

First Breeding Awards Are For The Birds

(Consistent Second Generation-plus Breedings Are For the Aviculturist)

by Dale R. Thompson
Canyon Country, California

Nominations for AFA's First U.S. Breeding Awards

by Dale R. Thompson

Any reader who has successfully reproduced to self-sufficiency any of the following avian species, or knows of any other person who has, and can supply reliable documentation describing the success before the dates listed, please inform Dale R. Thompson, Chairman of the Avy Awards Committee via the AFA Business Office, P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ 85079-6218. Please include your name, the name, address and phone number of the successful breeder, or literary documentation of the breeding.

1.) Five-colored Munia

(Mannikin) *Lonchura quincolor*
hatched 9 October 1994.

2.) Bamboo Parrot Finch

Erythrura hyperythra, hatched 6 April 1990.

3.) Cinnamon-headed Green

Pigeon *Treton fulvicolis*, hatched 26 November 1993.

4.) Blue-headed Parrot Finch

Erythrura tricolor, hatched 11 April 1993.

5.) Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot *Loriculus pusillus*, hatched 5 May 1995. ➔

The Avy Awards were established in the early years of the American Federation of Aviculture (A.F.A.) to honor individuals, avicultural clubs, zoos, etc. for outstanding work in both avicultural achievements and in the area of service. The president-elect each year gives out several service awards to those individuals within A.F.A. who have given outstanding service to this organization. The Avy Awards Committee was established to set standards and give awards for several distinctive categories. The following gives the background and rules for each category.

U.S. First Breeding Avy Award

This very popular award is given to those individuals who have reproduced an avian species (subspecies) successfully for the first time within the U.S. The title of this article, though written with tongue-in-cheek, is somewhat accurate. As Don Wells, a very knowledgeable and accomplished aviculturist, and I have discussed many times, the pairs of birds which successfully hatched the first occurring offspring within the U.S. should be given the credit. Their owners usually have done very little besides supplying the housing and diet for these birds. When an aviculturist has successfully reproduced offspring consistently for several generations and has established several distinctive genetic lines, an award should be given to the aviculturist for the dedication they have given to this species. This is a much more prestigious award than the first breeding award. The Avy Awards Committee does give an award for this type of work. It is one of the Silver Avy Awards.

The following are the rules for the U.S. first breeding nominations:

1) The offspring of the species nominated must be self-sufficient (completely weaned and feeding on its own) whether parent-reared or by handfeeding.

2) Include the name, address and telephone of all individuals directly responsible for rearing the species.

3) A well documented avicultural article must be written describing the successful rearing of each nominated species. It must include common and scientific names and the hatch date of the first successful offspring. Guidelines on what to include in the article can be obtained from the Avy Awards Committee through the A.F.A.'s Home Office. This article will be published in the A.F.A.'s *Watchbird* magazine for publicity and to aid in confirmation.

4) Color photographs (prints or transparencies) of both the parent birds and the offspring. This is for identification purposes and to be used with the written article.

5) Names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least two outside persons who can confirm the successful breeding.

6) Any subspecies nominated must be clearly identifiable from other subspecies to qualify. These may include defined color and/or size differences. Subspecies of those birds previously reproduced only to the species level will not qualify unless they can be proved.

Silver Avy Awards

The Silver Avy Awards are achievement awards for avicultural successes. These take time and are, in my opinion, well earned awards. There are four categories.

1) Nominations for Silver awards may be initiated by the person or institution achieving the success. But this should not discourage other persons from nominating others who have achieved the success but are unwilling to nominate themselves.

2) Persons nominated for a Silver award must belong to the A.F.A.

3) Achievements must have occurred within the U.S. (50 states).

Category I:

Most progress for the establishment

of an individual avian species or group of related birds.

This award is given to recognize those aviculturists who make a significant contribution to the field of aviculture by reproducing an avian species (or group of related birds) through at least two generations and reproduce sufficient numbers to help in its long-term survival in captivity. The progress must be in the top of its field and will be judged accordingly. Domesticated exotic species (Zebra Finch, canary, budgerigar, cockatiel and common lovebirds, etc.) are not included in this category. Those that are semi-domesticated (Gouldian Finch, Ringneck, etc.) must be of an outstanding nature and must be in the top of their field. This is a judgement award and the more details given will aid the awards committee in making a correct decision. The following information must be submitted:

- 1) What species or group of related birds did you specialize in?
- 2) During what years did you reproduce this species or group of birds?
- 3) Which year were you most successful?
- 4) Give numbers of young bred per year and include all years you reproduced them. If a group of related birds, include numbers bred for each species for each year.
- 5) Record successes through second, third, etc. generations and include numbers successfully reproduced for each species.
- 6) Give a synopsis of your progress in establishing the species including difficulties and reasons why you were successful if pertinent.

Category II:

Breeding a significant or highly difficult avian species reflecting the obvious use of good management techniques. This needs to be well documented (Example - Cock-of-the-Rock).

- 1) Name of species.
- 2) Date of successful breeding.
- 3) Describe management techniques surrounding this significant breeding and length of time to be successful.
- 4) Name of person and/or institution most responsible for putting the management techniques into effect.
- 5) Explain in article form the above information and explain what you feel

were the most significant factors for the success and why.

