



PYRRHURA BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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President's Message

It's hot summer in Texas—I'm wishing I could move farther north right now—though not in the winter time! I hope everyone is successfully selling Py offspring to new homes and aviaries.

Ongoing legislative issues—Animal-related and, in many cases, anti-breeding legislation are ongoing issues—in the U.S. and elsewhere. Inroads have been made by AR-backed legislation in Los Angeles, CA, and Albuquerque, NM, with CA AB2862 threatening animal breeders in California [*see AFA position statement on page 3*]. Aviculturists are joining with other animal interest groups to fight back against the elimination of companion animals by first attacking animal breeding.

Focus on Pyrrhura conures—Our focus in the PBA is to educate and promote best avicultural practices for our Pyrrhura conures, so that others will have the opportunity to acquaint themselves with these unique creatures. And, as one of our members says in their sig line, "Birds are supposed to be fun!" (*Thanks, Don!*)

In Part II on breeding Pyrrhura conures, Mary Arunski has shared her odyssey with her painted pair. I could identify with this, as it's pretty much how I started many years ago—but since I have a house with LOTS of room, I have been able to indulge my obsession with birds!

John Del Rio has provided text and pictures, describing his outdoor aviaries, how and why he did them that way. I got some excellent ideas and tips for my next outdoor aviary!

Chris Fairchild has given us the first article with an inside look at showing birds. Elke and Deryl Davis have shown birds successfully. *Anyone else?*

PBA member services—This organization can provide information, and you can just absorb it—but you can also be dynamic in helping PBA be a great resource and networking organization for Pyrrhura breeding aficionados—*it's your choice!* Let's hear from members about constructive ways to improve and expand member services—and volunteers to make it happen.

—Marcy Covault

PBA Officers

The PBA Officers are here to serve the needs of the organization. If you have questions, concerns, ideas, or suggestions, please bring them to the list or to us for discussion. We value

every member's expertise and input, and we want to encourage teamwork and networking to further educating about and promoting the feathered jewels that are the Pyrrhura conures.

President	Marcy Covault	President@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com
Vice President	Joi West	Vicepresident@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com
Treasurer	June Diciocco	Treasurer@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com
Secretary	Kelli Eager	Secretary@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com
Webmaster/Editor	OPEN	[Marcy Covault, interim]

Treasurer's Report

We have consolidated our bank accounts, and the current balance (as of June 27, 2006) is \$3,508.01.

Membership Report

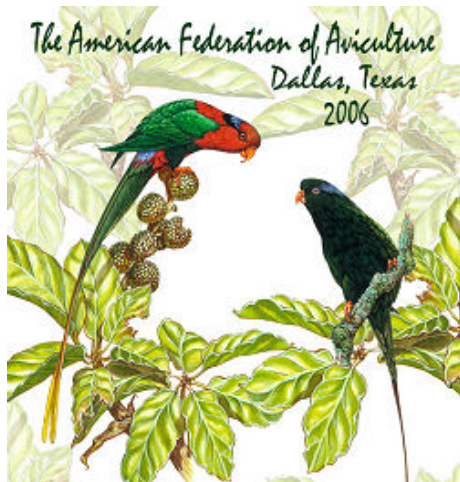
Kelli Eager

We are currently 40 members strong, and we encourage each member to send along an application for membership with each bird sale.

We welcome member input and comments, as well as volunteer efforts to help accomplish PBA's mission.

We are working to make the PBA an organization that offers value to its members, in the form of education, networking support for breeding issues(including legislative alerts that affect aviculturists), and Consortium oversight.

AFA Convention in Dallas, TX, August 2-5, 2006



"The Beauty of Birds"

For more Convention information, please contact the AFA:

Convention Central
P.O. Box 159
Rossville, TN 38066

E-mail: ConventionCentral@idealbirds.com
Phone: (901) 853-6079 • Fax: (901) 853-8452

Also, check out: http://www.afabirds.org/2006_Convention/index.shtml

California AB 2862 – AFA Position Statement

AFA OPPOSES AB2682 as it is unnecessary, overbroad and over-burdensome. It will also fall short of its intended goal of improving the care of birds in pet shops.

AFA FINDS that California has sufficient animal welfare statutes already on the books that can and should be enforced.

AFA FINDS the definition of "pet store" is so overbroad that it could be construed to include hobby breeders, pet owners, non-profit bird clubs and children involved in animal husbandry projects including 4H or scouts.

AFA FINDS the imposition of liability on events such as bird shows and marts for minor unintentional violations by a single vendor, to be extreme and severe and may lead to the disbanding of bird clubs and other educational organizations.

