

AFA Member Shines at the Great American Bird Show

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Historic Triple Win: AFA Members Make History at the 1999 National Cage Bird Show

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Kathy Secor presenting Phil Feret with the AFA award for Best Bird in Show Bred and Banded by an AFA Member.

The 14th annual Kaytee™ Great American Bird show was held in beautiful San Juan, Puerto Rico on October 3, 1999. Held at the magnificent San Juan Grand Beach Resort and Casino, the weather was perfect and the hospitality of the host club, Organization de Aves Exoticas, Inc., was overwhelming. In fact, they made it possible to have two days of judging and awarded double prizes. The Great American Bird show is the only national show that gives cash prizes in addition to the standard awards.

There were a total of nine divisions which included canaries, finches, softbills, cockatiels, budgies, lovebirds, and parrots. Participating societies included the National Finch and Softbill Society, American Cockatiel

Society, National Colorbred Society, Society of Parrot Breeders and Exhibitors, African Lovebird Society and International Parrotlet Society. A total of 1,756 birds were exhibited.

The American Federation of Aviculture gives an award at both the Great American Bird Show and the National Cage Bird Show for the best bird in the show that has been bred and banded by an AFA member. This year's winner (1999) for the Great American is renowned Cockatiel breeder, Phillip Feret. Mr. Feret took first place in Cockatiels with a fabulous lutino Cockatiel hen. She also turned out to be the second best bird in the entire show. Congratulations on a job very well done, Phil, and thank you for showing and for supporting the American Federation of Aviculture. 

Buffalo, New York, – only 20 minutes from the roaring of the grandiose Niagara Falls – held a wonder of its own when AFA Members Dan and Susan Easter of Hempstead, Texas won the coveted AFA Show Award, Kellogg Division trophy, and Scannell Award for Best Bird in the entire show, in one swell swoop at the 51st annual National Cage Bird Show. The historic decision did not rest upon the shoulders of one judge alone, but was the collective decision of 15 certified panel judges representing every area of the fancy.

The winner, a perfect representative of the Baraband Parakeet, *Polytelis swainsonii*, known in its native Australia as the Superb Parrot, impressed all the judges by "holding together" all day with its sleek and perfect feather condition, excellent show posture, and confidence (known as "deportment"), and vibrant color, all working to highlight an excellent body shape which show judges refer to as "conformation." "When a splendid specimen sits up in front of the judge and shows consistently well over a two-day period, it is difficult not to be impressed" was the comment of North American Parrot Society Panel Judge Annette Howard who placed the Baraband as Best Parrot; with which 15 other judges – the majority of them canary judges – concurred.

In support of AFA members who exhibit their birds, the AFA National Show Award has become a proud tradition and is presented at both the Great American Bird Show, and the National Cage Bird Show, to: "The Best Bird in Show Bred and Banded by an AFA Member."



Dan Easter (left) presented with the AFA National Show Award by AFA Show Award Project Manager Linda S. Rubin (center). National Cage Bird Show President Harold Sodamann on the right.

While the AFA Show Award has included parrots as previous winners – who are first judged recipients of the highly regarded Kellogg Trophy presented by Kelloggs/Scott Pet Products awarded to the best of each division at the National Cage Bird Show – until now the AFA Show Award has never been awarded to the Best in Show winner. Now, a truly historic event, it is the first time any exhibitor has received the Kellogg, the AFA Show Award, and the Scannell Best in Show Award, with one entry at The National Cage Bird Show, long touted as “Your Show of Shows!”

The Award Banquet commenced Saturday evening with some 500+ exhibitors in attendance waiting with bated breathe to learn who was Best in Show, and who would be the recipient of the AFA National Show Award. Stunned, and in a dream-like gait, Dan and Susan Easter rose when their name was called first for the presentation of the AFA Show Award; then a second time to receive the Kellogg Trophy for Best Parrot in Division; and a third, unprecedented time, for the Scannell Best in Show top honor. The message to exhibitors? Keep your AFA membership current, since the next time you exhibit a bird at a national show, it might be your name called to the lectern. 🐦

Best in Show winners Dan and Susan Easter (left), presented the Scannell trophy by John Ulrich of Kellogg/Scott (second to right), with NAPS Parrot Judge Annette Howard (right).

