Monjoli and Ouisseau. Monjoli showing fluffing of crown and nape as described in mating information.

THE HISPANIOLAN AMAZON

Ouisseau showing blue primaries at outer edge of wing.

Announcing an Avian Clinical Pathology Service for Veterinary Practitioners

California Avian Laboratory is a clinical pathology and consultation service, for practicing veterinarians treating caged and aviary birds as patients. The service is an outgrowth of a laboratory serving an avian specialty practice, The Avian Medical Center of Sacramento.

A veterinary practice seeing birds as patients is in need of further diagnostic support for the following reasons: 1) birds tend to mask signs of disease, 2) clinical signs are often non-specific, 3) clinical syndromes can often progress, without an etiologic diagnosis, in spite of symptomatic therapy.

Diagnostic procedures available include avian hematology, biochemistry, microbiology, parasitology, cytology, chlamydial diagnostics, and pathology.

In support of the service, consultation is available for case management, selection of appropriate tests, and clinical interpretation.

Areas served include the United States and Canada, via postage paid mailers or overnight express.

For further information, contact Dr. Alan Fudge, California Avian Laboratory, P.O. Box 41809, Sacramento, CA 95841. Phone (916) 722-8428

Rear view of pair.

Present breeding cage with nesting log.

8 June/July 1985
The Hispaniolan Amazon
(Amazona ventralis)

by Steven Sjodahl
Centerville, Ohio

This small parrot, also called the Santo Domingo, or Salle's Amazon, is one of the presently threatened West Indies Amazons. It is quite attractive and well liked as a pet in its native islands, yet little information on this bird is available to us here in the states, even though several people seem to have successfully bred them.

The Hispaniolan's native range today is Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and possibly Culebra Island; however, the only one of these places where their population seems to be growing is Puerto Rico, where they may now number in the hundreds. The ironic thing is that their introduction there was somewhat accidental. It seems several hundred of these birds were brought over from the Dominican Republic, but were refused entry. The return of the birds may have resulted in legal action, so they were released outside the port of Mayaguez to make shore on their own.

In Haiti, because of the destruction of mountain vegetation, they are forced to come down to lower elevations to feed. This gives the illusion of increasing numbers, when the opposite is probably more the truth. Further study is necessary to fully understand their plight.

Amazona ventralis is currently proposed for Appendix II, (threatened) of the CITES Convention; however, I must agree with Tony Silva who believes they should be re-classified and placed with the leucocephala which would automatically make them Appendix I, (endangered). They seem to lack the red breast feathers and purplish cast to the abdomen seen in the Cuban, but in every other respect the resemblance is very keen.

In March or April of 1984, I went to visit a friend, Sandy Michaels, and let me tell you that I was shocked by what I saw as I entered her kitchen. On a chair by the dining room table sat Ouisseau (Wee-zoo), one of the most striking Amazons I had ever seen. None of the photos or illustrations I'd been able to find did these little birds any justice at all.

One is first taken by the white frontal patch and pinkish horn-colored beak. Then the attention falls on the crown and nape, which have a very defined scalloped appearance ranging from almost black in the front, to a mixture of green and black at the rear. This is accentuated by a blue iridescence that seems most visible in direct sunlight. The ear coverts are marked with a round, black spot about the size of a nickel, and the eye is surrounded by a white ring as in the Cuban Amazon. The general body color is a rich Amazon green, with the black edging effect going almost to the darker, olive tail. At the ends of the outer flight feathers and tail is the most brilliant shade of blue you can imagine. The other interesting feature of this bird is the reddish area above the vent that extends downward into the outer tail feathers. This is much brighter than I would have thought from the descriptions in Forshaw, and other texts. In fact, it's every bit as bright as that of the pionus parrots.

Sandy had received 24 of these Hispaniols from a breeder in Costa Rica. They were all around two and one-half to three years of age and just coming into maturity. In fact, she told me that Ouisseau had selected a mate, and that they were keeping separate from the rest of the birds and feeding one another. This excited me because it indicated a natural pair bond, which I consider one of the most important aspects of breeding any of the parrots.

