

PARROT INCUBATION PROCEDURES



BY
RICK JORDAN



SILVIO MATTACCHIONE & CO.

Parrot Incubation Procedures

by Rick Jordan

"Written by an expert who understands that most of us are not, Rick Jordan illuminates this vital area concisely and clearly. Novice or veteran breeder, everyone's productivity will benefit from this marvelously comprehensive book. PIP earns my nomination as the official guidebook to happy hatchery!"

Jay Beckerman
Director, National Parrot Association

"PIP is the most comprehensive treatment of the subject in existence . . . a book that anyone with birds should not be without."

Merlyn F. Rhea, Contributing Editor
Bird Talk

"It would be a blessing to anyone who could get it into their hands by Feb. or early March so as to have time to study the book and get the incubator and equipment prepared before the eggs arrive!"

Sheldon Dingle
Past Editor, *AFA Watchbird*

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by Sheldon Dingle
Los Angeles, California

Trust me, most people who love birds also love books, especially good books about birds. This happy circumstance makes your holiday gift giving very easy including, of course, gifts to your most deserving self.

To simplify your holiday season, I'll briefly review a couple of books recently added to my own library — books that have been very instructive and which I've thoroughly enjoyed reading.

Parrot Incubation Procedures

Parrot Incubation Procedures by Rick Jordan is a volume I should dearly loved to have had a few years ago. Alas, at that time the data and experience were not developed. My education in incubation was gained from disaster to disaster. If you breed parrots of any sort and wish to avoid disasters to your birds and damage to your emotional well being, you absolutely must own and study this outstanding book.

Parrot Incubation Procedures (also called PIP — quite a nice play on words) contains a foreword by Robert J. Berry, Former Curator of Birds at the Houston Zoological Gardens, wherein Berry explains how the author has artificially incubated the greatest number of large parrot eggs ever available to a single individual. Jordan has drawn on this rich source of data and experience to compile this unique book. As a personal aside, let me tell you when I learned that Bob Berry wrote the foreword to this book all my doubts vanished. The fact that Berry agreed to write the foreword gives the book an unimpeachable stamp of authority.

Then, as I read and studied the book, everything Jordan said really hit home with me. I found myself saying, "Yes, yes, exactly," as he described various situations and difficulties. Many times I groaned when he explained a simple method to past problems that cost me so much blood and sweat. All of the book's eight chapters are to a parrot breeder what

water is to a desert traveller. But, to me, chapters three — "Preparing for Incubation," Four — "Candling and Repairing Eggs," and Seven — "Hatching and Hatching Assistance," are so valuable that I wish I could reprint them verbatim here.

Let me set a scene. You have a collection of rare and expensive parrots you've spent years developing. It's late spring and your incubator has 25 or so expensive and rare eggs in it. A sudden thunderstorm knocks the power out and there you stand, looking at an absolutely useless wooden box that used to be an incubator.

Believe me, friend, this is major panic time. You have several options for a few of the rarest eggs. A small container set on the stove above the pilot light — maybe, maybe. An ample spouse with a few eggs in the warm bosom — but be careful, don't move. Perhaps a container of eggs floating on hot water. How, oh, how can you find ninety-nine degrees for awhile?

Don't laugh. Also, don't try any of the above panic instigated remedies. Well, what *does* one do during a power failure? Take my advice. Buy PIP instantly — *before* the disaster hits. Be prepared.

As it happens, the book has a section called "When the Power Goes Off." Jordan tells you exactly what to do. Briefly: 1) turn off incubator to avoid power surge damage, 2) close incubator vents, 3) cover incubator with heavy blankets to slow cooling, 4) call authorities to learn how long power may be off.

If your incubator is indoors and you follow the above procedures, most of its heat will be retained for a couple of hours. For larger power failures, Jordan explains the old hot water bottle trick. It helps immensely, of course, to have a few hot water bottles on hand. Indeed, without them the trick doesn't do well at all. This presupposes that you have read the book and are prepared.

All of the other chapters of the book are equally practical. You'll learn how to prevent some damage to eggs. You'll learn how to repair those eggs that are damaged. You'll learn when and how to help a chick hatch. Jordan will take you through a most valuable training experience, opening an egg that doesn't contain a live chick. Believe me, the practice is worth its weight in gold. One of my first experiences in assisting a chick out of the egg was with a *Cacatua ophthalmica*. It took years off my

life.

You needn't suffer so, for now you have at your fingertips the most accurate and complete data ever assembled on parrot egg incubation.

