



A.F.A.
ANNUAL
RAFFLE
drawing to be
held
August 21, 1976
at the
Convention
on the
Queen Mary
Long Beach, California



HONOLULU ** WAIKIKI ** HAWAII

Many AFAer's missed last years raffle and were very disappointed. Take heart! This year it's bigger and better.

The Grand Prize — HONOLULU, HAWAII — For Two! That's 7 days and 6 nights from LAX to the Princess Kaiulani Hotel and return.



2nd Prize — Winners Choice! Bell and Howell 8mm Movie camera and projector OR Gentlemen's and Ladies' Hamilton Watches. They are electronic transistorized with sweep hands in 14K gold.

3rd Prize — 10 winners will receive a Name Brand 5½ qt. Cooker-Fryer!

How's that so far? It gets even better.
There's more....More....MORE!

Cash rebates will be awarded to "Member Clubs" for each ticket sold.

Each Member Club selling the highest percentage of tickets as to membership in each of the two membership divisions will also receive their choice of a West Bend 30 cup coffee urn OR a Midland cassette recorder!

Now...for you GREAT SALESMEN. The eligible seller of the Grand Prize will receive a pair of Fisher Love Birds!! The more ticket you sell the better chance you have to win the Fisher's. So let's get those tickets moving! All your friends, all club members, and all those you work with will want to be in on this one!!

Line up your prospects NOW. This is the AFA's one fund raiser for the year and everybody can win!! We need your active support. Complete details will be found with your initial ticket supply. Watch for them!

WHY HYBRIDIZE?

Until recently the reasons for hybridizing might reasonably have been construed as "intellectual". Most hybridizers were interested in crosses for the curiosities produced, for improving song or color, or to establish a new kind of bird. Today, with the scarcity of birds and the resultant rise in prices, hybridizing can be the only way out in an effort to maintain a species for which a mate isn't readily available. The choice here is to use a closely related bird in the hope of obtaining fertile hybrids or to wait until a bird of the species required is available. In the latter case, the wait may be indefinite.

Another case for hybridizing can be made among the many people who have birds that are poor producers; Gouldian Finches for example. It is my opinion that the reason why such birds are unreliable lies with us rather than the birds. Face it, Gouldians maintain a wild population and if they were naturally as bad as they are in captivity, that population would have long ceased to exist. The greed (and that's what it is) surrounding these and like birds has led to an almost universal practice of fostering out their eggs. This may increase production for a time, but it is a closed system. Inevitably, those birds that might prove to be poor parents and, therefore, would not contribute to the gene pool have been allowed to reproduce and to pollute that pool. There is no way in which the aviculturist who uses fosters can determine that production capacity of even a single pair of birds by this method. Had aviculturists had the nerve to destroy birds that were bad parents, we would now have Gouldians breeding like Zebra Finches.

The damage has been done and the idea here is to present a method of correcting it via hybridizing. The actual method of doing this will be taken up at a later time.

There are a number of people who are against hybridizing on some obscure principle, one of which is that it is not "natural". Far from it. A surprising number of animals hybridize when the opportunity presents itself. Birds seem more prone to hybridize than other animals and one of the prime reasons is that they have greater mobility than mammals. Geese, Ducks, Tanagers, Woodpeckers, Wood Warblers, Parrots, Titmice and Finches are just a few of the kinds that produce wild-bred hybrids. More often than not, the operating principle seems to be the state or breeding readiness in the two birds, coupled with a reasonably close relationship.

Successful hybridizing requires a certain amount of scientific technique. The

Der Vogelfänger

by Joseph G. Griffith

HYBRIDIZING BIRDS

hybridizer should have a "scientific" mind. By this, I mean that there are some ingredients that go to make up this kind of mind and they are not always linked to those who have degrees. The ingredients are:

1. Unbounded but disciplined curiosity.
2. Tenacity.
3. A set of goals.
4. The willingness to learn from mistakes.
5. Some knowledge of the current thinking about the relationships of birds, or the willingness to acquire that knowledge.

All of these are necessary to some degree even if you only wish to hybridize on a one-time basis; to save a species that you can't otherwise acquire for instance. The wisest choice can only be made if you have some knowledge of how birds are related or you are likely to give up, or not give it an honest try, if things are not going well. The real test is not in making the initial cross, but in having the persistence to test the results. Fertility rates in only a few hybrids are well documented and many of them are slow maturers. Frequently a hybrid will not be fertile until it is four or five years old. You can't afford not to test the bird every year, but do you have the patience to test all of those produced?

Fortunately, although many hybrids have to be produced in aviaries, a large number of them are sufficiently stable to be test mated in cages. Should a hen of a species, mated to a hybrid, have infertile eggs, there is no need not to use her as a foster mother. Sometimes this is what is needed to do the trick. Having helped to raise a clutch of young, the hybrid has been forced to undergo many hormonal changes and it might swing the balance on your side for the next round.

