

# FRANK'S FEEDER

by Frank Miser

**"DON'T LET SCALEY FACE GET YOU DOWN!"**

Whether you are breeder, pet owner, or pet shop operator, scaley face can be easily cured.

Scaley face is caused by skin mites chewing on exposed skin. The result is a soft crusty scab like appearance, particularly noticeable about the beak and the legs. Left unattended, the beak will deform enough to prevent the bird from eating, while leg deformity in the band area will result in blocking circulation with resultant leg loss.

There are a number of commercial preparations on the market which will control scaley face, if the directions are adhered to. However, in using the commercial preparations, I found that the number of treatments and the time involved could be shortened considerably by adding, in equal parts, a commercial liquid preparation and Grovers Sarcotic Mange Medicine. In addition, I found that chronic infection was virtually eliminated. To apply the mixture, I use a water color brush and coat the effected areas liberally, every 10 to 14 days. Since the mixture is much stronger, do not apply more often than this, otherwise feather loss will result. Remember to shake the mixture well before use, because it separates easily. The number of treatment applications was reduced from 12-15 to 3-4, reducing the number of times the birds must be handled.

I do not recommend using the Mange Medicine straight, because skin burns will result.

In closing, scaley face is most prevalent in Budgies, but all birds are subject to it.

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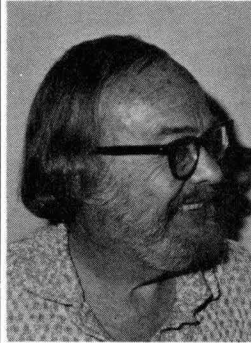
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# View from the Perch

by Russ Sutton



Russ Sutton

## WE GET LETTERS

Dear Sirs:

*I am interested in keeping one of the larger parrots as a pet. I would only want a very young bird, and am skeptical of the age and health of birds I see in pet stores. Also, with my experiences with pure bred dogs and cats, I am well aware that much better animals can be purchased from breeders than from pet shops, and usually at much lower prices. I do not know if this is true of the bird fancier, but I would like to investigate all possibilities before making a purchase.*

*Does anyone breed African Greys or Amazons in this country? If so, could I please have some names and addresses of breeders I could contact? I would also like to know if there is a parrot club I could write to.*

*Thank you very much.*

P.G.

Dear Madam:

Your letter of inquiry regarding keeping one of the larger parrots as a pet is one of several indicating the increased interest, by people in the United States, in birds.

The health, age and condition of any bird purchased from a pet store depends entirely upon the merchant, his relationship with and reliance upon his supplier.

Dogs and cats are domesticated animals that relate to humans readily. Both become self sufficient in a few weeks and dogs readily accept discipline and training. I am surprised to learn their breeders are willing to wholesale to the general public, as you indicate. Is it because they have no other market? The circumstances relating to birds are quite different.

A hand fed bird is always saleable regardless of its age and these birds of which I am writing live many generations, becoming more desirable as the years go by.

Birds do not pair and reproduce as readily as dogs and cats. They must be housed in an environment that is satisfactory to them with adequate room to fly. Some will never go to nest while others will never lay fertile eggs. Exotic bird breeding is most difficult and awards are given to the breeder who achieves success for the first time with a species.

The Parrots sold in most pet stores are caught wild in their native country, eventually arriving at a pet store. Occasionally, but not often, a hand fed Parrot can be found and in most cases the merchant is reluctant to part with it, the reason being obvious. Who could part with a beautiful creature who says "I love you" as it perches on your shoulder rubbing its face against yours?

There are persons, who breed Parrots in the United States, who sell to pet stores, but generally the demand from individuals exceeds the supply. The prices for their young birds are not lower, as with cats and dogs, but higher than pet store prices. If the store could buy these birds, their prices would be higher also.

In order to raise Cockatoos, Macaws and Amazons they must be hand fed part of, if not all of, their infancy. There are no prepared canned formulas that can be bought at the corner store. Baby bird formulas have to be prepared carefully by the keeper and the naked baby birds kept warm and clean. Feeding must be done regularly every few hours, seven days a week for as long as five or six months, in some cases. In my opinion anyone who is fortunate enough to acquire a pet bird, that has been hand raised, should feel gratified, regardless of the monetary consideration.

I have heard of some bird breeders who do not sell their birds, they place them. Persons who ask price first never qualify. These breeders so love their birds that their primary concern is for the bird, not the money. The buyer must prove himself as a person qualified to provide the care and love the bird needs.

In closing there is one more thing you should know. The keeper of any expensive exotic bird should have the funds to pay a veterinarian whenever the bird shows the slightest sign of illness and also should take the bird for an annual checkup.

Sincerely,

Russ Sutton