Dear Sheldon,

As the convention draws near I am faced with the problem of farming out baby African greys and macaws to family and friends for hand feeding so that my wife might accompany me. I wonder how many others must cope with this problem. The solution for us in the past five years has been to miss two conventions entirely and for me to attend two by myself. My wife and I were able to go to San Diego together. It seems to me that the August tradition for the convention was very logical in the early days of AFA when the membership was mostly canary and budgie people. But I suspect that now the membership is more balanced. I would like to suggest that the membership at large be asked when and in what part of the country would they like their convention to be held. Perhaps a review of the numbers attending each of the last five conventions would offer some clues.

To me the highlight of the San Diego convention was the bird tours and the bird tours at Busch Gardens was the frosting on the cake. In closing, my vote would be for the spring convention to be held in February just when most birds are large collections of birds. Many breeders were hesitant to allow convention traffic through their facilities in February just when most birds are serious about nesting. August, for many reasons, including lousy weather, seems an equally dismal time of year. I think I would opt for a fall month but then we would compete with other organizations’ conventions.

There is a questionnaire on the insert in this issue which should provide a medium for the general membership to voice its opinions. Please respond and the data can be used by the AFA leadership to plan future conventions.

Ed.

Dear Mr. Dingle,

I would like the opportunity to address two issues. The first is the outrageous destruction of Ms. Coleman’s birds. I see no reason why the exposed birds should not have been put into a quarantine situation to see if they, indeed, did contract the disease. Then, if any birds fell ill, yes, they should be mercifully destroyed. Although the pain is still there, at least there is some sanity and justification involved.

A friend of mine once had to have her horse destroyed in a somewhat similar bizarre event. The animal was diagnosed with a positive Coggins test. This test is for Equine Infectious Anemia, a contagious blood disease transmitted by flies and mosquitoes. Many states require the test for show, race and other events where horses come together.

When the horse showed positive, all the stable was put in a quarantine situation (i.e. no one could transport a horse in or out). Tests were run on all the horses, including a second test on the positive individual. No other horse was positive. How could all the other horses have lived in such proximity without contracting the disease? Why didn’t the affected horse show any signs of the EIA?

Vets speculated the horse was a “carrier,” harboring the disease yet unable to transmit it. Even though the horse was in good health there was no questioning the regulations regarding the positive Coggins and the horse was taken away for “disposal.” I will never forget how my friend looked during the week when all this was going on. It made no sense but at least the animal and other exposed animals were given a chance.

We all know the import/export laws governing animal health are important. Sometimes they are strict to the common man’s standards, but is an epidemic worth the risks of waiving laws? I expect we will see many articles regarding animal exports and imports as the 1988 Olympics in Korea grow.
nearer. Many of the equestrian teams will be allowed to enter the country, but there are some who, due to their country’s strict laws, will be unable to return their horses home following the competition. Horsemen are hoping the officials will relocate the equestrian events before any international incidents can develop.

So, as you can see, every animal industry has its wild tangle of red tape and, yes, it is all necessary. We do not need new rules, laws, regulations, etc. God knows there are already enough. What we need is better management by the officials to ensure that the laws are delegated humanely and justly to both man and beast! No, we can’t spare a pet budgie if it has Newcastle disease nor a child’s pony if it contracts EIA but we can treat the animals and owners with a little dignity instead of the way Ms. Coleman and her birds were treated!

I also wanted to say I am sick of people who write to magazines, not only the Watchbird, complaining of content. Whine, whine, whine! Either it is too technical, not technical, too many stories, not enough; I have seen it all! What in the world do all of you want? I have a simple explanation to people who are unhappy with a magazine’s content. First, write an intelligible letter to the editor expressing what you as a reader would like to see; no need to be hateful. If you really hate the magazine, cancel your subscription and don’t get yourself all worked up. Or get off your fat patootie and write an article drawing on your own vast wealth of knowledge! It takes a lot of effort and time to write an article so, before criticizing, try it yourself! I like the Watchbird; I don’t understand every concept but consider it a challenge to try and figure some of it out and, heck, if I don’t understand any of it I’ll look at the pictures, dammit!

Teresa D. Ralenkotter
2708 Wesley Drive
Villa Hills, KY 41017

THEFT NOTICE

On July 27th, 1985, a rare female black palm cockatoo disappeared from the Dallas Zoo and is believed to have been stolen. The bird can be identified by a band on her right leg with the inscription FRM095. The Dallas Zoo would appreciate any information regarding this bird—so would this bird’s mate. The pair was set up for breeding. Please call zoo, (214) 946-5155, bird curator Greg Toffie.
Kansas Avicultural Society
4th Annual Cage Bird Show
October 11, 12, 1985
Holiday Inn (Holidome)
1000 N. Broadway, Wichita, KS
Contact show secretary: Agnes Geigenmiller
1227 N. Wood, Wichita, KS 67212

Cleveland Canary and Cage Bird Club
Annual All-Bird Exhibition
October 13, 1985
German Central Organization Lodge
7863 York Road, Parma, Ohio
Contact: CCC&BC president, Ray Ptak
7102 Wilber Ave., Parma, OH 44129
(216) 842-0948

