

Breeders of Cockatiels,  
Lovebirds, and Zebra Finches

BARONA BIRD FARM



BIRDS  
OF ALL KINDS  
and  
everything you need in  
bird supplies

■ WE SHIP BIRDS ■

Send stamped, self-addressed  
envelope for prices.

Hours:  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed Mon.

(714) 443-8315

12995 Old Barona Road  
Lakeside, California 92040  
(near San Diego)

## Bracken Bird Farm



Finches  
Cockatiels  
Lovebirds  
Parrots  
Quails  
Doves

WE BUY, SELL, TRADE  
WHOLESALE  
RETAIL

100 PLUS AVIARIES  
AT THIS LOCATION

**714/792-5735**

10797 New Jersey Street  
Redlands, CA. 92373

## Breeding the Aratinga Weddellii or Dusky Conure

by: Mel & Gay Fischer  
Gilded Cage Pet Center  
Mount Vernon, WA

About a year ago we purchased two Dusky conures along with other birds from our supplier in Seattle, with intentions of trying to sell them in our pet shop.

After having the Duskiess for awhile, we purchased the last one our supplier had and put it with the other two. Within 24 hours we had to separate the new one, as the others were picking on it, and we were afraid they might try to kill it.

During the next couple of months, we observed the two birds and determined that there was a good chance of them being opposite sexes. They were also seen mating on two separate occasions. As we all know, the act of mating doesn't mean the two birds are a male and female, but it encouraged us anyway. We let a man, who is supposed to be good at pelvic testing, check the birds, and he thought they were both females. So much for encouragement.

In July, 1977, I finished our bird building at home and we had an extra flight in it, so we decided to take the two Duskiess home, as we had another one to sell anyway.

The flight is 8' x 4' x 8' high. There are Alder branches for perches at each end, and a nest box about half way back on one 8' wall. It is about 6' from the floor. The box measures 9½ x 11 x 9½ inches high. They have slept in the box every night, since the first day they were put in the flight. I had filled the box about half full with wood shavings.

For the next several months, there was no encouragement from the birds at all. Through the winter, we didn't expect or want anything, as there is no heat in the building and the water bowls froze solid on occasion. We didn't need an egg-bound bird.

In March, 1978, we attended the Bird Symposium in Seattle. During the five days of the Symposium, we decided to try to sell the two Duskiess, as they didn't fit into our plans for what we wanted to try to have breed for us. (I often read about and hear people talk about how they breed their birds. For the record, our birds do the breeding, we just try to encourage them).

*Baby Dusky Conure makes its camera debut July 16th.*





# NEW PRODUCTS



## YOUR BIRD IS A WORK OF ART

To our good fortune, we didn't get around to trying to sell them. On April 28th, while checking the birds in our building, I noticed one Dusky was missing. This was unusual in the middle of the day. Worried about it, I decided to check the nest box, expecting to find a sick or dead bird. As I went into the flight, it came out of the box. I decided to check the box anyway. To my delight, they had thrown all the shavings out, and on the wood bottom lay three eggs that were slightly larger than a cockatiel egg.

The next three weeks were anxious ones. On May 18th, we had a baby Dusky conure. On May 23rd, the parents had broken open a second egg and there was a fully developed baby, dead in the shell. The third egg was taken from the nest box on June 3. It was also fertile, but dead in the shell.

The baby was fed by the parents and grew rapidly. As of June 3rd, it's eyes were not open yet, but it definitely had the black beak of the mother and father. It's legs and feet were pink, and it was covered with a white down.

On June 5th, the baby's feet were starting to show some of the grey color of the parents. It's body was about the size of an adult American Budgie (small) and the crop was well filled. It was somewhat steadier when trying to sit up.

By June 10th, a lot of pin feathers were starting to show and it's eyes were starting to open. It could hold its head up without much effort.

On June 13th, the legs were dark grey like the parents and the body was covered with a grey down. It could sit up and hold its balance well.

When observed on June 18th, the chick's eyes were fully open, and it had wing and tail feathers about 1/4 inch long. For the first time, the baby sat up and hissed at me when I opened the nest box. The crop was once again well filled. The parents were very quiet and didn't leave the front perch while I checked the baby in the nest box.

