

Napes that have come down with Newcastle VVND. The closed bands on these birds, according to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, were of sufficient size to be placed on the birds well after they were babies, and possibly would be able to be put on or taken off at this stage. They are now looking at further restrictions in the law to restrict the sizes of the bands for the birds being sold in New York state. I have seen some bands on birds, now that I am aware of the new ways being used to circumvent the law, that could be taken off the birds when they are full grown. I do not sell to stores that use these practices since they would be jeopardizing my birds. A couple of problems arise because of such practices. First, the bird is more apt to be caught on something that protrudes from his cage. Second, this bird may be a swimmer, illegal, and have a possibility of VVND. If you are boarding a bird in a store that has these large bands, you may be taking a chance of losing your bird if VVND is found.

You must always keep in mind that the birds sold in the local papers may fall into the same category as the store. This person may also sell birds with no bands. This is not legal unless he has the paper work required by New York state law. If you see a deal that is too good to be true, you can bet it probably is.

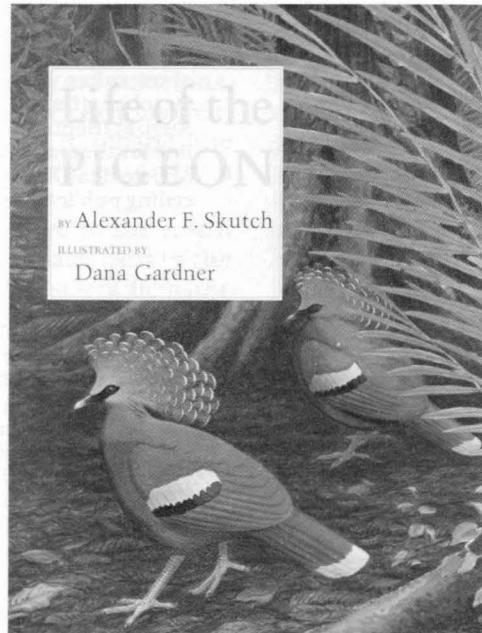
Banding a bird is extremely important to the bird breeder since he is able to trace the bird and find out if he has any other progeny from that pair of breeders. We have found that a lot of people do not band birds for many different reasons, one of them being you may not be hand feeding, and risk losing a finger while trying to get a bird out to band, then trying to replace it. Believe me when I say I know exactly what you mean. I have had to do the same thing and sometimes have given some blood in the process. It is worth it if that bird may ever become a breeder. It is vital to have a clean and true gene pool and to minimize inbreeding when we are unable to acquire new breeding stock.

These are my opinions and very strong ones to be sure. As breeders and holders of captive wildlife, we are responsible for their well-being. No matter what success we achieve as breeders in the eyes of the animals, we are nothing more than benevolent dictators. ●

EX LIBRIS: *Life of the Pigeon*

by Alexander F. Skutch
(illustrated by Dana Gardner)
130 pp., Cornell University Press, 1991

reviewed by Jack Clinton-Eitniear
San Antonio, Texas



Once again, the prolific Costa Rican naturalist Alexander Skutch has produced a popular reading account on the life of a popular avian family. Having observed Central American pigeons/doves for several decades, he could certainly have written this book entirely from a New World perspective. His decision to include information on species throughout the world, however, increases the breadth and, therefore, usefulness of the book. "Life of a Pigeon" has a rather straight forward organization starting with a bit of history on the pigeon family, then progressing to "Eating and Drinking," "Daily Cycle," "Voice and Courtship", etc. The chapters on "Nests and Eggs", "Incubation" and "The Young and their Care" should interest the aviculturist. One should not, however, neglect to read the chapter on "Rate of Reproduction." Aviculturists often set their goals at 100% when it comes to pairs nesting, eggs hatching and young fledging. Information assimilated by Skutch into a table indicates that for nine species (Feral, Wood, White-crowned, Mourning, Eared, Gala

pagos, White-winged, Croaking Ground, and Ruddy Quail), only 54% of over 5,000 nests constructed were used for egg laying. Even more astounding is his data on the percentage of eggs that hatched. Of over 11,000 eggs laid, only 48% actually hatched!

The center of the book contains 24 color plates, including the rather well known Blue Ground Dove of the Fiji Islands. Throughout the book, the author placed 30 figures and four tables including "Incubation Schedules of Pigeons", "Schedule of Feeding for two Mourning Doves" and "Nesting Success of Pigeons."

