

Long-tailed Tailor Bird

(*Orthotomus sutorius*)

by Martin Vince
Wichita, Kansas

The Long-tailed or Common Tailor Bird is a tiny creature, possessing all of the acrobatic charm typifying so many insectivores. No one could charge the cisticolas, wrens and tit-babblers of this world with being too gaudy. But like the tailor birds, and hundreds more species besides, what they all lack in color, they amply make up for with their abundant activity in their quest for live food.

The Long-tailed Tailor Bird is one of 364 species that are contained within the 60 genera of *Sylviidae*, the widespread and complex family of Old World warblers. These are true warblers, not to be confused with the so called New World warblers which are a completely unrelated group, differing in both their habits and their anatomy. The warblers of the New World possess nine functional primary feathers, which, in fact, give them a closer affinity to certain tanagers and emberizine finches, whereas their Old World namesakes have 10 such feathers. Further, few of the New World warblers can be said to "warble" in the truest sense of the word, such as is common among their Old World counterparts. A definition of warbling as given by Webster is: "singing in a trilling manner, softly and quaveringly with rapid modulations in pitch."

Traditionally in *Sylviidae*, taxonomists have included the sub-families of *Malurinae* (the Australian wrens), and *Poliophtilinae* (the gnatcatchers), contributing to it 24 and 10 members respectively. Therefore, literature has often awarded *Sylviidae* 398 members. But nowadays, this rather jumbled family is clarified with the pro-

motion of both *Malurinae* and *Poliophtilinae* to full family status. In addition, the 10 gnatcatchers of *Poliophtilinae* have been expanded by three gnat-wrens; namely: Collared (*Microbates collaris*), Half-collared (*Microbates cinereiventris*) and the Long-billed (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*). Therefore, as presently assayed, *Sylviidae* has 364 members, *Maluridae* 24 and *Poliophtilidae* 13.

The genus *Orthotomus* comprises 12 recognized species: two forest warblers and 10 tailor birds. The Red-capped Forest Warbler (*Orthotomus metopias*) and the Long-billed Forest Warbler (*Orthotomus moreaui*) restrict themselves to East Africa, occupying only Mozambique and, for the most part, Tanzania. In sharp contrast, with their 50 recognized subspecies, the 10 tailor birds have populated both the tropics of southeast Asia as well as the cooler climes of the Himalayas.

Most of the Old World warblers are dull brown or green birds, protectively colored to enable their small bodies to blend into the scrub and undergrowth that often provides a home.

When fully stretched out, and including the bill, the Long-tailed Tailor Bird measures about 4-3/4" (12.06 cm) with a full 1-1/2" (3.8 cm) of this taken up by the tail. The upper tail coverts, rump and back are olive green; this blends at the crown with a rufous forehead. The wings are also olive green but with their undersides a slightly paler color. The light silvery-gray ear coverts merge with the olive body at the neck and give way to a pale green-brown breast and belly. Although the sexes are alike, a male

may be identified by his marginally larger head and body with his tail becoming about one inch longer in the breeding season.

The Long-tailed Tailor Bird has a loud song which Deignan called "rather annoying." It is repetitive, and in the heat of the tropics would be irritating. But on an occidental summer day it is nothing less than entertaining. In rapid succession the call is fired off slightly more than twice a second, sounding a "chtwee", sometimes so close to the next it can sound like a "chip"

Although rare in aviculture, *Orthotomus sutorius* is widespread through much of Asia and is, in parts, quite common. It comprises nine recognized sub-species whose territories take in the western Himalayas (*O.s. guzuratus*), northern India (*O.s. guzuratus* and *O.s. patia*), Nepal (*O.s. patia*), Assam (*O.s. luteus*) and Burma (*O.s. patia* and *O.s. luteus*). Collectively, they form an unbroken belt joining the Himalayan lowlands to the jungles and cities of southeast Asia. In addition, the Long-tailed Tailor Bird has populations in southern China (*O.s. longicauda*) and western China (*O.s. inexpectatus*) as well as Sri Lanka (*O.s. sutorius* and *O.s. fernandonis*), Malaysia (*O.s. maculicollis*) and the Indonesian island of Java (*O.s. edela*). This bird's range covers some of the coldest regions on earth, but in all cases it has managed to find and make its home in the tropical refuges that exist in these wastelands.