AFA RECOGNIZES breeders of birds are now covered under the Federal Animal Welfare Act and will be regulated by U.S. Department of

Agriculture; therefore, regulation by individual states is unnecessary and burdensome.

AFA FINDS AB2862 imposes unreasonable and unnecessary husbandry standards for birds and is more regulatory than legislative in nature.

AFA FINDS AB2862 contains vague, nonspecific language that may result in misunderstanding and misinterpretation by both pet shop operators and animal control officers.

AFA OPPOSES the penalties for violations under AB2862, which are drastic and severe. This will do nothing for animal welfare but does have the potential of criminalizing thousands of law-abiding citizens that may misunderstand or misinterpret the law.

AFA OPPOSES the public posting of animal purchase sources that would be considered proprietary information. It reveals confidential information about breeders that could be used by activists, thieves or members of the public to trespass on private property.

California Aviary Design

John Del Rio

I currently keep and attempt to breed 23 species of Conure, and I have set them up as illustrated in this article. I've modified as necessary to adapt to my constantly growing wisdom about birds and their needs, as well as my increasing avicultural interests.

For my newest suspended aviaries for my Pyrrhura, the dimensions are 2' W x 4' L x 3' H, and they are suspended 4' off the ground. They hang from heavy duty metal hooks along the back wall.

Each flight is equipped with a corrugated metal roofing piece that is 4' L and the width of the flight. It is hung out over the front of the flight about 1' to help in keeping the nestbox (which were not yet installed in the first photo) and food bowls dry. This also allows for a 1' area of

direct sunlight and rain exposure in the rear of the flight.

All doors are made of 1" galvanized metal tubing. I prefer the security of a heavy duty door. The flights have sheet metal dividers between each cage for privacy.

These flights are made of 12.5 gauge GAW welded wire. Obviously this heavy duty wire is overkill for most Conure species but I prefer to build my flights out of extra heavy duty materials and have them last many years than

use cheaper/lighter gauge materials and have to repair and replace in a few years.

The flights in picture 1 are made of 1" x 2" 12.5 g GAW. Pys can stick their heads through, but do not get stuck or get out. Beware if that is a concern for someone! It is actually very funny to look down a long row of cages and see all these little Py heads sticking out and looking down at me waiting for their food. Hilarious!!

Pictures 2 and 3 show my older Conure flights. I keep mostly Suns, Gold Caps, Blue Crowned, Cherry Heads, etc in these slightly larger flights. They are 3' W x 4' L x 3' H and are suspended 4' off the ground as well. These particular flights were made of 12.5 gauge 1/2" x 3" GAW. The nestboxes are flush-mounted within the flight for box security/stability and appearance.

Notice that these flights do not have the roof overhang. This was a mistake, and I will be retrofitting them with an overhang in the near future. Also, you can see that all the flight complexes have secondary wire enclosures to prevent escapes and keep predators out. This is essential for responsible aviculture.

These flight complexes have the shade cloth overhead to help in the summer heat, and dirt floors that can be easily raked and picked clean by pheasants and chickens. Each day in the summer heat, we have automatic water sprinklers that give the birds a rain shower, which helps keep everyone in tip top shape.

My next project is to install an automatic watering system for all the flights.



1 – New Conure Flights



2 – Older Conure Flights



3 – Older Conure Flights



How Easy or Difficult is Breeding Pyrrhura Conures? Part 2

Continuing in this series is an article from a successful small breeder of painted (p. picta) conures, and I think it is a heartwarming narration that demonstrates why we keep these wonderful birds. There is a PDF pictorial of Treasure and Barry's first clutch on my web site [[http://www.birdcompanions.com/MaryArunski – Painted Babies.pdf](http://www.birdcompanions.com/MaryArunski-PaintedBabies.pdf)]. An updated = pictorial with comments is forthcoming! Those of us who have painted pairs are being VERY patient and trying to learn from each other as to what works and what doesn't! —Marcy

My Treasure

By Mary Arunski

She reminds me of emeralds, rubies, and diamonds, and that is how she got her name. She is my female painted (*picta picta*) conure. She is now 4 years old, and I am still in awe of her.

I knew the first time I saw a painted conure that I wanted to raise them. For me, that means getting a single pair and keeping them as pets in my apartment in hope that they will be both breeders and pets.

My wish was beginning when I bought my little Treasure bird and finished the hand feeding process. She went from a fuzzy grey thing to the glorious and charming companion she is.

For the next 2-½ years I looked for Treasure's mate. This proved to be far more difficult than I'd expected. There didn't seem to be any Painted Conures available anywhere on earth. I would have paid pretty much any price for the right one if only I could find it!

