

FOREIGN BIRDS

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THE PREMIER FOREIGN BIRD
KEEPING SOCIETY IN THE UK

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A big thanks to all those who contributed to this magazine—Darren

ISSN 0306–7025

Cover illustration : Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*—
photographed in Tobago 2020 by Darren Sefton

Consultation of Proposed Registration by DEFRA for ALL Birdkeepers

DEFRA have recently opened a consultation on the proposed registration of almost ALL birdkeepers. Currently, as part of the control of Avian Flu, any person keeping a flock of 50 or more poultry are required to register themselves with DEFRA. DEFRA have now proposed that this should be extended to include all but pet birds in a domestic environment.

Between now and the end of May 2023 the general public (including us of course) are invited to take part in this consultation. If you wish to take part in this then the website address is shown below.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/poultry-register/all-birds-registration2023/consultation/subpage.2023-03-02.6293264592/>

I would urge you all to take part in this consultation. Whilst some of you may have the opinion that this is a “done deal” then I must admit I fear for this too. However, I have been advised by a former DEFRA employee that this is not always the case. If a “substantive political pushback” is undertaken then there is a possibility that the hassle caused will bring about a re-think. Therefore in addition to taking part in the consultation, I would also suggest that an email to your MP may help. A very concise and carefully worded letter by Rob Innes of Cage and Aviary Birds was published in the March 29th edition.

Whilst the original intention by DEFRA is simply to help check Avian Flu, I do not think that there is an underlying sub-plot to curtail birdkeeping further. However, as the consultation is open to the public it is quite feasible that someone from the animal protection lobby will try and subvert the restrictions. If we do not take part then we are simply lying back and letting it happen.

Your hobby needs you !!

FOREIGN BIRDS

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Spring 2023

The magazine of the
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The Premier Foreign Bird Keeping Society

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“Foreign Birds” magazine publishing schedule

ISSUE 2023	SEASON	PERIOD	CUT OFF DATE FOR COPY	POSTED TO YOU
Vol 89 No1	Spring	Jan-Feb-Mar	Friday Week 2 February	1st Week April
Vol 89 No2	Summer	Apr-May-June	Friday Week 2 May	2nd Week July
Vol 89 No3	Autumn	July-Aug-Sept	Friday Week 2 August	3rd Week Oct
Vol 89 No4	Winter	Oct-Nov-Dec	Friday Week 2 November	1st Week Jan

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As with any correspondence a S.A.E. would be greatly appreciated.

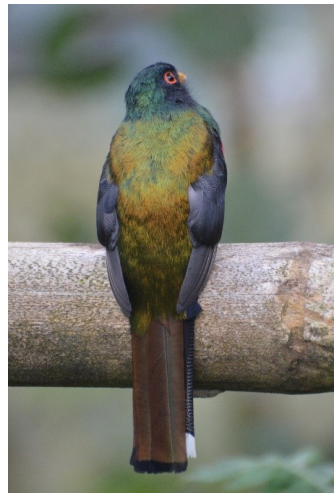
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The Trogons

Following on from the article in the Summer 2022 edition regarding the viewing of Quetzal in Costa Rica, I thought I would write something on the wider family.

The Trogons are a widely-distributed family of large and colourful soft-billed birds found across the Tropics. There are 46 species (if you include the Quetzals) – with a large number of subspecies - split across 7 genera. However, this could increase as there are moves to split the Resplendent Quetzal into at least 2 geographically distinct species (Northern and Southern). Quetzal is pronounced Ket-sal.



Masked Trogon (photographed at Bella Vista Lodge
Ecuador 2014 – D Sefton)

Although the majority are found in the Americas (from Argentina up through Central America and the Caribbean islands and into the USA), there are species in Africa, India and South-East Asia. I find it very bizarre that they should be found in such far-apart countries. As far as I know none are migratory and do not appear to have particularly strong flight, so it is likely that each area's species have evolved along similar lines over the millennia.



Female Surucua Trogon (Photographed near Serra Dos Tucanos
Brazil 2014 – D Sefton)

There are 23 Trogons and 6 Quetzals in the Americas, 2 from the Caribbean, 3 from Africa, 3 from India and the rest from South-East Asia and the Phillippines.

The Resplendent Quetzal is the national bird of Guatemala and their currency is named after it.



Visually, most species of Trogon have a very similar body shape, the variation being mainly in the beautiful and striking colouration and in the tail. The tails are quite long and in many species these tend to end in a straight line as if cut off. (The most obvious exception to this being the Resplendent Quetzal, but the Cuban Trogon has a tail that looks like the end has been broken). All have a short, stocky but strong-looking beak and most have a large eye with distinctive orbital eyerings (or bare skin in the case of the African and Asian species).

Most are about the same body size as a European Thrush. Species are sexually dimorphic, with the females being much duller than the exquisite males. Having said this I would not turn away from watching the hens.



The tail of a Cuban Trogon

In my experience they are arboreal (usually in mountainous forest), spending most of their time high up in the canopy making viewing (and especially photography) very difficult. I have never seen one on the ground, although one I saw did have what looked like soil around the beak, but it could have been rotten wood from the nest. The calls are not particularly loud, but with a little practice you can soon pick them out from the chorus of song in the tropical forest. Once the voice is picked out it is simply a case of searching out the birds visually. They do not tend to move much, so once located, you can view them for some time. This generally gives you time to move around in an attempt to get a better view. Although mainly frugivorous – eating small wild avocados, cherries, figs and other fruit, I have observed them “hawking” for large insects, making a short flight and returning to the same vantage point to eat their capture. I’m told that they can eat small lizards and occasionally other birds’ egg, but have not seen this for myself.

