



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 & INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

African Love Bird Society British Columbia Avicultural Society
American Cockatiel Society American Pigeon Fanciers Council
International Bird Institute Avicultural Society of America American Budgerigar Society

MEMBER CLUBS

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society
Dixie Zoological Society

ARIZONA

Arizona Aviculture Society
The Seed Crackers

CALIFORNIA

American Canary Fanciers
Aviary Association of Kern
Budgie Fanciers of San Diego County
Butte County Bird Club
California Game Breeders' Association
Capitol City Bird Society
Central California Cage Bird Club
Exotic Bird Breeder's Association
Exotic Hookbill Society
Finch Society of San Diego County
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
Los Angeles Pigeon Club
Norco Valley Bird Breeders
Nu-Color Bird Association
Orange County Bird Breeders
Redwood Budgie Hobbyists
San Diego County All Bird Breeders Association
San Diego County Canary Club
San Francisco Avicultural Society
San Gabriel Valley Parakeet Association
Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club
South Bay Bird Club
South Coast Finch Society
Southern California German Toy Pigeon Club
Valley of Paradise Bird Club
West Valley Bird Society
Western Bird Breeders Society
Western Type Canary Exhibition

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Association for Aviculture

DELAWARE

Delaware Aviculture Association

FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida
Central Florida Bird Breeders
Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club
Greater Jacksonville Avicultural Society
Greater Miami Avicultural Society, Inc.
Lemon Bay Bird Club
Sunshine State Cage Bird Society
Suncoast Avian Society

GEORGIA

Georgia Cage Bird Society

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club
Illinois Game & Pet Breeders Society

IOWA

Mid-America Cage Bird Society

KANSAS

Kansas Avicultural Society

KENTUCKY

Central Kentucky Bird Society
Kentuckiana Bird Society

LOUISIANA

Gulf South Bird Club
Southeastern Aviculturist Association

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

Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club
Mid-West Canary Club, Inc.
Motor City Bird Breeders

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Cage Bird Association

MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society
Missouri Cage Bird Association

NEBRASKA

Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society

NEVADA

Las Vegas Avicultural Society
Northern Nevada Cage Bird Society
Vegas Valley Caged Birds Association

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Avicultural Society

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey Bird Breeders Association

NEW YORK

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

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte-Metrolina Cage Bird Society
Smokey Mtn. Cage Bird Society

OHIO

Central Ohio Bird Fanciers, Inc.
Cleveland Canary & Cage Bird Club
Mid-America Exotic Bird Society
Ohio Valley Cage Bird Club

OREGON

Cascade Budgerigar Society
Columbia Canary Club
Exotic Bird Club of Oregon

PENNSYLVANIA

The Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society

SOUTH CAROLINA

Carolina Cage Bird Club

TEXAS

Alamo Exhibition Bird Club
Capital City Cage Bird Club
Dallas Cage Bird Society
Gulf Coast Avicultural Association
Fort Worth Bird Club

UTAH

Avicultural Society of Utah

VIRGINIA

The Commonwealth Avicultural Society
Tidewater Bird Club

WASHINGTON

Northwest Aviculture Society
Northwest Exotic Bird Society
Washington Budgerigar Society

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Cage Bird Club

breeding and hand raising slender- billed cockatoos

By Charles Pfeifer
Curator of Birds and Reptiles
Birmingham Zoo
Birmingham, Alabama

The slender-billed cockatoo (*Cacatua tenuirostris tenuirostris*) is a rather unusual looking bird found in an area of southeastern Australia. Also known as the long-billed corella, this cockatoo's most distinguishing feature is its elongated upper mandible that it uses to dig about in the earth for roots, bulbs, and the like. The other race of the species, (*Cacatua tenuirostris pastinator*), is found in part of southwestern Australia and is considered by some to be merely a form of the little corella (*Cacatua sanguinea*). While some cockatoo species like the little corella are not uncommon in captivity and sometimes abundant in the wild, the slender-billed cockatoo is neither. The Breeding Bird Survey conducted by the San Diego Zoo recorded fifteen slender-bills in American Zoos in 1980. Of these none were captive hatched. The Encyclopedia of Aviculture edited by Rutgers and Norris states that these birds have been captive bred in the U.S. in the San Diego Zoo prior to 1970. The wild population of these birds is estimated to be only about thirty to forty thousand. This number is certainly dwarfed by the swarms of roseate cockatoos that exist in Australia.

