

agapornis acres

by Lee Horton

THE AFRICAN LOVE BIRD SOCIETY



Lee Horton

In the world of Aviculture there is a great need for specialty clubs. The triumph of this statement is certainly evident in the Canary, in all its forms, types, colors, and song. Without the specialty clubs that have been formed in the past for the Canary the concentration on the particular problems of this bird and the improvements that we have seen take place for this bird would not exist. The English show Budgerigar is another example of the extreme improvement of type and color variations through concentrated effort of specialty clubs.

It is through such clubs that all domestic animals have been established and improved upon. The need exists for many more such clubs in aviculture for through these specialty clubs we can hopefully

establish many more birds in our aviaries for future generations.

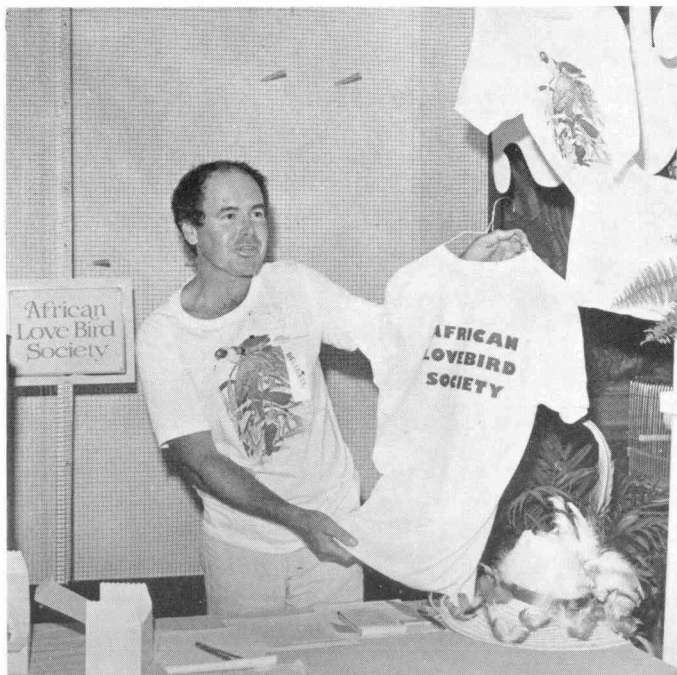
With today's continued strains on the wild populations and the ever increasing regulations by governments on importation and exportation of almost all birds it should be quite evident the only assurance is domestication of as many birds as possible. Since each genus or even species has its own particular needs for reproduction in captivity it is almost a necessity to specialize to succeed in our goals.

In this journal for the past few months there has been an advertisement announcing the formation of such a club, the African Love Bird Society. Now, I am proud to announce, that the society has been formed. The first meeting was held on a beautiful sunny day here at Agapornis Acres. While we were experiencing a typical summer day some parts of Southern California were having horrid rain storms. Seventy-five people decided to make the journey, some from rain soaked Riverside and San Bernardino County and even one brave aviculturist arrived sopping wet on a motorcycle from Northern California. An informal meeting took

place and some of the basic ideas were formulated.

The African Love Bird Society is an international, non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement and the standardization of all species of Agapornis and their mutations. The society's purpose is to establish these species and their mutations for future generations and to disseminate any information pertinent to the Agapornis family through the official journal, "Agapornis World".

It was decided that the journal should be published monthly. The editor-in-chief is Roland Dubuc, the art director Jean Hessler, and I, myself, would be co-editor. The staff for the journal grew quickly. Enthusiasm was not lacking in any part of the country. Regular reporters who have already volunteered their services include Dr. Richard Baer, Groveport, Ohio. Dr. Baer has a very keen interest in the improvement of size, feather quality, and general health of all Love Birds. With a great interest in showing birds, he knows nutrition is the key to these improvements. His background in Veterinary medicine will be a great asset



At Left - The African Love Bird Society booth at the American Federation of Aviculture Convention. Lee Horton is showing the new societies' Tee Shirts.

Below - Members at the first meeting of A.L.B.S. in Vista, California, at aviaries of Lee Horton and Roland Dubuc.



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to the journal. Sheldon Dingle, La Puente, California, the current editor of the "Watchbird" has also volunteered his services. His book reviews in this publication have shown his great knowledge, not only in birds themselves, but also in many of the publications written about them. He is a very enthusiastic aviculturist with a real interest in the mutations and the genetics of the African Love Bird. David West, Montebello, California, has raised birds most of his life. He has been the recipient of First Time Breeding Awards, which have only added to his world-wide reputation. His success is evident in the fact that he has been instrumental in establishing many of the mutations of the Peach Face Love Bird. Others have promised to contribute to "Agapornis World" and hopefully the staff will grow as the society does.

One of the societies intent is to have a committee start work on standardization of the size and type that is considered desirable for each species. A standard of perfection for all color phases of the different species will also be decided. This in itself is a monumental task. When these standards of color and type are finalized and approved by the club, then the Annual Show for the Agapornis can take place. Competition is the best and fastest way to encourage improvement and improvement is what we need. A committee to study and make recommendations on the improvement of Diet and General Health will also be selected. It is through the findings of such a committee that only a healthy bird can be maintained in captivity for many generations. This in itself is necessary for the domestication of the Agapornis.

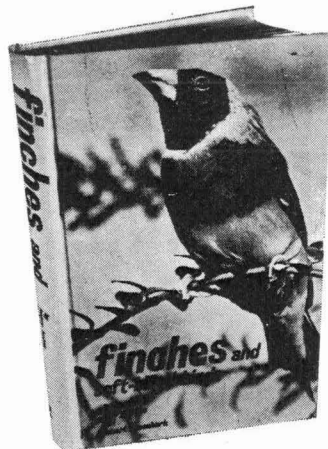
The formation of the African Love Bird Society is a great challenge and very exciting. The progress of the society and the results of the committee finding will be reported in this column. If there is anyone interested in receiving more information and a sample copy of "Agapornis World" please write to:

The African Love Bird Society
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