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TO THE FOLLOWING:
Herman Curtis, Juneau, Wisconsin
Dr. Irving Goulard, Arcadia, California
Outstanding Avicultural Achievement, Elmer Heft, Green Lakes, Wisconsin
Dr. Margaret Petrak, Medway, Massachusetts
Bernard Roer, Phoenix, Arizona

Under the Silver Category, category V
"For domesticated birds for which there are show standards, breeders who have won in three or more shows under three or more different judges in the same year. Birds must have been bred by the exhibitor."
nominees were:
Captain Jim Albury, Miami, Florida
Ralph Bowman, Des Moines, Iowa
Ermafern Collins, Dallas Center, Iowa
Gerald Collins, Dallas Center, Iowa
Patricia Demko, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
Ray and Faye Ricketts, Modesto, California
Mark Whiteaker, Trenton, Missouri
Bonita Williams, Columbus, Ohio
Cliff Williams, Hammond, Indiana
Hugh Wilson, San Jose, California

Under the Silver Category, category I
"First breeding of a new species in North America"
Nominees were:
Walter Crawford, Fenton, Missouri
Jeanne and Belden Crist, Palm Springs, California
Melvin and Gay Fischer, Mt. Vernon, Washington
The Houston Zoo, Houston, Texas
Jerry Jennings, Los Angeles, California
Ralph and Betty Woodbridge, Waterford, California

The Winners were:
Jeanne and Belden Crist
Melvin and Gay Fischer
Jerry Jennings

The Avy Awards 1979
AFA Convention, Hollywood, Florida
by Roland G. Dubuc
Committee Chairperson

The Avy Awards this year were more competitive and in turn more complicated than those in years past. Ballots were sent out early to all clubs, all state coordinators and all other interested parties. Ballots were compiled under categories of types of birds. These categories were examined by experts in the individual field before a final vote was taken by the committee.

These committees were made up as follows:
For Finches:
Peggy Cochran, Georgia
For Canaries:
Harold Sodamann, Kansas
Charlotte Nierenberg, California
For Budgerigars:
Wes Tegtmeyer, California
For Parrot Type:
Francis Billie, California
For the Gallinaceous:
Craig Hendee, Illinois
Dick Mattice, California
For Shows:
Nancy Reed, Connecticut
Also the respective members of the Canary and Budgerigar sections already listed.

The final vote was left to the committee, which was made up of one member from each of the six regions of A.F.A.:
Western:
Roland Dubuc, Chairman, California
South-Eastern:
Dr. Thomas Angel, Kentucky
North-Central:
Jim Fouts, Kansas
North-Eastern:
Nancy Reed, Connecticut
South-Central:
Dr. Phil Ryan, Texas
Mid-Western:
Craig Hendee, Illinois

Under the Gold Category, "for an aviculturist who has made an outstanding contribution to aviculture or to a breeder who has bred a new species for the first time in the world." All nominees were accepted by the committee. Winners were as follows:

Posthumous presentations to the following,
Herman Curtis, Juneau, Wisconsin
Dr. Irving Goulard, Arcadia, California
Outstanding Avicultural Achievement, Elmer Heft, Green Lakes, Wisconsin
Dr. Margaret Petrak, Medway, Massachusetts
Bernard Roer, Phoenix, Arizona

Under the Silver Category, category I
"First breeding of a new species in North America"
Nominees were:
Walter Crawford, Fenton, Missouri
Jeanne and Belden Crist, Palm Springs, California
Melvin and Gay Fischer, Mt. Vernon, Washington
The Houston Zoo, Houston, Texas
Jerry Jennings, Los Angeles, California
Ralph and Betty Woodbridge, Waterford, California

The Winners were:
Jeanne and Belden Crist
Melvin and Gay Fischer
Jerry Jennings

Under the Silver Category, category V
"For domesticated birds for which there are show standards, breeders who have won in three or more shows under three or more different judges in the same year. Birds must have been bred by the exhibitor."
Nominees were:
Captain Jim Albury, Miami, Florida
Ralph Bowman, Des Moines, Iowa
Ermafern Collins, Dallas Center, Iowa
Gerald Collins, Dallas Center, Iowa
Patricia Demko, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
Ray and Faye Ricketts, Modesto, California
Mark Whiteaker, Trenton, Missouri
Bonita Williams, Columbus, Ohio
Cliff Williams, Hammond, Indiana
Hugh Wilson, San Jose, California
Lee Horton, left, presents a Lifetime Membership to Frank Kozeblu, and wife Mary, for outstanding contributions to AFA as its first financial officer.

Bernard Roer, left, received a gold award for outstanding avicultural achievement.

Craig Hendee, left, chairman of State Coordinators, accepts the President's Award from Dr. R.E. Baer.

Dr. Margaret L. Petrak, another gold award winner, for outstanding avicultural achievement.

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Melvin and Gay Fischer receive a 1st Breeding Award.

Ramon Noegel received a silver award for the most progress within individual species.

The Winners were:
- Capt. Jim Albury
- Patricia Demko
- Cliff Williams
- Hugh Wilson

Under the Silver Category, category VI “Most progress with an individual species.”

Nominees were:
- George Allen, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Rae Anderson, Sierra Madre, California
- Joe Beter, Gretna, Louisiana
- Ray Brode, Torrance, California
- Al Decoteau, Dunstable, Massachusetts
- Patricia Demko, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
- Guy Hughes, Colton, California
- John Knipp, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Ramon Noegel, Seffner, Florida
- Charles Sivelle, Dix Hills, New York
- Frank Strange, Torrance, California
- The Bill Vokoun Family, Downers Grove, Illinois

The Winners were:
- George Allen
- Guy Hughes
- John Knipp
- Ramon Noegel
- Charles Sivelle
- Frank Strange
- The Bill Vokoun Family

Under the Bronze Category both nominations and voting were done differently. Nominations were received for this In-House Service Award from each of the officially elected officers of A.F.A. and THE WATCHBIRD staff. For the General Service Award:

Nominees were:
- A.F.A. East, the Washington Mini Convention
- Tim Dahle, Glen Burnie, Maryland
- Roland Dubuc, Vista, California
- Craig Hendee, Glenview, Illinois
- Lee Horton, Vista, California
- Ray Jerome, Dallas, Texas
- Joe McLoughlin, Dundee, Oregon
- Janice Pritchard, El Cajon, California

The Winners were:
- Lee Horton
- Ray Jerome
- Janice Pritchard

Under the Bronze Category, Best Professional and Best Non-Professional Articles in this year’s WATCHBIRD, winners were selected by the editor.

Best Professional Article:
- Robert Seibels, Columbia, South Carolina, “Breeding the Toco Toucans” Feb-March 1979 Issue

Best Non-Professional Article:
- Tanner Chrisler, St. Louis, Missouri, “Fun With Pigeons, You Say?” Apr-May 1978 Issue
Tom Ireland, convention chairman and newly elected AFA 2nd Vice President, addresses the assembly.

Judy Hofferman, National Raffle Chairwoman, inspires some last minute ticket sales.

Tony Bucci, canary breeder and author, enjoyed a cocktail with Kai Juhl, background, Illinois State Coordinator.

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