

*Monjoli and Ouisseau.
Monjoli showing fluffing of crown
and nape as described in
mating information.*

THE HISPANIOLAN AMAZON



Ouisseau showing blue primaries at outer edge of wing.



Rear view of pair.

Announcing an Avian Clinical Pathology Service for Veterinary Practitioners

California Avian Laboratory is a clinical pathology and consultation service, for practicing veterinarians treating caged and aviary birds as patients. The service is an outgrowth of a laboratory serving an avian specialty practice, The Avian Medical Center of Sacramento.

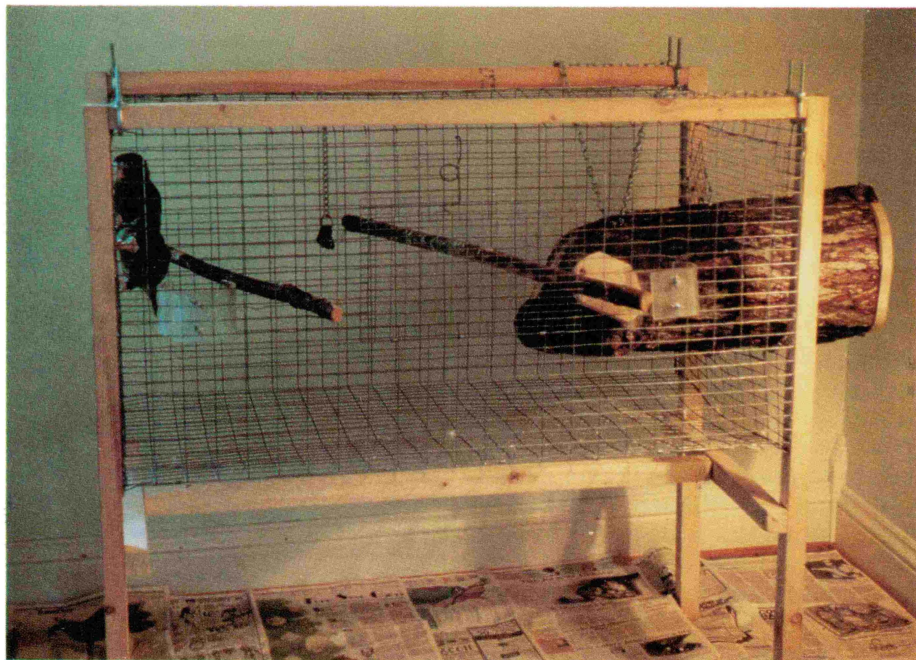
A veterinary practice seeing birds as patients is in need of further diagnostic support for the following reasons: 1) birds tend to mask signs of disease, 2) clinical signs are often non-specific, 3) clinical syndromes can often progress, without an etiologic diagnosis, in spite of symptomatic therapy.

Diagnostic procedures available include avian hematology, biochemistry, microbiology, parasitology, cytology, chlamydial diagnostics, and pathology.

In support of the service, consultation is available for case management, selection of appropriate tests, and clinical interpretation.

Areas served include the United States and Canada, via postage paid mailers or overnight express.

**For further information,
contact Dr. Alan Fudge,
California Avian Laboratory,
P.O. Box 41809, Sacramento, CA 95841.
Phone (916) 722-8428**



Present breeding cage with nesting log.

Photos by Steven Siodani

The Hispaniolan Amazon

(*Amazona ventralis*)

by Steven Sjodahl
Centerville, Ohio

This small parrot, also called the Santo Domingo, or Salle's Amazon, is one of the presently threatened West Indies Amazons. It is quite attractive and well liked as a pet in its native islands, yet little information on this bird is available to us here in the states, even though several people seem to have successfully bred them.

The Hispaniolan's native range today is Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and possibly Culebra Island; however, the only one of these places where their population seems to be growing is Puerto Rico, where they may now number in the hundreds. The ironic thing is that their introduction there was somewhat accidental. It seems several hundred of these birds were brought over from the Dominican Republic, but were refused entry. The return of the birds may have resulted in legal action, so they were released outside the port of Mayaguez to make shore on their own.

