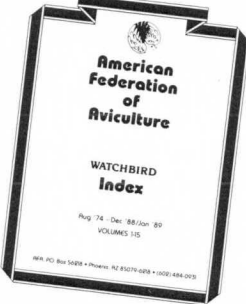


NOW  
AVAILABLE

## WATCHBIRD INDEX

Vol. I, No. 1 - August 1974 thru  
Vol. XV, No. 6 - Dec '88/ Jan '89  
Articles listed & cross referenced  
under 3 alphabetized headings

**Article • Author • Topic**



**\$11.00** Price includes  
shipping/handling

**American Federation  
of Aviculture**  
P.O. Box 56218  
Phoenix, AZ 85079-6218  
(602) 484-0931

**NOW AVAILABLE  
WATCHBIRD  
BINDERS**



This handsome, sturdy binder holds a full year's issues of *The Watchbird* (6 issues). Of rich brown leather-like vinyl embossed in gold. Keeps your *Watchbirds* in perfect condition and makes an attractive addition to your bookshelf.

**\$6.95** each

**CONTINENTAL U.S.** — Add \$2.50 Shipping/Handling for one binder. Add 50¢ for each additional binder.

**FOREIGN** — Add \$7.50 Shipping/Handling for one binder. Add \$2.00 for each additional binder. Please remit in U.S. funds.

Phone orders accepted using VISA, MC

**American Federation of Aviculture  
Watchbird Binder**  
P.O. Box 56218  
Phoenix, Arizona 85079-6218  
(602) 484-0931

AFA Visits . . .

# John and Pat Stoodley

by Nancy Vigran  
Studio City, California

Nestled in the lush, green farmlands of southern England is the home of John and Pat Stoodley, the Broadhalfpenny Conservation Sanctuary and Bezel's Kennels. From the sanctuary buildings, familiar squawks and screeches from clutches of Amazons and macaws hang in the moist air.

Animal husbandry has been embedded in both John and Pat since their early childhood. Together they opened the Bezel Boarding Kennels in the 1950s which is one of the most prominent and popular today. They also bred and raised many prize show dogs and cats. Years back, John was quite a horseman and has ridden over much of the south of England.

Love for birds started early as John raised canaries while in his teens. During the 1960s, John and Pat raised lovebirds, Australian parakeets and Asian parakeets. But it wasn't until they started working with Pionus, Amazons and macaws that John found the challenge and the need for research which led John and Pat to become two of the most noted aviculturists of today.

A permanent fondness became bonded between the Stoodleys and the Pionus genus. It was the Plum-crowned (*Pionus tumultuosus*) that really set John to start research into egg weights and moisture loss needed for hatchability. One hen in particular laid up to 13 fertile eggs a year, but she wouldn't sit. At the time, fostering techniques did not work. The eggs just wouldn't lose enough moisture. So, artificial incubation was tried.

In those days it was hard to find any information on incubation or incubators, so John and Pat spent a day at the Newent Falconry Centre where John took notes on information regarding their incubator and incubation techniques. From this, John was able to set out and build an incubator feeling quite confident that it could

fill their needs.

The Stoodleys had the first breeding in the United Kingdom not only with the Plum-crowned Pionus, but with the Blue-headed (*Pionus menstruus*), the Coral-billed (*Pionus sordidus*), the Bronze-winged (*Pionus chalcopterus*) and the Dusky Pionus (*Pionus fuscus*) as well.

After a couple of years of research and weighing of eggs from various pairs that were very successful in hatching without any aid, the Stoodleys determined that a weight loss of around 15% was required by most species for hatching. John wrote an article on these findings for the Dec/Jan 1982 issue of the *AFA Watchbird*. This opened new doors and helped to develop an undying friendship between American aviculturists and the Stoodleys.

