

Avy Awards

by Roland G. Dubuc

The A.F.A. Convention this past August at the Queen Mary had a new feature added to it, The AVY AWARD. Several months ago Lee Horton, Jean Hessler, and I were busy putting together this year's convention and in the process of time we came up with the idea of an award for individual achievement in aviculture. While tossing the idea around several things came up, the award should be for everyone, all clubs should be involved. It was decided that we needed categories, nominations would have to come from the member clubs and, if course, a name had to be found.

After A.F.A. board approval work began. I thought up the name "Avy Award" and we all agreed it was good, however, we did have a slight disagreement on the spelling of the word "Avy". I wanted "Avi" but Jean and Lee won the futile argument and the "AVY AWARD" was born.

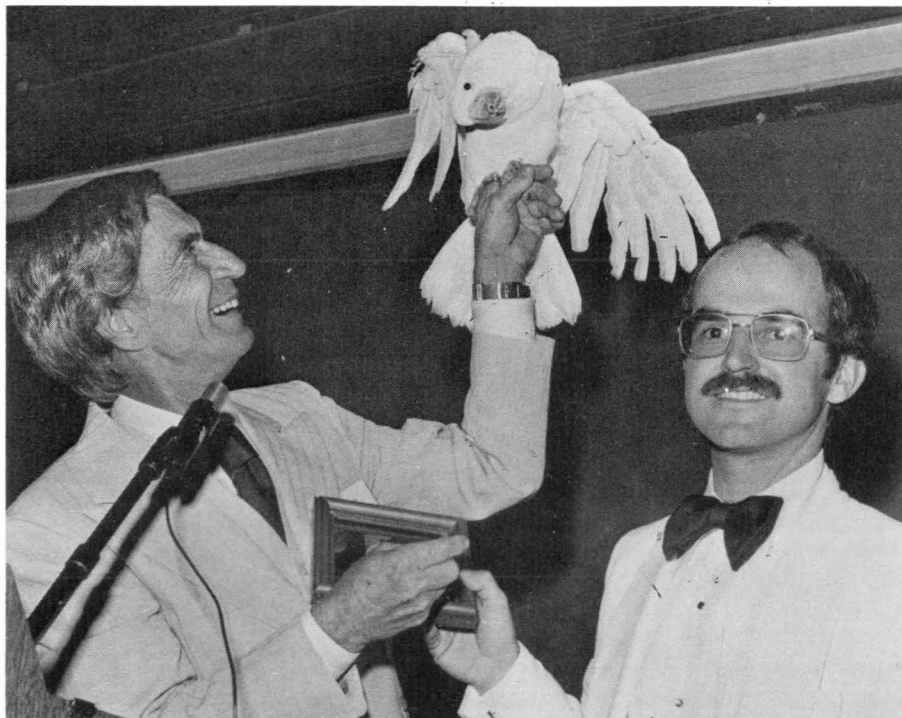
A letter was then composed that would inform all member clubs of the award and what it stood for. It also asked that they fill in an information sheet nominating individuals for awards. The "AVY AWARD" was and is a serious effort to honor the aviculturist who is a serious, successful, and trusted breeder, whether of a large or small collection. It was and is still our hope to honor the true bird lover. The intent of the award was not only to reach the doctoral person, the veterinarian, and the long time aviculturists but all the true friends of birds.

Three types of awards were to be given. A Bronze Award was chosen to honor the authors of the fine articles in this great journal, the "Watchbird" and also it was to be used as a service award for the A.F.A. The Bronze Award was also the only award not to be dedicated by member clubs. Nominations came from the A.F.A. delegates themselves. Ten Bronze Awards were presented at the Convention and they were as follows:

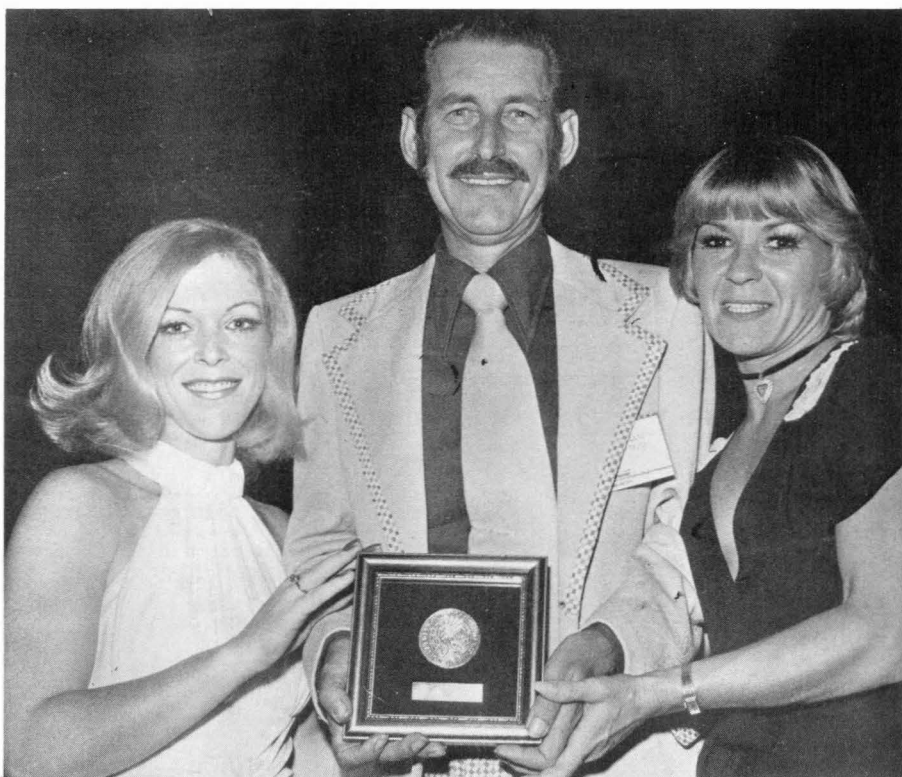
For service to A.F.A. (in alphabetical order) – Phil Dubois, Jerry Jennings, Pat Rex, Frank Todd, and Cliff Witt.