In 2018 a shipment of 118 birds was confiscated in the Netherlands. These had been illegally imported and were destined for the continental bird trade. From what I understand all the birds were in poor condition and could not be repatriated, so were given to zoos across Europe. Amongst these were at least two pairs of Collared Trogons. A pair was given to a rescue centre in the Netherlands and a pair given to Chester Zoo. Fortunately, both pairs recovered condition and in 2019 Chester was successful in breeding them (a world first) and the Dutch collection breeding them in 2020. Since then Chester has been successful in breeding more of these Trogons each year and in 2023 they have so far bred a further 3 chicks. Chicks from previous years have gone to both Prague and London Zoos. No other species of Trogon or Quetzal have been bred in the UK. Sadly, the Chester Trogons are housed on the upper storey of the Tropical House, which is closed to the public, so they cannot be seen.



Opposite—A male Collared Trogon that I photographed on the Gilpin Trail within Tobago’s rainforest. (This trail is labelled NIPLIG if you walk the trail in the other direction)

This bird was one of a large group that seemed to be displaying to one another and the calling was very noticeable indeed. There must have been in excess of 10 birds in low trees at either side of a small path. This area was quite open and well lit, so was one of the few occasions that photography was easy. This is the first and only time that I’ve seen more than 2 Trogon at the same time. This was a rather special day as only a few minutes earlier we had observed a group of male Blue-backed Manakins - *Chiroxiphia pareola* - “lekking” to a single female. These Manakins were moving a lot quicker and the light levels lower, so I was disappointed with the shots I was able to get (not being able to use flash).



The 2023 Collared Trogon chicks at Chester Zoo
photo by Jonathan Bielby (Assistant Team Manager of birds)
from a Chester Zoo press release



Male Green-backed Trogon (photographed at the Amazon Rainforest Conservation Centre in Peru 2012 – D Sefton)

They are hole nesters. They sometimes take over a Woodpecker nest, or use a natural cavity, but if the wood of the tree is rotten they will excavate their own nest. The tails of Quetzal males are so long that they have been seen sticking out of the nest hole when the male is in residence.

I have been fortunate to see 10 species in the wild, but only a couple in captivity. They do not seem to have been widely kept with only 18 species having been exhibited in European public collections (Zootierliste) of which 8 have been in UK collections (and all but one seem to have been many years ago – 1960s and 1970s). Weltvogelpark Walsrode in Germany has over the years kept the widest variety of species. At the moment Walsrode has 4 species within the collection.

It was at Walsrode in 1991 that I saw the male Resplendent Quetzal. This bird was housed in a large tropical house and had an almost fully-grown tail. Resplendent and Magnificent !!



The Walsrode male Resplendent Quetzal when it had its full tail
(picture courtesy of Weltvogelpark Walsrode)



A female Resplendent Quetzal photographed through a telescope using a mobile phone at Perez Seledon within the Savegra District of the cloud forest of the Talamanca Mountains in Costa Rica by Helen Smith

In the March/April 1970 edition of *Foreign Birds* (Page 60 & 61) C.D. Beckett wrote on the Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*) – this being illustrated by a colour plate specially painted by A.J. Kinchington. I’m assuming that the lack of availability, and possibly unsuitability for captivity in private hands, this is the only previous article on the Trogon family printed in “*Foreign Birds*”, and of course there are no reported breedings.



The Golden-headed Quetzal. I photographed this wild example very early in the morning in Ecuador (hence the washed out surroundings as I had to put it on a long exposure). Note the two “points” on the tail. This species was first bred in 2012 by Walsrode, and fairly regularly since, and is still kept in the collection.

The first zoo to breed Resplendent Quetzals was the Miguel Alvarez del Toro Zoo (ZooMAT) in Chiapas Mexico. ZooMAT had kept the species for several years with no breeding success. Dallas World Aquarium (DWA) helped by installing CCTV and providing incubators and brooders. In 2003 this paid off when a newly laid egg was successfully removed, artificially incubated, hatched and raised. Over the past 20 years about a dozen more have been bred. Some of these youngsters have been moved to other collections. DWA are said to have bred from Resplendent Quetzals off-show, but I understand that as of December a lone female can be seen on display. Xcaret park near Cancun on the Riviera Maya also received birds from ZooMAT, but again only a lone female can now be seen.

On our normal “tourist” trip to Costa Rica in 2008 we were en-route to a resort on the pacific coast via the Monteverde Cloud Forest. Quetzals are found here, but there were no stops scheduled and our driver had very little English, but he was still more fluent than we were in Spanish. We also had not got the services of a bird guide for any part of the trip (big mistake) and consequently, although our tally was 130 species, there were many more that we missed.

Species we have seen in the wild :-

Golden-headed Quetzal – *Pharomachrus auriceps*

Slaty-tailed Trogon - *Trogon massena*

Black-tailed Trogon – *Trogon melanurus*

White-tailed Trogon – *Trogon viridis*

Black-headed Trogon – *Trogon melanocephalus*

Collared Trogon – *Trogon collaris*

Masked Trogon – *Trogon personatus*

Surucua Trogon – *Trogon surracura*

Violaceous (Guianian) Trogon – *Trogon violaceus*

Malabar Trogon – *Harpactes fasciatus*

Text and any photos not otherwise attributed, are by Darren Sefton

A Request for Help from Keith Newstead

Dear sir,

Please find enclosed my renewal for 2023 subscriptions.

I have some questions to ask, but not sure who or how to contact anyone as I'm not on the internet.

Can anyone help me please?

I am new to keeping finches, although I have kept various birds since the mid 1970s. I was keeping softbills until a couple of months ago. I now have a diverse collection of finches including Parsons, Quelea, Masked, Diamond Firetails, Red-headed, Cutthroats, Jackson Whydahs, Saffron Finches and Diamond Doves.