Category III:

Most progress in establishing a new mutation in the U.S.

This must be well documented and must show why you feel this mutation was established. This does not recognize the person with whom the mutation first occurred, but who first firmly established the mutation. Information needed is as follows:

- 1) When did the mutation first occur

in your aviaries?

- 2) Were the mutation birds of your own breeding or were they acquired?
- 3) How many birds showing the mutation did you start with?
- 4) What procedure did you follow to establish the mutation (outcrossing or inbreeding)?
- 5) Is it dominant, sex-linked, autosomal recessive, etc.?
- 6) When did second generation occur?
- 7) Give numbers of birds bred per year and through each year you

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worked to establish the mutation.

8) When was the mutation firmly established?

Category IV:

For domesticated birds for which there are show standards (canaries, budgies, pigeons, etc.). Breeders who have won First in Division in three or more shows under three or more different judges in the same year.

What variety of bird won first placement in Division (must be the same Division for all shows)?

1. Show and year _____

Classification of bird and sex _____

Band number _____ Judge _____

Number of birds in Class ____ Section ____ Division ____

2. Show and year _____

Classification of bird and sex _____

Band number _____ Judge _____

Number of birds in Class ____ Section ____ Division ____

3. Show and year _____

Classification of bird and sex _____

Band number _____ Judge _____

Number of birds in Class ____ Section ____ Division ____

4. Show and year _____

Classification of bird and sex _____

Band number _____ Judge _____

Number of birds in Class ____ Section ____ Division ____

Zoo Avy Awards

The Zoo Avy Awards are achievement awards for avicultural successes achieved within a zoological institution. There are two categories.

Rules

1) Nominations for Zoo Category awards may be initiated by zoo personnel from the nominated institute.

2) The zoological institution must belong to the A.A.Z.P.A.

3) Achievements must have occurred within the U.S. (50 states).

Category I:

Most progress for the establishment of an individual avian species or group of related birds.

This award is given to recognize those zoological institutions that make a significant contribution to the field of aviculture by reproducing an avian species (or group of related birds) through at least two generations and reproduce sufficient numbers to help in its long-term survival in captivity. Information needed is as follows.

1) What species or group of related birds did the zoological institution specialize in?

2) During what years did your zoo reproduce this species or group of related birds?

3) Which year were you most successful?

4) Give numbers of young bred per year and include all years you reproduce them. If a group of related birds, include numbers bred for each species for each year.

5) Record successes through second, third, etc. generations and include numbers successfully bred for each species.

6) Give a synopsis of your progress in establishing the species including any difficulties and reasons why you were successful if pertinent.

Category II:

Breeding a significant or highly difficult avian species reflecting the obvious use of good management techniques. This needs to be well documented (Example - Birds of Paradise).

1) Name of species.

2) Date of successful breeding.

3) Describe management techniques surrounding this significant breeding and length of time it took to be successful.

4) Explain in article form the above information and explain what you feel were the most significant factors for the success and why.

Avy Appreciation Award

The Avy Appreciation Award is for those persons who have made an outstanding contribution to a local bird club that is affiliated with the A.F.A. This is not an award for avicultural successes, but for personal work for a local club that is of an exceptional nature.

Rules

1) Nominations for the Avy Appreciation Award must be initiated by the local club of which the nominee is a member. The nomination must be signed by the president and *all* members of the Board of Directors, even if the nominee is involved.

2) Person nominated must be a member of the A.F.A.

3) Nominees may be one person or a couple. If a couple is nominated, their qualifications must be the same

and for the same reasons.

4) Only one nomination per local club can be made in one calendar year.

5) A well documented letter on the contributions of the nominee and the length of time they served must be sent to the Avy Awards Committee. The more detailed the nomination, the easier it will be for the committee to make the correct decision.

6) This award may be received by any person(s) only once for service to the same club.

Gold Avy Award

The Gold Avy Award is an honor award. It is awarded to those persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the field of aviculture. This award is for outstanding achievement in the field of aviculture and for outstanding service given to A.F.A., local avian clubs, zoos, conservation and/or any other significant part of the avicultural world. This nomination must include a very detailed account of the nominee's avicultural achievements and the service they have given to the field of aviculture both specifically and generally.

1) The Gold Avy Award is a once in a lifetime award and may be given posthumously.

2) Nominations for the Gold Avy Award must be submitted by a club, zoo, university, etc. and not by an individual person.

3) Nominations must be for a person only (not for a zoo, club, research or medical institution, etc.).

4) Persons nominated must belong to the A.F.A. or a member club of the A.F.A.

Watchbird Avy Award

The Avy Awards Committee selects two avicultural articles from the previous year's issues of the *Watchbird* magazine. There are no nominations for this award. The committee judges the content of each article and decides which articles were outstanding in the information written that would enhance the propagation of the species, etc. for future generations.

Nominations for all Avy awards must be submitted to the Avy Awards Committee via the A.F.A.'s Home Office by December 31, to be awarded at the A.F.A.'s national convention the following year. ➔