

Breeding the Yellow-bibbed Lory

(*Lorius chlorocercus*)

by Jan Roger van Oosten
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SECTION I by Jan R. van Oosten

The Yellow-bibbed Lory is certainly among the "cadillacs" of the lory family. It is a member of the genus *Lorius* which includes the Black-caps, Red-breasted, and the Yellow-backed and Chattering Lorries. It looks smaller than its cousins but does have the appearance of a Black-cap. As you will note from the accompanying picture, this species differs from the others by two very distinct features. One is the beautiful yellow bar across

the chest (bib) of the bird ending with a black spot on each end. At the bend of the wing there is a noticeable white/blue area, small in size, but which stands out when the bird is at rest. It is like the icing on a cake. Its behavior is typical lory and clownish like most other members of the genus.

Mr. van Oosten received a young pair of these lovely birds from Wolfgang Kiessling, owner of Loro Parque in the Canary Islands, in December 1988. The birds arrived after 30 days in quarantine in New York and were in good shape except for a few ruffled feathers. The birds were checked for disease with nothing being found and thus were only wormed. They were then almost a year old and settled in very nicely. They were housed in a 3 ft. x 3 ft. x 5 ft. suspended 1" galvanized wire cage with an attached "L" shaped nest box. The perches were all natural branches which they from day one enjoyed picking apart. It took them about two months before they would enter the nest box, but from that point on they always slept in their nest box.

The pair unfortunately happens to be brother and sister and a second pair is due once one of the other pairs at Loro Parque decides to produce young. The Parque has several pairs but only one pair is breeding. The parents are rather unique in that the female is totally blind. She is an interesting bird to watch as she comes out of the nest box, climbs down the wire to the perch, and then proceeds along it to the feeding dish and helps herself. I have also seen her bathe and preen herself all as if she had perfect sight. She is in perfect feather and it is hard to believe she has hatched so many healthy youngsters. The two young birds were removed from the nest and hand reared by Rosemary Low when she was the curator there. The two were fairly tame so once

they had settled into their new home no effort was made to encourage any kind of tame behavior. After about six months, they would no longer come to the door when fresh fruit or nectar was put in their cage. From experience with other species, I have found that sometimes if the birds are too tame they tend to make poor parents.

The birds were fed a nectar mixture consisting of Purina Game Bird Star-tena, Purina Trout Chow #1, white sugar, Soyalac, BVMO (a horse vitamin), table salt, Prime (vitamin mix by Rolf Hagan), L-Cystine, Brewer's Yeast, bee pollen, fresh carrots, fresh apples, papaya, banana, 30 oz. can of fruit cocktail including the juice, and one jar of Gerber's junior size Sweet Potato. All of this is mixed together in a blender with water and fed in plastic "half moon" cups twice a day. Being captive bred, they consumed four of these cups per day. Captive bred birds seem to always eat more than wild caught birds. In addition to the nectar mix, they received 1/2 an apple every day and once a month they would get a slice of papaya and 1/2 a pear. These items they just relished and although other items were given them including sweet corn, they never consumed it but just nibbled sparingly at it.

After a year and a half, the pair was transferred to John Vanderhoof because of the roof collapsing on one of Jan van Oosten's buildings. As the birds were too valuable to keep under improper conditions and because they were showing signs of nesting, the pair went south for awhile with John Vanderhoof in hopes that they might produce, but at least would be in safe hands.

