

Handrearing of a Blue-naped Mousebird

(*Urocolius macrourus macrourus*)

By Maarten de Ruiter
Gettorf, Germany

Photos by Maarten de Ruiter



The Blue-naped Mousebird is one of six species found only in Africa. Though somewhat uncommon in aviculture, they are excellent aviary subjects.

Although mousebirds are very attractive and interesting softbills, they have not become extremely popular in aviculture. The six species of this family (*Coliidae*) are so different from all other birds that they are placed in their own order (*Coliiformes*). In nature, they are only found in Africa. In captivity, they are rarely displayed in zoological collections. This is a shame as their behavior is very interesting.*

Of the six known species, I have had the privilege of caring for one species, the Blue-naped Mousebird (*Urocolius macrourus macrourus***). Over a period of several months, I kept a small group of 10 individuals. I donated them to a friend after he

expressed and showed great interest in these birds.

Later I was lucky to care for the Blue-naped Mousebird while at the Birdpark of Walsrode (Germany). Here a group of 20 birds were housed in the enormous Tropical Free-flight Hall. This Hall is well planted with numerous tropical plants and trees. Two small water pools were placed between the tropical foliage. Many other species of birds besides the mousebirds are also housed within this Hall. These include pigeons and doves, starlings, waxbills, orioles, pittas and many more. The large Great Blue Plantain-eater was also kept in this exhibit. I observed no interactions between the mousebirds and the other birds.

Mousebirds are fruit eaters and they received a mixture of many types including apple, banana, grapes, tomato, etc. They were also fed cooked rice, soaked raisins and salad. The mousebirds consumed large amounts of salad and other green foods when they were rearing young.

Breeding the Blue-naped Mousebird proved to be quite easy as the Hall was very spacious with plenty of plants and trees and a warm temperature. Throughout the year we observed the typical cup-nests built by the mousebirds distributed throughout the Hall. We had proof that the nests were successful as the total number of Blue-naped Mousebirds increased in number.

In the summer of 1988, I found a fallen nest which contained two baby Blue-naped Mousebirds. Only one was alive. From the condition of the baby that had died, I assumed that another bird, possibly a pitta, had attacked it.



Mousebirds are mainly fruit eaters in captivity. They also appreciate cooked rice and dark greens.



Perfect™

NUTRITION

L/M's answer to a balanced diet... *Perfect*™ pelleted bird foods.

Perfect is balanced in proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins and minerals and is fruit flavored in attractive colors and shapes. Perfect™ is fortified with Vita-Lac™ and Enviro-ade™. Vita-Lac™ is L/M's blend of Lactobacillus acidophilus and yeast culture which aids in maintaining normal intestinal conditions. Enviro-ade™ is an environmentally friendly ingredient that helps reduce animal waste odors.

100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

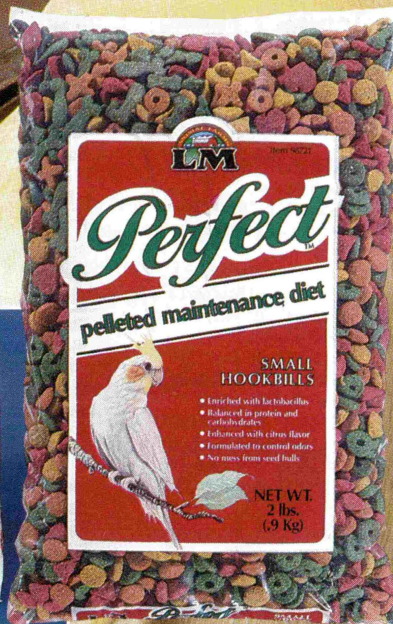
L/M Animal Farms

Pleasant Plain, Ohio 45162

(513) 877-2131 · 1-800-332-5623



Maintenance and Breeder diets are packaged in 2 lb. and 20 lb. sizes.