I have 5 6x4 flights, a 9x6 flight, a 9x4 flight, a 7x3 flight and a 8x4 flight. All these are planted.

I would like to keep a small amount in a 9x6 aviary, but I am now thinking of putting 2 or 3 pairs of Quelea in that flight as the ones I have are very scatty.

The 9x4 will have the Jackson Whydahs in as they are also scatty. Some of the finches will hopefully breed in cages.

Would you cut the bunches of coconut fibre in half or leave as they are supplied?

If you could put me in touch with anyone that can help me I would really appreciate it. My mobile phone number is 07840983220. I live in Norfolk.

Have a fantastic and healthy 2023

Yours sincerely

Keith Newstead

If you can help Keith then please do not hesitate to contact him. I have withheld his postal address from being printed.



Breeding activity at the end of the year in LPF

Rafael Zamora Padrón, Scientific Director, Loro Parque Fundación

Although the breeding season begins in February and March for European latitudes, in many parts of the world the births of parrots of many species occur at the end of the year.

At Loro Parque Fundación's breeding station, located in a privileged position in terms of mild weather throughout the year, the possibility for pairs to breed according to their origin are high. In fact, some pairs of grey parrots can start breeding in October while others did it at the beginning of the year.

Unifying the breeding stage in a breeding center can facilitate management by focusing the daily work according to the stage the birds are in. However, respecting the genetic instinct of the animals, if climatic conditions permit, is the most appropriate. It will also give good natural breeding results, as the parents are strongly motivated to raise their offspring.

There are also pairs that can reproduce at any time of the year depending on whether conditions are favorable and if they are in good shape. For these cases, the keepers should be attentive since it is necessary to supplement their diet according to their attitude and behavior.

In any case, it is necessary to take into account the hours of daylight available to the breeding pairs, since in winter they will have less time to feed and nourish their chicks. To solve this problem, the ideal is to increase the renewal of meals, providing the parents with an extra

feeder a few hours before nightfall. This will allow the breeders to be stimulated to eat and feed their young in the last hours of the day.

Also, temperature drops at night for small species may be too drastic and it will be necessary to add heat spots outside and sometimes even in the nests. For small loris species this is essential. Other species of Australian parakeets and black cockatoos do not need it since they get a better thermoregulation especially if they have options to receive some sun during the day.

At Loro Parque Fundación some of the species that breed at this time of year are the black cockatoos. The yellow down with which the little ones are hatched allows them to withstand temperature changes typical of their natural habitat where they can be over 20 degrees during the day and drop to three degrees during dusk and nightfall.

The hooded parakeets of Australia also breed at this time and therefore must receive supplements in their diet that include annual herbs such as dandelion, minerals and extra seeds such as canaryseed to complement their usual diet during the year.

Several species of lories have moved forward in the preparation of their nests and many are close to the start of lories next season after a resting phase.

Those of us who are passionate about the world of birds see the beginning of the most exciting months in which the breeding parrots will demonstrate their vitality translated into breeding results.





1) Black Cockatoos are very active at this time of the year in LPF.
Photo: M.Pérez/ LPF

2) This year, between October and December, 6 Yellow tailed Black Cockatoos hatched.

Photo: M.Weinzettl/LPF

3) Newly hatched chicks of Australian hooded parrot in LPF.

Photo: M.Weinzettl/LPF

Breeding Record Scheme for 2021/2022

ANY OTHER INFORMATION ~ Sheet-2:

NAME:

[illegible]

ANY OTHER INFORMATION for publication in the FBL magazine FOREIGN BIRDS?
(Please, if you wish, use the reverse of this form - insure all separate sheets carry your name - thank you.)

FOREIGN BIRD LEAGUE

Breeding Record Scheme for 2021 and/or 2022* please advise which

Members of the Foreign Bird League (FBL) who bred birds in 2021/2022 are invited to participate in the FBL Breeding Records Scheme.

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR AWARDS. RETURNS SHOULD IDEALLY BE MADE ON THIS FORM

[illegible]

[illegible]

MANY THANKS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM ~ YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE VERY USEFUL SO THAT WE CAN GET AN IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE INTO CURRENT BREEDING TRENDS WITHIN THE FBL.

Derek Cotgrave – Obituary

I'm really sad to report that on 28th December 2022 I received an email from Karl, Derek Cotgrave's son-in-law, to let me know that Derek had passed away the previous morning. Derek had had a fall about 6 weeks previously, where he broke a femur and never recovered. Derek was aged 95.

Derek had worked as a DOE wildlife inspector – previously working as a ship's pilot on the Mersey. He had also judged for many years until quite recently – at least since the 1960's – and had received his 50 years membership in Summer 2014. He was a competent bird ringer for the BTO having taught students from across the globe – he once told me that he had rung over 450 Goldfinches in his garden – I assume that this was over a number of years and not just in one year. In recent years he had served the League in the position of Publicity Officer.

Derek bred a wide variety of birds – initially British birds including Wheat-ears – awarded a BBBA first breeding award and then a number of parakeets such as Blue-winged Parakeets, Splendids, Bourkes, Hooded and Many-coloured

He could always be relied on to recall many jokes of varying quality – if not bringing a laugh certainly a groan. These were shared with a wider audience by being printed in *Cage and Aviary Birds*.

Although known for his calm and quiet demeanour, he had an air of authority when he spoke and people listened, which meant that he could be relied on to settle down any situations that were getting out of hand. He was generous with both his time and knowledge. Regularly accompanied to meetings by his loving wife Barbara, he will be sorely missed.

The Council and membership would like to convey their sincere condolences and love to Barbara and the rest of his family and friends.