The Birmingham Zoo has maintained a pair of these rare birds for eight years. Two attempts to rear chicks were made by the pair prior to 1981, both ending in failure. One time the chicks disappeared, presumably eaten by one or both adult cockatoos. The other time the chick they were raising was found dead with whole sunflower kernels impacted in its crop. For some odd reason, the parent birds did not regurgitate partially digested food this time and it resulted in the chick's death. Considering this unpromising track record, we opted to remove one chick for handraising and to leave the second with its parents when

they hatched their third clutch on April 3, 1981. Both were successfully reared. In 1982 two eggs were laid but one proved infertile. Since the parents were successful last year, we decided to let them have this year's chick. They are currently rearing it with no problems at all.

Before I detail the procedure used in handraising the chick I would like to briefly discuss our breeding and husbandry setup for the slender-billed cockatoo. Two cages have been used to raise young by the adult pair in 1981 and 1982 respectively. One measures 9' x 8' x 8' and the other 9' x 1 1/2' x 8'. The latter being their current residence. Each of these cages has a small portal that leads to small indoor cages where they are fed and watered inside the building. The cockatoos utilize a wooden nestbox (32" x 13" x 13") with a 4" hole. The box is hung on the side of the cage near the top and features a small side view door to permit observation of eggs and chicks. The viewing door is never used unless the adult birds are inside the building feeding and out of sight. This is due to the fact that anyone approaching the nestbox has the effect of upsetting the adults greatly when there are eggs or young in the box. The nesting substrate utilized is peat moss to depth of about three inches. It seems to do a good job of simulating the moist decaying wood that they nest on in tree cavities in the wild. Inside the box we have placed a branch for the birds to climb down to and up out of the nest. In addition, there is a branch leading to the nest hole from the outside since the hen has an irreparable right wing injury that rendered her unable to fly up to the nest. Fortunately, this injury hasn't impaired her ability to breed and raise young.

Over the last year the diet of our cockatoos has undergone considerable evolution. Starting from a fairly simple diet of sunflower seeds, finch seed, apple, banana, grapes, oranges, a zupreem Feline diet, and a dog chow mix we have attempted to add variety and improve the nutrition of their diet. In addition to the above, we now feed hard-boiled egg, blueberries, tomato, cantaloupe, canned pineapple, rinsed canned fruit cocktail, canned mixed vegetables, English peas, and raw corn on the cob. The corn seems to be a particular favorite of the adult cockatoos. Finally, this entire diet is sprinkled with a vionate vitamin, bone-meal mix. We feel that this diet goes a long way towards meeting their nutritional needs as well as providing an interesting, varied, and stimulating meal for the birds. In other words, its an attempt to meet both their physiological



1983 OFFICERS

TOM IRELAND / *President*
 CLIFTON WITT / *Legislative Vice President*
 LEE PHILLIPS / *1st Vice President* DON CAVENDER / *2nd Vice President*
 HELEN HANSON / *Executive Secretary/Home Office* PHYLLIS K. MARTIN / *Corresponding Secretary*

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Tom Marshall / *Northeastern* • Roger Kenney / *Southeastern* • Craig Hendec / *Mideastern* • Ray Rudisell / *Central*
 Joe McLaughlin / *Western* • James H. Coffman / *northern California* • Aletta Long / *southern California*

