



### 1981 OFFICERS

DR. RICHARD E. BAER / *President*  
 CLIFTON WITT / *1st Vice President*  
 TOM IRELAND / *2nd Vice President*  
 HELEN HANSON / *Secretary*  
 JANICE PRITCHARD / *Finances*  
 MRS. LEE PHILLIPS / *Corresponding Secretary*  
 JOE McLAUGHLIN / *Membership Services*

### LEGISLATIVE LIAISONS

Clifton Witt ..... (301) 774-0303

### STATE COORDINATORS

#### CHAIRMAN

Craig Hendec ..... (312) 724-2578  
 WESTERN REGIONAL COORDINATOR  
 Jeff L. Wigginton ..... (206) 854-2476  
 CALIFORNIA REGIONAL COORDINATOR  
 James Coffman ..... (415) 692-2234  
 NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COORDINATOR  
 Jim Fouts ..... (316) 835-3326  
 SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL COORDINATOR  
 Peggy Cochran ..... (404) 977-9842  
 MIDWESTERN REGIONAL COORDINATOR  
 Craig Hendec ..... (312) 724-2578  
 NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL COORDINATOR  
 Tim Dahle ..... (301) 760-4626  
 SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COORDINATOR  
 Dr. Phillip J. Ryan ..... (214) 353-9462

#### ALASKA

Sally and Lin Bauer (907) 276-5668

#### ARIZONA

Mickey Ollson (602) 939-1003

#### CALIFORNIA (north)

Patricia Barbera (415) 924-4231

#### CALIFORNIA (central)

Hank Johnson (209) 233-3322

#### CALIFORNIA (south)

John and Marguerite Agrella (714) 561-7420

#### COLORADO

Ed Schmidt (303) 795-2747

#### CONNECTICUT

Bill Parlee (203) 528-1458

#### FLORIDA

Mrs. M. Simmons (305) 772-2632

#### GEORGIA

Peggy Cochran (404) 977-9842

#### HAWAII

(no name)

#### ILLINOIS

Kai Juhl (312) 729-3858

#### INDIANA

Conrad Meinert (219) 269-2873

#### IOWA

Dr. William D. Klipec (515) 277-6745

#### KANSAS

Jim Fouts (316) 835-2149/835-3326

#### KENTUCKY

Dr. Thomas B. Angel, Jr. (606) 371-4929

#### LOUISIANA

Joseph Beter, Jr. (504) 393-1133

#### MAINE

(no name)

#### MARYLAND

Mrs. Lee Phillips (301) 798-1353

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Mark Runnals (413) 533-1285

#### MINNESOTA

Ron Johnson (612) 423-2197

#### MISSOURI

Ray Rudisell (314) 631-5174

#### MONTANA

G. Allan Taylor (406) 587-3338

#### NEBRASKA

Robert G. Travnick (402) 821-2490

#### NEVADA

Pat Dingle (702) 647-2213

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jerry Brissom (603) 424-7624

#### NEW JERSEY

Dr. Barry Adler (201) 762-4941/283-2110

#### NEW YORK

Patricia Coffey (516) 921-5741

#### NORTH CAROLINA

Richard Schock, Jr. (919) 367-7177

#### OHIO

Mark Reader (614) 471-3881

#### OREGON

Joe McLaughlin (503) 538-6323

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Herschel Frey (412) 561-7194

#### RHODE ISLAND

(no name)

