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## Important Notice To All A.F.A. Members

The reorganization of A.F.A. with some State Coordinators being voted into elective offices on the newly established Executive Board has resulted in several vacancies in State Coordinators. Other coordinators moving; or resigning have increased this number.

The following states are without State Coordinators:

Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas (both in the north and south), Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The administrative framework of the American Federation of Aviculture is its State Coordinators. The organization is dependent upon this dedicated, non-political group of representatives to keep it aware of legislation that might affect aviculture at the state and local levels and to spearhead action against any restrictive measures. The State Coordinator is kept informed of all official information and policy and disseminates this intelligence to aviculturists in his/her state. They are THE representatives of aviculture in the name of A.F.A. in their particular state.

If you wish to become a part of this elite group, and your state is at present without a coordinator, please write to The Chairman of the State Coordinators, c/o The A.F.A. Home Office, P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, CA 90728 and request further information.

## Guideline for Monitoring State and Local Legislation Available

One of the most serious threats to aviculture is unreasonable, restrictive legislation formulated, often times, by persons who know nothing about the subject.

One of the most effective ways to protect aviculture is to monitor the state and local legislation in your area. If an ill-conceived law pops up the A.F.A. will know about it and can counteract it.

To make this process easier for you the A.F.A. has produced a short "Guideline For Monitoring State and Local Legislation." This brief but important paper can be obtained from the A.F.A. home office, P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, CA 90728.

## Small Eggs Needed For Field Study on the American Goldfinch

Open letter to Watchbird readers,

I am writing you on the advice of Dr. Baer who suggested you might be able to help me. I am initiating a two-year study on the nesting biology of the American Goldfinch in Wisconsin. One question I am particularly interested in is the role the nest plays in minimizing predation. In other words, regardless of what the parents do, how does the placement of the nest affect the chances of it being detected and destroyed by a predator.

Accordingly, I am going to place out goldfinch nests at sites which differ in levels of visibility and accessibility. Because I want the nests to resemble natural nests as closely as possible, I would like to place 3 or 4 goldfinch-like eggs in each nest. Herein lies my problem. I cannot take eggs from active goldfinch nests without state and federal permits. These would be very difficult to get as the goldfinch is a protected species. Therefore I would like to place canary or parakeet eggs in the nests.

Dr. Baer suggested Watchbird readers might be kind enough to provide me with infertile eggs. Goldfinch eggs are oval, pale blue, and 16-18 mm X 12-14 mm in shape, color, and size. Ideally, I would like to have 100 eggs. Naturally, I would be glad to pay any shipping costs.

Any assistance you may provide on this rather strange request would be deeply appreciated. You have a wonderful magazine which I find interesting, informative, and very artistically prepared.

Yours sincerely,  
Richard L. Knight  
266 Russell Laboratories  
1630 Linden Drive Madison, WI 53706  
(608) 262-2671

## History of the Fort Worth Bird Club

The Fort Worth Bird Club of Fort Worth, Texas was organized October 16, 1953. One hundred thirty persons attended the first meeting and without a question 95% or more raised parakeets. Approximately eighty of these people became members and today ten early members still attend the club meetings.

A review of the club history book tells of a large Fort Worth department store providing free space in 1957 for a four day bird show for novice breeders that attracted 750 birds and 27,000 people!! A member of the club was also in the news-

paper business which resulted in good news coverage.

In 1954 white proso millet was \$5.75 / 100 lbs. and canary seed was \$14.00/100 lbs. Cuttlebone was \$1.50/lb. The wholesale price of parakeets was 90¢.

Then, as now, theft of birds was a problem. One breeder reported the theft of four rare English parakeets. Three of the birds were valued at \$300.00 apiece, one at \$500.00.

A reference is made to the black market in love birds. In 1946 the federal government demonstrated it could even legislate against (love) birds. Interstate shipment of the parrot-like birds was prohibited, allegedly to curb the spread of psittacosis (parrot fever).

Annual bird shows were begun in the early years and in 1980 The Fort Worth Bird Club had its 27th annual show. It was regarded as one of the best shows in the Southwest. Our members do well at other shows winning two Kelloggs and the prestigious Pat Scannell trophy for best bird in show with over 1,500 entries at the 1980 National Cage Bird Show in Jacksonville, Florida. The following "All American Shows" were hosted by our club: 1967 with 1,058 birds; 1973 with 753 birds; 1978 with 997 birds.

The American Cockatiel Society was formed by a small group of Fort Worth fanciers in 1977. The first 15 or so members were from the Fort Worth area and a courtesy advertisement in *Watch-bird Magazine* was responsible for 40 members. The ACS has grown until now it has a membership of 1187 representing all 50 states and several foreign countries.

In 1980, newcomers to raising birds could get all the free help and information they desired as we had as members the president of the American Budgerigar Society, the president of the American Cockatiel Society, the president of the Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association, three ABS judges, three ACS judges and various other recognized judges of finch, hookbills, etc. In addition to this an informative club bulletin is mailed to over 110 homes each month.

As all things must change, the popularity of the canary has increased until today it equals the English parakeet in our area. There appears to be increased interest in raising the larger hookbills as well as the rares in English parakeets and also the more difficult to breed canaries such as Yorkshire, Norwich and Frills, etc. Selective breeding of cockatiels, love birds and Indian ringnecks to produce new colors has increased.

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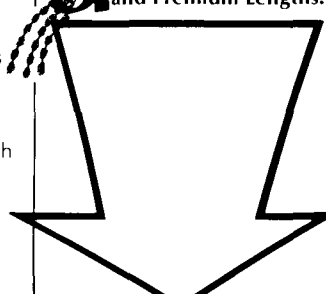
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