Most of southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent have monsoon weather, with alternate wet and dry seasons such as those found in northeast Assam, Burma and Indonesia. Together with Sri Lanka and Malaysia they share the same tropical temperatures, but night fall brings a comparative chill throughout the mountainous regions found in all of these countries. During winter, the mountain temperatures in Burma and Assam may even drop to freezing. Because of the chill brought on by high altitudes, the tailor birds in these countries reside at lower levels not normally exceeding about 1,500 meters. Here they can find tolerable temperatures all the year round.

Although sometimes a little low, the night time temperatures of such countries cannot compare with the sub-arctic and polar conditions of the Himalayas, in which northern India

and Nepal find themselves. Most of Nepal is covered by the Himalayan Mountains, bringing with them cool, wet summers and dry, cold winters. In the south of Nepal though is the Terai. This is a strip of tropical jungle and swamp which provides the home for the Long-tailed Tailor Bird, with the species also existing across the border in India and north-westwards, in the warm foothills of the western Himalayas.

China also offers climatic diversity, playing host to Mount Everest, the Gobi desert and the rich farmlands of the south. In eastern China, the Chinling Shan range forms the northern boundary to the Szechwan Basin, a land of warmth and humidity. The temperatures are not quite tropical, but influenced by nearby Burma, Laos and Vietnam, they are taken above 70°F (21°C). Yunnan province lies south of Szechwan, and between them they form much of the habitat for the southern Chinese race of Long-tailed Tailor Bird. Stretching into western China, the tailor bird leaves the lower Himalayan slopes of northern India for the Turfan Depression, an oasis on the edge of the Takla Makan desert. Here the western Chinese race of tailor bird lives; geographically isolated from other races, it is protected from extremes of weather by the depression which is the lowest point in China.

The tailor bird is not strictly a jungle dweller, but instead a denizen of scrublands and forest perimeters, preferring their bright open spaces that allow it more easily to chase and catch insects. Indeed, in many parts this bird's fondness for open spaces has enticed it into even the biggest of urban areas, showing little fear and ignoring the dangers around it.

In August 1990, I spent three weeks in Malaysia, traveling northwards starting from Kuala Lumpur. Like most capital cities, Kuala Lumpur is a busy place, packed with office blocks, international banks, shopping malls and too many cars and trucks to count. Set against this backdrop of pollution and noise, it is a surprise that any wildlife can survive. But while walking to the Central Market, I caught sight of a couple of birds flying across the road. I rounded a corner and saw them again, but much closer, only 30 feet (9 m) away, near enough to identify them as Long-tailed Tailor

Birds. These two that I took to be a pair were not at all unnerved by the pedestrians that moved within 15 feet (4.5 m) of them. The paraphernalia that made up the street scene became perches and the vantage points provided were gratefully used to spot anything that might be edible. I could distinguish what I felt was the male from the female: his body was slightly larger with wider shoulders and a bigger head. The tail was most obvious though, being at least 3/4" (18 mm) longer than his companion's. The pair was presumably coming out of their

breeding season.

The Long-tailed Tailor Bird seems to be adaptable and skilled at surviving. I watched what I assumed was the male fly from the arm rest of a bench to the ground and carry off a bread crumb. It is the kind of thing one sees every day of the week when watching sparrows and pigeons. But for insectivores I found this inclusion in their diet, and indeed the birds' boldness and entire demeanor, very interesting to see. They had evidently learned by themselves what captive insectivores have to be taught, sometimes with diffi-



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culty: that inanimate morsels can be as edible as livefood. Perhaps over a period of time they had simply copied the omnivorous birds around them and learned by example. I would not expect such dietary variation to be widespread; it may be extremely localized and perhaps brought on by hard times. Whatever the whys and wherefores, such willingness to adapt to changing circumstances may go some way to explaining why this little bird has become so widespread and successful.