#### TEXAS

Tom Squyres (817) 732-6862/244-4126

#### UTAH

Rex Kennedy (801) 571-6183

#### VIRGINIA

Tom Marshall (703) 759-9431

#### WASHINGTON

Jeff Wigginton (206) 854-2476

#### WASHINGTON D.C.

Ruth Hanessian (301) 424-PETS

#### WISCONSIN

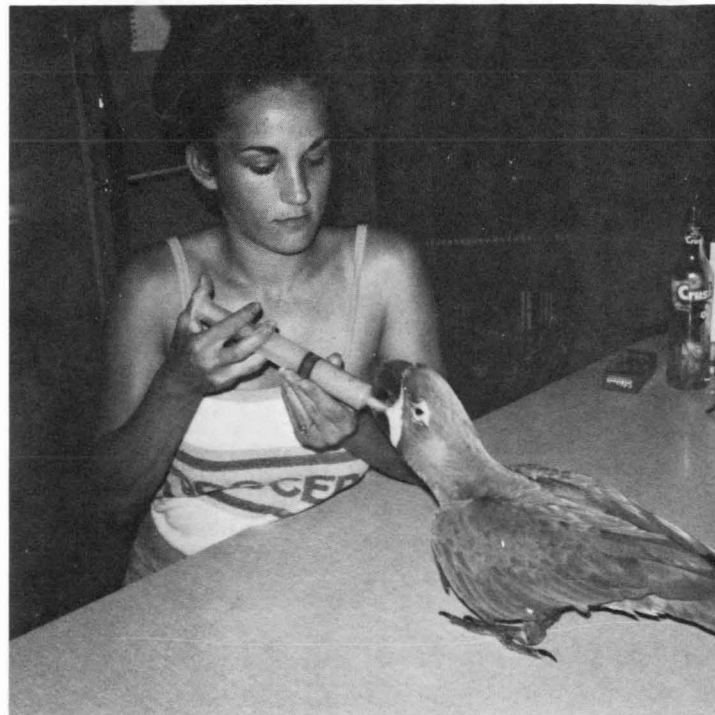
John Nero (414) 499-9013

#### INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph de Aguiar

# Hints for Hand Raising Baby Parrots

by Kathy VerBeck  
Ohio



The author serves dinner to a young macaw. The syringe is about 30 cc. full.

The following tid-bits are the result of much trial and error, much good advice, and much plain old experience. I hope the data will be helpful to you who hand-raise baby parrots.

First, I have three basic formulas each to be used at the appropriate time.

### Formula #1 "Starter"

1/2 cup boiling water  
 1 tbsp. powdered milk  
 2 tbsp. Gerbers Baby Rice Cereal  
 1 tbsp. creamed corn (baby food)

Mix ingredients together and feed at the proper temperature. (Test it on your wrist — if it burns you it is too hot.) This formula is quite thin and is the first meal I feed any young bird. The ingredients are nourishing but also easy on the bird's digestive system. If all is well after three feedings I advance the bird to Formula 2.

### Formula #2 "Graduated"

3/4 cup Baby Rice Cereal  
 1/2 cup High Protein Cereal  
 1 tbsp. each — cornmeal, grits, cream of rice, cream of wheat, wheat germ, oatmeal

1 tsp. Super Preen  
 2 drops of liquid vitamins (in the water)

enough boiling water to make a mixture of medium consistency

1/3 jar of baby food (fruit, vegetables, or chicken)

Allow the mixture to cool to feeding temperature. Add water to thin if necessary.

If this more complex formula should disagree with the chick the wheat is the most likely culprit. Feed Formula 2 for at least eight feedings while keeping an eye on the chicks crop and stools. Chicken is a good meat to use because it is low in fat and hypo-allergenic.

### Formula #3 "Regular"

This is the same as Formula 2 except the rice is replaced by high-protein cereal. Twice a week I use Cycle I puppy chow instead of chicken for a different type of protein. Once a day I add "Calcium-Phosphorus with Trace Minerals" from Nutritional Life to aid the chick's bone and nerve development.

**Grits:** To duplicate the parent bird's feeding of some hard grains I occasionally use Quaker White Grits in the formula. The grits are mixed in just prior to feeding. This makes a rather rough-textured food that seems to stimulate the crop and help avoid "crop sloughing" a complication probably caused by too much too soft food. This rough formula is made a little thinner than normal so the raw grits won't absorb all of the water in the crop and cause a compacted crop. I sometimes use chunky style peanut butter also for its rough texture.

