



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE

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

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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 National Cockatiel Society National Finch Society
Southeastern Aviculturists Association National Cage Bird Show, Inc. Avicultural Society of America

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Bird Club of Greater Birmingham
Central Alabama Aviculture Society

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Arizona Budgerigar Society
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The Seed Crackers

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Central California Cage Bird Club
Contra Costa Avian Society
Exotic Bird Breeders Association
Exotic Hookbill Society
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Golden Gate Avian Society
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San Diego County Canary Club
San Gabriel Valley Parakeet Association
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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

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Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture, Inc.

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Delaware Aviculture Association

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Central Florida Bird Breeders
Feathered Friends of Florida Avian Society
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Polk County Avicultural Society
Suncoast Avian Society
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Tropical Cockatiel Club of Miami
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Greater Middle Georgia Cage Bird Society

HAWAII

Exotic Birds of Hawaii

IOWA

Mid-America Cage Bird Society

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club, Inc.
McLean County Pet Bird Club

KANSAS

Kansas Avicultural Society, Inc.

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Gulf South Bird Club

MARYLAND

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

MASSACHUSETTS

Exotic Cage Birds of New England
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Western New England Cage Bird Society

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MINNESOTA

Minnesota Cage Bird Association
North Star Parrot Breeders Society

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Budgerigar Society

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

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Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society

NEVADA

Las Vegas Avicultural Society
Northern Nevada Cage Bird Society
Silver State Budgerigar Society, Inc.
Vegas Valley Caged Birds Association

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Avicultural Society

NEW YORK

Finger Lakes Cage Bird Association
The Greater Rochester Hookbill Association

NORTH CAROLINA

Carolina Avicultural Society
Charlotte Metrolina Cage Bird 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

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

PENNSYLVANIA

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

SOUTH CAROLINA

Carolina Cage Bird Club

TENNESSEE

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TEXAS

Alamo Exhibition Bird Club
Capital City Cage Bird Club
Dallas Cage Bird Society
Fort Worth Bird Club
North Texas Cockatiel Club

UTAH

Avicultural Society of Utah
Utah Pheasant Society

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.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Cage Bird Club, Inc.

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Animal Exchange, Rockville, MD Pritchard Bookkeeping Service, El Cajon, CA Southeast Aviaries, Alexandria, VA
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Auerhahn Ranch, Boerne, TX Serdna Machine, Fullerton, CA Parrot Jungle, Inc., Miami, FL Norshore Pets, Marengo, IL

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.

CALCIUM

The Misunderstood Mineral

By Thomas P. Ryan, D.V.M.
Binghamton, New York

Calcium and phosphorus are two important minerals in the diet of birds. Calcium- and phosphorus-related problems are not uncommon in pet birds. The deficiency most frequently seen in pet birds fed an all-seed diet is of calcium. Calcium is required in greater quantities than any other mineral and its metabolism is closely intertwined with that of phosphorus and vitamin D.

Calcium is important for the following:

1. The major component of bone and egg shell;
2. Necessary for nerve impulses;
3. Heart rate and blood clotting;
4. Muscle function;
5. Metabolic processes.

Phosphorus is found in bone, egg shell, muscles and is important in the metabolism of fats and carbohydrates. Low calcium can be a result of several things including the following:

1. High phosphorus and magnesium in the diet;
2. Large amounts of fat (such as seen in high oil seeds);
3. Not enough calcium in the diet;
4. High intestinal alkalinity;
5. Calcium complexing with oxalates or phytates in the diet.

It is important to remember that the calcium-to-phosphorus ratio of seeds most commonly included in bird feed range from 1:6 to 1:37. The correct ratio of calcium to phosphorus is 1.5:1 regardless of the species.

Metabolic bone disease (MBD) is a term used to describe a variety of pathologic bone conditions due to calcium-phosphorus-vitamin D₃ problems resulting from incorrect diet or diseases of the kidney, liver, intestine, thyroids, parathyroids or bone. Rickets is a form of MBD and is a disease of growing birds characterized by failure to deposit adequate calcium. In the strict sense of the word, rickets is due to a vitamin D₃ deficiency; however, many people use the term to denote low calcium absorption. Due to the low calcium levels the parathyroid glands secrete a hormone, PTH, in ever-increasing amounts to compensate for this imbalance. This results in the condition known as Nutri-



tional Secondary Hyperparathyroidism (NSHP). The signs of NSHP initially may be vague and may include the following: dull feathers, slow feather growth after a moult, feather picking, sleepiness, mental dullness, gastrointestinal upset. In advanced cases there may be muscle cramps and involuntary wing flapping, eggs may be laid deformed or with no shell or there may be a complete failure to lay eggs. Seizures can occur and may be triggered by stress, egg laying, noise, sudden turning on and off of lights or a meal with a high amount of phosphorus.

Treatment: The need for calcium is satisfied by taking in adequate calcium in the diet and by drawing upon the calcium depots (bone) of the bone (via PTH). Vitamin D alone should *not* be used in the treatment of NSHP. Vitamin D does not increase the intestinal absorption of calcium, but increases the blood calcium levels by taking it from the bone. In fact, prolonged vitamin D therapy will completely demineralize the bird unless the diet is corrected. The proper treatment is to correct any dietary problem and if necessary correct the hypocalcemia (low calcium) by injecting calcium gluconate in fortified 5% dextrose in saline into a vein.

Diagnosis of NSHP is done by a combination of signs that the bird is showing, blood tests and X-rays. The best prevention is a good diet no matter what the species. ●

Palm Cockatoo Registration

The first Regional Studbook for Palm Cockatoo, *Probosciger atterimus*, will be published and issued during the fall of 1985. Studbook cards are being mailed out now. If you have not been previously contacted and you are now holding Palm Cockatoos in your collection, please contact: Ronald A. Young, Studbook Keeper, Palm Cockatoo, Greater Baton Rouge Zoo, P.O. Box 60, Baker, LA 70704, phone 504/775-3877.

Some successful reproduction is now taking place in the private sector. It is important, therefore, that we identify and register as many of the birds now residing in the country in an effort to keep parentage information clean for the future of the species.

It is advisable that you identify your birds in some way. Tattooing under the wing is permanent. There are also good leg rings on the market made of stainless steel that can be custom stamped. Please contact me for more information.

R.A. Young

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SCHEDULE FOR AFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Mark these dates and plan to attend!

November 16, 1985
 Redondo Beach, California — A.F.A. Home Office
 Fall Quarterly Meeting

February 14-17, 1986
 Phoenix, Arizona — Holiday Inn and Holidome
 Winter Regional Meeting

August 6 thru 10, 1986
 New Orleans, Louisiana — Fairmont Hotel
 12th Annual Convention