

# WORLD WIDE BIRDS

magazine

CONSERVATION, BIRDING  
& AVICULTURE

International and South African Edition

Premier Edition

Vol.8 N° 07

July 2024

Photography:  
Sean O'Hagan

CITES BIRDS

Diet for parrots

Aviary Plants

Avian hospital box

Sean O'Hagan  
Photography

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My hen won't stop laying eggs! What's the cause of infertility in parrots? Is it Safe to Band Cockatiels? These questions about Macaw bonding also get answered: Many people say that they pair for life. Is this true? If so, then what happens when one dies? Does the surviving mate spend the rest of its life alone? If a female is not laying fertile eggs, is there a way you can get her to accept a new mate? All these questions get answered in the Premier edition.

In the finch section, there is an article about aviary plants. There are several reasons for having plants in an aviary. Most finches will get very stressed and thus not breed if they do not have the option of places to hide.

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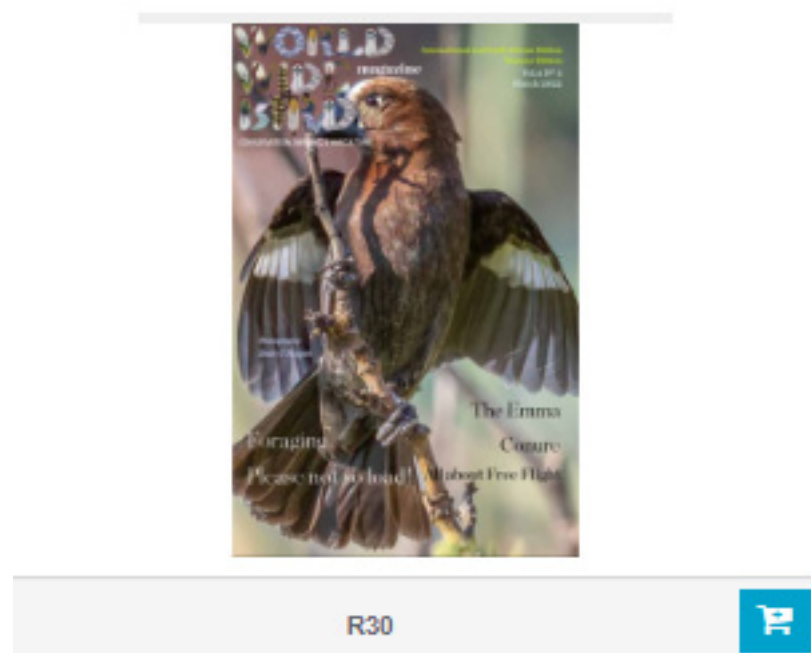
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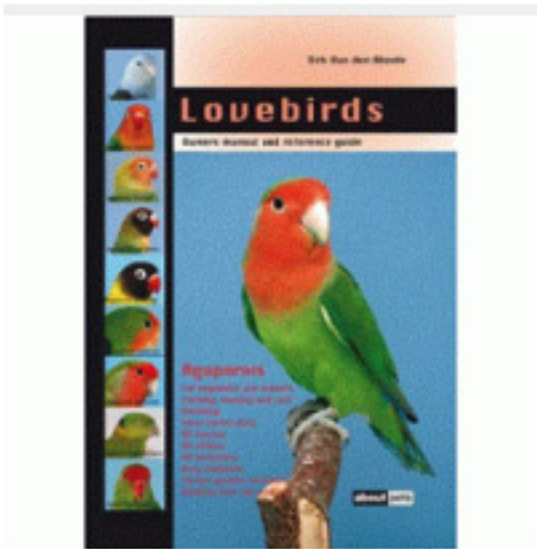
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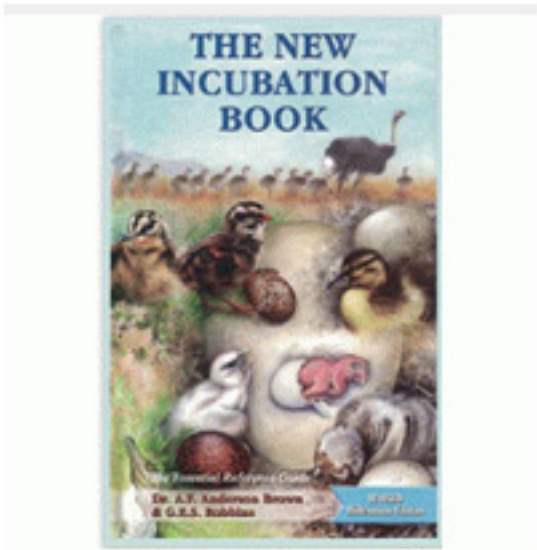
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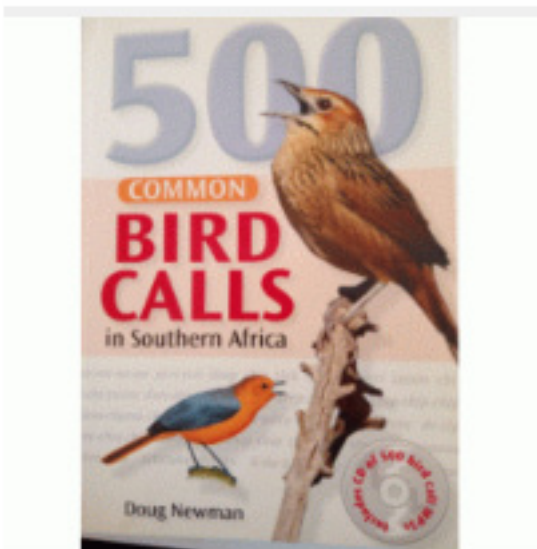
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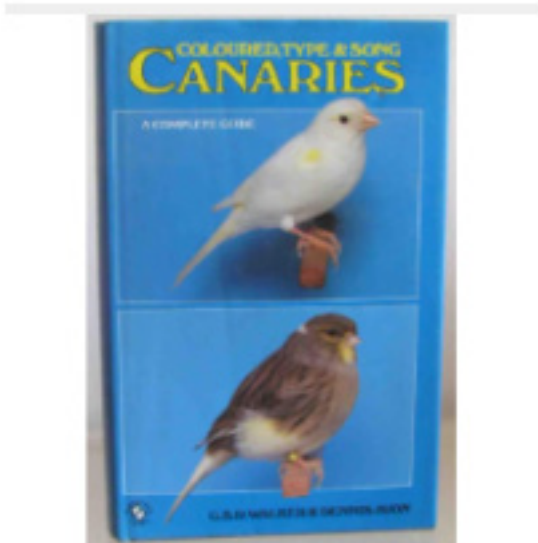
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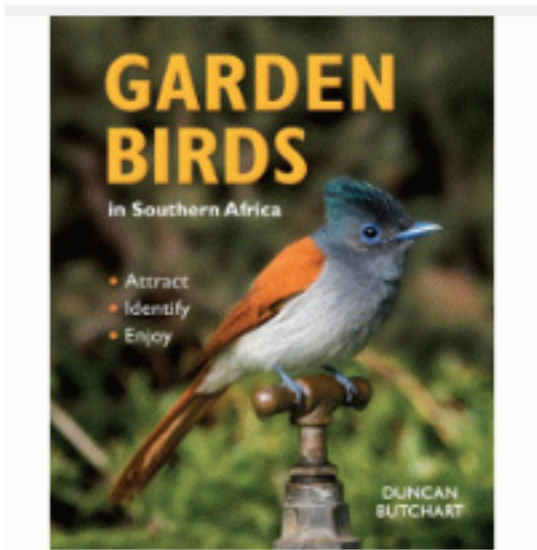
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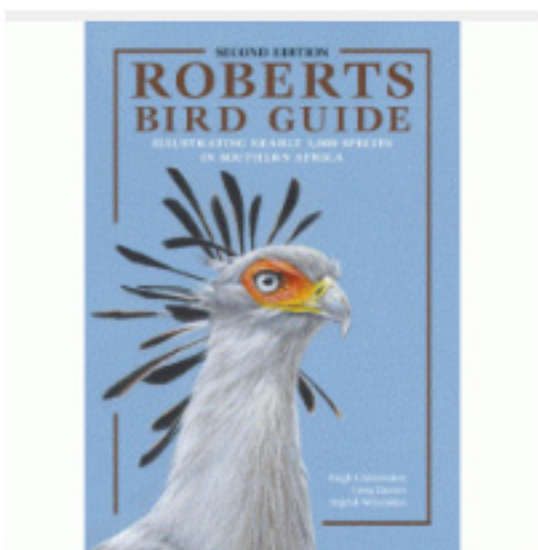
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# Micro-organisms and Your Parrots. How they Interact and How to Control them.