For the pigeon and dove owner/breeder, this book makes an excellent companion to Derek Goodwin's "Pigeons and Doves of the World/Third Edition." The chapters on "Homing Pigeons" and "Pigeons and Man" should appeal to those with domesticated breeds. Finally, to the connoisseur/collector of fine books on birds, this book deserves a rightful place alongside Skutch's previous contributions, "Life of a Tanager," "Life of a Woodpecker," and "The Life of a Hummingbird!" ●

Central Alabama Avicultural Society

presents its
All Feather Bird Fair & Show
August 31 & Sept. 1, 1991
Governors House Hotel
2703 South Blvd.
Montgomery, Alabama 36116
For information contact:
Charles Reaves (205) 892-0015
or Lorene Clubb (205) 857-3817

The Carolina Classic
September 7 & 8, 1991
hosted by

Charlotte Metrolina
Cage Bird Society
supported by

South Carolina Bird Buddies and
the Palmetto Cage Bird Club

Piedmont Kennel Club
Choate Circle at the
Carowinds Blvd. Exit, off of I-77
near the SC/NC state line.
For information contact:
Glen Gibson (704) 588-1616 or
Bob Hollaway (803) 781-7202 or
Earl Owens (803) 855-3193

Sun Coast Avian Society
hosts the

Kaytee Great American Bird Show

October 4 and 5, 1991
Bellevue Mido Resort Hotel
25 Bellevue Blvd.
Clearwater, FL 34616
(813) 442-6171
For information contact:
Deborah Dollar (813) 938-3893
Categories:
SPBE - Darren Decoteau
NFS - Steve Hoppin
ABS - Ermafern Collins
ALBS - Lee Horton
ACS - Bert McCauly
NCS - Glen Gibson
Canaries:

Melanin - Ignacio Perea
Lipochrome - Roberto Font
Type - Ray Rudisill
Pet Bird - TBD

South Jersey Bird Club
presents its

10th Annual Bird Show
October 5, 1991
Garden State Park
Route 70 & Haddonfield Rd.
Cherry Hill, New Jersey
For information:
South Jersey Bird Club
Box 21, Richwood, NJ 08074
Phone: (609) 893-0955



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.)

Avicultural Society of Tucson, AZ

presents its
Annual Bird Fair
October 13, 1991
Tucson Convention Center
New Exhibition Hall
For information contact:
Jerry Bock (602) 682-7043 or
Darlene Danko (602) 749-0862

South Bay Bird Club

sponsors its
Southern California
Finch and Hookbill Show
October 19 - 20, 1991
Alondra Park Community Bldg.
Lawndale, California
Judges:
Hookbills - Clarence Culwell - SPBE
Cockatiels - Lee Horton - NCS
Lovebirds - Nancy Polarino - ALBS
Finches - Clarence Culwell - NFS
For information call:
Lee or Sharyn Bolivar (213) 416-9877
Rita Holmes - (213) 640-3292

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club

is hostings its
Annual Fall Bird Affair
October 26-27, 1991
Municipal Auditorium
417 Fourth Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee
For show information contact:
Phyleen Stewart
2131 Elm Hill Pike, F-127,
Nashville, TN 37210
(615) 885-2523
For fair information contact:
Ed Ramage
2131 Elm Hill Pike, F-127
Nashville, TN 37210
(615) 885-2523

Motor City Bird Breeders

is sponsoring its
40th Annual
Canary and Cage Bird Exhibition
October 26 & 27, 1991
St. Stephen's Hall
4330 Central Avenue
Detroit, Michigan
For information:
Kathy Frank
19400 MacArthur, Redford, MI 48240
Phone (313) 538-6598

Rocky Mountain Society
of Aviculture

is hosting its
29th Annual Bird Show
November 1, 2, and 3, 1991
Embassy Suites Hotel
Interstate 70 and Havanna St.
Denver, Colorado
Judges:
Canaries - Mark Whiteaker, NCA, IGBA &
others
Budgies - Don Powers, ABS
Cockatiels - Glen Gibson, NCS
Lovebirds & Parrots - Ralph Milos, ALBS,
SPBE
Finches - Marty Von Raesfeld, NFS
Pet Birds & Photo Contest - Tim Murphy
American Budgies - Kevin Wirick
For information contact:
Dorothy Rae Bien
P.O. Box 3663
Englewood, Colorado 80155
(303) 369-4804

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club

presents its
59th Annual Bird Show
November 2, 1991
Holiday Inn
3405 Algonquin Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
For general information:
(708) 705-6260
or call Frank Smolen
(708) 916-0224

Greater Pittsburgh
Cage Bird Society
Annual All Bird Show
November 2, 1991

Century Plaza Inn
(Exit off I-70) Washington, PA
For more information call:
Marlene Ayres
(412) 746-1384
836-1/2 McClane Farm Rd.
Washington, PA 15301

Smoky Mountain Cage Bird Society
Bird Show Fair

November 9, 1991
Great Smokies Hilton
Asheville, North Carolina
For information:
Michael Jarrett (704) 433-8036