Purchase

In April 1988, I purchased three Long-tailed Tailor Birds. Coming from Hong Kong, they were the southern Chinese race which, with their fairly wishy-washy plumage, were shown to be juveniles. This was probably for

the best since, although it makes them unsexable, the often young age of imported birds tends to accustom them to their new diets and surroundings much more quickly.

The three birds were placed together in a cage 6' long x 3' x 3' (1.8 m x 0.9 m x 0.9 m) and kept in a room that was not allowed to get cooler than 55°F (13°C) and where the average temperature was just under 65°F (18°C). Here the new arrivals could settle down, learn to appreciate their new diet as well as molt out their well travelled plumage. Into their cage I put two Flamingo plants (*Antburium scherzerianum*) which in the past had proved themselves to be robust. They were not to alleviate any shyness on the birds' part but were just an attempt to make the cage more homey and perhaps even attract some tiny insects.

The minute fruit flies, called *drosophila*, are valuable food for birds as small as tailor birds. To create a supply of them I placed a fruit-filled can into the birds' cage, fixing to it a wire mesh lid to prevent the tailor birds from entering. The clouds of flies produced were always enjoyed and often snapped up very quickly. The birds clearly welcomed the flies being in their diet.

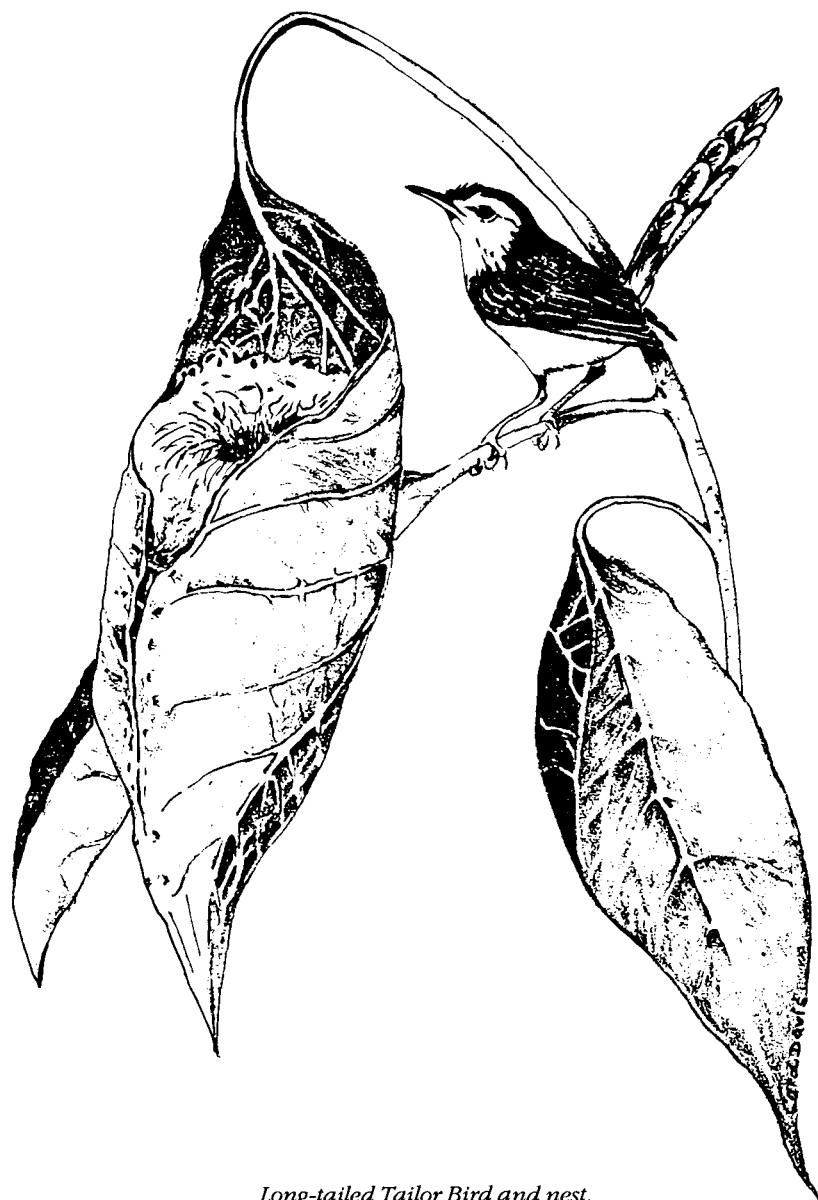
A year later, the tailor birds had molted out their juvenile plumage to show the slightly better coloring of adults. Interestingly, by this time, one of the birds appeared to be a little smaller than the others and was continually sitting closely next to one particular bird. Until then all three had been sociable enough to sit tightly together, particularly if they felt cold; but this time one bird was isolated, left alone by the two which I assumed had become a pair. There was no aggression whatsoever towards the single bird but that was probably just a matter of time, and so for safety's sake it was removed to a separate cage. Alone at last, the pair seemed to enjoy each other's company with never any quarreling or fighting observed between them. They always remained near each other, allopreening periodically, especially following a good feed. With some birds such preening can be so enthusiastic as to damage, or even remove, feathers. But this pair of tailor birds was always soft and affectionate despite their quite sharp pointed bills.