Berry came to live with us on Thanksgiving Day, 2004. I paid a lot for him, considering he was nearly 7 years old and not tame. I was praying that he and Treasure would bond.

Pretty much straight away the two birds fell in love. They started sleeping in the nestbox together as soon as I put it up for them. They had their first clutch of eggs by Spring 2005.

I never saw them actually mate... but I heard a lot of commotion going on in the wooden nestbox when they were in it and Treasure's

belly ballooned. It was a miracle in my eyes that they laid eggs, sat them without injury, and all 5 fertile eggs hatched!

The next miracle is that they were amazingly good parents to their bird babies.

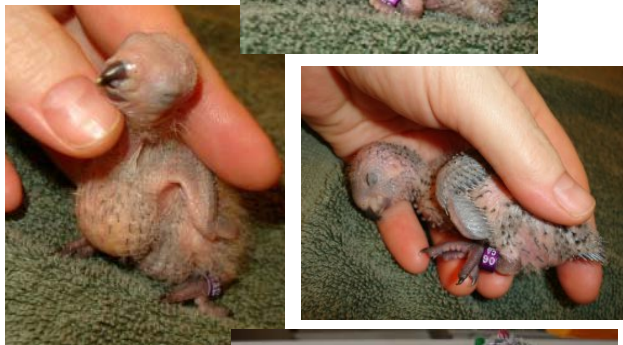
Despite my constant intrusion in their nestbox—and wanting to get my money's worth out of the new digital camera I purchased to document the whole event—these 5 amazing babies grew from pink larvae-looking creatures into fluffy brilliant living gems. They had personality off the charts. I wasn't really sure I wanted to sell them.



Treasure



Barry guarding the nestbox



Painted Babies



All 5 Painted babies found ideal homes in 2005. Treasure and Berry had earned their keep.

Now in 2006, I have my second clutch of painted conure babies. Same wonder, joy, and awe as before, only less stressful because I no longer felt the need to poke my nose in the nestbox every hour. I just assumed they would be fertile.

My connection with the Pyrrhura Breeders Association and the website devoted to Pyrrhuras on Yahoo has been my constant help. I needed the reassurance and expertise of these wonderful people who have many times more experience with breeding than I.

I feel sort of like a fraud. I am not a "Breeder".... I am a pet owner whose pets make babies now and then. Treasure and Berry are my only Pyrrhura conures. The only birds I had hatched and raised before them are budgies and Pacific Parrotlets

(also in my small apartment). The other birds are pets exclusively.

Marcy Covault and Eve Parris have both made me feel special because of my Painted Conures. They ooh and ahh over my photos and give me a lot of ego massage regarding my beginner's luck with the babies. I asked Eve what she thought I did that was worth hearing about.

Eve said this: *I think you should tell people that you have the birds in your living room and they still breed. In spite of you messing with them every day, they still breed! Even though you pull the babies for photos, the parents still feed... This co-parenting thing is very new to a lot of people whose breeding pairs are in a quiet, out-of-the-way spot to assure them privacy. Maybe that's what those pairs need, but the fact that yours ARE pets and they DO breed is what will interest people.*

Well, there it is. My breeders are pets. Treasure still likes to ride around on my shoulder while I do household chores. She gives big smoochie



From the "baby dinosaur" look



... to jewel-colored fully-feathered beauties

kisses and says "step-up" and "don't bite" and some other things. She is immensely curious about anything that goes on in the bird room (spare bedroom that the birds occupy).

Berry still doesn't like to be cuddled, but he wants a bite of whatever I am holding up for Treasure to eat. He clings to the cage bars to watch any action happening around them. This usually means a bit of vacuuming and a lot of paper changing and the bedtime ritual where I say every bird's name while covering the cages with old sheets for the night.

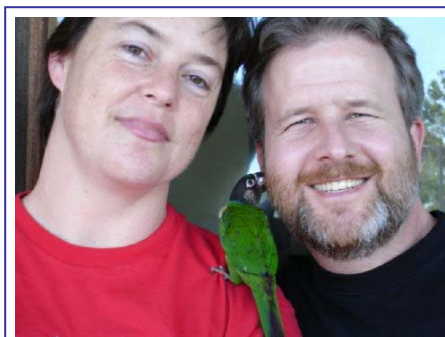
I give my Meyers parrot a few extra minutes where I count to ten and click or kiss the numbers while he counts along. He was, after all, my first bird and has had to endure my filling the place with all of these other birds.

More than anything, I want my birds to have happy lives. I share my space with them and I do not like to be bitten...so this means that all of my birds need to behave as members of the family. I didn't realize this was radically different than what many other bird breeders do by keeping pets as pets and breeders separate.

