



**THE FEED BAG**



**BUY • SELL • TRADE  
BIRDS  
BIRD SUPPLIES  
AND EQUIPMENT  
SEED, FEED**

Halfmoons  
Cockatiels  
Lovebirds  
Parrakeets  
White Headed Nuns  
Green Singers  
Golden Breasted Waxbills  
Cordon Bleu  
AND MANY OTHER TYPES  
OF FINCHES  
AND HOOKBILLS



18247 East Valley Blvd.  
(at Yorbita Rd.)  
La Puente, CA. 91744  
**818 / 964-8473**

## A.F.A. Visits...

# Texas A&M/E.B.R.A. Macaw Collection College Station, Texas

by Sheldon Dingle  
Norco, California

You have always loved the wild birds around your rural Texas home but you have never considered keeping even a pet budgie in the house. What would you *do* with it? Then one pleasant evening a truck backs into the yard and dumps off a bunch of boxes containing 126 huge, hungry, screaming, biting macaws. They are yours to care for. You have no cages, no food, no crocks, no experience, no help—just 126 huge macaws. My God! What to do?

Yes folks, this is a horror story — indeed, a true one that took place in April of 1983. Let me explain.

Several years before, in this same rural Texas home, two old men sat around the fire chatting. Inevitably their talk turned to birds and they found they had some things in common. Mr. G.T. McAlpin, a wealthy Texas oilman and developer, had spent years in South America where he learned to respect, even to love the beautiful macaws he watched in the wild. And Dr. C.D. Brown, a veterinarian and professor at nearby Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine, was equally enthralled by the great exotic birds and he particularly lamented the lack of knowledge regarding health care for exotic birds.

The two old men fed one another's dreams and from their discussions three things became clear. First, that the current conservation practices in most of South America were totally inadequate and invited declines of macaw populations. Second, that not enough was known about wild macaw populations for any one to effectively manage the wild birds on a sustaining yield basis. Third, that the demand for wild-caught birds ought to be considerably reduced

by captive-rearing programs and by better husbandry and health care of birds already in captivity.

With these points in mind McAlpin and Brown set out to do something positive. I won't touch on the innumerable meetings, the dozens of legal documents, the agreements, discussions, deals and handshakes that took place but the end result was a liaison between private industry and academia.

McAlpin formed a company, Exotic Bird Research Associates, Inc. (EBRA) which formed some agreements with Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine (TAMU). TAMU worked out some arrangements with a university in Bolivia, G.R. Moreno University (GRMU). In short, EBRA would fund the project, GRMU would oversee the field work and shipping of the wild macaws, and TAMU would be responsible for health and husbandry studies once the birds arrived in the States. The birds were to remain the property of EBRA but be completely accessible to TAMU. For the sake of brevity I'll call this liaison the Macaw Project.

It was at this point when jeeps and boats were bought, men were hired, permits requested, and money actually began to change hands that McAlpin and Brown ran into a heap of totally unexpected trouble. They were just not ready for the bird industry's fast lane. They trusted people who were dishonest. They depended upon people who failed. They spent money and got nothing. They were misrepresented by some of their own people. To make matters worse, several world respected organizations were a little hasty with erroneous information and unkind, un-

true rumors were floated about. The Macaw Project that had begun as an idealistic dream was being looked upon as though it were a con man's racket.

In truth the Macaw Project was ripped off, cheated, misrepresented, and maligned time and again. Dr. Brown's untimely death in December 1982 was another tragic misfortune. Several more hammerblows in quick succession had the entire project reeling and rather down in morale.

Fortunately McAlpin, Dr. Ian Tizard (Dr. Brown's successor at TAMU), and Dr. Benny Gallaway and his wife Nancy (Nancy is McAlpin's daughter) proved to be tough customers and stuck with the Project. It is also greatly to the credit of the officers of Texas A&M University that despite much adverse publicity the school did not bow to the ill informed public pressure.

"O.K., Dingle," you say, "so how do you know all this stuff?" A fair question, of course, with a very simple answer. I heard some of the rumors and read some of the bad P.R. and decided to go to Texas to see for myself.

I visited Dr. George C. Shelton, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. I took a grand tour of the TAMU facilities with Dr. Ian Tizard, the TAMU Project Leader. And I spent a couple of days with Dr. and Mrs. Gallaway who represent EBRA and have possession of the birds.

Gentle reader, I looked all of these people square in the eye and found no guile. I studied copies of the papers and legal documents pertaining to the whole Macaw Project from the beginning. I am convinced, intellectually and at the gut level, that the Macaw Project was and is an honorable undertaking if a little naive.

