



Passerine Breeding at the North Carolina Zoo

Presented By

**Kim Allen and Steph Krueger,
Keepers at the NC Zoo**

Species that have bred at NC Zoo

Amethyst Starling

Bali Mynah

Blue-crowned Laughing Thrush

Blue-grey Tanager

Common (white-rumped) Shama Thrush

Fairy Bluebird

Golden Crested Mynah

Golden-headed Manakin

Golden White-eye

Hooded Pitta

Lesser Green Broadbill

Pekin Robin (Red-billed Leiothrix)

Red-capped Cardinal

Red-faced Liocichla

Snowy-headed Robin Chat

Turquoise Tanager

Yellow-rumped Cacique

- African Pygmy Goose
- Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot
- Crested Wood Partridge
- Green Woodhoopoe
- Hottentot Teal
- Nicobar Pigeon
- Sunbittern
- Victoria-crowned Pigeon
- Wattled Cranes
- White-winged Wood Duck



NC ZOO AVIARY

- Opened in 1982
- 400,000 cu ft²
- 138' Diameter
- 55' High
- ~35 Species
- ~110 Birds
- 2000 Plants





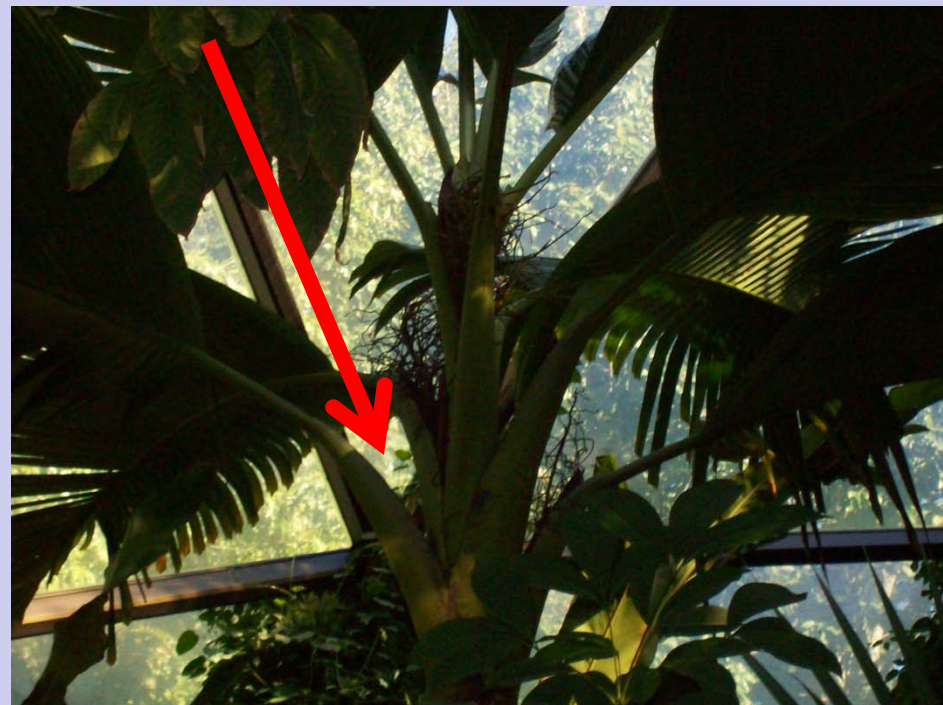


Natural Habitat



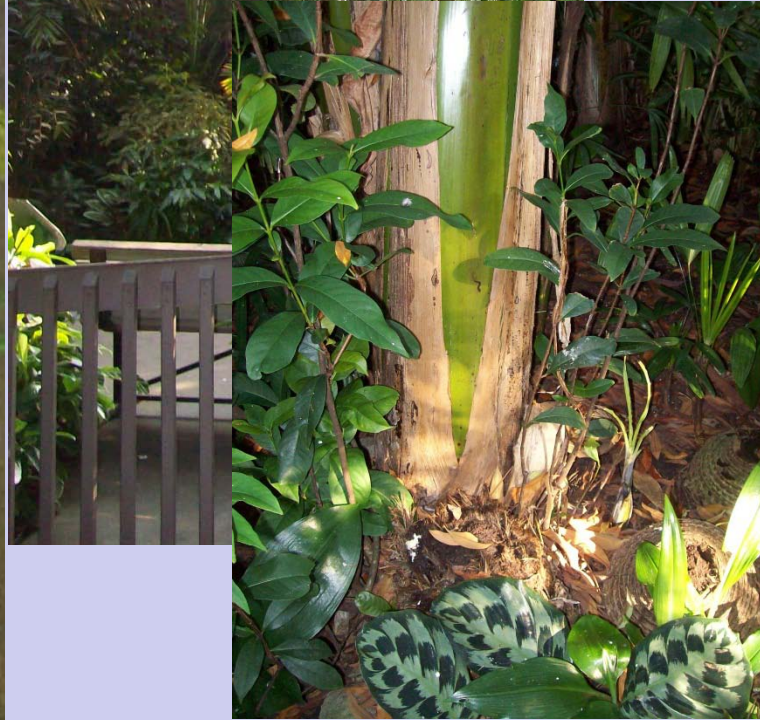
- Ficus trees
- Macadamia nut tree
- Caricature plant
