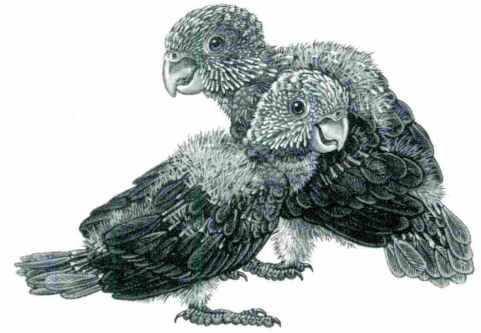


AFA Convention Corner '04

By Esther A. Aboumaali, Kansas City, MO

AFA's 30th Anniversary Convention,
August 4-7, 2004
San Francisco, California.



AFA30
*Evolution of
Aviculture*

Since 1974, the American Federation of Aviculture has been successfully promoting the advancement of aviculture. The AFA Conventions began as a key channel to educate its members and future members. Combining both fun and education, the AFA Conventions feature world-renowned speakers, the latest and newest bird products by diverse avian exhibitors, and networking opportunities. Thirty years later, the AFA Convention is still the major avian event for all who have an interest in birds.

Please use the registration form located on the dust cover of this issue. While you are registering, please make your hotel reservations as well.

Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport
1333 Bayshore Highway • Burlingame, CA 94010 • Ph: (800) 233-1234

AFA Room Rates: Single / Double \$89.00 _ Triple \$114.00 _ Quadruple \$139.00

Reservations: Call 1-800-233-1234 for reservations. Be sure to mention the American Federation of Aviculture and Group Code: AFAV to ensure the discounted room rates.

Transportation: There is free shuttle service from the San Francisco Airport to the Hyatt. If you are driving, AFA has discounted parking rates of \$9 per day/per vehicle.

Please join us as AFA celebrates Thirty Years!
A great line up is scheduled with many anniversary surprises! Don't miss out on:

Wednesday, August 4th: HOD Meeting, Exhibits, 30th Anniversary Bash.

Thursday, August 5th: General Sessions, Exhibits, Specialty Meetings.

Friday, August 6th: General Sessions, Exhibits, Specialty Meetings.

Saturday, August 7th: General Sessions, Exhibits, Reception, Silent Auction, & Banquet.

From the spectacular view of Golden Gate Bridge or a ride on the famed cable cars, San Francisco is a one-of-a-kind city. Plan some extra time to experience what this fabulous city on the bay has to offer:

• Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39 • Alcatraz • Ghirardelli Square • Chinatown • San Francisco Zoo • The Palace of Fine Arts • Golden Gate Bridge • Nearby Wineries • Museums • Golden Gate Park • Yerba Buena Gardens • World Class shopping at Union Square • And much, much more!

For more Convention information, please contact the AFA P.O. Box 159, Rossville, TN 38066
Email: ConventionCentral@idealbirds.com, or visit the AFA website: www.afabirds.org.
Phone 901-853-6079 • Fax 901-853-8452

THE AFA 2004 CONVENTION SPEAKERS

The American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) is pleased to announce its 2004 Convention Speakers for the 30th Anniversary Convention to be held August 4-7, 2004 in San Francisco, California. Speakers will cover topics that include husbandry and management, conservation and field research, reintroduction and species recovery programs, veterinary medicine and research, incubation and neonatal husbandry, and pet bird behavior and training. These talks should be of interest to everyone from the experienced long-time breeder to the first-time bird owner. We have made every effort to ensure that the speakers, special interest symposia, round-tables, and general sessions will provide the convention participants with an opportunity to attend and experience a wide and diverse range of presentations and events.

We have scheduled three special interest symposia: (1) a Veterinary Symposium that addresses various aspects of avian veterinary research and avian health management, (2) the Companion Bird Symposium addresses companion bird issues ranging from behavior modification to avian health and management, and (3) a Finch and Softbill Symposium covering a range of topics from hand-feeding to conservation and reintroduction. There will also be a number of round-tables that will provide the speakers and the audience an opportunity to interact and discuss issues of importance to aviculture. Titles and speakers are subject to change without notice. Some speakers are giving more than one presentation. The 2004 Convention Speakers (listed in alphabetical order) include:

• **Dr. George Amato:** "Conservation Genetics of Amazon Parrots." George Amato is Director of the Science Resource Center and Senior Conservation Geneticist at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). This is absolutely ground-breaking work and should be of interest to anyone who raises or keeps Amazons.