The beginning of the Amazon invasion at Broadhalfpenny Sanctuary began with Pat. She acquired a collection really to keep the collection intact and to assure that the birds would receive proper care. It didn't take long for John to develop an interest in this genus as well. The Stoodleys have worked with and bred 28 species of Amazons and, in the past few years, have paid specific attention to some of the island species. John is particularly happy with the success they and others have had with the Cuban Amazon (*Amazona leucocephala*). Although much more limited success has been obtained with the Hispaniolan Amazon (*Amazona ventralis*) he is quite proud of what success there has been with this species as well. These island species have shown to be quite aggressive and to act out aggression on their mates. However, the second generation birds, now reaching maturity, have proven to be more steady and calm in nature.

One of John's favorites is the little Yellow-faced Amazon (*Amazona xanthops*). They are timid and shy birds who demand a more private

nesting area. It is felt that this species has great potential even though they are so temperamental. Pairs produce large clutches of four to six eggs leading to a good many offspring each year.

There are six species of macaws at Broadhalfpenny Sanctuary including the Hyacinthine (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*), Buffon's (*Ara ambigua*) or Great Green and Red-fronted Macaw (*Ara rubrogenys*). The Stoodleys have had great success in macaws as well, particularly with the Red-fronted Macaw.

At the time of my visit at the end of April, it was the beginning of the breeding season. Eggs were being laid and chicks were beginning to hatch. The most incredible remembrance is of two Great Green Macaw chicks being raised under foster parents, Yellow Naped Amazons (*Amazona ochrocephala parvipes*). Wow! These three-week-old babies were nearing the size of their foster parents and they were being fed extremely well with no supplementation. What an incredible sight!

Four years ago when John began feeling weary from being up almost around the clock hand feeding, he decided there really had to be a better way. They started to shuffle chicks around. At times, there would be one pair of birds fostering up to a dozen chicks. The chicks would be rotated four in at a time for feeding while others would be kept in the warmth of the nursery. Then they would be rotated three to four times a day with the other two clutches. Although supplementation was at times needed, it was not the amount of work required by total hand feeding. John credits the White-capped Pionus (*Pionus senilis*) as being the best birds for foster parenting.

"What triggers the hen into feeding is the call," John stated. "A hen can be tricked into learning to feed by exchanging her day one chick with a day three chick whose call is louder and more demanding." John also shared with me a technique for triggering a hen to feed a newly hatched chick although she has only been sitting for a week. If you fill a blown egg with some type of crawling insect and lay it under the hen, she will feel the movement. After about 48 hours, you can replace that egg with the chick placed carefully back in his shell so that he can knock the shell away and the hen will perceive this as her newborn chick.

John's assistant in the aviary is their daughter Kathleen. Kathy arrives daily around 6:00 a.m. to start the morning feeding. John feels that "your assistants must be every bit as good as you are. You must trust your assistants and listen to their observations and follow through on their judgement. The only way for them to have confidence in themselves is for you to have confidence in them and show that confidence." Often Kathy has observed and discovered things that have required some sort of change, aiding in the betterment of care and production at the sanctuary.

Since Pat has her hands full managing the kennel, having a confident assistant in Kathy has allowed John to travel, not only to the United States for speaking engagements but to many of the native lands of the birds they keep. His observations and studies in the wild have helped John to understand some of the nutritional needs and to develop a better environment for their birds.

Also during his travels, John became enthralled with tropical plants. Pat has always loved plants and, as a result, a 40' x 35' x 11' high greenhouse was added to the back of the house. Heating was installed in the floor as this was determined to be the most cost effective way. They decided to plant South American plants native to the cloud forest regions and sought out expert advice. These plants require heavy shading of up to 75% on the warmest days in England. Taking that into consideration, shades were placed outside on the sides and roof which can easily be rolled up and let down. The Stoodleys considered the planting to be a real pleasure. The roof supports in the center of the house were wrapped with heavy gauge wire, then packed with a very coarse peat medium. Moss was planted for a green effect and the bromeliads were wired outside as if growing on a tree trunk.