For Watchbird recognition –

For the best series of technical articles by a professional Vet's Corner – Dr. Ralph Cooper.



Roland Dubuc presenting a Gold Avy Award to Fred – held by his trainer, Ray Berwick. Fred awarded the audience with a few words and tricks of his own.



Francis Billie, recipient of three Avy Awards – flanked by Laren and Chris.

For the best technical article by a professional, The Tawny Frogmouths, Dale R. Thompson.

For the best in a series of articles by an aviculturist, Planted Aviaries, Joe Griffith.

For the best in a series of articles by an aviculturist on an individual species, Canary Calendar, Charlotte Nierenberg.

For recognition of an individual for outstanding contribution to the advancement of the Watchbird, The Art Editor, Jean Hessler.

The Silver Awards were designated as "an award to outstanding aviculturists in three categories, most progress with an individual species or breed, most outstanding facilities for a type of bird and to the aviculturist who has bred an endangered species to the third generation in captivity". Each member club was allowed to nominate one person for each category. The nominee had to be a member of the club that nominated him. Pictures and full details concerning the aviculturists were requested. At this point, I must congratulate each club who partook of the tedium of the entry blank. The notices were late and the time element was extremely short. We were all very surprised and gratified at the response. Every club that filled out the forms were more than generous with their individual details. It was easy to see that cooperation is not lacking from the member clubs. The Silver Awards were given as follows:

For the most progress with an individual species or breed:

For Canaries: Maurie Deem, Ontario, CA.; Lou Ferraro, Middle Village, N.Y.; Wallace Graham, Irving, Tex.; Madeline Mysliwicz, Wantagh, N.Y.; Domenic Tentuta, Hawthorne, CA.

For Finches: Charlotte Bartke, Covina, CA.; Frank Crane, Fresno, CA.; Jerry Jennings, Los Angeles, CA.; Roger Talley, San Diego, CA., Mrs. T.M. Towne, Sunland, CA.

For Game Birds: Francis Billie, Jr., Temple City, CA.; Lee Poisal, Madera, CA.

For Parrots and Related Birds: Norman Beyer, Waco, Tex.; Lee Horton, Vista, CA.; Bernard Rohr, Phoenix, AZ.; Davis West, Montebello, CA.

For Softbills: The Bird Keepers of the San Diego Zoo.

For Waterfowl: Francis Billie, Jr., Temple City, CA., Jack Legro, Fresno, CA.; Mickey Ollsen, Glenview, AZ.

For the most outstanding breeding facilities for their type of bird (this is not necessarily the most expensive):

For Canaries: Tony Bucci, San Pedro, CA.; Scotty McNiff, Fresno, CA.

For Finches: S. Meyer, Alhambra, CA.



Cliff Witt, our Washington D.C. liaison, is presented a bronze award by Laren and Chris.



Mrs. Harold Rudkin and Joe Griffith receiving Gold Awards with the aid of Laren and Chris.

For Parrots and Related Birds: William Hawkins, Sunland, CA.; Lee Horton, Vista, CA.; Bob Miller, Norwalk, CA.

For the aviculturist who has bred an endangered species to the third generation in captivity:

For Game Birds: Francis Billie, Jr., Temple City, CA.; Bernie Teunissen, Riverside, CA.

For Parrots and Related Birds: Eleanor Cooley, Sherman Oaks, CA.

The most prized award to be given was the Gold Avy. This category was obviously a very special one. Clubs were asked to nominate an aviculturist who was, regardless of the fact a member or not of their own club, an all around great. The prerequisites included contributions to the field of aviculture over and above that of the normal breeder for a period of no less than twenty-five years. The lists of nominees for this award was surprisingly long. As with the other awards a great deal of time had to be taken in selecting and narrowing down the field. One of the other things we had to realize was that the Gold Avy would be given to an

individual once. After much deliberation the following people were chosen:

Mamie D'Alcorn, Escondido, CA.

Jean Delacour, Cleres, France

Hank Johnson, Fresno, CA.

K.C. Lint, San Diego, CA.

Margie McGee, Thousand Oaks, CA.

Marie Olssen, East Hampton, N.Y.

Don Powers, Fort Worth, Tex.

Three special Gold Avy Awards were also given. Fred, the cockatoo, of the television show Baretta was chosen a Bird of the Year. Joe Griffith was acknowledged as the founder of the A.F.A. The first post-humorous award was given to Mr. Harold Rudkin, Jr., for his long time efforts in the avicultural field. Mrs. Rudkin accepted the award.

In conclusion I would like to end by extending a note of thanks to all the clubs who participated. The work and energy they put forth was extensive and without their effort the awards certainly could not have taken place. To the winners we extend our sincerest best wishes, and to the losers there is always a next year.