

- Clean and service equipment such as air filters and humidifiers. The humidifier water tank should be washed and sterilized at least once a month.

- Air and water filters should be changed as directed. (Adding a few drops of disinfectant, such as Grapefruit Seed Extract, to the water tank daily, will prevent a buildup of bacteria in it.)

- Evacuation plans and the equipment needed to carry out an evacuation due to extreme weather, fire, or other unforeseen events should be checked monthly and updated, especially if birds have been added to the flock.

#### **Bi-annually**

- Batteries in smoke detectors should be checked twice a year when you reset your clocks for daylight savings time in the spring and fall.

- Check veterinary, poison control, and hotline phone numbers that should be kept by your telephone. Remind all family members and bird sitters what to do in the event of an accident or poisoning.

#### **Yearly**

- Check all components of your avian first aid kit to be sure they are state of the art and have not outlived their expiration date. Test electrical equipment, such as heating pads.

- Check your will or your instructions for the care of your birds in the event of your death, and update if necessary. People and situations change constantly so it is important that your instructions reflecting your wishes for the future care of your birds is updated yearly.

Note: The Boerner V-slicer can be viewed online:

< <http://www.kingmarketing.com/slicer.htm> >



# *To Soar With Eagles*

by Brent Andrus, AFA Western Regional Director

*"I am the Eagle. I live in high country, in rocky cathedrals that reach to the sky ..... Come dance on the west wind and touch on the mountain tops. Sail over the canyons and up to the stars. And reach for the heavens and hope for the future and all that you can be and not what you are."* From the "The Eagle and the Hawk" by John Denver.

The eagle has always symbolized majesty and high obtainment. At the Houston Convention last year the "To Soar With Eagles" AFA affiliated club membership contest and fund raiser was introduced. A packet containing the contest and fund raising information was mailed to all club delegates by the end of August.

The American Federation of Aviculture's membership drive allowed it's affiliated clubs to earn money while striving for excellence in gaining membership for AFA. Each club could earn up to \$5 for each new member recruited and for each member it renewed. The contest ran from September 1 through December 31 of 2001.

The TOP CLUB in recruiting new and renewing members receives recognition in the official journal of AFA the WATCHBIRD and will be awarded a plaque and have it's name inscribed on the permanent President's trophy which will be on display at the AFA conventions. The picture of the AFA President awarding the trophy to the top club will appear in the *AFA Watchbird*. In addition the 2nd and 3rd place clubs will also awarded plaques and be recognized in the *AFA Watchbird*. There are two categories of awards – one for clubs under 50 members and one for clubs over 50 members.

I am pleased to announce the winners for 2001:

#### **Category A**

(over 50 members)

<b>1st</b>	<b>Arizona Seed Crackers</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Dallas Bird Society</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Avicultural Society of America</b>

#### **Category B**

(under 50 members)

<b>1st</b>	<b>San Diego Bird Breeders</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Arizona Bird club</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Exotic bird Club of Florida</b>

A special thanks to these clubs for participating: Arizona Avian Breeders Association, Arizona Avicultural Society, Arizona Bird Club, Arizona Seed Crackers, Avicultural Society of America, Avicultural Society of Tucson, Central Coast Avicultural Society, Charleston Bird Club, Companion Bird Club of Atlanta, Dallas Bird Society, Exotic Bird Club of Florida, Las Vegas Avicultural Society, Oklahoma Avicultural Society, Parrot Breeders Association of Virginia, Pyrrhura Breeders Association, Reno Area Avian Enthusiasts, San Diego Bird Breeders, and Triangle Bird Club. The goal is to have this contest every year. Perhaps your club will "Soar with the Eagles" in 2002! ➤