Golden Crescent Cage Bird Club
First Fall Feathers Bir-A-Fair
September 11, 1988
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
1969 N. Ridge Road E.
Lorain, Ohio
For information contact:
Janet Cheely, Treasurer
5330 Mills Creek Lane
Ridgeville, Ohio 44039
(216) 327-3777

Orange County Bird Breeders
7th Annual Bird Fair
Sunday, September 18, 1988
Orange County Fair Grounds, Bldg. 10
Free parking, Free lectures, Auction
September 24,
Susan Mooney, (213) 868-8292
For additional information call:
Plattduetsche Park Restaurant
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403
Sunday, September 18, 1988
Orange County Bird Breeders
First Fall Feathers Bir-A-Fair
3rd Annual Exotic Bird Show
For more information contact:
Felice Bahner, (714) 544-6965
or(714) 544-2183
Susan Mooney, (213) 868-8292

Minnesota Cage-Bird Association
1988 Exotic Bird Show
September 23-25, 1988
Regency Plaza Hotel
1132 Hempstead Turnpike
Franklin Square, New York
Doors open at 8:00 a.m.
Registration at 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Judging starts promptly at 10:30 a.m.
Judge: A.E. Decoteau
Awards: standard class, specialty, children’s div., judge’s award
For additional information call:
Debra Megidson, president
(516) 867-3866
or(516) 242-5855

Long Island Parrot Society
2nd Annual Parrot Show
Saturday, September 24, 1988
Plattduetsche Park Restaurant
1132 Hempstead Turnpike
Franklin Square, New York
Doors open at 8:00 a.m.
Registration at 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Judging starts promptly at 10:30 a.m.
Judge: A.E. Decoteau
Awards: standard class, specialty, children’s div., judge’s award
For additional information call:
Debra Megidson, president
(516) 242-5855
Maris Dunn, show secretary
(516) 867-3866

Boston Cockatiel Society
3rd Annual Exotic Bird Show
September 24, 1988
Framingham Civic League
214 Concord St. (Route 126)
Framingham, MA
J udges:
Parrots & Finches — SPBE & NFS Panel
Judge William G. Parlee
Lovebirds — Cyndi Sorenson
Pet Division — Ed Brunell
Cockatiels — NCS Panel Judge Charles Kruger
For more information contact:
Bob Brooton
154 West Main Street
Marlboro, MA 01752
(617) 481-7850

Sun Coast Avian Society
13th Annual Exotic & Pet Bird Show
October 8 & 9, 1988
Sheraton Tampa East
7401 East Hillborough Ave.
Tampa, FL 33610
Reservations: (813) 626-0999
Judges and Categories:
Walter Lepke — ABS
Shirley Courts — ACS
Earl Courts — NFS
Dan Land — ALBS
Ralph Milos — Psittacine
Louis Marzarro — Type/Color Bred
Allen Gibson — American Singers

Baltimore Bird Fanciers
48th Annual All-Bird Show
October 15, 1988
Holiday Inn
Cromwell Bridge Road
Towsen, Maryland
(301) 823-4410
For more information contact:
Karen Allen
(301) 679-2152

Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club Show
October 29, 1988
Embassy Suites Hotel
555 N.W. 62nd Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Judges:
George Warren — Finches & Canaries
Tom Ireland — Exotics
Tony Mancini — Budgerigars
Owville Lyons — Cockatiels
Roland Dubusque — Lovebirds
For more information contact:
Karl S. Kline
204 N.E. 14th Street
Delray Beach, FL 33444
(407) 276-8711

Northwest Bird Club
8th Annual All Breed Bird Show
November 19 & 20, 1988
Josephine County Fair Grounds
Grants Pass, Oregon
Arts & Crafts Building
Judges:
Bob Nelson
Pat Klein
For information contact:
Bud Mozley
1600 Coyote Creek Rd.
Wolf Creek, Oregon 97497
(503) 866-2576

Miami Parrot Club, Inc.
Second Annual Cage-Bird Show
The Biltmore Hotel
1200 Anastasia Ave.
Coral Gables, Florida
For information call:
Regina Russel, Show Chairman
(305) 251-3895

Almost all of you are familiar with our beautiful cover bird, the turquoise parakeet. It is one of seven species belonging to the genus Neophema. A resident of southeastern Australia, it frequents open forests and grasslands often along water courses. It is a cavity nester using holes in trees, stumps, or even logs on the ground. All Neophemas are ground feeding seed eaters especially favoring seeding grasses. After all, these tiny parrots are only about the size of a budgerigar and can’t be expected to crack large seeds and nuts.

The turquoise’s status in the wild has had its ups and downs but, at present, it seems to be doing well and its numbers are actually increasing. It is not thought to be in great jeopardy unless there is an unexpected and very radical alteration of its habitat.

Likewise, in captivity the turquoise seems to do fairly well. It seems strange to me that there are some aviculturists (Ralph Smith being an example) who have tremendous success with the Neophema while others, alas, can barely raise enough babies to replace their losses. But the overall success rate with captive turboquises is quite good enough to supply the demands of newcomers to aviculture who want to try a beautiful little parrot which is more challenging than the zebra finches and budgies with which they started.

Turquoiseines have long been one of my favorite species and off and on over the years I’ve kept and bred them. Years ago, when almost all aviaries had dirt floors and piperazine was the only known worm medicine, internal para-
sites were the bane of the turquoisines. They seemed fore-ordained to die of ascarid infections. With the advent of suspended cages and a whole spectrum of excellent wormers available, the turquoisine has a much better chance today. I used to spend hours with the old microscope monitoring the droppings of the whole flock and keeping a sharp eye out for the ova of various species of ascarids. And I always had trouble mixing the right dose of piperazin for the various species of birds in the flock. Some of you old timers can recall, I'm sure, birds weaving drunkenly and occasionally falling off their perch — O.D.ed on piperazine.

I tried breeding turquoisines colony-style and determined that it was disastrous unless the little buggers were in a huge, well-planted aviary. A normal 8' by 4' aviary is just right for one pair of turks. Two pairs equals total death and destruction and three or more pairs per aviary creates mass chaos but not much blood. Not much breeding either.

When I was young and foolish, I tried things no prudent person would do and I once put one pair of turquoisines in an 8' by 8' aviary containing four pairs of then quite rare albino cockatiels. Believe me, gentle people, turquoisines can be downright savage. The pair of turks trounced and terrified all eight of the cockatiels. It was the female turk who was the roughest. She commandeered all of the nest boxes — actually entered and drove the nesting cockatiels out. Needless to say, that experiment didn’t last long.

Turquoisines do well on a diet of budgie mix with a few sunflower seeds included and lots of greens. Some fruit, mostly apple, was eaten by my turks but they really relish leaves of chard, lettuce, spinach and several species of weeds I commonly feed to my birds.

For aviculturists in high density areas where noise is a problem, the Neophemas are ideal aviary birds. They are very quiet but do have a pleasant little chirp that I always enjoyed. A normal sized backyard (50 x 100 feet or so) could contain many beautiful flights for the various Neophema species without the neighbors even knowing they were there.

And believe me, dear friend, if you want to upgrade your birds and lay in a supply of big money fellows, you can stick to turquoisines and do just that. There are several color mutations that are very costly. In fact, one of the most beautiful birds in the world is the lutino version of the turquoisine. There is also a red-bellied variety where, through selective breeding, a German breeder has extended the red, normally on the thighs only, to the point where the entire belly and breast are brilliant red.

All things considered, I believe the turquoisine to be one of the most desirable and beautiful of all aviary birds. Your collection can be enhanced by adding a few pairs of Neophema pulchella whose very name means beautiful.