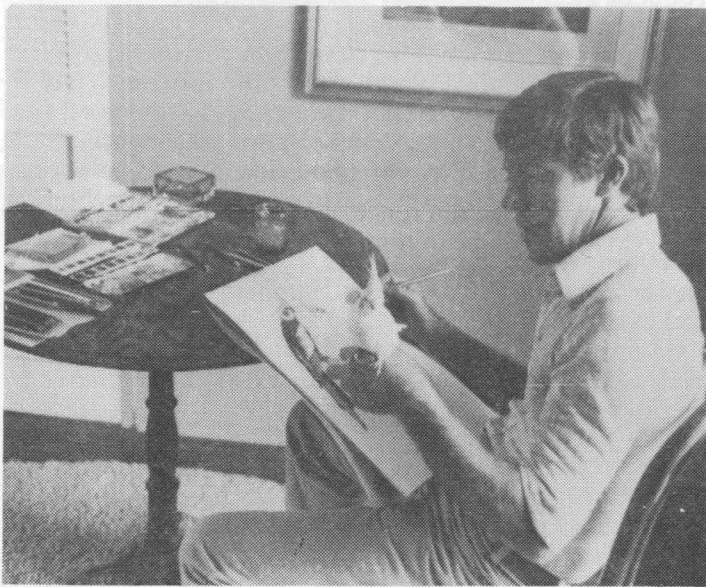


IN AN ANCIENT TRADITION

by
Sheldon Dingle

Nature has been a primary subject for art since the dawn of man. Some of the earliest examples of artwork are the cave paintings found at Altmira, Spain and Lascaux, France. These paintings depict bison, bulls, deer, horses, and people in various postures and in varying detail. The paintings were likely part of a ritual magic performed to assure good hunting for the primitive cave men of about 15,000 to 10,000 B.C.

As man's view of the world changed, his artwork also changed. The ritual magic art evolved into a spiritual and religious art. Eventually, the concept of art for art's sake, or a purely esthetic art, developed. At any rate, one of the main functions of art through the centuries has been to form an association between artist, viewer, and nature. In a more recent context and more pertinent to our interests, this association with nature can be seen in the works of such artists as John James Audubon and John Gould. These painters specialized in birds, one of the most intriguing natural subjects.



Artist, Jeff Coe, and one of his pretty models, busy working.

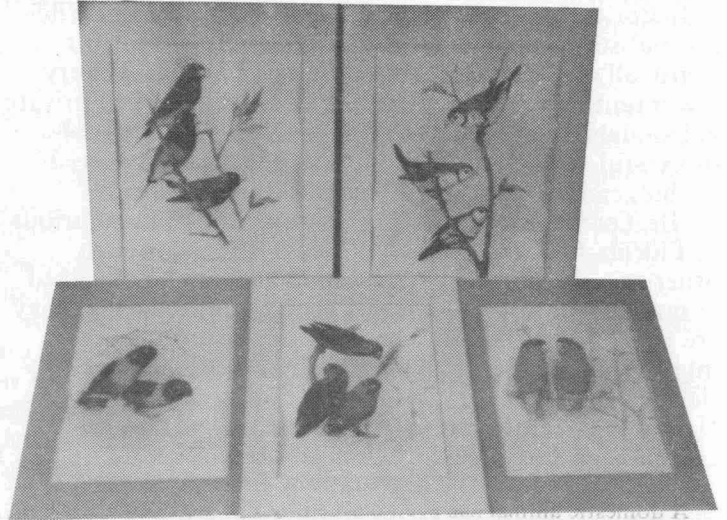
Fortunately there are still a few artists who are continuing in the tradition of painting birds, Jeff Coe is one of the best. Jeff has always held a passionate interest in birds and painting. As a youth in Australia this interest was enhanced by the myriad of exotic birds inhabiting the Australian countryside. He and his friends spent hours afield watching birds, hunting nests in the trees, and occasionally gathering nestlings for the Aviaries. His interest motivated his family into aviculture as a hobby. Though he has been away from home for some years, the family still keeps a collection of birds.

At thirteen he won recognition as a promising young artist for his bird posters prepared for the Gould League of Bird Lovers. To achieve accuracy, he spent hours in various aviaries studying and sketching the actions of the birds. More hours were spent in mixing colors to achieve

the correct shades. When the posters were completed and exhibited, he was highly chagrined to overhear a critic say that he felt the pictures had been copied from a book.

After leaving home he traveled through many parts of the world, including Africa, England, and New Zealand before reaching the United States. In his travels he visited aviaries, museums, and zoos, and photographed wild birds. He has worked in several aspects of art from illustrating to commercial, but for the past ten years he has been traveling light and just painting.

At present he is completing bird illustrations for a book soon to be published and painting birds that catch his fancy. In addition to birds, he also paints mammals, specializing in antelope, deer, and large cats.



Examples of beautifully detailed completed works.

When asked why most of his paintings are done in watercolor, he replied that this medium lends itself best to attaining the delicacy of the birds.

The Aviculture Society of America is fortunate to have Jeff Coe as a member. He attends most of the meetings here in the Los Angeles area. He is friendly, pleasant, and enjoys visiting.

It is encouraging that the tradition of art and nature flows on through the brushes of men like Jeff Coe. It may be that many of the birds we love will be known to our children only by the beautiful paintings executed by such dedicated artists.

SB 1766 AMENDED

California animal lovers, aviculturists and zoos have come under the gun as SB 1766 wound its way, with difficulty, through the legislative labyrinth of the California Senate and Assembly. In its initial form SB 1766 would have out-right banned all birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, except under permit, on grounds it is contrary to their welfare to be kept in