Accommodation

By now the pair had become perfect and after their period of acclimatization were ready for their new and permanent home which was to be outdoors.

The design of their new aviary was straight forward: it had an outside flight with an adjoining house containing the birds' food and water. The flight was 8' long x 4' x 8' high (2.4 m x 1.2 m x 2.4 m) with the house part being the same height and width but only 3' deep (0.9 m). For durability the house was brick-built with ceramic roofing tiles. The walls and loft were filled with fiberglass insulation allowing the building to retain heat very effectively. This was provided by a 250 watt tubular metal heater covered with sheet metal for the birds' protection. When darkness fell, a 10 watt

Illustration by Carol Davis



Long-tailed Tailor Bird and nest.

night light would be used to illuminate the house, allowing the birds to feed after dark and also lighting their way should they be frightened by a sudden noise or predator. To be able to feed at night is vital for birds if they are likely to encounter low temperatures, especially for species whose bodies are as small as tailor birds. For such tiny bodies enough weight can be lost during the course of just one cold night that they can quickly be brought close to death. But if acclimatized, kept away from prolonged freezing temperatures and given the opportunity to feed, even a night as cold as 40°F (4°C) can be slept through with no ill effects. One would not wish birds as small as these to endure several successive very cold nights, but one or two will certainly do no harm. And I do not intend to give the impression that all birds are this strong, but generally speaking, many species are hardier than they are often given credit for. The tailor birds' outside flight was wooden framed, clad in 1/2" x 1" 16-gauge mesh and completely roofed with a tough, transparent plastic.

Incidentally, wire mesh was put onto the building's roof before the plastic sheeting to protect against escape should the sheeting be blown off in severe weather. The floor of the building was 2" (5 cm) thick concrete which prevented vermin from burrowing up into the aviary. The flight was decorated with large house plants as well as the Flamingo plants with which the birds were already familiar. These two were placed on pedestals raising them 5' (1.5 m) above the ground, making them comfortable nesting sites should the birds wish to breed.