“What struck me from the outset was the breadth of Derek's knowledge of birds, both as a very experienced fancier, who had kept and bred a wide variety of species, and as a student of wild bird studies through his commitment to ringing projects. He seemed to like all birds and draw pleasure with them. He was one of a core group of fanciers who have taught me what being a bird keeper can mean.

Intelligent, humorous and endlessly positive – any contact with Derek would cheer me up” – Rob Innes – Editor *Cage and Aviary Birds*

Derek wrote regularly for the League, sometimes about his breeding methods or trips abroad, but sometimes just on an odd happening that he had thought may be of interest.

My 2000 season – Autumn 2001 P72

Sri Lanka and some of its birds – Winter 2001 P103

Reflections – Spring 2004 P18

Seminar report – Spring 2004 P26

Feathers day - 20th June 2004 (a visit to the collection of Will Harrison) – Summer/Autumn 2004 P21

The Leagues visit to Grangewood Zoo – Summer/Autumn 2004 P34

Visit to the land of the Dodo – Mauritius – Spring 2005 P9 This visit was a “treat” to celebrate Derek and Barbara’s Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Splendid Parakeets - *Neophema splendida* – Winter 2005 P124

A visit to Leeds Castle – Winter 2005 P145

A Kenyan safari – Summer 2006 P74

A Costa Rica adventure – Summer 2007 P64

A Guyana Adventure – Summer 2008 P74

A short break in Madeira – Summer 2009 P74

Notes and observations on the Hooded Parrakeet - *Psephotus chrysopterygius dissimilis* Autumn 2009 P109

The No Box Bourke – Autumn 2009 P129

A South African tour – Spring 2012 P12

Grass Parakeets – Winter 2013 P152 (this also becoming the “care sheet” downloadable from the FBL website

Many-coloured Parrakeets – Spring 2015 P14

Mutations or Colour variants – Autumn 2016 P122

An Amazing Happening with Blue-winged Parakeets – Winter 2020 P148



Safe use of water for aviary birds

Following on from the article in Autumn 2022 edition of Foreign Birds the following letters were printed in Cage and Aviary Birds from two of our members.

The decision to print the original article was wholly mine and I should have been mindful of the current Avian Flu aspect associated with the content. In hindsight I should have either chosen to hold the article back or made a comment on this.

I would like to apologise to the author for this oversight and any embarrassment caused.

Darren

A recent article in one of our avicultural magazines suggest we should be careful when using saved water, bottled water etc. I have only used tap water for my birds and the distinction mentioned about drinking water and bathing makes no sense to my birds. They will bathe in the D cups and drink the water provided in the shallow bowls near the floor.

A lot of my friends believe water saved in the water butts is beneficial and they may well be right in certain circumstances – but now is not the time to be using this water for your birds. Birds on your roof, of whatever type, and wherever there are gutters to take away water for your garden can spread contamination. My aviary blocks both have water butts, but IU would never use this water because pigeons pheasants etc are often mucking about doing their things.

Now we are in the midst of the worst birdflu outbreak in UK history, we need to be safe, so use tap water, it makes sense. That article meant well but was distinctly off !

Ray Holland – Cage and Aviary Birds Nov 16 2022

Miriam Rothschild, in her classic book on bird parasites FLEAS, FLUKES & CUCKOOS, called birds “travelling zoological gardens”, so numerous are the parasites they transport and attract. I fully agree with Ray Holland : rainwater collected via guttering or in water butts shouldn’t be used for birds.

Rainwater is often considered pristine, but it isn't – it has been shown to collect environmental pollutants as it falls. However, the main threat of disease is from pathogens that are present in guttering and water butts.

Fresh tap water is the safest water to use. The chlorine it contains kills many parasites and it also de-activates the avian flu virus. However, chlorine evaporates within a few days. Avian flu virus can survive in ground water and in ponds and lakes for 30 days, even in freezing conditions.

As for bottled water, most brands contain salt, which is not recommended for use in baby formulas. Although bottles water may have a photo of a mountain spring on the label (as did Delboy's "Peckham Spring Water") bottled water is in fact often bottled tap water. I have used tap water for birds, tropical fish and various other species, including myself, for sixty years and I'm appropriately hydrated and in fine condition..... for a man in my condition

Bill Naylor Cage and Aviary Birds Nov 30 2022



Breeding Submissions for 2020

Since Peter White passed away I have been trying to piece together the breeding records. I have a document recording the breedings for 2020, but there are no breeders names associated with it, so I have no idea who has bred what. If you made a submission I would appreciate it if you can read through this and let me know if you can be identified to one of the 32 BR codes shown at the LH side. For example BR1 is my submission and BR3 is Peter's.

The document is very disjointed, a poor quality print and not editable and I've had to cut and paste to get it to fit here, so apologies if it is difficult to read.

