

**CUMULATIVE INDEX  
TO  
THE AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE  
(1894 TO DATE)**

**Dave Coles**

----

**PREFACE**

Here for the first time and made freely available through the Internet is the Cumulative Index to the Avicultural Magazine. The first issue of the Avicultural Magazine followed the founding of the Avicultural Society in 1894. The society is UK-organized and has international participation. The content of this index is presented in two sections, SPECIES and SUBJECTS. Currently, for it is intended to maintain an up-to-date record, the whole index nudges eighty thousand words and includes references to nearly a quarter of the world's bird species.

The original concept of a comprehensive index to the Avicultural Magazine was first mooted in the mid 1970's. A start was made and after three years of endeavour an index covering up to 1981 was completed. However, it was never published owing to the then reigning prohibitive costs of producing it as a single volume. Since that time, largely through computerization, some production costs have been reduced and certain procedures have become simplified. More significantly for a publication of this nature, the Internet has become widely available. Given the potentiality to place the index before the World's readership at a minimum of cost (though still requiring a significant degree of effort!) it was decided to use this medium as the method of publication.

Consequently, here for the first time is the most comprehensive index to the Avicultural Magazine one could wish to have access to - for being made available on the Internet in this manner it can be downloaded or word searched - without charge!

By making access freely available through the Internet it is hoped to provide an increased awareness and use of this fundamental reference source by practitioners, authors and researchers throughout the World.

The journal dates from late Victorian times and so the content gives a historic account stretching over more than a century. More specifically, and whilst exposing short term highlights, this index is a far-reaching record of the long-term trends in the captive management and breeding of species coupled with the observations of the birds in the wild. Importantly, assimilation of knowledge at the interface between the interpretations of observations made under both captive conditions and in the wild yields a platform to invite and pursue novel developments in aviculture. Such would be the case in the conservation of a species for which there existed relatively little “wild” information on feeding and breeding, where the (perhaps) greater knowledge gained from captive observations could be used alongside the understanding of the requirements for improved welfare of the studied species in the wild.

## **THE NAMING OF SPECIES**

The use of language and nomenclature changes, sometimes markedly so over a short period of time. Thus an effort has been made to include with the original names the current forms of both the common and scientific names of a species - whilst adding some “new” geographical names too! Certainly

for the scientific names there have been many fundamental changes, mostly being relatively recent and leading from the interpretation of DNA analyses with subsequent re-classification of species. Hopefully, the most current nomenclature is included in this index.

Importantly, the original nomenclature has been retained! It is hoped by including alternative and current names that a species will be more readily found in the indexes than would otherwise be the case - and it is hoped the original nomenclature has not become hidden from view.

Consequently, individual species are sometimes described using more than one common and or scientific name (in each case, common and scientific, the first name given is that considered to be the most generally used).

## **ORDER OF LISTING ENTRIES**

In the SPECIES INDEX the order of the species is that of Monroe and Sibley whilst for the sub-species the work of Howard and Moore is followed. In a similar vein, the Internet provided answers to a range of questions - and not just those entirely devoted to birds. All species are entered systematically under family headings. The members are only split by

group or genus entries, for example “Tanagers” and “*Chloropsis*”; otherwise they follow in a systematic order.

In the SUBJECT INDEX entries are listed alphabetically. In some cases, related entries have been gathered together under common headings.

By adopting these procedures for this cumulative index it is hoped to cater for both on-screen word searching and ease of reading a printed version on the occasions when such a form is to hand.

## CITATION STYLE AND TERMINOLOGY

The styles of listing the magazine year, pagination, the type of illustration and some other abbreviated text are:-

1970 3 Year and pagination of an article or illustration.

1970 3b/w Black and white illustration accompanying an article.

B/w 1970 3 Free-standing black and white illustration.

1970 3\* Colour plate accompanying an article.

\*1970 3 Free-standing colour plate.

dom. Domestic.

N/L Newsletter. A single issue produced in 1980.

*Notes:* Occasionally symbolic text is concatenated, as in “b/w\*”.  
Use is made of brackets, as in “3,7(b/w),9”.

