

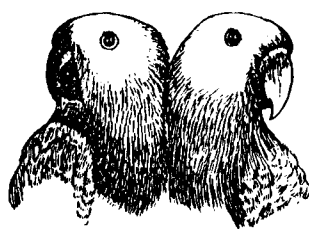
apparently both were moved from the Game room about three months ago. Nine months ago, a male Yellow Nape Parrot died from Pair #4 of an undiagnosed disease and was replaced by another breeder male from a "reputable source" without quarantine. The new Pair #4 produced no eggs this year.

Traffic flow maps show that the Game Room and Spare Bedroom are the last two rooms to be tended to and otherwise, traffic flow is well organized and has been carefully adhered to. The facility map shows the Game Room and Spare Bedroom on the North side of the house and the other three rooms containing birds on the South end. In Jill's mission statement, she states that this is her hobby, she wants to sell high quality birds and earn some extra cash but she cannot afford to subsidize these birds. Recommendations may include medical evaluation of pair # 4 and possibly another poor producing pair in the Game Room and/or treating the birds in the Game Room and Spare Bedroom, re-enforce the closed aviary concept, consider these two rooms infectious and carefully monitor traffic flow, and have Jill talk with her family Medical Doctor. Traditional approaches might suggest treating and/or testing all birds in the facility, but not only does this not make sense as most of the birds have no support of "disease" or exposure, but this would be very costly in terms of diagnostics performed and potential decreased production from the treatment itself.

Conclusions

The purpose of these two examples is to show how facility maps, along with other aviary diagnostics, can be used in flock health management. Obviously the facility map alone does not give a very complete description of aviary health, but when used together with other diagnostics, it becomes an important component of flock health management.

As briefly mentioned in these cases, other components of flock health management including traffic flow maps, production records and financial records will be discussed in more detail in successive articles. ➤



the Eclectus... Winged Flowers

by Jose Ml. Perdomo, San Mateo, CA

[Author's Note: In the last two issues of Watchbird, we have crystallized, or perhaps just encapsulated, some of the basic information on the eclectus parrots, those "Winged Flowers" originally inhabiting one of the most unique and exuberant corners of our planet. These efforts were intended to provide our readership a starting point for the better understanding of these wonderful birds, and simultaneously, to create a condensed guide to the characteristics, requirements and general care of these colorful parrots. As we conclude this series with this last segment, we hope to have at least partially achieved our original goals. Only our readers will be able to assess if such expectancies met with reality, and if any value could be derived from these efforts. Let's now continue...]

Maintenance of the Eclectus

Feeding

The Eclectus Parrots are not exclusive seed eaters. Avoid a diet containing only seeds. The best is to feed them a well-varied diet which should include vegetables, fruits, and sprouted beans. In addition, you may want to supply to the Eclectus $\frac{1}{3}$ of its diet in the form of a high quality parrot pellet such as Roudybush, Scenic Paradise, Hagen's Tropicana, Harrison's, or equivalent pellets. For additional information on these and other pellets, consult the telephone directory located at the end of this article. Keep pellets available to the parrots all the time. In addition, or alternatively with the sprouts, the Eclectus should be fed soft food on a regular basis. The cooked bean recipe included below is a convenient form of meeting this soft food nutritional requirement. The diet of an Eclectus is very important for its growth and gen-

eral health. A well-fed bird will considerably reduce your trips to the vet. Do not feed avocado or chocolate to your Eclectus as they may get very ill following ingestion of these.

Providing soft food to your bird is not a major enterprise if you organize its preparation efficiently. Make a good soft food meal once a week and freeze the daily portions in plastic bags. All you will have to do daily is simply defrost and mix before feeding.

Purchase the following, preferably "organic in origin" from your local health food store or supermarket or at the source noted.

- Calcium carbonate or "Calcium Care" available from Phoenix Unlimited, Irving, TX, 214-554-8318
- Dry soybeans
- Dry corn
- Rice
- Wheat germ oil
- Spirulina and or wheat grass powder.

These dry powders are available from the health food store or from Earthrise, Petaluma, Ca., 800-995-0681. Many people prefer the wheat grass, over the spirulina. Another alternative is alfalfa powder.

From your local pet shop purchase the multivitamin and mineral powder for birds. The necessity of using vitamin and mineral supplements is questionable if good nutrition is supplied to your bird. Although if used in small quantities, it is unlikely to cause any problem to your bird, excessive doses could create some health hazard by causing a hyper-vitaminosis. Therefore, we list this ingredient as optional.

