

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments.....	9
Introducing Mousebirds.....	11
Ch. I: Mousebirds Are Softbills.....	12
What Is A Mousebird?.....	13
Scientific Classification.....	17
Africa: Land Of The Coliiformes.....	19
Ch. II: Mousebirds In The Wild.....	20
Sociability And Playfulness.....	20
Sunning, Clustering, And Torpor.....	21
Diet In The Wild.....	23
Predators And Parasites In The Wild.....	25
Breeding And Courtship In The Wild.....	26
Nest Building In The Wild.....	27
Laying And Incubation In The Wild.....	28
Raising Chicks In The Wild.....	28
Breeding Success In The Wild.....	29
Impact On Native Environment.....	29
Ch. III: Species Descriptions.....	31
Blue-Naped Mousebirds In The Wild.....	32
Red-Faced Mousebirds In The Wild.....	36
Speckled Mousebirds In The Wild.....	39
Red-Backed Mousebirds In The Wild.....	49
White-Backed Mousebirds In The Wild.....	51
White-Headed Mousebirds In The Wild.....	53
Ch. IV: Mousebirds In Aviculture.....	56
Representation In USA Zoos & Private Sector....	57
Mousebird Surveys.....	59
Legalities Of Keeping Mousebirds In The USA..	60
Longevity In Captivity.....	62
Ch. V: Feeding Mousebirds In Captivity.....	63
How To Feed.....	63
Types Of Fruits, Vegetables, & Other Foods.....	65
Pelleted Foods.....	66
Livefood.....	67
Water.....	68

Supplements.....	68
What Do The Zoos Feed?.....	68
Author's Mousebird Diet.....	70
Ch. VI: Mousebirds As Household Pets.....	71
Tameness.....	72
Handling Mousebirds.....	73
Games, Tricks, And Training.....	74
Shimmying.....	74
Sunning.....	75
A Member Of The Family: Aggression.....	75
Flying To A Person's Face.....	76
A Member Of The Family: Other Animals.....	76
Caring For The Pet Mousebird.....	78
Housing Your Pet Mousebird.....	82
Which Species Of Mousebird To Choose.....	85
Birds In Educational And Out-Reach Situations..	88
Ch. VII: Mousebirds As Exhibition Or Aviary Birds.....	89
Construction Of Outdoor Mousebird Enclosures..	89
Shelters.....	90
Temperature Ranges.....	90
Plants In Mousebird Enclosures.....	91
Dangers To An Outside Mousebird.....	92
Ch. VIII: Compatibility With Other Birds.....	94
Mixing Mousebirds Of The Same Species.....	94
Mixing Mousebird Species.....	94
Introducing Mousebirds.....	95
Mixing Mousebirds With Other Bird Species.....	97
Ch. IX: Breeding Mousebirds.....	99
Determining Gender (Male Or Female?).....	99
Parent-Raised Versus Hand-Raised Breeders.....	101
Introducing Mousebird Mates To One Another..	101
Breeding Seasons And Habits.....	101
Colony Breeding.....	103
Nest Inspections.....	104
Nesting Sites And Material.....	105
Egg Laying And Incubation In Captivity.....	106
Problems With Incubation.....	107
Tips For Successful Breeding.....	109

Parents Raising Chicks.....	109
Controlled Breeding.....	110
Hybrids And Mutations.....	111
Ch. X: Hand-Raising Mousebirds.....	113
The Hand-raising Set-Up.....	113
The Feeding.....	114
Mousebird Chick Behavior.....	115
Artificial Incubation.....	117
Hand-Raising From Day One.....	117
Record Keeping.....	118
Hand-Feeding Formula And Schedule.....	119
Socializing Pet Mousebirds.....	120
Hand-Raising Multiple Chicks.....	120
Ch. XI: Banding And Other Identification Methods.....	121
Leg Banding.....	121
Tatoing.....	123
Microchipping.....	123
DNA Fingerprinting.....	123
Ch. XII: Health Care.....	124
Obesity.....	124
Injuries.....	124
Self-Mutilation.....	125
Foot Infections.....	125
Bacterial And Fungal Infections.....	125
Parasites.....	126
Anaesthetic Gases.....	126
Iron Storage Disease.....	126
Treating A Sick Mousebird.....	127
Ch. XIII: Purchasing A Mousebird.....	128
Where To Find A Mousebird To Purchase.....	128
Buying A Mousebird.....	129
Questions To Ask Prior To Purchasing.....	130
Getting Your Mousebird.....	131
To Ship By Airline.....	131
Shipping Young Mousebirds.....	132
Bringing Your New Mousebird Home.....	132
Quarantining Your New Mousebird.....	133

Ch. XIV: Mousebirds And Vacations.....	135
A Caretaker In The Home.....	135
Leaving Your Bird With A Caretaker.....	135
Traveling With Your Bird.....	136
Ch. XV: Learning More About Mousebirds.....	137
Bibliography.....	138