Perfect
pelleted maintenance diet

SMALL
HOOKBILLS

- Enriched with lactobacillus
- Balanced in protein and carbohydrates
- Infused with citrus flavor
- Formulated to control odors
- No mess from seed hulls

NET WT.
2 lbs.
(.9 kg)

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE

Dedicated to conservation of bird wildlife through encouragement of captive breeding programs, scientific research, and education of the general public.

1995 OFFICERS

LAURELLA DESBOROUGH, *President* (510) 372-6174 • Fax (510) 372-0306
GARY CLIFTON, *1st Vice President* (602) 830-4920, fax (602) 994-1707
RICK JORDAN, *2nd Vice President* (610) 683-5701, fax (610) 683-9333
JIM HAWLEY, JR., *Chief Financial Officer* (602) 987-9206, fax (602) 987-3389
DIANA SKALSKY, *Executive Secretary* (407) 892-0643

LEGAL COUNSEL VICE PRESIDENT • LEGISLATIVE

AFA office, P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ 85079-6218 / (602) 484-0931 / FAX (602) 484-0109

MEMBER NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Cockatiel Society, Inc. • Avicultural Society of America
Eclectus World • Gold Triangle Parrot Club, Canada • International Aviculturist Society
Society of Parrot Breeders and Exhibitors • World Parrot Trust



MEMBER CLUBS

Northeastern Region

Linda S. Rubin, *regional vice pres.*
(617) 469-0557

CONNECTICUT

State coordinator (acting):
Bob Sunday
Connecticut Association for
Aviculture, Inc.

MAINE

State coordinator:
Margaret Fisher
Maine State Caged Bird Society

MASSACHUSETTS

State coordinator:
Nancy Myers (413) 256-3129
Boston Cockatiel Society, Inc.
Exotic Cage Bird Society of
New England
Massachusetts Caged Bird
Association, Inc.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

State coordinator:
*
New Hampshire Avicultural Society

NEW YORK

State coordinator:
Charles Galusha (518) 686-5263
Broome County Caged Bird Club
Buffalo Hookbill Association
Capital District Caged Bird Club
Central New York Caged Bird Club
Finger Lakes Caged Bird Association
Greater Rochester Hookbill
Association
Long Island Feather Enthusiasts
Northern New York Pet Bird Club

RHODE ISLAND

State coordinator:
*

VERMONT

State coordinator:
Peter Lowry (802) 754-6494

Mid-Atlantic Region

Kayla Snyder, *regional vice. pres.*
(215) 855-4463,

DELAWARE

State coordinator:
Nancy Selz (302) 798-8625

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

State coordinator:
Thomas Marshall (703) 777-3252

MARYLAND

State coordinator:
Brad Clark (301) 242-8471

NEW JERSEY

State coordinator:
Pag Whitney (908) 542-7126
Central Jersey Bird Club
Feather Fancier's Society
The Real Macaw Parrot Club

PENNSYLVANIA

State coordinator:
Debra Foote (814) 967-2866
Anthracite Bird Club
Central Pennsylvania Caged Bird Club
Chester County Avian Society
Delaware Valley Bird Club
Erie Caged Bird Club
Greater Pittsburgh Caged Bird Society
National Cockatiel Society
Philadelphia Avicultural Society
York Area Pet Bird Club

VIRGINIA

State coordinator:
Dawn Kopf (703) 594-3841
Blue Ridge Caged Bird Society
Commonwealth Avicultural Society
National Capital Bird Club
Parrot Breeders Association of
Virginia
The Aviary Bird Club of Central
Virginia
Tri-State Bird Club & Foundation

WEST VIRGINIA

State coordinator:
Alexis Selfert (304) 866-3433

Southeastern Region

Dwight Greenberg, *regional v.p.*
(407) 631-9800,
fax (407) 632-4338

ALABAMA

State coordinator:
Kathleen Levine
Bird Club of Greater Birmingham
Central Alabama Aviculture Society
Rocket City Caged Bird Club

FLORIDA (NORTH)

