

From the Editor's Desk

Pyrrhura Breeders Association

An Amazing Organization Doing Amazing Things

by Sandee L. Molenda

Specialty Organization Vice President

Many of you have already heard that the AFA Board of Directors has finally decided to publish the *AFA Watchbird* quarterly. I heartily applaud the plan and, indeed, brought it up a number of years ago. There are several distinct advantages to such scheduling.

The first and most compelling advantage is financial. It is this financial advantage, I suspect, that causes the vast majority of the professional journals to publish quarterly. In the real world, organizations that fail to keep overhead expenses tightly trimmed, fail -- period.

The major cost of the printing process is setting up the press. By eliminating two press set-ups a year we can save thousands of dollars. But this does not mean that you, the AFA member, will be short-changed.

Our plans for 2002 include an expanded 80-page *AFA Watchbird Journal*. When we factor in the pages of institutional and advertising material, it comprises a smaller percentage of the 80-page *Watchbird* than it did in the 64 page book. This gives us a higher percentage of pages for bird articles in the 80-pager. In the end, you will receive approximately the same number of bird pages per year as you receive now -- but it will cost the AFA much less.

Other advantages of quarterly include more time to gather articles, proofreading them, peer-reviewing those articles that require it -- all factors that combine to improve the quality of the journal.

We propose Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall issues which will be bigger and better than anything you have yet received. Your support of the AFA, is crucial to its success and to our plans for more pages, more color, and more information in the *AFA Watchbird*.

Sheldon Dingle, editor 

The Pyrrhura Breeders Association came about to bring together people interested in the keeping and breeding of *Pyrrhura* conures, to share information and knowledge on the individual species and subspecies, and to establish studbooks for the rarer species. The Pyrrhura Breeders Association features an on-line based forum and a web-site full of information and pictures of *Pyrrhura* conures.

One can also benefit from their printed quarterly newsletter which features informative articles on species, nutrition, breeding, and other items of interest. It also contains free members-only ads for 'wanted' and 'for sale' birds.

If you have ever had questions about *Pyrrhura* conures and nowhere to get answers, find your answers here. You may also connect with other *Pyrrhura* breeders and discuss breeding, feeding, housing, and caring for these beautiful creatures. Find out what works for others and what doesn't. Locate mates for your singles or that particular species that you have always wanted.

The Pyrrhura Breeders Association is growing and now includes members from Europe and South Africa. After turning two years old in January, 2001, all of their programs are holding their own and they have recently published their fourth on-line *PBA Newsletter*.

The PBA will have a booth and meeting at the American Federation of Aviculture convention in Houston and will also hold a raffle.

A breeding consortium was started in August 1998 and in November of 1998 papers were filed with US Fish & Wildlife Service. It took time to get specific species permitted and then to get the individual birds permitted, totaling a little over

a year and a half. The actual process began with the shipper getting health certificates and CITES permits in order to export from his country.

In the US, they had to reserve space with a USDA quarantine facility and coordinate the importation with USDA, USF&WS, Customs, customs brokers, and transportation to the quarantine facility.

The birds spent the mandatory 30 days in isolation, were tested for Exotic Newcastle Disease and Avian Influenza. The birds were released from quarantine on December 5, 2000. By now, the Pyrrhura Breeders Association had been involved in this project a little over two and a half years.

Altogether, the five consortium members brought in 12 pairs of Rose-fronted Conures *Pyrrhura p. roseifrons* and 10 pairs of Fiery-shouldered Conures *Pyrrhura e. egregia*. The birds were distributed in multiple pairings across the United States to the five members of the consortium. They decided that having them in different areas the birds would not be vulnerable to one catastrophe and the species would be easier to establish nationally. Presently, they are compiling information into studbooks for Painted, Souance, and Black-capped Conures.

Check out the Pyrrhura Breeders Association. They are currently offering a limited two month on line trial membership. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Annual dues are \$20.

For More Information Contact:

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