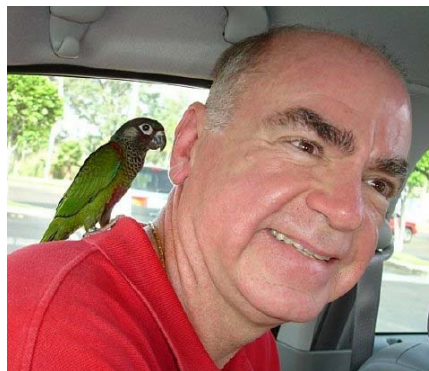
When Treasure came to live with me, I wanted her to have many babies, but if she was not to



Babies don't know that beaks and eyelids don't go together.



Eve and Charlie with their new baby Painted Conure, "Mira."



Ellis Keene was radiant with joy when he met "Gracie."

be successful as a breeder, then I would need to be content with having her as a happy and healthy pet.

How do I keep my pets? They do EAT well! They eat better than I do!!! I cannot remember the last time I had an apple all to myself. Usually the birds get the good slices and I nibble around the core. Same with frozen peas and corn...there may be some left for me after the birds eat.

My birds watch TV when I watch TV. They listen to my phone calls and visit with my guests. The babies and I use the same spoons to eat (I spoon-feed rather than syringe feed). Sometimes a bird or two will shower with me.

I send photos to friends and family of my birds as though I were sending photos of my own children. They have gotten used to me being a "bird-nerd."

I envy the breeders who have yards and flight cages and brooders. I read the Yahoo chat daily and find myself enthralled with the mass of breeding knowledge the group has.

Maybe one day I will become a bird breeder too.

Almost Losing Treasure

By Mary Arunski

I nearly lost Treasure a month before she laid eggs.

I had Treasure out to trim her toenails. Usually I am very cautious about keeping doors and

windows closed so birds don't get lost or injured. I guess I was off my game this day...

Treasure had trimmed wings, but more lift than I thought. She was out the door and in the air

before I could think. She didn't want to fly away, but she was carried on a breeze and didn't know how to get back.

I saw her land in the parking lot next door and give a cry for me to come and get her. She actually said, "Step up," which means "come and get me." My heart raced in fear because of the loose cats in the area, as well as many hawks.

She was lifted again on the wind, and I saw her fly high and out of sight. I ran to my neighbor Amy's house. "Treasure flew out the door and I don't know where she went!" I cried out.

In a second Amy was out the door to search with me for my beloved Treasure. The chances of her surviving out in the open for long were slim. If I got her back, it would be a miracle.

The neighborhood must have thought I was insane. I wandered around frantically looking up and down with tears streaming down my cheeks shouting, "Treasure! Treasure!"

An hour later I sat to rest. "Any sight of her?" asked Amy.

"She's gone for sure" I cried.

I decided to look inside a remote courtyard in the apartment complex next door. Not likely she had gone in there, since I saw her further away when she first got out. We walked through the gate and saw a white haired woman staring at a set of concrete steps. "Have you seen a green and maroon bird?" I asked.

She pointed to the stairs. There was Treasure hugging the banister and standing very still. I ran to her and held out my finger for her to step onto. She immediately came to me wanted to cuddle close.

"Thank you God! Thank you God! Thank you God!" I said it over and over.

When safely home, I trimmed Treasure's wings a bit more, kissed her and placed her back in the cage with Berry. Berry was very happy to see her and was never more than an inch from her for the next few days.

The following month Treasure laid her first egg. And the next month her first baby hatched. I had gotten my Treasure back and was blessed with babies.

I am very blessed. God must love me a lot.

Py Play

Photo series furnished by Catherine Lawrence. Who says green cheek females are timid? They have the killer instinct too! Or at least Sweet Pea does!



Without A Bird

by Gena Everhart (Reprinted with permission)

What was my life like without birds?
When Amazon screams were never heard.
My floors remained clean for a week.
There were never seeds stuck to my feet.
Each room had furniture in it,
Not playstands and cages and widgets.
When smells from my kitchen were good,
It meant human - not birdie food.
I read newspaper lounging on my chaise,
Not while lining the bottom of a cage.
I was able to have a phone conversation,
Without joyous shouts, screeches and
exclamations.
My evenings were filled with TV,
Not scrubbing cages, playing games and
dispensing treats.