And now you can have all his charm and beauty artistically captured in a professional full-color portrait. Bird Portrait Studios will work from your snapshots or its own pictorial references to create an original portrait of yours, or any bird, in oil-bonded pigments and pastels. Each portrait is individually crafted, and will arrive in your home signed and dated by the artist. Portraits are available in several sizes, matted or unmatted. For complete information and a photo of a sample portrait, write for a brochure. A stamped, self-addressed envelope would be appreciated.

Your uniquely commissioned work of art, from

**BIRD PORTRAIT STUDIOS**  
4804 Rampart St., Apt. W-4,  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
919-787-4700



## DELUXE THRIFT FEED SAVER FEEDER

Extra sturdy feeder developed for small birds — Quail, Pigeons, Canaries, Parakeets, Pheasants, Bantams. The big feature is that the feed saver catch tray is removable to make it easy to recover the lost feed. It also has a clear plastic front, making it easier to check on the feed level. Perch is removable, adjustable. 3 pound capacity. Measures 10 1/4 x 9 1/2 x 5 inches. Removable tray is 5 x 10 x 1 1/4 inches deep. Lip of feeder is 3/4 inches deep. This feed saving feature will more than pay for the cost of the feeder. \$15.95 prepaid

**STROMBERG'S**  
Chicks & Pet Limited  
Pine River 7  
Minnesota 56474



Versatile new packaging of Mar-del Laboratories' products now gives aquarium and pet retailers three display options — hung individually on display racks, displayed individually on a shelf, or included in Mar-del's new dozen-pack shelf display.

**MARDEL LABORATORIES, INC.**  
714 North Yale Avenue  
Villa Park, Illinois 60181  
312/530-4848

Through the next few weeks, the baby developed quickly and on July 16th, I handled the baby for the first time. I took the baby from the box so that my father could take pictures of it. It was identical to the parents except a little smaller. The baby's eyes were totally dark, while the parents have the grey iris.

On July 22nd, the baby came out of the nest box for the first time and stayed out all night. The parents would begin to scream any time they thought I was going to try to go near it.

On July 23rd, and every night after that, the baby went back into the nest box to sleep. It was out of the box every morning when I turned the big lights on.

The adult birds were fed a mixture of seed called 'Hookbill Diet' that we get from Silversong Northwest in Seattle. They were also given corn on the cob every day. In addition, we gave them apple, sunflower seed and a few peanuts. They got Avitron vitamins in their drinking water every day.

The lighting in the building consists of some natural daylight in conjunction with Vita-Lite 12 hours a day, and two 25 watt night lights at night.



*Dusky Conure approximately 8 weeks old.*

Since we first discovered the eggs, we have checked every book we could find for information on the Dusky conure, and can find nothing at all on their breeding. Joseph Forshaw states he could find no information, and there is nothing in Rosemary Low's 'Parrots of South America'.

It has been suggested to us that this might be a first breeding of the *Aratinga weddellii*.

There is a sad ending to our experience with the baby Dusky. During the middle of October, we started losing birds in our building. Between Oct. 18, and Oct. 24th, we lost two Blue Front Amazons, three Orange Wing Amazona, a Senegal Parrot, one parent Dusky Conure, and on October 23rd, our 'Baby Dusky' died. Some of the birds were sent to the state for Autopsy and the results showed Pacheco's Disease was the cause of the deaths. We have no idea how the disease entered the building, as we had not brought in any new birds for a long while.

We are now trying to locate more Dusky Conures, as they are wonderful little birds and we would like to continue trying to raise them.

## Birds Are Our Business... our Only Business

**Parrots, Macaws, Cockatoos, Cockatiels, Mynah Birds, Finches, Love Birds,  
Australian Parakeets and many others.**

**We Offer:**

- 6 USDA Approved Quarantine Stations
- Guaranteed Satisfaction & Live Delivery
- All Birds Shipped in Top Condition Ready for Resale
- Volume Prices to Jobbers
- All Orders Shipped Within 24 Hrs. from New Orleans
- International Airport

Deep South is now offering the finest and largest selection of birds around. Birds are in demand and you can profit from them. Give your customers the assurance that they're getting the best.

To place your order use our Toll Free Number

**DEEP SOUTH AVIARIES**  
**1-800-535-5690**

Route 3, Box 257  
Slidell, LA 70458  
504-641-7820 (for information)

Join and Support the INTERNATIONAL BIRD INSTITUTE.  
Call for information and applications.