While dealing with this subject, it is well to note that most hybrids are superior parents. Fertility is usually highest in cocks, but some hens will build nests and go broody. Some will even lay eggs. Any hybrid hen that is inclined to nest should be encouraged and used as a foster. I am not advocating a foster program, but in any breeding program there are proven

breeders whose increase will not go amiss.

Many birds are single brooded, but if the first clutch is removed another will soon follow. Double, or multi, brooded birds will also reneest quickly. In this way you can have two broods of birds in roughly one and a half times it would take to produce one. The hybrids feed one clutch while the parents feed a second.

A common feature of hybrids is called "hybrid vigor". Hybrids are frequently longer lived than either of the parent species, they are sometimes more aggressive, they tend to be more agile, and they tend to improve with age.

Despite the little that is known about hybrid fertility rates, every hybrid represents the potential beginning of a new kind of bird. This holds true if the hybrid is the means by which a special feature of

one species is added to another, or if the hybrid is valued in itself.

By keeping careful records, the hybridizer can make a valuable contribution to man's knowledge. The relationship of birds is still in some doubt and the fertility percentages are strong clues to how closely related the birds involved are. This genetic work, coupled with work being done in anatomy and behavior might just fill some of the more important gaps.

The most commonly hybridized bird is the Canary. A special term has been devised to refer to all Canary hybrids. The term is "mule" and is unfortunate in that it tends to lead people to believe that they are sterile. This is not necessarily the case. The term is, however, convenient. When someone refers to a Goldfinch mule, Siskin mule or Bullfinch mule, you automatically know that each of the above is a cross with a Canary. Many of these "mules" have proven to be fertile and there is a growing interest in using a number of them for characteristics that they can donate to the Canary. All other hybrids are called hybrids with the male parent listed first. Thus, Goldfinch (male) X Greenfinch (female) or Greenfinch (male) X Goldfinch (female) ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED RATES — \$3.00 minimum charge for 4 lines of type (average 7 words per line). Additional charge of 9¢ per word for ad running over 28 words. (28 words to include name, address and phone.) All copy to be **RECEIVED BY 15th** day of month preceding publication.

WANTED: Additional breeding stock of miniature dove, quail and exotic finches. Will trade or purchase. Call or write: Frank J. Kozeluh, 6171 Amarillo, La Mesa, CA. 92041. Phone (714) 469-4724.

FOR SALE: TWO FINE BOOKLETS to help with care and training of Cage Birds. "Raising Parakeets for Pleasure and Profit". "Raising Canaries for Pleasure and Profit". \$3.00 each — or both for \$5.00. Mrs. A.D. Myers, 6076 — 82nd Terrace, Pinellas Park, Florida 33565.

FOR SALE: Lady Goulds, 1975 hatch, all birds raised in my outside aviary. Art Schultz, 2666 Circle Dr., Escondido, CA. 92025. (714) 745-1290.

LIVE MEAL WORMS encourage breeding, provide natural vitamin-packed nutrients for growth and development. Fun to hand feed for taming! Wholesale to Club Members: 5000 @ \$9.25; 10,000 @ 17.50, 20,000 @ 32.00. Handy cups of 500 in bran only \$15.60 per dozen. **SO POOL YOUR ORDERS!** Call tonight (714) 298-5678 until 7 p.m. Olympic Meal Worms, Dept. A.F.A., Box 2500, La Jolla, CA. 92038.

LADY GOULDIANS — \$90.00 per pair. All Birds raised in outside Aviaries. Dr. Watkins, 4234 Toch Street, San Diego, Calif. 92117 (714) 274-4473 (after 6)

WANTED: 1 Pileated Parrot hen, 1 Short Tailed Parrot hen (Graydidascalus brachyurus). Dr. Ray Kray, Veterinary Clinic, 10611 Burbank Boulevard, No. Hollywood, Calif. 91601.

FOR SALE: Welded Wire 1/2" x 1/2", 4' x 100'. Wholesale price. Jerry Jennings, 1803 Pontius Ave., L.A., Calif. (213) 884-5476 evenings.

WANTED: Cuban Melodious Finch. Jerry Jennings, 1803 Pontius Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90025. Tel. (213) 884-5476 evenings.

FOR SALE — Parrots of all kinds — Dusky, Yellow Streaked, Black Capped Lorries — Also Parrots, Macaw's and Cockatoos — Crimson Wings — other Lorries. Exotic Bird and Animal Imports — P.O. Box 402343, Oceanview Branch, Miami Beach, Florida 33140.

Have peach face color mutations, some breeder pairs. Also blue masked and cockatiels. SASE for list. Need hen Elegants and hen red front Kakariki. Phil Ryan, 183 14th Ave., N.W., New Brighton, Minnesota 55112, (612) 636-5133.

FOR SALE: Moluccan (Great Salmon Crested), young, hand tamed, very entertaining, whistles, dances, talks. Beautiful condition, outstanding crest. \$2000. Private collection. W.W. Fetner — Phone (314) 965-5677.