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

Clifton Witt (301) 774-0303

STATE and REGIONAL COORDINATOR

CHAIRMAN

Gerald Perkins (415) 359-2540

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

NORTHEASTERN

Tim Dahle (301) 760-4626

SOUTHEASTERN

Rose Herman (305) 566-0780

MID-EASTERN

Craig Hendec (312) 724-2578

CENTRAL

Garrie Landry (318) 828-5957

WESTERN

Jeff L. Wigginton (206) 939-8267

CALIFORNIA

Patricia Barbera (707) 996-4266

STATE COORDINATORS

ALABAMA Truman Maynard (205) 567-6583	KENTUCKY Dr. Thomas B. Angel, Jr. (606) 371-4929	NEW YORK Arthur Freud (516) 265-6479
ALASKA Virginia Staley (907) 344-6732	LOUISIANA Joan Bordelon (504) 769-0322	NORTH CAROLINA Mike Miller ()
ARIZONA Mickey Olsson (602) 939-1003	MAINE Archie Fairbrother (207) 394-2252	NORTH DAKOTA/SOUTH DAKOTA Carol Hamilton (605) 535-2541
CALIFORNIA (north) Jim Smith (916) 534-1505	MARYLAND Ro Dahle (301) 760-4626	OHIO Chris Jacobs (614) 444-6037
CALIFORNIA (central) Hank Johnson (209) 233-3322	MASSACHUSETTS Gary Lilienthal (617) 542-7070	OKLAHOMA Dr. Roger W. Harlin (405) 636-1484
CALIFORNIA (south) Dick Schroeder (213) 645-5842	MICHIGAN Gary R. Susalla (313) 335-0643	OREGON Kay Mahi (503) 543-6042
COLORADO Kevin Wirick (303) 623-5959	MINNESOTA Ron Johnson (612) 423-2197	PENNSYLVANIA Herschel Frey (412) 561-7194
CONNECTICUT Walter J. Willoughby (203) 528-7296	MISSISSIPPI James Duroy (601) 625-7262	SOUTH CAROLINA Jerry Sanders (803) 578-6541
FLORIDA Mrs. M. Simmons (305) 772-2632	MISSOURI Ray Rudisell (314) 631-5174	TENNESSEE Beth Greenberg ()
GEORGIA George Hilder (404) 957-2892	MONTANA G. Allan Taylor (406) 587-3338	TEXAS Karen Bookout (713) 864-9759
HAWAII (name to come)	NEBRASKA Robert G. Travnicek (402) 821-2490	UTAH Rex Kennedy (801) 571-6183
ILLINOIS Shirley A. Jones (312) 743-3640	NEVADA Pat Dingle (702) 647-2213	VIRGINIA Bradley G. Dalton (804) 587-1570
INDIANA Conrad Meinert (219) 269-2873	NEW HAMPSHIRE (name to come)	WASHINGTON Joe Longo (206) 631-4245
IOWA Dr. William D. Klipec (515) 277-6745	NEW JERSEY Dr. Barry Adler (201) 762-5488/283-2110	WASHINGTON D.C. Ruth Hanessian (301) 424-PETS
KANSAS Donald Tillotson (316) 686-0716	NEW MEXICO Clifford Branc (505) 864-7496	WISCONSIN John Nero (414) 499-9013

1983 SCHEDULE FOR AFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

May 1983 meeting to be announced

August 17 thru 21, 1983
 Chicago, Illinois — Marriott Hotel
 540 N. Michigan Ave.
 9th Annual Convention

Lady Gouldian Finches

WHITE-BREASTED
BLUE-BREASTED
NORMAL COLORS



Herschel Frey

1170 Firwood Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA. 15243
(412) 561-7194



Sky Kings Aviary

5165 ROUTE 43
KENT, OHIO 44240

Vicky and Kent
Kibler

— WE SHIP —

LARGE SELECTION OF
IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC BIRDS

216 / 678-0488

Telephone inquiries only,
No correspondence

SPECIALIZED AND IMPORTED BIRD BOOKS

We can offer you an excellent selection of titles on AVICULTURE & BIRD KEEPING from England, Europe, Scotland, Australia, including the United States. Many titles which cannot be found in your local pet or book store.

Send \$1.00 (refundable in first order) for our catalog.

AVIAN PUBLICATIONS

310 Maria Drive, Dept. AFA, Wausau,
WI 54401 • (715) 845-5101



THE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

Welcomes New Members

An AUSTRALIAN Society catering for all birds both in captivity and in the wild. We put out a bi-monthly magazine on all aspects of aviculture and conservation. Also details of the coming **2nd National Avicultural Convention** to be held in Brisbane, Queensland, 29th April to 2nd May, 1983. Anyone interested in membership please contact RAY GARWOOD, 19 Fahey's Road, ALBANY CREEK, 4035, Qld., AUSTRALIA. Annual Subscription \$14 Aust. currency surface mail and \$20 Aust. currency airmail.