The aviary was completed in April which, unfortunately, had retained the coldness of winter with daytime temperatures struggling to reach 45°F (7°C). The warmth of summer would be needed before the tailor birds could safely be put outside. Left outside and furnished with good housing, the birds could gradually become used to decreasing temperatures as the seasons moved towards winter, whereupon they would be established to the extent that they could remain in their building, healthy until the next summer. May was very warm so the pair was released into the house section of their aviary. Here they would

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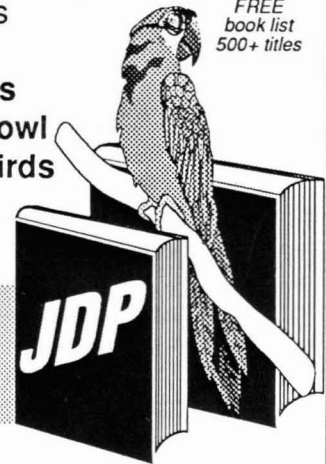
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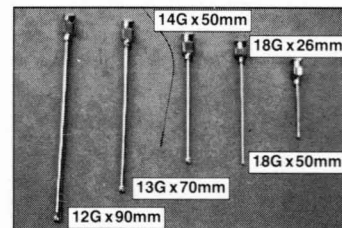
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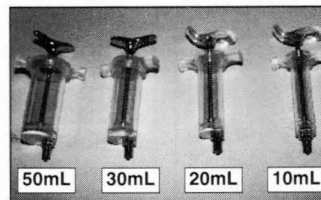
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spend their first 10 days shut in and denied access to the outside flight. In this way, they would learn that the house is safe and secure with it also being the provider of warmth, food and water. After this initial period, the birds were given access to the outside flight via a 4" square (10 cm) door that was 6' (1.8 m) above the ground. Thus, after the 10 day training period the birds could commute back and forth, taking food, warmth or fresh air as they wished. Without such training, it is easy for a bird to remain in the outdoor flight to become lost and confused, not realizing its way back to the house.

Breeding

Most amazing of all warbler nests is the tailor bird's. Living up to the imagery of its common name, this bird will actually sew the edges of one or two or even three leaves together, forming a purse into which three or four brownish yellow eggs are laid. First the bird finds suitable leaves that are pliable enough to be bent into shape but to evade predation no nearer the ground than about 8' (2.4 m). Then it locates thread which

can be either hair-like plant fibers or silk from a spider's web. Each stitch is done separately so the bird breaks off a length of thread that is only about 3/4" (18 mm) long. Holding one end of this thread in its bill, it pierces the leaf and draws the thread through, making a kind of rough knot on the other end to secure it to the leaf. In this fashion many more stitches are made, until the edges of the leaf are pulled together leaving only the top open. Alternatively using the same method, the tailor bird will sew together and make a vessel from several leaves if the available materials are too small to tailor a nest from just one.

This versatility combines with the extraordinary camouflage afforded by a perfectly ordinary leaf, left as it is, unharmed and still hanging from its tree. In fact, this tailored leaf resembles the vessels used as insect traps on the pitcher plant (*Nepenthes*), both in the way it hangs and in the shape it possesses. Once complete, the nesting cavity is lined with fine grasses and animal hairs where available. The body of the nest is then filled with plant down which may be supplemented by any tiny down feathers or animal fur.

I had dared to hope that my tailor birds might breed; they were in outstanding condition and I felt optimistic. Unfortunately, I could not find any literature describing the plant species used by them in the wild, so I decided to improvise as best I could. I had long thought that the leaves of the Flamingo plant could be used to build a tailor bird's nest, although I was worried that they might be too thick for such a small bill to pierce. Nevertheless, I retained them, being unable to find a different species whose leaves were thinner but at the same time of a shape suitable for such a nest, that is to say, fairly elongated. The dilemma, of course, is that a leaf must be thin enough to be sewn but not too thin so as to tear.

To use as thread, I provided the birds with 3/4" (18 mm) lengths of cotton, some brown and some green colored. The same lengths of horse hair were provided having been cut from the tail of a Shetland pony, with longer lengths of some 3" (7.5 cm) included for nesting material. Also for a nest lining I spread some fine grasses about the floor, cutting some

3/4" (18 mm) lengths from those as well should they be desired as thread. To use as nest filler I found some plant down in a grassy field, but it was insufficient to fill an entire nest so I needed to add to it. I cut some small pieces of wool and teased them outward until each became a small ball of fluff. I put about 10 of these all around the aviary, some on the floor, but most higher up, impaled on branches. In addition, some balls of cotton wool were offered in the same locations with all pieces being about 1/2" (12 mm) diameter.