"But what of the Gallaways?" you say. "Who are they?" Innocent bystanders, my friend, innocent bystanders. McAlpin's daughter, Nancy, is married to Benny J. Gallaway, Ph.D., who owns the famous fireside where this whole thing started. Originally the Gallaways had nothing to do with the whole affair. Remember, Nancy didn't even want a budgie in the house for fear the cats would torment it. But when the grand plan went to hell in a handbasket and the best laid plans crumbled about McAlpin's ears what was he to do with 126 macaws coming out of quarantine? Give them to his kid to take care of, naturally. Thus Benny and Nancy Gallaway became victims of a life-changing drama involving a truck, boxes, birds, and a front yard one pleasant Texas evening. Things will *never* be

## Three Facts You Want to Know About Carlson Spray Millet

**1.** More people buy Spray Millet from Carlson's than from any grower in the country.

People like our freshness and quality. They expect each hand-picked millet spray from Carlson's to be as clean and nutritious as nature intended.

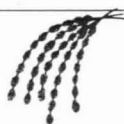
**2.** Carlson's Millet is Pesticide Free! Unlike imported millets which are thoroughly fumigated with chemical pesticides, Carlson's is pesticide free and completely safe for even the smallest, most delicate birds.

**3.** Carlson's Spray Millet comes in Regular and Premium Lengths.



**Carlson  
Specialty  
Seed**

RT. 2, BOX 535  
PLAINFIELD, WI 54966  
(715)335-4564



Cartons	lbs.	Regular 8" to 10" Sprays	Premium 10" and Longer Sprays
1	5	\$15.00	\$18.00
2	10	\$24.00	\$30.00
4	20	\$46.00	\$55.00

Postage is paid in Continental USA.  
Inquire for quantity prices.

## Pyramid Birds presents PARROTDISE

The Largest, Most Beautifully Displayed Presentation of Parrots in the Entire Galaxy! Truly a Close Encounter of the Bird Kind! Cockatoos, Macaws, Amazons, Love Birds, Cockatiels, Conures, Budgies and Many Other Rare Exotic Parrots Create a Beautifully Natural and Intimate Experience with Nature . . . Bring your cameras!

Parritz Regency Hotel & Spa Luxury accommodations daily, weekly, monthly, special resident rates.

Parrotdise Charm School Expertly trained Parrotologists.

The Parrotfanalia Shop Absolutely every kind of service & product imaginable for all parrot-type birds. Custom iron cages, toys, stands, natural branches, playgrounds & accessories, gigantic book selection on parrots.

Parrotdise Beauty Salon Expertly trained, gentle groomers. Wings, nails, beaks, tails, bath.

Parritz Boutique Feather fashions by Johnny Rainbow of the Parritz. "Natural elegance is always fashionable." Jewelry — combs — hats — belts — T-shirts and lots of chachkas.

**Pyramid Birds**  
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP STORE  
\$2.00 per family, visitors \$2.00

**(818) 843-5505**

OPEN 7 DAYS  
Monday thru Saturday 9-5  
Sunday 9-1

Home of the Pampered Parrots and HQ World Parrot Foundation—Supporting Education, Conservation, and Medical Research Programs to Save the Parrots!

1407 W. Magnolia, Burbank, CA 91506

DIRECTORS: GARY MORTIMER, JOHN INGRAHAM



the same again, believe me.

The Gallaway property is large, wooded, and quite close to the university so the location is ideal. And since April of 1983 when they started with zero experience and little equipment, the Gallaways have made much progress. With little help and lots of trauma the Gallaways have condensed about ten years worth of aviculture into a year and a half crash course. It has taken its toll but under the circumstances we'll forgive Gallaway his shaky hands and desperate expression of the eye.

At the time of my visit the macaws were housed in very satisfactory holding pens and breeding aviaries. The birds were all in excellent feather and physical condition. A private veterinarian in San Antonio as well as the

