you and your parrot.

4. A Bite is a Single Bite

Realise that the bite was a single bite, not evidence of a pattern or the end of the world. Most biting in tame parrots starts out as an isolated incident, not as ingrained biting behaviour. It is often our reaction to the first bite that turns this behaviour into a pattern. An aggressive reaction to a parrot bite is one of the best ways to guarantee your parrot will bite you again. Even jerking your hand as a discipline when a bird bites can result in another bite when the bird tries to use his beak to get his balance. It is best to pay attention to your parrot and learn to understand him well enough to prevent biting rather than having to deal with one when it happens.

5. Don't Take It Personally

If your parrot bites you it doesn't mean he hates you, is punishing you, or is out to get you. If your parrot has been tame for you, the first bite is usually the most painful from an emotional perspective for the person who loves him. Your bird most likely bit you for reasons that have little to do with whether he likes you or not. If he continues to bite, it is most likely because you now approach him differently and you are no longer comfortable approaching him, which makes him less comfortable being approached by you. This can turn into a vicious cycle where mutual trust is lost. One of the truest facts about parrots is that they are more comfortable with people who are comfortable with them.

6. Why Did The Bird Bite?

Try to figure out why the bird bit you – don't do it again. This sounds simplistic, but it may be the best advice to follow. Parrots bite for many reasons and sometimes they are not obvious. However, if you can do a quick recall of the situation after a parrot bites, you may be able to make a good guess. A classic example is a strongly bonded bird happily sitting on his caregiver's shoulder. An 'intruder' comes into the room and the bird goes into defensive behaviour. Although it does not seem logical to us, the parrot often bites their beloved caregiver in this defensive situation.

Another common example occurs when a bird bites the person holding him when he becomes afraid of something. For example, a person may be too insistent that his parrot goes to a new person that,



Sometimes parrots become over-excited and handling them may result in a bite. This is not aggressive behaviour. Let him calm down before you try to handle him



From Egg to Adult provide optimal nutrition with Harrison's Bird Foods



Harrison's Bird Foods offer the optimal nutrition for infant birds through **Neonate** and **Juvenile** formulas providing all the nutrients that your chicks need from hatching to weaning.

Harrison's Bird Foods are used and recommended by leading avian vets and breeders for use throughout your bird's life

For more information please contact Harrison's Bird Foods- UK or visit our website:
www.hbf-uk.co.uk info@hbf-uk.co.uk **01509 265557**

for some reason, causes apprehension in the bird. Forcing a parrot into a fearful situation often results in a bite.

Some parrots bite when they are approached too quickly, or when they are eating or napping. If you pick your parrot up with what I call the 'fish bait' approach by wiggling your fingers in front of him instead of calmly approaching him, he may also be tempted to bite you because he is confused by your indecisiveness. People who approach their parrots too aggressively, in a bad mood, in a hurry, or with scattered unfocused energy may also be inviting a bite.

7. Don't Use Punishment

that your punishment is related to their misbehaviour.

The most effective discipline is simply a quick (no more than a couple of seconds) dirty look (not a stare) the minute the parrot misbehaves. This communicates immediate disapproval, which the parrot can understand. Then let it go, nothing else you do will result in negative behaviour becoming positive behaviour. In fact, if you use trust-destroying, aggressive or deprivation punishment it will most likely damage the relationship you have with your parrot.

8. Be Realistic

Don't either insult your parrot's intelligence or expect him to understand something he can't. Having a calm talk with him about why he should not bite you will only work if you use it as a way to calm you both down. He may not understand what your words mean but he will understand that your calm demeanour makes you more trustworthy.

I once heard a breeder saying that a certain bird couldn't have come from her aviary because her birds never bit people. The truth is that eventually, if the right situation comes along, every parrot, no matter how tame or gentle, will bite. The beak is not innately a weapon. It is used in the same way we use our hands. However, if a bird is threatened or confused, he may use his beak to defend himself. In many situations, a parrot will learn to bite simply because he receives such aggressive or inconsistent messages from the people in his human flock that he doesn't know what else to do to get them to go away.

9. Get Comfortable

Remember that parrots are more comfortable with people who are comfortable with them. Making yourself as comfortable as you can with your bird and the situation is the most critical part of being confident that he won't bite you. If you go into the situation thinking he will bite you, chances are it will. You need to 'psych' yourself into believing that you are doing everything right to make the situation positive so your parrot will not bite you.

10. Plan Ahead

Tell him what you are going to do and make the situation as positive as possible for both of you. If you want to work with him and/or teach him something new, get the neutral room ready with a T-stand and your other 'props'. Make sure there

Don't just go and get your parrot out of his cage and then decide what you are going to do with him.

will be no distractions. Pick the time when you and the parrot are the most relaxed. Have anything you will need ready. What about your energy? Make sure you can relax enough to approach the bird calmly and decisively. If it helps you, before you approach him shut your eyes and say a little positive mantra so that you convince yourself to let go of the fear that he will bite you.

11. Watch Body Language

Learn to interpret your parrot's body language and listen for verbal communications carefully. There are times when you are asking for problems if you try to pick him up. If your parrot is bashing a toy around or eating one of his favourite treats, he may become

aggressive if you try to handle him. A parrot will most likely show body language that indicates he is busy with something else. However, if he has something that needs to be taken away from him because it is dangerous, you will need to distract him in a friendly manner before trying to get that.

Although there are some classic signs of aggression, many parrots have their own particular ways of letting you know to leave them alone. Increased alertness, flashing eyes, a raised crest, erect feathers on the nape, feathers tucked tight against the body, and beak lunging are usually obvious signs of a bird that should not be handled, but with some parrots the signs are subtler. Learn to know what your parrot's body language is when it is relaxed or wants your attention, as opposed to when it needs to be left alone. ■

The final article with more steps on dealing with aggression will be in the next issue of *Parrots* magazine.

Bird Alert



By **JOHN HAYWARD**
NATIONAL THEFT REGISTER

Tel: 01869 325699 Email: jh@ntr.supanet.com
www.parrotmag.com/lost-and-found-register

Failing to ring or chip

It may well sound repetitive but the frequent question we ask is why do breeders and suppliers fail to ring or chip their birds. This goes for the new owner as well, but half the time they do not appreciate that a friendly cuddly parrot on display is capable of flight, given the chance for freedom, from the house and home.

We know that by law, dogs have to be chipped so why not the valuable pet companion parrot. After all, the dog is for life but the parrot can be for three lives!

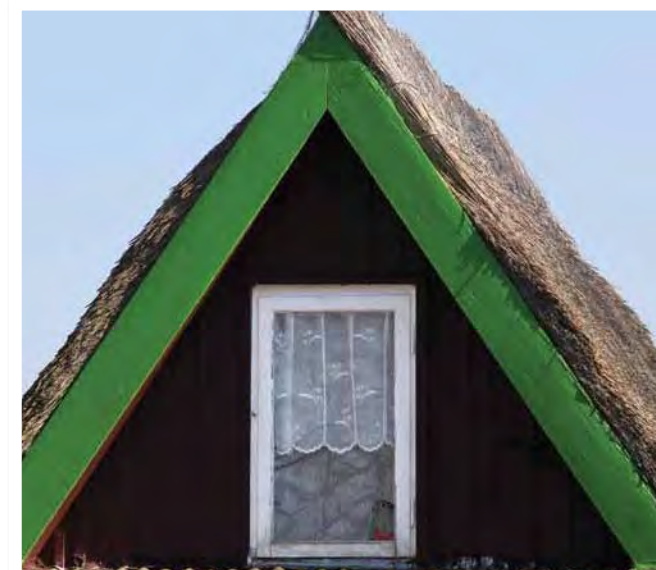
As an example, during the last four relatively quiet weeks, the following parrots have been picked up, rescued and still awaiting the tracing of their owners.

First, I will deal with the Great Houdini African Grey. Greys have been found at Barnet, Ilford, Feltham, another in North London, Macclesfield and Northampton. It also goes to show that when people lose their birds, they have not been advised what action to take. In addition, Conures found in Scunthorpe and Orpington, Kakarikis in Hereford and Stoke On Trent and a Lovebird in Birmingham.

As far as theft is concerned, thankfully another quiet month but I mention one particular break-in where a pet Grey was stolen from a flat in Farnham, Surrey.

The significant aspect of this incident is that thieves kicked in the door a few weeks previously, obviously looking for electrical items which they stole, but made no effort to remove 'PJ', the beloved African Grey.

We always warn occupiers that when the thieves have been in, they will realise that the parrot is worth much more than a second hand laptop and they will be back! If not themselves, they will pass the information on, identify a buyer and back they go.



If anyone is the victim of a domestic burglary, be vigilant and protect your most valuable possessions, the pet birds.

The only other theft I venture to report is not parrots, but chickens. Not ordinary chickens, but extremely rare and valuable birds in a protected long-term breeding programme. They were stolen from a top exhibitor's premises in Oxfordshire when they got away with a collection of Cockerels and Chickens.

This has received much publicity and rewards are offered. The owners and the Police suspect that they have been taken for the purposes of illegal cock fighting.

If they are capable of stealing such rare birds, they can also target our Budgerigars and larger Parrots.

Finally I return to the matter of the African Grey and CITES licences. Since this became law for Article 10 licences to be in force to cover the trade in Greys, we have been asked two regular questions which I highlight for our readers.

Question: If I put a Grey in a cage, no charge for the bird but sell the cage for £700, is that OK?

Question: If I give two African Greys away for nothing and the new owner donates to me a new bird-shed, is that legal?

The answer to this, is that the birds have been entered into trade, no licences, prison for upwards of five years and a definite 'NO' as not only has the substantive offence been committed but it could be deemed as perverting the course of action. The better news is that owners can always give the birds away if they prefer not to apply for licences! ■

RINGS OF DISTINCTION Avian ID

You can now
buy online at
www.avianid.co.uk



Unit 3 Tescan Units, Pool Business Park,
Wilson Way, Redruth TR15 3RX

FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE

Call or fax (+44) 01209 212775
email: info@avianid.co.uk www.avianid.co.uk

Pet Parrot Insurance



- £2,500 - £5,000 Veterinary Fee cover
- Mortality and Theft cover
- Fire and Weather perils
- Free Lost and Found notification service

Obtain a no obligation quote today. Visit
www.exoticdirect.co.uk/pm
Or call us on 0345 982 5505



ExoticDirect is a registered trade mark of Brooks Brathwaite (Sussex) Ltd.
4 Bridge Road Business Park, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1TX.
Brooks Brathwaite (Sussex) Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

EXOTICDIRECT



The Holistic Parrot

by Leslie Moran

Red Palm Oil Part 2

Last month this column introduced you to the **palm oil industry** and discussed the **nutritional benefits**, and **shortcomings**, of red palm oil. This month we'll delve into the **problems of deforestation**, explain what's being done, report which brands of red palm oil come from **sustainable plantations**, and give you a way to make sure your favourite palm oil meets industry **sustainability standards**.

A tropical palm

Palm oil is produced primarily in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Columbia, Nigeria, Brazil, Ecuador and Sierra Leone, a small country in West Africa, with smaller plantations in a few other countries. The species of palm fruits harvested for their oil naturally grow in the highly diverse tropical rainforest regions of the world.

Of all these plantations, according to GreenPalm, the organisation that manages the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Book, only 20 per cent of these crops meet the eight principles established by the RSPO Book.

Palm oil is the most used cooking oil in the world. In descending order of importance, the top 10 countries that consume palm oil are India, Indonesia, the EU, China, Malaysia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Thailand, Bangladesh, and the US.⁽¹⁾

Rainforest treasures

If we look at just one country, we can get a sense of how rich and diverse these tropical rainforest areas are. According to the Rainforest Action Network, Indonesia has been credited as the most species rich country on Earth. Spread across 18,000 islands Indonesia contains the world's third largest rainforest area after the Amazon and Africa's Congo Basin.

With only one per cent of the Earth's land mass, Indonesia's rainforests contain 10 per cent of the world's known plant species, 12 per cent of known mammal species, and 17 per cent of all known bird species.

A mature organic and sustainable palm oil plantation.

Endangered species at risk

When alerting the public to endangered animal species being threatened with extinction from deforestation practices of the palm oil industry, the majority of groups focus on the mammals. In Indonesia species threatened with extinction include the Sumatran tiger, the orangutan, the Javan rhinoceros and Sumatran elephants.

Profauna Indonesia, a non-profit organisation with a global network, works vigorously for the protection of the forests and wildlife in this country. They cite deforestation (slash and burn farming), specifically converting tropical rainforests into non-sustainable palm oil plantations, as the primary factor causing wildlife extinction in Indonesia.

Indonesia is home to more than 85 parrot species, those classified as threatened with extinction include the Red-and-blue Lory (*Eos histrio*), Black-headed or Black-capped Lory (*Lorius lory*), Yellow-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*), Blue-napped Parrot (*Tanygnathus lucionensis*), Black-winged Lory (*Eos cyanogenia*), and some of our planet's rarest cockatoos the Palm Cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*), Goffins Cockatoo (*Cacatua goffini*) and the rediscovered Yellow-crested Abbott's Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea abbottii*), which in 2009 had a wild population of only 10 birds. In 2013 this population had increased to 17 individuals.⁽²⁾

A young sustainable and organic palm oil plantation.

Sustainable palm oil plantations

Rainforests are the 'lungs' of our planet, they create our breathable oxygen supply. In the face of the global destruction of pristine rainforests, there are those who are committed to turning the tide in favour of these fragile ecosystems and the endangered wild animals and parrots that live there.

One group focused on being a part of the solution is Natural Habitats. At their organic sustainable palm oil plantations in Ecuador and Sierra Leone they work with small farms and the local communities teaching the indigenous people how to replant deforested land and plant and care for sustainable organic palm oil plantations.

At these plantations, Natural Habitats has local plant nurseries brimming with native plants, such as bamboo, that are ideal for reforestation projects. Natural Habitats gives these plants to the local farmers and instructs them in reforesting the palm oil plantation borders and in setting up habitat buffer zones to protect the rivers, streams, swamps and water shed areas.

A destroyed area, formerly a pristine rainforest. Unless organic matter is put back into the soil, as in organic farming, a deforested area can only sustain crops for a year at most. 80 per cent of today's palm oil plantations are not sustainably grown and destroy fragile rainforests.



How are your favourite brands of palm oil performing?

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
Palm Oil Buyers Score Card 2016
has graded 137 companies on their sustainable, or lack of sustainable, palm oil practices.
Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO)

<http://palmoilscorecard.panda.org/>



Look for these certification seals on sustainable palm oil products



8 PRINCIPLES FOR GROWERS TO BE RSPO CERTIFIED

1. Commitment to Transparency
2. Compliance with applicable laws and regulation
3. Commitment to long-term economic and financial viability
4. Use of appropriate best practices by growers and millers
5. Environmental responsibility and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity
6. Responsible consideration of employees, and of individuals and communities affected by growers and mills
7. Responsible development of new plantings
8. Commitment to continuous improvement in key areas of activity

Adapted from RSPO, Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, Principles and Criteria for the Production of Sustainable Palm Oil, 2013

You vote with your purchases

Questions to ask about red palm oil. Call the company and ask:

1. Does your red palm oil product have any certifications?
2. If so, which ones?
3. Are these certification logos on the packaging or bottle?
4. If the red palm oil product is not certified by RSPO, Natural Habitats or Rainforest Alliance, and is not a certified organic product, ask them why they consider their palm oil to be a sustainable crop?

Promoting sustainability

Since 2004, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), a non-profit organisation based in Malaysia with offices worldwide, was established to promote the growth and use of sustainable palm oil by uniting the seven industry sectors – oil palm plantations, processors, consumer goods' manufacturers, retailers, banks, investors, and environmental and social non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The RSPO has developed global standards for sustainable palm oil and has put these guidelines into practice with its 3,193 members across the industry. Although the RSPO does not mandate the use of organic farming practices, many of their members trade in certified organic palm oil products.