## Part 5

By: Prof Rob Bragg

Dept of Microbiology and Biochemistry  
University of the Free State  
Bloemfontein

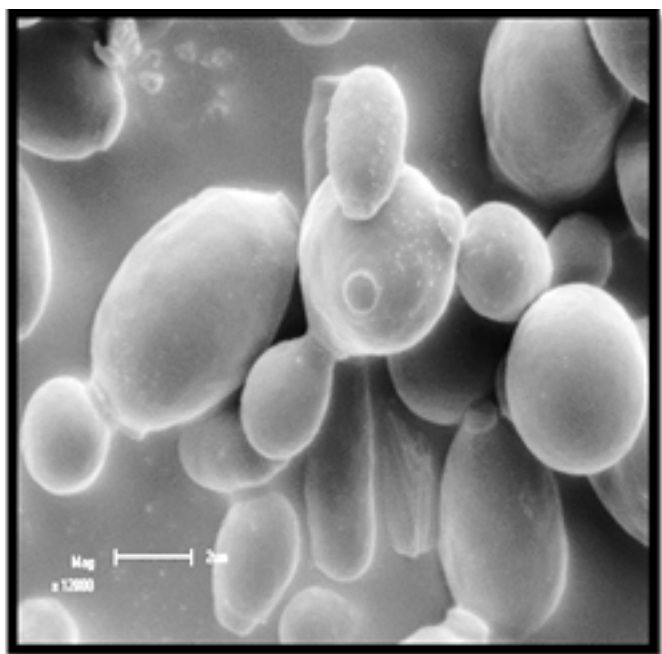
### Different groups of pathogens

#### 1. Fungi



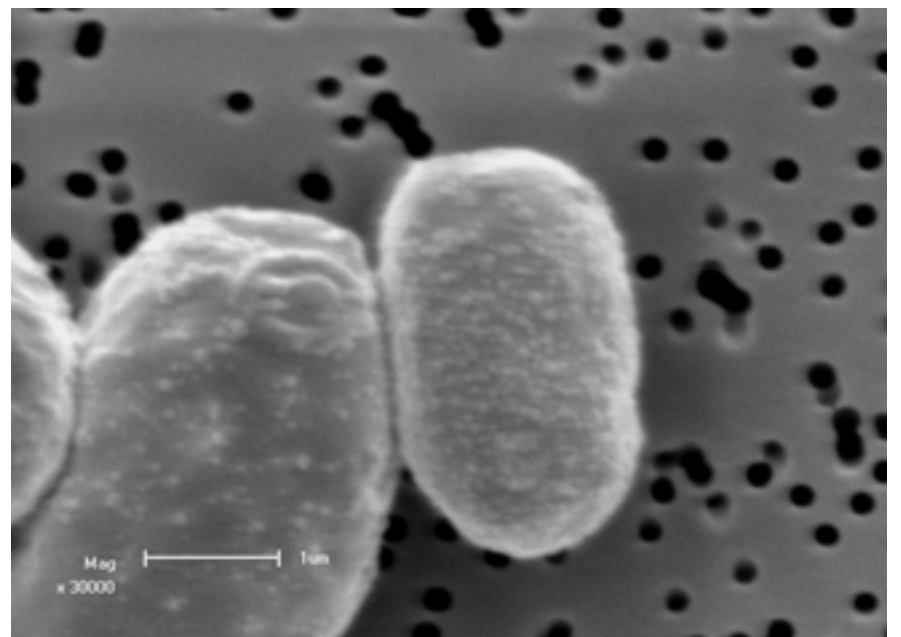
The best known example of a fungus is the common bread mold which is seen when a slice of bread is left for a few days. There are a number of fungi which can cause problems with birds.