For references to items in the AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE that are here listed in the SPECIES INDEX the entire page range is given, whilst articles recorded in the SUBJECT INDEX and under general headings are only identified by the starting page.

## **WORD SEARCHING THE INDEXES**

Where practical each species entry may have one or more common and scientific names. Because of this word searching will be best undertaken using only one common or scientific name at a time. A good starting point for the SPECIES INDEX will be the family or order. Some categories occur in both the SUBJECT INDEX and SPECIES INDEX.

An example is “longevity” (a subject well worth a read in itself). General references to longevity have their own heading in the SUBJECT INDEX while records of longevity of species, if such articles have been published, are entered in the SPECIES INDEX. Consequently, in this case, for “longevity” it is advisable to word search “longevity”.

A follow-on from the advantage of the entire work being searchable word by word on-screen is that not all the potential cross-references have been

included - indeed, there are other things to do with one's life after midnight beside locating and cross referencing all the links within a boundary-less jigsaw! For those cross-references that are present, it is hoped they will ease the tasks of searching a printed version of the index, which already, extends to more than three hundred pages.

## **LOCATING THE AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE**

Importantly, indeed unfortunately, it is admitted and must be so recognized, this index cannot stand alone - for the Cumulative Index is, after all, only a pointer to the content of the original articles in the AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE. As a consequence there is a definite requirement to know where, when and how holdings of the journal may be accessed! In anticipation of the increased awareness of the journal, leading to a growth in demand to examine the original articles, coupled with the somewhat assumed distribution of the journal it is essential to establish and publish details of what are deemed "significant" holdings of this journal.

It is felt that holdings of the Avicultural Magazine from the most recent decades will largely be in hands of members of the Avicultural Society,

whilst collections extending back in time are more likely to be held within organizations and libraries.

Consequently, an open invitation exists for information concerning the whereabouts of “significant” holdings of the Avicultural Magazine to be made known to the Avicultural Society (through this web site). Such information will be noted in a database of journal holdings and placed alongside this cumulative index, adding considerable value to the index and magazine than if both were left in isolation.

Contact with the author regarding omissions, mistakes and location of complete sets of the Avicultural Magazine can be made electronically via E-mail to [dc@dcbooks.co.uk](mailto:dc@dcbooks.co.uk).

*NOTE (Especially to those individuals, organizations and libraries wishing to enhance a partial collection of the journal at modest cost): Currently, some back issues of the AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE are available from the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer of the Avicultural Society, who may be contacted through this web-site.*



## **CHECKLIST REFERENCES CONSULTED**

The three main printed reference sources consulted for the SPECIES INDEX were:-

1. Monroe, Burt L. Jr. and Sibley, Charles, G. 1993. *A World Checklist of Birds*. Yale University Press.
2. Howard, Richard & Moore, Alick. 1998. *A Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World*. Second Edition, Third Printing. Academic Press Ltd., London.
3. Wells, M. G. 1998. *World Bird Species Checklist, with alternative English and scientific names*. First Edition. Worldlist, Bushey, UK.

## **HOPES FOR THE FUTURE**

The Cumulative Index to the Avicultural Magazine from 1894 to date points to the past and current states of aviculture. In publishing this index on the Internet it is hoped to encourage further scholarship and developments for the benefit of the World's birds where their welfare is managed in fully controlled systems or wild environments.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The production of the cumulative index in its current form owes much to two people who exercised both skill and tenacity. At the start, Diane Roper transcribed my original hand-written notes into something more presentable that could be read with relative ease. Later, the ever helpful Reuben Girling grabbed the entire text by the scruff of the neck and gave it a thorough going over, most notably in bringing it up to date in terms of classification whilst keeping an eye on presentation.

The three hundred plus pages of the CUMULATIVE INDEX TO THE AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE contain the directions to perhaps the most valuable source of avicultural information ever published by any single journal and the Avicultural Society is indebted to both Diane Roper and Reuben Girling for their contribution to the production of the index. Without their help I would not have begun the mammoth task of updating the original 1981 compilation and this index would not yet have reached such ripe fruition - with the consequence that the outcome would be significantly less distinguished than the subject matter warrants.

Dave Coles.