

FURTHER NOTES ON THE LEMON-BREASTED CANARY *Serinus citrinpectus*

by Neville Brickell

In 1983, at the time of my first article about this species (*Avicultural Magazine*, Vol.89, No.3, p.159), a nest had yet to be recorded in the field and only two captive breedings had been documented. Lawson (1970) stated that it had been bred on a number of occasions. It was, however, difficult to find any aviculturist who kept or bred this species some 26 years ago. Probably he was referring to successful breedings in Zimbabwe, with whom we had little contact in those days.



Neville Brickell

Pair of Lemon-breasted Canaries (the male is on the left)

The first captive record by Lawson (of Information and Research Services) made mention of grass stems and inflorescence tops, roots and large feathers, with a cup 40mm (approx. 1½ in) in diameter and 30mm (approx. 1¼ in) deep which was then lined entirely with coir. The pair had selected the top of a wooden nest-box on which to construct their nest, even though there were many other more natural sites in the aviary. The second captive record was by Joao in Mozambique, who described the cup-shaped nest as being built of grasses and then lined with feathers. More recently, Clewlow and Koen, both members of the Natal Bird Breeder's Society, supplied felt-lined canary nest-pans which also contained coir and were then lined with moss and feathers. In addition, Clewlow also had young reared successfully in a closed wicker basket with a small opening at one

end. In 1988, Robson (1990) discovered a nest in the Sodwana State Forest in north-eastern KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa. It contained three eggs. The nest was concealed within the fold of a Lala Palm *Hyphaene natalensis* leaf 1.6m (5ft 3in) above the ground. It was constructed of fibres and dead creeper stems, bits of hairy leaf (not identified) and chewed bark, bound together with the silk from caterpillar tubes. The cup was 45mm-55mm (approx. 1¾in-2¼in) in diameter and lined with long, thin, leaf fibres, peeled from the same species of palm. The single egg measured 15mm x 12mm. Recorded clutch sizes, incubation and nestling periods for captive birds are as follows:-

	Clutch Size	Number Hatched	Incubation Periods	Nestling Periods
Lawson	3	2 (third egg addled)	13 - 14 days	Did not survive
Joao	4	3 (remaining egg clear)	12 -13 days	14 - 16 days
Koen	4	3 (remaining egg clear)	13 days	15 days
Clewlow	3	One pair reared two nestlings but those of the second pair did not survive.		14 days

Nestlings have pale pinkish skin and sparse whitish down. The bill is pale yellowish white and the mouth is bright yellow. Clewlow (1994) gave detailed information about this species' food requirements when rearing young. This consisted of the locally manufactured Avi-Plus canary/finch compound, to which was added hard-boiled egg, finely grated carrot and apple, shredded Swiss chard and spinach, and a teaspoonful of SMA infant milk formula. Half a cup of water was added to the above and produced a well tested and relished softfood. Mound termites were readily accepted as were the seeding heads of Guinea Grass *Panicum maximum* and Shepherd's Purse *Capsella bursa-pastoris*.

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HUSBANDRY AND BREEDING OF THE MOUNT APO LORIKEET *Trichoglossus johnstoniae* AT LORO PARQUE

by Roger G. Sweeney

The Mount Apo Lorikeet *Trichoglossus johnstoniae*, also sometimes referred to as the Mindanao Lorikeet or Mrs. Johnstone's Lorikeet, is designated full species status within the genus *Trichoglossus* (Forshaw, 1989). Two races have been described (Rand and Rabor, 1959; DuPont, 1971), but recent taxonomic assessments (Forshaw, 1989; Sweeney, unpublished) suggest that no differentia exist. The length of this species is 20cm (8in) (Forshaw, 1989). Weights recorded for five adult birds at Loro Parque produced a mean weight of 56g (range 52-59g), with no noticeable differences in body weight between males and females within the sample. The main plumage is green, with the forehead, lores and chin rose red, with a distinctive purple brown band reaching from the lores to the occiput. There is some yellow on the underside of the secondaries and throat. The breast feathers are yellowish green at the base, with darker green tips producing a barred appearance. The tail is green above and olive yellow below. The bill is orange-red in adult birds. The irides are red and the legs are greenish-grey.

This species is restricted to mountain regions of the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. The fact that this species is endemic to Mindanao has meant that it has rarely been seen outside of the Philippines. Its status in the wild is described as locally common, but its range is restricted and is being increasingly threatened by changes in land use. Very few historical records exist for this species in captivity. Almost certainly the first birds to be kept in captivity outside of the Philippines were those collected by Walter Goodfellow, who discovered this species in 1903, while on a collecting expedition for the English aviculturist, Mrs. Johnstone. Goodfellow gave this species the common name of Mrs. Johnstone's Lorikeet and three years after their collection from the wild, Mrs. Johnstone recorded the first captive breeding of this species when two chicks were reared in 1906 (Goodfellow, 1906). Since this time perhaps the only collection to have experience with this species before the 1990s was San Diego Zoo in California which has maintained and bred the Mount Apo Lorikeet for several decades. San Diego Zoo first bred the species in 1941, but no further breeding was achieved until the 1970s. From 1971 onwards, San Diego began to breed the Mount Apo Lorikeet more consistently and has in the last 25 years raised a large number of them. The Mount Apo Lorikeet started to become more widely kept in international aviculture in recent years as a result of successful captive breeding from 1990 onwards at the breeding centre of



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