My top list of stores for which I cared...
carried beautiful clothes and fine
dinnerware.
But those are a thing of the past and what's
more.
My favorite shops are now the pet stores.
Do I miss my sparkling clean house?
Or uninterrupted time with my spouse?
Do I want to go back to those ways?
With quiet evenings and predictable days?
I suppose I could go back....but would miss
Hearing a cheery parrot say, "Gimme a KISS!"
A clean house might be nice for show,
But it would only get dirty again, I know.
**No, I think I definitely prefer life
with the enriching company
of my birds.**

Raccoon Roundworm—Aviary Threat

By Jim Taylor, P. Eng., B.C. (reprinted with permission—no reproduction without permission)

We are looking to replace a Grey hen we lost from raccoon roundworm [*Baylisascaris procyonis*]. Altogether we lost 3 birds - two greys and a yellow-bib hen (Solomon Islands bird) from the parasite. Dr. Mike Taylor (Ontario Vet College, Canada) tells me that he is seeing this problem all of the time in Ontario.

The reasons for this problem:

1. We didn't know anything about the roundworm!!! If I even had a clue that it existed I doubt that these bird problems would have happened. Most important point!
2. Raccoons use community toilet sites. One was situated on my aviary roof right in front of the air intake.
3. There are two very large fir trees right by our aviaries. They attract raccoons because of their height and the grubs that are found in the ground around the trees.
4. I hosed down the roof with a garden hose to remove any droppings and all of the accumulated needles and branches.
5. We had a hot early summer so the droppings (I had no clue what type) were very dry.
6. The Greys were situated right below the dropping site and their outside flight was right there.
7. The chicks were inside the building in a metal clad cage inside a nestbox. All feeding took place inside the building.

How we found out: We pulled the chicks at three weeks. A week after, one chick became partially paralyzed on one side. It could not hold

its head up and eventually could not eat. We had to euthanize it and sent it off for autopsy. The hen became sick at the same time. She could not balance on the perch and had a marked head tilt. I took her to the vets and she progressively became worse. She had to be tube fed. After a week or so she rallied and started feeding on her own. A few days later she had another setback and became virtually paralysed and could not eat. We euthanized her also.

The worm: The worm is not a natural parasite in birds or humans. The eggs hatch and are usually flushed out with the feces. Very rarely one will make it through the intestine wall and migrate to the brain, eyes or heart muscle. They do their damage by their presence: inflammatory response, physical damage etc.

Testing: As the symptoms resemble nearly any disease that causes neurological damage, we tested for problems with: Calcium, Lead, Zinc, PDD by biopsy, Bacteria, Viruses.

We treated with:

- ✓ Antibiotics
- ✓ Anti-inflammatories
- ✓ Chelation therapy for heavy metals
- ✓ Dewormers,

Two weeks of tube feeding, 24 hour care, and nothing worked! You eliminate everything else, then determine the cause by autopsy. There is no test for the worm in a live bird. You have to be looking for the worm - it migrates even after death. The pathologist must spend hours looking for the worm. We were lucky that our BC Government lab have the staff willing to do this. They confirmed the cause of the problems by finding the worm in the brain of the chick and in the brain and heart of both hens.

Results: Two hens and one chick dead out of a pair and three chicks. Sell the chicks? Questionable. A HUGE vet bill. Remember, it resembles some types of PDD, dietary problems, heavy metal poisoning, heart problems possibly from cholesterol, bacteria, viruses, etc. You need to know the cause for the sake of the rest of the flock.

What you can do:

1. Check if you have raccoons around. You may never see them.
2. Look for their community toilets on your property.
3. If present, wearing protective clothing, face mask and gloves; remove what you can and either burn or bury.
4. Clean area without spreading eggs around. Block access to the site with wire etc..
5. Trap raccoons and dispose of them.
6. Wash hands and wear gloves anywhere the animals might be found.

The eggs have to be ingested. This problem is rare but the CDC mentions that it is under-reported. How would you determine if this is the cause? You need to look for it on autopsy. It can kill you, but you need to be careless to have a problem. People keep raccoons as pets - my neighbour had one for four years - with no problem. The animals are not the problem here. The dried droppings are. Knowing the possible problem makes all of the difference. ***If I only knew!***

J.T. Willard Shantz, DVM, added these comments: *"This is a visceral larval migrans type disease, i.e., the worms' eggs when exposed to an abnormal host (in this case non-raccoon) go through an abnormal migration in the body and never reach the gut like they are supposed to, thus causing damage wherever they end up. I get abnormal animals like groundhogs in my work with symptoms looking like rabies but which are probably caused by raccoon roundworms."*

A boy died in Pennsylvania some years ago from this disease. It is easily treated in raccoons. Because of this parasite and many other possible avian parasites, I have for many years used and promoted the use of Top-Rite pheasant netting tented above my outside aviaries.