Ousseau's mate, Monjoli, was similar to him in almost every respect except that the white frontal area was smaller, and the cheek patch wasn't quite as dark, or circularly defined. The red area above the vent was also dissimilar to the male, but each of the birds I saw that day were equally different, regardless of sex.

Needless to say I purchased the two birds, and quickly took them home where I busied myself for the next couple of weeks designing a suitable cage and nestbox for breeding. I also took the birds to my local veterinarian, and even though I was sure that Ousseau was male, and Monjoli female, I had them surgically sexed. This was more to find out the actual maturity and condition of the two birds, and to be sure that no internal problems existed. I was informed that not only were the birds in good health, but their condition suggested breeding could take place at any time.

That was all I needed. A cage 2 ft.

NEW CATALOG
Send $1.00 discount available
your source for...

LAFFEBER'S PRODUCTS
• PELLETED FOODS
• EMERALD I & II
• NUTRISTART, etc.
raise healthier birds...
more nutrition for your money...

AVI-CULTUR—1 BILLION™
concentrated Lactobacillus
acidophilus
• combat diarrhea & "pasted-up" vents
• combat the effects of stress from crowding, molting, drugs, etc.
• fight E. coli, Salmonella, etc!
• Just sprinkle on food.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES,
ETC.
the bird specialists...

Wm. V. Reichert & Son • Dept W
1523 Potter Rd.
Park Ridge, IL 60068
312-825-BIRD

afa WATCHBIRD 9
small chicken egg, but not quite as elip-
egg. It without dragging.

Another. In fact, she couldn’t move
along the sides or bottom of the cage
first the distension was only slight, but
noticeably larger in the abdomen. At
hour and is repeated as often as every
ending in another screeching outburst.

downward as the male mounts her.
Copulation takes four or five minutes
and begin a great deal of mutual preen-
ing and fluffing. (Note: the female
make. The two move close together
is finally replaced by the familiar cluck-
ning and the threat of tropical storms, the
I’ve been told is excellent. Until then I
had successfully raised one chick to
adulthood. At least this proves that
birds of no more than three years old
can produce fertile eggs.

Hopefully, I will be able to give an
account of hatching and chick rearing
after this season. I also hope to report
on the Hispaniolan’s personality as
pets, and on their talking ability, which
I’ve been told is excellent. Until then I
can only wait and observe.

In closing I would just like to say that
these birds, like most of the West
Indies Amazons, are now in danger of
extinction. With the constant clearing
of land, encroachment of civilization,
and the threat of tropical storms, the
need for captive breeding is clear. As
aviculturists it’s our responsibility to
propagate and make available to other
breeders all rare and endangered
species so that even if their natural
habitats are totally destroyed, they
won’t go the way of the Cuban macaw,
or the Carolina parakeet. If we can’t
make any decisions as to the conserva-
tion of their native lands, at least we
can insure their survival for future
generations to appreciate.
WHOLESALE BIRDS

For the Finest Quality of Exotic Birds
At Low — Low Quarantine — Wholesale Prices

Importers of Exotic Birds

Air Shipments to All Parts of the United States and Overseas
Never a Box or Service Charge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BABY AMAZONS</th>
<th>MORE BABY BIRDS</th>
<th>EXOTICS INCLUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-6 Months Old</td>
<td>African Grey Parrots</td>
<td>Trouplals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-Front Amazon</td>
<td>Timneh Gray Parrots</td>
<td>Tanagers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-Nape Amazon</td>
<td>Blue and Gold Macaw</td>
<td>Siskins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-Lored Amazon</td>
<td>Green Wing Macaw</td>
<td>Goldfinches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Crown Amazon</td>
<td>Sulphur Crested Cockatoo</td>
<td>Nightingales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectacled Amazon</td>
<td>— And Many Others —</td>
<td>Toucans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Parrotlets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lorikeets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always Canaries and Cockatiels</td>
<td></td>
<td>Others</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monthly Sale Specials! — Inquire

SUPREME EXOTIC BIRDS, INC.
39 North Bond St. • Mt. Vernon, New York 10550, USA
(914) 699-4608

Write or Call for Current Price List — Issued Bi-Weekly