Other organisations monitoring the palm oil industry include the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Rainforest Alliance that in 2008 started working with farmers and businesses in Honduras, Asia, Central and South America and Africa, helping these palm oil producers transition to sustainable growing and processing methods in collaboration with the RSPO.

Sustainable red palm oil

There are many companies that sell organic, sustainably produced red palm oil. I encourage you to check into the company and their product before buying. The RSPO has a trademark logo, shown in this article, look for it on sustainable palm oil products. You can also look for the Certified Organic, Fair Trade and Non-GMO logos. The WWF has a Palm Oil Buyers Score Card on their website, see this article for the URL.

In parrot specific red palm oil products, Nutiva has partnered with the Natural-Habitats organic family farms in Ecuador. This red palm oil is certified organic, non-GMO and Fair trade. Nutiva contributes one per cent of sales to sustainable agriculture groups for programmes

that enrich the soil and support a healthy world.

Avitech produces Aviglow, this product is Rainforest Alliance certified. It is not certified organic. Harrison's Bird Food Company, presently buys Nutiva red palm oil through a distributor. They discontinued the 'Sunshine Factor' product.

Okonatur is a company of certified organic, products from New Zealand. No other information is available on the sustainability practices for their red palm oil or what part of the world they buy it from.

How to feed red palm oil

I have never fed red palm oil to my birds, they receive other nutrient rich foods, so I find it unnecessary to feed it to them. However, here are some ideas if you want to try and offer some to your parrots. First taste a drop to see if you like it. Sources describe it as having a slightly pungent taste. When cooking, people mix red palm oil with organic vinegar (in a salad dressing), and with cayenne or other spices. I'm told it adds a wonderfully unique flavour to egg and fish dishes. For other ideas you can do a Google search on the Internet on South American, Brazilian and African recipes.

For your birds, put a drop or two on top of a favourite



Nutiva's Red Palm Oil product



The Holistic Parrot

fresh food. Some report that their birds did not like the flavour, and joked about using it as a chewing deterrent. If feeding a cooked mash, or steamed vegetables, the red palm oil will melt if the food is still slightly warm. Having its flavour dispersed throughout a food seems to work best. Others suggest baking it into foods. However, be aware that baking or cooking with the red palm oil will destroy some of the antioxidants and other nutrients, diminishing the reason you're feeding it. Vitamin E is also easily damaged by heat and cooking. ■

Next month, we talk with Stewart Metz, founder of the Indonesian Parrot Project, as we get an up to date report on their recent accomplishments and their vital work with the wild parrots of Indonesia.

Do you have any questions on any aspect of parrot care that you would like to learn a holistic approach for? If so, send them to *Parrots* magazine.

Resources

- (1) GreenPalm.org, graphic, 'Global Top 10 Palm Oil Consuming Countries 2015'. <http://greenpalm.org> [Greenpalm has numerous colourful diagrams on their website that are rich in information on a wide variety of palm oil topics.]
- (2) "The Rarest Cockatoo is On the Doorstep of extinction", Stewart Metz, Bonnie Zimmerman, Indonesian Parrot Project.

Graphics created by author from noted sources.

Our grateful thanks to Natural Habitats who provided the rainforest and palm plantation photographs.

Rainforests, waterways and naturally occurring wildlife habitat protected by sustainable palm oil plantation practices.



Black-capped Lory



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo



Black Palm Cockatoo

Three of the Indonesian parrot species threatened with extinction because rainforests have been destroyed to expand non-sustainable palm oil plantations

www.natural-habitats.com

Natural Habitats is a group fully committed to the sustainable production of organic and fairly traded products. Through a vertically integrated supply chain, they produce, collect, process and trade organic, fair-trade and sustainable palm oil. It only uses organic and sustainable production practices, which allows it to ensure a sustainable and reliable supply chain From Farmer to Fork.

Natural Habitats works with small farm holders, and communities in Ecuador and Sierra Leone. Its social and participative production model ensures economic and social benefits, which are distributed in an equitable way to all the regions where it works.

www.profauna.net

www.rspo.org

www.fairforlife.org

Certification programmes for Fair Trade, Responsible Supply Chains and Corporate Social Responsibility.

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/agriculture/palm_oil/solutions/

World Wildlife Fund, what they are doing to support a global sustainable palm oil industry.

Leslie Moran uses food as medicine for creating wellness in parrots. Her natural approach is ideal for preventive healthcare, restoring health or improving behaviours. Specialising in long distance consultations, from Nevada (USA).

Website:

www.BestBirdFoodEver.com

See Leslie's advert on page 2.

Why go to the Think Parrots Show?

You will meet many like-minded people from whom you will be able to pick up tips

Meet the UK's most experienced avian vets and get some FREE advice!

Attend the FREE masterclasses presented by some of the country's leading parrot experts

You will be able to buy just about everything you need for your birds all under one roof, and take advantage of some great special deals

Return home with loads of parrot goodies that your birds will love, a head full of invaluable knowledge and experience a unique and great parrot day out!



Presented by
parrots
magazine

BOOK TICKETS NOW



Kempton Park Racecourse

Staines Road East, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 5AQ
Sunday 11th June 2017 – show open 10am to 5pm

GREAT EXHIBITION

Massive range of goods and services all under one roof.
Meet other like-minded parrot enthusiasts.

Mike Simmons,
bird trainer, will
be flying his birds
throughout the day

MASTERCLASS SPEAKERS

11am - 12 noon
Matthew Fiddes MRCVS
**Common problems
with Parrots**

1 - 2pm Tony Pittman
**The Blue Macaws
of
South America**

3 - 4pm Greg Glendell
**Preventing
Behavioural Problems
in Pet Parrots**

FREE MASTERCLASSES & WORKSHOPS



Listen and learn from the
country's parrot experts



**Admission still only
£10 on the day!**

(price includes entry to
Masterclasses)

Early bird tickets
available at just £9.
Book online or call
01273 464777

Sponsored by
NORTHERN Parrots
Everything for your Parrot



10 minutes from M25
Full catering facilities
Mainline Rail service

FREE hard standing car park
Full disabled facilities available



For further information see www.thinkparrots.co.uk
Email: show@thinkparrots.co.uk Or call 01273 464777

News from Loro Parque

By **Rafael Zamora Padrón**, Biologist, Loro Parque Fundación, Tenerife

Licuri Palm

February is an appropriate month in Tenerife to start planting some specific plant varieties. This is the case of the Licuri Palm (*Syagrus coronata*) that our gardeners and farming experts cultivated this month. This palm grows in Brazil and is very important for the endangered Lear's Macaw (*Anodorhynchus leari*), because during the driest months, their fruits are the main food for the wild living individuals. In addition, this fruit has health-promoting and disease-preventing properties.

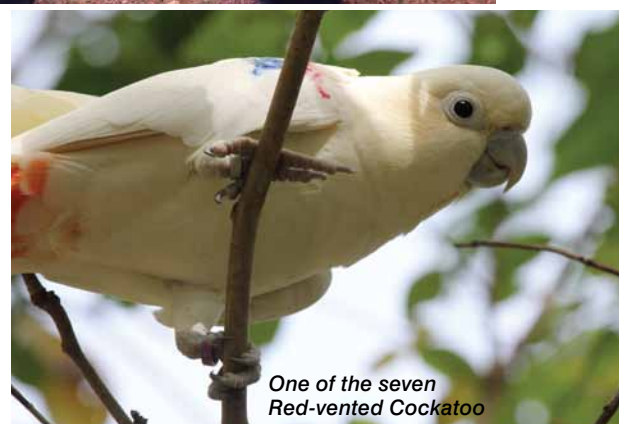
It contains a low fat content and an important proportion of lauric acid which is known to help the body to fight against pathogenic micro-organisms such as Giardia, the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* (causing intestinal ulcers in humans), or the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*, among others. At present Loro Parque Fundación supports field projects in Brazil in order to preserve the free-living Lear-Aras. In the past years, US\$462,602 has already been donated for the preservation of the Lears Macaws' population.

Local farmers, who have lost their maize crops due to the Lears, are supported by financial compensation. Thanks to these activities, we have been able to achieve many successes in recent years. While in 2001 the population of Lear's Macaws did not reach 300



individuals, today's population surpasses 1,200 individuals, thanks to our efforts. A great success for species protection!

The support of the Loro Parque Fundación plays an important role. The protection projects of the foundation are tackled both in situ and ex situ. This cooperation has led to further findings of this unique parrot species. At the beginning of this year, Mrs Bärbel Koehler from Abaxis, one of the world leading companies in providing



high technology for medical and veterinary uses, visited us. The company donated an innovative microscope for the veterinary

clinic. This generous donation completes the innovative technically equipped clinic, which is located in the Animal Embassy and can be visited daily by visitors to Loro Park. The Loro Parque Fundación thanks the Abaxis group for this support and for their commitment to the animal world through clinical development.

The days in Tenerife are getting longer, which is an incentive for most bird species to search for a partner as the beginning of the breeding season gets closer. For us, begins the first stage of pre-breeding. At this time, we give our birds food supplements to prepare them for the next season.

The breeding season is undoubtedly the most exciting time for all breeders. We are eagerly watching the quality of the new

breeding pairs, which we lovingly reared and prepared for the season ahead. This includes the detailed, appropriate changes in the aviaries in order to offer maximum comfort.

Our curator, Marcia Weinzettel, in cooperation with her team, is currently preparing new breeding pairs. They are pleased to see healthy and vibrant plumage. This is a clear sign that we will soon be able to share our excitement with everyone.

At the beginning of the year we received good news from the Philippines. Seven specimens of the Red-vented Cockatoo (*Cacatua haematuropygia*) were released on the island of Dumarán in the province of Palawan. The Loro Parque Fundación supports the protection projects of this wonderful species, which is located in this insular ecosystem. There, Indira Lacerna Widmann co-ordinates the work of the Katala Foundation project to prevent the extinction of this natural beauty. Thanks to the long-term financial support of the Loro Parque Fundación and other important supplements, such as Chester Zoo in Great Britain, the Zoological Society for Species Protection and Protection in Germany and the Zoo Beauval in France, the census of 20 individuals in 1999 increases to a current census of 300 individuals.

The Loro Parque Fundación has supported the project in-situ with a total of US\$1,681,028 aiming to recover the population

Cacatua haematuropygia



Philippine pangolin
Photo P.Widmann



in the ecosystems where they inhabit. The collaboration with the different project leaders is very productive as the exchange of information allows us to make significant progress.

At the breeding station of the Loro Parque Fundación, we have bred 21 specimens of the Red-vented Cockatoo in the last 16 years. This is a huge challenge as the males can be very aggressive, with the result that they can interfere with the stability of breeding this species.

The results achieved in-situ and ex-situ enable us to preserve endangered Cockatoos in their ecosystems and help at the same time other endangered animals, such as the Philippine pangolin (*Manis culionensis*) or the Palawan hornbill (*Anthracoceros marchei*).



The aviary, which is used for the controlled release in nature, is an important support for the specimens that have been produced. You can return to the aviary at any time after exploring the surrounding environment. The plumage of these birds is colour-coded to recognise them, even in flight, and to continue their development. We are eagerly awaiting further events of these specimens, which have already enriched the ecosystem with their presence. ■



So important for the health of your birds!
Quality chelated calcium

No more...

- rickets and splayed legs in chicks
- birds falling off the perch
- twirling and star gazing
- deformed eggs
- egg-binding
- broken eggs in nests
- weak hens that struggle with the breeding season
- small clutches
- hens dying, while cocks are fine

Calcivet
Used by top breeders around the world!
Our top selling product, year in, year out.

Available by mail order or from many retailers around the UK and Overseas

Tel: 01453 835330
sales@birdcareco.com
www.BirdcareCo-Shop.com

THE BIRDCARE COMPANY
World leaders in supplements

Super Veg!

Beetroot:

Beetroot, a sweet and earthy tasting root vegetable closely related to turnip, swede and sugar beet, first became popular as a food and natural medicine in Roman times.

Although beetroot keeps a fairly low profile as a superfood, recent research puts it right up there with pomegranates and blueberries, and suggests this vegetable offers one of the richest sources of antioxidants and nitrates, which provide amazing health benefits.

The nitrates which produce nitric oxide in the blood act to widen blood vessels, which help to improve blood flow throughout the body, including to the brain, heart and muscles, and lower blood pressure. In fact the nitrates in just 1-2 cooked beetroot can lower blood pressure in 24 hours and will reduce high blood pressure dramatically if eaten on a daily basis.

Betacyanin, the pigment that gives beetroot its deep maroon colour, is also a powerful antioxidant and along with the carotenoids and flavonoids it contains, helps to reduce the oxidation of bad cholesterol and prevent it being deposited in the arteries. The high levels of soluble fibre found in beetroot also helps to reduce cholesterol levels.

Beetroot also provides many other essential nutrients including good levels of vitamins A, B6 and C, potassium, magnesium, zinc, protein, carbohydrates and very high levels of folic acid, essential for normal tissue growth. Beetroot also contains the mineral silica which helps the body to utilise calcium.

Beetroot is less messy fed to parrots raw and grated, and mixed in with other foods. Although it has the potential to stain, its huge benefits outweigh the negatives. Do not confuse the natural nitrates found in beetroot with those added to processed meats as a preservative, which have been linked to the development of cancers in the digestive system.

Celery:

Celery makes a great dietary aid and healer of the liver for overweight birds, which are suffering fatty liver disease.

Although celery is 95 per cent water, it is very alkaline and helps to balance PH levels in the body. It is also loaded with dietary fibre and plant cellulose which gives a feeling of fullness and therefore helps with weight loss. Celery is also very low in calories and is amazingly hydrating.

Hindus have used celery seed for centuries for its anti-inflammatory properties, to treat colds and to fight diseases of the liver and spleen.

Celery leaves are high in vitamin A, flavonoids, antioxidants, zeaxanthins, luteins and beta-carotene. The stems are an excellent source of vitamins B1, B2, B6, B9, K and C and are dense in potassium, folic acid, calcium, magnesium, iron, phosphorus, sodium and essential amino acids. They also provide amazing antioxidant, cancer-protective and immune boosting functions. Fights Cancer - Celery is known to contain at least eight families of anti-cancer compounds.

A study at Rutgers University, New Jersey found that celery contains a number of compounds that help prevent cancer cells from spreading. Acetylenics in particular has been shown to stop the growth of tumour cells and phenolic acids block the action of hormone-like substances called prostaglandins, which encourage the growth of tumour cells. Coumarins help prevent free-radicals from damaging cells and the development of colon and stomach cancers. Celery is rich in sodium, which is very different to table salt. Normal table salt is composed of insoluble inorganic compounds which lead to the development of varicose veins, hardening of the arteries and other ailments. If salt, including sea salt, is white, then it has been processed and all minerals and nutrients have been destroyed. On the other hand, the sodium in celery is soluble and organic (live), and is essential for the body. Organic salt allows the body to use the other nutrients that are taken into the body. ■



Get **Parrots**
for just
£2.98!
per issue

when you subscribe for
12 months only **£35.75**

- **SAVE over £12 with 12 issue subscription**
- **FREE delivery to your door**
- **NEVER miss an issue**
- **AVOID trudging around the shops**
- **BENEFIT from early delivery**

£12 saving is compared to UK shop prices when you subscribe for 12 months to Parrots magazine.



SHOP	SUB	SAVE
£47.88	£35.75	£12.13

See page 47 for further details

Prices apply to UK subscription only



Developed by **HARI**
HAGEN AVICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Established in 1985 • www.hari.ca

✓ All formulas are produced in state of the art food plant ✓ Each batch tested for nutritional value ✓ Each batch fed to HARI's flock since 1987



TROPICAN

- Complete balanced diet in the form of extruded pellets
- Contains no artificial preservatives, colours and flavours
- Multi sizes and shapes satisfy a wide range of species



TROPIMIX

- Multi-grain variety with tasty fruits, vegetables, legumes and nuts with added benefit of Tropicana
- Familiarises seed eating birds with the nutritionally balanced benefits of an extruded food
- Provides a stimulating eating experience and foraging opportunities



Available From **Scarlett's** **Northern Parrots** And good parrot food stockists nationwide.

www.hari.ca HagenBirdCare
©2015 Tropicana & Tropimix are registered trademarks of Rolf C. Hagen Inc.