• **Mattie Sue Athan:** "How Companion Parrot Behavior Modification has Changed with the Evolution of Aviculture." (Sponsored by the Quaker Parakeet Society.) Mattie Sue Athan is a well known author and companion parrot behavior consultant. She will highlight three decades of changes in the management of pet bird behavior. COMPANION BIRD SYMPOSIUM

• **Laurie Baker:** "Pet Shops - - The good, bad & ugly. How to be the good guy." Laurie Baker is an aviculturist and bird shop owner. This talk focuses on an important constituency within the organization - the commercial member and the independent retail shop. Should be quite interesting to both buyers of birds and sellers of birds.

• **Dr. Devorah Bennu:** "Plumage color patterns as informative taxonomic characters in Lories." Dr. Devorah Bennu is a researcher with the American Museum of Natural History. She is also an aviculturist who specializes in lories and lorikeets. This presentation will present her research into loriine evolutionary relationships and addresses taxonomic confusion in Lories.

• **Mark Bittner:** "The Parrots of Telegraph Hill: A Love Story... With Wings." (Sponsored by the International Conure Association.) Mark Bittner has written a book that chronicles his observations of and interactions with the wild parrots of Telegraph Hill in San Francisco. Bittner's presentation of his story will be the "Grand Finale" talk of the convention on Saturday.

• **Sally Blanchard:** "Companion Parrots as a Barometer for the Health of Aviculture." (Sponsored by the Amazona Society.) Sally Blanchard is a well known speaker, writer, companion parrot consultant, and the editor of the *Companion Parrot Quarterly* magazine. She will share her personal experiences on the growth of the companion parrot industry in the United States. She will also present a talk in the COMPANION BIRD SYMPOSIUM.

• **Dr. Donald Brightsmith:** "Clay Lick use by Parrots in SE Peru." Dr. Brightsmith is the Research Director and Macaw Project Director of Rainforest Expeditions, Peru. He has done considerable research work in Tambopata and other areas of Peru and this should be a fascinating lecture.

• **Dr. Susan Clubb:** "Feather Damaging Behavior in Parrots." Dr. Susan Clubb is a highly respected veterinarian with years of experience both as a private veterinarian and aviculturist and as a consultant for numerous organizations. COMPANION BIRD SYMPOSIUM.

• **Roland Cristo:** "Aviary Construction and Management." Roland Cristo is a well known long-time aviculturist who brings his many years of expertise by providing a "hands on" talk on aviary construction and management.

• **Neville Connors:** "Black Cockatoos: Avicultural Husbandry and Observations from the Wild." (Sponsored by the Cockatoo Society.) Neville Connors is an Australian aviculturist who just completed a book on the Black Cockatoos. This should be a very interesting talk from the Australian perspective.

• **Laurella Desborough:** "Legislation in the Last 30 Years: What is our Future?" Laurella Desborough will provide the avicultural perspective of legislation in the last thirty years, from the formation of AFA to the present. (2) "The Vasa Parrot of Madagascar." Desborough has been involved in setting up a management cooperative effort for this unique and fascinating species.

• **Cynthia Drury:** "Quieting the Scream." Cynthia Drury is an aviculturist, lecturer, and author. This is a multimedia presentation that examines causes of excessive parrot vocalizations and provides techniques to reduce the problem.

• **Javier Espinosa:** "Evolution of Aviculture in Central and South America." Javier Espinosa brings an interesting personal perspective of Central and South American aviculture. Javier Espinosa recently published an article on the 'Birds of South America' in the current *BIRDS-USA* 2004 issue.

• **Dr. Chester Gipson:** "The Animal Welfare Act (AWA)." Dr. Chester Gipson is the Deputy Administrator of Animal Care of APHIS. He will update the convention participants on the status of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulation process for birds.

