

# History of the AMAZONA Society

by Jan Roger van Oosten  
Seattle, Washington

The AMAZONA Society (TAS) was founded in 1984 in the living room of co-founder James Murphy's home. We believed that the time was right for bringing people together who were interested in Amazons. It was obvious that the time was nearing when the supply of wild caught birds would no longer be available.

At our first meeting we decided that TAS would publish a quarterly newsletter, take a yearly census of the captive Amazon population, and begin studbooks for some of the species based on their rarity in captivity. We then came up with a set of goals to which TAS still is dedicated. They are:

1. The building of self-sustaining captive bred populations of all the AMAZONA species possible.

2. Disseminate avicultural and scientific information on the genus AMAZONA to all members, and other interested parties through the Newsletter.

3. Take an Annual Census of the captive population of the genus AMAZONA.

4. The re-introduction of those threatened AMAZONA species when there is a self-sustaining captive breeding population, and when protected reserves in their habitats have been secured.

5. Assist where possible the preservation of the genus AMAZONA in the wild.

The organization was run by a group of officers chosen because of their dedication to and concern for the Amazons not only in the wild but also as viable populations in captivity as breeding groups. And they have succeeded to this point for in September 1994 The AMAZONA Society celebrated its Tenth Anniversary. The founding officers were James J. Murphy as President, Thomas D. Nichols, M.D. as President-Elect,

James J. Murphy as Treasurer and Jan Roger van Oosten as Editor. In addition, there were six Regional Vice Presidents covering the U.S. and one Foreign Vice President for Canada.

The Presidents from beginning to present are:

James J. Murphy 1984-1985  
Thomas D. Nichols, M.D. 1986-1987  
Dale Thompson 1988-1989  
Susan Baker 1990-1991  
Sebastian Lousada 1992-1994  
James J. Murphy 1995-

Over the years, other positions were created to take on specific projects. Vicki Fletcher has held several positions in TAS beginning in 1986, including Census Registrar, handling the books, membership, and everything one could ask. In a great part, Vicki kept things running smoothly from the beginning until today. In its 10 years TAS has had only two editors, Jan van Oosten and Diane Allen.

We have added foreign Vice Presidents and, because of money transfers and currency fluctuations, several of the foreign countries have formed their own

organizations and are affiliated with TAS today. The most successful being the English Affiliate, TAS United Kingdom.

The Census program worked well for many years, but we never reached 100%. One year we reached 98% in the Census, but only because I phoned every member who did not send in a Census form and took their specimen count over the telephone. Maybe now that we have the infamous Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 on the books the Census and the studbook program will be adopted by the members. If not, in the years to come there will be species of Amazons that will be only memories in the avicultural hall of fame.

TAS also commissioned a limited edition series of prints to raise funds for field research and conservation programs. The English aviculturist and highly acclaimed artist Jim Hayward has painted two originals, a Red-necked Amazon and a Yellow-winged Amazon, from which the prints have been made. The originals have already been auctioned off at the 1990 and 1994 Loro Parque "Parrots of the World" conventions. The funds were used to support Amazon parrot research in Brazil. Fortunately, there are still some prints extant and the AMAZONA Society will make them available to the public at an especially attractive price in celebration of this special Amazon edition of the *Watchbird* Journal. For further information, contact The AMAZONA Society (prints) at 6920 Roosevelt Way N.E., Suite 113, Seattle, WA 98115.

AMAZONA Society membership is \$15.00 per year and \$22.00 (U.S. funds) for members outside the United States. All members receive the AMAZONA Quarterly. Mail dues to James J. Murphy, Treasurer, the AMAZONA Society, P.O. Box 73547, Puyallup, WA 98373-4016. ➔

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