State coordinator:
Mary Glep (407) 892-1837
Central Florida Bird Breeders
Association
Emerald Coast Avian Society
Exotic Bird Club of Florida
Florida West Coast Avian Society
Gulf Coast Bird Club
Imperial Bird Club
Jacksonville Avicultural Society
Sunshine State Caged Bird
Society, Inc.
Tropical Cockatiel & Lovebird
West Florida Avian Society, Inc.
West Pasco Exotic Bird Club

FLORIDA (SOUTH)

State coordinator:
Kathleen Harring (305) 258-2377
Cage Bird Club of Charlotte County
Greater Brandon Avian Society

GEORGIA

State coordinator:
Mimi Shepherd, DVM
(404) 248-8977

KENTUCKY

State coordinator:
Thomas B. Angel, Jr., DVM **
(606) 371-4929
Central Kentucky Caged Bird Club

MISSISSIPPI

State coordinator:
Nancy Weaver (601) 853-2967
Central Mississippi Bird Club

NORTH CAROLINA

State coordinator:
Bob Beech (919) 855-8292
Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society

PUERTO RICO

Coordinator:
David Negron (809) 251-1153

SOUTH CAROLINA

State coordinator:
Beth Rowan (803) 862-2852
Aiken Bird Club
Palmetto Cage Bird Club of Anderson

TENNESSEE

State coordinator:
Wanda Elder (901) 853-9988
Cage Bird Club of Northeast
Tennessee
Middle Tennessee Caged Bird Club
Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club

VIRGIN ISLANDS

State coordinator:
*

Mid-Eastern Region

Bob Smith, *regional vice pres.*
(517) 764-5170,
fax (517) 764-5103

ILLINOIS

State coordinator:
Bonnie Doane (708) 223-2117

INDIANA

State coordinator:
Nicole Vander Heyden, DVM
(317) 786-1826
Central Indiana Caged Bird
Kentuckiana Caged Bird Club
Michiana Bird Society

MICHIGAN

State coordinator:
Dave Bowman (616) 381-5779
Ann Arbor Caged Bird Club
B.E.A.K.S.
Motor City Bird Breeders, Inc.
Saginaw Valley Bird Club
Town & Country Feathered Friends

OHIO

State coordinator:
Dianne Holloway (419) 636-3882
Beakers Bird Club
Classic Feathers
Firelands Exotic Bird Club
Golden Crescent Caged Bird Club
Miami Valley Bird Club
Mid-American Exotic Bird Society
Northwest Ohio Exotic Bird Club

WISCONSIN

State coordinator:
*
Avian Insights Bird Club
Kenosha Exotic Bird Club
Madison Area Caged Bird Association
Wisconsin Caged Bird Club, Inc.

North Central Region

James McCabe, *regional vice pres.*
(612) 753-5241,
fax (612) 753-6772

IOWA

State coordinator:
*
Mid America Caged Bird Society
Midwest Parrot Club

MINNESOTA

State coordinator:
Steve Estebo (612) 432-4758

NEBRASKA

State coordinator:
*
Greater Omaha Caged Bird Society

NORTH DAKOTA

State coordinator:
*

SOUTH DAKOTA

State coordinator:
Royce King (605) 393-1720
Black Hills Caged Bird Club

South Central Region

Richard Hazell, *regional vice pres.*
(316) 942-8864,
fax (316) 942-9030

ARKANSAS

State coordinator:
Jim McGuire (501) 965-2427
Cage Bird Fanciers of the Ozarks

KANSAS

State coordinator:
Pati Hazell (316) 942-8864
Kansas Avicultural Society, Inc.
Northeast Kansas Caged Bird Club

LOUISIANA

State coordinator:
Jeanne C. Murphy (504) 833-4241,
fax (504) 833-4241
Acadiana Bird Club
Bayou Bird Club
Louisiana Aviculture Society

MISSOURI

State coordinator:
*
Gateway Parrot Club
Greater Kansas City Avicultural
Society
Missouri Caged Bird Association