- Banyan tree
- Flame vine
- Guyana chestnut tree
- Stilt root palm







Birds use materials found in exhibit to build nests





Problems we have had in the past with letting birds nest in our large free flight aviary

- Dietary concerns
- Parasites
- Allowing chicks to fledge in exhibit
- Moving nest too close to fledge date





Diet

- Unlimited waxworms
- Insect diet
- Supplements
- Ingredient change





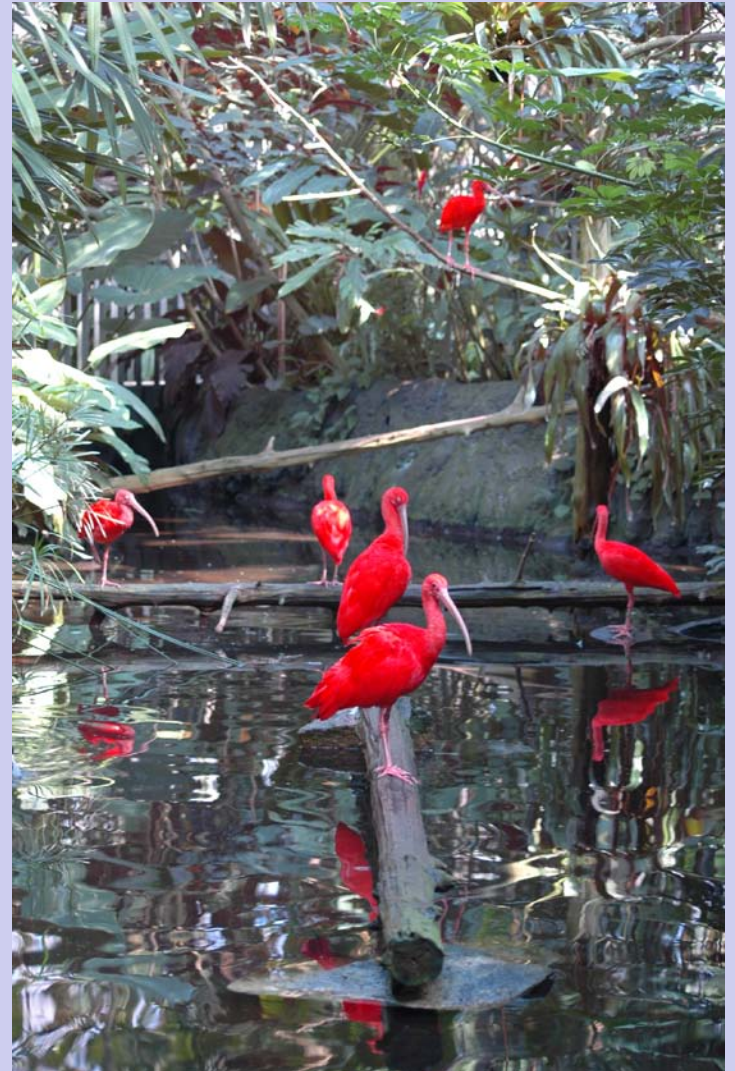
Parasites

- Parents parasite load
- Nematodes
- Prophylactic treatment

Fledging in exhibit

- Dangers:
 - Pool
 - Visitors
 - Small crevices/stuck in plants
 - Other species interfering
 - Parents uncomfortable going to ground

Led to high mortality in fledglings





Moving nest too close to fledge date

- Fledging early
- Two stressful events in a short period of time (Move and fledge)
- Led to high chick mortality

Pekin Robin Nesting Event

- Monitoring nesting events by close observation of nest construction, incubation, and suspected hatches within the exhibit.



