



Black Lory. "My lories have always been healthy and hardy and I have bred them for several years with no problems."

Lory Lover's Nightmare

by Jim Thomas
Longwood, Florida

Author's Note: I write this article because I know the serious aviculturist can frequently learn from another's mistakes and misfortunes.

Jim Thomas

My friends know how much I love lories. I can't resist a new one that comes available if there is any way I can manage to get it. It's true, they are a lot of trouble compared to the seed-eaters, but I, for one, think they are worth it. I have a nice collection of them, I spend a lot of time with them, and I enjoy them more than any other birds I have owned.

My lories have always been healthy and hardy and I have bred them for several years with no problems. I have studied them carefully and put together a nectar formula I thought best for them and they have thrived on it. As I get new

ideas, though, I change things and last year I made my first fatal mistake: I decided they needed more protein and began to use a lot of monkey chow, soaking the biscuits in the bowls of nectar. They loved it and I was happy I had solved the protein problem.

You can imagine my horror when I came out one morning in mid-December to find *two* of my adult birds dead — well-fleshed birds that had shown no symptoms or signs of problems of any sort. I called my vet and rushed the birds to the state diagnostic laboratory for a post-mortem. We concluded it must be a toxin of some sort since the birds were not in the same areas of my aviaries and were in such good condition.

Some of my collection are kept at my plant nursery a half-hour drive from my home. The next day I was really distressed to find one of my recently weaned hand-fed babies dead and the next day another one, both at the nursery. These were fat, healthy babies that had been playing the day before. Another of my adults at home is very ill and not eating. At this point, panic sets in and I begin many telephone conferences with my vet and other lory people.

Since the only thing my two separated collections had in common was their food, I rushed that to the lab for diagnosis and two days later got the answer: the monkey chow was loaded with *Salmonella*. By soaking the biscuits in the nectar I had set up a rich culture medium that was ideal for rapid growth of this deadly bacterium. By this time, I had lost another breeding lory and others had stopped eating.

The next fatal mistake occurred when my vet recommended Furacin as treatment. I knew it was potent but at this point I figured I needed something fast. Fatal mistake number three came next when we decided to medicate the nectar since the lories drink little water. We decided on a dosage of one teaspoon per



Yellow Streaked Lory. "To see our rare and beautiful favorites go into shock one at a time was a traumatic experience, to put it mildly."

Specialists

IN DOMESTIC BRED
(NON-QUARANTINE)
HAND FED BABY BIRDS

Macaws
Cockatoos
Amazons
Eclectus
African Greys
And Others

Our babies are hand raised in one of our specially designed nurseries. Health care is supported by a full time veterinarian and a complete diagnostic laboratory.



BIRDS  **UNLIMITED** INC.™

Call or write for a price list or additional information

16425 PLACERITA CANYON ROAD

NEWHALL, CALIFORNIA 91321

PHONE: (805) 252-3455



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE

Dedicated to conservation of bird wildlife through encouragement of captive breeding programs, scientific research, and education of the general public.

MEMBER NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

African Love Bird Society American Budgerigar Society, Inc. American Cockatiel Society, Inc.
American Pigeon Fanciers' Council American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
British Columbia Avicultural Society Canadian Parrot Association National Cockatiel Society
National Finch Society Southeastern Aviculturists Association

MEMBER CLUBS

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Aviculture Society

ARIZONA

Arizona Aviculture Society
Arizona Budgerigar Society
Avicultural Society of Tucson
The Seed Crackers