DO YOU healthcheck? YOUR PARROT!

Vivian Miller explains how we should be aware of potential health problems

Sadly, our parrots can become sick or injured, and observing them will help you know what is normal. Once you establish this, you can train yourself to notice possible symptoms of health problems. This will make it possible to get your sick bird to an avian vet in time to be diagnosed and treated. I recommend taking the time to do a mental checklist daily. Noticing certain aspects of your parrot's behaviour and physical attributes will help it have a long, healthy life.

Change in behaviour

The first thing to be aware of is your parrot's normal personality and behaviour, as parrots that don't feel well usually show changes in their behaviour. If the problem is acute, the change will be sudden. If the problem is chronic, the behaviour may change gradually. Changes could include an abrupt personality change, sudden hyperactivity, a decrease in normal activity, and unusual irritability, or moodiness. A normally tame parrot may not want to be handled or become aggressive.

The bird may develop unusual fear or a phobic reaction to situations that wouldn't have usually bothered it, and a normally robust parrot may suddenly seem weak. Parrots that are good talkers or loquacious may stop talking or making noise.

Eyes can give a clue

A parrot's eyes are a good indication of their health, and a healthy bird's eyes are normally bright with a bit of sparkle in them. A sick bird's eyes can appear dull and lifeless. Normally when a parrot sleeps or naps, the lower lid raises to meet the upper lid. However, if the eyes are 'half-mast' when they are not resting, it can indicate parrots that don't feel well. Puffiness, swelling, redness, excessive tearing, a discharge from the eyes, squinting or frequent blinking, and scratching at the eye area can be signs of an infection or irritation.

Parrots have a third eyelid that sweeps quickly across the eye and is stored in the nasal corner of the eye. It is transparent and most people don't see it in operation. Its purpose is to moisten and clean the eye and to protect the eye in flight. However, parrots do get cataracts and have other eye problems so an opaque or milky appearance is something to be concerned about.

Irregular breathing

The cere is at the top of the beak and contains the nares or nostrils, which should be clear and unobstructed. Blocked nostrils, laboured breathing, abnormal swelling or redness of the cere can be a sign of an infection in the sinuses or upper respiratory system. Many parrots will stick a toe in a nostril after preening to sneeze out the feather dust, but frequent nasal discharge and productive (wet) sneezes can indicate infection, irritation, or allergies. Parrots with chronic infections of the upper respiratory system may actually have channels etched in their beaks from constant drainage and even develop a deformed beak because of damage of the area where the beak starts its growth. Other problems include sores in the

soft tissues around the beak, in the mouth and matted, soiled feathers around the cere and eyes.

Normal breathing should be relaxed and barely noticeable when the bird is resting or inactive. A sick bird will most likely experience decreased exercise tolerance. Check for laboured breathing, prolonged rapid breathing, whistling, and wheezing.

Increased tail 'pumping' with respiratory effort and a 'thunking' sound in the chest should also cause concern. The air sacs are part of the respiratory system and feather picking over air sac areas can indicate a health problem in that system.

Normal activity

If you are aware of your parrot's normal activity level and postures, it should be relatively easy to notice changes that could mean it is sick. These include sitting low on the perch with feet further apart

and head drooping, but with elder birds these could be normal. A change in normal sleeping posture, continual fluffed feathers or shivering are signs of a sick bird. Parrots that exhibit unusual 'klutziness', frequent loss of balance and falling to the bottom of the cage, inability to perch, or staying at the bottom of the cage should be seen by an avian vet as soon as possible.

A healthy parrot normally has smooth, bright, and clean feathers and spends a lot of time preening to keep them that way. Drab feathers, loss of sheen, ratty looking feathers, dark blotches or striations in the feathers, abnormal colouring, deformed or misshapen feathers are not normal. All of these plus a decrease in preening activity indicates a health problem or malnutrition. In some parrots, continual broken blood feathers may be caused by a parrot's inability to metabolise proteins properly. A parrot bothering their feathers in a specific area can signify an injury or a specific illness.

Droppings

Notice your parrot's normal droppings and the way different foods change their colour and consistency. Parrot droppings have three parts that all come together when the bird defecates - faeces, urine, and urates. The balance of these parts can change with diet.

A normal dropping will reflect what the bird has been eating, for example, various fresh foods can change the colour and consistency. With other examples, carrots can make the dropping orangey-brown and berries can make them reddish or even dark purple. Watery food (grapes, apples, etc.) will cause polyuria which is not diarrhoea or a health problem. Digestive problems are apparent with a noticeable decrease or increase in the number or volume of droppings or a change in the colour or consistency that are not related to what the bird has been eating.

Some colour changes not due to diet are related to specific problems. Examples include a tomato soup colour that can be a sign of heavy metal toxicity, a pasty lime green dropping that can indicate psittacosis, and a dark tarry colour that can be a sign of internal bleeding. Undigested seed or food matter is also a reason for your parrot to see its avian vet. Parrot droppings don't usually have an odour, but if they do, it could indicate a specific bacterial infection. Matted feathers around the vent, an abnormal protrusion from the vent, and straining and difficulty in passing droppings warrants a visit to the vet.

General observation

When you handle your parrot get into the habit of looking for or feeling for changes, swellings, and lumps on its head, wings, body, legs, and feet. Pay attention to his appetite and drinking habits, and look for any noticeable decrease or increase in the amount of food or water consumed. A sick bird may not even want to eat its favourite foods. However, sick birds do not always lose their appetite, and some very sick birds can die with a full crop. Regurgitation can mean that your parrot loves you and is trying to feed you. However, excessive regurgitation combined with symptoms of illness may be a serious problem.

Curious parrots can get into trouble and can injure themselves. Signs of injury can include concentrating particular attention to a leg or refusing to use one leg, a drooping or misaligned wing, and constantly bothering a specific area. A serious injury can cause a parrot to become dazed, shows signs of being in shock, and a loss of balance. A bone protruding or bent could indicate a break and can be very painful. Any bleeding, open sores or wounds should be treated because even minor cuts, scratches, and abrasions should be carefully watched for infection.



A parrot's weight naturally changes during the day depending on mealtime, and if they have been over active recently. Check with your vet about your parrot's healthy weight. A seasonal weight gain or loss may be normal for your parrot, as long as it is not excessive. Weigh your parrot at least once a week and keep a chart so you know his normal fluctuations. You can also run your fingers along your parrot's keel (breast) bone to check its weight. This will show only a significant weight gain or loss so it is still best to use a scale to weigh your parrot.

Using common sense and protecting your parrot from danger will help it have a healthy long life. While it is true that parrots may 'hide' their illness and injuries, if we pay close attention to our birds, we should be able to spot a problem. Some health problems develop quickly and if you see any sign that concerns you about your parrot's health, you should check with its avian vet. Some indications of an illness or injury are serious enough that an avian vet should see your parrot as soon as possible. ■

Help to save the Yellow-backed Lory!

In 2001 I started a campaign to raise funds for the Great Green Macaw. No conservation organisation would respond to the funding proposal made by George Powell who had spent years in Costa Rica trying to safeguard its future. His funds were depleted. He wrote to me that unless money could be found urgently, the project would shut down. So few pairs were left there that the outcome would almost certainly be extinction, which made me feel passionately that this could not be allowed to happen.

by **Rosemary Low**

I started a fund-raising campaign in *Parrots* magazine. The outcome was that more than \$25,000 was raised. It was used to support the programme, then managed by Guisselle Mongas and Olivier Chassot, which secured the macaw's future. Actions taken included protecting nest sites and carrying out education programmes in Costa Rica and across the border in Nicaragua, to where the macaws migrate.

The next project

Now I want to do this again for a beautiful lory that is being trapped almost to extinction on the island of Obi, in the Northern Moluccas, and probably elsewhere in its small range. In Indonesia, illegal trapping of parrots continues on a vast scale. There are

seven parrot species on Obi including the Chattering Lory. Obi and Bacan are the only islands on which the stunning Yellow-backed form (*Lorius garrulus flavopalliat*) is found.

The great naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace spent some months on Bacan (then called Batchian) in 1858 and 1859. He wrote in the classic account of his travels, *The Malay Archipelago*: "The handsome Red Lory, with green wings and a yellow spot on the back (*Lorius garrulus*), was not



Yellow-backed Lorries on Obi in the home of a trapper
Photos above and top right: John Mittermeier

uncommon." A heroic journey to remote and unexplored islands lay behind those words. Wallace nearly died there from malaria, semi-starvation and ulcers on his legs.

In Wallace's footsteps

In 1996 Tim Severin, one of Wallace's many admirers, retraced his hero's journey through the islands of Indonesia, even having made there the same kind of boat that Wallace used. When he reached

The yellow feathers on this Yellow-backed Lory on Halmahera indicate malnutrition
Photo: Peter Odekerken



Parrots are trapped using glue on branches and carried to the trapper's home where the glue is removed with kerosene

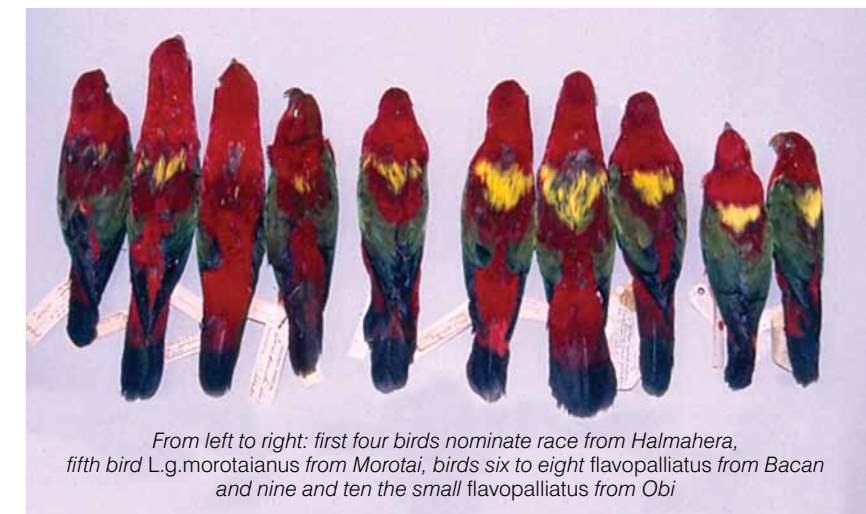


Bacan he was dismayed at the activities of the bird trappers. In just one village there were fifteen of them. They travelled to areas of the island where they could catch lorries, parrots and cockatoos. They hung ripe fruits in the trees, next to branches which they had covered in gum, which trapped the parrots on the sticky branches. In this way they expected to catch 200 in two weeks.

Severin wrote: "... our informant told us that it was increasingly difficult to catch commercial species of birds on Bacan itself. The main island had largely been stripped of birds and, to make a living, bird-catchers were now going to small offshore islands to catch birds there" (Severin, 1997). They had built a holding facility there and the birds were picked up by traders who took them to Sulawesi, from where many were shipped to Singapore.



Red Lorries (*Eos bornea*) are also trapped in huge numbers. Lorries are kept chained to a perch
Photo: John Mittermeier



From left to right: first four birds nominate race from Halmahera, fifth bird *L.g.morotaiensis* from Morotai, birds six to eight *flavopalliat* from Bacan and nine and ten the small *flavopalliat* from Obi

It is important that breeders can identify the form of Yellow-backed Lory that they keep so that correct pairings can be made

Photo: Gert van Dooren. Photographed at Natural History Museum, Tring

European ban

Importation of the Yellow-backed Lory into Europe was banned by EU legislation in 1987 due to excessive trade which was endangering its survival. But many other regions imported any parrot species, caring nothing for their survival. Export of this lory was legal, with quotas set at 5,900 each year in 1990 and 1991. The numbers recorded exported were 4,727 in 1990 and 3,526 for the first six months of 1991. The catch quota for Bacan in 1991 was a mere 250 yet from October 1991 to February 1992, 2088 were seen in holding cages.

Obi and Bacan are small islands in the province of North Maluku. Obi is 84km (52 miles) long and about 47km (28 miles) wide. Bacan is said to cover about 1,900km² and Morotai a little less. Halmahera, where the nominate race occurs, is much larger – 19,400km² (7,500 square miles). Nevertheless, the quotas set were exorbitant. These are the only four islands on which the Chattering and Yellow-backed Lorries occur.

Not only is this lory extremely popular as a pet among local people, it is trapped and exported from eastern Indonesia in larger numbers than any other parrot.

On Obi, trapping is carried out using branches with glue made from the breadfruit tree and the lure of a captive Yellow-backed Lory in a cage. When caught, the lorries are wrapped in leaves and taken to trapper's homes where kerosene is used to remove the glue. The lorries are sold at low prices to local people (equivalent of about US\$10) or higher prices to international traders offshore (US\$50). Kept crowded in small cages, they are then taken offshore in small

boats where they meet larger ships of international traders and transferred at sea. There are reports of soldiers and miners, who work on various islands around Indonesia, buying parrots and taking them home in sawn-off water bottles and plastic tubes. The death rate must be very high.

Fast disappearing

The Chattering and Yellow-backed Lorries have been so heavily trapped in some areas that they can no longer be found. Consequently the species is classified as 'vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List.

This status was assigned on the assumption that 5,000 Chattering Lorries (*Lorius garrulus garrulus* and *L.g.flavopalliat*) are trapped each year across its entire range. However, in July 2012 John Mittermeier and

Eden Cottee-Jones visited Obi while carrying out research for

Yellow-backed Lory on Halmahera
Photo: Peter Odekerken





Framed print of Cardinal Lory donated by Rosemary Low

the University of Oxford/Louisiana State University. They estimated that 5,976 Chattering Lories are trapped annually on the island of Obi alone. This compared with estimates of 1,092 for the Violet-necked Lory (*Eos squamata*) and much smaller numbers for Eclectus Parrots. Their estimates resulted from interviewing trappers and other local people.

During these conversations they found that 54 of 2,004 households kept parrots and that 32 per cent had caught parrots for themselves. Their reasons for keeping them were for entertainment or as toys for the children.

BirdLife International had used the figure of 5,000 trapped annually to apply across all islands. Clearly this figure was too low. If the Yellow-backed race was considered to be a distinct species, it would probably warrant Endangered status. Even if this were not the case, the facts that it has gone from many lowland forest areas and that large-scale logging in parts of its range is another threat, would probably justify this status anyway.

Threatened status

The Chattering Lory was first listed as Vulnerable in 1994 due to the excessive numbers trapped. Frank Lambert, working in BirdLife International's Indonesia and Asia Programme, wrote in 1998, "Chattering Lory remains a highly favoured bird in the domestic market and there is good reason to be very concerned about its conservation status" (Lambert, 1998).

