

# Yellow-faced Parrotlet

(*Forpus xanthops*) Salvin

by Joe and Mary Lannom  
Escondido, California

The yellow-faced parrotlet is a small, dimorphic South American parrot of the coastal regions of northern Peru and southern Ecuador. The sexes are similar except the male's rump is cobalt blue, while the female's rump is turquoise.

Two pairs of these birds were obtained from Aves International on September 2, 1980. After a one month quarantine, one pair was placed in an 18" square cage and the other in a 2' x 2' x 4' long cage. Each pair had an English parakeet nest box on the outside of the far side of the cage allowing for easy access to the nest. The nests had a two inch layer of pine wood shavings.

The pair of birds that bred were in the 4' long cage, which is in a series of three cages. The center cage houses a breeding pair of Senegal parrots and the cage on the far end

contains a breeding pair of maroon bellied conures. These cages are raised three feet off the ground under a dense coral tree giving the birds a sense of being suspended in the tree. The cages have a wide, heavy sheet of cardboard hung between them to give the breeding birds a slight barrier.

The first egg was produced on February 23, 1982. This was also the first time either bird was ever observed in the nest. The female was the only bird ever seen in the nest and once laying started, she remained in the nest. No courtship was ever observed because the cage is in a position where the birds were able to hear us approaching before we could observe them.

This pair laid seven eggs, six of which were fertile. The eggs were laid on 2/23, 2/24, 2/25, 2/27, 2/28, 3/1 and the last one on 3/3. The first egg

Photos by Joe Lannom



Our first clutch of six yellow-faced parrotlets.



Yellow-faced parrotlet hen with newly hatched chick.

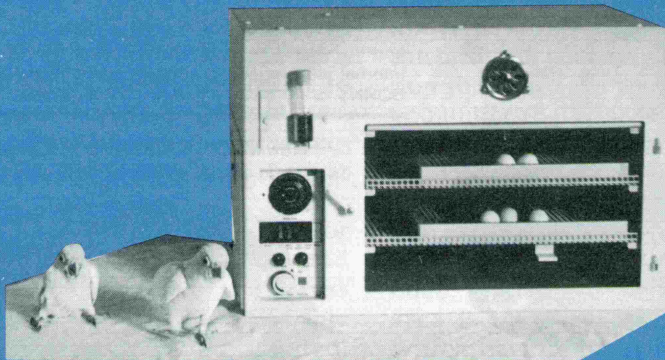
hatched on 3/17 and the next two on 3/18. The rest hatched on 3/21, 3/23 and the last one on 3/25. The seventh egg was clear. Incubation appears to be 21 to 22 days.

The weather conditions at the time of breeding were no frosts, scattered rains, night and morning clouds, and sunny, warm days.

The male, though usually a very calm bird, became very upset whenever the cage was approached from the time the hen laid the first egg until the last baby was removed. He would fly back and forth uttering a very frantic cry. The female was never observed out of the nest until the fifth chick had hatched. Because of the tremendous size difference of the

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youngsters, the three oldest chicks were removed for hand feeding.

The hand feeding formula we used is:

Add to approximately 4 cups of boiling water:

2 tablespoons trout chow

1/2 cup wheat hearts

2 tablespoons dark Karo syrup

Boil three to five minutes. Put into a blender and add one egg yolk, 1/2 ripe papaya, 1 leafy green, 1/2 cup hulled sunflower, 1/2 cup masa harina, 1/2 cup General protein. In place of the General, sometimes we used baby lory premix from Zeigler Brothers. Drugstores usually carry General or a similar high protein mix. All of these ingredients were well blended, adding as much water as necessary to achieve a smooth fluid. This mixture was then fed with a spoon.

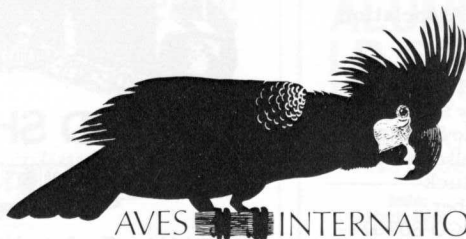
The remaining three chicks were taken from the nest on 3/30. We hoped this would encourage the pair to recycle and produce another clutch. They did! Two weeks after the first clutch of youngsters were completely independent, the hen went back to the business of laying eggs.

The cage is constructed of 1/2" x 1" welded wire with two natural eucalyptus perches. The length of the cage runs north/south with the feeding station at the south end and the nest at the north end. The cage is under the outer branches of a coral tree so that, at the start of breeding, there was a great deal of light and as spring progressed the leaves provided a shade cover for the cage.

We feed a lot of fresh fruits and vegetables as well as a 40% parakeet mix, sunflower, horse ration, and brown bread with powdered vitamins. We also feed sprouted sunflower daily. We do all the feeding with the same diet all year round, though the fruits and vegetables change with the seasons. Fresh water is provided daily in a flat, 12" diameter bowl.

The nest box is checked weekly or when either bird is not in sight. It was checked daily when the first egg was found. Although the parents did not seem to mind the interference, we handled the birds as little as possible. These birds have not needed worming since we got them nor have antibiotics been needed.