Fungi are eukaryotic organisms. This means that they have a cellular structure, which is not unlike the cellular structure of the birds and even humans. The fact that they have a similar cellular structure means that they are more difficult to treat than bacterial diseases.



Yeast are another group of micro-organisms. Generally not highly pathogenic. Fungi reproduce by the production of millions of spores. These spores are very hardy and are difficult to get rid of.

Generally fungal infections in adult birds are not common. However one place where fungi can become a serious problem is in the incubation room. Fungi grow very nicely in the warm humid conditions in the egg incubator. Once fungi have established themselves in the incubator, they are very difficult to get rid of. Fungi are also of particular concern in very young birds, where they can establish an infection in the lungs and air sacs. Once established, it is virtually impossible to treat the fungal infection in the young bird.



An image of a yeast strain expressing the coat protein gene of Beak and feather disease virus. This was part of our successful effort to get a gene of BFDV expressed in the yeast as a possible vaccine.

### Conclusions

In this first part, I have introduced you to the different types of disease causing agents which your parrots might come into contact with. I have briefly explained the main differences between viruses, bacteria and fungi. I have also explained the difference between primary pathogens and opportunistic pathogens.

In the next two parts of this series, I will concentrate on the different methods to control diseases. I will look at the pros and cons of treating with antibiotics. I will also look at vaccines and vaccine development and how vaccines can be used to control diseases. In the final part, I will discuss the use of biosecurity and disinfection as a way to control and limit infectious diseases. I will also discuss the development of a new product, which has been especially developed for use in birds, and the role that this product can have on disease control.

For further information, you can contact me at:

[BraggRR@ufs.ac.za](mailto:BraggRR@ufs.ac.za)

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**TONY SILVA POST**



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## **Parrot interview with Laurella Desborough**

By: Tony Silva



In my pursuit to have highly respected aviculturists share their experience, I formulated a series of questions for them to answer. The question and answer follow. This is the first in a series of interviews. The first person interviewed is Eclectus expert Laurella Desborough.

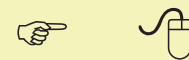
### **Describe for me your first encounter with birds?**

As a toddler about 2 to 3 years old, my parents bought a dozen Rhode Island Red chicks and gave me the responsibility of raising them, (with guidance and oversight, naturally). I raised them all. Each year my parents did this until I reached school age. Living on a farm, I was also exposed to the many different wild birds in the Midwest, which I enjoyed observing.

### **Tell me what motivated you to become an aviculturist?**

**Continue on blog post.**

**TONY SILVA POST**



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## **Parrot medication**

By: Tony Silva

### **Parrot medication introduction**

As I travel the world, I see dramatic differences in husbandry protocols. In Europe, there is great adversity to using medications on parrots. In contrast, in Asia some believe that medication should be used as part of the husbandry, subjecting the birds to regular courses of medications. I disagree with both principals. Medications should never be abused, as they can cause far more problems than they are intended to solve.

A sick bird, on the other hand, needs aggressive therapy in order to keep its health from deteriorating to the point that it will not recover. The question of when antibiotics and the concomitant antifungals should be used is in my opinion very clear: when they are actually needed and never prophylactically.

Parrots are notorious for hiding an illness. They are in the main flocking animals. In the wild a sick bird in a flock attracts the attention of predators. This is why they hide their deteriorating health until it is usually too late. These birds then separate from the flock. In most cases, they are taken by predators long before they succumb to the illness.

**Continue on blog post.**

## Quaker Parakeets

### Quaker Parakeets and their mutations *Myiopsitta monachus*

By: Louis Bothma



Wild Colour

#### Country of origin

Quaker, or Monk parakeets, are found in a large area of South America, from central Bolivia and the South of Brazil to Argentina.

#### In General

Everyone knows the smaller, bright green parakeet with the light grey face and breast. Over the breast there are horizontal cross-stripes. The males and females do not differ in colour from each other. The difference in build is also not enough to tell the sexes apart reliable. Therefore, it is recommended that the birds are surgically sexed. In nature they build big communal nests from branches in which separate pairs breed. The nests remind one of our own Buffalo Weavers' nests.

Many bird breeders have the negative impression that Quakers make a lot of noise. When they are kept in large colonies, they can be noisy. If they are rather kept in pairs in hanging aviaries with solid divisions, it is a totally different story, and no one will complain about the noise.

Quakers weigh between 90 and 135 grams. This large variation came about as a result of the inclusion of different subspecies being bred together over the years. The larger subspecies' genes are well distributed and through selection we can significantly improve the quality of future offspring. The acceptable, general-used, ring size is 6 mm. When working with rather small birds 5.5 mm rings could be considered.

#### Sub-species

Apart from the subspecies bearing the name *Myiopsitta monachus* there are three subspecies of which two resemble the *Myiopsitta monachus*, and usually just differ in size. The third subspecies (*M.m. luchsi*) is completely different from the others. The face and breast are a lot lighter, and the horizontal stripes are absent. As far as I know there are none of these birds in South Africa.

#### Housing and Breeding

**The rest of this article is available in the  
July 2022 Premier edition at:**

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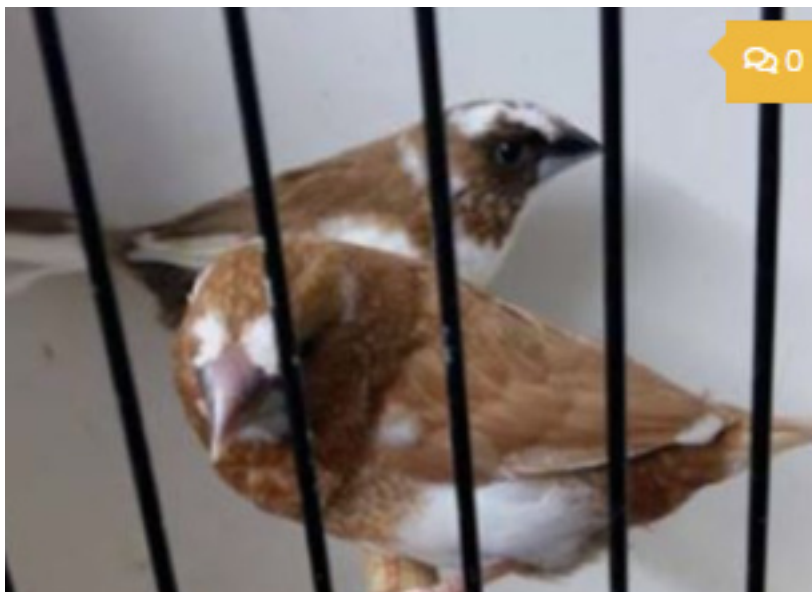
## Finch breeding index