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society
9th Annual All Bird Show
October 19th, 1985
Heritage Inn
15201 S. 71 Hwy., Grandview, MO 64030
Contact show mgr.: G.K.C.A.S., Don Bates
1109 W. 41st Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64111

Baltimore Bird Fanciers
Annual Bird Show
October 19, 1985
Elks Lodge, Essex, MD
Contact show sec.: Judy Schrauder
759 Seawall Road, Essex, MD 21221

Central Ohio Bird Fanciers, Inc.
October 19, 1985
Holiday Inn
351 S. Sandusky, Delaware, Ohio
For Information contact: Cindy Mullen
9218 Sunderland Dr., W. Chester, Ohio 45069

Sun Coast Avian Society
10th Annual Exotic and Pet Bird Show
October 19, 20, 1985
Tradewinds Beach Resort Hotel
(813) 367-6461
5500 Gulf Blvd., St. Petersburg Beach, FL 33706
Contact show chairman: Cal St. Clair
(813) 726-8326
or president: Juanita McLain
(813) 726-8326
c/o Sun Coast Avian Society
P.O. Box 115, Safety Harbor, FL 33572

Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club Inc.
10th Annual Open Bird Show
October 26th, 1985
Palm Beach Ocean Hotel
2390 S. Ocean Blvd.
Palm Beach, FL 33480, (305) 582-5381
Outside Florida call (800) 327-9407
Show Mgr. Roger Heroux
2213 Bermuda Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture, Inc.
23rd Annual Bird Show
October 26th, 27th, 1985
Lakeside Mall
5801 W. 44th Ave., Denver, CO
Contact show manager: Tom H. Pickens
2150 Willow Lane, Lakewood, CO 80215
(303) 233-0387

Fresno Canary and Finch Club
22nd Annual Show
November 1, 2, 3, 1985
Hacienda Inn, Cinton Ave. & Hwy. 99
Fresno, California
Contact: Hazel Espindula, show sec.
1633 W. Zumwalt, Tuare, CA 93274

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society
10th Annual All-Bird Show
November 2, 1985
Casa Royale
Washington, PA
Show secretary: Sara Prince
107 Richard Dr., Glenshaw, PA 15116
(412) 487-3758

Georgia Cage-Bird Society
29th Annual Cage-Bird Show
November 2nd, 1985
Ramada Inn Central
1630 Peachtree St. N.W., Georgia
Contact show chairman: John O’Neil
2997 Gant Place, Marietta, GA 30067

Missouri Cage Bird Association
39th Fall Show
November 2nd, 1985
Radisson Inn, South
6926 So. Lindbergh, St. Louis, MO
Show secretary: Marilyn Nice
1709 Snitzer Mill Rd., Fenton, MO 63026
(314) 225-5986

Tampa Bay Canary Fancy Association
4th Annual Show
November 2nd, 3rd, 1985
Rocky Point Beach Resort
Courtney Campbell Causeway,
Tampa, FL
Contact show chairman: Manuel Arduengo
3411 Grace St., Tampa, FL 33607
(813) 872-0326

“Best in the West”
6 Clubs of San Diego area combine for
Open ALL Bird Show
November 8, 9, 10, 1985
Del Mar Fairgrounds
Del Mar, CA
Contact: Janice Fritchard
457 West Douglas Ave.
El Cajon, CA 92020

Columbia Canary Club
Annual Show
November 9th, 10th, 1985
Marshall Center
1009 E. McLoughlin, Vancouver, WA
Contact show secretary: Effieul Shultz
4604 S.E. Yamhill St., Portland, OR 97215
(503) 232-6001

37th National Cage Bird Show
November 14th, 15th, 16th, 1985
Tropicana Hotel
110 Lexington, San Antonio, TX
Show information: Harold Sodamann
Rt. 5, Paola, Kansas 66071
(913) 294-4431

National Cockatiel Society
Annual National Show
November 14-16, 1985
“Largest cockatiel show of the year,” to be held in conjunction with the
37th National Cage Bird Show,
El Tropicano Hotel
110 Lexington, San Antonio, TX 78205
NCS panel judge, Dr. A.E. Decoteau
Show chairman: Glen A. Gibson
10537 Steel Trace Court
Charlotte, NC 26210
(704) 588-1616

Central California Cage Bird Club
Annual Bird Show
November 15, 16, 17, 1985
Modesto Racquet Club
200 Norwegian Ave., Modesto, CA
Contact: show sec., Goldie Dowdy
P.O. Box 335, Keyes, CA 95328

Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club
Open Show
November 29th thru December 1st, 1985
Peterson Junior High School
Poplar Ave., (off El Camino Real)
Sunnyvale, California
Contact show secretary: Delilah Quieto
1952 Beech St., Santa Clara, CA 95054
(408) 988-1900

The Watchbird offers free publicity for member club bird shows by announcing the dates and locations of the shows. To have your show listed it is necessary to get the data to the Watchbird four to five months before the show date. For example, if your show takes place the first week of October, it should be listed in the August/September issue. The deadline for that issue is June 1st. (Copy/Article deadline is two months preceding publication date.)