Photo by Gallaway

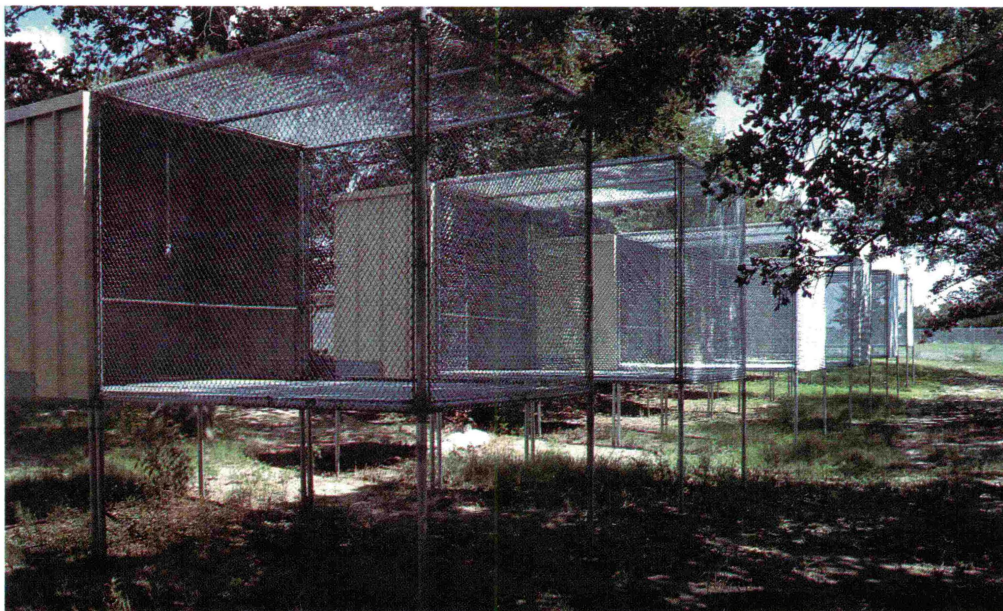
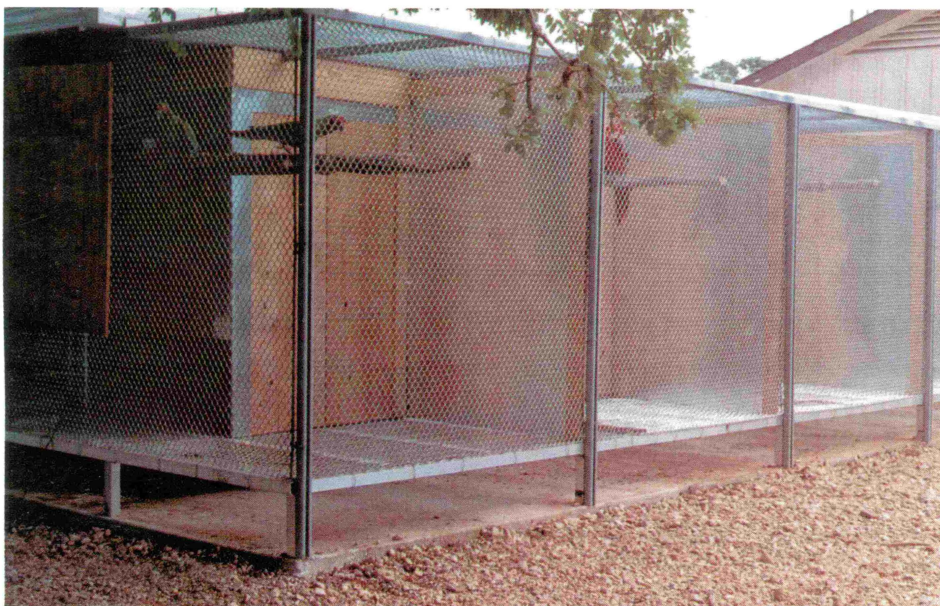


Photo by Sheldon Dingle



Above — Free standing outdoor flights. These units measure 6' x 12' x 6' and are raised 3' above ground level. Each is equipped with a built-in shelter which is left open at the front and bottom during summer. In winter, panels are inserted across the front and bottom providing an enclosed shelter.

Left — The first breeding aviaries built for the Texas A & M/E.B.R.A. macaw colony. Breeding cages built later do not have as much chewable wood in them.

Top right — Veterinarian students inspecting the birds as part of the Caged Bird Medicine Class.

Right — Nancy and Karen Gallaway with the "boys" in the nursery room.

Below — Karen Gallaway hand-feeding a yellow collar macaw suffering from Macaw Wasting Disease. At the time of this photo this bird had been kept alive for over four months.

Photo by Gallaway



Students learn to handle macaws and give routine physical exams.



Photo by Gallaway

Photo by Gallaway



Photo by Gallaway



Photo by Sheldon Dingle



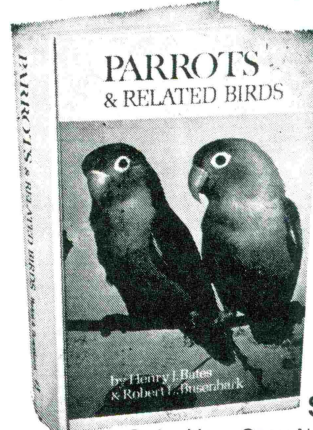
A group of scarlet macaws in a roomy holding pen.