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### Breeding green singing finches



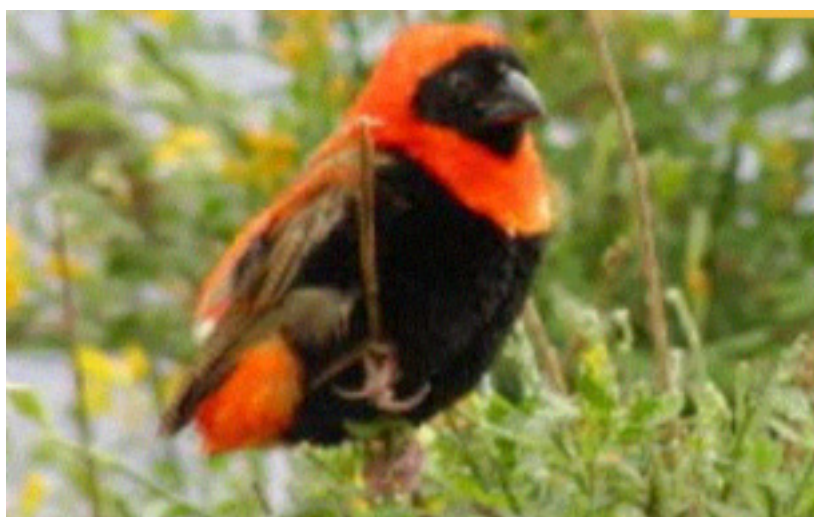
### Fostering finches



### Breeding Strawberry finches



### How to keep and breed weavers



## Herbs for birds index

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### Alfalfa / Lucerne



### Catnip



### Cayenne Pepper (with info-graphic)



### Echinacea







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Songbirds for the cooking pot**



In some regions of the Mediterranean, wild birds are sought-after ‘delicacies’.

The consumption of songbirds as a “delicacy” is a deep-rooted tradition in most countries in and around the Mediterranean region; and is the driving force behind the trapping and shooting of hundreds of thousands of robins, thrushes, larks and other small birds throughout Europe each year.

Officially, the sale of songbirds taken from the wild is banned throughout the EU. However, as there is little or no control in most countries, huge criminal gangs have become well established in countries such as Cyprus and Italy, where several million plucked songbirds are sold each year to butchers, restaurants and private gourmet diners. In view of the enormous demand, the price of plucked songbirds on the black market has risen sharply everywhere in recent years, which in turn motivates many bird-trappers to catch even more. In Cyprus alone, the turnover from the illegal sale of blackcaps and thrushes is estimated at more than 10 million euros per year.

Huge cartels have grown from ‘small fish’ trapping birds in their olive garden to highly organised criminal gangs trapping on an industrial scale. In order to cover the demand, in addition to the birds shot in their own country, the demand is supplemented with birds smuggled in from Eastern Europe and elsewhere. In Italy, for example, the police regularly confiscate smuggled loads of thousands of dead larks, thrushes or wagtails that have come into the country from Bulgaria and Serbia. In northern Italy, CABS investigations have revealed that game traders importing hundreds of thousands of frozen sparrows from Tunisia each year. This practice was brought to an end for the time being following a criminal complaint to the European Commission.



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By: Keriellen Lohrman

### **About Our Organization**

The Bird Gardens of Naples is a non-profit organization whose sole concern is parrot welfare in captivity and conservation of wild parrots. We are an outreach and placement program which places into safe custody, parrots which are abandoned, abused, or in need of a home for any reason. Parrots are intelligent, highly social and complex beings with lifespans of up to 100 years.

The individual bird's best interest and well being of the present flock will determine if a parrot is accepted into the organization. We actively support networking with other parrot welfare groups, animal welfare organizations, the veterinary community, conservation organizations and the general public. Education is of the utmost importance concerning the well being of a parrot and its ability to successfully live with its human companions.

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Best regards,  
Godfrey Bradford

*Thank you very much for your feedback Godfrey. This kind of feedback inspire me to continue with the magazine.*

Hi, I see that you have information about budgies in every Premier edition. Is it possible to do the same for lovebirds?

Regards  
Kyle Fourie

*Thanks for your email. The reason why we expose budgies in every Premier edition is because AWEBSA is a Premier magazine subscriber. We can do the same for you or any Lovebird club when you also become a Premier magazine subscriber. Hope to hear from you soon.*