Pekin Robin Nesting Event



- Relocate Family to Trap Cage 5 Days After Hatch
 - Trap Adults First
 - Cut Down Nest With Chicks and Relocate to Trap Cage with Adults



Pekin Robin Nesting Event

- If Nest Not Accessible, Chicks Allowed to Fledge Out on Exhibit
 - Place Fledglings in Small Mesh Cage
 - Trapping Parents



Pekin Robin Nesting Event

- Pekin Robin Family Diet

- Marion Red Apple Paradise Pellet
- Mazuri Bird Gel
- Mazuri Small Bird Particle Breeder
- Fruit and Veg Mix



Pekin Robin Nesting Event



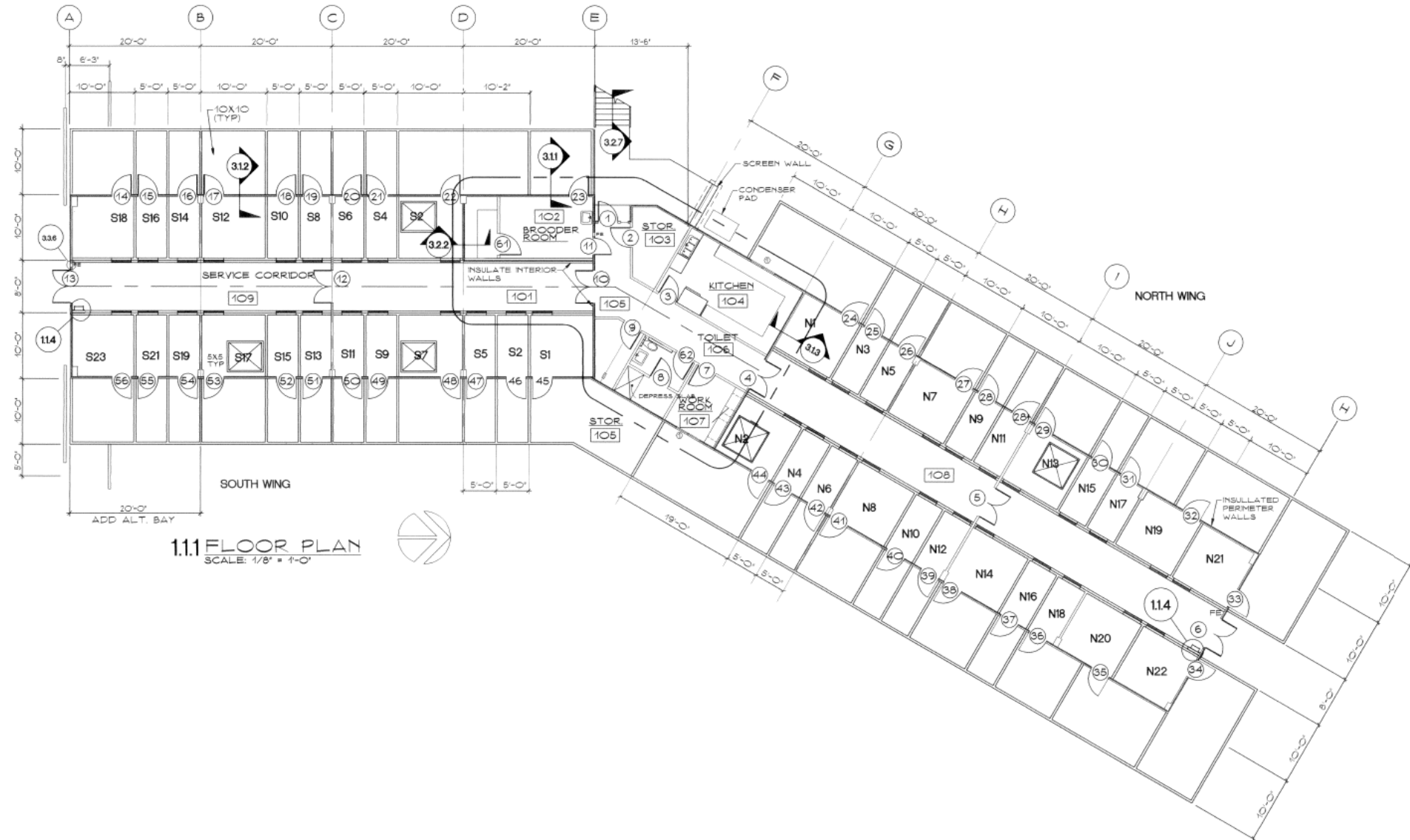
- Pekin Robin Family
Diet: Protein
 - Headless Male Crickets
 - Pinkie Pieces
 - Unlimited mealworms
 - Limited waxworms and superworms