In his 1993 paper on status and trade in *Cacatua alba* (Umbrella Cockatoo), *Lorius garrulus* and *Eos squamata* (Violet-necked Lory), the following estimated minimum totals of parrots caught in 1991, compared with reported exports, were as follows for the Chattering Lory:

Number caught:
9,600-9,927

Number dying before shipment to distant markets:
1,440-1,985

Number in domestic trade:
1,061-1,573

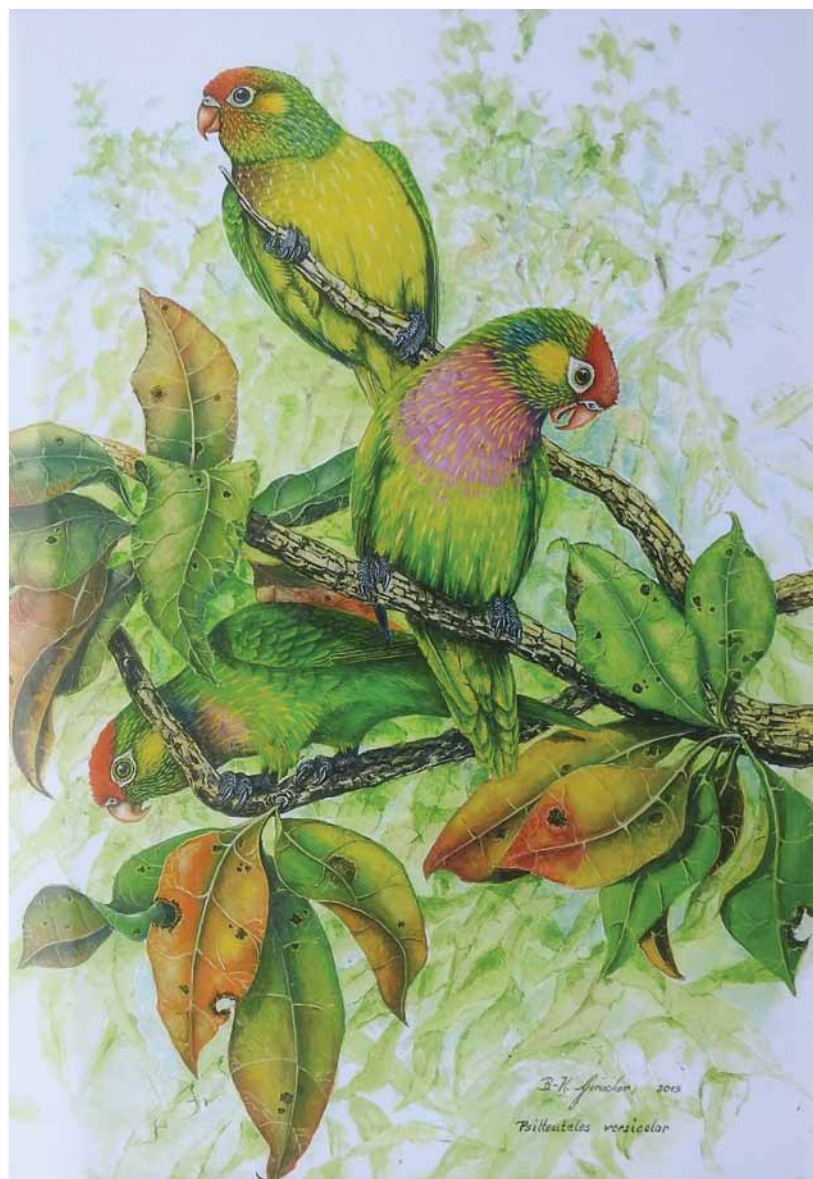
Total exported:
6,042-7,426

Exported according to CITES net export data for 1991:
6,295

Legal trade ceased in 2003, but there was a ready market for them in many other countries, especially in the east, so the illegal trade continued.

Heartbreaking

It is not only the trade figures that I find deeply disturbing. Anyone who knows this beautiful bird, recognises it as a highly intelligent, sensitive and sociable species. So many of those trapped die soon after from neglect and many of those that survive are destined to spend a lonely life – probably short due to incorrect diet. Many of these playful birds, who desperately need the company of their own kind, will spend their lives with a ring around the leg, chained to a perch. It is a heartbreaking vision.



One of the framed limited edition prints by Bernd Gerischer that Rosemary Low has donated – Varied Lorikeets

Even in more enlightened countries where aviculture is a serious pastime, the Yellow-backed Lory has declined almost to the point of rarity. Despite the thousands imported into Europe before 1987, there are now few breeders.

John Mittermeier and Eden Cottee-Jones published an article in which they recommended urgent fieldwork to estimate the population on Obi. This has not happened. They wrote that given the small number of trappers on Obi, "A series of stakeholder meetings at the key trappers' villages may be sufficient to launch a no-take zone system."

Solution needed

I would suggest that a conservation education programme, targeting the villagers who catch lories for their own use, would also be very valuable, hopefully reducing the numbers caught by individuals who were not selling them. Investigation is also needed into the current situation on Bacan.

The World Parrot Trust's Lory Conservation Network has a valued worker in the region who has for several years been working on the Mitchell's Lorikeet. He will be visiting Obi in June, hopefully to make contact with the trappers there and to investigate how the problem of over-trapping of the lories could be addressed.

In order to raise funds for this project I have suggested that visitors to the Think Parrots 2017 show could bring framed paintings or prints of parrots which will be displayed on the World Parrot Trust stand. All proceeds from the sales will go to this lory project.

I have a number of limited edition prints, coincidentally of lories, which I will be donating to this cause. Most of us have parrot pictures hanging on our walls. Some have been there so long that we cease to notice them! So how about using them to raise funds for this incredibly beautiful lory that could be lost forever unless urgent action is taken? ■

References

- Cottee-Jones, H.E.W., J.C.Mittermeier, E.C.Purba, N. M. Ashuri and E. Hesdianti, 2014. An assessment of the parrot trade on Obi Island (North Moluccas) reveals heavy exploitation of the Vulnerable Chattering Lory *Lorius garrulus*, *Kukila* 18 (1):1-9.
- Lambert, F., 1998. Conservation Priorities for Parrots in Indonesia, *Proceedings, IV International Parrot Convention*, 142-171, Loro Parque, Tenerife.
- Severin, T., 1997. *The Spice Islands Voyage*, Little, Brown and Company, London.

North American Subscriptions:

MANAGED FROM OUR WEST COAST OFFICE

Special Subscription Price

Save on News-stand Price • Priority Postal Delivery

Subscribe for only

\$47.95

12 ISSUES WAS \$64 – **SAVE \$16!**

OR \$25.95 – 6 ISSUES

Parrots magazine, PO Box 386, Goleta, CA, 93116-0386

Toll Free: 1-800-294-7951 Fax: (978) 246 0209

CALL TOLL-FREE

1-800-294-7951

or SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT

www.parrotmag.com

BOOKS BY Rosemary Low

Offer! Parrot Quiz Book FREE with every order.

Understanding Parrots: Cues from Nature

Special to PARROTS readers:

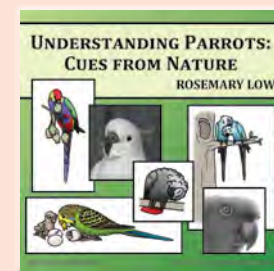
£21.95

£12.95

+ £2.95 UK postage

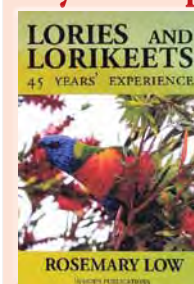
"A 'must-read' for all those who love parrots"

- Alan Jones.



LORIES AND LORIKEETS: 45 years' experience

NEW



50 colour photos, 112 pages

£11.95

+ £2.95

UK postage,

£6.25 Europe

Pyrrhura Parakeets (Conures)

70 colour photos, 20 maps, 262 pages

£21.95

+ £3.65

UK postage,

£8.85 Europe



Why does my Parrot...?

£9.99

+ £2.50

UK postage,

£5.95 Europe

Visit www.rosemarylow.co.uk for details of all books available.

Payment by cheque or PayPal.

Rosemary Low, Dept 12,

P.O. Box 100, Mansfield, NG20 9NZ.

rosemaryhlow@gmail.com

Tel 01623 846430

Apples for parrots

In this first of three articles on fruit, **John McMichael** explains about cyanogenic plants and in particular, apples and fruits we feed our parrots

All plants produce natural toxic chemicals to ward off predation. They have to wage chemical warfare, because they cannot move away from their predators. To ward off bacterial and fungal attacks, they synthesise small molecular compounds called phytoalexins. Those synthesised to ward off insects and other animals, including us, are usually called phytotoxins, and there is considerable overlap between the two. These compounds are usually alkaloids, terpenoids, phenolics, oxalates, and cyanogenic glycosides.

If you consumed any one of these compounds in too large an amount, your health could be compromised. Even so, in any meal, we ingest dozens of different naturally toxic compounds synthesised by plants⁽¹⁾, and we almost never suffer any consequence. This is because they are usually harmless in the small amounts found in most of our cultivated plants.

Cyanogenic glycosides

This is the first of a series in which I review one set of these toxins, the naturally occurring cyanogenic glycosides in the foods that we feed our parrots. These compounds are synthesised in metabolons, a set of membrane associated proteins⁽¹⁰⁾, and then sequestered in vacuoles of the plant cell. They only release them when the plant is damaged. These glycosides are not intrinsically toxic, but when released from the vacuole and exposed to the plant's enzymes or conditions such as increased acidity, they release cyanide. For some plants, the amount released can be of sufficient quantity to cause pathologic damage or even worse, death in extreme cases.

The dose of sodium cyanide (NaCN) salt that would kill half of the adult people (LD50) taking it is estimated to be 2.9 mg/Kg or about 200 mg for an average sized person. The LD50 dose for chickens is 21 mg, while the LD50 dose for the black vulture is 4.8 mg. In general, flesh eating birds are more sensitive than those that feed primarily on plants⁽²²⁾. There is no data for a harmful dose for any parrot, but it is likely closer to that of the chicken than the vulture.

Cyanogenic plants are wide spread in nature. In the tropical rainforest of North Queensland, Australia, four to five per cent of plants are cyanogenic⁽¹⁴⁾. In a forestry reserve in Brazil, they found eleven per cent of the plants to be cyanogenic⁽⁴⁾. In northeastern North America, more than 200 species are known to

be cyanogenic⁽¹⁶⁾. Thus, wild parrots and other birds are regularly exposed to cyanogenic plants. Yet, we do not know if they ever suffer from eating them.

They either develop a tolerance to cyanogenic foods or learn to avoid them. There is very little published on avoidance, although Simão noted that the parrots he studied did not forage on some species within their range, even though they were fruiting in great abundance⁽¹⁸⁾. This, however, may be due to preference rather than avoidance. I suspect the most likely explanation is that parrots have developed some degree of tolerance to cyanide.

Even though many of the plants we regularly eat ourselves and feed our parrots contain cyanogenic compounds, there is no need to panic. The chances of you or your parrot dying from eating most of the cyanogenic plants in our normal diet are extremely rare.

There are several reasons why not to worry:

- Not every part of a plant contains cyanogenic compounds.
- The cyanogenic compounds usually do not release cyanide all at once.
- The concentration of cyanide released is usually low.
- Exposure time is usually short.
- Other foods eaten at the same time react with and dilute the cyanide.
- The human body and probably most birds have an enzyme called rhodanese that detoxifies small amounts of the compounds.

In the case of the wild parrots that visit colpas (the clay licks), there is even less reason to worry. Consuming clay, such as that found at the colpas, may further reduce the rate of cyanide release from cyanogenic glycosides⁽⁹⁾. On the other hand, certain bacteria found in our gut can promote the release of cyanide from cyanogenic glycosides⁽¹⁵⁾.



Conuropsis carolinensis (Linnaeus, 1758) – the extinct Carolina parakeet (mounted for public display, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, USA – Wikipedia)

Fruits

While a large number of plant species synthesise cyanogenic compounds, I will only focus here on one subfamily of plants – the one we feed our parrots most often. This is the Amygdaloideae subfamily of the Rosaceae family. While not all taxonomists are in agreement, most indicate this subfamily includes the *Malus* (apples), *Prunus* (stone fruits), *Amelanchier* (service berries), *Pyrus* (pears), *Cydonia* (quinces), *Chaenomeles* (Japanese quince), *Crataegus* (hawthorns), *Cotoneaster*, *Sorbus* (rowan berries), *Eriobotrya* (loquats), and *Mespilus* (medlars) genera. The rose flower itself, for which the family is named, belongs to a different subfamily, the Rosoidea.

The Rosoidea subfamily does not appear to synthesise cyanogenic glycosides. Thus, members of this subfamily, including the *Rosa* (rose), the *Fragaria* (strawberries) and the *Rubus* (raspberries and blackberries) genera do not pose any cyanogenic risk. The plants I discuss in this series, however, definitely do produce the cyanogenic glycosides amygdalin or prunicin in many of their tissues.

Apples

In this first part of the series, I begin with the *Malus* genus, that is apples and crab apples. Almost every aviculturist feeds their parrots



apples. Parrots like apples even though the original native range of the apple does not occur within the range of almost any wild parrot. Thus, one of the few early reports of a wild parrot eating an apple is for the extinct Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*). That reference, an official United States Government publication from 1857, listed it as an agricultural pest. It states they would destroy whole apples just to get to the seeds⁽⁸⁾.

I include chopped apples, pips and all, in the daily mix of fruits I provide my Caiques (*Pionites* spp). Some of my Caiques are now well over 30 years old, so they obviously have not succumbed to cyanide poisoning. In ripe apples, the cyanogenic compounds are sequestered in the seeds and not the sweet pulp surrounding them. Like Rosemary Low⁽¹²⁾, I have noticed that apple seeds are one

of my Caiques' favourite foods. I almost never see any apple seeds left in their bowls at the end of the day. George Smith⁽¹⁹⁾ even went so far as to feed his parrots large quantities of apple seeds that he obtained from a factory and, again, he never noticed any ill effects.

Neither are the seeds very poisonous for people. Indeed, there are many reports of people eating whole apples, seeds and all, with no ill effect. Apple juice is made by pressing whole apples, but an adult man would have to drink some 40 litres at once to see any toxicity⁽²⁾. Yet, when people do consume a large number of the seeds, they can get very sick although this does not usually kill them, and this can also happen with livestock as well⁽⁷⁾. There is a only one report of a man dying from eating apple seeds, but he ate a whole cupful⁽¹¹⁾, and even that report is questioned⁽⁵⁾.

Unripe apples

The only time when apples should be considered to have any toxicity is when they are unripe. That toxicity is not due to any cyanogenic compound, but a high concentration of tannin. One of my brothers, like many other unsuspecting toddlers, once ate an unripe apple, and he suffered a terrible stomach ache. It is the astringency of the tannins that causes the gastric distress⁽²¹⁾. Oddly, some parrots actually prefer unripe apples and suffer no consequence from eating them. Rosemary Low wrote about a pair of Cockatoos that did not like ripe apples, but relished the green ones that fell from a tree above their cage⁽¹³⁾.

As to crabapples, people most frequently grow



I include chopped apples, pips and all, in the daily mix of fruits I provide my Caiques

the European crabapple species (*M.sylvestris*), but there are dozens of species. Most crabapples are very tart, so people usually cook and sweeten them to make them palatable⁽⁶⁾. Although I have found no reports of people feeding them to captive parrots, the naturalised Quaker Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*) eats crabapples in Chicago and New York City⁽²⁰⁾. There is also a report of two Yellow-headed Amazons (*Amazona ochrocephala*) surviving the winter in the New York City area largely by eating crabapples⁽³⁾. Grazing animals such as goats, however, do develop cyanide poisoning from eating crabapple fruit and leaves⁽¹⁷⁾. ■

In the next part of this series, I will take up another genus in the Amygdaloideae subfamily – the *Prunus* genus. You probably know them better as the stone fruits. This genus contains almonds, peaches, apricots, plums and cherries.

Watch those toys!

By Robin Baker

I remember when there were very few toys that could be bought for parrots, and in those early days, we used to make do with anything that was considered suitable.

Today, there are hundreds of toys available that will keep your parrot occupied, but beware, there are some that can be lethal. There have been cases when items, which can be broken away from some toys, have caused serious problems. There have also been cases when beaks and feet have been trapped in rings and fittings on toys or items broken from toys.

There are many different types of toys readily available. Some are made out of wood and others from soft materials that parrots will love to take apart, while others made from acrylic will be very difficult to destroy, but will keep your parrots occupied for hours.