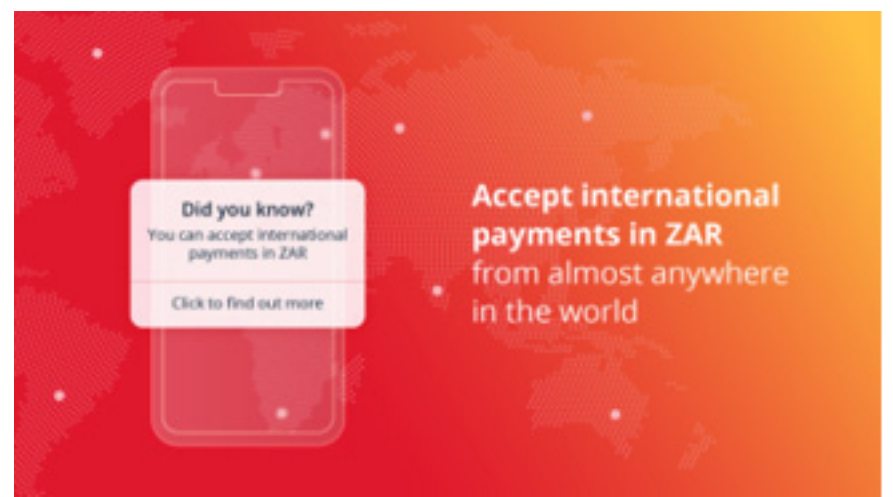
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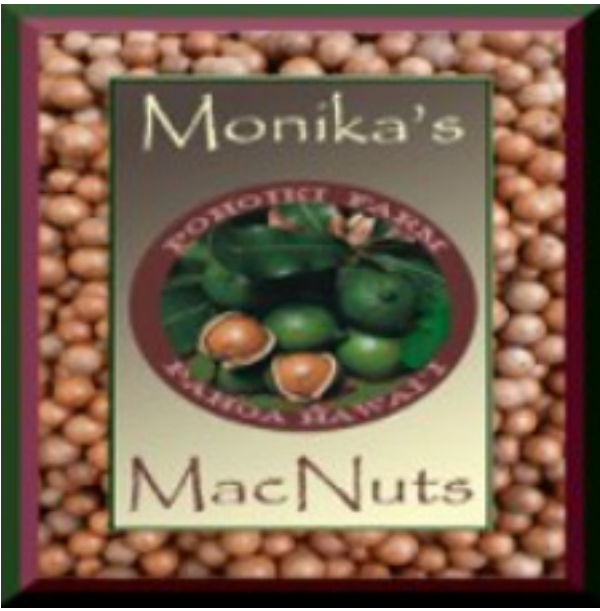
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With PayFast, you can be rest assured that it's completely safe to use because they are a PCI-DSS Level 1 compliant service provider. As long as the card has a card number, expiry date, and CVV number on the back it can be used to subscribe to the premier edition.

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We sell our mac nuts in quantities starting as small as 1 lb up to over 100 lbs. We also offer a subscription program through our website <https://www.mac-nuts.com/> where you can choose the quantity and frequency of your order.



Click on photo to visit Facebook page.



Here is one of our gorgeous customers Okalani! She loves our mac nuts!



These are a couple of our adorable customers Grover and Beaky!  
Click on photo to read blog post.







## **Parrot Behavior Consulting (PBC)**

by Hildegard Niemann

Are you looking for professional advice on all questions relating to keeping parrots?

Then you are exactly right here. If you have any questions about the most beautiful hobby in the world, I would be happy to provide you with advice and support.

Would you like to book a telephone consultation on a fee basis or an on-site appointment after making an appointment over the phone?

If you have any questions, send me an email ([papageien-training@gmx.de](mailto:papageien-training@gmx.de))

Or call me:

Telephone 02451-9018597 (with answering machine).

In urgent cases I can be reached on:

0176-80226630

(also via SMS or WhatsApp)

Of course, you can also send me a message using the contact form . Please don't forget to give me your phone number (landline or mobile).

## **Who is Hildegard Niemann?**

When Hildegard Niemann began studying biology, she had no idea that parrots and parakeets would “order” her life. A little green budgie stole into her heart and where there is one parakeet, another soon follows... and with it the first step into a life as an advocate and advocate for our feathered family members.

Hildegard Niemann is a certified behavior consultant with the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultant IAABC <https://iaabc.org/> . She writes articles about the behavior and husbandry of parrots and parakeets, gives lectures, organizes webinars and online consultation hours and accompanies owners in personal consultations by telephone, online in ZOOM meetings and on site. Hildegard Niemann has worked with countless parrots and parakeets and their owners to provide them with information and to offer the birds a harmonious life in their husbandry.

According to Hildegard Niemann, one of the main reasons for behavioral problems in parrots and parakeets is not the bird itself, but communication problems between the owner and the bird that share a habitat. The solution to these problems can be achieved through education, training and training.

Click on photo for more information.





## What's the cause of infertility in parrots?

By: Tony Silva

Infertility is the vane of the breeder. There is nothing more disheartening than discarding a clutch of eggs because they are infertile. This problem of infertile eggs affects all species, but is most common in macaws, amazons and Eclectus Eclectus roratus parrots.

Indeed on a daily basis I receive messages from breeders across the globe describing the frustration they feel at the number of infertile Eclectus eggs they discard. No one has a secret elixir that can guarantee success. Rather it is often changing husbandry principals, improving diet, dealing with sub-clinical health issues and treating these, or providing the birds new mates because they are incompatible that leads to success.

Let me address each issue separately:

### Husbandry

Parrots have evolved to fly, to explore and to interact. Very few species are solitary. Kakapo Strigops habroptilus live as isolated individuals, but virtually all other species live in pairs or more commonly in groups. In all groups, mates are carefully selected—they are just not found by coincidence.

**Continue in Premier edition.....**

## Keeping Gloster Canaries Part I

By: Int Gloster Breeders Association

### Gloster Canaries Housing

A good quality sturdy warm shed or spare room to keep the birds.



A good shed or spare room to keep the birds is the minimum requirement, with plenty of light, good air flow and well insulated.

Size of housing will be determined by the number of cages required to keep your birds in good health.

**Continue in Premier edition.....**



## Premier magazine subscriber introduction



Click on logo to visit website.

### Association for Wild-type and Exhibition Budgies of South Africa

AWEBSA is the only National Body in Southern Africa catering for all budgerigars (Exhibition / Wild-Type / Pet Budgies) at our Shows. We also have an Open class where members and non-members show. Exhibition and Wild-Type budgerigars are treated on an equal footing with 25 colour awards each available per show. We invite you to join us and enjoy our wonderful hobby with us.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Can a budgie learn to talk?

A pet budgie can learn a vast vocabulary of words and phrases. A male budgerigar is more inclined to speak than a female budgie.

Some pet budgie owners might not even realize that their budgie is repeating words or phrases because a budgie tends to have a very low, quick voice that might be mistaken for chatter.

When teaching your pet budgie, a word or phrase, speak slowly and clearly and keep an ear out for these words and phrases when you hear your budgie chattering away.

### What do I feed my pet budgie?

Budgies are primarily vegetarians, although they often eat insects in the wild. In captivity, there are many ways to provide a budgie with a balanced diet. To be extra safe, however, you should always keep a mineral block in your budgie's cage. It will make up for anything that his regular diet may be lacking.