The greenhouse is kept no lower than 60°F at night and moisture is provided by the use of a fogging machine for 15 minutes each morning. Of course, birds were introduced into the greenhouse and do quite well. White Eyes of the family *Zosteropidae* thrive on the insects and keep them under control. There are also a pair of Emerald Doves in the house and some Chinese Painted Quail scurrying about on the bottom.

After John's first trip to the United

States in 1982 (to speak at the AFA convention), he began to realize what a desire there was, by aviculturists, for learning many of the things the Stoodleys had discovered and researched through the years. Thus John and Pat have authored three books. Three you ask? *Parrot Production* and *Pionus Parrots*, both out of print and highly in demand, helped to pioneer the way for good nutritional habits in aviculture as well as introducing us to the wonderful family of the Pionus Parrots. The third book, *Genus Amazona*, is due to be released in the U.S. in August during the AFA convention. Having been lucky enough to have a preview glimpse of this book gives me the chance to tell you it's a book worth looking forward to.

Perhaps the one thing that has contributed the most to the Stoodleys' success is their constant striving to make things better and willingness to try something new. And perhaps their greatest contribution to the field of aviculture is their willingness to share what they have learned with us, their fellow aviculturists.

*Photos continue on next page.*

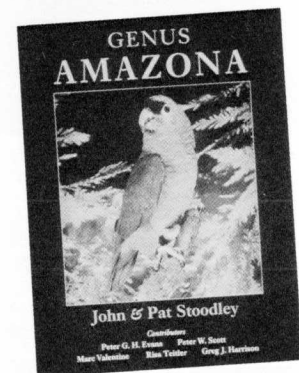
# AMAZONS

by

John and Pat Stoodley

135 pages, 8-1/4" x 11-1/4"

85 full color plates



**\$78.00 plus \$2.50 shipping**

**Dale R. Thompson**

P.O. Box 1122, Dept. AF  
Canyon Country, CA 91386

*(Calif. residents add 6-1/2% sales tax)*

(805) 252-4871



**Risa Teitler**

P.O. Box 1392

Miami Springs, FL 33266-1392

*(Florida residents add 6% sales tax)*

(305) 885-7453

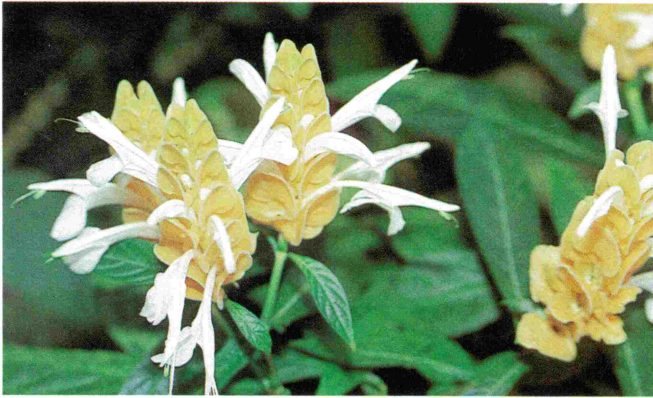




Pat and John Stoodley.

Photo by Nancy Vigran

One of the Stoodleys' favorite exotic plants is the Golden Candle (*Pachystachys lutea*) which blooms in their tropical greenhouse.



Adult Yellow-faced Amazon (*Amazona xanthops*) is among the smallest of the *Amazona* genus, similar in size to the White-fronted Amazon.



Immature Double Yellow-headed Amazons. The Stoodleys have maintained twenty-eight species and subspecies of Amazons.



Newly hatched Yellow-faced Amazon has very yellowish down feathers. The Stoodleys have bred this rare Amazon to the second generation and expect to have the third generation in 1990.



Nest boxes are placed within the aviaries as seen here with this producing pair of Lilacine Amazons.

The Stoodleys' Red-fronted Macaws (*Ara rubrogenys*) are very productive.