We have huge numbers of 'coons in our area, but I have found they don't like to walk on this springy and unstable top surface. If they are defecating from overhead trees, I would suggest putting Plexiglas or fiberglass above the

wire ceiling, and disposing of any droppings very carefully.

PS: the worm eggs will be viable for a very long time.

For further information, check out the following sites:

<http://www.answers.com/topic/baylisascaris>

<http://www.hrschicago.org/rabbitfr.html>

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12150_12220-27261--,00.html

http://www.healthline.com/search?q1=baylisascaris&utm_source=adapt&utm_medium=google&utm_campaign=adapt_expand&utm_term=baylisascaris

Patching Cracked Eggs

From a recent list dialogue (permission granted to use from Richard Switzer)

We use Elmer's glue too, for patching cracks and even gluing the shell over the air cell in an attempt to reduce water loss from the egg during incubation. Really useful stuff. Elmer's is much better than nail varnish because it is non-toxic.

Here are a couple of tips which we have found useful:

1) Add a tiny drop of green food coloring (obviously non-toxic) to the Elmer's before gluing the egg - this helps identify the area you have glued after the glue has dried (and become colorless).

2) If you can possibly avoid it, try to minimize the spread of glue on the shell under which the circulation of the embryo is developing. The glue inhibits gaseous exchange and can prevent blood vessels of the yolk sac growing properly, or may even cause the blood vessels to disintegrate. This is why the shell above the air cell is the best place to glue to reduce water loss.

3) If you can possibly avoid it, try not to glue around the eventual edge of the air cell. This is roughly where you expect the chick to externally pip and rotate, so the glue might make the pip and hatch process more troublesome.

(Obviously you can't avoid points 2 & 3 if you have a crack or hole to patch in these particular areas!)

For all those now thinking of using Elmer's in emergencies... good luck!

Question: Is it only the Elmer's "school glue" that is non-toxic?

Answer: Although the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) indicate that the normally available types (the white glues and the carpenter's glues) are non-toxic, the biggest difference between the "white" and the "carpenters" glues is that the "carpenter" versions (interior/exterior) contain powdered wood. All Elmer's glues are chemically formulated - no animal products used. A couple of the crafts-type glues contain oat and wheat germ, but they are all basically all petroleum based products. One other difference is that the white glues are water soluble, i.e., you can thin them and they will "unharden" if exposed to water after drying. The carpenter types are generally waterproof after drying, which may or may not make a difference.

For more details and methodology:

See Howard Voren's article in *Bird Breeder Magazine*, circa 1996:

<http://www.voren.com/96-02-02.htm>

Interesting technical read on avian pediatrics, from the British Small Animal Veterinary Association, including repairing cracked eggs and much more: http://www.bsava.com/VirtualContent/85340/psittacines_ch18.pdf

For the Love of the Bird, Part I

By Robert C. Fairchild [<http://www.pyrrhuraworld.com>, rc@pyrrhuraworld.com]

As breeders of exotic species we have certain responsibilities that we must do. One of these is the education of the public. Many will never quite understand why we spend hours of our day scraping poop off of thin pieces of metal rods, but heck we know why... ***we love our birds!***

For many people, the only output of educational material is when an individual comes to the house looking to purchase a bird. What else can the average person do to help in the educating of the public?

The answer is multifold. The short answer is getting out and promoting the birds, but really where? Pet shops can be a tricky place to start as their main goal is the selling of animals and products; and that isn't what education is.

The best choice is one you have probably already done, the joining of a bird club. Now, that you are a member of a club or society, what comes next? That is dependent on your area. Many clubs have sponsored species months and while these are great they normally are geared around common pet species.

So you are now asking what can be done? Generally, in most forms of animal husbandry, as one gets more advanced and their breeding stock improves, they get an urge to see if their stock is better than the rest.

Here again, clubs are important, in that the clubs establish a set standard for the species/bred and for the cycle in which the shows are held. In most journals that focus on a specific area in animal breeding, there are lists of shows in different regions of the country/world.

What are the advantages of shows that are well based on competition? I will be honest with you and tell you, just like all aspects in life... there are both Pros and Cons to these events.

PROS

- ✓ Meeting fellow breeders;
- ✓ Seeing new species;
- ✓ Talking with experts in their species; and
- ✓ Learning what traits are important as you try to improve your flock.

CONS

- ✓ Putting up with some egos;
- ✓ Bad judging;
- ✓ Learning that breeding is not what is judged.

Most of the shows you will attend are generally in conjunction with a mart, and at these marts you will see many individuals with both birds and supplies for sale. These individuals are sometimes a great source of new breeding stock and a means of obtaining information as well. Generally speaking, a lot of show-exhibitors will do these marts to help offset the costs associated with the showing itself.