I have no other documents relating to 2020 and nothing at all for 2021

Please email me at FBL.Editor@gmail.com

BR~1 C	<u>Maximillion Pionus</u>	<u>Pionus maximillion</u>	0	0	2	2
	<u>N^{ow} Bred</u>(2) from (1) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids..... Total:- 2					
BR~2 C	Black-headed Red Siskin	<u>Carduelis cucullata</u>	--	--	9	9
	<u>Silverbill</u> (African)	<u>Lonchura cantans cantans</u>	--	--	9	9
	<u>Pekin Robin</u>	<u>Leiothrix lutea</u>	--	--	1	1
	<u>N^{ow} Bred</u>(19) from (3) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids..... Total:- 19					
BR~3 M	Black-headed Siskin	<u>Carduelis notata</u>	--	--	9	9
	Black-hooded Red Siskin	<u>Carduelis cucullata</u>	--	--	10	10
	<u>Yarrell's Siskin</u>	<u>Carduelis yarrellii</u>	--	--	26	26
	Yellow-bellied Siskin	<u>Carduelis xanthogastra</u>	--	--	15	15
	(Black) Masked Cardinal	<u>Paroaria nigerensis</u>	--	--	4	4
	Ethiopian Siskin	<u>Carduelis nigriceps</u>	--	--	8	8
	<u>N^{ow} Bred</u>(72) from (6) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids..... Total:- 72					
BR~4 C	Chestnut-breasted Manikin	<u>Munia castaneothorax</u>	--	--	8	8
	<u>Gouldian Finch</u>	<u>Chlosia gouldiae</u>	--	--	6	6
	<u>N^{ow} Bred</u>(14) from (2) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids..... Total:- 14					
BR~5 C	<u>Gouldian Finch</u> (Black-headed)	<u>Chlosia gouldiae</u>	--	--	25	25
	Cherry Finch	<u>Neochmia modesta</u>	--	2	5	7
	<u>Silverbill</u> (African)	<u>Lonchura cantans cantans</u>	--	--	6	6
	Heck's Grassfinch	<u>Poephila acuticauda hecki</u>	--	2	2	4
	Bengalese Finch.....(H?!?)	<u>Lonchura striata domestica</u>	--	--	9	9
	Heck's <u>Grassfinch</u> (V)	<u>Poephila acuticauda hecki</u>	--	2	0	2
	<u>N^{ow} Bred</u>(42) from (4) Species + (2) Varieties & (9) Hybrids..... Total:- 53					

BR~6 C	Red Crested Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	--	--	4	4
	Bengalese Finch.....(JH???)	<i>Lanchoa rufica dorsalis</i>	--	--	18	18
	N ew Bred:.....(4) from (1) Species + (0) Varieties & (18) Hybrids.....Total:- 22					
BR~7 C	Parson's Finch	<i>Poephila circia circia</i>	--	--	3	3
	Java Sparrow	<i>Padda pryeria</i>	--	--	15	15
	Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadon erythrocephala</i>	--	--	11	11
	Diamond Dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	--	--	4	4
	Chinese Painted Quail	<i>Turnix chinensis</i>	--	--	8	8
	Bengalese Finch.....(JH???)	<i>Lanchoa rufica dorsalis</i>	--	--	12	12
N ew Bred:.....(41) from (5) Species + (0) Varieties & (12) Hybrids.....Total:- 53						
BR~8 M	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	--	--	10	10
	Red-whiskered	Bulbul	--	--	5	5
	N ew Bred:.....(15) from (2) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids.....Total:- 15					
BR~9 C	Blue Winged Grass Parakeet	<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	--	--	4	4
	N ew Bred:.....(4) from (1) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids.....Total:- 4					
BR~10 C	Masked Grassfinch	<i>Poephila personata</i>	--	--	13	13
	Heck's Grassfinch	<i>Poephila acuticauda hecki</i>	--	--	7	7
	Heck's x Masked Grassfinch	Hybrid	--	--	2	2
	N ew Bred:.....(20) from (2) Species + (0) Varieties & (2) Hybrids.....Total:- 22					
BR~11 M	Japanese [Grey] Thrush	<i>Turdus cardis</i>	--	--	9	9
	Orange-headed Ground	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	--	--	7	7
	N ew Bred:.....(16) from (2) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids.....Total:- 16					
BR~12 C	Silverbill (African)	<i>Loxia curvirostris curvirostris</i>	--	--	15	15
	Parson's Finch	<i>Poephila circia circia</i>	--	--	2	2
	Heck's Grassfinch	<i>Poephila acuticauda hecki</i>	--	--	6	6
	Zebra Finch	<i>Poephila guttata</i>	--	--	30	30
	Cherry Finch	<i>Neochmia modesta</i>	--	--	3	3
BR~13 M	Heck's Grassfinch	<i>Poephila acuticauda hecki</i>	--	--	1	1
	Mexican House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	--	--	3	3
	Black-headed Red Siskin	<i>Carduelis cucullata</i>	--	--	2	2
	Yarrell's Siskin	<i>Carduelis yarrellii</i>	--	--	5	5
	Splendid Grass Parakeet	<i>Neophema splendida</i>	--	--	24	24
	Turkousine Grass Parakeet	<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	--	--	3	3
	Musk Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>	--	--	5	5
	Goldies Lorikeet	<i>Ptilinopus goldiei</i>	--	--	4	4
	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Ptilinopus cyaniceps</i>	--	--	1	1
	Cloncurry Parrot (or Parakeet)	<i>Barnardius zonarius</i>	--	--	2	2
	Lutino Bourkes Parakeet (V)	<i>Neophema bourkii</i>	--	--	4	4
	Rubino Bourkes Parakeet (V)	<i>Neophema bourkii</i>	--	--	2	2
N ew Bred:.....(58) from (11) Species + (6) Varieties & (0) Hybrids.....Total:- 64						

