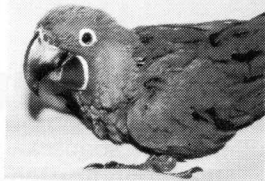


**1988 CALENDAR
of Domestic Hand-Fed Babies
by AVES INTERNATIONAL**



Adorable baby birds in beautiful color!
Helpful bird care and health information
with each month.

\$7.95 ea. includes postage. CA residents
add 46¢ sales tax.



AVES INTERNATIONAL
P.O. Box 1919
Wilmington, CA 90744 • (213) 541-1180

Aluminum Leg Bands

PROMPT SERVICE • HIGH QUALITY
ORDER 1988 BANDS

Coded Parakeet Closed Bands.
Regular Initial Type Bands, not coded,
in choice of colors, open or closed.
Plastic Family Identification Bands
for keets or canary, choice of colors.
Leg Band Cutters. Bird Claw Scissors.

SEND SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED
ENVELOPE FOR COMPLETE PRICE LIST.

RED BIRD PRODUCTS, INC.

2786 Fruitridge Road
P.O. Box 20004 (Dept. A.F.A.)
Sacramento, CA. 95820

Walnut Acres Aviaries

breeding

*Toucans, Toucanettes,
Cockatoos, Macaws,
Eclectus, African greys,
Australian Parakeets,
Parrots, and Finches*

All Birds Closed Banded

Call or write for price list.
Jerry Jennings

(818) 884-5476

P.O. Box 6393
Woodland Hills
CA 91365

Visitors by
Appointment Only



Breeding Two Species of Brotogeris Parakeets at Loro Parque

by Rosemary Low
Curator, Loro Parque, Tenerife, Spain

The small neotropical parakeets of the genus *Brotogeris* are not well represented in collections. At Loro Parque six of the seven species are kept. The two pairs of *trica* are off exhibit at the time of writing (one pair is to be placed on exhibit) and the orange-chinned parakeet (*B. jugularis*) is not present in the collection.

Members of the genus are notorious for failing to breed in captivity. However, a private aviculturist in California, Robbie Harris, has bred six species (she does not have *trica*) and is perhaps the only person to have achieved real success.

Her cages are small, as are those at Loro Parque. The latter measure approximately 58in (1.5m) long, 32in (82cm) wide and 40in (102cm) high, and are suspended about 3ft (91cm) off the ground. No *Brotogeris* had been reared here until this year, I believe. I am thus pleased to report success with two species.

The cobalt-winged parakeet (*Brotogeris cyanopectus*) has very seldom been bred in captivity. It originates from the western part of the Amazon basin. There is one pair of the nominate race on exhibit and three specimens, also of the nominate race, off exhibit. The latter are so much more brightly colored that I believed that those on exhibit must have been either *gustavi* or *beniensis* until the German aviculturist Thomas Arndt assured me they were not. None answer precisely to the descriptions given by Forshaw (1971), for example.

In August 1987 Carlos Keller, an

extremely knowledgeable Brazilian aviculturist, visited Loro Parque and told me that the more brightly colored birds originate from Acre in Brazil. They are much brighter yellow on the forehead, the yellow being more extensive in the believed males which have the crown tinged with blue.

It is regrettable that because of the difficulty of inspecting the nests in the range of cages for the *Brotogeris* parakeets, I can provide no information on the development of the chick of the pair on exhibit. The nest-box for this pair is very small, measuring about 4in (10cm) x 5in (12cm) x 10in (25cm) high, of a sloping design. The first of three eggs was laid about April 20 and hatched on about May 14. The young bird left the nest on July 2, i.e., after about 49 days. It was very confident and a joy to watch with its very attentive parents.

On fledging it differed from them in its much smaller beak, also in the beak coloration, the upper mandible being dark brown, except the fleshy pads at each side. The feet were grey, not pink tinged with grey as in the adults. The orange spot on the chin was as bright and as extensive as in the adults. The lores, also a very small area of the forehead, were tinged with yellow. There was a faint blue tinge on the head and a little yellow on the carpal edge of the wing. The cere was white.

Incidentally, the male parent has a larger head and beak but plumage does not differ in male and female.

The bond between the three birds is very close; they are never more than a



Brotogeris cages in the pleasant setting of Loro Parque.



Parents and young.



Grey-cheeked parakeet about 73 days old, eating its favorite — corn on the cob.

Note the orange barring on the flanks.

few inches apart, usually with the young one in the middle. It will frequently playfully take hold of the upper mandible of one of its parents but apparently not in a serious attempt to solicit food. Mutual preening between parents and young, including vent-preening, is frequently observed.

According to Forshaw, the call of this species is undescribed. It emits a Budgerigar-like chirruping, also squawking similar to that species but not as loud.

The three other *cyanoptera* at Loro Parque were caged two and one without a nest-box until late May when a cage in the second breeding centre (just constructed) was available for them. The three birds were then housed together, sexes unknown. Believed to be two males and one female, they were immediately compatible. During the third week in July the female commenced to lay. There were four eggs by July 31 but these proved to be infertile.

In the next cage to the *cyanoptera* on exhibit are a pair of orange-flanked or grey-cheeked parakeets (*B. pyrrhopterus*) which had laid clutches of six eggs in 1985 and five in 1986. Two eggs of each clutch were fertile and chicks hatched but these apparently died after being removed for hand-rearing in 1985 and when left with the parents in 1986.

