



This Issue

Many people define aviculture as a few breeding cages in which baby parrots are raised for the pet trade. Others may envision large outdoor aviaries on a bird farm in which a variety of exotic birds are raised. Then there are the canary and Budgie specialists who often don't pay much attention to any of the other species in captivity.

Aviculture is extremely diverse. It also includes the pheasant and gallinaceous bird breeders, and those who focus on captive breeding for conservation, and the many breeding and public display activities in the zoos of the world. All things considered, might not we profit by widening our view of what aviculture really is? We think so.

During the year 2000, we plan to present to you a plethora of birds – some common, some rare – that span the whole range of the avicultural spectrum as we see it. Of course we will continue to feature many of the regular columns you've come to expect, plus a few new ones occasionally.

As a hook upon which to hang our focus, we will feature a different zoogeographical region in each issue. This issue kicks off that concept by presenting the whole world of birds – well, much of it. We have birds from scattered locations around the globe although there are some notable absences such as the Indian subcontinent, the Mid East, Europe, and northern Asia.

But in this issue you *will* find toucans as pets and toucans in the Dallas World Aquarium – Central and South

American birds. There is a wonderful article on tanagers (from Mexico, Central, and South America, depending on the species).

There is an article on the Bar-shouldered Dove and one on the mutations of the Elegant Grass Parakeet, both from Australia.

While we're in the area, look at the article on Stitchbirds from New Zealand. Never heard of them? They are not a bird commonly found in aviculture – indeed, this article may treat the only Stitchbirds in captivity. But they are now avicultural subjects being raised in a worthy conservation effort.

We even have an article about breeding the common Mockingbird that most of you hear singing much of the year. What, you say, a bird of the U.S.A. in captivity? Isn't that illegal? Yes, of course it is – here in the States. But these Mockingbirds are being kept in Belgium.

Africa is represented by a curious story about the White-faced Scops Owl. And we have an article on the Speckled Mousebird which also hails from sub-Saharan Africa.

Lories and lorikeets inhabit many of the Pacific Islands and the San Diego Zoo has a remarkable collection of species. We've chosen to illustrate the zoo's article with the beautiful little Tahitian Blue Lory.

This is just the beginning of a great year.

Sheldon Dingle, Editor 



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The Mission of the AFA is to Promote the Advancement of Aviculture.

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* Position open: contact regional vice president if interested.

** indicates 2 year term has been fulfilled. If no new interested party comes forward and indicates a desire to serve, incumbent remains in position.

For information about contacting any of these member clubs, please call that club's state coordinator.

Lights, camera, action — the 2000 AFA convention is being held August 2-6, in Los Angeles, California, the entertainment capital of the world. The official convention hotel is the Wyndham at LAX and the special discounted rate is only \$99 single or double.

LA offers so much to see and do; lush beaches, a world famous zoo, unique museums, world class shopping, trend setting restaurants, Hollywood landmarks, and a mild Mediterranean climate that allows for outdoor activities year-round.

In addition to great AFA seminars and convention activities, there is still plenty to do in your free time. You can tour movie and TV studios, watch a taping of Friends, The Tonight Show, or Jeopardy. LA is also home to the music industry, with a wide range of musical events from jazz to rock and roll. There are also comedy clubs where Billy Crystal, Jay Leno, and Robin Williams got their start and still drop by to try out their new material.

LA hosts over 20,000 terrific restaurants featuring choices of fresh seafood, ethnic cuisines, and creations brought to you by some of the country's

leading chefs. Los Angeles County has more museums per capita than anywhere else in the nation. Exposition Park Science and Natural History Museums, Museum of Contemporary Art, and the new highly acclaimed J. Paul Getty museum are just a few. Griffith Park is another must see, and is one of the world's largest urban parks with over 4,000 acres and is also the home of the LA Zoo, known for the California Condor breeding facility.

LA is renowned for its shopping — Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills where you can see and be seen, unique boutiques on Melrose Avenue, Olvera Street for the foods and crafts of Mexico, or Venice beach for the latest in fashion trends, plus many indoor and outdoor malls and markets.

For beach lovers, LA's magnificent coastline stretches for many miles from Malibu to Long Beach and delights visitors and residents all year long. Marina del Rey offers many outdoor activities, including jogging, roller blading, or just relaxing in the park and watching the sunset. There are trendy boutiques among the muscles at Venice beach, you can soak up the seafaring atmosphere at San Pedro's Old Town, stroll the arcade and rides while enjoying the spectacular view from Santa Monica Pier, or just wander down to Newport Beach and watch the surfers and trendsetters.

If you feel like driving, there is Disneyland in nearby Anaheim, Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, and even the Hearst Castle in San Simeon that you can visit on your way to or from the convention.

As you can see, there is something for everyone in Los Angeles so make your summer vacation plans early — plan to arrive early and stay late so you can enjoy the flavor of Los Angeles. 