In the middle of May the tailor birds were given the full run of their aviary, and at that time both had a similar length of tail. In the absence of any firm knowledge, I judged that May was a sensible time to try and stimulate breeding. I increased the livefood content of their diet by 20 percent and provided live fruit flies which, until then, had only been given sparingly but now were offered in profusion. Coincidentally or not, the following few weeks saw the male's tail grow steadily until it had become at least 3/4" (18 mm) longer than the female's. This was as exciting as it was amazing. Amazing since it happened over only three weeks and exciting since it clearly indicated breeding condition. I remained concerned about the thickness of the Flamingo plants' leaves so I decided to give the birds a head start: I took one of the plants and sewed two of its leaves together using short lengths of dried grass to complete each stitch. Eventually, and with a lot of difficulty, I managed to create a cavity that hung more or less vertically whose top was open to a diameter of 3" (7.5 cm). I estimated that allowing for the reducing effect of its lining the nest would snugly house the female tailor bird. I put the doctored plant in its original position in the aviary which still housed the other Flamingo plant along with a large Swiss-cheese plant (*Monstera deliciosa*) and a Rubber plant (*Ficus* species).

Several weeks passed with no interest being shown in the Flamingo plant or the nesting material strewn over the aviary. Not wishing to be impatient, but curious to see the result, I carefully stood some lengths of grasses and horse hairs around the inside edge of the cavity. This was not an attempt to build a nest as such, but merely my



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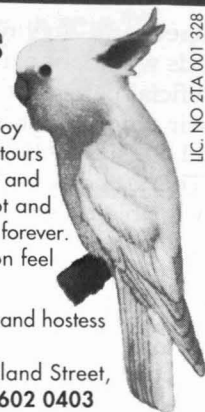
attempt to solicit some sort of breeding response. But still the birds gave no cause for optimism, allowing three empty months to pass. All along they had shown complete disinterest in the leafy cavity, until towards the end of August I saw the female actually sitting in it, casually looking out. When she saw me she remained dead still, effectively using her dull colors to become almost invisible. Sinking down into the cavity, only her head was visible. Such an arrangement would be almost impossible to see in the vegetation of a jungle; even within the aviary's confines it was not obvious. Unfortunately, that was the first and last time I saw her in the cavity that year, although she had dispelled my long time fear. I saw that the cavity was of the correct size and that she did indeed fit snugly into it. Perhaps she was just exploring or resting in the cavity since to sit in it was all she appeared to do. I was, though, reasonably content in the knowledge that the female was comfortable in my home-made cavity and I looked forward to 1990.

Taken as a whole, the winter of 1989 was mild. Temperatures hovered around freezing occasionally, but were mostly above 45°F (7°C). On particularly cold days, the birds were shut in their house but more often than not were given access to their flight. Their 4" (10 cm) square door would be left open during the day allowing them to choose an indoor or outdoor perch. At the end of each day, before darkness fell, they would be shut into the certain safety of their house. In April, with the arrival of warm weather, this routine lapsed and the tailor birds were no longer shut in, giving them command of their entire accommodation. With this, a new breeding season, I built another cavity on the same plant as before, taking care to make the cavity the same size as the original. This rebuilding was necessary because the leaves of the old cavity had fallen off the plant. The tropical plants had been removed from the aviary for the winter, but along with the nesting cavity were all replaced, taking up their original positions. As before, I increased the live-food content of the diet by about 20 percent persuading the birds that ample rearing food was available should they be willing to breed. Even though they were thoroughly estab-

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lished and acclimatized, the tailor birds would, of course, never feed the artificial parts of their insectile diet to their chicks. Livefood would always and only be used.

