

Business of Exotic Cage birds in Bangladesh

Ashraful Kabir*

Department of Biology, Cantonment Public College, Saidpur Cantonment, Nilphamari, Bangladesh

*Corresponding Author: Ashraful Kabir, Department of Biology, Cantonment Public College, Saidpur Cantonment, Nilphamari, Bangladesh.

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Introduction

From the very beginning, various kinds of exotic cage birds are rearing successfully in Bangladesh. Pet shops and markets are available in the country where many people gather for their dealing purpose. Rearers keep their birds in the cage with the scientific method. They provide excellent mixed food, appliances, medicines, etc. This sector has removed our so-called unemployment status nowadays. A remarkable number of people are now engaged with this avian sector. According to the demand, rearers can maintain the breeding of these birds. Due to successful breeding, the price of most birds is reasonable at all. Within pet or cage birds, most of the birds were in psittacids group, then sparrows/finches and doves [4]. Some years ago those rearers kept their birds in small cages but now they are maintaining aviary where birds can fly well. In most pet shops in Bangladesh, shopkeepers always provide antibiotics and supplements (vitamins and minerals). For maintaining remarkable hygiene, birds do not fall in sick. All bird keepers are more or less experienced in the management of their birds. In addition, they are friendly associated with authorized vet officers of the Livestock Hospitals. Long-term experience and scientific maintenance ensure their birds keep healthy. Scientific researchers are giving many new methods and results which are very helpful for all sorts of bird keepers. This study ensures the possibility to making encourage everybody to keep these birds as self-employed. Many people of Bangladesh are passing their time with these birds and earning sufficient money; its marketing system is remarkable nowadays.

Exotic avian diversity in Bangladesh

Most pet shops are selling many birds especially parrots, parakeets, and passerine birds. Varieties of birds are now breeding so we can get many other colour mutants. Eighteen species of wild birds have been extinct from Bangladesh last 100 years [10]. If this situation continues with the exotic animals in the country, we will lose much wildlife. Among cage birds the budgies were the highest preference everywhere.

English name (Scientific name)	Characteristics/Personalities	Longevity in captivity (years)
Budgerigar (<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>)	Very colourful bird	5-8
Peach-faced lovebird (<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>)	Shy bird	15-25
African gray parrot (<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>)	Deliver sentences	40-60
Crimson rosella (<i>Platycercus elegans</i>)	Colourful plumages	20-25
Blue-and-gold macaw (<i>Ara ararauna</i>)	Large parakeet; Massive beak	50
Cockatiel (<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>)	Good whistler	16-25
Barbary dove (<i>Streptopelia risoria</i>)	Very calm and quiet	12
Diamond dove (<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>)	Very clever; Excellent cooing voice of male	15-25
Javan sparrow (<i>Padda oryzivora</i>)	Hardy bird	7
Zebra finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata</i>)	Zebra-like stripe on tail and base of the beak	10
Guinea fowl (<i>Numida meleagris</i>)	Transverse-striped on plumages; It has many types	10-15
Turkey fowl (<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>)	Large size; Male has large wattle	12
Japanese quail (<i>Coturnix japonica</i>)	Short leg and neck	2-2.5

Table 1: Bird species with their specialties.

Aviaries in different places

Since the exact measurement of those aviaries of birds is not specific but not bad for those birds. Normally they make those aviaries depending on their space on the roof or balcony. Sometimes they make a partition to rear different species of birds. Each aviary contains a single species of birds and this is good because different species can disturb other species or hamper breeding. Cage breeding is comparatively good than colony breeding for avoiding such attacks on the chicks. Nesting appliances are available (wooden box, bamboo box, mud hole, etc.) in all pet shops and markets of the country.

Avian behaviour

Due to domestication and good association with humans, the behaviour of these birds is tolerable. No remarkable aggressiveness was found in those aviaries without very few exceptions especially parrots/parakeets. Separated rearing of different species can make us more experienced and enhance us to study on their behaviour. Parrots are very hardy bird and not easily affected by many diseases [6].

Genetics

All cage birds are now showing many colour mutations. Over 40 types of colour mutations were found in ring-dove and 17 in diamond dove [11]. Bangladesh is no exception in this sector. Day after day, we see many colour mutations in exotic cage birds. Budgerigar is the significant bird in the field of genetics. Cage bird breeding is good for identifying new colour mutations. A study suggests that parrots and parakeets are normally purebred because there is no chance to mix with other varieties [5].

Human-avian interaction

Many old-aged person and youngsters in Bangladesh are maintaining their time with these birds. Some rearers are getting money from this culture. Occasionally hand rearing birds are affected by digestive ailments. Female bird loses huge calcium for egg laying [1,2]. With these exotic birds sometimes rose-ringed parakeet, spotted dove, and hill myna were common and these birds are now undergoing ecological hazards [3]. It is our moral responsibility to implement the wildlife law strongly against illegal wildlife trade. People keep these cage birds not only pet but also for food, medicine, decoration, and export [9]. Parrots are kept as companion birds to fulfill social, emotional and cognitive needs of humans [7,8].

Diseases

In most shops, they provide all kinds of medicines (antibiotics, anthelmintics, vitamins, etc.). Mortality rates were negligible in those aviaries. If any diseases happen, from their experiences, they treat those with common antibiotics, and in an emergency, a registered veterinarian comes.

Name of disease	Cause	Symptom	Treatment
Pox	Virus	Pox on bare parts	Cevac FPL vaccine
Egg drop	Virus	Release liquid egg	Acimox powder
White diarrhoea	Bacterium	White faeces	ESB ₃
Toxicosis	Bacterium	Vomit	Zymovet
Egg bound	Bacterium	Egg within egg	Imopest
Aspergillosis	Fungus	Breathing difficulties	Mucosal powder
Blood dysentery	Protozoa	Blood stained faeces	ESB ₃
Canker	Protozoa	Yellow coloured wound within the mouth	Oracyn-K
Ammonia toxicosis	Rearing problem	Watery discharge in eyes	Maintain ventilation
Heat stroke	Rearing problem	Breathing difficulties	Maintain ventilation
Worm infestation	Unhygienic rearing	Worms in faeces	Almexvet
Paralysis	Deficiency of vitamin D and calcium	Walking difficulties	Phoscal, Calac
Impaction	Solid food	Hardy crop	MOM (Milk of magnesia)

Table 2: Common diseases and their treatments.

Conclusion

Exotic cage bird farming is increasing day by day. People of Bangladesh are very curious and they have much affection not only on cage birds but also wild birds too. In Bangladesh, most pet birds are consisted of parrots or parakeets (minimum 20 types); their production is remarkable. Their care and knowledge of their birds are mentionable. If we establish more scientific aviaries in our country it is surely possible to eliminate unemployment in our society; we can be independent in this sector. The government and NGOs are giving many supports in this issue. This exotic bird sector will be focused more significant in future.

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