Pekin Robin Nesting Event

- Family Moved to Avian Propagation 11 Days After Chicks Fledge
- At Prop, Juveniles Weaned and Separated From Adults



Avian Propagation



Avian Propagation





Avian Propagation



- Nesting Materials Offered
 - Raffia
 - Palm Stalks with Fibers
 - Grassy Goodnight



Red-faced Liocichla





Golden-headed Manakin



Golden White-eye



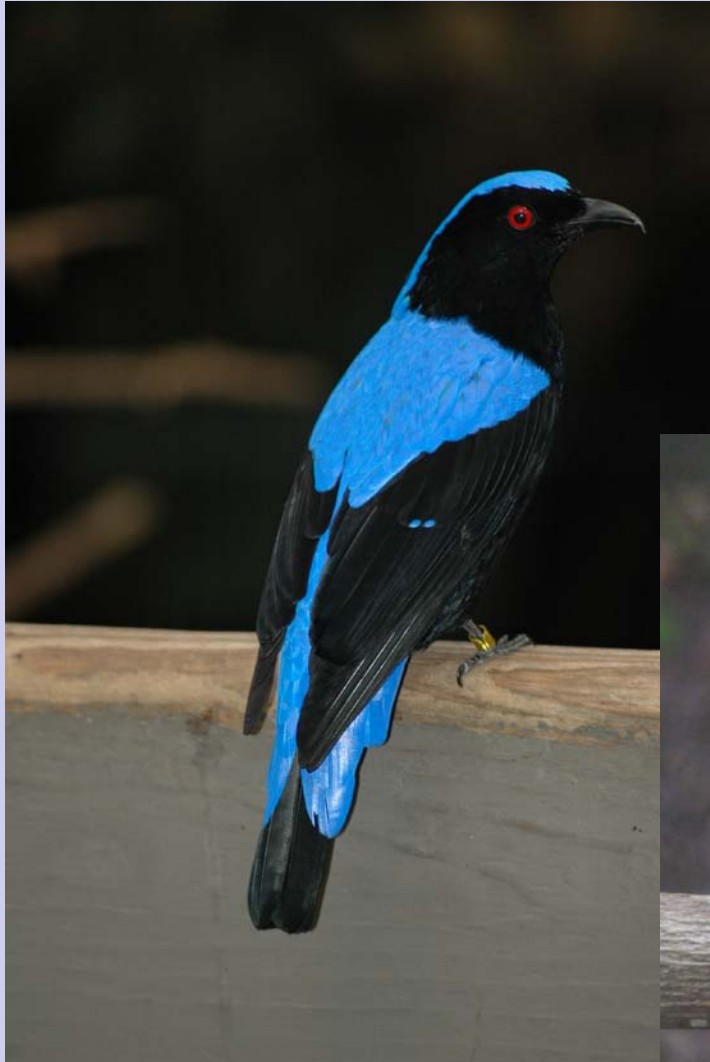
Yellow-rumped Cacique



Golden-crested Mynah



Fairy Bluebird





Success!

