

# 1982 Convention Notes

by Phyllis K. Martin  
Tampa, Florida

Where were you when the lights went out? Robert Berry, Chairman of the Conservation Committee was standing next to me in the International Ballroom East listening to John Stoodley's lecture on "Incubation and Hand Rearing." AFA's money was well protected during the black-out because our Southeast Regional Vice President, Roger Kenny, sat on the cash boxes.

At about 5:50 p.m., Saturday, August 7, all of the lights in the Washington Hilton and surrounding areas went out. Many of the aviculturists attending our convention were trapped in the sub-basement of the hotel listening to the last talks of the day. Speakers went on as if nothing had happened. When bird people start talking about birds, nothing can stop them.

The Eight Annual American Federation of Aviculture Convention opened for registration August 3.

The board meeting convened at 8:00 a.m., August 4, under President Tom Ireland. One of the first items of business was the counting of ballots by the Nominating Committee to determine the 1982/83 AFA officers.

These officers are: President, Tom Ireland; 1st Vice President, Lee Phillips; 2nd Vice President, Don Cavender; Chief Financial Officer, Hubert Morris. A new appointed position was established at the board meeting titled "Legislative Vice President," to be filled by Clifton Witt. Helen Hanson continues as AFA's Executive Secretary in

charge of the home office in Redondo Beach, California, and Phyllis Martin was re-appointed Corresponding Secretary.

Fifty-five delegates and state coordinators attended the business meeting. It was pointed out that many of AFA's dreams came true during this past year. During its first year, our Research Committee, headed by Dr. Susan Clubb, accomplished some outstanding results as indicated by the Board's approval of five research grant applications to receive AFA funding totaling \$12,380. These research projects are:

1. *Development and efficacy of a live Budgerigar Fledgling Disease Virus Vaccine for use in Breeder Budgerigars (Melopsittacus undulatus).* Principal investigator is Dr. Phil Lukert, Dept. of Vet. Microbiology, University of Georgia.

2. *Seasonal Evaluation of excretory sex steroid hormones in juvenile appraisal of sexual maturity and to sexual identity of immature birds.* Principal investigator is Arden Bryan Bercovitz, Ph.D., Avian Physiologist, San Diego Zoo.

3. *Solid food requirements and water tolerance of Cockatiel chicks from hatching to five weeks of age.* Principal investigators are C.R. Grau, Ph.D., and T.E. Roudybush, M.S., University of California at Davis, Dept. of Avian Sciences.

4. *Estimation of the population parameters of the Green-cheeked*

*Entertainment at the Friday, August 6th luncheon was provided by a dedicated team from the Fowler Center for Wildlife Education, Mike Moreland and Cecelia Daragan. They introduced three species of birds of prey, "Ernie" an American Kestrel, "Annie" a broadwinged hawk, and an immature horned owl shown here with Mike.*

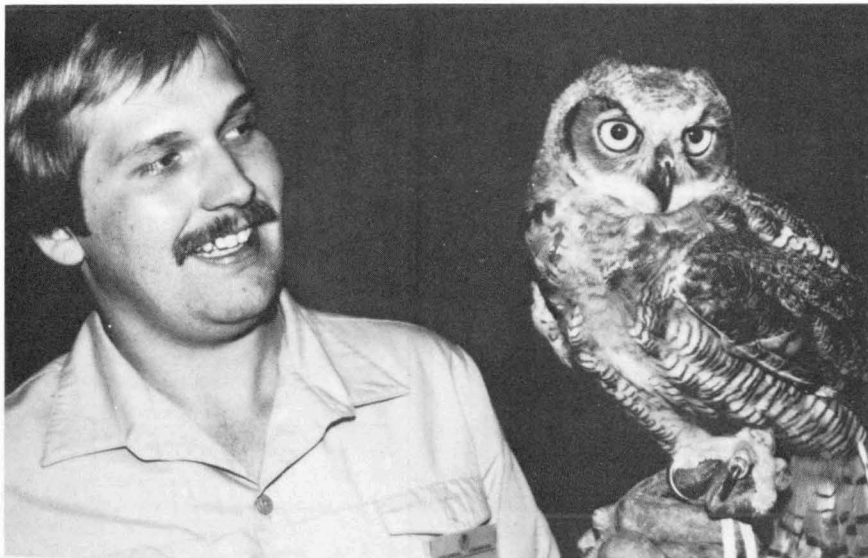


Photo by Joe McLaughlin

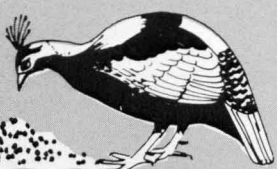


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*Amazon (Amazona viridigenalis) in northeastern Mexico.* Principal investigator Jack Clinton-Eitnrear of the Vulture Study Group, McAllen, Texas.

5. *Detection of Chlamydia psittaci infection in exotic birds.* Principal investigator is Jack Gaskin, DVM, University of Florida, Dept. of Vet. Microbiology.

