

BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF CHATTERING LORY

(*Domicella gurrula*)

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Materials and Methods

One pair (1:1) of chattering lory was procured in 1991 for JNB Park at Bokaro Steel City (Altitude - 210 metres ASL, 23° 39' east Latitude and 86° 09' north Longitude).

The birds were provided with two small enclosures having PVC coated chainlink fencing. Measurement of each small enclosure is 7.5 metre (length) x 3 metre (Breadth) x 3 metre (height) and they are interconnected with each other. Twigs are provided for perching inside the enclosure. An earthen pot having nesting hole was hang at 1.5 metres height on the wall for nesting and rearing of chicks. For each bird breed 50 gm, banana 1 no., apple 50 gm and milk 25ml as food was daily provided apart from supplementation of diet with calcium and vitamin preparations at certain intervals. As a preventive health care measures deworming at regular intervals were done.

The present studies are carried out to investigate the breeding biology of chattering lory to determine egg laying pattern, clutch size, egg size, egg hatching pattern and other parameters. In order to do so, the enclosure was visited daily during the breeding season. The studies were carried out for a period of one year 4 months (March 1994 to June '95).

Results & Discussion

Due to proper care and management the present stock rises to 05 (five) including a nestling. During this period data concerning various aspects of breeding biology observed are given below.

- (i) Egg clutch size-02 (two)
- (ii) Weight of eggs - 10-15 gm.
- (iii) Colour of eggs - Light cream
- (iv) Egg size - Length 27mm
Breadth 22 mm
- (v) Breeding season - March to June
- (vi) Egg laying season - March to July
- (vii) Incubation period - 23 days
- (viii) Period for full opening of eyes of nestling - 35 days
- (ix) Period for flying away from the nest by the nestling - 68 days.

Breeding season commences in the month of March. The male begins to attract the female by making a peculiar whistling sound with raising its head and flutters around the female. Copulation generally takes place in the first half of the morning especially after feeding. The male usually copulates 3-4 times in a day and the time from initiation of courtship to end of copulation is about 1 to 1 1/2 minutes. Sometimes male have to struggle hard to win over the female. During copulation the tail portion of the female is generally raised at 45° angle exposing the cloacal aperture and the male mounts by bending down his abdominal portion with its tail at a crossed angle. Generally breeding is observed for 3-5 days. After the breeding the female starts nest building by collecting small

dry leaves, twigs and old feathers.

Egg laying starts within 10-15 days of breeding generally after mid March. If the egg is damaged or predated by rats further breeding is observed and the eggs are laid upto month of July.

Hanging earthen pots at a height of 1.5 metres with nesting hole is found to be satisfactory for nesting and rearing of young ones. Egg clutch size is 2 (two). Eggs in a nest are laid at an interval of 1-3 days at day time. The weight of the light creamy coloured eggs is about 10- 15 gm with an average size of egg (length - 27 mm, Breadth - 22 mm)

Incubation begins with the laying of second egg. Only the females take care in incubation period is 23 days. Day old hatchling looks like feathery ball. For full opening of eyes it takes about 35 days. Nestlings can walk at about 50 days and growth of feathers is still lacking in neck and leg region. Nestling flee out fro the nest after a period of 68 days and started taking care of himself. Throughout this period care is taken by female one only. The bill is still black and reddish colouration started only from the tip.

Acknowledgements

We congratulate our park attendants and other staff for taking proper care and successful breeding of chattering lory.

References

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