

### ENTER THE SHUTTERBUG CONTEST

SUBJECT: Exotic Aviary Birds  
DEADLINE: August 2nd, 1976  
ENTREES: On Display at Convention on Q.M.  
LIMIT: 5 per person

WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED SATURDAY EVENING AUGUST 21st

Last year's winners were

Helmar Gehrisch  
San Diego, CA.

Jack Wanstrath  
Long Beach, CA.

Howard LaPierre  
Whittier, CA.

## A.F.A. ASSISTS CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BREEDERS

Contra Costa County bird breeders have succeeded in convincing the county government that aviaries and aviculture are desirable and should be permitted in residential areas of the county.

Under existing Contra Costa zoning regulations it is illegal to have an aviary in a residential area regardless of lot size and including lots as large as 2½ acres. Only on agricultural land zoned A-1, A-2, etc., are aviaries permitted.

Contra Costa breeders were not aware of the restrictions until a neighbor of Mr. & Mrs. George Turner of Lafayette complained to the county about the Turner's aviary. The Turners live on a half acre lot where chickens and other small farm animals are permitted in unlimited numbers. Naturally, the Turners and everyone else assumed aviaries were permitted, as well. Not so, said the county.

Through the efforts of the Turners and other local aviculturists the county Board of Supervisors has agreed to amend the existing zoning regulations in order to allow aviaries. The Supervisors referred the matter to the Planning Department for study.

On July 6, 1976 the Contra Costa Planning Commission held a public hearing on a proposal by the Planning Department staff that would have permitted aviaries, however, limiting the number of birds to nine in the R-20, R-40, R-65, and R-100 zones. The minimum lot sizes in these zones runs from 20,000 (½ acre) to 100,000 square feet respectively. Ten or

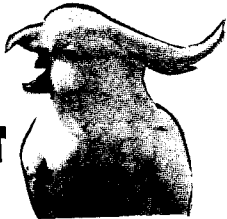
more birds would be allowed only if the owner obtained a special land use permit, which would be issued after a public hearing was held on the matter.

A.F.A. President Jerry Jennings and A.F.A. Board member Dr. Larry Swan, a professor of biology at San Francisco State University, appeared at the hearing on behalf of Contra Costa breeders and the Turners, who are A.F.A. members. Lengthy testimony given by President Jennings, who was subjected to intense questioning for nearly an hour, and an impassioned plea for aviculture by Dr. Swan convinced the Planning Commission that much more study on the proposed amendment was required. It was amply demonstrated that the Planning Department staff was totally unacquainted with aviculture and was functioning under a great deal of misinformation.

The proposed amendment has been referred back to the Planning Department for modification. The Planning Commission has requested that A.F.A. submit a draft proposal, based on avicultural needs and our experience in similar planning department proposals, for consideration. A.F.A. was further asked to survey the zoning regulations of other California counties and provide a summary of that information to the Contra Costa Planning Department.

A.F.A. supports the removal of numerical limitations on birds from the ordinance and hopes to include lots in the R-R-10 zone (10,000 square feet) which is the average size residential lot in Contra Costa County.

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