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 doubt 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-

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
226 Russell Laboratory
1630 Linden Drive Madison, WI 53706
(608) 262-2671

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 and request further information.

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