**Gatorade:** Once a week I use Gatorade in place of part of the water in the formula. Use just enough water to make a very thick mixture. Then add enough Gatorade to bring the mix to the proper consistency. Do *not* boil Gatorade lest it lose its electrolytes which are very beneficial to many internal functions. Electrolytes are such that a chick uses only what it needs and eliminates the rest.

Since I've included Gatorade and Super Preem in my diets I've noticed a marked improvement in the sheen of my bird's feathers. Every two weeks I even use Gatorade in place of water with my breeder birds. They love it but it sometimes makes their stools rather loose.

**Tea:** The caffeine in tea serves as a strong stimulant that is sometimes necessary. A case in point is Friday, a very strong baby cockatiel abandoned by his parents. When I found him he was cold, stiff, starved, and barely breathing. I instantly put him on the heating pad and prepared a mixture of strong tea and baby rice cereal. Luckily the baby still had the will to live. I got a few drops of tea/rice in him and his respirations went from ten to twenty per minute, he opened his eyes and tried to stand. With his renewed vigor I was able to give him 7 cc's of Formula 1. Eventually the stimulant wore off and the chick was still too weak to eat. The tea/rice routine was used for two days during which the baby received enough Formula 1 to regain him his strength. Without the "kick" of the caffeine I don't think I could have pulled Friday through.



## AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE

Dedicated to conservation of bird wildlife through encouragement of captive breeding programs, scientific research, and education of the general public.

### MEMBER NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

African Love Bird Society  
American Cockatiel Society    Avicultural Society of America  
American Budgerigar Society  
American Canary Fanciers Association

### MEMBER CLUBS

ALASKA  
Alaska Cage Bird Club, Inc.

ARIZONA  
Arizona Avicultural Society

CALIFORNIA  
Aviary Association of Kern  
Bi-Counties Bird Club  
Butte County Bird Club  
California Game Breeders' Association  
Capitol City Bird Society  
Central California Cage Bird Club  
Exotic Bird Breeder's Association  
Finch Society of San Diego County  
Foothill Bird Fanciers  
Fresno Canary & Finch Club  
Golden Gate Avian Society  
Golden West Game Breeders & Bird Club  
Great Western Budgerigar Society  
Hookbill Hobbyists of Southern California  
Long Beach Bird Breeders  
Norco Valley Bird Breeders  
Nu-Color Bird Association  
Orange County Bird Breeders  
San Diego County All Bird Breeders Association  
San Diego County Canary Club  
Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club  
South Bay Bird Club  
South Coast Finch Society  
Southern California Bird Club  
Southern California Roller Canary Club  
Valley of Paradise Bird Club  
West Valley Bird Society  
Western Bird Breeders Society

COLORADO  
Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

CONNECTICUT  
Connecticut Association for Aviculture

FLORIDA  
Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida  
Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club  
Greater Jacksonville Avicultural Society

GEORGIA  
Georgia Cage Bird Society

ILLINOIS  
Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club  
Illinois Game & Pet Breeders Society

INDIANA  
Indiana Bird Fanciers

IOWA  
Mid-America Cage Bird Society

KANSAS/MISSOURI  
Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society

LOUISIANA  
Gulf South Bird Club

MARYLAND  
Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Inc.  
Maryland Cage Bird Society  
National Capitol Bird Club

MASSACHUSETTS  
Boston Society for Aviculture  
Western New England Cage Bird Society

MICHIGAN  
Mid-West Canary Club, Inc.

MINNESOTA  
Minnesota Cage Bird Association

MISSOURI  
Missouri Cage Bird Association

NEBRASKA  
Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society

NEVADA  
Las Vegas Avicultural Society

NEW HAMPSHIRE  
New Hampshire Cage Bird Association

NEW JERSEY  
Cage & Aviary Bird Society  
New Jersey Bird Breeders Association

NEW YORK  
American Singers Club, Inc., Chapter #1  
Long Island Cage Bird Association  
New York State Budgerigar Society

OHIO  
Central Ohio Bird Fanciers, Inc.  
Mid-American Exotic Bird Society  
Ohio Valley Cage Bird Club

OREGON  
Columbia Canary Club  
Exotic Bird Club of Oregon

PENNSYLVANIA  
The Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society  
Philadelphia Avicultural Society