Foraging toys that contain treats have become very popular, and will make a bird work hard for a reward, as it would do in the wild. Some are made from wood, while others are made from hardwearing materials like acrylic. If you choose toys made from coloured wood or soft materials, make sure they include safe food colours.

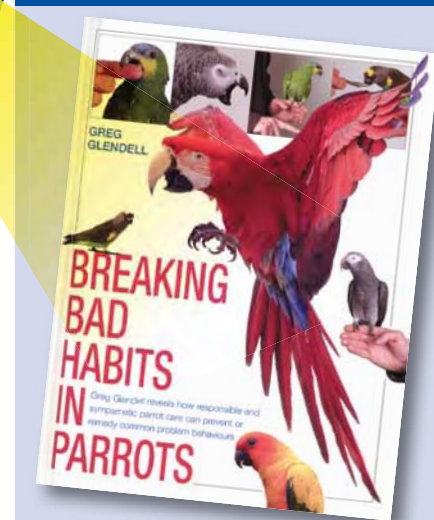
It is not difficult to make your own toys out of some off-cuts of softwood that can be found if you visit your local timber merchant or DIY shop. But make sure it has not been treated with preservative. Pine is ideal, as parrots love to turn it into matchsticks. If you are handy or a DIYer, cut up some softwood or hardwood offcuts, drill a hole and hang up on some sisal rope or chain. I tend to use wire as there is then no danger of getting caught up in chain links.

However, and depending how inquisitive your birds are, exercise extreme caution with any toys and only let your birds play with them unattended if you are totally happy that they won't come to harm. Feet and beaks can very easily get caught up where there could be a possibility of entrapment.

We all think toys are great, and they are, but just beware. ■



SPOTLIGHT ON BOOKS



Breaking Bad Habits in Parrots

This hard back contains 128 pages of straight to the point essential-to-know information, including the many issues of problem behaviours, such as screaming, self-plucking, biting and destructive habits.

The author, Greg Glendell, is a parrot behaviourist and explains how to break down bad habits of these highly intelligent birds in easy to understand language. For those owners who are experiencing problems, this edition could prove to be extremely helpful.

ISBN 978-1554072972
www.parrotmag.com/books

Aviarylife

www.aviarylfe.com.au

AVAILABLE IN
INTERACTIVE
PDF EMAG
APP
PRINT

SUBSCRIBE NOW
eMAG ONLY
\$34.00 AUD
4 issues a year

PUBLISHED FOR BIRD LOVERS BY BIRD LOVERS

1. Beier, R. C. 1990. Natural Pesticides and bioactive compounds in foods. Reviews of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology **113**:47-137.
2. Bolarinwa, I. F., C. Orfila, and M. R. Morgan. 2015. Determination of amygdalin in apple seeds, fresh apples and processed apple juice. Food Chemistry **170**:437-442.
3. Bull, J. 1973. Exotic birds in the New York City area. Wilson Bulletin **85**:501-505.
4. Francisco, I. A., and M. H. P. Pinotti. 2000. Cyanogenic glycosides in plants. Brazilian Archives of Biology and Technology **43**:487-492.
5. Frohne, D., and H. J. Pfander. 2004. Poisonous Plants. A Handbook for Doctors, Pharmacists, Toxicologists and Veterinarians, 2 ed. Timber Press Inc., Portland, OR.
6. Gibbons, E. 1962. Stalking the Wild Asparagus. David McKay Company, New York.
7. Holmes, E. 1928. Stock poisoning plants. Hydrocyanic poisoning. North American Veterinarian **9**:24-27.
8. Holmes, E. 1857. Birds injurious of agriculture. Agriculture, Washington, DC.
9. Johansen, J. D., L. H. Rasmussen, C. E. Olsen, and H. C. B. Hansen. 2007. Rate of hydrolysis and degradation of the cyanogenic glycoside, dhurrin, in soil. Chemosphere **67**:259-266.
10. Laursen, T., J. Borch, C. Knudsen, K. Baviishi, F. Torta, H. J. Martens, D. Silvestro, N. S. Hatzakis, M. R. Wenk, T. R. Dafforn, C. E. Olsen, M. S. Motawia, B. Hamberger, B. L. Moller, and J. E. Bassard. 2016. Characterization of a dynamic metabolon producing the defense compound dhurrin in sorghum. Science **354**:890-893.
11. Lewis, W. H., and M. P. F. Elvin-Lewis. 2003. Medical botany - plants affecting man's health. John Wiley and Sons, New York.
12. Low, R. 2003. Caiques. DONA Publishing, Czech Republic.
13. Low, R. 1988. Parrots. Their care and breeding, 3rd ed. Blandford Press, London.
14. Miller, R. E., R. Jensen, and I. E. Woodrow. 2006. Frequency of cyanogenesis in tropical rainforests of far North Queensland, Australia. Annals of Botany **97**:1017-1044.
15. Newton, G. W., E. S. Schmidt, and J. P. Lewis. 1981. Amygdalin toxicity studies in rats predict chronic cyanide poisoning in humans. Western Journal of Medicine **134**:97-103.
16. Seigler, D. S. 1976. Plants of the Northeastern United States that produce cyanogenic compounds. Economic Botany **30**:395-407.
17. Shaw, J. M. 1986. Suspected cyanide poisoning in two goats caused by ingestion of crab apple leaves and fruit. Veterinary Record **119**:242-243.
18. Simao, I., F. A. Maes dos Santos, and M. A. Pizo. 1997. Vertical stratification and diet of psittacids in a tropical lowland forest of Brazil. Ararajuba **5**:169-174.
19. Smith, G. A. 1997. Myths: part 1. Soya, rearing foods, and milk. Magazine of the Parrot Society **31**:145-148.
20. South, J. M., and S. Pruett-Jones. 2000. Patterns of flock size, diet, and vigilance of naturalized monk parakeets in Hyde Park, Chicago. The Condor **102**.
21. Wagstaff, D. J. 2008. International Poisonous Plants Checklist. An Evidence-Based Reference. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL.
22. Wiemeyer, S. N., E. F. Hill, J. W. Carpenter, and A. J. Krynskiy. 1986. Acute oral toxicity of sodium cyanide in birds. Journal of Wildlife Diseases **22**:538-546.

Why do parrots pluck?

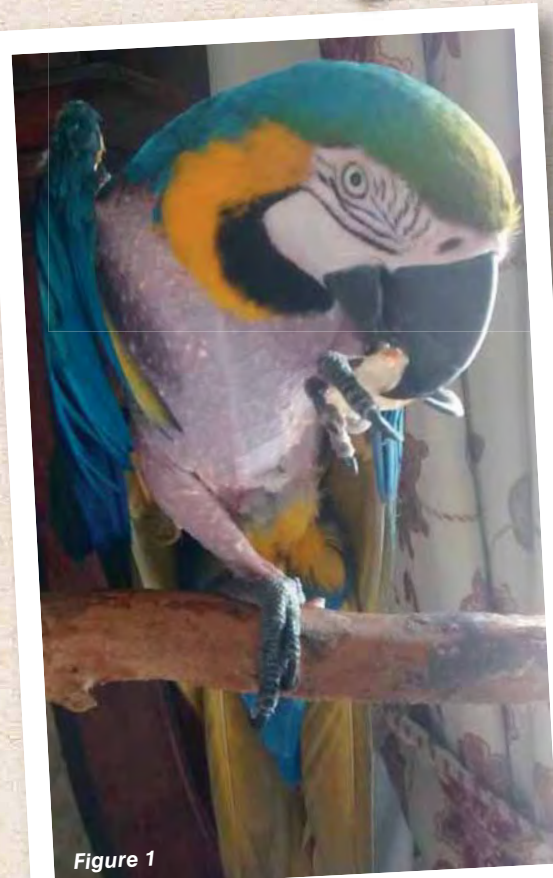


Figure 1

by
Dr Fiona Froehlich
Mag med vet GP(CertExAP)
Resident ECZM(avian)
MRCVS

Unfortunately feather plucking (or feather destructive behaviour) is still a common presentation in avian practice (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2). Some owners may have accepted this behaviour and fail to recognise their responsibility in addressing the condition.

Parrots pluck for many different reasons ranging from medical diseases to stress and frustration. In most cases there is not one, but multiple factors present that lead to the development of this dreadful condition. A bird may start plucking due to an irritant or disease, but develops an abnormal repetitive behaviour and continues to

feather pluck after the initial cause is long gone.

Medical causes

Any disease causing pain, discomfort or itchiness may result in feather plucking, which is why it is vital to investigate and treat any such condition first of all. A parrot may pluck the skin around the crop in cases of a crop infection, around a painful joint or an infected preen gland (Fig. 3). Other medical causes for feather plucking include skin and gastrointestinal parasites, allergies, heavy metal intoxication, liver, kidney and metabolic disease as well as bacterial, fungal or viral infections. A thorough clinical exam as well as blood tests and radiographs

will help to diagnose any underlying disease (Fig. 4).

It is essential to rule out medical causes for feather plucking, as there may be a treatable condition unnoticed at the root of the problem.

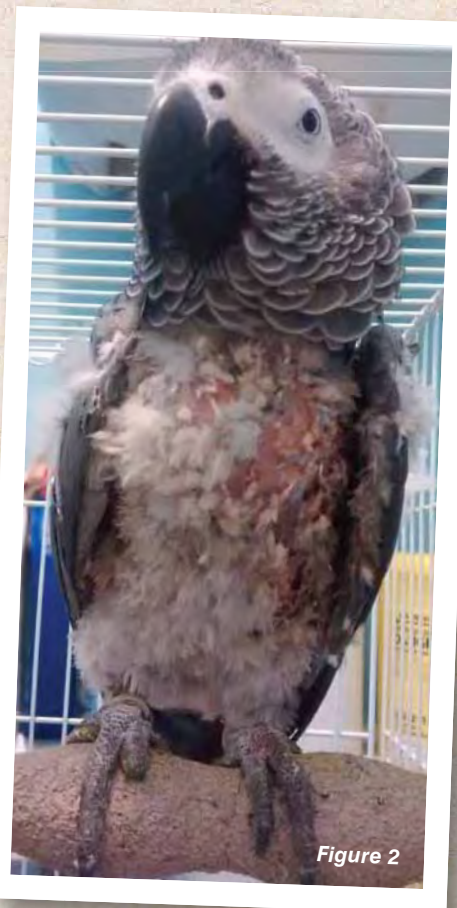


Figure 2



Figure 4

Environmental causes

Irritants in the environment such as tobacco smoke, perfumes and room sprays may cause itching and can lead to feather plucking. Low air humidity levels indoors, a lack of bathing opportunities and a vitamin A deficient diet will cause poor feather quality and moulting problems. Any bird will naturally remove frail, worn and broken feathers, but in combination with other triggers (see below) the vicious circle of feather destructive behaviour may develop.

Sharp feather edges from an incorrectly performed wing clip can cause discomfort on the side of the body and is just one of the many reasons wing clipping is not recommended (Fig. 5).

Psychological causes

Feather destructive behaviour is a known coping mechanism for birds dealing with stressful situations such as a sudden change in the environment, bereavement in the family, abuse, etc. In these difficult situations birds pluck to release tension by redirecting their motivation and angst to some comforting grooming behaviour in order to settle down. The preening action then becomes a 'displacement activity' and develops into an unnatural behaviour.

A lack of sufficient stimulation and social isolation can lead to boredom and self-mutilation. Psittacines are incredibly intelligent and social animals, and the care we give them needs to reflect this. Bearing in mind wild parrots live in large groups and will spend at least 50 per cent of their daily routine foraging, they naturally have far too much 'time on their hands' in captivity when fed only from a bowl.

The importance of foraging cannot be underestimated. It has been shown that parrots will forage and 'work for their food' rather than eat food that is freely available to them (Fig. 6 and 7). An increase of foraging opportunities has been directly linked to an improvement of feather plucking behaviour in several studies.

Parrots should never be kept on their own, but integrated into a caring (human) family or share their home with other birds.



Figure 5

The problem with hand-rearing

Another strain for birds includes a constant lack of sleep. Parrots require a 12 hour resting time during the night and, similar to humans, birds will understandably get irritable and frustrated, if not provided with enough sleep.

Even though it is a widely used practice, hand-rearing can lead to serious life long behavioural and medical problems.

Early upbringing is known to influence behavioural development and the occurrence of abnormal behaviour such as stereotypic feather plucking.

With the aim to produce tame birds for the pet trade, chicks are deliberately imprinted on humans. This means the bird does not learn normal behaviour from the parents and does not recognise the difference between humans and birds. The parrot will identify the human as a parent and later on, will expect to find a human as a mate for reproduction. What follows is jealousy (towards a spouse of the beloved human), separation anxiety, frustration and aggression. Female birds in particular are at risk of developing life threatening egg peritonitis, arteriosclerosis and heart disease when going through repeated unfulfilled reproductive cycles. A very bonded bird might also pluck feathers in a desperate attempt to draw attention from his human partner.



Figures 6 & 7: foraging toy photographs courtesy of Northern Parrots

Finding solutions

So how can we help birds in this complicated and intricate conundrum?

• by diagnosing and treating underlying medical disease

As well as treating any primary illness, we may need to address secondary skin wounds and place a neck collar to prevent further self trauma (Fig. 8). The use of foul smelling or bitter tasting sprays on to the feathers is never recommended.

Behavioural modifying medications (such as tranquillisers and anxiety releasing drugs) should never be used as a sole treatment for feather plucking, but some veterinary surgeons may choose to use them short term as part of a well balanced and regulated treatment plan.

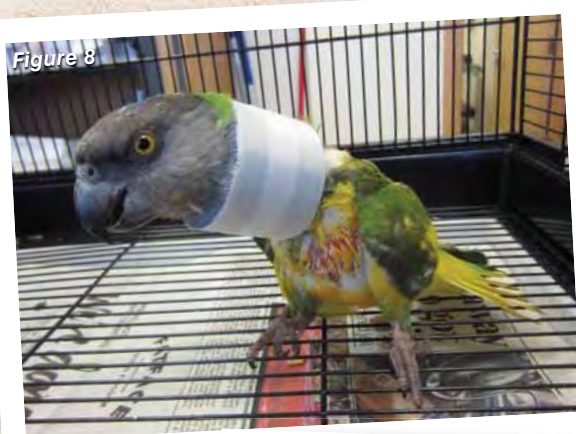


Figure 8

• by addressing husbandry related issues

Foraging, interaction with other birds and physical exercise (i.e. time outside the cage) need to be part of the daily routine of any pet parrot.

The introduction of an outdoor aviary can be extremely beneficial in chronic cases of feather destructive behaviour.

Sexual frustration can be addressed by a variety of training methods to ensure the bird will recognise the owner as part of the flock rather than a selected mate. There are also hormonal implants available, which lead to a reduction in testosterone/oestrogen to help during this training period and social transition.

Separation anxiety needs to be treated with patience and care, improving the bird's confidence and enriching their environment.



Figure 9

• by keeping birds in pairs or groups in a stimulated environment

Hand-reared and imprinted birds often have difficulties recognising an avian counterpart, but even a parrot that has never been in contact with other birds and appears aggressive or disinterested, can become part of a stable pair with time and the right management. While the human family will represent the flock, adding another bird to the flock will give the pet bird the opportunity to express natural avian behaviour. A new bird should be of the same species, the opposite sex, approximately the same age and undergo a vet check before introduction.

Any solution effort needs to be based on the individual animal. Some animals may only find resolution when being placed in a big group of birds; others may need a single partner bird to interact with.

Apart from foraging opportunities, environmental enrichment such as climbing, chewing and puzzle toys as well as feeding different fruits (like pomegranate, corn on the cob or pineapple, which the bird has to dismantle) is essential.

Training sessions and interactions with owners provide good stimulation and give the bird a possibility to learn new commands as well as establish their position within the flock (Fig. 9).