- Vegetables - Budgies enjoy a wide range of different vegetables including carrots, cucumbers, squashes, turnips, beetroot, corn on the cob, cauliflower and spinach.
- Grains - In the wild, budgies thrive off grass seeds. In captivity, grains like oats, whole rice, wild rice, white and jap millet and plain canary are all excellent options.
- Hazardous Foods - You should never give your budgie banana, avocado or chocolate, for example.

### My budgie is picking at his feathers. Is that normal?

A budgie will normally preen his feathers daily, keeping them clean and free of dust. So you might see your budgie sliding his feathers through his beak, nibbling at his feathers, scratching his head with his claws, and fluffing up. This is all normal behaviour.

If you find your budgie is actually “yanking out” feathers repeatedly (or yanking out one of his flock mate's feathers) it's time to talk to a vet.

### Do they chew on things?

Just look at the beak, hooked, and you should realize it is designed to chew. In the wild they use the beaks to excavate nest sites for example.

Budgies' beaks are always growing. To keep them from becoming overgrown, these birds enjoy shredding things up and chewing on things.



# Avifood Products

By Dr. med. vet. Friedrich Janeczek,  
Veterinary practice limited to Parrots,  
Graefelfing, Germany

## How do you recognize well-fed young Hyacinth macaws?

It is well known that the quality and composition of the diet for young birds affect the condition of their feathers, skin and beak. This can be seen particularly well in young hyacinth macaws. Poorly and unbalanced nourished young Hyacinth macaws have blackish, dull plumage and pale, sometimes almost whitish skin around the eyes and the lower beak.

The young Hyacinth macaw pictured here is approximately 7 months old and not fully weaned. It has bright blue and shiny plumage and perfect toe skin without hyperkeratosis. Its skin around the eyes is an intense yellow color.

The parents of this bird are fed with Harrison's® High Potency coarse mixed with Palmgloss® and the Harrison's® Power Treats.





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We congratulate our customer to this beautiful young macaw and wish continued success in the next breeding season!

These wonderful Hyacinth macaw progenies can be shipped to all countries which allow the import of captive bred CITES Appendix I species in F2 generation.

Both Hyacinth macaws can be exported in special transport boxes according to the IATA regulations accompanied with CITES export permit, veterinary health certificate and negative test results for avian influenza and Newcastle disease.

Interested persons who have the appropriate facilities to keep Hyacinth macaws should send an email to [info@dr-janeczek.de](mailto:info@dr-janeczek.de).

I travel a lot to visit our customers and their parrots to check and treat them at their homes. The specialized veterinary video consultations for parrots and parakeets we offer help a lot to get a first impression about the birds and their situation as well as the bird owners problems.

Some cases like nutritional issues can be already solved during the video consultation. However, most cases require thorough diagnostic and therapeutic measures, which I carry out in my veterinary practice limited to parrots at Graefelfing, Germany or as part of my home visits at the customer's location.

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For Appointments: [info@dr-janeczek.de](mailto:info@dr-janeczek.de)



CITES BIRDS  
AVES

After downloading the full Index of CITES species, I came to the conclusion that this 1287 page document is not that easy to browse through. I then decided to make it easier for our readers and list them as follow with a photo from Wikipedia.

An easy explanation on the Cites website of what the listings mean:  
<https://www.cites.org/eng/disc/how.php>

**In summary:**  
**Appendix I** includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.

**Appendix II** includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.

**Appendix III** This Appendix contains species that are protected in at least one country.

Otus pembraensis  
Pemba scops owl  
Tanzania  
**Cites II**



Otus petersoni  
Cinnamon screech owl  
Ecuador, Peru and Colombia.  
**Cites II**



Two pages of Cites Birds in every  
Premier edition.

Click on below cover photo for more info:



Your book is very interesting. I like that you added the latin names that everybody in all countries knows exactly which plant is meant.

The article from Tony Silva is absolutely informative.

Once again many thanks for the book.

Best regards,

Diana Eberhardt

Thank you for the eBook I bought, well received. Great info and one of the best feeding books available. Keep up the great work. Looking forward to buy another eBook.

Have a great day.

Dan Kruger



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## BLOG POST

### Fostering finches

By: Marcus Pollard

The main bird that is used for fostering is the Bengalese mannikin. Throughout the world, people use this bird to foster their finches – especially the Gouldian finch.

But before you race out and purchase 10 pairs and start to foster like crazy be aware that the really successful fosterers have spent considerable time and energy developing a STRAIN of manikins that will be good fosters.

One breeder I was lucky enough to visit stated that you only needed 2 Bengalese in a cage to rear other chicks. Two males, two females, or a pair were equally useful as foster parents! True. We saw the evidence for this in his parrotfinch breeding rooms. His plan was to allow his parrotfinches 2 nests, which he fostered, then they would be allowed to raise the third clutch by themselves. After this third clutch, they were rested. His results were unbelievable. The descendants of these birds are now happily producing young in aviaries the length of Australia. So much for their being useless!!

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**SOUTH AFRICA’S GAME LODGES and SAFARI ACCOMMODATION**

South Africa is a country where magic infuses the views and landscapes, where the smiles of the local people can only be matched by the splendour of the ocean, mountains, forests, savannahs, waterfalls and rivers. This country is known the world around for its extraordinary collection of fauna and flora, and some of the best places to see these treasures up close are in the numerous game parks, reserves, sanctuaries and national parks.

Game lodges in South Africa range from rustic bush camps that immerse their guests in the wild side of Africa to luxurious 5-star retreats that showcase the bushveld on a platform of opulence. South Africa is known the world around for its abundance of wildlife, not least of all its many birds. In fact, there is an established avi-tourism industry that invites birding enthusiasts from all over the world to indulge in top-class bird-watching.

**SOUTH AFRICA AS A BIRDING HOTSPOT**

Thanks to the abundance of excellent South African hotels and accommodation facilities, as well as an established transport infrastructure (including international car hire companies), South Africa is proving to be one of the world’s top birding hotspots.