TEXAS  
Alamo Exhibition Bird Club  
Capital City Cage Bird Club  
Dallas Cage Bird Society  
Fort Worth Bird Club

UTAH  
Avicultural Society of Utah

VIRGINIA  
Tidewater Cage Bird Fanciers of Virginia

WASHINGTON  
Northwest Aviculture Society  
Washington Budgerigar Society

WISCONSIN  
Wisconsin Cage Bird Club



## 1981 COMMITTEES

WAYS AND MEANS  
Glen Haddock (503) 639-7157

### AVY AWARDS

### SPECIAL RESEARCH AWARDS

PARLIAMENTARIAN  
Charlotte LeDoux (415) 494-0345

CONVENTION 1981  
Lee Horton (714) 727-1486

CONVENTION COORDINATOR  
Tom Ireland (305) 968-4214

EDUCATION/MEDIA SERVICES  
Sharon and Steve Clause (714) 748-3847

EMERGENCY TASK FORCE  
Dr. Barry Adler (201) 762-4941/283-2110

ETHICS  
Tom Marshall (703) 759-9431

FINANCE  
Janice Pritchard (714) 442-1164

HOME OFFICE  
Kathy Young (714) 442-8276  
Janice Pritchard (714) 442-1164

INSURANCE  
Home Office (724) 442-8276

LEGISLATION  
Clifton Witt (301) 774-0303

SPECIAL LEGISLATION ADVISOR  
Dr. Richard E. Baer (614) 836-5832

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT  
Jerry Jennings (213) 884-5476

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION  
Tim Dahle (301) 760-4626

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES  
Joe McLaughlin (503) 538-6323

NOMINATING  
Herschel Frey (412) 561-7194

PUBLIC RELATIONS  
Lee Horton (714) 727-1486

PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY  
Janet Galey Phipps (301) 525-1311

RAFFLE  
Tim Dahl (301) 760-4626

CLUB PROMOTION & COORDINATION  
Home Office (714) 442-8276

STATE COORDINATOR  
Craig Hendec (312) 724-2578

### BREEDER'S DIRECTORY Larry Shelton

ALLIED GROUP LIAISON  
Sheldon Dingle (714) 734-7448

VETERINARY AFFAIRS  
Dr. Barry Adler (201) 762-5488  
Dr. Thomas Angel, Jr. (606) 371-4929

A. F. A. PUBLICATIONS  
Sheldon Dingle (714) 734-7448

AVIAN TRANSPORTATION  
Donna Flye (503) 777-2698

### WATCHBIRD STAFF

Sheldon Dingle / *Editor* (714) 734-7448  
Susan Dingle / *Assistants to Editor* (714) 734-7448  
Richard D. Tkachuck, Ph.D. / *Assistants to Editor*  
Jerry Jennings / *Associate Editor* (213) 884-5476  
M. Jean Hessler / *Art Dir.* (714) 548-3133  
Janice Pritchard / *Finances* (714) 442-1164  
Jerry Jennings / *Ad Dir.* (213) 884-5476

**Loose Stools:** There is a difference between loose stools and diarrhea. Certain fruits and liquids can cause loose stools. If the condition actually develops into diarrhea I use three parts water to one part Donnegel (banana flavor) and feed it for six to eight hours then use plain water for eighteen hours. This routine is repeated every twenty four hours until the stool is *almost* normal. Don't overtreat lest the medication give the bird constipation which is harder on the bird than the diarrhea. Remember, if a little is good a little more is *not*.

**Bacterial Diarrhea:** A proper balance of bacteria is perfectly normal, indeed, essential to life. An imbalance can cause problems. The only sane way to combat this problem is to have a veterinarian do cultures and sensitivity tests to determine which antibiotic to treat with. A bird treated with antibiotics should be fed natural, plain yogurt which will replenish many good bacteria that the medicine killed. Hand-fed baby birds always have rather loose wet stools so the above remedies don't apply to them.