This 20 percent change in the diet is a valuable trigger for all softbills since frugivores also feed only insects to their chicks, but just for the first week or so, thereafter supplementing their food with the adults' diet. Nesting materials offered to the tailor birds were the same as before and in roughly the same locations. This time I had left the nesting cavity empty, but built in the same manner as the original. My hope was that the nest lining would be added by the birds, sparking in them the maternal qualities that they appeared to have, but only weakly.

In the third week of May, the female actually started to carry some very fine grasses to the cavity. Almost all of her nest building was done with dried grasses incorporating only two horse hairs. Shrouded by the leaves, it was difficult to see any nest at all, but I could see the female flying to the cavity with nesting material and after one week I could see the lower reaches of the cavity begin to bulge. The bulging leaves described a growing nest and I wondered whether my sewing would hold; but it held fast and a full two weeks later the building ceased. The wonderful nest was apparently complete and could now be seen at the top of the cavity. As far as I could tell, the male never played any part in the nest building and remained fairly quiet throughout, vocalizing only occasionally and even then no more than his normal sound. However, the female was often very vocal, particularly when searching for a certain

grass or hair needed for her nest. The sound was not unusual, but there was simply more of it. With warm weather and natural livefood to be had in the aviary, more active behavior was to be expected, but the female was vocal roughly 50 percent more of the time than her mate. This difference did not occur in the previous summer, with both birds singing equally.

To fill the nest, the cottonwool and wool pieces were used without preference although, interestingly, those impaled on branches and offered above the ground were preferred to those on the floor.

Once completed, the female would often sit in her nest while the male would be quite remote and disinterested. I was sure she had eggs; she sat so tightly and protectively the conclusion seemed inescapable. But, alas, no eggs were found and after one week she abandoned the nest.

Diet

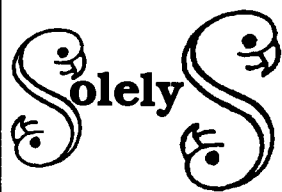
For tiny insectivores such as tailor birds, Red-headed Tits, nuthatches, etc. a very fine insectile mix is obviously required. And in describing the diet for tailor birds, one is at the same time describing the diet for most other insectivores with only the grade really telling them apart. In captivity, it is impossible to easily sustain an insectivorous creature on insects alone, since the range of food available in the wild cannot be replicated commercially. Consequently, over the years various artificial diets have been made, incorporating livefood, but largely consisting of man made ingredients.

When first caught by the trappers, tailor birds and the like are fed on insects, their eggs and pupae. Not

needing or wishing to, the exporters do not go to the trouble of "meating off" their specimens onto a non-living diet, intending only to keep them for the shortest time and export them as quickly as possible. For this reason, when I received them the tailor birds were keen to eat only the livefood content of their diet, unsurprisingly sorting it from the unfamiliar ingredients which were ignored. On arrival, one's sole aim is to keep the birds alive, so for the first few days at least half of their diet is livefood, albeit of a limited variety. Although straight-from-the-wild insectivores frequently relish mashed hard boiled egg which surprisingly comes a close second to the insects themselves. Perhaps the egg resembles some sort of ant egg or similar food eaten in the wild. Wax worms were the most favored, being taken above meal worms and crickets. For a creature whose natural diet is a very wide range of insects, the few commercially available species make up such a limited diet that malnutrition would fairly quickly set in. To encourage them onto a more balanced (artificial) diet is therefore as urgent as it is essential.