SECTION II by John Vanderhoof

In March of 1990, I received several pairs of Loriidae from Jan R. van Oosten, some of which I purchased for my own breeding program and a few pairs to keep for him until such time as he relocates. I had never seen Yellow-bibbed Lorries before, so when I first laid eyes on them, they were every bit as exquisite as others had said. Not only are they exceptionally beautiful but quite comical in their antics. They were immediately put into their new home which is an all-wire suspended cage measuring 6 ft. long x 2 ft. wide x 3 ft. high. Every morning they were at the feed door ready for their goodies and would



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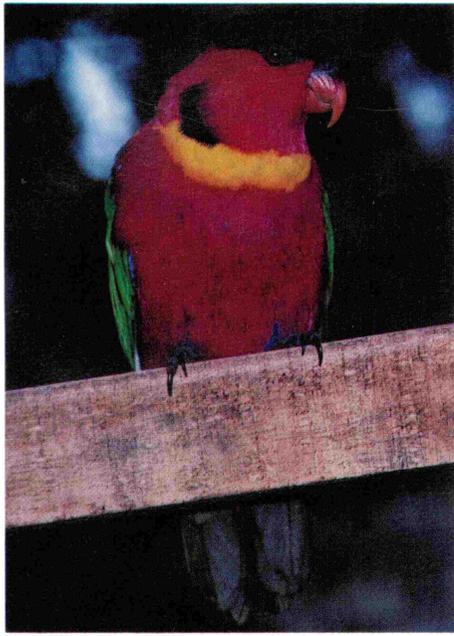
LORIES DELIGHT DRY POWDER; a nutritionally complete formula with the proper balance of proteins, carbohydrates, and necessary nutrients to insure health and breeding vitality. A combination of grains, pollen, fructose, fruits, vegetables, and vitamins/minerals are utilized in a fine flour consistency which is natural to Lorries. The mixture may be used in the dry state or blended with water and fruit as a nectar. I personally use it both ways for my breeding stock. To date, this formula is producing third generation youngsters.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Over 30 species of Lorries and Lorikeets are presently in our collection. Handfed young and adult pairs are available. The 100 plus pairs set up for breeding are successfully maintained on "Lories Delight," both in the dry and nectar forms. Fresh fruit is provided regularly.

Feel free to call for prices and any questions regarding the maintenance and breeding of Lorries.

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The Yellow-bibbed Lory was first bred in the U.S. through a cooperative effort by Jan R. van Oosten and John Vanderhoof. This successful breeding occurred on June 16, 1990. The yellow bib is very evident in this photo.

have come right out if I hadn't gently pushed them back inside.

Jan and I both agreed that they

were not old enough to be sexually mature, so I was simply satisfied to observe them for a period of time and enjoy their company. However, on May 16th, when I opened the inspection door to their nest box, there was an unexpected surprise. Three days later there appeared the assumed second egg. At this point a decision had to be made in regards to letting them incubate (and take the risk that they may not continue), or to foster to another proven pair. I chose the former based on their willingness to commence setting immediately after the first egg was laid.

On the morning of May 22nd, after checking the eggs three times per day to assure myself that they were sitting tightly, I noticed the female out of the box which was unusual at that hour. Upon feeling the eggs, they were both cool. I immediately placed them under a pair of Blue-streaked that had two eggs of their own of exactly the same age. They faithfully incubated for the duration and on June 16th, hatched their own two youngsters plus one of the two Yellow-bibbed. The second egg was infertile (which I had candled and taken out five days

after putting it under the Blue-streaked).

Nine days after hatching, I noticed one of the three youngsters falling behind the other two in its proper weight gain. I removed all three, not knowing which one was the Yellow-bibbed, to hand feed until weaned. Fortunately, the smallest of the three that had not been fed as much was one of the Blue-streaks. So the little yellow "fellow" has grown up healthy and robust and is looking fantastic.

Hopefully we can acquire more Yellow-bibs in the near future for new gene pool stock as there are some apparently in Europe, Singapore, and possibly other countries.

This little gem is approximately the size of the Dusky but, as Jan has explained, it belongs to the genus *Lorius* like the Black-cap, Chattering, and others, which are significantly larger in overall size.

I am sure in the future there will be other successes by other lory breeders with new and rare species. So those of you who have entertained the thought of breeding lorries, now is the time to begin. Good luck! ●



We are seeking information

and possible matchmates for these unusual patterned young Palm Cockatoos. Is there anyone who is handrearing Palms with the same patterns shown in these photos?

Please contact

The Palm Loft

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