CALIFORNIA

American Canary Fanciers Association
Antelope Valley Bird Society
Aviary Association of Kern
Avicultural Association of San Francisco
Budgerigar Research Association
Butte County Bird Club
California Game Breeders' Association
Capitol City Bird Society
Central California Cage Bird Club
Contra Costa Avian Society
Exotic Bird Breeders Association
Exotic Hookbill Society
Finch Society of San Diego County
Foothill Bird Fanciers
Fresno Canary and Finch Club
Golden Gate Avian Society
Golden West Game Breeders and Bird Club, Inc.
Great Western Budgerigar Society, Inc.
Hookbill Hobbyists of Southern California
Humboldt Cage Bird Society
Inland Game Bird Breeders
Long Beach Bird Breeders
Norco Valley Bird Breeders
North County Aviculturists
Northern California Budgerigar Society
Nu-Color Bird Association
Orange County Bird Breeders
Redwood Budgie Hobbyists
San Diego County Bird Breeders Association
San Diego County Canary Club
San Gabriel Valley Parakeet Association
Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club
South Bay Bird Club
South Coast Finch Society
Tri City Budgerigar Society
Valley of Paradise Bird Club
Ventura County Bird Club
West Valley Bird Society
Western Bird Breeders Society

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture, Inc.

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Association for Aviculture, Inc.

FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida
Central Florida Bird Breeders
Feathered Friends of Florida Avian Society
Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club, Inc.
Greater Brandon Avian Society
Greater Jacksonville Avicultural Society, Inc.
Greater Miami Avicultural Society, Inc.
Polk County Avicultural Society
Suncoast Avian Society
Sunshine State Cage Bird Society, Inc.

GEORGIA

Georgia Cage Bird Society
Greater Middle Georgia Cage Bird Society

IOWA

Mid-America Cage Bird Society

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club, Inc.

KANSAS

Kansas Avicultural Society, Inc.

KENTUCKY

Kentuckiana Bird Society

LOUISIANA

Gulf South Bird Club

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Inc.
Maryland Cage Bird Society, Inc.

MASSACHUSETTS

Exotic Cage Birds of New England
The Boston Society for Aviculture, Inc.
Western New England Cage Bird Society

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club
Mid-West Canary Club, Inc.
Motor City Bird Breeders, Inc.

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Cage Bird Association
North Star Parrot Breeders Society

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Budgerigar Society

MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society
Heart of America Parrot Society
Missouri Cage Bird Association

NEBRASKA

Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society

NEVADA

Northern Nevada Cage Bird Society
Vegas Valley Caged Birds Association

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Avicultural Society

NEW YORK

Finger Lakes Cage Bird Association
The Greater Rochester Hookbill Association
Rochester Cage Bird Club

NORTH CAROLINA

Carolina Avicultural Society
Smoky Mountain Cage Bird Society

OHIO

Central Ohio Bird Fanciers, Inc.
Cleveland Canary & Cage Bird Club
Golden Crescent Cage Bird Club
Mid-American Exotic Bird Society, Inc.

OREGON

Columbia Canary Club
Emerald Exotic Bird Society
Exotic Bird Club of Oregon
Northwest Bird Club
Northwest Pigeon Fanciers Association

PENNSYLVANIA

Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Club
Delaware Valley Bird Club
The Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society
York Area Pet Bird Club

TENNESSEE

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club

TEXAS

Alamo Exhibition Bird Club
Capital City Cage Bird Club
Dallas Cage Bird Society
Fort Worth Bird Club
Gulf Coast Aviculture Association
North Texas Cockatiel Club
Williamson County Bird Breeders Association

UTAH

Avicultural Society of Utah

VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Avicultural Society
National Capital Bird Club
Parrot Breeders Association
Peninsula Cage Bird Society
Virginia Ornamental Bird Society

WASHINGTON

Avicultural Society of Puget Sound
Northwest Aviculture Society
Northwest Exotic Bird Society
Washington Budgerigar Society, Inc.

WEST VIRGINIA

Tri-State Cage Bird Fanciers

WISCONSIN

North Star Parrot Breeders Society
Wisconsin Cage Bird Club, Inc.

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS

Animal Exchange, Rockville, MD Pritchard Bookkeeping Service, El Cajon, CA
Southeast Aviaries, Alexandria, VA Luv-Them-Birds, Miami, FL Valentine Equipment Co., Hinsdale, IL
Nekton U.S.A., Inc., St. Petersburg, FL Rainbow Bird Ranch, Asheboro, NC
Kellogg, Inc., Milwaukee, WI Birds of a Feather, Santa Rosa, CA Sandy Creek Farm, Sarasota, FL
Fins, Furs, 'N Feathers, Boca Raton, FL Mason's Exotic Bird Services, San Bruno, CA

For information about contacting any of these member clubs, please call that club's closest state coordinator. There is a state coordinator listing with phone numbers elsewhere in this publication.

gallon and I proceeded to give it to them. I medicated the collection at the nursery on Friday evening before I left and called the next morning to ask how they were before I gave it to my major collection of breeders at home. I was told they were fine but I neglected to ask whether they had drunk the nectar. They hadn't.