In Haiti, because of the destruction of mountain vegetation, they are forced to come down to lower elevations to feed. This gives the illusion of increasing numbers, when the opposite is probably more the truth. Further study is necessary to fully understand their plight.

Amazona ventralis is currently proposed for Appendix II, (threatened) of the CITES Convention; however, I must agree with Tony Silva who believes they should be re-classified and placed with the *leucocephala* which would automatically make them Appendix I, (endangered). They seem to lack the red breast feathers and purplish cast to the abdomen seen in the Cuban, but in every other respect the resemblance is very keen.

In March or April of 1984, I went to visit a friend, Sandy Michaels, and let me tell you that I was shocked by what I saw as I entered her kitchen. On a chair by the dining room table sat Ouisseau (Wee-zoo), one of the most striking Amazons I had ever seen. None of the photos or illustrations I'd been able to find did these little birds any

justice at all.

One is first taken by the white frontal patch and pinkish horn-colored beak. Then the attention falls on the crown and nape, which have a very defined scalloped appearance ranging from almost black in the front, to a mixture of green and black at the rear. This is accented by a blue iridescence that seems most visible in direct sunlight. The ear coverts are marked with a round, black spot about the size of a nickel, and the eye is surrounded by a white ring as in the Cuban Amazon. The general body color is a rich Amazon green, with the black edging effect going almost to the darker, olive tail. At the ends of the outer flight feathers and tail is the most brilliant shade of blue you can imagine. The other interesting feature of this bird is the reddish area above the vent that extends downward into the outer tail feathers. This is much brighter than I would have thought from the descriptions in Forshaw, and other texts. In fact, it's every bit as bright as that of the *pionus* parrots.

Sandy had received 24 of these Hispaniolans from a breeder in Costa Rica. They were all around two and one-half to three years of age and just coming into maturity. In fact, she told me that Ouisseau had selected a mate, and that they were keeping separate from the rest of the birds and feeding one another. This excited me because it indicated a natural pair bond, which I consider one of the most important aspects of breeding any of the parrots.

Ouisseau's mate, Monjoli, was similar to him in almost every respect except that the white frontal area was smaller, and the cheek patch wasn't quite as dark, or circularly defined. The red area above the vent was also dissimilar to the male, but each of the birds I saw that day were equally different, regardless of sex.

Needless to say I purchased the two birds, and quickly took them home where I busied myself for the next couple of weeks designing a suitable cage and nestbox for breeding. I also took the birds to my local veterinarian, and even though I was sure that Ouisseau was male, and Monjoli female, I had them surgically sexed. This was more to find out the actual maturity and condition of the two birds, and to be sure that no internal problems existed. I was informed that not only were the birds in good health, but their condition suggested breeding could take place at any time.

That was all I needed. A cage 2 ft.

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

NEW CATALOG

Send \$1.00
discount available

your source for...

LAFEBER'S PRODUCTS

- PELLETTED FOODS
- EMERALD I & II
- NUTRISTART, etc.

raise healthier birds...
more nutrition for your money...

AVI-CULTUR—1 BILLION™

concentrated Lactobacillus
acidophilus

- combat diarrhea & "pasted-up" vents
- combat the effects of stress from crowding, molting, drugs, etc.
- fight E. coli, Salmonella, etc!
- Just sprinkle on food.

**MEDICAL SUPPLIES,
ETC.**

the bird specialists...