• by promoting responsible breeding practice

Parent-reared birds should additionally be socialised to humans at an early age, allowing the birds to go through a normal development, but still learning not to fear the

contact with humans. This method can be more work intensive and breeders have to face many management challenges, which will be worthwhile when rewarded with healthy companion birds.

It may be a long journey until the reasons for feather plucking are identified and treated, but if veterinary surgeons and owners persevere and work together, a lot can be done to help these animals. ■

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank our qualified exotic veterinary nurse and experienced parrot owner, Stacey Vickery, for providing some of the pictures in this article.

References:

- Luescher, A. (2006) Manual of parrot behaviour. Blackwell Publishing.
- Lumeji, J., Hommers, C. (2008) Foraging 'enrichment' as treatment for pterotillomania, Applied Animal Behaviour Science; 11(1-2): 85-94.
- Meehan, C., Garner, J., Mench, J. (2004) Environmental enrichment and development

of cage stereotypy in Orange-winged Amazon parrots (Amazona amazonica). Development Psychology; 44(4): 209-218.

- Meehan, C., Mench, J. (2002) Environmental enrichment affects the fear and exploratory responses to novelty of young Amazon parrots. Applied Animal Behaviour Science; 79(1): 75-88.
- Renton, K. (2001) Lilac-crowned parrot diet and food resource availability: Resource tracking by a parrot seed predator. The Condor. The Cooper Ornithological Society; 103:62-69.
- Van Zeeland, Y. (2016) Feather damaging behavior in psittacine birds. In: Avian

Medicine Eds Samour J. 3rd edition. Elsevier. St. Louis, Missouri.

- Van Zeeland, Y., Schoemaker, N., Ravebsteijn, M., Mol, M., Lumeij, J. (2013) Efficacy of foraging enrichment to increase foraging time in Grey parrots (Psittacus erithacus erithacus). Applied Animal Behaviour Science; 149(1-4): 87-102.

Fiona Froehlich MRCVS is one of Neil Forbes FRCVS Team at Great Western Exotics-Vets Now, Swindon

www.gwexotics.com
www.facebook.com/GWEvets

Food, Toys,
Cages & More

Fast FREE
Delivery

On orders over £39 or from £3.99

90 Day Guarantee
Free Returns

Rated 9.8/10
For Service

Score based on independent reviews

Best Price
Promise



Complete and balanced daily diets from Kaytee offer exact nutrition for all types of bird from baby bird through to adult, Budgies to Macaws.

Kaytee exact® has been providing owners and their pet Parrots with nutritious foods that are 100% edible for over 25 years.

Exact combines the highest quality ingredients, with the necessary nutrients and the experience of nutritional experts to produce an enticing extruded complete food.



Rainbow Chunky

Rainbow Cockatiel

Rainbow Parrots
& Conures

An instant high
nutrition formula



Hand Feeding
Formula - Parrot

Hand Feeding
Formula - Macaw

★★★★★
"I feed all my birds, large and small with Kaytee Exact, an excellent seed mixture, wet food and fruit and vegetables. Even my macaw likes it very much, and he is a picky eater! My parrots are strong... healthy...with very good feathers and beaks...no scaling or cracks on their beaks...but shiny and smooth....I am very happy with Kaytee."
Dragon Nicola

★★★★★
This is the best hand rearing food on the market, the birds grow well, they feather faster, they get the best start in life with all the correct nutrition, good when birds are poorly as its easy to digest, a small container in the first aid is a must. I have used this food for more than 25 years, tried others in the past, but you cant beat this best all round handrearing formula, highly highly recommended.
8yorkies

★★★★★
"My baby grey was weaned onto Kaytee from the baby hand feed mixture - it's a fab product and contains all vital vitamins/minerals etc, although I give various fruits to make her diet more interesting. She really enjoys her Kaytee food and the different colours and sizes of the pellets are enjoyed by my Grey - she especially likes the yellow rings. Also, Northern Parrots offer an excellent delivery service so you will never run out!"
Feathers

your parrot queries answered

Our panel of experts is available to answer all your queries on companion or breeding parrots. Please send your queries to: 'Queries', Parrots Magazine, The Old Cart House, Applesham Farm, Coombes, West Sussex BN15 0RP, UK or email: editorial@imaxweb.co.uk

Parrots' screams

Q I own a Moluccan Cockatoo. His scream is incredibly loud. Neighbours say they can hear him down the street with my windows closed. Has there ever been a study comparing the decibel levels of the screams of different species of parrots? Has there ever been a study comparing parrots' screams with the screams of other birds?

Dr Allen M Drescher, NY, USA

A Parrots are considered to be the loudest birds in the world. While other birds can be noisy, the top noisiest birds are in the parrot family. It seems as if the endangered Kakapo parrot is considered to be one of the loudest birds in the world. Although their booming mating calls reach 132 decibels, the sound can travel 5 miles.

As far as companion parrots are concerned, the Moluccan Cockatoo holds the record as the loudest bird on earth at 135db. It is no wonder that your neighbours can hear your Cockatoo's calls down the street. I remember driving down a street looking for a house for a consultation with a Moluccan Cockatoo. I actually didn't need the



Sally Blanchard over 40 years dealing with bird-related behavioural issues. International speaker.

address since I could hear the bird several blocks away. Hopefully your neighbours are nice people with a little hearing loss.

Cockatoos are considered to be the loudest parrots with the Macaws generally holding second place, with calls up to 105 decibels or higher. Hyacinth Macaw alarm calls are the loudest of Macaw noises. Amazons, Conures and Quakers are right up there as far as being loud. An abrupt call or scream out of nowhere from any parrot can make you jump out of your skin, but many people find high-pitched and repetitive calls more irritating. Most parrots are noisiest in the morning and in the late afternoon when they make contact calls to their flocks to get going. They can also scream while they are flying to keep in touch with the flock. Understanding why parrots scream can help people work with their noise level and make them more acceptable for our ears. **SB**



Vermin in Aviary

Q I have a 6ft x 12ft aviary which has a natural ground floor (mainly soil and chippings). I had occasion to go out recently when it was dark as I heard some unusual sounds and was alarmed to see what I thought was a stoat.

It appeared to take great interest in my aviary, although no harm or damage was done. My Amazons retreated into their quarters through a pop hatch and did not appear to be any the worse for wear. This animal was light brown and a bit larger than a squirrel. Will it be a stoat and, if so, do I need to take any action in case it decides to return?.

David Stanbury, by email

A You are very fortunate that you were aware that such a predator was taking an interest in your aviary. Stoats or weasels are skilled killers of any easy pickings and they don't give up very easily.

Make sure there is no way into your aviary otherwise he will certainly find a way in, knowing there is a possible meal nearby.

Your Amazons were well aware of its presence, hence the unusual sound that made you investigate. Your Amazons would not stand any hope of surviving any attack by these animals, so make sure there are no weak points anywhere in your aviary.

You say you have a soil floor. This is good and natural but these animals tunnel underground. I don't know if you have any concrete or similar under the soil, if not, I would certainly consider doing something permanent like this for the safety of your birds. **BM**



Bob Mann over 35 years' experience breeding Cockatoos, Amazons and Macaws.

Depressed parrot?

Q I think my parrot might be depressed due to the cold Canadian winters. He rarely makes any noise when I arrive home anymore, and he rarely eats all his food. He also seems agitated whenever I hold him. Do you have any information on depressed parrots?

Matt, by email

A My first thought is that your parrot should be seen by an avian veterinarian if possible. Often such profound behavioural changes may have physical reasons.

That said, there are several changes you can make that would help your parrot in the winter. People also become depressed during this time of the year and one thing that helps both people and parrots is full-spectrum lighting. This is different lighting to the plant lights you can find in many hardware stores, so make sure that you get full-spectrum that is helpful to birds.

You may need to order them from a parrot friendly catalogue. Keep the lights on most of the day and for a couple of hours after the sun goes down. It helps to have the lights on a timer.

Most parrots evolved in tropical regions where there are not drastic changes in the amount of light. Even if they have been raised in the northern climates, there is still part of them that doesn't seem to adjust that well to such a drastic decrease in light. Keep your parrot out of drafts and try to keep the temperature within a 10 degree range. Parrots can be comfortable in a wide range of temperature as long as there are no sudden and extreme changes. Try to keep the range in temperature from about 65 to 75 degrees. I think parrots in our homes are most comfortable in this range, but below 60 or above 85 can become uncomfortable, unless they are gradually introduced to it.

Lack of humidity is also a problem with the drying heat in our homes. Keeping a humidifier near your parrot's cage will also help him. If he isn't eating his food, it might help to offer him more of a variety of healthy foods, and sit down and eat with him when you feed him.

Hopefully his spirit will gradually improve as winter changes to spring and it becomes warmer with more light during the day. **SB**



Sally Blanchard over 40 years dealing with bird-related behavioural issues. International speaker.

The Most Unlikely Globetrotters



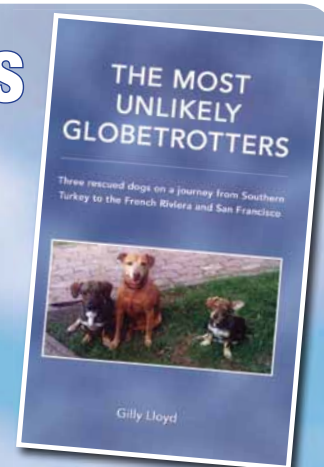
This is an amazing story, when former *Parrots* magazine editor, Gilly Lloyd, made the traumatic journey with three dogs from Turkey to San Francisco.

ISBN-13: 978-1500289683

Available on both www.amazon.co.uk and www.amazon.com

Price: Paperback £15.50 (new) or Kindle £7.24

Price: Paperback \$25.27 (new) or Kindle \$8.89



THE PARROT SOCIETY UK

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARROTS OR PARROT-LIKE BIRDS - THIS IS THE SOCIETY

- HELP LINE:** Our experienced staff are available between 9am and 3pm each week day to answer questions regarding parrots or parakeets. **This is a completely free service.**
- PUBLICATIONS:** Our newly designed 48 page colour magazine is sent monthly to every member. It's packed with features on Parrots and Parakeets. **You can advertise your birds and equipment or place wanted or exchange adverts free of charge.** We also offer **free publications packed with advice** on Amazons, African Greys, Colour Mutations and Parakeet breeding for beginners.
- SHOWS:** Up to date information regarding our three annual shows. Buy or sell birds. Meet other members, breeders and pet owners.
- DISCOUNTS:** Parrot Society membership offers **discounts** to many zoo days and seminars.
- CONSERVATION:** The Parrot Society makes donations each year totalling thousands of pounds to conservation projects across the globe to ensure the wellbeing of our beloved birds.



www.theparrotsocietyuk.org

92A HIGH STREET, BERKHAMSTED, HERTS HP4 2BL Telephone: 01442 872245 (9am to 3pm)



ALL MEMBERS ENTER OUR SHOWS EARLY with one purchase of any Parrot Society magazine



Letters...

Please send your letters and photos to: 'Letters', Parrots Magazine, The Old Cart House, Applesham Farm, Coombes, West Sussex BN15 0RP, UK.
Or email: editorial@imaxweb.co.uk or through Facebook

Dear Parrots magazine

Avian intelligence

I've really enjoyed Eb Cravens' insight into avian intelligence. I can't get enough of this fascinating subject. All the little snippets of information I can get helps me understand my own feathered friend.

I have always felt that I needed to be one step ahead of my Grey-Headed Cape Parrot because of her thinking skills. She does say a few words, of her choice of course. The most interesting being her use of, "Are you ready?" I started using it in relationship to the bedtime routine. "Tell me when you're ready" or "Are you ready" used to get a response from her.

She has now invented different meanings for this question. "Are you ready?" (with little wing flap) means are you ready to let me out. "Are you ready?" (with a little beak grind) means I'm ready for bed, and "Are you ready?" (when she's out, with her head down) she's ready to fly over to me. I think that is very clever and inventive.

Well, can you imagine how surprised I was when one day she flew over to me while I was lying on the settee, finding it hard to keep my eyes open, as I was so tired. She placed herself in front of me and said, "Are you ready?" with a little beak grind. It wasn't anywhere near her bedtime, so effectively, she was asking me if I was ready for bed!

Yes, I agree, the Grey-Headed Cape is very intelligent – very much a thinking and creative bird. She figures out how to attach a foot toy on to another hanging toy, so that they don't fall to the bottom for her to retrieve. If they fall I hear her say, "Oh dear". She remembers where I keep my little stash of toys to entice her back home, as food doesn't work these days. She sneaks over to pinch one. When I'm cleaning her papers, she flies over to 'help' or 'hinder', but more often she will quickly retrieve a bead or a precious treasure that she believes might get thrown away.

I did wonder why she suddenly started lunging at me when I'm getting out my button jar or filling up her food dish. It's clear now, from what I understand from what Eb says, that she is trying to reorganise the pecking order and just being a bird. She's not what I would call an aggressive type but can be very feisty as well as very loving. I do get to enjoy a bit of allopreening, but I don't get a new hair style as she much prefers to relieve me of any skin blemishes. If she can't find one, she practises picking up a tiny bit of skin to pinch me.

She did have her eye on a suture after an operation I had once, I could see her thinking of removing it.

She is a confident bird and will take on new opportunities, others might be surprised to hear that we enjoyed watching the fireworks together on 5th Nov. Yes, sometimes an unexpected bang would make us both jump, but she never flew off in fear but preferred to stay on my shoulder to peer at the pretty colours in the sky.

I agree with Eb that the Cape is not a good choice for a beginner. However, being new to parrot parenting myself, I feel that I have to be one step ahead because my little companion is so full of curiosity. Maybe, it has helped coming from a background of working with children with special needs, where you have to constantly tune into non-verbal communication in order to understand them.

Jane Clark, by email

Dear Parrots magazine

Behavioural problems

Tariq Abou-Zahr contributed a very important article in the March issue of Parrots magazine which needs to be read and re-read by all parrot keepers, and potential keepers. Everything he wrote made sense yet unfortunately many people who have parrots in their care disregard some of the vital information he offers. Readers of the magazine are the more enlightened ones so perhaps breeders who sell their young and, indeed, anyone who knows someone who has recently acquired a parrot, should make copies of this article for the less well informed.

I would like to reinforce his comments regarding keeping parrots alone. The companionship of another parrot is so important and would suggest that anyone acquiring a young one for a companion should buy two at the same time. Acquiring another at a later date is likely to create more problems than it solves.

Tariq was one hundred per cent right when he wrote: "... keeping parrots with others may mean that they are less tame and less attached ... but it is far more fulfilling and natural to a parrot." We tend only to think what we want from an avian companion when the bird should always come first. To me, to see two parrots playing together and preening each other is more rewarding than one which does not even recognise its own species and just craves human companionship. It is so true that this is the root of most behavioural problems.

Breeders are not blameless. They hand-rear parrots without giving them the opportunity to socialise with their own species. As for the hand-rearing of white cockatoos, I am always saddened by people contacting me to try to find a home for a hand-reared cockatoo, which at only three years or less has already proved too demanding. I now tell them, "Take it back to the breeder". Only in this way will breeders realise how much damage they are doing in hand-rearing cockatoos.

Too many hand-reared parrots are condemned to a life of feather plucking and other serious behavioural issues because they have never had the chance to know how to be a bird. Through no fault of their own, they are psychologically damaged.


Rosemary Low, by email

Please visit www.rosemarylow.co.uk and click on 'Articles' for more information on hand-reared white cockatoos – Ed.

Whilst Parrots magazine will always allow contributors the opportunity to voice their opinions on any subject – no matter how contentious they may be – we wish to point out that these views do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor.