• **Diane Grindol:** "The History of Cockatiels." Diane Grindol is a popular writer for *Bird Talk* magazine who has written many books on Cockatiels. As Cockatiels are one of the most popular psittacine pets, this is a very fitting topic for the evolution of aviculture theme of the convention.

• **Mark Hagen:** "Trends and Philosophies of Psittacine Nutrition." Mark Hagen is the Research Director at the Hagen Avicultural Research Institute (HARI). His presentation will cover the evolution of philosophies as well as the latest research in psittacine nutrition.

• **Paula Hansen:** "The AFA Red Siskin Project." (Sponsored by the NFSS.) Paula Hansen is the Chairperson of the AFA Red Siskin Project. She will explain the progress that has been made in the last few years in this AFA sponsored, private-sector based conservation breeding program. FINCH AND SOFTBILL SYMPOSIUM

• **Susan Healy:** "The Thick-Billed Parrot." Susan Healy is the Chairperson of the American Zoo Association (AZA) Thick-billed Parrot Species Survival Plan. This zoo-based breeding program is a wonderful example of how a captive management program can generate support for both veterinary and field conservation research.

• **David Holmes:** "The Management and Breeding of Finches and Softbills in Australia." David Holmes is a long term finch breeder and past president of the Australian Avicultural Society. His insight into the husbandry and management of finches and softbills in Australia is extensive. FINCH AND SOFTBILL SYMPOSIUM

• **Helen Horblit:** "Socorro Island Dove Program." Helen Horblit of the Island Endemics Institute, will highlight the efforts to bring back the Socorro Island Dove to the wild. This is a program that was spearheaded by the late Dr. Luis Baptista who believed that aviculture could help restore the species to its native Socorro Island. FINCH AND SOFTBILL SYMPOSIUM

• **Jerry Jennings:** "Keynote Address:" Jerry Jennings was AFA's first president and has seen the organization through the last thirty years.

• **Susie Kasielke:** "Incubation: Problems and Solutions." Susie Kasielke is the Curator of Birds at the Los Angeles Zoo. She has extensive experience with incubation of many species and has conducted numerous workshops and lectures on this topic. She will focus on problems the aviculturist might encounter in the incubation process and some of the solutions.

• **Bonnie Kenk:** "The Wild Parrots of Southern California." (Sponsored by the Amazona Society.) Bonnie Kenk is the Executive Director of PEAC, a rescue and education organization based in San Diego, California. She will speak of PEAC's experiences with rehabilitation of feral parrots.

• **Greg Matuzak:** "Reintroduction of the Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*) in Costa Rica: What Role does a Supplemental Feeding Program Play in the Species Survival and Conservation?" Greg Matuzak is a conservation biologist with the Amigos de las Aves Scarlet Macaw Reintroduction Project.

• **Judy McElveen:** "Positive Developments in Breeding of Hand-Fed Moluccan Cockatoos." Judy McElveen is an aviculturist with an interest in numerous species. Her insight and experience in breeding hand-reared Moluccan Cockatoos should be of interest to all psittacine breeders.

• **Dr. Lisa Paul:** "Parrot Poopology." (Sponsored by the International Conure Association.) Dr. Paul is a veterinarian in private practice in Northglenn Colorado. She has been a contributing author to *Bird Talk* magazine and lectures for local bird clubs across the US. She will show how to recognize normal versus abnormal droppings to help the owners in identifying health issues before serious disease problems occur. VETERINARY SEMINAR

• **Rochelle Plassé:** "Hand Rearing and Neonatal Care of Pigeons and Doves." Rochelle Plassé is the Avian Manager at Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, Florida. Her multi-media presentation will highlight a variety of pigeons and doves and includes a hand-feeding training video originally developed for her staff which has now been used in a number of zoo training workshops.

• **Dr. Branson Ritchie:** "West Nile Virus Research" and "Infectious Diseases in Psittacine Birds." (Sponsored by Georgia Cage Bird Society.) Dr. Ritchie is the Assistant Professor of Avian/Zoological Medicine at the University of Georgia. He is also the co-editor of the classic work *Avian Medicine: Principles and Application*. He will give two presentations during the VETERINARY SEMINAR.