BR~14 C	Hooded Parakeet	<i>Psephenus discolor</i>			8	8
	Gouldian Finch	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	--	--	2	2
	Pearl-headed Silverbill	<i>Lonchura orixanilla</i>	--	--	1	1
	Masked Grassfinch	<i>Poephila personata</i>	--	--	2	2
	Nos Bred:.....(13) from (4) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids.....Total:- 13.					
BR~15 C	Snipe Finch	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	--	--	12	12
	Java Sparrow	<i>Padda oryzivora</i>	--	--	2	2
	Star Finch	<i>Neochlamis rubicunda</i>	--	--	5	5
	Nyasa Lovebird	<i>Agapornis lilianae</i>	--	--	1	1
	African Silverbill	<i>Lonchura cantans cantans</i>	--	--	11	11
	Nos Bred:.....(20) from (4) Species + (11) Varieties & (0) Hybrids.....Total:- 31.					
BR~16 M	Chestnut-backed Thrush	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	--	--	4	4
	Large Miltava	<i>Miltava mandia</i>	--	--	3	3
	Western Rhinoceros	<i>Stelina maculosa</i>	--	--	3	3
	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	--	--	3	3
	Nos Bred:.....(13) from () Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids.....Total:- 13.					
BR~17 M	Java Sparrow	<i>Padda oryzivora</i>	--	--	9	9
	Palawan Peacock-pheasant	<i>Polyplecton napoleonis</i>	--	--	1	1
	Sulawesi Ground Pigeon	<i>Gallicolumba tristrami</i>	--	--	2	2
	Swainson's Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	--	--	3	3
	Black-cheeked Lovebird	<i>Agapornis nigrigenis</i>	--	--	22	22
	Chaco Owl	<i>Strix chacoensis</i>	--	--	1	1
	Boobook Owl	<i>Ninox boobook</i>	--	--	3	3
	Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	--	--	1	1
	Mottled Owl	<i>Strix virgata</i>	--	--	2	2
	White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>	--	--	1	1
BR~18 C	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	--	--	2	2
	Nos Bred:.....(7) from (4) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids.....Total:- 7.					
BR~19 C	Cutthroat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>	--	--	9	9
	Spice Finch	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	--	--	7	7
	Silverbill (Indian)	<i>Lonchura maliabarika</i>	--	--	1	1
	Diamond Dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	--	--	2	2

BR~20 M	Blue-faced Parrot Finch	<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>	--	--	23	23
	Pin-tailed Parrot Finch	<i>Erythrura prasina</i>	--	--	2	2
	Chestnut-breasted Finch	<i>Munia castaneothorax</i>	--	--	15	15
	Moluccan Mannikin	<i>Lonchura molucca</i>	--	--	2	2
	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	--	--	1	1
	Silverbill (African)	<i>Lonchura cantans cantans</i>	--	--	13	13
	Abyssinian Lovebird	<i>Agapornis taranta</i>	--	--	4	4
BR~21 M	Gouldian Finch	<i>Chlorophanes eudiae</i>	--	7	16	23
	Parson's Finch	<i>Poephila cincta cincta</i>	--	8	0	8
	Cherry Finch	<i>Neochmia modesta</i>	--	7	9	16
	Cuban Finch	<i>Tiaris caeca</i>	--	--	10	10
	Red-headed Parrot Finch	<i>Erythrura peraltata</i>	--	--	1	1
	Red-checked Cuckoo Blue	<i>Uraegintha bengalensis</i>	--	--	7	7
	Diamond Dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	--	--	15	15
BR~22 M	Parakeet (V) white	?	--	--	2	2
	Bengalese Finch... (H?)?	<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>	--	--	11	11
	Java Sparrow (White form)	<i>Padda oryzivora</i>	--	--	64	64
	Diamond Dove (Pied)	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	--	--	42	42
	Silverbill (African)	<i>Lonchura cantans cantans</i>	--	--	108	108
	Cuban Finch	<i>Tiaris caeca</i>	--	--	2	2
	Bengalese Finch... (H?)?	<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>	--	--	121	121
	Cutthroat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>	--	--	3	3
	Cherry Finch	<i>Neochmia modesta</i>	--	34	10	44
	Blue-faced Parrot Finch	<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>	--	6	14	20
	Masked Grassfinch	<i>Poephila personata</i>	--	--	2	2
	Heck's Grassfinch	<i>Poephila acuticauda hecki</i>	--	--	15	15
	Gouldian Finch	<i>Chlorophanes eudiae</i>	--	7	8	8
	Diamond Sparrow	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	--	--	3	3
	Parson's Finch	<i>Poephila cincta cincta</i>	--	4	4	8
BR~23 C	Not Bred.....(213) from (10) Species + (106) Varieties & (121) Hybrids.....Total: 440.					
	Gouldian Finch	<i>Chlorophanes eudiae mirabilis</i>	--	--	7	7
	Gold-breasted Waxbill	<i>Amandaya subflava</i>	--	--	4	4
	Bengalese Finch... (H?)?	<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>	--	--	15	15
BR~24 M	Common Bronzewing	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>	--	--	4	4
	Diamond Dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	--	--	4	4
	Bar-shouldered Dove	<i>Geopelia humeralis</i>	--	--	2	2
	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	--	--	4	4
	Gold-billed Ground Dove	<i>Columbina cruziana</i>	--	--	1	1
	Blue Ground Dove	<i>Claravis pretiosa</i>	--	--	6	6
	Ruddy Quail Dove	<i>Geotrygon montana</i>	--	--	6	6
	Luzon Bleeding Heart Pigeon	<i>Gallinula haemorrhoidalis</i>	--	--	1	1
	Cobalt-winged parakeet	-	--	--	5	5
	Abyssinian Lovebird (Black-winged Lovebird)	<i>Agapornis taranta</i>	--	--	2	2
	Moustache Parakeet [Red-breasted Parakeet]	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	--	--	3	3