ERIC PEAKE

WHERE QUALITY IS IN THE DETAIL



'CARIBBEAN SPLENDOR' St Vincent Amazons
Artist Signed & Numbered 24" x 17" Limited Edition Print
£40 inc. p/p Cheques payable to: ERIC PEAKE
47 Bryn Mor Drive, Flint, Flintshire, CH6 5RZ, UK
Tel/Fax: 01352 733692 Email: eric.peake@btinternet.com
www.ericpeake.co.uk



FOR ALL

PARROTS

Great & Small

www.parrotsociety.org.au

- PSOA News – Members' Magazine
- PSOA Fledglings – Children's Magazine
- International 'Parrots' Conventions
- State Bird Fair & Expo
- Parrot Supplies Australia
- Parrot Trust of Australia

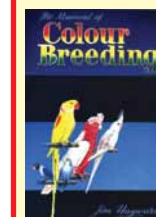


PARROT SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA INC.

AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER AVICULTURAL SOCIETY

Publications from J. & P. HAYWARD
(Cheques/drafts in BRITISH POUNDS STERLING ONLY payable to: J. & P. Hayward)
Carterton Breeding Aviaries, Brize Norton Road, Carterton, Oxon, ENGLAND, OX18 3HW
Tel: 01993 841736

THE MANUAL OF COLOUR BREEDING



ISBN 0-9519098-0-0

Ideal for beginners and experienced breeders. Learn how colour works in feathers, about mutated colour, relevant genetic theory and the Patterns of Inheritance.

There are over 360 Primary, Combination and Compound colour varieties represented in species of: Australian Grass Parakeets, African Lovebirds, Asiatic Parakeets, New Zealand Kakariks, Rosellas and other Australian Broad-tailed and Long-tailed Parakeets, South American Parakeets, as well as Cockatiels, Roseate Cockatoos, and more besides.

The Universal Naming System, and a Glossary of Common Names are included, as is a method for Returning from Colour Varieties to the original Wild Colour.

Season by season instructions cover over 200 Combination and Compound Varieties within the UNIVERSAL BREEDING PROGRAMMES.

Breeders can discover the Type of Inheritance of New Varieties and the Source of Established Colour Varieties, as well as: how to Establish a New Colour Variety, the pros and cons of In-breeding & Line-breeding and how to use the UNIVERSAL BREEDING PROGRAMMES with other psittacine species. In short, all you need to know about Colour Varieties of psittacine birds.

Over 24 Inheritance Codes to more than 60 formats give access to the UNIVERSAL BREEDING PROGRAMMES and allow modification for colour varieties of ALL AVIAN SPECIES including: Budgerigars, Canaries, Zebra Finches, Bengalese, Gouldians, Parrot Finches, all other Grass Finches, Diamond Doves, Pigeons, Quail, Waterfowl, British Finches and Softbills, Game Birds, Bantams and larger Poultry.

This is not just a book, it is truly a WORKSHOP of TOOLS for the modern breeder. Use it to make the best of your next breeding season.

PRICE REDUCTION!! on remaining copies, now only £20 each plus p&p UK £5, p&p world £10

Please note, the following supplements and titles are now out of print and unavailable:

INDIAN RINGNECK PARAKEET, LINEOLATED PARAKEET, COCKATIEL, BREEDING THE AMBOINA KING (CD) and GENETICS WIZARD

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE WHILE STOCKS LAST



BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE WHILE STOCKS LAST



BACK ISSUE PRICES

Price from UK: (each back issue) UK £3.95 Europe £4.95 RoW £5.95 USA & Canada US\$9.00
 All prices include p&p/shipping. Please note that issues 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38, 41, 43, 46, 47, 50, 54, 72, 73, 75, 76 and 78 are sold out. Issues 72, 73, 75, 76 and 78 are now available as downloadable eMags from the Parrots website shop at www.parrotmag.com/shop-subscribe/category/17-digital-editions-of-parrots-magazine. To order, please turn to the order form on page 47.

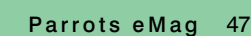
10 minutes from M25
 Mainline rail services

THINK 2017 PARROTS SHOW 11th JUNE

Full catering facilities
 Free hard standing car park

Kempton Park Racecourse, Middlesex

www.thinkparrots.co.uk



AVIAN VETS

WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN PARROTS

The following listing is updated regularly. However, circumstances may change and it is advisable to keep a check on the availability of your nearest avian vet. For information on free veterinary listings contact 01273 464777, or email: info@imaxweb.co.uk

Key to services & facilities offered:

D DNA sexing
E Endoscopy
F Faecal sampling
H Hospital facilities
I Imping
IA Isoflurane anaesthesia
L In-house laboratory facilities
M Microsurgery
MC Micro-chipping
N Nebulisation
R Radiography
S Surgical sexing
U Ultrasound facilities
V Vitamin & Mineral supplements

Further information, including veterinary surgeons' names and fax numbers where known, may be found on the Parrots website

UK: ENGLAND

BEDFORD

Scott Veterinary Clinic
405 Goldington Road, Bedford MK41 0DS
Tel: 01234 261622
D, E, F, H, IA, L, MC, N, R, S, U, V

BERKSHIRE

Falkland Veterinary Clinic
214 Newtown Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 2JW. Tel: 01635 46565
D, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

Kynoch Vets Wokingham
Barkham Grove Veterinary Centre,
156 Barkham Road, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 2RP.
Email: wokingham@kynochvets.co.uk
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

BRISTOL

Langford House Veterinary Centre
Langford House, Langford, North Somerset BS40 5DU.
Tel: 01934 652422.
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Wendover Heights Veterinary Centre
1 Tring Road, Halton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5PN.
Tel: 01296 623439.
Email: exotics@whvc.co.uk
Website: www.whvc.co.uk/page5.html
D, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cambridge Veterinary Group
89a Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge CB1 7BS
Tel: 01223 249331.
www.cambridgevetgroup.co.uk
D, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

CHESHIRE

Avian Veterinary Services
16 Dalby Court, Gadbrook Business Centre, Northwich CW9 7TN
Tel: 01606 350410 (24 hour emergency)
Email: info@avianveterinaryservices.co.uk
web: avianveterinaryservices.co.uk
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, V

Birch Heath Veterinary Clinic

Birch Heath Road, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 9UU. Tel: 01829 733777
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V Diets.

Cranmore Veterinary Centre

140 Chester Road, Childer Thornton CH66 1QN. Tel: 0151 339 9141
D, E, F, H, IA, L, MC, R, S, V
Also at Church Farm Veterinary Clinic, Neston Road, Willaston L64 2TL. Tel: 0151 327 1885.

CUMBRIA

Millicroft Veterinary Group:
Wakefield Road, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0HR.
Email: vets@millicroftvets.co.uk
Surgeries at: Cockermouth - Tel: 01900 826666, Maryport - Tel: 01900 816666. Workington - Tel: 01900 66666.
D, E, F, H, IA, L, MC, N, R, V

Paragon Veterinary Group

Carlisle House, Townhead Road, Dalston, Carlisle CA5 7JF. Tel: 01228 710208
Email: janet.revell@paragonvet.com
or email: info@imaxweb.co.uk

DEVON

Cranbrook Veterinary Centre
London Road, Rockbeare, Exeter EX5 2ED
Tel: 01404 823423
Email: polosloevets@hotmail.com
<http://polosloe-cranbrookvets.com>
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

Polsloe Veterinary Clinic

25 Park Road, Mount Pleasant, Exeter EX1 2HS. Tel: 01392 436006
Email: cranbrookvets1@btconnect.com
<http://polsloe-cranbrookvets.com>
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

EAST SUSSEX

The Chase Veterinary Group
189 De La Warr Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN40 2JY. Tel: 01424 224818
D, F, IA, L, R, S, U, V

ESSEX

Assisi Veterinary Group Ltd
The Tiptree Veterinary Centre, Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex CO5 0EJ. Tel: 01621 818282
www.merialvetsite.com/sites/tiptree/home.html
Also at The Willows Veterinary Centre, The Willows Shopping Centre, Mersea Road, Colchester, Essex. Tel: 01206 561407
D, E, F, H, IA, L, MC, N, R, U, V

M P C Lawton

8-12 Fitzilian Avenue, Harold Wood, Romford RM3 0QS.
Tel: 01708 384444
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

Coleine Valley Veterinary Practice Ltd

Maudlyn Road, Colchester, Essex CO1 2GU
Extensive avian diagnostic and surgical facilities, surgical sexing, nutritional, behavioural and husbandry advice.
Tel: 01206 794695
D, E, F, H, IA, L, MC, N, R, U, V

South Beech Veterinary Surgery
40 Southend Road, Wickford, Essex SS11 8DU
Tel: 01268 560660
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V (Vetark)

The Wylie Veterinary Centre

196 Hall Lane, Upminster RM14 1TD
William Lewis BVSc, MRCVS, Cert Zoo Med.
Tel: 01708 251200
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

GUERNSEY

The Vetcare Centres
Les Eturs Veterinary Clinic, Rue des Eturs, Castel GY5 7DT.
Tel: 01481 257708 or 01481 252943.
D, F, H, IA, L, MC, R, S, V

HAMPSHIRE

Anton Vets
Unit 11, Anton Mill Road, Andover, Hants SP10 2NJ.
Tel: 01264 729165
Email: exotics@antonvets.co.uk
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

Zoo & Aquatic Veterinary Group

Keanter, Stoke Charity Road, Kings Worthy, Winchester SO23 7LS. Tel: 01962 883895
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, V (Vetark range)

HERTFORDSHIRE

The Bishops Veterinary Surgery
10 Bishops Rise, Hatfield, Herts AL10 9HB
Tel: 01707 272772

KENT

Burnham House Veterinary Surgery
35 Castle Street, Dover, Kent, CT16 1PT
Tel: 01304 206989.

D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

Alan Jones Birdvet

Part-time avian veterinary clinics in Kent, South London and Surrey.
Tel: 01342 835000 or 07787 507427, or email: akjones@birdvet.co.uk

Montgomery Veterinary Clinic

Evergate Business Park, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SX.
Tel: 01303 813756
Email: info@montgomeryvets.co.uk
www.montgomeryvets.co.uk
D, F, H, IA, L, MC, N, R, V

Trinity Vet Centre

Hermitage Walk, Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NZ
Tel: 01622 726730, www.trinityvetcentre.co.uk
D, E, F, H, SEVOFLURANE anaesthesia, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

LANCASHIRE

Manchester Street Veterinary Surgery
Manchester Street, Oldham OL8 1UF
Tel: 0161 624 4596 (24 hrs)
D, E, F, H, IA, L, MC, N, R, U, V

Pennine Vets

1 Bury Road, Tottington, Bury, Lancashire BL8 3HD. Tel: 01204 886655.
www.penninevets.co.uk
D, F, H, IA, M, MC, R, V

The Veterinary Health Centre

4 Greenways, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, FY8 3LY.
Tel: 01253 729309
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

LEICESTERSHIRE

Chine House Veterinary Hospital
Sileby Hall, Cossington Road, Sileby, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 7RS
Tel: 01509 812445.

D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, U, V (Harrison's bird diets)

Meadow Lane Veterinary Centre

9 Meadow Lane, Loughborough LE11 1JU
Tel: 01509 212437
D, E, F, H, IA, L, MC, N, R, S, V (Harrison's bird diets)

LONDON

C J Hall Veterinary Surgeons

15 Templesheen Road, Sheen, London SW14 7PY. Tel: 0208 876 9696
www.c.j.hall.btinternet.co.uk
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

Midland Veterinary Surgery

655 High Road, Leyton E10 6RA
Tel: 0208 539 3538
www.midlandvetsurgery.co.uk
D, E, F, H, IA, L, MC, R, S, V

Alan Jones Birdvet

Part-time avian veterinary clinics in South London, Kent and Surrey.
Call 01342 835000 or 07787 507427, or email: akjones@birdvet.co.uk

GREATER MANCHESTER

Avian and Exotic Animal Clinic
221 Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester M16 0DE
Tel: 0161 881 6868. www.birdvet.net
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

MERSEYSIDE

Village Vets Centre
65 Quarry St, Woolton, Liverpool L25 6EZ
Tel: 0151 428 8600
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, V

NORFOLK

All Creatures Healthcare Ltd

Brackenwood, Sandy Lane, Horsford, Norwich NR10 3FB.
Tel: 01603 898984 or 07810 697614
e-mail: all-creatures@btconnect.com
www.allcreatureshealthcare.co.uk
D, F, H, SEVOFLURANE anaesthesia, L, M, MC, N, R (digital), U, V + specialist diets

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Woodford Halse Veterinary Surgery
16 Station Road, Woodford Halse, NN11 6RB
(8 veterinary surgeon practice, 2 branch surgeries)
Tel: 01295 262332. Fax: 01295 759190.
Email: clive@westbarvets.co.uk
D, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

Northlands Veterinary Hospital

2 Northampton Road, Kettering NN15 7JU
Tel: 01536 485543
D, E, F, H, IA, L, MC, R, S, U, V

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Arnold & Carlton Veterinary Centre
331 Westdale Lane, Mapperley, Nottingham NG3 6EW.
Tel: 01159 403400
arnoldcartonvets@yahoo.co.uk
D, F, H, IA, L, MC, R, U, V (Harrison's Bird Diets)

Byron Veterinary Clinic

497 Nuthall Road, Nottingham NG8 5DG
Tel: 0115 924 4117
D, F, H, IA, MC, R, V (Pretty Bird & Harrison's)
Branch surgery: 193 Derby Road, Long Eaton, Notts.
Tel: 0115 973 4659.

OXFORDSHIRE

Alternative Veterinary Medicine Centre
Chinham House, Stanford-in-the-Vale, Faringdon SN7 8NQ. Tel: 01367 710324

West Bar Veterinary Hospital

19 West Bar, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9SA
(8 veterinary surgeon practice, 2 branch surgeries)
Tel: 01295 262332.
Email: clive@westbarvets.co.uk
D, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

HerpVet Services (Bird & Exotic Animal Veterinary Services)

c/o Ifley Vets, 35 Ifley Road, Oxford OX4 1EA
Tel: 07754 125302. Email: beavs@herpvet.co.uk
www.herpvet.co.uk
D, F, H, IA, L, MC, R, U, V

SURREY

Greendale Veterinary Diagnostics Ltd
Lansbury Estate, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2EW.
Tel: 01483 797707

Email: lab@greendale.co.uk

D, F Post mortems, blood tests & bacteriology Diagnostic Laboratory Only

Alan Jones Birdvet

Part-time avian veterinary clinics in Surrey, Kent and South London.
Call 01342 835000 or 07787 507427, or email: akjones@birdvet.co.uk

WEST MIDLANDS

Amicus Veterinary Centre

90 Marshall Lake Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 4PN.
Tel: 0121 733 1439
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, V

Blacks Vets

109a Pedmore Road, Lye, Stourbridge DY9 8DG.
Tel: 01384 897632
www.manorvets.co.uk/exotic-pets
D, E, F, H, IA, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

Manor Vets

373 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B17 8DL. Tel: 0121 429 2829
www.manorvets.co.uk/exotic-pets
D, E, F, H, IA, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

Medivet Coventry

Upper York Street, Coventry CV1 3GP
Tel: 024 7622 5101
D, F, MC, R, V

WEST SUSSEX

Seers Croft Veterinary Surgery
Tower Road, Faygate, West Sussex, RH12 4SD
www.seerscroft.co.uk Tel: 01293 851122
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

WILTSHIRE

Endell Veterinary Group

49 Endless Street, Salisbury, Wilts. SP1 3UH
Tel: 01722 333291
D, F, IA, L, MC, R, U, V

Great Western Exotic Vets

Unit 10 Berkshire House, County Park Business Park, Shrivensham Road, Swindon SN1 2NR. Tel: 01793 603800
Email: swindonreferralexotics@vets-now.com
Website: www.gwexotics.com
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

WORCESTERSHIRE

Southcrest Veterinary Centre

97 Mount Pleasant, Redditch B97 4JD
Tel: 01527 550111
D, E, F, IA, L, MC, R, S, V (Vetark range)

YORKSHIRE

International Zoo Veterinary Group
Keighley Business Centre, South Street, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD21 1AG.
Tel: 01535 692000
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

Battle Flatts Veterinary Clinic

Buttercrambe Road, York YO41 1AN
Tel: 01759 371066
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V
Also at 38 The Village, Strensall, York YO3 5XR, and 88 Kilnwick Road, Pocklington, York YO42 2JZ.