Thinking everything was fine, I proceeded to medicate the morning nectar for my whole collection. They refused to drink it after one taste. I decided to give them nothing else so they had to drink enough of it.

That afternoon the nightmare really began. The first to go down was a black lory male at the nursery who started to scream loudly, fell from the perch and went into writhing convulsions, screaming all the time. I rushed him to the sick room, he became unconscious and I concluded he was dead. Half an hour later a black-capped male went through the exact same procedure. When I arrived in the sick room with him, however, I found the black up on the perch. They would convulse for minutes at a time, scream loudly, then recover. If I touched the cage or came near, they began convulsing again.

When I arrived home I discovered that most of the collection still had not eaten much of the nectar. Now I'm really worried so I give them apple and more medicated nectar. The next morning, a cool Sunday I will never forget, I began my feeding routine and found they had eaten about half the nectar. I was horrified twenty minutes later to hear a chattering lory begin to scream and to see her fall from the perch in convulsions. What was going on? I carried her to the kitchen to be warmed and she quickly recovered but within minutes I hear the now familiar screaming begin again. This time it's a yellow streaked and I catch her in the net before she hits the ground. Already a dusky is starting the same screaming and convulsing. I had a stack of new nest boxes in the feed room, waiting to be hung, so I quickly began placing convulsing lories in them to go to the kitchen. The next hour was hell as my wife, Peg, and I tried to prevent affected birds from hitting the ground as they began the screaming. To see our rare and beautiful favorites go into shock one at a time was a traumatic experience, to put it mildly.

I hurriedly placed a call to Ron Johnson at Metrozoo and told him what was happening. He confirmed my worst fears, that Furacin is toxic to lories and suggested I try to get Susan Clubb who had had some experience with it. Lucki-

ly, I reached her and she helpfully told me to get them warm, try to get them to eat something and that was the best I could do.

Lories are still falling outside and I'm not quite sure what to do next. I call friends Ann and Don Hurst who come running with extra extension cords and heat lamps and lots of concern and sympathy. We hurriedly set up an emergency hospital room in a storage shed for sixteen very sick lories. The reactions of the survivors were strange — convulsions of the worst kind would begin with the slightest disturbance, so that even feeding them was a problem. Some would even become totally unconscious so you would think they were surely dead this time. Within minutes they would recover and begin to eat immediately as though nothing was wrong. All seemed ravenously hungry and ate everything we gave them.

The final toll: nine dead and ten more showing the severe symptoms of convulsing. These ten have now recovered completely and show no signs of problems. We don't know, of course, if any permanent damage has been done but all of them were part of our breeding collection and we hope not.

I summarize with the following advice to lory lovers:

1. Be careful with the ingredients of your nectar and with letting the nectar stand for long periods in warm weather. Remember that you have there a rich culture medium that allows bacteria to multiply at unbelievable rates. Make your nectar under the cleanest conditions possible and be sure every dish is scrubbed with hot water and/or clorox solution before use.

2. Double check every medication before you give it to your birds. Lories seem to be different from most birds in their reactions so be sure the prescription is safe for lories. Obviously, never give Furacin to lories.

3. Be careful about medicating the nectar. They drink much more nectar than water so the dosage is not the same. (It seems like common sense now, after my mistake.)

4. Help form an active lory society so we can share our experiences and publicize the idiosyncrasies and special requirements of these wonderful birds.