BR~25 C	Grey-backed Thrush	<i>Turdus baccharum</i>	--	--	4	4
	Blue-faced Parrot Finch	<i>Euphonia trichroa</i>	--	--	6	6
	Red-headed Parrot Finch	<i>Euphonia pallescens</i>	--	--	8	8
	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>	--	--	2	2
	Gouldian Finch	<i>Chlorophanes gouldianae</i>	--	--	4	4
	N ^o Bred.....(24) from (5) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids..... Total:- 24.					
BR~26 C	Gouldian Finch (Black-headed)	<i>Chlorophanes gouldianae</i>	--	--	4	4
	Heck's Grassfinch	<i>Poephila scolopacea</i>	--	--	5	5
	Long-tailed Grassfinch	<i>Poephila scolopacea</i>	--	--	5	5
	Heck's Grassfinch (V)	<i>Poephila scolopacea beeki</i>	--	--	1	1
N ^o Bred.....(14) from (3) Species + (1) Varieties & (0) Hybrids..... Total:- 15.						
BR~27 C	Silverybill (African)	<i>Lonchoceros cafer cafer</i>	--	--	5	5
	N ^o Bred.....(5) from (1) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids..... Total:- 5.					
BR~28 C	Celestial Parakeet	<i>Forpus coelestis</i>	--	--	2	2
	N ^o Bred.....(2) from (1) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids..... Total:- 2.					
BR~29 C	Bickerton's Finch [Owl Finch]	<i>Poephila bickertonii</i> [<i>Trennortia bickertonii</i>]	--	--	2	2
	Zebra Finch	<i>Poephila zebra</i> [<i>Trennortia zebra</i>]	--	--	28	28
	Star Finch	<i>Neochmia ruficauda</i>	--	--	3	3
	N ^o Bred.....(33) from (3) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids..... Total:- 33.					
BR~30 C	Red-head Gouldian Finch	<i>Chlorophanes gouldianae mirabilis</i> (<i>Euphonia gouldianae</i>)	--	--	20	20
	N ^o Bred.....(20) from (1) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids..... Total:- 20.					
BR~31 M	White-rumped Shrike	<i>Coccyzus melanerpes</i>	1	--	11	12
	Hewlin's Robin-chat (White-browed Robin-chat)	<i>Coccyzus bewlini</i>	--	--	2	2
	Orange-headed Ground Thrush	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	--	--	4	4
	Virginian Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	--	--	2	2
	Green Cardinal	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	--	--	3	3
	Red-crested Cardinal	<i>Paroaria coronata</i>	--	--	3	3
	Hooded Siskin	<i>Carduelis magellanica</i>	--	--	6	6
	Black-hooded Red Siskin	<i>Sporus cucullatus</i>	--	--	15	15
	N ^o Bred.....(47) from (8) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids..... Total:- 47.					
	BR~32 C	Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus alpinus</i>	--	--	6
Vernal Hanging Parrot		<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	--	--	7	7
N ^o Bred.....(13) from (2) Species + (0) Varieties & (0) Hybrids..... Total:- 13.						
N ^o Bred Previous Page.....1233 N ^o Bred This Page.....115 Total Birds Bred to Date.....1348.						



Gray-breasted Parakeets, Once Nearly Extinct, Fly Free at Reintroduction Site

March 8, 2023 · Rachel Fritts

Conservationists are helping the Endangered parakeet stage a remarkable comeback in Brazil's Atlantic Forest and hope the birds will bolster the health of this fragmented forest region.



Gray-breasted Parakeets at nest box. Photo by Fabio Nunes

Last month, three wild-hatched Gray-breasted Parakeets took flight in a private reserve in the Aratanha Mountains in Brazil — likely the first fledglings of this species in this location in decades. This milestone seemed impossible just over a dec-

ade ago, when the species was confined to a couple of small, isolated forest fragments and on the cusp of extinction in the wild. Now, however, Gray-breasted Parakeet recovery is a shining example of what conservationists can achieve in a relatively short amount of time with the right resources and community support

A Bird on the Brink



Gray-breasted Parakeets are noisy, gregarious birds that forage in flocks. Photo by Fabio Nunes

Gray-breasted Parakeets are small, social parrots with green bodies, white cheeks, and bright red tail feathers. The birds were once widely distributed across the humid mountain forests of eastern Brazil, flitting through the canopies and distributing seeds as they foraged for food in tight-knit family groups.

Beginning in the late 1800s, deforestation and the European pet trade forced the canopy-loving birds into areas with the least hu-

man disturbance — isolated fragments of high elevation forests on mountaintops. Over the course of the 20th century, the isolated subpopulations blinked out, until just one viable population estimated at less than 100 individuals remained, in the Baturité Mountains. By 2007, the species was listed by the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered — in imminent risk of extinction.

In 2009, Brazilian conservation organization [Aquasis](#) began working in the Baturité Mountains to save this last group of birds from extinction. Aquasis hoped to not only save Gray-breasted Parakeets from extinction, but recover the population to such an extent that the species could be reintroduced across its historic range.

At the time, this hope seemed far-fetched. For one thing, even in the Baturité Mountains' relatively intact forest habitat, there were not enough of the big trees with hollow cavities that Gray-breasted Parakeets need for their nests. Most of these had been cut for timber, leaving behind only the smaller trees in the forest. On top of that, parrot poaching was still a significant problem in the region. But Aquasis devised a plan to address both of these threats.

Making Gray-breasted Parakeets feel at home.



Previous Page—Local school children with a book about Gray-breasted Parakeets. Photo by Fabio Nunes

The first part of the plan, launched in 2009, was to build artificial nest boxes big enough to fit the gregarious parrots' family units of seven or more birds. These could stand in for the tree cavities the birds need to reproduce, and also give biologists a way to easily monitor the struggling species.

The plan was a good one, but it got off to a rocky start. "They put up ten boxes, and like seven of them had bees in them," said Bennett Hennessey, Brazil Conservation Program Coordinator for American Bird Conservancy (ABC), who visited the site that first year.

Little by little, Aquasis refined their approach, and once the parakeets began to use the boxes, the bees steered clear of the new real estate. Two years after the nest box program launched, 33 chicks fledged. By 2017, hundreds of chicks had fledged from nest boxes placed by Aquasis with the support of Loro Parque Foundation — enough to get the species down-listed from Critically Endangered to Endangered. Now, when the organization puts up new boxes in the area, the parakeets find them independently and start using them almost immediately.

In 2022 alone, 472 chicks fledged from 150 nest boxes, bringing the total to nearly 2,500 Gray-breasted Parakeet fledglings resulting from the nest box program.