UK: SCOTLAND

DUMFRIES

The Bard Veterinary Group
15 Catherine Street, Dumfries DG1 1JF
Tel: 01387 255295
Email: mail@thebardvetgroup.co.uk
H, IA, L, M, MC, R, U, V

EDINBURGH

Exotic Animal Department
Small Animal Hospital, The University of Edinburgh, Easter Bush Veterinary Centre, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9RG
Tel: 0131 650 7650

D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

FALKIRK

The Lawrie Veterinary Group

25 Griffiths Street FK1 5QY
Tel: 01236 727876

D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

Also at Kenilworth Court, Cumbernauld, North Lanarkshire G67 1BP.

UK: WALES

John R Baker BVSc, MRCVS

(Only offers a post-mortem & faecal analysis service.)
The Dormie, Berth-ddu, Rhosesmor, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6PS
Tel: 01352 780307.

E Barbour-Hill BVSc, MRCVS

Tan-y-Coed, High Street, Penlon, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 1PX.
Tel: Bangor (01248) 355674
D, F, IA, M, MC, R, V

Rhianfa Veterinary Centre

83 Rianfa Road, Rhyl LL18 3DR.
Tel: 01745 332553

Summerhill Veterinary Centre

43 Summerhill Avenue, Newport NP19 8FQ.
Tel: 01633 255394

UK: N. IRELAND

City Vets

206A Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GD.
Tel: 028 9038 1555
D, F, H, IA, L, MC, N, R, S, V

Jubilee Veterinary Centre (JVC)

3 Jubilee Road, Newtownards BT23 4YH
Tel: 02891 812226
D, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, R, S, V

AUSTRALIA

NARRABUNDAH

Bird and Exotic Pet Clinic
Inner South Veterinary Centre, 47 Jerrabomberra Ave, Narrabundah, ACT, 2604
Tel: 02 6295 0770.

D, E, F, H, IA, L, MC, R, U, V

NEW SOUTH WALES

Bird & Exotics Veterinarlan

Shop 3, 1 Hunter St., Waterloo, NSW, 2017
Tel: +61 29319 6111. www.birdvet.com.au
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, U, V

QUEENSLAND

Andergrove Veterinary Clinic

195a Bedford Road, Mackay, 4740, QLD
Tel: 07 49555181
D, E, F, H, IA, MC, R, S, U, V

Brisbane Bird Vet

248 Hamilton Road, Chermerside 4032
Tel: 07 3359 2233
Email: bbv248@optusnet.com.au
Website: www.brisbanebirdvet.com.au
D, E, F, H, IA, L, M, MC, N, R, S, V

BELGIUM

PARROTS CALENDAR

If you would like your show to be listed in our calendar section and on our website, please submit to editorial@imaxweb.co.uk or call +44(0)1273 464777



Think Parrots 2017

Kempton Park Racecourse
Sunday 11th June

July 2, 2017 (UK)

Parrot Society UK Summer Show

Staffordshire Showground, ST18 0BD
Admission £7 (£6 in advance)
www.theparrotsocietyuk.org/ps-uk-shows/psuk-show-information

August 2-5, 2017 (USA)

AFA Educational Conference and Expo

AFA 2017 starts on 2nd August with a zoo visit and the convention proper from 3rd to 5th August. The banquet will be held on the evening of 5th August. The event will take place in Tucson, Arizona
www.afabirds.org

August 3-6, 2017 (Australia)

AVES International Parrot Convention

Grafton, Australia
www.avesconvention.com
E: neville2@ipstarmail.com.au

October 7-8, 2017 (USA)

Seattle Parrot Expo

Auburn Community and Events Center, 910 9th St. SE. Auburn, WA 98002
The event is free admission, parking and stage presentations and talks. In 2017, some of our stage talks we already have booked are: FreeFlight Demonstrations by East Wings FreeFlight Club's president, Buddy Waskey from Virginia; Daniel Sigmon, philosopher, conductor and coordinator of the annual Parrot Festival from Texas; our local veterinary team at the Center for Bird and Exotic Animal Medicine; and parrot performances by Parrot Ambassadors where parrots show us how we can all adapt to our changing world.
www.seattleparrotexpo.com

October 8, 2017 (UK)

Parrot Society National Exhibition

Staffordshire Showground, ST18 0BD
Admission £9 (£8 in advance)
www.theparrotsocietyuk.org/ps-uk-shows/psuk-show-information

October 30 - November 17, 2017 (Argentina and Chile)

Wild Parrots Up Close

This will be a trip to truly remember for all the right reasons. Patagonian Conures by the thousand with Austral and Slender-billed Conures, are some of the special Parrots that cannot be seen in any other country but also some amazing scenery with glorious colours of the mountains in the Salta/Jujuy region, the coastal areas of the Valdes Peninsula and the lake crossings in Chile.
www.wildparrotsupclose.com
E: steve@wildparrotsupclose.com

November 10-20, 2017 (USA)

Parrot Lover's Cruise

Panama Canal with Costa Rica & Caribbean aboard the Caribbean Princess from Florida
<http://parrotloverscruise.com>



If you've got a parrot-related product or service, we've got great advertising rates!

Reach people who are passionate about their parrots.

parrots
magazine

Book your space now on

01273 464777

or email advertising@imaxweb.co.uk

PARROT HELPLINE

If you have a parrot problem – whether it be health, diet, or whatever – you can contact any of the advisors listed here. They will do their very best to point you in the right direction.

Bristol: Christine Goodall – 0117 950 8059
Bucks: Vicki Hammond – 01494 875641
Devon: Kathy Moore – 01398 331157
East Kent: Rowan Vanmiller – 01843 447020 or 01843 223737
Oxon: Nicole Place – 01608 811281
Surrey: Juliet Eberle – 01306 884569
Spain: Sylvia Rush – 00 34 654 433 190

Please understand the advisors on our Parrots Helpline are dedicated parrot people, and unpaid volunteers that give their time for free. It would therefore be appreciated if you would ensure your call is important and that you contact them at a reasonable time of day, unless an emergency.

ADVERTISER'S INDEX

For display advertising contact us on 01273 464777

advertising@imaxweb.co.uk

A Animal Genetics..... 9	Jim Hayward..... 43
Avian Biotech..... 6, 15	L Rosemary Low Books..... 31
Aviary Life magazine..... 35	M Most Unlikely Globetrotters. 40
B Best Bird Food Ever..... 2	N Northern Parrots.... 5, 39, BC
Birdcare Company 23	P The Parrot Society 41
E EMP Soft Eggfood..... 2	Parrot Society of Australia 43
Exotic Direct Insurance 15	Eric Peake Avian Art..... 43
G Garden Feathers 11	T Think Parrots Show 21
H Rolf C Hagen (UK) 25	V Vetark Professional..... 7
Harrison's Bird Foods 13	W World Parrot Trust..... 6

CLASSIFIEDS

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING Classified lineage rates*

Lineage ads will be charged at 50p per word
Classified boxed rates

One to five insertions: £6.00 per single column centimetre. Six to eleven insertions: £5.50 per single column centimetre. Twelve insertions: £5.00 per single column centimetre
All prices are subject to VAT

Advertise your birds and accessories for FREE!

All private ads are FREE and will also be included on the Parrots website

Send your ad by email, post or fax: Parrots magazine, The Old Cart House, Applesham Farm, Coombes, West Sussex, BN15 0RP
Tel: 01273 464777 • Email: advertising@imaxweb.co.uk
or post on www.parrotmag.com/freeads

Copy deadline for issue 233: 26th April 2017

Abbreviations

H/R Hand-reared
C/B Captive-Bred
P/P Proven-Pair
T/T Tame-talking
C/R Closed-rung
S/S Surgically sexed
C/T Cuddly-tame
H/T Hand-tame
U/R Unrelated

IMPORTANT: All advertisements are accepted in good faith. Parrots magazine cannot be held liable or become involved in any transactions between buyer and seller. Any enquirer should take all reasonable precautions before entering into any commitments. A 'Buyer's Checklist', which includes advice and tips when purchasing birds, is available on request or can be viewed on our website www.parrotmag.com Please send a stamped, addressed envelope for your free copy.

FOR SALE

Grey Headed Cape Parrot.

Proven male. Large steady bird. £595. Tel. 01923 678552 (Herts)

Brinsea Ova-Easy 190

Advanced EX Incubator suitable for Quail eggs, up to 57 Goose Eggs, used for two seasons in very good condition with manual. Cost £650, accept £299. Tel. 01837 83454 (Devon)

Orange Winged Amazon.

H/R 6 years old. C/R and hatch certificate, not DNA'd, seems to prefer women. Not a huge talker but says a couple of things, H/T with me but will take a while to get used to someone new. Fully feathered, eats Harrison's, fruit and veg and a bit of seed. With Montana Haiti cage and toys, insured so could be transferred but never been ill. Prefer someone used to Amazons as can be loud but

doesn't do it constantly, doesn't get on with our birds but maybe OK with his own type. £600. Tel. or text 07929 297517 after 4pm (Leicestershire)

Ringneck. DNA sexed, 2015, cock bird, blue. Also 2016 birds, two grey, one blue, unsexed. Ring 01733 562169 or 077677 96324 (Peterborough)

Outdoor flight Outdoor flight 6ft x 3ft x 5ft high. Aluminium framework with galvanised weldmesh. Moveable internal panel to form safety porch. Very good condition. £250 ono. Buyer to dismantle & collect. Also large parrot cage suitable African grey or larger parrot. Powder coated white finish. Includes fitted night cover in good condition (cost £250) Little used, all excellent condition as new. Buyer to dismantle and collect. £250 ono. Other parrot items for sale. Call 01903 752557 / 07517 780115 / 01273 464777 (Lancing, Sussex)

CLUBS & SOCIETIES



The Society for Conservation in Aviculture

Do you own or keep a bird?
Do you need advice concerning:

- Re-homing
- Health and husbandry
- Conservation issues
- The future – when we get old

WE CAN HELP
write to:

M Williamson, c/o MECNW
Monks Ferry, Wirral CH41 5LH

Caring Hands Preserving Wings
secretary@thesca.org.uk
www.thesca.org.uk

CLUB PARROT

South East Parrot Club

Covers the UK's south eastern counties, and possibly further afield.

Call Deron on 07583 356048
for Kent or Jayne Colgate on 07962 028826 for Essex.

East Midlands Parrot Club

Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month 7.30pm at Pride Park Veterinary Centre, Riverside Road, Derby, DE24 8HX
Get your Parrot to bring you along.

For further details
info@midlandparrots.com
Telephone 01159 725965

Leicestershire Parrot Club

We meet 7.30 pm on last Thursday of every month at Co-Op Sports & Social Club, Birstall Road, Birstall, Leicester, LE4 4DE

www.leicestershireparrotclub.co.uk,
call Rita on 01283 713623

HOLIDAY CARE

For total peace of mind, our Exotics Clinic offers boarding facilities for birds. Supervised by our vets and cared for by our experienced staff. C.J. Hall Veterinary Surgeons, London, SW14. Tel. 0208 876 9696.

Holiday home for birds. Lincs, Notts Yorks area. 24hr care. Call 07592 619150

Toos Nest Bird Boarding. Over 32 years bird keeping experience and ex avian vets assistant. At home majority of day. Cages available. www.toos-nest-bird-boarding.co.uk Tel. 07766 476054/01342 834591 (Surrey)

Parrots Magazine Binders

Buy three or more for £7.95 each (INC P&P)
SAVE £1 PER BINDER (UK only)

Keep your Parrots magazines safe and in good condition with these binders.

They hold 12 issues and the hard-wearing laminated gloss finish reduces handling wear and tear.

EUROPE

£12.50 INC SHIPPING
Buy three or more for £11.50 each inc shipping.
SAVE £1 PER BINDER!

REST OF WORLD

£15.00 INC SHIPPING
Buy three or more for £14.00 each inc shipping.
SAVE £1 PER BINDER!

USA AND CANADA

\$18.00 INC SHIPPING



£8.95
INC P&P
(UK ONLY)

Food, Toys,
Cages & More

Fast FREE
Delivery

On orders over £39 or from £3.99

90 Day Guarantee
Free Returns

Rated 9.8/10
For Service

Score based on independent reviews

Best Price
Promise

OUR *Passion* IS YOUR PARROT



★★★★★

I am so glad to have found Northern Parrots!!!

They have such a wide range of products and I know that if there was a product that was needed, they would do everything possible to supply it at a great price.

I trust this company wholeheartedly and would seriously recommend that other people buy from them too. Thank you Northern Parrots Team, keep up the great work.

Sarah Childs - January 2017

★★★★★

Always fantastic service, will buy from again and again :) Northern Parrots always have the items in stock that I need, when I need them, that means for some very happy lovebirds :) their customer support is brilliant too, always willing to answer questions on products with detailed and helpful answers

Stef Brook Harris - February 2017

★★★★★

I have used Northern Parrots for the last five years and would recommend them to anyone who loves their animals. Customer service is excellent and helpful, delivery is amazing and products always securely wrapped. Thankyou to all the staff.

Wendy Rotheram - January 2017

Find thousands of products online at

www.northernparrots.com

info@northernparrots.com

| 0800 488 0345

 **NORTHERN
Parrots**
Everything for your Parrot

eMag

FULL SCREEN ON / OFF

FRONT PAGE

CONTENTS PAGE

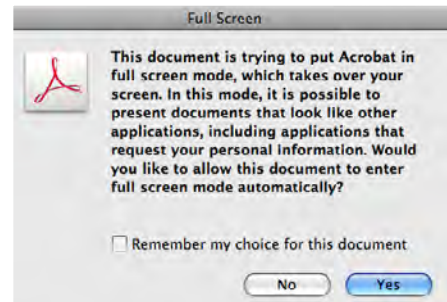
PREVIOUS PAGE

eMag Navigation Tips

If you are new to reading interactive PDF files, the following tips and short cuts may be useful:

Instructions below are for PC. If you are using a Mac, use the 'Command' or 'Apple' key (⌘) instead of the 'Control' key.

- (1) The first time you open this eMag, you will see a message similar to the illustration (right). This message will appear every time you open the file unless you tick the box to remember your choice.
- (2) When in full screen mode, you can enlarge the page by typing 'Control' (ctrl) plus 'Equals' (=). Each time you do this, the page will be enlarged.
To reduce the page size, type 'Control' plus 'Hyphen' (-). Each time you do this, the page will be reduced.
To quickly return to the original view, type 'Control' plus 'Zero' (0).
- (3) When the page is enlarged, click and hold down to drag the page around on your monitor. (This will not work if you are on an advert or a button that has been linked to a website.)
- (4) As an alternative, and when the page is enlarged (hiding the navigation buttons), you can move to the next page or previous page with the arrow keys on your keyboard: up and right arrows go forward one page; down and left arrows go back one page.
- (5) The 'Esc' or Escape key will exit full screen mode.
- (6) Turn full screen mode on or off with Control plus 'L'.
- (7) This eMag is intended to be read on a computer. However, if you would like to print a page, it will print best on an A3 printer, or at about 70% on an A4 printer. (This page will print at A4 size.)



Images on Macs and PCs may differ



Images on Macs and PCs may differ

Searching the magazine

There is a search function built into this pdf file.

- (1) If you are in full screen mode, first click on the green button to exit to standard pdf mode.
- (2) Type 'Control' plus 'f'. This will take you to a box at the top of the window where you can type the item you are searching for. If your query is found in more than one place two arrows will appear next to the search box so that you can view the results in turn.



BACK