In **For the Love of the Bird... Part 2**, we will look at the actual preparation in the establishment of a standard and what exactly this entails.

PAWS: UPDATE

This article highlights the Santorum campaign contributions made by several AKC BOD members. At the moment, however, AKC does not appear to be highlighting PAWS on its site, and Genny Wall has communicated that it is possible that support for the AR-backed bill may be waning. It's NOT dead though, and as she noted, it could be resurrected at any time as a rider on a must-pass bill, so we need to stay alert and ready to act. - Marcy

The PAWS Bill - Follow The Money! AKC Board & HSUS PAC Fund Rick Santorum's Re-Election Campaign

Now wipe that look of shock off your face! I know what you're thinking - you're thinking NO! It just couldn't be true.

You're thinking that news of this seemingly obvious conflict of interest and ethical no-no by the AKC and HSUS - both strong supporters of Rick Santorum's PAWS bill - is another sick and twisted rumor circulated on the web, designed to put yet another dent in the glowing reputations of both organizations, and send Rick Santorum's re-election hopes and already spiraling downward poll numbers into a death spin by someone with a vested interest in seeing the demise of all three.

I know how you feel - I feel your pain...

Pay For Play?

Fortunately, you and I know that the fine folk over at the AKC & HSUS are guided by the highest principles and a set of ethics that would make John McCain and Russ Feingold proud.

The AKC and HSUS would never, EVER think of engaging in Pay For Play, you know - the practice of making political campaign donations to a certain candidate or party in exchange for political favors - like favorable legislation that contains anti-competitive clauses giving the organizations that the individual political contributors serve complete control over how we Americans acquire and keep our beloved pets, would they?

True Lies?

So when I received a forwarded email from SAOVA - the Sportsmen's and Animal Owners Voting Alliance, which said.....



"The following donations to Rick Santorum's reelection campaign were reported to the Federal Election Commission in late March 2006:

- ✓ Ronald H. Menaker, AKC Chairman & Spouse \$8,400 + \$11,600 to PA GOP Committee
- ✓ David Merriam, AKC Vice-chairman \$500
- ✓ Steve Gladstone, AKC Board Member \$1500
- ✓ Nina (Cornelia) Schaefer, AKC Board Member \$500
- ✓ William Newman, AKC Board Member \$1500
- ✓ Dennis Sprung, AKC President \$1000
- ✓ John Lyons, AKC COO \$500
- ✓ James Stevens, AKC CFO \$500
- ✓ Charles L. Kneifel, AKC VP \$500
- ✓ Noreen Baxter, AKC VP \$500
- ✓ James Holt, AKC Lobbying Consultant \$2000"

..... I just knew I had to immediately help dispel such rumors - such lies. I must seek the truth and help save the AKC & HSUS!

[MORE]

*From Dog Politics,
http://dogpolitics.typepad.com/my_weblog/2006/06/the_paws_bill_f.html*

Protecting Our Property Rights

<http://www.animalowners.org/intro.htm>

“Animal Rights” Legislation in Europe

Following are just a few highlights of “animal rights” legislation passed and pending in Europe since 2002. Under the guise of “animal welfare,” similar legislation, which in many cases includes parrots, is popping up all over the U.S. Note the first example below and the AR web site quote at the end!

Italy (2004)

Reggio Emilia—A law was passed requiring that “sociable” birds such as budgerigars and parrots must be kept in pairs. Bird cages must be at least five times the bird's wingspan in width, and three times in height. Reggio Emilia is Italy's unofficial amateur bird-breeding capital and host of an international bird-breeding festival. A board member of the local chapter of the Italian Ornithologists Federation complained that the council had not consulted breeders, and that the standard size of bird cage used by breeders during the festival, when 12,000 birds were on show in the town, would be outlawed.

Germany (2002)

Germany added a clause to its constitution acknowledging animal rights. The effect will be to add the words 'and animals' to a clause of the constitution, which would then read, “The state takes responsibility for protecting the natural foundations of life and animals in the interests of future generations.”

Austria (2004)

Vienna—Austrian legislators approved one of Europe's strictest animal rights laws. The legislation would require farmers to uncage chickens and would prevent dog owners from clipping their pet's ears and tails or using restraints such as choke collars or chains. Violators will be subject to fines of \$2,420, and in cases of extreme cruelty could be fined up to \$18,160 and have their animals seized by the authorities.