I would rather be writing about my breeding success with lories or some rare species I have just acquired than the trauma I have just described. If I can save just one lory lover from experiencing the same problem, however, the time will have been well spent. ●



1985 OFFICERS

LEE PHILLIPS/*President*
 CLIFTON WITT/*Legislative Vice President*
 PHILLIS K. MARTIN/*1st Vice President* TOM C. MARSHALL/*2nd Vice President*
 HUBERT MORRIS/*Chief Financial Officer* JACQUELINE M. SPELL/*Corresponding Secretary*
 LORENE CLUBB/*Executive Secretary*

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Linda Rubin/*Northeastern* • William C. Wilson/*Mideastern* • Ray H. Rudisill/*Central* • George Hilder/*Southeastern*
 Davis A. Koffron/*Western* • James H. Coffman/*Northern California* • Aletta M. Long/*Southern California*

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

Clifton Witt (301) 774-0303

STATE and REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Ray H. Rudisill (314) 645-6757

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

NORTHEASTERN Tim Dahle (301) 760-4626	CENTRAL Garrie Landry (318) 828-5957
SOUTHEASTERN Steve Silver (904) 775-8657	WESTERN Jeff L. Wigginton (206) 939-8267
MID-EASTERN Craig Hendee (312) 724-2578	CALIFORNIA Patricia Barbera (707) 996-4266

STATE COORDINATORS

ALABAMA Lorene Clibb (205) 857-3817	LOUISIANA John C. Lawrence (504) 343-2622	OHIO
ALASKA	MAINE Archie Fairbrother (207) 394-2252	OKLAHOMA Dr. Roger W. Harlin (405) 636-1484
ARIZONA Mickey Olsson (602) 939-1003	MARYLAND Ro Dahle (301) 551-6967	OREGON Kay Mahi (503) 543-6042
CALIFORNIA (north) Jim Smith (916) 534-1505	MASSACHUSETTS Gary Lilienthal (617) 542-7070	PENNSYLVANIA Bill Lumley (717) 234-0732
CALIFORNIA (central) Hank Johnson (209) 233-3322	MICHIGAN Glen Pace (313) 785-0757	SOUTH CAROLINA Jerry Sanders (803) 578-6541
CALIFORNIA (south) Dick Schroeder (213) 645-5842	MINNESOTA Carol Schmitz (612) 890-6164	TENNESSEE Don Warmbrod (901) 685-5261
COLORADO Kevin Wirick (303) 623-5959	MISSISSIPPI James Duroy (601) 625-7262	TEXAS Karen Bookout (713) 864-9759
CONNECTICUT Walter J. Willoughby (203) 528-7296	MISSOURI Eileen Karius (314) 351-2580	UTAH Rex Kennedy (801) 571-6183
DELAWARE Diane Korolog (302) 731-0170	MONTANA G. Allan Taylor (406) 587-3338	VERMONT Heather J. Beck (802) 948-2371
FLORIDA Mrs. M. Simmons (305) 772-2632	NEBRASKA Robert G. Travnicsek (402) 821-2490	VIRGINIA Carole Wheeler (703) 323-5048
GEORGIA Christer Jonsson (404) 344-0816	NEVADA	WASHINGTON Joe Longo (206) 631-4245
HAWAII Richard Hart (808) 239-8146	NEW HAMPSHIRE F. Lawrence Brandt (603) 642-5074	WASHINGTON, D.C. Ruth Hanessian (301) 424-PETS
ILLINOIS	NEW JERSEY Terry Veraldo (201) 447-3378	WEST VIRGINIA Patty Knoblauch (304) 725-5601
INDIANA	NEW MEXICO Clifford Brane (505) 864-7496	WISCONSIN John Nero (414) 499-9013
IOWA Ted Pulla (515) 225-0302	NEW YORK Arthur Freud (516) 265-6479	WYOMING Jerry Youmans (307) 237-9564
KANSAS John R. Stocker (316) 788-6552	NORTH CAROLINA Mike Miller (919) 848-7770	
KENTUCKY Dr. Thomas B. Angel, Jr. (606) 371-4929	NORTH DAKOTA/SOUTH DAKOTA Carol Hamilton (605) 535-2541	

SCHEDULE FOR AFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS Mark these dates and plan to attend!

August 7 thru 12, 1985
 San Francisco, California — Cathedral Hill Hotel
 11th Annual Convention