

U.S. and Canadian governmental agencies. We are also aware of the contributions private aviculturists have made with species such as the scarlet-chested parakeet, the Swinhoe's pheasant, and others.

Sadly, our past also looms forward to haunt us, and from it, such tragedies as the extinction of the Carolina parakeet. This species slipped through the very fingers of aviculturists, for it was bred in captivity on a number of occasions. Ap-



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parently they were so plentiful at one time, that no one felt they were in danger until quite abruptly it was too late. Could this type of tragedy occur again? The answer is obviously, of course.

One of the most often heard cries of conservationists when populations of certain types of birds appear to be in a state of decline is—the pet trade, the pet trade. While we must agree that there is indeed much negativity associated with the world-wide pet trade in decimating certain species, we also know that the pet trade is not always the primary culprit! Loss of habitat, uncontrolled use of pesticides such as DDT, and a host of other considerations often play a far more significant role in population declines.

And what do we find ourselves doing in response to such accusations? Virtually nothing. Through our silence and our lack of positive response, we appear totally content to allow the practice of aviculture to be considered right along with ivory poaching as a major form of senseless wildlife exploitation. The fact that we have hidden our heads in the sand and have done nothing to try and change these attitudes or to improve our image seems unbelievable. Surely, dedicated aviculturists are concerned over statistics regarding the numbers of wild-caught specimens which perish for each specimen that survives the ordeal of capture and importation; we are also concerned when entire consignments of birds are destroyed after being denied entry into the United States; surely we have concern for the status of dwindling wild populations; and surely we do not wish to be a factor in species extermination.

Undoubtedly, delicate balances in nature are easily upset, and some of the species which have been imported in large numbers over the last several years may be in a state of decline due to heavy cropping to meet the seemingly insatiable demands of the pet trade. However, this is a major unknown at this time. Again, how unfortunate, that aviculturists have all but totally ignored the need for field studies to determine the stability of certain species habitats and the effects of our constant demands on wild populations. This is a grave omission and an irresponsible attitude on our part. Without this kind of information, we have no insight into what we are really doing and where our avicultural emphasis needs to be placed. If this situation causes us no real concern, we are only giving lip-service to our interest in conservation, and our motives for keep-

ing birds in captivity represents nothing but a selfish greed with no concern for the consequences of our actions.

In our own best interest, I suggest we should begin to establish closer liaisons with conservation groups, and, perhaps, be prepared to provide some funding for projects we feel are important. Field studies for commonly imported species destined for the pet trade should be supported, and even initiated by aviculturists, to see if these pressures are, in fact, taking an undue toll on the wild populations.

The truly dedicated aviculturists today must have a concern for tomorrow. We find ourselves at a pivotal point in writing our own history. On one hand, we stand on the brink of the golden age of aviculture with the promise of a future of significant accomplishments in avian conservation. On the other, we stand also on the brink of disaster, where a careless lack of concern by aviculturists may help contribute to the extinction of more species of birds in a shorter period of time than at any other point in history. The choice is clearly ours.

If we procrastinate today we will regret tomorrow. ●

AFA Conservation Committee Report

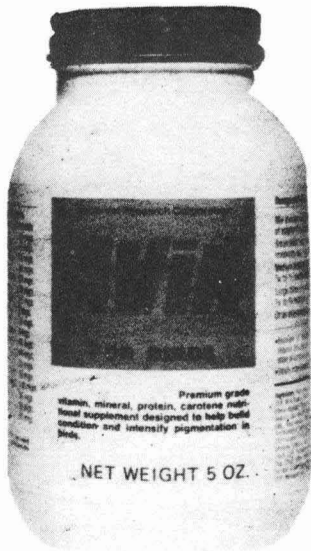
By Committee Chairman
Robert J. Berry

The recently formed conservation committee of the American Federation of Aviculture is in need of funds to initiate a variety of projects which were proposed at the Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., last August. The multi-faceted approach to the organization's over-all conservation endeavors includes projects such as AFA-initiated field studies (the first, currently under way on the Red-headed Amazon, *Amazona viridigenalis*); public education programs; stipends to existing captive breeding programs for certain endangered species; contributions to field studies initiated by others; and support of proposed land acquisitions for habitat preservation. All of this sounds good! All of these measures are positive! All of these efforts can enhance the total conservation effort on a global scale! The major problem is—none of these proposals can be effectively implemented without adequate funding!

As chairman of the Conservation Committee I am appealing to avicultur-

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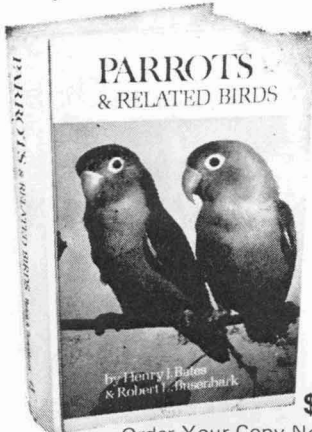
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ists to assist us in this endeavor by doing what they do best—RAISE BIRDS! My appeal is for each person who raises birds, who appreciates these interesting and beautiful creatures, who has reaped joy and pleasure from keeping them in captivity, to maintain and breed a pair of birds in their collections on behalf of the AFA conservation committee and donate the wholesale value from the sale of the young from this pair to the conservation fund.

Even though we suggest a semi-domesticated species such as cockatiels, lovebirds, canaries, golden pheasants, diamond doves, mandarin ducks, zebra finches or budgies, it makes no difference which species you select to breed, what color or what kind. As an example of the potential impact of such a cooperative project, if one hundred aviculturists each maintained a single pair of normal cockatiels on behalf of the committee, and each of these pairs averaged producing eight young in a year and these were sold at a hypothetical wholesale price of

\$15.00 each, there would be a total income of \$12,000 for our conservation programs. Furthermore, if the participants elected to sell these birds at a higher retail price, they could easily recover their cost of acquiring, keeping and maintaining the birds plus the enjoyment of having them rear young and the additional reward of knowing that they as individuals were in a small way participating in the cause of avian conservation.