OKLAHOMA

State coordinator:
Melissa Coxen (405) 392-2373
Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma, Inc.
Central Oklahoma Bird Club
Oklahoma Avicultural Society
Oklahoma Caged Bird Society

TEXAS (NORTH)

State coordinator:
Linda Smith (817) 790-8015
Dallas Caged Bird Society
Fort Worth Bird Club
Plano Exotic Birds Association

TEXAS (SOUTH)

State coordinator:
Ray Wangler (210) 732-8025
Alamo Exhibition Bird Club
Capitol City Caged Bird Club
Triangle Bird Breeders Club
Westwings of Austin

Northwestern Region

Natalie Frumin-Weiss,
regional vice pres.
(206) 927-6983,
fax (206) 952-6983

ALASKA

State coordinator:
Michelle Keener (907) 345-2220
Alaska Bird Club

IDAHO

State coordinator:
Margie Loewen (208) 378-8201

MONTANA

State coordinator:
Laura Lee Neva (406) 322-4444

OREGON

State coordinator:
Dottie Sheffield (503) 564-9179
Birds Exotic All Bird Club
Emerald Exotic Bird Club
Fluttering Wings Bird Club, Inc.
Mid Oregon Bird Club
Northwest Bird Club

WASHINGTON

State coordinator:
Jeri Wright, *legislative liaison*
(206) 838-9802
Avicultural Society of Puget Sound
Avis Northwest Bird Club
Cascade Canary Breeders Assoc.
Greater Spokane Avicultural Society
Northwest Exotic Bird Society
South Sound Exotic Bird Society

Western Region

Kelly Tucker, regional v.p.
(505) 298-3876
fax (505) 237-2405

ARIZONA

State coordinator:
Michelle Rietz (602) 973-9282
Arizona Avian Breeders Assoc.
Arizona Aviculture Society
Arizona Seed Crackers Society
Avicultural Society of Tucson
Yuma-Imperial Exotic Bird Club

COLORADO

State coordinator:
Ray Vander Leest (303) 795-2088
Front Range Avian Society
Rocky Mountain Society of
Aviculture, Inc.

NEVADA

State coordinator (acting):
Joanne Edwards (702) 436-0110
Las Vegas Avicultural Society
Reno Area Avian Enthusiasts

NEW MEXICO

State coordinator:
Shareen Bird-Shelton
phone/fax (505) 891-3380
Las Cruces Parrot Club
New Mexico Bird Club

UTAH

State coordinator (acting):
Steve Long (801) 647-3653
Avicultural Society of Utah

WYOMING

State coordinator:

Northern California Region

Donna Tondreault, regional v.p.
(916) 642-9050
fax (916) 642-0874

CALIFORNIA (NORTH)

State coordinator:
Jim Pritchard (707) 887-9462
Aviary Association of Kern
Butte County Bird Club
Capitol City Bird Society
Central California Avian Society

Central Coast Avicultural Society
Coastal Avian Society
Contra Costa Avian Society
Foothill Bird Fanciers
Gold Country Aviculture Society
Gold Country Bird Society
Golden Gate Avian Society
Monterey Bay Cage Bird Club
Redwood Empire Cage Bird Club
Redwood Exotic Bird Society
Santa Clara Valley Bird Club

HAWAII

State coordinator:
Joe Baker (808) 966-6966
Hawaii Parrot Fanciers Inc.

Southern California Region

Aletta M. Long, regional v.p.
(310) 596-7429
fax (310) 429-1892

CALIFORNIA (SOUTHERN) SAN DIEGO AREA:

State coordinator:
Marty Muschinske (619) 468-3201
Finch Society of San Diego County
Hookbill Hobbyists
North County Aviculturists
San Diego County Bird Breeders
Association

CALIFORNIA (SOUTHERN) LOS ANGELES AREA:

State coordinator:
Jami Kennedy (805) 296-4451
Antelope Valley Bird Society
Avicultural Society of America
Hemet Valley Bird Society
International Parrotlet Society
Long Beach Bird Breeders
Norco Valley Bird Breeders
Orange County Bird Breeders
Pionus Breeders Association
Simi Valley Bird Society
Valley of Paradise Bird Club
Ventura County Bird Club
West Los Angeles Bird Club
West Valley Bird Society

Philippines

Avian Society of the Philippines

* Position open — contact regional vice president if interested
** Indicates 2 year term has been fulfilled. If no new interested party comes forward and indicates a desire to serve, incumbent remains in position.