• **Tani Robar:** "Trick Training: Strengthening the human/bird bond." Tani Robar is a parrot trainer who lectures extensively and teaches bird owners how to train their birds in order to improve their relationship with the birds. COMPANION BIRD SEMINAR

• **Linda S. Rubin:** "Line Breeding Practices in Psittacine Husbandry." (Sponsored by the National Cockatiel Society.) Linda S. Rubin is a recognized author and breeder of Cockatiels and parrots.

As the genetics consultant for the National Cockatiel Society, she will explain line breeding applications – whether breeding for improved husbandry practices, color mutations, or for show.

• **Matt Schmit:** "Pest Control for the Aviary." Matt Schmit is a keeper at the Houston Zoo. This talk is one of the practical "hands-on" avicultural issues presentations. His talk will provide the aviculturist with the latest information on aviary pest control management.

• **Dick Schroeder:** "The Evolution of an Aviary" Dick Schroeder is a long-term aviculturist who is known for his expertise not only in lories and other Psittacines, but also softbills. This presentation will follow the evolution of a personal aviary and should show how aviculturists adapted to changes and avicultural advances over the last 30 years.

• **Dr. Shivaprasad:** "Exotic Newcastle Disease." Dr. Shivaprasad is a well recognized veterinarian who was very active in California during the END crisis. He will give a full update of the END crisis, the efforts that were made to stop it, and the impact on exotic avian collections. His lecture on "Principles of Disease Diagnosis in a Laboratory" provides both breeders and pet owners with an understanding of laboratory techniques important in disease diagnosis. VETERINARY SEMINAR

• **Dr. Brian Speer:** "Advances in Veterinary Medicine." Dr. Speer is a very well known avian veterinarian in California and is a past president of the AAV. He will speak on the advances in veterinary medicine in the last thirty years and the factors that inspired this growth. He will also present a talk on "Corrective Surgical Techniques for Beak Deformities" in the VETERINARY SEMINAR.

• **Fran Sturms:** "Bird Dust in the Home & Aviary - Nothing to Sneeze At!" Fran Sturms is a pet store owner and writer on bird related topics. After she was diagnosed with severe allergies to birds, she found that this serious problem affected many individuals. Her research into the subject should be of interest for anyone who keeps birds.

• **Howard Voren:** "American Aviculture & Thirty Years of Self Consumption" and "The Creation of the Mal-adjusted Parrot Myth." (Sponsored by the Capitol City Bird Society and the Foothill Fanciers Association.) Well known aviculturist and author Howard Voren will provide his views of the last thirty years of aviculture from a commercial breeder's perspective.

• **Dr. Michael Wallace:** "The California Condor Recovery Program." Dr. Wallace is the Head of the USFWS California Condor Recovery Team and the San Diego Zoo's Condor Program. He will provide an update on the successful California Condor program and expand on the role that aviculture has played in endangered species recovery programs.

• **Patricia Whitman:** "San Diego Zoo's Avian Propagation Center." Patricia Whitman is the Animal Care Manager of the Avian Propagation Center (APC) at the San Diego Zoo. The avian propagation center is a state-of-the-art incubation, hand-rearing, and breeding facility of the San Diego Zoo and the Wild Animal Park. This will give a behind the scenes "peek" at the workings of their breeding program.

• **Jamie Whittaker:** "Parrots as Companions & Pets – The Family Flock." Jamie Whittaker is a pet store owner in Texas that specializes in birds and works with individuals in creating a "family flock" and placing multiple birds. She will highlight her approach in helping bird owners understand the social behavior of their parrots.

• **Carlos Yamashita (IBAMA, Brazil):** "Golden Conure in the Wild: Status and Social Behavior." Carlos Yamashita is one of the foremost Brazilian ornithologists specializing in Psittacines. He will speak about his field work and research on the Golden Conure and the Brazilian *Pyrhura*.

