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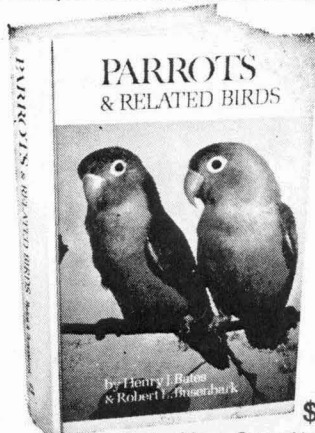
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Boston Regional Convention Successful

by Lee Phillips

Echoing the theme "Breed Today, You May Not Import Tomorrow!" more than a hundred bird enthusiasts attended A.F.A.'s fourth regional convention the weekend of May 9-11 at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston. Under the co-chairmanship of Dr. A. E. Decoteau of the New Hampshire Bird Breeders and Miss Linda Rubin of the Boston society of Aviculture and with the enthusiastic help of members of both clubs, A.F.A. has chalked up yet another successful and profitable regional convention.

Opening with a wine and cheese reception on Friday evening, the convention provided the background for "bird" talk as old friendships were renewed and new ones formed. Registration began at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday followed by a bird mart. The A.F.A. Board of Directors' meeting was called to order by President Dick Baer and proceeded smoothly and efficiently through committee reports and new business.

Seminars began promptly at 1:00 p.m. with talks by Dr. Margaret Petrak, Nancy Reed, Dr. Margarie McMillan, Don Langell, Dr. William Satterfield, Cliff Witt, Tom Ireland and Gerry Brisson. Supplemented by slides and live birds, the talks were interesting and very informative.

President Dick Baer spoke briefly at the banquet which culminated Saturday's activities. Stressing the three-fold needs of A.F.A., Dr. Baer stated "We are a powerful organization and greater power comes from increased membership. We need to increase our membership to strengthen our position and to obtain the added

revenue to operate our programs; further, we need the active participation of the membership to carry out the work."

Dr. Larry Shelton, Curator of Birds at the Philadelphia Zoo, spoke after the banquet describing the new Breeders' Registry which he is establishing under the sponsorship of A.F.A. and his slide presentation included examples of proper record keeping in regard to breeding birds and illustrated many of the birds now housed at the Philadelphia Zoo. A lively raffle added spice to the evening.



photo by Frank Vaden

Dr. Larry Shelton, Curator of Birds at the Philadelphia Zoo was a banquet speaker at the Boston regional convention. He also heads the A.F.A. bird registry program.

On Sunday morning most of the convention guests traveled by bus to visit Franklin Park Zoo's World of Birds and went on to the Stoneham Zoo for a conducted tour. Convention guests returned to their homes with great enthusiasm and useful new ideas.

California Considers Closure Of Private Quarantine Facilities

by Richard D. Tkachuck, Ph.D.

The State of California publishes a weekly report on the amount of infectious disease detected in the people of California during the previous week. A feature article discussing a particular disease is included. The issue of May 9, 1980 produced some concern because of a potential recommendation to be shown below. It seems that the infectious disease department is concerned with the rate of psittacosis infections in the state. In 1976, 67 cases in birds were observed; 1977, 120 cases; 1978, 192 cases; 1979, 271 cases; and 147 in the first three months of 1980. In 1979, 30 human cases were found with one fatality. All the bird cases were found in cage birds, especially the larger psittacines such as parrots, macaws, and cockatoos.

The article recommends that quarantine be extended from 30 to 45 days, that blood levels of chlortetracycline be monitored, that random culturing of birds be done before their release. Other recommendations include permanent leg bands and the development of a pelleted food containing antibiotics.

Perhaps the thought of the entire article is best shown by the concluding paragraph:

If the deficiencies in the current Pet Bird Importation Program cannot be corrected and the psittacosis public health problem persists, then *consideration should be given to banning the importation of all psittacine birds except through wholly USDA-owned and operated quarantine stations, with all expenses to be paid by the importer.* [emphasis added]

It is important that the bird world closely monitor such activities in order to best prevent such intrusions.

"Scarlet Macaws"

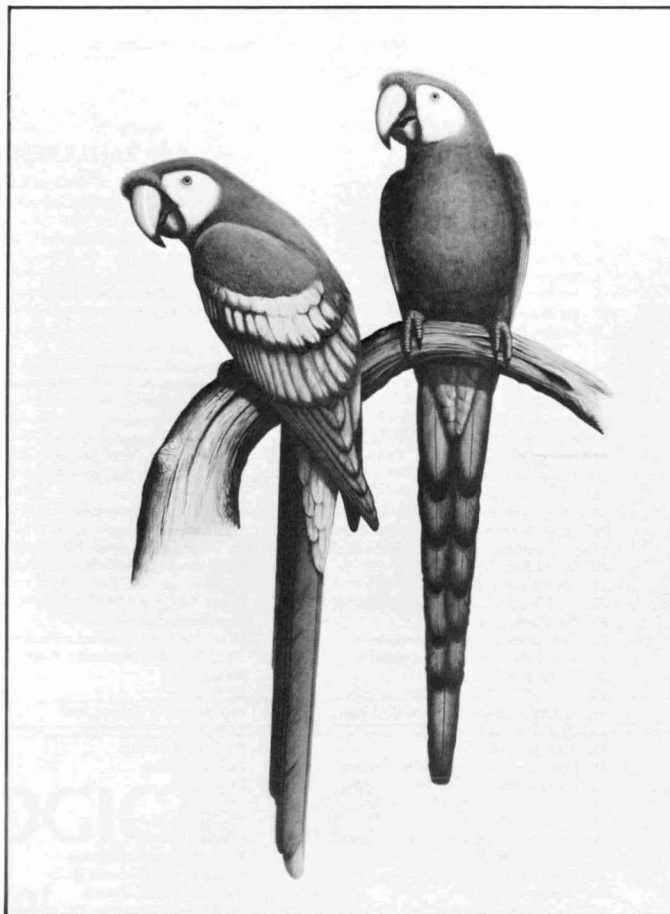
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Drawing was held at the Las Vegas Convention

Tim Dable, the 1980 raffle chairman. Tim contributed much of his time to ensure a smooth running raffle.

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