In 1987 the female had laid four eggs by April 7. Two chicks hatched, the first on April 22. They were removed for hand-rearing on May 1 when they weighed 29.2g and 31.8g. On that day they were ringed with 6mm rings (the *cyanoptera* was ringed when about 14 days old but the ring came off). Weights



DON'T WING IT!

Get the facts on exotic pet bird care *FREE* at the San Francisco SPCA's bird care seminars.

Class meets the second Sunday of each month from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Proper nutrition, switching your bird to a healthy diet, household dangers, Teflon poisoning, health care, how to tell if your bird is sick, choosing the right bird for you, buying a healthy bird, taming and training, winning your bird's trust, cages, the importance of play and safe toys, proper light and temperature, teaching your bird to talk, parrot intelligence, normal and problem behavior, ways to change problem behavior, breeding, parrots in the wild, endangered parrots, and more...

INSTRUCTOR:

Sally Blanchard,
exotic pet bird expert

Provided as a public service by
The San Francisco SPCA
2500 16th St., San Francisco CA 94103
Call (415) 554-3000 for details.



were as follows: May 5, 33.7g and 34.3g; May 12, 36.4g and 37.4g; May 19, 43.2g and 45.4g; May 26, 55.15g and 57.2g; June 2, 61.2g and 65.8g; June 9, 59.5g and 68.0g. June 16 was the first day on which they commenced to lose weight; they then weighed 53.8g and 64.8g and were still feeding well from the spoon. Favorite foods when they started to eat were spray millet and corn on the cob.

On June 22 they weighed 53.8g and 60.8g. The next day they were removed from the hand-rearing room and four days later to a suspended cage outdoors. They ate corn on the cob ravenously which was offered for the next month. By then they were eating the standard food well. This consists of parakeet mixture (canary, millet, groats and sunflower) plus chopped apple, carrot, alselgar (similar to spinach but with a larger leaf) and peas.

They were enchanting little creatures at weaning stage, similar to the parents except for the bill which is dark brown with the soft pad white. This bill color gives them a more gentle appearance than the adults. The only other difference is in the darker color of the feet of the immature birds — grey rather than pink.

The hand-rearing food consisted of the following blended with mineral water: wheat germ cereal, baby cereal such as Nestle's Seven Cereals, Three Fruits or Multifruits, oatmeal, a little carrot, apple and alfalfa, a small amount of soaked mung beans, soya flour and a few drops of Dayaminerals (Abbott Laboratories SA, Madrid), occasionally peanut butter and a little calcium.

As already noted, the chicks from the first clutch were removed for hand-rearing on May 1. A second clutch, consisting of five eggs, was laid at the beginning of June. By July 3 four chicks had hatched; the fifth hatched two days later.

The elder two chicks were removed for hand-rearing on July 10. The nest-box was of the same dimensions as that described for the cobalt-winged parakeets; it was simply too small to hold five chicks. On that day they were ringed with 6mm rings. The third and fourth chicks were ringed on July 14 and the fifth two days later.

The parents made an excellent job of rearing the three young. The first two left the nest on August 12 but for two or three days spent most of the time back in the nest. The third chick left on August 15. The behavior of the family was identical to that of the *cyanoptera*; from very soon after fledging the young

would preen their parents as enthusiastically as their parents preened them. They quickly learned to feed on their own.

Meanwhile, one of the two chicks from the second nest which was being hand-reared developed unusual markings. Each feather of the flanks and the sides of the upper breast had a bar of orange near the tip of the feather, producing a very attractive barred effect.

These two chicks weighed 31.9g and 33.9g when removed from the nest on July 10. Subsequent weights were as follows: July 16, 39.7g and 37.1g; July 23, 41.2g and 37.1g; July 30, 52.0g and 49.7g; August 6, 64.8g and 62.1g. August 10 was the first day on which they lost weight: 64.8g and 65.1g. On August 13 they weighed 64.6g and 61.6g and on August 20, 64.9g and 61.6. They were removed from the hand-rearing room, weaned, on August 26 weighing 58.3g and 58.7g. Again, the favorite food was corn on the cob and spray millet.

I am especially pleased that the pair at Loro Parque produced seven young in 1987. The orange-flanked parakeet has a limited range in north-western Peru and south-western Ecuador. Certainly in Ecuador its numbers have declined considerably in recent years due to the combined pressures of habitat destruction and excessive trapping.

In the 1970s this species was exported in quite large numbers. Tame young birds could be obtained for extremely low prices. Then Ecuador and Peru prohibited the commercial export of their fauna and this species became virtually unobtainable. Breeding successes were almost non-existent. In 1979 or thereabouts Peru again allowed the export of birds and enormous numbers of *pyrrhopterus* were imported into the USA. Between October 1979 and June 1980, for example, over 7,500 were imported into the States; very much smaller numbers reached Europe.

This delightful little parakeet is now fairly rare and seldom bred in Europe. As a threatened species, it deserves more attention from aviculturists. It is in danger of dying out in captivity and of becoming rare in the wild.

My aim is to have several breeding pairs at Loro Parque. I would like to hear from other breeders who would be willing to exchange young to form unrelated pairs. And may I urge anyone who has a single bird to make an effort to ensure that it has the opportunity to breed. Success will bring so much more pleasure than a single pet bird... 