AFA Grand 2004 Drawing

This year, the American Federation of Aviculture is celebrating its 30th anniversary, and the team putting together the Super Drawing, Silent Auction, and raffles has been working overtime to bring some very special and unique items to this convention. We decided to give our members an "early bird" peek at some of the items that have been generously donated this year:

The Super Drawing items for 2004 are some of the best we have seen in recent memory:

Prize #1: Avian Library. The first item is something different and appropriate for the theme, Evolution of Aviculture. What better way to celebrate the changes and growth we have seen as an avocation than by assembling some of the premier avian books written over the past 50 years:

- "The Encyclopedia of Lories and Lorikeets" by Rosemary Low 1998, donated by Dick Schroeder of Cuttlebone Plus, www.cuttleboneplus.com.
- "The Large Macaws" by Joanne Abramson, autographed by the author, and donated by Joanne Abramson of Raintree Publications, www.raintreepublications.com.
- "Genus Amazona" by John Stoodley 1990, autographed by the author, donated by Kelly Tucker of www.vktucker.com.
- "Pionus Parrots" by John Stoodley 1983, donated by Nancy Speed.
- "Australian Parrots" by Forshaw 1988, donated by Wanda Elder.
- "Parrots in Aviculture" by Rosemary Low 1992, donated by Wanda Elder.
- "Parrots, Macaws, and Cockatoos – The Art of Elizabeth Butterworth" by Elizabeth Butterworth 1988.
- "Parrots of South America" by Rosemary Low 1972.
- "Parrots and Parrot-Like Birds – Diseases of Birds" by the Duke of Bedford and David Coffin, 1954
- "Foreign Bird Keeping" by Edward Boosey.
- "Parrot Production Incorporating Incubation" by John and Pat Stoodley, 1983.
- "Parrots, Cockatoos, and Macaws" by Edward Boosey, 1956.
- "The Living Air" by Jean Delacour, 1966.

More books are on their way, so watch the website and the next Watchbird for more additions!

Prize #2: Fresh Air Purifier – Alpine Air Purification Systems' "Fresh Air" is the top of their line. These "Living Air"[®] purifiers use unique proprietary radio

wave-like ionization along with activated oxygen to purify the air, and is designed for an entire house up to 3,000 square feet. For more information, go to www.freshairliving.com/welder and enter the password GUEST. This item is donated by I Deal Purification Systems with an approximate value of \$700.

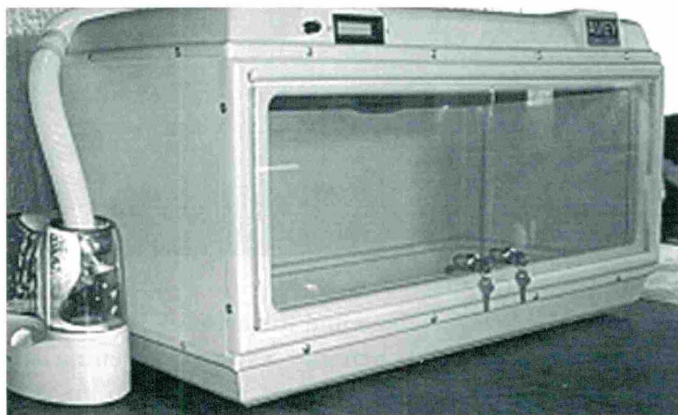
Prize #3: A \$500 Gift Certificate toward Gamini Ratnavira Artwork – Gamini Ratnavira, a world renowned tropical wildlife artist, has donated a \$500 gift certificate to be used towards any original or lithograph print. You can commission your bird to be painted in its natural environment as well. To see Gamini's work, please see the example above or go to his website at www.gaminiratnavira.com or contact Lisa or Gamini Ratnavira at 760-723-9256 or lisa@tfb.com.

Prize #4: One Week in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico – Seven nights, from Monday, December 6, 2004 to Monday, December 13, 2004 at a gorgeous resort in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico – master suite has two queen size beds and the living room has a queen size pull out couch which sleeps two, sleeps 6 in total. Unit has private balcony, full kitchen, two baths, and master bath has Jacuzzi. This prize includes accommodations-only at the Hacienda Del Mar Vacation Club, which is surrounded by the Jack Nicklaus Signature Ocean Golf Course known as the "Pebble Beach of Baja at Cabo del Sol." Amenities include infinity swimming pools with waterfalls and countless fountains, private beaches, European-style spa and fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment and personal trainers. For more information, go to www.haciendadelmar.com.mx. This fabulous trip, with an approximate value of \$6,500, is donated by Dave and Terri Jones of www.flockstockandbarrel.com.