Parrot Incubation Procedures by Rick Jordan was published by Silvio Mattacchione and Co., 1973 Rosebank Rd. N., Pickering, Ontario L1V1P5 Canada, 1989. The book is hard bound, 6" x 9-1/4" in size, has 142 pages with many charts, illustrations and color plates.

If you are a serious and responsible parrot breeder, you won't fail to study and use this book. The price from the publisher is \$30.00.

Genus Amazona

Genus Amazona by John and Pat Stoodley can be enjoyed hour after hour periodically for the rest of your life. Even if you don't read a word of English. Quality is the word to describe this book. And class. Photographs, dear reader, unrivalled; exquisitely detailed full-page plates of the most vibrant colors dominate the book. You who think Amazons are just green birds will be amazed at the variety and beauty of their color combinations.

When you first take *Genus Amazona* in your hands, you will compulsively flip from page to page, amazed that each photograph is better than the others. When you reach the end of the book, you'll go back and try to pick your favorite bird portrait. Don't fight it. Flip and enjoy. (My personal favorite is the Blue Front Parrot on page 40.)

Finally, when your eyes are bedazzled and can't handle any more, rest them a bit by turning back to the table of contents. Here you'll find a list of chapters each of which is a distinct blessing, an added boon, as it were, for those who read.

The first and most lengthy chapter is "Genus Amazona" wherein a page or two is devoted to each of the 27 species in the genus. Each species and many subspecies are presented in magnificent photographs (almost all taken by the author himself — what an achievement).

This chapter also has for each species an excellent brief text covering description, eggs, distribution, subspecies (where applicable) and general commentary pertinent to the particular species. This is easy reading, full of interesting tidbits and anecdotes. It's fun and educational, too.

The book contains 12 additional chapters ranging from "The Amazon Parrot of the Caribbean" — a very well done essay on the history, current status, and probable future of nine species of parrots endemic to the Caribbean islands — to Marc Valentine's chapter on "Chromosome Analysis" — which questions the validity of some taxonomies. Interesting stuff.

The chapters "Aviaries," "Diet," "Natural Nest," "Hand Raising Chicks," "Preventive Medicine for Amazons," and "Nutrition of Psittacines" were of particular practical value for me personally but I also learned a lot from and enjoyed "Working With Incubators," "Surrogate Parents," and "Amazon Parrot Personality."

The whole book is a rich mine of information on Amazons. There is more varied fare than anyone can digest at one or two readings.

The above listed chapters make *Genus Amazona* the most current and complete reference book there is on Amazons. It is, however, much more than a mere reference book for the musty old scholars. It is a coffee table tome of the first order. The volume's physical quality is superb. It is 8-1/4" x 11-1/4", clothbound, 135 pages, 85 full color plates and uses a very fine French short grain paper of a quality that you can actually feel as you flip the pages with your fingers. The outstanding color work demanded the very high quality paper and it's gratifying to see that the authors rose to the occasion.

The typeface is crisp and clear, very good on the eyes and the language is clear, concise and very readable. There is a pleasing bit of British flavor to the words but this is not surprising when you consider that the Stoodleys are English and the syntax and punctuation was done by Oxford University. Again, the class shows.

Genus Amazona, by John and Pat Stoodley, was published by Bezels Publications, Lovedean, Portsmouth, England, 1990. The book is available from Dale R. Thompson, P.O. Box 1122, Canyon Country, CA 91386. I recommend using your MasterCard or Visa to order the book by calling (805) 252-4871. The price is \$78.00. Add \$2.50 for shipping. California residents add 6-1/2% sales tax.

Without this book, your library is sadly substandard. You should remedy this lamentable situation instantly. You'll thank me. ●

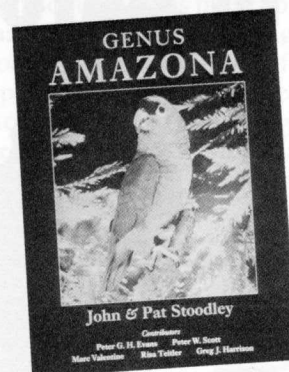
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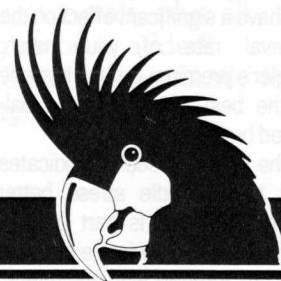
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