



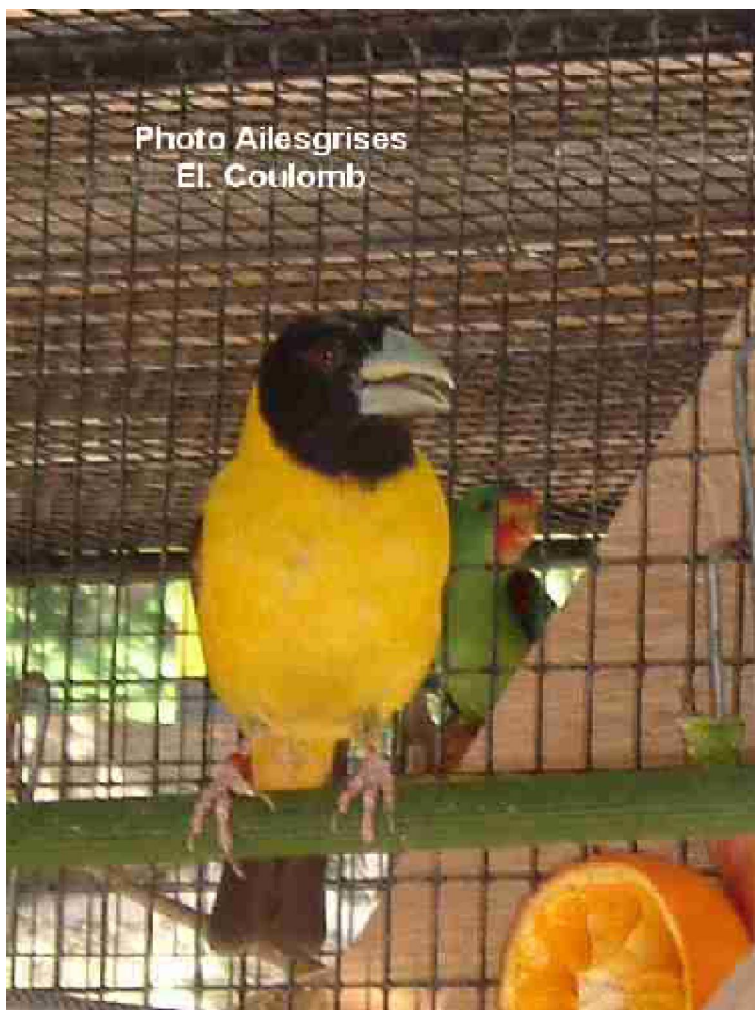
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Élever l'Oiseau : une Passion, une Nécessité.

COLLARED GROSBEAK (Mycerobas affinis)

By Jean-Marie COULOMB



This Asian bird of the family of fringillidae is spectacular, by its big size (22cm) and its astonishing colouring: gold yellow with black head, wings and tail for the male, grey-green with gray head for the female. Its song is pleasant.

Supporting in wild the climate of the Himalayas, at altitudes higher than 2700m, this bird does not fear the cold and can be kept in external aviary all the year long. An aviary protected on the top and three sides, without heating, is appropriate to him, even in the areas at cold winter like Alsace.

In nature, it eats seeds (including those of conifers), of buds, fruits and insects. In captivity, its basic mode can be consisted a mixture of seeds for large parakeets, adapted to the power of its imposing beak. It accepts, of course, other food and benefits from the variety offered: various seeds, seeds to germinate for parrot, fruits (apples, fresh grape, soaked dry grapes, pear, black elder tree, tomato, melon, cucumber.), insects, insectivorous softfood.

For the reproduction, it is preferable to isolate each couple in a separate aviary. An Alsatian breeder of my knowledge reports that with the birth of the youngs, this bird becomes almost exclusively insectivorous. After 4 days, the parents start to bring more varied food. The reproduction in captivity is not current, but it was already succeeded by some European breeders.

Now that the imports of this species are prohibited because of the bird flue in Asia, it is important that the fanciers who still have some specimens of them do the utmost to reproduce this beautiful bird.



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