To achieve this, I coated several worms in a thick, sticky nectar solution, taking care not to cover their heads and cause death by suffocation. While still wet they were rolled in some insectile mix, and with this adhering to them, placed into the birds' cage. The coated worms were quickly eaten, and after a couple of weeks the birds had become so used to the taste of the insectile mix that it was being eaten in its own right. Once the birds had shown these first signs of eating the artificial diet, very gradually indeed the amount of livefood in it was reduced, until eventually two months later they had completed the transition to their man-made diet. The amount of livefood given to insectivores is the most difficult aspect of their maintenance: too much and the artificial diet will be ignored — even for established birds — and too little may cause hunger since even the established insectivores often need the stimulus of a live insect to encourage them to feed. The quantity of livefood I used for the tailor birds, as well as the other components of their diet, is as follows:

By volume —
Insectile mix 73%



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Live insects (meal worms, wax worms and small crickets) 10%
 Mashed hard boiled egg 15%
 Cheese 2%

For aviculturists who are not able to purchase insectile food off the shelf, a good alternative will be made as follows:

Powdered trout chow 28%
 Lay chow or chick crumbs 36%
 Birds of Paradise pellets 36%
 Added is SA37 or Vionate equal to 0.1% of the whole.

To make one's own insectile mix, the three ingredients must be of tiny particles no bigger than 1 mm in diameter. The three ingredients are than mixed together and moistened with water or fruit juice whose volume is equal to 9% of the total. The consistency of the mix is crucial and will directly affect the palatability of the food. When complete, the diet should be loose and fine while at the same time being moist enough to gather into a lump when squeezed. Whether purchased or hand-made, the insectile diet needs to be mixed with the other ingredients to produce what I have

always found to be a good maintenance diet for insectivores of various sizes.

Historically, insectivorous recipes have usually included some sort of vegetable matter: two to three percent of finely ground carrot or chopped lettuce. I have never used these ingredients, or felt the need to, since fresh, good quality insects are nowadays more readily available. The vegetable matter was used simply to replace that part of the insect that had been lost during its drying or storage process, since insects may eat various types of vegetable matter in the wild. And instead of using cheese I think a good case could be made for using "tofu," because it would be easier to digest while possessing the high protein levels insectivorous birds need.

Dietary requirements for such birds are still little understood. Although used over many years, modern diets are probably not perfect. Hopefully, current research will perfect them and bring to more people the joys of keeping what has often been a difficult bird: the insectivore. ●

1995 AFA National Convention

The 1995 national convention of the AFA will be held in New Orleans from August 9-12, 1995. The theme of this convention will be on those avian species originating from Central and South America. Aviculturists that are experienced in their field will be invited to speak on a proposed list of topics including macaws, Amazons, Aratinga and Pyrrhura conures, Brotogeris, parrotlets, hawkheads, caiques, Pionus, siskins, softbills and other avian breeding programs. Also, invitations will be given to several conservationists working on field studies of avian species found in the Americas.

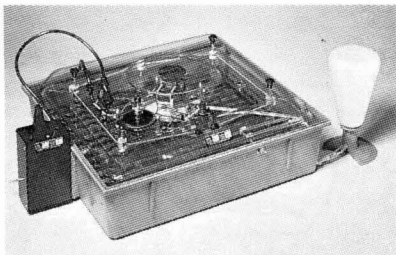
The *Watchbird* magazine will publish confirmed speakers in upcoming issues. The AFA invites all bird lovers to make future plans to attend this very exciting convention. There will also be a few pleasant surprises. ●



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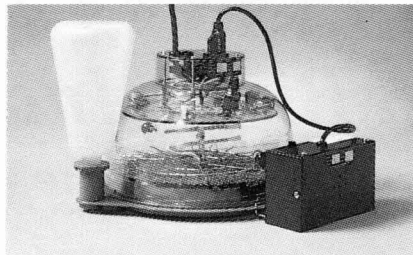
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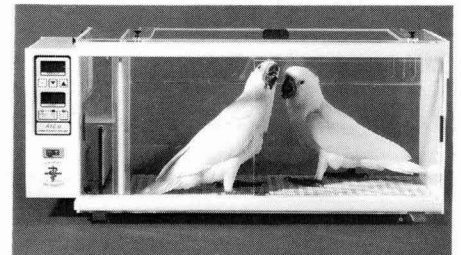
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