Prize #5: Rainforest Expeditions Land Trip to Peru – Noted ecotourism organization, Rainforest Expeditions has donated a land trip for (2), six days and five nights, to Peru. This trip, excluding airfare, includes all hotel and lodge accommodations based on double occupancy, all scheduled land and river transportation, all transfers, all scheduled excursions with English-speaking guide services, and meals as specified in the itinerary at www.perunature.com. You will see the world's largest clay lick, visit the canopy tower and oxbow lake at Posada Amazonas, hike to a macaw-nesting colony at Tambopata Research Center, and explore its trail system at leisure with expert naturalist guides. Rainforest Expeditions is a Peruvian ecotourism company founded in 1992 that owns

two ecolodges in the Tambopata Nature Reserve in the southeastern Amazonian Peru. Contact them at 877-905-3782. The approximate value of this prize is \$1,500.

Prize #6: Avey Brooder – Avey Incubator has donated their best brooder, a 32” wide, featuring digital control of temperature and humidity. Now, set the humidity precisely as you set the temperature. Also, high and low temperature alarms, clear acrylic doors with security locks, and air filter. This \$868 retail value includes ground shipment to the winner. More brooders and options are available at www.aveyinc.com, 1-877-AVEYINC, or 1-877-283-9462.



#6 - Avey Brooder

Prize #7: Innovative Inclosures \$1,000 Gift Certificate – Innovative Inclosures of Fallbrook, California has donated a \$1,000 gift certificate towards one of their extraordinary custom cages or accessories. There are custom sizes, colors, and designs available, with internal or external double door vestibules. For more information on these terrific cages and accessories, go to www.innovativeinclosures.com or call 760-728-6838.

Prize #8: Silver and Diamond Earrings – Long’s Jewelers has donated a lovely pair of Scott Kay designed sterling silver and diamond pierced earrings worth \$1,100. Long’s Jewelers, established in 1870, has the finest selection of quality Diamonds, Gems, Timepieces, and Gifts available. For more information, go to www.longsjewelers.com or call 877-845-6647.

Tickets for the Super Drawing prizes are available on the dust jacket of the “Watchbird,” from the AFA office, the AFA website at www.AFAbirds.org, and at the AFA Convention in San Francisco in August 2004.

Debbie Treanor has been collecting distinctive items for the Silent Auction – prints, stamps, antique postcards, and more. In addition, John and Carol Brasaemle have once again donated a beautiful painting entitled “Major Mitchell’s: Crests Up”, matted and framed. You can view

this wonderful work at <http://home.comcast.net/~avianart>. Beth Greenberg is donating one of her inimitable painted ostrich eggs. Based upon last year’s creation, this item will undoubtedly engender some exciting bidding. Ideal Birds has donated 6 mm white pearl earrings, a tanzanite/diamond ring, a diamond ring, white sapphire earrings, and a set of diamond earrings and matching pendant, for all you fans of the sparkly things!

The raffle table will be special this year as well. In keeping with our theme of the Evolution of Aviculture, there will be numerous books available from 1898s “Feathered Pets” through the most current offerings. Rosemary Low has graciously donated a “basket” of auto-graphed copies of her current books. Jorge Panama Miller has donated two parrot molas, which are piecework and embroidered creations by the Kuna Indians of Panama. For more information, go to <http://molastore.com/molasbirds.html>. The Peddlars Junction has donated a Tiffany-style stained glass parrot lamp sculpture. For more information, go to <http://stores.ebay.com/thepeddlarsjunction>. Other items include a small Herend fishnet porcelain parrot, a Swarovski silk scarf, alpaca apparel, toys, jewelry, and many other items.

If you would like to donate an item to our raffles or Silent Auction, please contact Brenda Piper at pipersparrots@comcast.net or 978-777-4567. We are especially looking for airline tickets to go with our two trips to Peru and Mexico, so if you have lots of extra Frequent Flyer miles, consider donating a ticket to AFA. And remember to patronize the kind and generous folks who have given the American Federation of Aviculture so many terrific fundraising items. Please help make our 30th anniversary convention our most successful ever! ❖



#7 - Innovative Inclosures