Switzerland (2006)

Pending—The Swiss Animal Protection (SAP) [“animal rights”] organization has 18 months to

collect the necessary 100,000 signatures to force a nationwide ballot on the issue of legal representation for animals (initiative “against the abuse of animals and for their better legal protection”), with the purpose of anchoring the position of an animal protection lawyer in the constitution.

United Kingdom (2006)

Pending—Under the “Animal Welfare Bill,” pets are to be given five “freedoms” under new legislation before Parliament that aims to raise the standards of welfare by fining or jailing owners who neglect their animals. The bill focuses on the keeping of “non-farmed” animals and would not affect animals used in scientific procedures, which are covered under other legislation. *An 18-page cat code has been drawn up as an example.*

From “Rights for Animals” website

<http://www.rightsforanimals.org/>

WHY rights for animals? *“In our society, animals are considered resources, or goods available for human use. Rarely do we give any thought to the suffering of animals, or reflect on our attitudes towards them. While we show some concern for certain animals (such as dogs, cats, and some wild creatures), most others are treated with total disregard. But an animal need not be “cute” or human-like to have the ability to feel. A trout, a pig, a chicken, a frog or a lobster all have the capacity for experiencing joy or suffering pain or distress. Their lives matter to them as much as our lives do to us, and they will defend themselves if they can. Whether someone is male or female; black, white or green; has two legs or four; swims, flies or walks, is irrelevant when it comes to the consideration we owe them all...”*

Monsters in the Bird Room

by Mary Elrod (*Reprinted with permission*)

This is something I can identify with. Several years ago, at dusk, my sentinel suns, Suzie and Solay, started screaming their "intruder alert" call. When I came running, I saw a water roach crawling across floor ... not allowable in the living room. - Marcy

Living out in the woods is great and very quiet at night. But the other night, it wasn't so quiet in the bird room. I put the birds to bed at dark and went to watch TV in the family room. I'm sitting there when I hear the cages rattle and the birds all flapping their wings. Something scared them, but what?

I open the doors to the bird room and turn on the lights. I ask the birds, "What's wrong?" Like they are going to answer me, right? I look around and see nothing. Maybe a lizard slipped into the room and they saw it move in the dark. I search high and low under cages. Nothing. So I tell them all night, night, and turn out the lights.

I go back to my chair and sit down. A few minutes later I hear the thrashing sound again. OK, something is out there in the bird room.

They see it, but I sure don't. I look everywhere once again. Finally I decide to sit in the chair for a while and look. Maybe it's something really small. Nothing.

I turn out the lights and leave. Clash! Bang! OK this is a fun game now.

So I try a new trick. I turn out the lights and sit in the chair. I wait for that monster thing to come out in the dark.

There it is! A lightning bug! It lights up and the birds go into panic mode. This should not be too hard to catch. When he blinks, I'll swoop him up.

Let me tell ya! Those lightning bugs are not easy to catch. I finally catch the lightning bug monster and put him outside. Once the bug is gone, the birds are happy again.

"Colasisi": New Parrot Species

The full article can be found at <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/storypage.aspx?StoryId=35065>

A brightly plumaged parrot and a long-tailed forest mouse unique to the Philippines have been discovered in the vanishing rainforest of the island of Camiguin, U.S.-based researchers said.

The new species of parrot was known to locals because of its value in the pet trade. The bird's throat and thighs are bright blue and the top of its head and tail are brilliant scarlet-orange. Males and females have identical plumage, which is quite unusual in this group of parrot, and researchers gave it a new name -- *Loriculus camiguinensis* or Camiguin hanging parrot, known among locals as "Colasisi."



Little is known about the new species, spurring interests in the scientific and conversation community to establish the size of its population.

PBA: Preserving Birds through Aviculture

PBA Mission Statement

1. To bring together people interested in the keeping and breeding of Pyrrhura Conures.
2. To enhance those interests, through mutual education.
3. To provide a background in keeping of all the species and sub-species.
4. To encourage the domestic breeding of all species and sub-species.
5. To provide a networking studbook on the uncommon and rarer species.

In addition, according to PBA Bylaws, the organization's purpose is to

- ✓ create a cooperative spirit and feeling among the various bird owners and breeders and to enhance our common bond;
- ✓ educate the public, pet owners, and breeders in good avicultural practices;
- ✓ promote better caged bird care and husbandry;
- ✓ promote the conservation and preservation of Pyrrhura Conures through captive breeding of common, uncommon, rare, or endangered species and sub-species;
- ✓ assist each member in solving of any problems that may arise in the pursuit of aviculture; and
- ✓ keep the members informed of local, state, and national legislation which impacts aviculture.



PYRRHURA BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Kelli Eager, Secretary
604 Fairway View Dr.
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FIRST CLASS MAIL