Preparation of Soft Food

Place equal amounts of soybean and corn in water overnight. Boil for 10 minutes and add $\frac{1}{2}$ volume, relative to the soybean amount, of rice. Allow the rice to soak in water for approximately 15 minutes. Drain the water off and rinse the mixture with cold tap water. After reaching room temperature, place the amount required for a daily feeding in individual plastic bags and freeze them. Each bag should contain less than $\frac{1}{2}$ cup per bird to be fed.

At feeding time, defrost a bag until it reaches room temperature. Sprinkle some multivitamin powder (optional), calcium carbonate and one drop wheat germ oil. Mix well and feed to your Eclectus. We have found that if you add a hard-boiled egg smashed with the shell to this mixture they will like it even better. Another way of introducing the egg is to scramble together the defrosted meal with egg and cook it as you would make your own scrambled eggs. Make sure that the egg is not soft as it may carry avian infectious agents, which could infect and kill your parrot. Minced chicken meat could be added to this too. For the same reason listed above, make sure it is cooked completely.

Based on my personal experience, I recommend adding spirulina or wheat grass powders at least three times a week. Just apply a pinch of either or both powders before doing the final mixing of the food. Some people prefer to use alfalfa powder.

Don't feed ground oyster shells to your parrot, it is unnecessary and dangerous. The diet suggested above will supply the calcium needed.

Sprouted Seeds

One of the best foods for Eclectus as well as for most parrots is sprouted seeds. The nutritional values of sprouted seeds are superior to simple seeds. The sprouted seeds could be fed alternately with the soft food listed above.

Purchase from the Feed Store "Pigeon Seed Mix #5." If you wish to additionally enrich this mixture, buy some buckwheat seeds, Mung beans, garbanzo beans, dry corn, lentils and sunflower seeds. These additional ingredients could be added to the Pigeon Mix as desired.

Sprouting

Wash the final seed mixtures with tap water a couple of times. Use a bottle with at least twice the capacity of the volume occupied by the seeds, immerse the seeds in approximately two volumes of water and allow them to sit overnight. Next day, wash the seeds with tap water twice and drain all the water.

Allow the moist seeds to stand in a dark place at room temperature while covered with a wet towel.

Wash the seeds twice a day with tap water and keep them covered at room temperature. Two to three days after the beginning of this process, the seed should be sprouted and ready to refrigerate after a final wash.

It is recommended that the sprouts be rinsed with water daily if they are to be stored for longer than two days. Alternate feeding the sprouted seeds with the soft food.

During warm weather, it is recommended that you sprout the seeds under ozoned-water. This procedure was published earlier at Electronic Eclectus. Another method, consists of adding a small amount of common bleach to the water to avoid fungal and bacterial growth during the sprouting process. Diluted bleach at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon per gallon, and do not use it in the last washes prior to the storage of the sprouts in the refrigerator. Using ozone is preferred, as it does not introduce any toxic element into the seeds. The life span of reactive ozone is relatively short under such conditions, so it is destroyed within a couple of hours. Ozoned water is freshly prepared by "bubbling" the ozone produced by an aquarium ozone generator using a normal aquarium air pump to push the gas through the generator. For more efficient dispersion of the ozone into the water, use an aquarium air stone, preferably a ceramic one.

Watering

The best way to supply water to your Eclectus is to train them to drink from a bottle. Secure a dispensing bottle of water to their cage and train the parrot to associate the metal dispensing probe with water. Simply call the attention of the parrot and press the ball to release the water. Alternatively,

spread on the tip, near to the dispensing ball, some peanut butter or whatever your parrot likes. Do not remove the conventional dish of drinking water until you are completely sure the parrot is drinking from the bottle. Keep the bottle full of fresh water, and change the water once or twice daily. For additional safety, you may use two bottles in the event that one of them malfunctions. Wash and disinfect the bottle well at least once a week. This is achieved by washing the bottles with dilute bleach followed by a soap wash using a brush. Follow cleaning the bottles by an extensive rinsing with tap water.

Full Wings or Not

Once a bird flies away it is unlikely to return home, and it will die in a matter of days. Keep both of the wings properly clipped to avoid losing your bird. When the new feathers appear upon molting, an event which will take place at least once a year, bring the bird back to be wing-clipped. Do not cut a feather, which is partially immature, as profuse bleeding may occur.