Wm. V. Reichert & Son • Dept W
1523 Potter Rd.
Park Ridge, IL 60068
312-825-BIRD



1984-1985 COMMITTEES

ALLIED GROUPS LIAISON	
Ron Johnson	(305) 232-3391
AVY AWARDS	
Dale Thompson	(805) 252-3441
AVIAN RESEARCH	
Dr. Susan Clubb	(305) 226-6778
AVIAN TRANSPORTATION	
Ron Brown	(714) 879-2473
BREEDING REGISTRY	
Larry Shelton	(215) 243-1100/732-6490
CALIFORNIA LIAISON	
Hal Koontz	(805) 872-1063
CLUB PROMOTION	
Linda Rubin	(617) 469-0557
CONSERVATION	
Bob Berry	(713) 520-3205
CONVENTION COORDINATOR	
Phyllis Martin	(813) 839-4751
CONVENTION 1985	
Jim Coffman	(415) 322-6857/692-2234
CONVENTION 1986	
EDUCATION AND MEDIA SERVICES	
Dr. Val Clear	(317) 642-0795
ETHICS	
William Maynard	(305) 968-4214
FINANCE	
Hubert Morris	(702) 565-7274
HOME OFFICE	
Marge Sharp	(213) 372-2988
INJURIOUS SPECIES	
Clifton Witt	(301) 774-0303
LEGAL COUNSEL	
Gary Lilienthal	(617) 542-7070
LEGISLATION	
Clifton Witt	(301) 774-0303
MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION	
Joe McLaughlin	(503) 538-6323
NOMINATING	
Hal Koontz	(805) 872-1063
PARLIAMENTARIAN	
PUBLIC RELATIONS	
Tom Mashall	(703) 759-9431
PUBLICATIONS	
Don Cavender	(619) 745-8697
RAFFLE	
SPEAKERS	
Darel Cavender	(619) 741-3421
SPECIAL ADVISOR	
Dr. Richard E. Baer	(614) 836-5832
STATE COORDINATOR	
Ray H. Rudisill	(314) 645-6757
VETERINARY AFFAIRS	
Geoffrey R. Smith, D.V.M.	(619) 726-8918
WAYS AND MEANS	
Tim Dahle	(301) 551-6967

WATCHBIRD STAFF

Sheldon Dingle/Editor	(714) 734-7448
M. Jean Hessler/Art Director	(714) 548-3133
Susan Dingle/Assistant to Editor	(714) 734-7448

square by 4 ft. long was set up with a large hollow log at one end. Half the log is out of the cage and has an inch thick maple door on it. Cedar shavings were placed inside, and a perch put across in front of the entrance hole.

The pair was fed a diet of parrot mix (sunflower, safflower, millet, corn, pumpkin seed, melon seed, peanuts, and peppers), mixed fresh fruits (apple, pear, banana, kiwi fruit, melon, grapes, and assorted berries), mixed fresh vegetables (corn, potatoes, turnips, carrots, onions, bean sprouts, and radishes), greens (most endive and parsley), and a generous portion of both Top Choice W/Cheese & Egg soft, and Purina Hi-Pro dry dog foods. They occasionally received cooked meats like chicken (including the bones), and beef. They didn't get all these foods every day, but received a varied diet of different combinations. I also used a water soluble poultry vitamin, Headstart, which I put in all my birds' water to insure daily intake.

It seems I didn't have long to wait, because these two birds were used to being around humans and weren't about to let the change of environment bother them. Within a month they were preening, mating, and spending a great deal of time in the log.

There is a bit of a ritual to their mating which I will try to describe for you. First they call loudly to each other in a sound that I can only term "Amazon machinegun." This shrill din is finally replaced by the familiar clucking and whining that so many Amazons make. The two move close together and begin a great deal of mutual preening and fluffing. (Note: the female engages in much more of the head fluffing, giving her almost a hawkhead appearance.) Then the female takes the classic position of standing low on the perch and spreading her wings out and downward as the male mounts her. Copulation takes four or five minutes ending in another screeching outburst. The whole event takes close to half an hour and is repeated as often as every two or three hours prior to the female going inside the nest to lay.

By this time, the female was getting noticeably larger in the abdomen. At first the distension was only slight, but before going to nest she looked as if she could hardly get from one perch to another. In fact, she couldn't move along the sides or bottom of the cage without dragging.

