If you have any complaints regarding the last issue of the Watchbird please direct them to your humble servant, S.L. Dingle. During the publication of that issue I was in the process of moving. Those of you who know how absent-minded and unorganized I am can envision the chaotic disaster that resulted.

For a month now I’ve been in the new home and still haven’t found my desk. The last thing anyone remembers is me raking the papers and books off of it prior to the move. Sooner or later, no doubt, one or another of the mountain of packing boxes will shift and expose a corner of the desk and we’ll know where to excavate. Until then, however, I’ll assume full responsibility for whatever confusion creeps into the “Watchbird”.

The other evening while pondering the whole mess I was rummaging around the pocket of my smoking jacket looking for a match to light my pipe (the one that was in my mouth during the move – I can’t find the others) and I came upon the following letters.

Dear Sir:

I have recently purchased four pairs of finches. My hopes are to breed my little friends in my home aviary. Having exhausted the local library and learning almost nothing about the habits and needs of my three species of finches, I am requesting any information you may have that would be useful in my project.

J.B. Shirley
Annapolis, MD

In Maryland there are at least two bird clubs that belong to the A.F.A. Those clubs are listed in the front pages of this magazine. If you contact the delegates listed I’m confident they will introduce you to other aviculturists in your area and you can learn first hand about how various finches are handled in your part of the country.

I’d offer some personal advise but I can’t find any of my finch books right now. I’m not quite sure where my finches are either.

Editor
Dear Mr. Dingle:

In the April/May 1977 issue of the A.F.A. Watchbird you replied to an inquiry about a previous publication, "Aviculture" erroneously.

To begin with, your comments about contacting your "oldest" friends and then the "more ancient folks" might have struck a sensitive nerve of some of the senior aviculturists in the country.

Evidently you did not do your homework thoroughly by contacting someone from the era preceding the "ancient folks" and I am certain that you have survivors of that period still active in California. Mr. Ganey was correct that a publication called "Aviculture" was printed in LA. In the 1930's and perhaps the 1940's this was the official publication of the Avicultural Society of America.

In reference to the Avicultural Bulletin, you are correct in stating this is the present publication of the ASA. I joined the ASA about 1940 when they still published a fine bulletin. I'm not sure why the publication ceased but in a mimeographed list of members distributed around 1952 I noted that I was the only member not a resident of California so I dropped my membership. I had the impression that one or more of the officers squandered or mismanaged the treasury shortly after WW II. But I can't be certain that statement is correct. Please note the copy of the front page of a 1938 issue. I have about 100 issues dating back to 1930 or earlier.

Sincerely,
Eugene E. Woehler,
Madison, Wis.

Many thanks for your very informative letter. If you ever move to California I can guarantee you a job as chief historian on the Watchbird staff. Our current man is rather prehistoric and a bit negligent regarding his homework.

Editor
THE VET'S CORNER

Parasitic Diseases contd from page 29

applied, this system may be easier, but it may not be 100% effective. The dosage of the drug is critical and a slight overdose will kill. For this reason, I won't publish the dosage in this sort of general article. If you still want to try it, I will tell you how to proceed personally. It should also be repeated several times.

Some experienced breeders swear by the use of hargate spray. I have only word of mouth confirmation of its effectiveness, but it is worthy of consideration.

IV. Mosquitoes, flies, lice and fleas are insects which may carry several kinds of diseases, including parasitic, bacterial, and viral, in addition to causing damage by themselves. If it is at all possible to exclude these insects from the environment, many problems may be avoided, such as malaria and canary pox.

Unfortunately, there is no single procedure or drug which will solve all of your problems. Each parasite has its own peculiar habits and susceptibilities and must be approached with full knowledge of its weaknesses. Your own veterinarian can often be very helpful to you in achieving and maintaining a parasite-free flock. You will also find many fine books and magazine articles on the subject which will help you.

READING LIST
Schrag, L., Healthy Pigeons, Obersteinhaus 66, West Germany, Verlag L. Schober Hengersberg 1974.

THE PERILS OF BUYING IMPORTED BIRDS contd from page 16

been thoroughly cleaned and properly disinfected. No visitors should be allowed.

(Some clubs may want to consider such a quarantine facility as a club operated project.)

If the above best method is impossible, then quarantining the birds for at least a month on an isolated part of an aviary premise is in order as next best. Here, again, a separate attendant, who has no contact with other birds, separate equipment, and "off-limits" to everyone else are required. This separate attendant can be a member of the family who will take care of the quarantined birds during the isolation period, shower each time after taking care of them, and who will stay completely away from the aviary proper during this time.

If the aviculturist must take care of the quarantined birds himself, either on the separate premises or on an isolated part of his aviary premises, he should do this last after taking care of all of the needs of his aviary. This is much less satisfactory than any of the two previous procedures and he must be meticulous in seeing that no possible contagium is carried from the quarantine facility to the aviary proper.

Nothing must be taken from the quarantine facility. Disposable head wear, coveralls (long sleeves preferred), and rubber boots (high enough to tuck coveralls legs in) should be used when servicing the quarantine facility. After service, boots should be cleaned and disinfected, inside and out, with an approved disinfectant on leaving and left there for next day's use. Remove coveralls only in clean plastic bags for laundry before reuse. Wash hands, fingernails and arms in disinfectant, take a shower and wash hair, and dress in clean clothes before returning to the aviary proper.

The least satisfactory form of isolation would be in quarters (a separate room) not apart from the aviary proper. If this is the only way possible, strictly following the instructions in the paragraph above may possibly help to avoid spread of contagious disease if such disease should exist in the newly purchased birds.

To buy new birds from any source and put them directly into the aviary is asking for trouble and sooner or later trouble will occur.

The purchasing of new birds, especially imported birds, will always be accompanied with risk.
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