After the nest boxes began producing results, Aquasis launched an education campaign to tackle the poaching issue, with support from ABC. The campaign encouraged a sense of pride among the local community about their feathered neighbors.

This, too, was a remarkable success. Poaching is not nearly as much of an issue anymore, and in 2018, the government of the Brazilian state of Ceará gifted land to be used for Gray-breasted Parakeet conservation thanks to these relationship-building efforts.



A Gray-breasted Parakeet nest box being installed. Photo by Fabio Nunes

"The education campaign is an important reminder that buying land is not the only thing that's productive for conservation," Hennessey said.

With the population ballooning to more than 1,000 birds in ten years, it was time to begin phase two of the plan: capturing birds in the Baturité Mountains and reintroducing them to new sites.

A Successful Experiment

Aquasis found five sites that would be a good fit for the reintroduction of the species, providing the dense canopies with rich supplies of fruit and seeds that the birds need to thrive. For the first attempted reintroduction, they selected a protected area in the Aratanha Mountains, about 35 miles northeast of the Baturité Mountains.

With support from ABC, a team built an aviary there that could serve as a sort of acclimation area for the relocated birds, where biologists could provide them with food and shelter as they got used to the new environment. Then it was time to get the birds.

In November 2021, conservationists carefully moved 14 Gray-breasted Parakeets comprising two family units to the new site. The parakeets acclimated quickly, readily eating the feast of fruits and seeds laid out for them each day. In May 2022, four months later, the team decided that it was time to open the doors of the aviary.

While everything had gone smoothly so far, there was no guarantee that this part would work. Reintroduced parrots are notorious for simply flying off into the distance, never to be seen again, according to Hennessey. "This was a big test to see if we could actually do this," he said.

In the case of the Gray-breasted Parakeets, the team was hopeful that nest boxes put up near the aviary, and fruit left out at the site, would encourage them to stick around. But when they opened the gates, the whole flock instantly flew away.

The team waited, straining their ears for the telltale squeaky calls of the gregarious birds. After a tense hour, the parakeets returned to eat from the feeders in the open aviary. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief. That night, the parakeets roosted in the nest boxes that the team had placed around the site.

Aquasis brought two more groups of parakeets to the Aratanha Mountains over the next several months, both of which acclimated quickly and joined the other birds in the canopy. By late last year, some of the parakeets were comfortable enough to begin laying eggs in the nest boxes. This February, the first batch of chicks fledged.



Gray-breasted Parakeet adult and recently hatched chicks in nest box at reintroduction site. Photo by Fabio Nunes

"This is possibly the first planned translocation of an endangered species in Brazil, and we are happy to be part of this story," said Fabio Nunes, Gray-breasted Parakeet Project Coordinator for Aquasis. "For the Gray-breasted Parakeet, it is one more step away from extinction."

Hope for the Tropical Birds of the Americas

reintroduction success is proof that species can be brought back from the brink if conservationists have the right tools and support. Gray-breasted Parakeets, once on the cusp of going the way of the Dodo, are now helping to restore biodiversity to forest fragments throughout northeastern Brazil, and could even serve as a model for other reintroduction efforts.

"These forest habitats are adapted to having these parakeets in them, and we really want to try to recuperate the ecology of these fragments as much as we can," Hennessey said. "The dream would be that every nice, fertile forest in the northeastern states would have Gray-breasted Parakeets again."

Editor – The Gray-breasted Parakeet (Conure) is kept at 6 public collections in the UK, including Chester and Exmoor Zoos, with a further 12 across Europe (mainly in Germany). As the article states, the Loro Parque Fundacion funds part of the project and they are one of the collections that keep this species. Interestingly, only this week I have found an advert for Gray-breasted being for sale in the UK (at quite a surprisingly affordable price)



Members of the Gray-breasted Parakeet reintroduction team in front of the aviary in the Aratanha Mountains. Photo by Fabio Nunes

Editor's Page **Darren Sefton**

As you will have noticed, I'm sorry but there was no Winter 2022 edition of Foreign Birds. I'm afraid that as at the publication date I had nothing "in the bank" to create a magazine. I would urge you to try and write something for the League to avoid this happening in the future. Similarly, I have little from members for this edition, but felt that I had to "poach" articles from elsewhere.

In addition I have been trying to go through the Breeding Officer documents forwarded to me by Peter White's family. There are large amounts missing and can only assume that these are locked somewhere in Peter's Apple Mac computer. Anyone operating Apple products will know how difficult it is to recover data if you do not have the correct logons.

I have found a disjointed document that lists the birds bred by members in 2020, but they are only identifiable by a BR code and there is no key to who these records belong to. This is replicated in this edition. Please help the League by identifying your record and letting me know. There is also a form for recording your 2021 and 2022 breedings. Please fill this in and forward to me.

As some of you will have heard Derek Cotgrave has sadly passed away in December, but as this edition went to press, I have also been advised that Steve Dew of Norfolk passed away on Saturday 26th March. Steve was wheelchair-bound following an infection several years ago meant that his leg had to be amputated. This did not hold him back from enjoying this wonderful hobby of ours and his love of birds. I'm sure that all members will join me in passing on their sincere condolences to his family and friends.

As you will see from the list of officers and Council members, we now have several vacancies. Should you feel that you can help by taking on a role or volunteering to sit on the Council, then please contact Bryan.

2023 subs are now due—we have now had the same rates for 13 years. This must surely be one of the very few things in life that have not massively increased in price. Please take up this opportunity. You can pay direct from the League's website using Paypal or send a cheque to Bryan.

Best Wishes
Darren

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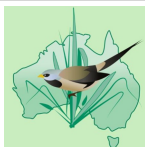
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