Nails and Beak Care

As the nails of your Eclectus grow, you will have to clip them at certain intervals. Depending on each bird and its nutritional status and perching materials supplied, the nail growth will vary and may need some nail clipping. Inspect nails at least every three months to see if any manicure intervention is needed. Although cutting the nails is a simple procedure, for the first time needed, have the bird's breeder show you how to do it properly.

In the event the beak overgrows, it may need trimming, a procedure which should be performed by a veterinarian.

Handling Your Eclectus

When you bring your Eclectus home, he or she will be in a strange environment. If you have a dog or a cat, keep them out of the parrot's sight for a few days. Two to three days will pass before your new parrot feels at home. His appetite may even decrease for these days. Wait for a couple of days before you play with your parrot.

Don't ever hit your bird, even if it bites you. If unsure, use a wooden perch to handle the bird. Bring the bird to your chest and wrap the bird with your arm. Talk to the bird in a gentle manner. Watch TV while having the bird next to your chest. Give it treats like sunflower seeds, rice, raisins or whatever food it likes. Be gentle with your Eclectus and avoid rough play unless you want to be bitten frequently.

Videotapes on taming and training your bird are available today from several trainers and bird behaviorists. Well known avian trainer Joseph Krathwohl of The World Center for Exotic Birds, Las Vegas, NV, has a highly recommended two-volume videotape on these topics. Follow the training course and practice frequently. Remember that the Eclectus or any other parrot will bite you if you are doing anything they dislike. Listen for a growl or an aggressive signal and proceed with caution. If you get bitten, vocalize the word OUCH !! in a way that will distract them. *Do not hit the parrot back.* Always make sure that the bird enjoys the moments dedicated to training. Reinforce the good behavior by giving rewards of sunflower seeds, dry rice, peanuts or any food liked by your parrot.

At the first sign of any unusual behavior, bring your parrot to an avian veterinarian. Do not take chances; your bird is very valuable both materially as well as sentimentally. It is wise to give your Eclectus at least an annual health check up by an avian veterinarian.

Avoid placing your parrot in a hazardous situation. Keep it away from electrical cords, cleaning compounds, bleach, detergents and any toxic chemical. Birds in general are very susceptible to intoxication and sudden death by ingestion of alcohol and to

Since many birds are now unfortunately and irreversibly extinct, let's make sure that those still with us enjoy the best environment we can provide in addition to our love, protection and admiration.

1. *The Eclectus, A Complete Guide.* By Roger Sweeney. Published by Silvio Mattacchione and Co., Ontario, Canada.
2. *A Guide to Eclectus Parrots - Their Management, Care and Breeding.* Published by The Australian Birdkeeper, Australia.
3. *A Complete Guide to Eclectus Parrots.* by Arthur K. Wayne, Fred Bauer, and Laurella Desborough.
4. An Encyclopedia of Parrots written in German and covering the Eclectus is "*Edelpapageien - Enzyklopaedie der Papageien,*" Volume 7 by Angelika Fergenbauer-Kimmel. ISBN 3-923269-13-7, 1992 Horst-Mueller-Verlag, An der Warnau 33, 3036 Bomlitz, Germany
5. *Parrots; Their Care and Breeding.* By Rosemary Low. Published by Blandford Press, London, UK.
6. *Parrots of the World.* by Joseph M. Forshaw. Published by Blandford Press, London, UK.

7. "The Eclectus; Winged Flowers," Part 1. Published in the Jan-Feb., 1998 issue of *AFA Watchbird*.
8. Several articles on Eclectus parrots appeared in the *AFA Watchbird* issue of May-June, 1996.
9. "The Elegant Eclectus Parrot" by Pamela L. Higdon. *Bird Talk* issue December 1994, pages 84-92.
10. "Six Components of Success in Breeding Eclectus Parrots" by Laurella Desborough. *Bird Breeder*, issue of September 1995, pages 12-21.
11. "Eclectus-Ideal Birds" by Lisa Freeman, *American Cage Bird Magazine*, issue of September 1993.
12. "Eclectus Parrots" by Tony Silva, *American Cage Bird Magazine*, issue of May 1993.

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| Pretty Bird Intl. Inc. | 1-800-356-5020 |
| Roudybush Feed | 1-800-326-1726 |
| Ziegler Brothers Inc. | 1-800-841-6800 |
| ZuPreem | 1-800-345-4767 |