Photos by David Ranglack



*At two months old this baby slender-billed cockatoo is beginning to look like a bird.
At four months of age this youngster is quite beautiful.*



and psychological needs.

The diet used in handraising the chick was also fairly complex. This diet was that suggested by Ann Nothaft in her book "Breeding Cockatoos." It consisted of a mix containing two (2) cups of high protein baby cereal, one (1) cup of

ground high protein dog chow, one (1) cup of yellow corn meal, one (1) cup of hulled sunflower seed, one (1) cup of hulled millet seed, and one (1) cup of raw wheat germ. The hulled sunflower seeds and hulled millet seeds can be obtained from a health food store and are

Yes, I want to join the
American Federation of Aviculture

The WATCHBIRD is the official bi-monthly publication of the AFA, a non-profit organization.



Please enroll me as a member, start my subscription to the Watchbird, and send me my membership card which entitles me to all the benefits and privileges of the American Federation of Aviculture membership.

Membership Application
 Check category desired
 (1 year, 6 issues)

- \$15 - Individual
 \$25 - Supporting Patron
 \$50 - Sustaining Patron

NEW RENEWAL

FOREIGN SUBSCRIPTIONS: add \$3.50 per year for Mexico, Canada, (Please remit in U.S. currency) add \$7.00 per year overseas (outside N. America)

My check is enclosed for the amount of \$ _____ Telephone (_____) _____
 area code

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please allow 4-8 weeks for delivery of your first issue.

SEND TO: AFA, P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • phone (213) 372-2988

I would like to send a GIFT membership to the
American Federation of Aviculture

The WATCHBIRD is the official bi-monthly publication of the AFA, a non-profit organization.



Please send membership/subscription—enroll as a member, start delivery of the Watchbird, send membership card with all the benefits and privileges of the American Federation of Aviculture to:

Membership Application
 Check category desired
 (1 year, 6 issues)

- \$15 - Individual
 \$25 - Supporting Patron
 \$50 - Sustaining Patron

My check is enclosed for the amount of \$ _____ NEW RENEWAL

FOREIGN SUBSCRIPTIONS: add \$3.50 per year for Mexico, Canada, (Please remit in U.S. currency) add \$7.00 per year overseas (outside N. America)

Name _____ Telephone (_____) _____
 area code

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gift message to read: _____

Please allow 4-8 weeks for delivery of your first issue.

SEND TO: AFA, P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • phone (213) 372-2988

I would like to send a GIFT membership to the
American Federation of Aviculture

The WATCHBIRD is the official bi-monthly publication of the AFA, a non-profit organization.



Please send membership/subscription—enroll as a member, start delivery of the Watchbird, send membership card with all the benefits and privileges of the American Federation of Aviculture to:

Membership Application
 Check category desired
 (1 year, 6 issues)

- \$15 - Individual
 \$25 - Supporting Patron
 \$50 - Sustaining Patron

My check is enclosed for the amount of \$ _____ NEW RENEWAL

FOREIGN SUBSCRIPTIONS: add \$3.50 per year for Mexico, Canada, (Please remit in U.S. currency) add \$7.00 per year overseas (outside N. America)

Name _____ Telephone (_____) _____
 area code

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gift message to read: _____

Please allow 4-8 weeks for delivery of your first issue.

SEND TO: AFA, P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • phone (213) 372-2988



Ayudenos A Salvar Guacamayas!

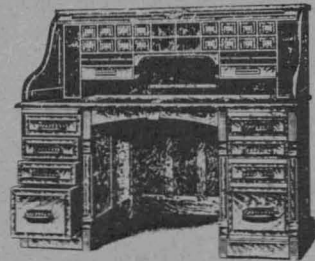
NOTICE

All correspondence intended for the editor of the Watchbird should be mailed directly to his address.

