

WE BUY • SELL • TRADE

Complete line of
FINCHES
COCKATIELS
PARRAKEETS

WE SPECIALIZE
IN RAISING
OUR OWN
CANARIES



**Raleigh's
Bird Farm**

13729 Ardis, Bellflower, CA. 90706
Visitors by appointment only.

(213) 630-5469



Walnut Acres Aviaries

Special Interest

Australian Grass Finches

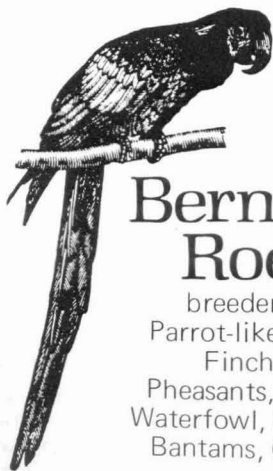
All birds aviary raised outdoors.
FOR SALE: Shaft Tails, Tri-Colored
Parrot Finches, males only.
Turquises and Parrakeets —
76 hatch. Vernal Hanging Parrots.

WILL BUY OR TRADE FOR: Cuban
Melodious, Masked Grass Finches,
Cuban Olivaceous Finches, Red-
rump Male.

Call or Write: Jerry Jennings
(213)

884-5476

1803 Pontius Ave.
Los Angeles,
CA. 90025



Bernard Roer

breeder of
Parrot-like Birds
Finches

Pheasants, Doves
Waterfowl, Peafowl
Bantams, Cranes

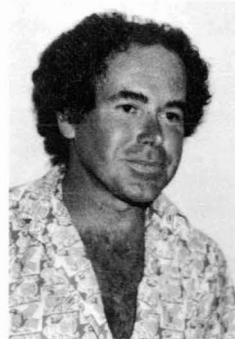
602/242-2477

6553 N. 27th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85017



agapornis acres

by Lee Horton



Lee Horton

THE BLACK-CHEEKED
(Agapornis nigrigensis)
AND THE NYASSALAND
(Agapornis lilianae)

Two birds that should be as common as the Black Masked (*agapornis personata*) and the Fischer's (*agapornis fischeri*) in the United States are the Black Cheeked (*a. nigrigensis*) and the Nyassaland (*a. lilianae*). However, neither of these Lovebirds are well established. The Nyassaland is seen in very few aviaries and the Black-cheeked is a true rarity in aviaries. Yet both birds breed well and should be as easy as any other in the eye ring group.

The Nyassaland's plumage is generally green, more yellowish on the under parts and rump. The forehead and throat are orange-red merging into salmon-pink on the crown, lores, cheeks and upper breast; a naked white eye ring (like the Black Masked) the bill is coral-red, dark at the tip, lighter at the base. The Nyassaland is smaller than all the other Love Birds with the exception of the Madagascar. I would say that they are about 1/3 smaller than a Black Masked.

Most, if not all, domestic Nyassaland Love Birds originate from three pairs brought into the U.S. by the Brookfield Zoo. (I believe these came out of Australia.) These birds bred well as do all Nyassalands and eventually the young of these three pairs of birds found homes throughout the country. But what happened? Why are they dying out? The reason most people who have raised them give is "They were inbred, starting from only three pairs." This reason is given

often to explain infertility or other faults in birds. First inbreeding does not cause or create anything, it only brings forth visibly, faults that were already there, but hidden. Most creatures have some genetic faults that are hidden and only become visible when two parents who carry the exact fault breed together. Then a percentage of the young will show this fault visibly.

Yet in our aviaries with records, control by the breeder and the elimination of birds with faults (poor color, low fertility, or any other undesirable characteristic). Inbreeding should be an advantage, not a "bad" thing.

With such a mating there also will be a few young who will not possess the faults at all, even in the hidden form. In this manner all show dogs or any other domestic breed have been "created" by man to look and perform as he determines. The only "Bad Thing" is the breeder because he did not exercise his responsibility in the proper elimination of the birds that fall below his standard. Nature has its standards and eliminates the weak, the unintelligent, those susceptible to disease, etc. In the wild, particularly with the agapornis, nestmates usually breed together. So inbreeding is truly common place with Love Birds in the wild! They usually travel in small colonies and most birds within the group are closely related. Aviculturists must realize they cannot

use the excuse of inbreeding as the reason for failure when it is actually the incompetence of the aviculturists.

It is our responsibility to keep records, to eliminate birds with obvious faults and keep only the birds that are as good or better than their parents. In the past most agapornis were managed (or not at all) by putting a number of pairs in an aviary and letting them breed at will, as long as they wanted, (all year) catching out the young once or twice a year. No records, no control, nothing but food, water, grit, cuttlebone and maybe some greens. In spite of man they bred and some were established quite well. But not so with the Nyassaland or the Black-cheeked.

Today we must do better or we will have nothing!

The Nyassaland blood brought to the United States by the Brookfield Zoo carried in its hidden form a Lutino mutation. This Lutino is recessive in inheritance and although most have died out some of the blood still exists. The San Diego Zoo has two Lutino young raised within the last year. To my knowledge no other mutation of the Nyassaland is established.

The Nyassa usually lay five eggs. They are good parents and are easy to breed.

The Black Cheeked are very similar to the Nyassaland. Although most books on Parrots describe them as the same in size,

I find the Black-Cheeked about ten percent larger.

The general plumage is green, more yellowish on the rump and underparts; forehead and forehead reddish-brown; hind-crown and nape dark yellowish-green; lores, throat and cheeks brownish-black; upper breast pale orange-red (salmon); naked white eye-ring; bill coral-red, dark at tip, lighter at the base.

The Black Cheeked is a lovely bird and one of my favorites. They are not as animated or noisy as the Nyassaland. They are not as free breeding as the Nyassa but still breed well. They usually lay 6 or 7 eggs but in my experience four or five young per nest is average. No mutations of Black Cheeked are established to my knowledge.

Last year with the help of Joe Griffith and his company, Orn-Imports, we were able to bring in both Nyassaland and Black Cheeked. Some wild-caught and some aviary raised in Africa. With this new blood we hope to establish good blood lines of both birds.

In a future article we will discuss the possible production of "new" colors of all the eye-ring series through controlled hybridizing. The possibility exists to breed blue, yellow, white, Lutino and albino colors in any of the eyering series. It will take at least eight generations of controlled breeding to accomplish this. But what better things to look forward to! ■

See-Through Incubators

HOLD FROM 12 TO 209 EGGS



Write for the 32 pg catalog today
check our prices on

BOOK HEADQUARTERS

for Birds, Small Stock, City Farming, Pheasants, Chickens, Bantams, Quail, Guineas, Turkeys, Grouse, Ducks, Geese, Pigeons, Falcons and others.



MARSH FARMS

10015 13th St.

Garden Grove, CA. 92643

Magnolia Bird Farm



Owner
Frank Miser

We Buy Birds We Ship Birds

COMPLETE BIRD SUPPLIES

(714) 527-3387

Open 9 to 6 Closed Sun., Mon., Holidays

8990 Cerritos Ave.

Anaheim, Ca. 92804