What a wealth of positive public relations potential also exists in this concept. Please consider lending your assistance to this project. We need your involvement to make it work. Notify the AFA office and pledge your support.

Receipt for each donation will be provided for those who may wish to declare a tax deduction. ●

Conservation Fund
 American Federation of Aviculture
 P.O. Box 1568
 Redondo Beach, Ca. 90278

SHOWS & NOTICES

Arizona Avicultural Society
 is sponsoring an

All Educational Bird Fair
 to be held at

Los Arcos Hall, Scottsdale, AZ

Saturday, May 28th, 1983

Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For information contact:

Harvey Hathcock

1532 E. Grove Ave., Mesa, AZ 85204

Southeastern Aviculturists Association

will host their

3rd Annual Convention

Guest speakers:

Mickey Olsson & Phyllis Martin

June 4th & 5th, 1983

New Orleans Airport Hilton

901 Airline Hwy., Kenner, LA

For information contact:

Joan Bordelon, (504) 769-0322

S.A.A., 722 Seyburn Court,

Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Heart of American Parrot Society

All Hookbill Show and

Approved Cockatiel Show

May 14, 1983

at the

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Junction of Hwys. I-70 and 40

Kansas City, Missouri

Over night arrangements can be made

at Holiday Inn near Blue Ridge Mall,

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Judge—Dr. Al Decoteau, D.V.M.

For information contact:

Andrea Shaw—(816) 483-5919

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July 9th and 10th, 1983

Anaheim Convention Center

Anaheim, California

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Pet-Dor, Jungle Laboratories,

Lambert Kay, Mardel Laboratories,

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Drawing will be held

Sunday, July 10, 1983

Winners need not be present.

For additional information contact:

American Pet Society, P.O. Box 265,

Danville, CA 94526. ph (415) 837-1361

Association of Avian Veterinarians

will hold their

3rd Annual Meeting

June 1 thru 5, 1983

Vacation Village on Mission Bay

San Diego, CA

For more information contact:

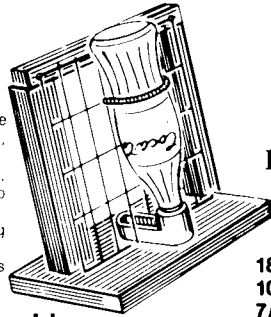
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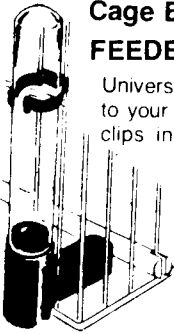
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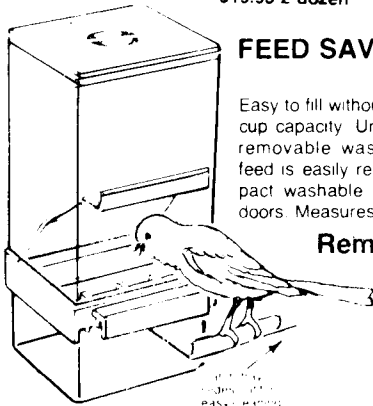
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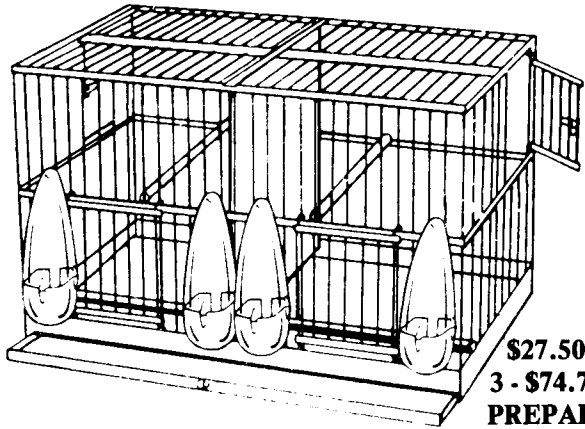
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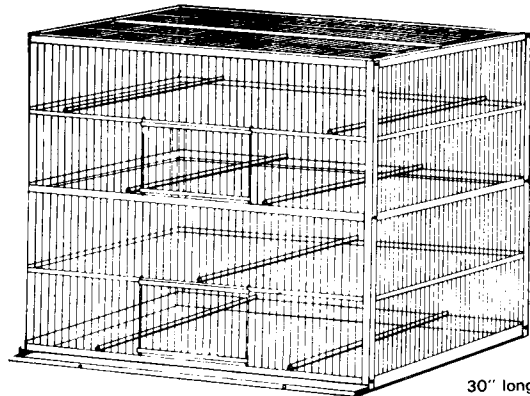
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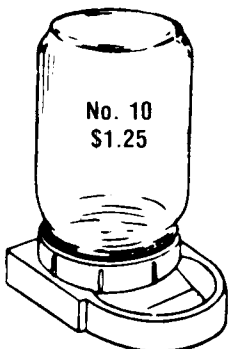
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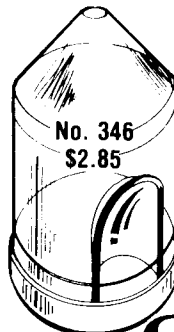
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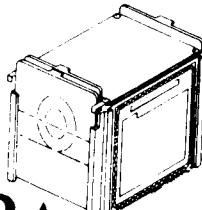
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