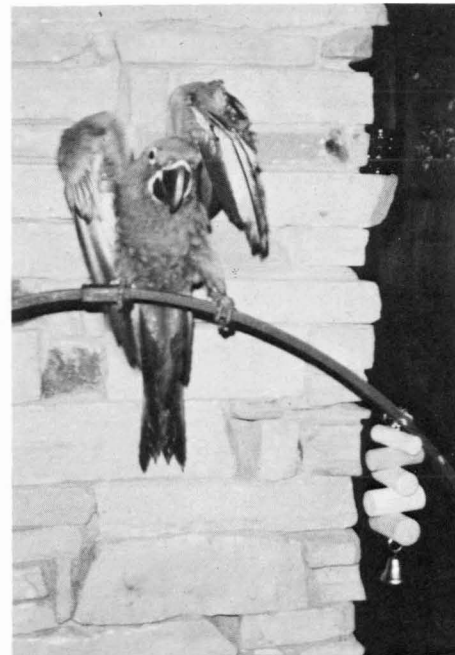
**The Feeding Syringe:** I use a 60 cc catheter-tip irrigating syringe. They are plastic and disposable but I can get weeks of use out of each one. When the rubber plunger dries out use a light vegetable oil on it to make it slide easier. You can buy these syringes at any surgical supply company and at some pharmacies. Each baby I'm feeding has its own syringe to help prevent the spread of disease.

These syringes are marked in cc's so I know exactly how much food a baby takes each feeding and each day. There is no guesswork. When the chicks go on their crash diet I know immediately. If the bird becomes sick and "goes off his feed" I can measure it in cc's.

To use the syringe, put the warm food in a coffee mug; place the syringe tip in and draw the plunger back to about 30 cc's or whatever position fits your hand best. Clean off the tip, check the food temperature on your wrist (each time you draw up food) and put the syringe tip in the side of the bird's beak and squeeze. Once the chick figure out the syringe means food, he will take it readily. You may want to steady the bird's head and body with your free hand and you'll naturally adapt your feeding style to each bird's idiosyncracies. When the bird is full he will quit eating, spit out the food or even walk away. No amount of my words will really explain the mechanics of feeding. You must just use my guidelines and gain experience.

**Housing:** At first my baby birds live in cardboard boxes with a heating pad under

the box and a towel over two thirds of the open top. Naked babies must have a temperature between 90 and 100 degrees. Semi-feathered chicks need 85 to 90 degrees. Almost feathered birds get along at 75 to 85 degrees. If the chick shivers or puffs up, slowly increase the heat. If the chick pants and stretches its wings out it is too warm. Slowly lower the heat. When the birds are old enough to take off the heat permanently, I wean them slowly by turning off the heat during the days. Eventually I leave it off even at night.



*Young macaw exercises his wings on a round metal perch. Toys on the ring help to keep him occupied and out of trouble.*

For a private little nest of sorts I put a shoe box inside the large box. The shoe box has one end cut out and is put upside down right on the floor of the large box so the baby can have his feet and chest right on the floor next to the heat. It also keeps the heat close all around him. If he becomes too warm he can leave the nest box and sleep on the floor of the large box. If he is still too warm (and if he is big enough) he can crawl on top of the shoe box. Thus he has a range of three temperatures to choose from.

When the chick is about five weeks old I put a few branches on the floor of the box to give the chicks something to play with. This play helps develop foot-mouth coordination and strengthens the grip. When the chick reaches about seven weeks of age I push a branch through the box to form a perch about three inches above the floor. This, of course, gets them started perching. It also helps to keep the chicks from dragging their rapidly growing tail feathers through the mess on the floor.

Eventually the young parrots will begin

to chew up their cardboard box. That is the time to transfer them to a regular cage. (By this time they should not need heat.) To make the transition less traumatic, I put their sleeping box in the new cage. At present I am feeding two five-month old macaws that still sleep in their little boxes. Just their long tail feathers stick out.