Sheldon Dingle
P.O. Box 340
Norco, CA 91760

From The Editor's Desk

by Sheldon Dingle



Dear Sheldon:

I would like to call your attention to an appeal I received from Central America in December of 1982. Simply stated it is, "Ayudenos A Salvar Guacamayas" or "Help Us to Save Macaws." Since December, I have had the distinct pleasure of organizing and supporting this unique conservation effort here in the United States. Our group is primarily concerned with salvaging the remaining wild macaw population in Panama.

The macaws are being slaughtered for their feathers.

The rural people of Panama use the macaw feathers in their traditional folklorico dances. If my information is correct, many of these dances are staged as tourist attractions and others are private rituals. The colorful macaw tails are used in the dancers' headdresses. Due to the cultural need for authentic costuming, certain macaws species are threatened with extinction in the wild.

I am attempting to buy larger quantities of macaw feathers to offset the cultural need of the rural people of Panama and to insure the survival of the macaws in their natural habitat.

The idea for this program was originated by Professor Francisco S. Delgado, President of the International Council for the Protection of Birds in Panama. I was contacted through a

recommendation from Mr. Tony Silva as one who might be interested in helping to further this conservation effort. The I.C.P.B. became involved in the feather distribution program because it has been declared illegal for the general population of Panama to traffic macaw feathers. We believe this is due to the heavy toll taken on the wild macaw population in the past because of the world pet trade, the farmers protecting their crops, and the cultural need for the feathers.

If we are able to supply the large quantities of macaw tail feathers needed, the rural people will no longer have cause to slaughter these beautiful birds.

We would appreciate your consideration in giving our effort some exposure in the *A.F.A. Watchbird* so that others may be made aware of what we are doing and could contact me for further information.

I wish to thank you for any assistance you can provide.

Kevin Schneider
1350 Chaney St.
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 442-2224

Everyone has problems. We civilized people worry about running out of oil and the more primitive tribesman worry about running out of feathers. Or maybe he isn't worrying and therein lies the

problem. We are worrying about that too.

As we gain in intelligence (in the sense of more and more information about our universe) we must assume more and more responsibility. The cosmos and our responsibilities in it are so vast that one can easily become overwhelmed and just throw up one's hands and say "buzz off." But most of us in the A.F.A. have had the wisdom to narrow our focus to the point of being able to form certain priorities of responsibility. Just after our own personal needs we have chosen to honor our responsibilities toward the animals of the world—birds in particular.

The A.F.A. membership is becoming more and more conservation minded, as I feel it must to be effective. This effort that you are involved in is very painless way of actually doing something that can have an effect on the well-being of some wild and beautiful birds. We all have birds, many of which were torn from their wild state to wind up in our aviaries. It is a marvelous idea and opportunity to return a few fallen feathers to Panama for the benefit of the macaws.

I urge all of you who have macaws to contact Mr. Schneider. Every feather we send from the floors of our aviaries to Panama can take the place of a feather taken off a dead wild bird.

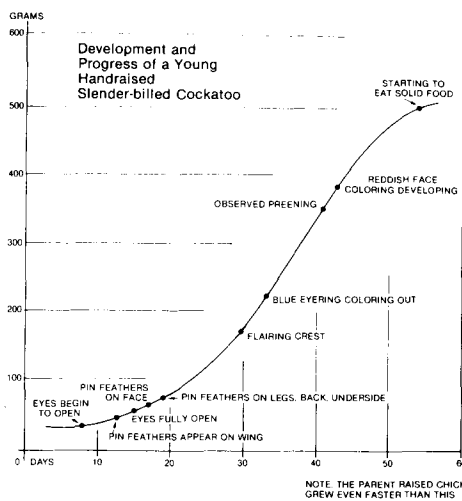
Ed. ●

then pulverized in a blender or food processor before it is put in the mix in powder form. The other items can be obtained at a grocery store except the dog chow that we get from an animal feed supplier. Starting out with about one-half cup of mix at hatching, water is added and the mixture cooked for about ten minutes. The goal is to end up with a very moist, soupy mixture that combined with the cooking process makes for a very digestible diet for the new hatchling. As the chick grows, the amount cooked is increased but never more than can be used in two days. After two days the cooked leftovers are thrown away and a new batch is cooked. The cooked and uncooked mixes are both kept refrigerated at all times. Occasionally, strained baby vegetables would be cooked in the formula at about two spoonfuls per cooked batch.