Then about May 5th she laid her first egg. It was approximately the size of a small chicken egg, but not quite as elip-

tical. She moved it to several different places in the log, seeming dissatisfied with each new spot. Then on the afternoon of the third day the first egg disappeared. I could only surmise from the small bits of shell and residue that it had been eaten. The second egg didn't even make it into the nest as she must have laid it while on a perch. I found it below the cage where it couldn't have been laying more than a few minutes.

At this point, there was a drastic change in the pair's activity. Mating ceased, and Monjoli took to sitting alone seeming to sleep much of the time. As her abdomen was still distended and she was inactive all the time, I feared egg-binding and rushed her to my vet. His diagnosis was that being young she had had difficulty in passing the two eggs, and because of this her uterus was now swollen. Luckily, there was no egg left inside as I had first feared, and all that was necessary to get her on the road to recovery were a couple of injections and some rest.

I was not to be blessed with any more eggs but have high hopes for the coming season. I understand that a woman who also bought a pair of these same birds was lucky enough to have them lay five eggs for her. Unfortunately, the birds also began to eat their eggs as did mine. The woman was able to save a couple of eggs from the clutch and incubate them and, the last I heard, had successfully raised one chick to adulthood. At least this proves that birds of no more than three years old can produce fertile eggs.

Hopefully, I will be able to give an account of hatching and chick rearing after this season. I also hope to report on the Hispaniolan's personality as pets, and on their talking ability, which I've been told is excellent. Until then I can only wait and observe.

In closing I would just like to say that these birds, like most of the West Indies Amazons, are now in danger of extinction. With the constant clearing of land, encroachment of civilization, and the threat of tropical storms, the need for captive breeding is clear. As aviculturists it's our responsibility to propagate and make available to other breeders all rare and endangered species so that even if their natural habitats are totally destroyed, they won't go the way of the Cuban macaw, or the Carolina parakeet. If we can't make any decisions as to the conservation of their native lands, at least we can insure their survival for future generations to appreciate. ●

WHOLESALE BIRDS

For the Finest Quality of Exotic Birds
At Low — Low Quarantine — Wholesale Prices

Importers of Exotic Birds

Air Shipments to All Parts of the United States and Overseas

Never a Box or Service Charge

BABY AMAZONS

3-6 Months Old
Blue-Front Amazon
Yellow-Nape Amazon
Red-Lored Amazon
Blue Crown Amazon
Spectacled Amazon

MORE BABY BIRDS

African Grey Parrots
Timneh Gray Parrots
Blue and Gold Macaw
Green Wing Macaw
Sulphur Crested Cockatoo
— And Many Others —

EXOTICS INCLUDE

Troupials
Tanagers
Siskins
Goldfinches
Nightingales
Toucans
Parrotlets
Lorikeets

— Others —

Always Canaries and Cockatiels



Monthly Sale Specials! — Inquire

SUPREME EXOTIC BIRDS, INC.

39 North Bond St. • Mt. Vernon, New York 10550, USA

(914) 699-4608

Write or Call for Current Price List — Issued Bi-Weekly

ALL NEW EDITION !!!

SEND FOR YOUR FREE BIRD SUPPLY CATALOG... TODAY!!!

A SHOW STOPPER!!!

Valentine
EQUIPMENT COMPANY

PRESENTS *SENSATIONAL*
FREE BIRD SUPPLY CATALOG

Valentine EQUIPMENT COMPANY

WINNING PERFORMANCE BY AN EQUIPMENT COMPANY IN A SUPPORTING ROLE!!!

ALSO AVAILABLE... ★
VALENTINE'S TREMENDOUS 180 PAGE GENERAL CATALOG.
Send \$5.00 to cover cost of mailing and handling.

7510 S. Madison St. Hinsdale, Illinois 60521
P.O. Box 53 (312) 323-7070