Tom Ireland announced the receipt of donations for continuing these research projects from many aviculturists attending the convention. Bernie Levine of Pet Farm donated \$500 and asked for a matching donation. Drs. Barry Alder and Ira Niedweske matched his donation and additionally pledged to give \$500 a year to the research fund; they challenged Mr. Levine to do the same.

Another dream come true was the establishment of AFA's goals and guidelines for the Conservation Committee. Chairman Robert Berry is preparing a separate article concerning our conservation program.

President Ireland announced that anyone wanting to make donations to either the Conservation Committee Fund or the Research Committee Fund should contact the home office at P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

The Board of Directors approved nine new state coordinators. The updated list can be found in this magazine (page 6).

The American Federation of Aviculture is one of the most important avicultural societies in the United States. It has also gained recognition and strength throughout the world. Aviculturists from South Africa, Sweden, Holland, England, Canada and Puerto Rico attended this convention, a good indication of AFA's popularity.

We had some outstanding international speakers, including two English

bird artists: Jim Hayward, Carterton, England, and Eric Peake, Corwen, Merionethshire. They presented interesting lectures as well as excellent displays of their artwork in the commercial area.

Well-known British author of *Encyclopedia of Cockatiels*, and *Lovebirds and Related Parrots*, Dr. George A. Smith, talked about eliminating diseases in our birds and also posed the challenging question: "Do hybrids have any value in aviculture?"

Mrs. J.L. Spenkelink van Schaik of the Netherlands shared her experience and knowledge about Asian parakeets, *Pyrhura conures*, hanging parrots and caiques.

John Stoodley of England gave two excellent lectures on breeding Pionus and the incubation and hand-raising of psittacines.

Over 30 U.S. speakers—aviculturists, breeders, veterinarians, lawyers and conservationists—spoke on a range of topics: "Softbills Indoors," "Reintroduction of Endangered Cranes," "Avian Pox and Herpes Viruses," "Pheasants and Ducks," "Legal Pitfalls of Aviculture," and much more.

An outstanding film, "Birds of the Indian Monsoon," was shown, courtesy of the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Interior.

There were many private sightseeing tours of the nation's capital during the convention. AFA sponsored tours to the National Conservation & Research Center, Front Royal, Virginia, and to Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland.

Another interesting aspect of this convention was the commercial exhibit area. Over fifty exhibitors (the largest number AFA has ever had) displayed



Photo by Joe McLaughlin

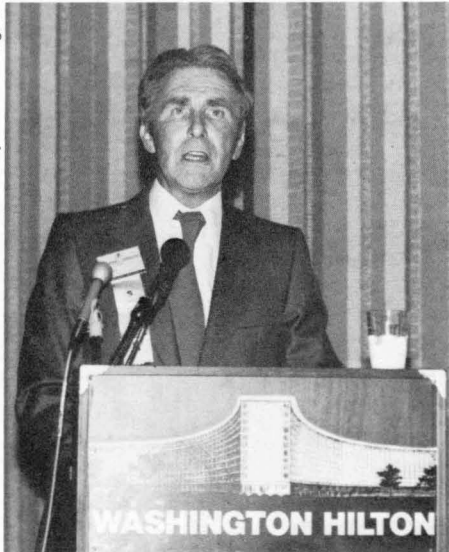
*Ruth Hanessian chaired the committee for commercial booths. She did an outstanding job of organizing over fifty displays that dazzled all who attended the convention.*



birds, books, aviaries and cages, bird accessories, hospital care units, endoscopes, and lots more. Approximately ten thousand convention attendees and non-convention visitors strolled through this area, which gained national coverage on the CBS evening news on August 8.

This was the second time AFA offered public seminars to non-convention aviculturists. Through publicity and the help of local bird and pet shops, over six thousand people attended these lectures.

Photo by Joe McLaughlin



Lecturer John Stoodley, England, drew great interest and respect for his knowledge of breeding Pionus.

The Saturday night banquet started late due to the power failure, but the food had been prepared in advance so little was lost but a few minutes off the schedule. President Tom Ireland introduced the head table, welcomed everyone, and introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. Donald Bruning, Assistant Curator of Ornithology, New York Zoological Society.

Following Dr. Bruning's speech, Dale Thompson, Chairman of the Avy Awards Committee announced the winners of the Gold, Silver and Bronze Avy Awards. President Ireland then presented the President's Award to yours truly, Phyllis Martin, AFA's Corresponding Secretary. After the awards, a spirited auction was conducted by Don Maroncelli.

On Sunday, August 8, the veterinarian and avian medicine seminars filled a whole day with educational and technical lectures pertaining to the ailments of our feathered friends. This year, AFA started issuing Certificates of Continuing Education to those attending the veterinarian programs.

This convention was one of the best we have had. Next year—Chicago! ●

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