Visitors can join up with a formal birding tour group or can explore the country and its species on their own. Of the approximate 850 recorded bird species in the country, around 725 are resident birds (or, at least, annual visitors).

**BIRDER-FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATION**

The following South African birding hotspots feature on our website. Would you like to have a link to your website on these blog posts? All you have to do is to become a Premier magazine subscriber.

**BLOG POST**  
**Austin Roberts Bird Sanctuary**

**BLOG POST**  
**Thornpark East London**

**BLOG POST**  
**Boulders Beach**

**BLOG POST**  
**Hartbeespoort dam**

**BLOG POST**  
**Roodekrans**

Most show on Google’s first page.



## Gulu Private Resort

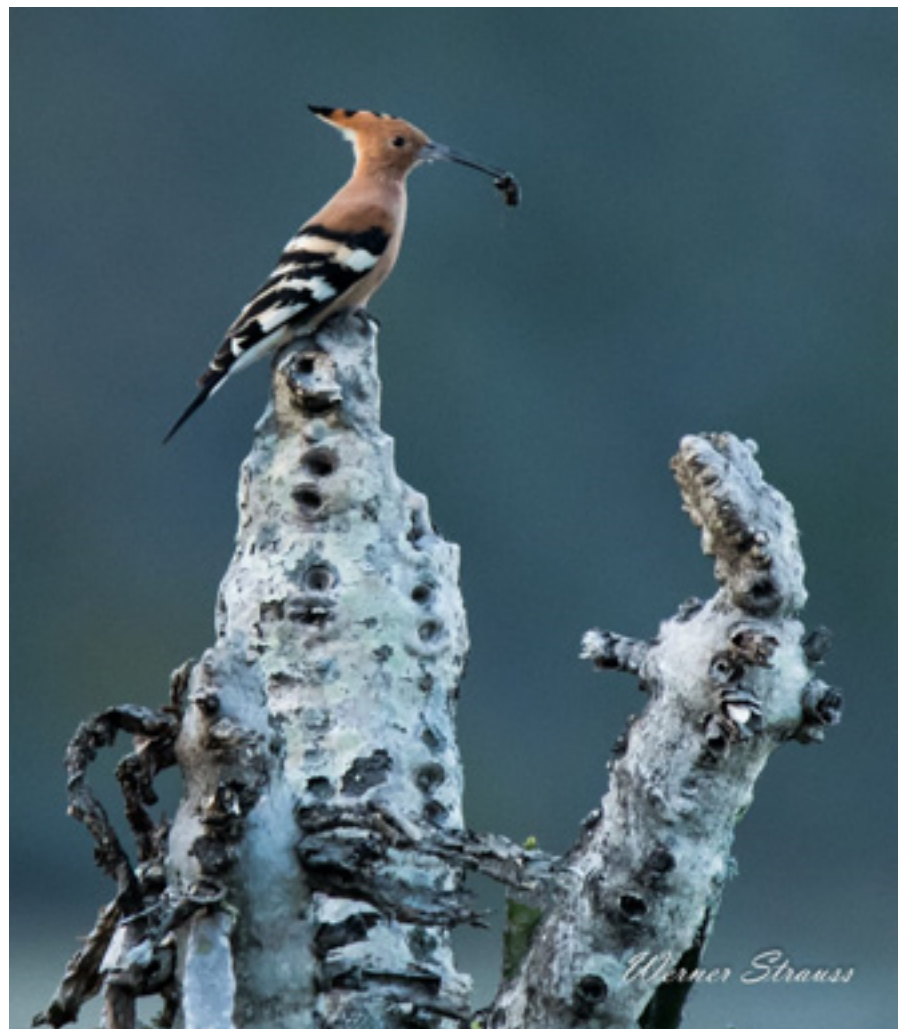
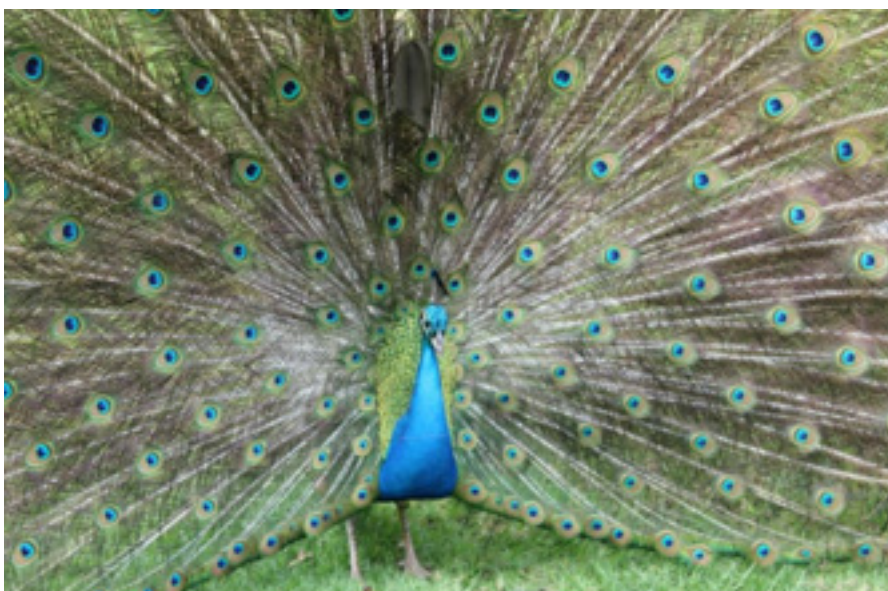


**1Gulu Private Resort is a privately owned family run Resort in East London. Offering nothing fancy but tasty home cooked breakfast and dinners, clean and cosy accommodation, conference and function facilities all exclusively natural with beautiful garden and river views.**

Unpack your suitcases, put down the laptop, kick off your shoes and enjoy a locally craft beer or a lovely glass of Cape Town's finest wines. Still need to finalise a few emails? No problem! Make yourself at home on the deck outside the restaurant overlooking the Gulu River or find a garden bench, where you can finish off your day's work.

Rolo will welcome you to the Resort and he will show you the way to discover "the luxury of being free".

The complete natural beauty of the location lends itself to all kinds of birds. We have a variety of wild birds, including Hornbills, Sun-and Sugarbirds, Raptors, Water Birds and General Birds. We would like to invite all bird lovers to come and explore our amazing bird species with us.