By May 1, 1982 all six chicks were weaned, when the parents began a second clutch. The first two chicks were males, the third a hen and the last three males. ●



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**Kansas Avicultural Society**

will be holding its  
**8th Annual Caged Bird Show**  
**October 14, 1989**

at the Ramada Hotel  
Broadview Place, 400 W. Douglas  
Wichita, Kansas  
For information call:  
Nancy Prester, (316) 263-0850

**Sunshine State Cage Bird Society**

will host its  
**18th Annual Show**  
**October 14, 1989**

Altamonte Springs Hilton & Towers  
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Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

**Wisconsin Cage Bird Club, Inc.**

announces its  
**12th Annual All Bird Show**  
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Holiday Inn / Holidome  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin  
For information contact:  
Jane Brickham  
505 McKinley Ave., Omro, WI 54963  
(414) 685-2242

**Greater Kansas City Aviculture Society**

invites you to its  
**13th Annual All Bird Show**  
**October 21, 1989**

Howard Johnson Motor Lodge  
I-70 at Noland Rd.  
Independence, MO  
For information call:  
Dale Hunsburger, show manager  
(816) 461-5582

**Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club**

is hosting its  
**Fall Bird Show and Fair**  
**October 21 & 22, 1989**

Judged show on Sat., Fair on Sunday  
Rodeway Inn  
I-40 at Briley Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee  
For show information contact:  
Ed Dittmar, Rt. 3, Box 469  
Lovers Lane, Lebanon, Tenn. 37087  
For fair information contact:  
Jean Michael, Rt. 2, Box 33C  
Cedar Hill, Tenn. 37032  
(615) 696-2786

**Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club, Inc.**

presents its  
**14th Annual Bird Show & Raffle**  
**October 28, 1989**

Embassy Suites Hotel  
North Cypress Creek Rd. and I-95  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
For information contact:  
Roger Heroux, 2213 Bermuda Road,  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406  
(407) 964-4414



The Watchbird offers free publicity for member club bird shows by announcing the dates and locations of the shows. To have your show listed it is necessary to get the data to the Watchbird four to five months before the show date. For example, if your show takes place the first week of October, it should be listed in the August/September issue. The deadline for that issue is June 1st. (Copy/article deadline is two months preceding publication date.)

**Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture**

is presenting its  
**27th Annual Bird Show**  
**October 28 & 29, 1989**

Oasis Club at El Jebel Temple  
4625 W. 58th, Denver, Colorado  
Saturday:  
competition judging and banquet  
Sunday:  
pet contest, bird care class,  
hand-feeding class, taming class  
Both days:  
commercial exhibits, raffle, bird sale,  
educational exhibits  
For information contact:  
Mary Kaye Buchtel, show manager  
P.O. Box 3663  
Englewood, CO 80155  
(303) 369-4804

**Tropical Cockatiel Club**

presents its  
**4th Annual Cockatiel & Lovebird Show**  
**ACS Florida Regional**  
**October 29, 1989**

Embassy Suites Hotel  
North Cypress Creek Rd. and I-95  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
For information call:  
Judy Cook (305) 595-8594, evenings or  
contact Suzanne Myers, 9875 Southwest  
183 Street, Miami, FL 33157  
(305) 235-4281

**Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society**

**Annual All Bird Show**  
**November 4, 1989**

Century Plaza Inn  
Washington, PA  
Information: (412) 795-1904  
Affiliations: NCS, SPBE, ALBS, NIROC

**Missouri Cage Bird Association**

**43rd Annual Fall Show**  
**November 4, 1989**

Days Inn  
15 Hill Top Village, Eureka, Missouri  
Show secretary, MCBA:  
Sandra Zak

**Central California Cage Bird Club**

**36th Annual All Bird Show**  
**November 4 & 5, 1989**

American Legion Hall  
1001 S. Santa Cruz Ave.,  
Modesto, California  
For information call:  
Darlene Cortese  
(408) 923-1178  
P.O. Box 3000J, San Jose, CA 95156

**Milwaukee Bird Society, Ltd.**

announces our  
**6th Annual All Bird Show**  
**November 10-11, 1989**

(judging on the 11th)  
The Quality Inn Airport  
5311 South Howell Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53207  
For more information call or write:  
Judith E. Marshall, club president  
16585 West Melody Drive  
New Berlin, WI 53151  
(414) 797-9904

or

Sue Bender, show secretary  
423 East Norwich Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53207  
(414) 481-8056

**Delaware Valley Bird Club of Pennsylvania**

announces our  
**34th Annual Show**  
**November 11, 1989**

Creamery 4H Center  
Creamery, Pennsylvania  
For information contact:  
Larry Weider (215) 234-0280  
Kris Kroner (215) 628-4143  
433 Houston Road, Ambler, PA 19002

**Mid-West Cage Bird Club**

will hold its  
**54th Annual Cage Bird Exhibition**  
**November 11 & 12, 1989**

at the Friendship Center  
1119 Newburgh, Westland, Michigan  
For additional information:  
Jean Wiley, show secretary  
P.O. Box 982, Wayne, MI 48184  
(313) 326-2424

**Rose City Exotic Bird Club**

**3rd Annual Show**  
**November 11 & 12, 1989**

Red Lion Inn  
1225 N. Thunderbird Way  
Portland, Oregon  
For show information contact:  
Sue DeSart 288-1928  
4137 N. Colonial Ave.  
Portland, OR 97217

**North Florida Tri-Club Bird Show**

**November 25, 1989**  
Jacksonville Marriott Southpointe  
4670 Salisbury Road, Jacksonville, FL  
For information contact:  
Bobby Nipper, show chairman  
Route 10, Box 147, Gainesville, FL 32605  
(904) 372-0299

or

Nancy Browne, show secretary  
7809 Bilken Dr. S., Jacksonville, FL 32210  
(904) 772-7970  
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**South Jersey Bird Club**

**Annual Show**

**December 2, 1989**  
Edgeley Fire Hall  
Bristol, Pennsylvania  
For information contact:  
Rick Szlachta  
7221 Oak Avenue, Melrose Park, PA 19126  
(215) 635-2097