



This Issue

A zoogeographical region is, dear readers, an area defined to a great extent by the kind of animals (birds, in our case) within it. The *Watchbird* series focusing on such regions begins here with Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand – a zoogeographical region of great significance to aviculture.

Fittingly, the first regional article (after my prelude) is titled “100 Years of Aviculture – an Australian Perspective” by Graeme Hyde. Hyde is the perfect person to write such an article as he is one of the few who can actually remember most of those 100 years (just kidding, Graeme – I know you have forgotten some of them). He has edited *Australian Aviculture* for many, many, many years and has a very good feel for the history he writes of.

Next comes Glen Holland's description of his family vacation through the southern part of Australia. The wild birds he reports on are a wish list for many of us. Holland is a first class aviculturist we'll meet again.

Then we have a press release about *The Swift Parakeet*, an excellent and colorful book about this rare and wonderful bird. The plethora of color photos (real eye candy) are almost all by noted wildlife photographer, Cyril Laubscher. Read this press release and take advantage of the remarkable offer it contains.

Susie Christian then tells of her personal affair with a Rose-breasted Cockatoo – one of the favorite birds from Australia.

And if you have been told that Gouldian Finches still try to operate on the Australian seasonal calendar, be

sure to read the short piece Peggy Dalrymple has written. She has many years experience with Australian finches and willingly shares her knowledge.

Page 35 brings us to Joseph Forshaw's outstanding article on one of my personal favorites – the Golden-shouldered Parakeet. Forshaw is a world class ornithologist and aviculturist whom you all know from the extraordinary bird books he has written. You parrot people will love this article.

On page 45 Dr. Matthew Vriends, another prolific and knowledgeable writer, treats us to an overview of the five most popular Australian Grass Parakeets, my first parrots after the Budgies.

Then we meet Glen Holland again, this time at work. His job involves captive breeding New Zealand's endangered birds for conservation. He deals with some very interesting birds and techniques. A fascinating article.

Still in New Zealand, we have Jim Chou's article on a beautiful pied mutation of the Red-fronted Kakariki.

This barely scratches the surface of our first region but don't worry, we'll return to it in due time.

In addition to the above “regional” material, we have a lot of articles that will educate and entertain you. There is also some new Organizational material you'll be interested in. Check the newly formatted table of contents for the selection.

Enjoy this journal – and we'll see you next issue in South America.

Sheldon Dingle, Editor





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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.

Convention Corner 2000

by Kelly Davis, Oakton, Virginia

AFA's Annual Convention is taking place at the Wyndham Hotel at LAX in exciting Los Angeles, California. This year AFA's speaker line-up includes numerous interesting and beneficial topics for everyone. Whether you are a bird breeder, or you just purchased your first pet bird, AFA Convention 2000 has a session for you. Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to hear great speakers on bird breeding, nutrition, mutations, buying your first bird, and much more!

Listed below are some of the great speakers lined up for the American Federation of Aviculture's Convention 2000!

- Dawn Adams, from the Houston Zoo, will be talking about The First US Breeding and Raising of the Great Blue Turaco.

- Thomas Arndt, sponsored by the International Conure Association, will be speaking on Conures and Pygmy Parrots.

- Robert Black will be talking on Establishing Successful, Dependable Breeding Strains in Aviculture.

- Jim Bonner will talk about Studbooks and Softbills.

- Don Brightsmith, Ph.D., will be discussing The Role of Aviculture and Aviculturists in Conservation.

- Mark Bussekey, sponsored by the Cockatoo Society, is joining us from France. He will be talking about Breeding Red-vented Cockatoos.

- Kashmir K. Csaky is going to be talking on Co-parenting Macaws: a comparative study of parent raised and hand raised siblings.

- Bonnie Duncan is joining us for Pet Day. She will be talking about Positive Guidance for Parrots.

- Brian Eddy, sponsored by the Amazona Society, is speaking on Breeding Amazons in Canada.

- Mark Edwards, Ph.D., a nutritionist from the San Diego Zoo will be talking about Avian Diet.

- Malcolm Green will be joining the AFA from the UK to discuss cage and aviary bird nutrition – past, present and future. He is also talking about how to help our sick birds get better.

- Allison Harmon will be talking on the Columbiformes Foster Rearing Program at the Zoological Society of San Diego.

- Annette Howard, sponsored by the North American Parrot Society, will discuss The Ultimate Show – Scannel Trophy for Excellence.

- Jenni Jackson is discussing The Cockatoo Challenge – Beyond 2000.

- Jerry Jennings will be talking about Consortiums and Toucans.

- Josef Lindholm III is speaking about the Two Centuries of American Aviculture.

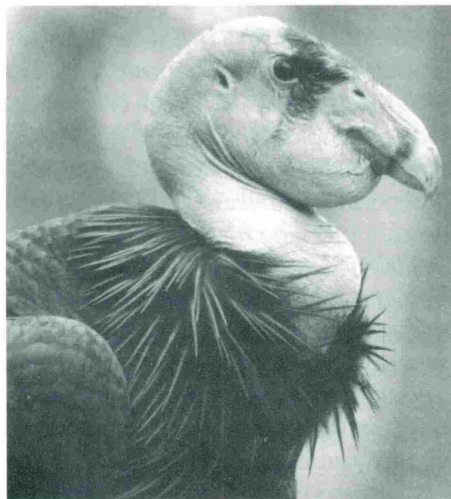
- Jerry McCawley, sponsored by Society of Parrot Breeder and Exhibitors, will be speaking on the Pet Day Track Also. He will be discussing How to go from a Pet Owner to a Breeder.

- Sandee Molenda, sponsored by the Parrotlet Society, will be speaking on Parrotlets.

- Linda Morrow is on our Pet Day line-up. She will be talking about early training of Macaws, Teaching Basic Cues with Positive Reinforcement.

- Bob Nelson is speaking about The Barred and Lineolated Parakeet.

- Lyrae Perry will be discussing the Genetic Color Mutations in various bird species as well as Aviculture Facts



Topa Topa, a very long time resident at the Los Angeles Zoo. He became part of the program to captive breed the California Condors.

Photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Zoo.

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and Fiction.

- Graeme Phipps will be speaking on The Millennial Project for Aviculture and The Millennial Project Modules.

- Frank Pearce will be talking about Incubation.

- Larry Ring is talking about The Business of Aviculture – Moving into the 21st Century.

- Linda Rubin, sponsored by the National Cockatiel Society, will speak on Cockatiel Husbandry: Progressive Breeding Programs for Y2K.

- Wayne Schulenberg will be talking about Softbills.

- George Smith, sponsored by the Asiatic Breeders Association, will come from England to speak on mutations.

- Paula Strasser will be speaking on Planted Aviaries for Softbills.

- Darrel Styles, MS, DVM is going to be discussing The AFA Red Siskin Project.

As you can see, Convention 2000 has a topic for everyone. AFA will be hosting speakers from various parts of the world who will present a wide variety of topics. Besides an array of educational speakers, AFA's exhibit hall will allow you to see the latest and greatest in avian equipment and supplies. Increase your knowledge and meet lots of wonderful bird people – make plans now to attend!

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