**The Crash Diet:** When the time comes for a baby bird to leave its nest it has too much baby fat to fly. Nature has programmed the fledglings to lose weight *fast*. This is perfectly normal but still rather alarming when you are hand feeding a bird. At about eight to nine weeks (for cockatoos and Amazons) the babies just quit eating. This "slimming" process lasts for a predetermined number of days. It is not regulated by the amount of weight lost. Since my hand fed birds will be pets and never fly anyway I beef up their diet with high calorie Sustical during the crash diet. This way my chicks lose only about half as much weight as they would without the supplement.

**Wing Clipping:** About the time the slimming process is over the birds are ready to fly. I believe their wings should be clipped. This prevents them from crashing into windows and mirrors or flying out the door to be lost forever. My clipped birds have *more* freedom than the full flighted ones. They can sit on the sun deck, take showers outdoors, go for walks with us, and even visit the neighbors. Clipped birds are also more dependent upon their owner and this makes a nicer pet.

Well, your hand fed baby bird ought to just about be on his own by now. When it is moved from its box to the cage you ought to supply it with lots of soft food, i.e., fruit, vegetables, and bread. Your regular mixture of seed can be added and gradually the bird will become independent of hand feeding. I cut out the morning and noon feedings first but I feed the evening meal for as long as the bird will take it. I feel that this makes for a better pet.

In closing, I have one final tid-bit or bit of advice that is most important. Find a good veterinarian. I mean a *good bird* veterinarian. Don't take it for granted that the first vet you meet knows about birds. Ask questions. Ask other bird people which vet they use. Develop a good rapport with your vet and don't hesitate to use him when a problem arises.

The above hints and methods have worked well for me. It is my sincerest wish that they will serve you equally well. Anyone with comments or questions regarding hand feeding may get in touch with me by contacting the WATCHBIRD editor ●

JUST  
PUBLISHED!

## CAGE BIRD MEDICINE

by  
Charles V. Stiner, Jr., D.V.M.; Richard B. Davis, D.V.M., M.S.

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Species of Caged Birds             | 10. Tumors & Egg Binding                   |
| 2. Avian Anatomy and Physiology       | 11. Psittacosis                            |
| 3. The Physical Exam                  | 12. Pacheco's Disease                      |
| 4. Nutrition of Caged Birds           | 13. Newcastle Disease                      |
| 5. Chemotherapy for Caged Birds       | 14. Anesthesia of Caged Birds              |
| 6. Diseases of the Respiratory System | 15. First Aid for Birds                    |
| 7. Problems of the Digestive System   | 16. Saving & Cleaning Oiled Birds          |
| 8. Lameness in Caged Birds            | 17. The Care and Feeding of Orphaned Birds |
| 9. Major Nutritional Deficiencies     | 18. The Postmortem Examination             |

176 pages, illustrated, cloth bound, 8½ x 11

**\$ 17.50** plus \$1.50 postage and handling


Send \$1.00 (refundable) for our latest catalog of more than 350 titles covering all aspects of Aviculture and Ornithology.

**AVIAN PUBLICATIONS**

310 Maria Drive, Dept. AFA, Wausau, WI 54401



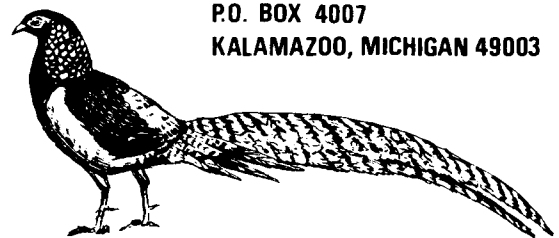
A better way . . .  
to cage your birds  
indoors and out.

USE STRONG  **vesto**\* MOLDED  
CORNERS AND 1" SQ. STEEL TUBING  
AND BUILD THE SIZE AND SHAPE  
CAGE OR AVIARY THAT YOU NEED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
WRITE FOR BROCHURE TO:

**CORNERS LTD.**  
P.O. BOX 4007  
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49003

FRAMES  
CAN BE  
ORDERED  
READY TO  
ASSEMBLE



\* Trademark of Corners Ltd. for its brand of molded corners and tubing.