### Contact details and location:

Physical Address: Farm 1015 Burnside, Gulu

Postal Code: 5200

Telephone: +27(0)825580411

Email: [info@guluprivateresort.co.za](mailto:info@guluprivateresort.co.za)

Website: <http://www.guluprivateresort.co.za>

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Mexico  
Birding Los Cabos México

By: Maria Elena Muriel

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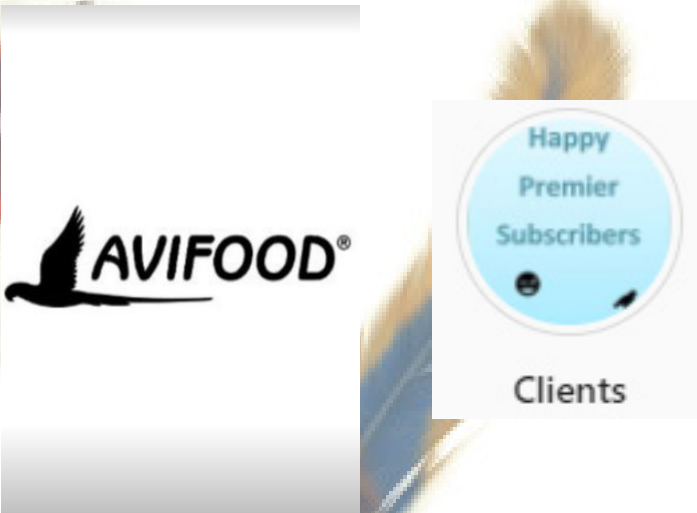
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FLORIDA			
Greg J. Harrison, DVM Diplomate Emeritus American Board of Veterinary Practitioners - Avian Practice Dip European College of Zoological Medicine (Avian) (Retired)	Founder President, HBD International Inc. and Developer of Harrison's Bird Foods.	7108 Crossroads Blvd. Suite 325 Brentwood, TN, USA 37027	800-346-0269

Avian Veterinarians - EU

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Dr Bjorn Geeroms	DAP Geeroms-De Wolf	Assesteenweg 37 Borchtlombeek, Brabant	+32 2 569 30 33
Germany			
Dr. med. vet. Friedrich Janeczek	Veterinary Practice limited to Parrots	Hans-Cornelius-Str. 2c, 82166 Gräfelfing	+49-89-854814-0
For any ammendments / updates / deletions please e-mail us.			



DAP Geeroms-De Wolf

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## DAP Geeroms – De Wolf

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Maandag	9:00 - 12:00 & 13:30 - 16:00	18:00 - 20:00 Bjorn Geeroms & David De Wolf
Dinsdag		18:00 - 19:30 Bjorn Geeroms & David De Wolf
Woensdag		18:00 - 19:30 Bjorn Geeroms
Donderdag		18:00 - 19:30 David De Wolf
Vrijdag		18:00 - 19:30 Afwisselend Bjorn Geeroms / David De Wolf
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New website  
BOEGIE STORE BLOG

I started a brand-new website called Boegie Store. This site will contain blog post from Keto, book reviews and anything else.

Click on screen shot to visit blog post.

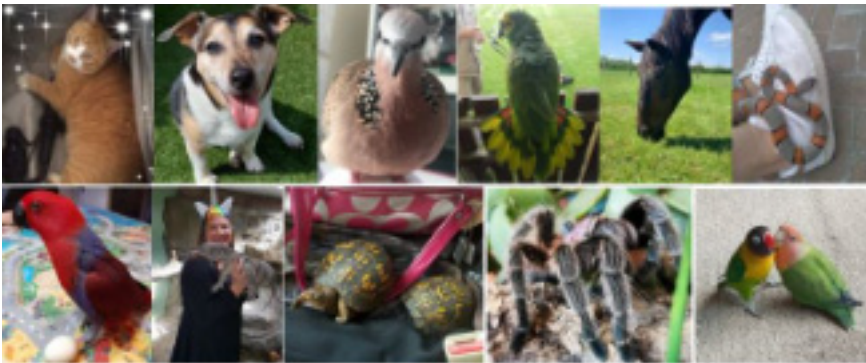
Diet for thin people.



New website  
World Wide Pets

I started a brand-new website called World Wide Pets that will develop in another magazine. All pets will be included. From birds, dogs, cats, fish, rabbits, hamsters, horses, exotics, etc.

Click on photo to visit website.



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HC20



# Owl Rescue Centre

Rescue number 74 for Vodacom this year so far. We've closed the entrance where they were getting into the tower and then we released them back into their territory, ideally they'll need to find a more natural space to roost.



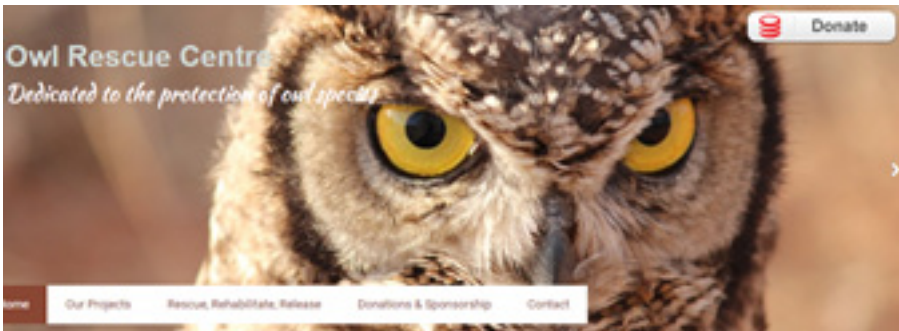
A few weeks ago we posted a video of this rather large happy family living on the sanctuary. They've subsequently all fledged and flying free. But all of them still come home just before sunrise every morning.



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#### Recommended Websites

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8

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9

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11

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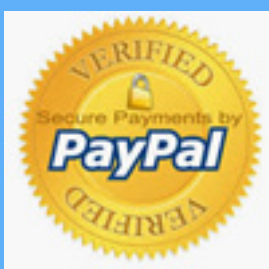
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12

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