For information about contacting any of these member clubs, please call that club's state coordinator.

SCHEDULE FOR AFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Mark these dates and plan to attend!

BOARD MEETING

16, 17, 18 February 1995
New Orleans, Louisiana
Clarion Hotel

CONVENTION

August 10, 11, 12, 1995
Clarion Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana
Exec. Board - all day, Tuesday, 8th
House of Delegates - all day, Wednesday, 9th

Because I have had a lot of experience in handraising birds (ibis, herons, storks, birds of prey, owls, todies, parrots and passerine birds), I removed the little mousebird in hopes of handrearing it. From its size, I estimated it to be about seven days of age. Its eyes were open but its pin feathers were still within their sheaths. It was housed in a brooder that was kept at a temperature of 34° Celcius (90°F). The baby was very lively and my wife Antje decided to name it "Mäusie" (little mouse).

The baby accepted food immediately at its first feeding. Its food consisted of small balls of mashed fruit and salad. It was fed every two hours until very late at night. Because I had to work the following morning, Antje took over the job of feeding the little mousebird. She did an excellent job. When I returned home from work that same day, I wanted to feed Mäusie again but it would not accept food from me. Surprisingly, only a few minutes later it accepted three food balls from Antje. From that moment on my wife took over the handrearing of this young mousebird completely.

Ten days after it was removed for handfeeding, the young Blue-naped Mousebird was completely feathered and was just beginning to try to eat food on its own. It also made its first attempts at flying at this time. For the next six weeks, Mäusie was flying free within the house. However, when it saw Antje it flew directly to her.

At this time we thought it would be best to allow our mousebird to become acquainted with its own species. We released it in the Tropical Free-flight Hall where it began to feed. Within one hour I observed it in the company of two other Blue-naped Mousebirds.

This handreared mousebird has acclimatized very well with the other birds, but whenever Antje walks through the Hall and calls to Mäusie, it takes only seconds before he (or she) is sitting on her shoulder!

I consider mousebirds to be very lovely birds and they deserve much more attention than they have received. I wish to thank my wife, Antje, for successfully raising Mäusie.

* Mousebirds have been kept and bred in American aviculture. (Editor)

** *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World*, by Charles G. Sibley and Burt J. Monroe, Jr.



PARROT SENSE

Text & Artwork by John Doole

"You must own this book. You will enjoy reading it, and you will learn from it, painlessly...Parrot Sense is filled with the wisdom that he has garnered over years of experience raising, enjoying and loving parrots."

-Gloria S. Cholbe, NPA Reviewer

As Jay Beckerman, National Parrot Association, put it; Parrot Keeping from your parrots point of view. A refreshing, irreverent, mythbusting parrot care manual from an experienced, highly observant parrot keeper and breeder. Loaded with up-to-date no-nonsense workable suggestions on everything from nutrition, housing management to breeding and disease control.

Wonderful sections on parrots as pets and improving water quality. Informative tables on supplements and vitamins. You will look at everything you are doing in a new light.

120 page Hardbook 11" x 8-1/2"
PRICE: \$29.95 U.S. plus \$3.50 U.S. postage and handling. M/C, VISA, postal money order and cheques accepted.

TOLL FREE 1-800-779-4163



Published by:
SILVIO MATTACCHIONE & CO.,
1793 ROSEBANK RD.
PICKERING, ONT., CANADA
L1V 1P5
TEL: (905) 831-1373
FAX (905) 831-3734

* Canadian price is \$39.95 + 7% GST + \$3.00 p & h.