Many of the techniques that I utilized to feed and brood the chick were ideas advanced by Sheila Hartline who has had a great deal of experience in raising native birds for release back to the wild. The basic approach was to put the food into a 3cc hypodermic syringe with a short piece of very soft rubber tube attached to the end where the needle would be. The syringe was then put in a cup of warm water for a few minutes. The tube was inserted down the throat and into the crop where some food, about 1½ cc initially, was injected. About eight of these feedings were given per day in the beginning. I rarely ever fed the chick after midnight or before 5:00 a.m. since it wouldn't be getting fed at night in the wild. The chick usually took it with gusto, pumping its head and squawking loudly while being fed. When the syringe was filled a drop or two of abdec vitamins was put in the food every day after the chick reached four days old. After every feeding the chick was cleaned up, if any food had smeared on its face or body. Frequency of feeding is determined by the size of the crop. It is important to not let it overload with food and choke the bird nor to become completely empty.

To brood the chick we set up a cardboard box with a heating pad. Rags were then put in to create a circular hollow in the center. There, paper towels lined the bottom of the hollow through which warmth from the heating pad could filter. This arrangement keeps the young cockatoo warm, gives good traction to prevent "straddle legs," and provides something to lean on and rear up against.

Development of the chick occurs at a tremendous rate. Going from 27 grams to 191 grams in its first month, the



young cockatoo astonished everyone with its growth. This almost resulted in the loss of the bird when one day I made the mistake of thinking the cockatoo had not acquired flight ability and decided to move him without a cage. It broke for the open sky and we spent three days feverishly attempting to recapture it. One day we tried a tree trimmer's truck to no avail. We next tried waiting until it went to roost at night which of course was at the top of the tallest tree in the zoo. With assistant director of the zoo, Buzz Peavy, perched on the top of the ladder another attempt was made to net it. This time he flew away and into a tree in the deer corral where our capture efforts would have unleashed untold mayhem with panicking deer careening off fences like pinballs. We decided to stop for the night. Finally, on the third day we had just about given up when someone dropped a paper bag off at the cashiers that was opened to reveal a tired, thin cockatoo peering up at us. The relief was indescribable. The unidentified man was gone before we could thank him properly.

In conclusion, I feel that most important factors in breeding the cockatoos were a compatible pair and the provision of a suitable nest box. The crucial factor in handraising I believe to be the quality of the diet with special attention to proper preparation. Without it, impacted crop can occur. This had to be treated in our bird by massaging the crop, feeding very dilute formula, and use of mineral oil. The formula initially used was apparently too thick for the chick to handle. We hope to continue to breed these rare birds and wish that our efforts may contribute something towards their continued existence in general and in aviculture in particular. As far as we know we have the only current breeding pair in the country but I would be interested in hearing of any information to the contrary. ●

Help Us Save MACAWS

We are attempting to coordinate and support a unique conservation effort here in the United States concerning the remaining wild macaw population in Panama. The macaws are being slaughtered for their feathers.

We need contact with all who keep macaws, from individual pet owners, shop keepers, to the largest breeders. We need large quantities of molted tail feathers and have added a new price list, paying up to \$10 each for specific types and grades of macaw tail feathers. For this program to be successful we must act now!

Please help us to save macaws.
For more information contact:

Kevin Schneider
1350 Chaney St.
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 442-2224

Sponsored by International Council for the Protection of Birds, Panama.

Scarlet Oak Aviaries

27935 Pergl Road
Glenwillow, Ohio 44139

The place for
hand-fed, tame
and talking baby
MACAWS, COCKATOOS,
AMAZON PARROTS

Laparoscoped sexed birds
also available.

All our birds have been
acclimated to domestic life.

Distributors for ABBA
complete seed diet,
and all sizes and types of
parrot cages and
training stands.

(216) 439-5106

Dave and Rose D'Isidoro