Never before has such a comprehensive encyclopedia been offered, both for the specialist and hobbyist.  
YOUR LIBRARY IS NOT COMPLETE WITHOUT THIS BOOK.

# PARROTS and RELATED BIRDS

(revised edition)

by Henry J. Bates and Robert L. Busenbark



\$16.95

Order Your Copy Now From  
**PALOS VERDES BIRD FARM INC.**  
P.O. Box 1305, Torrance, CA. 90505  
Include \$1.50 postage and handling.  
California residents add 6% sales tax.  
Retail Store - 4146 West Pacific Coast Hwy.,  
Torrance, CA 90505  
(across the street from Sambo's)



3800 N. RICHMOND  
APPLETON, WI 54915

Parrots Macaws  
Conures • Finches

Cockatoos

Cockatiels

Parakeets

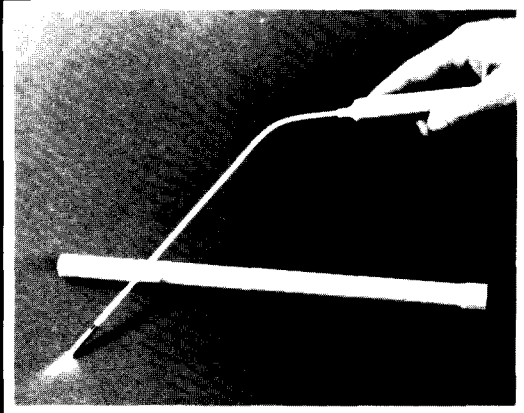
Tame Birds

Sexed Pairs

CALL OR WRITE FOR  
CURRENT PRICES

**(414) 731-7779**

# CANDLING WITHOUT HANDLING.



**With this unique flexible transilluminator.**

This revolutionary portable light features a high intensity, pre-focused bulb on the end of a ten inch flexible shaft which may be bent into any configuration. Also,

its protective cover may be removed and used as an extension handle which will allow you to reach 27 inches. It is perfect for candling eggs in the nest!

Write to Medical Diagnostic Services, Inc. for more information regarding this and other inexpensive diagnostic products.  
P.O. Box 1441, Brandon, Florida 34299-1441. Phone (813) 685-1727.

SAT — SUN

SEPTEMBER 22-23, 1984

9:30 am - 5:00 pm

**A Bird Affaire**

San Francisco Hall of Flowers  
in: Golden Gate Park  
corner: 9th and Lincoln Way

**BIRDS**

**BIRD RELATED ITEMS**  
**56 OPEN SALES BOOTHS**

Admission: Adults \$2.50, Seniors: \$1.50, Under 15: \$.75

CONTACT: PAT MONAS (415) 661-3406

veterinarians at the college were monitoring the health of the birds. The birds had been surgically sexed and many pairs set up to breed. Additional aviaries were under construction. In short, the immediate needs of the birds had been well satisfied and it was time to take a breath and look to the future.

I don't think anyone will deny that the TAMU/EBRA Macaw Project originated and took off almost in a vacuum. Many of the problems the Project encountered had already been solved by others. Indeed, it has been said that the Macaw Project re-invented the wheel. The project personnel, to their cost, failed to realize that there were many other institutions and persons who were also interested in macaws and who had experience.

But the past is past and the price has been paid. The Macaw Project has had its naivete stripped from it and not gently. It has regained its balance now and stands looking to the future. But what of the future?

Well, I don't have a crystal ball but I do have a lot of optimism. And I also have a number of valid reasons for expecting the TAMU/EBRA Macaw Project to move into a bright future. First, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine is a large and important force in the field of animal health and it is strongly committed to developing a very extensive exotic bird health research program. In fact, TAMU, I was surprised to learn, even now does much lab work on birds sent to them by California veterinarians. TAMU is determined to improve the status of exotic avian medicine and I trust they'll do it.

Second, the majority of the macaws are in the possession of Dr. Benny and Nancy Gallaway who are totally committed to the welfare of the birds. The colony is located on their rural, wooded property very convenient to the university but far enough off the beaten track to comprise what I consider an excellent location for a breeding farm. McAlpin's emergency choice of location for the birds was a wise one, after all.

Third, and it is pure coincidence, Dr. Benny Gallaway is by training and profession a wildlife ecologist. He is president and senior ecologist for a company that has been commissioned to design and implement ecological studies of wildlife and fishes all over North America. He has studied the only U.S. snow goose nesting colony, bowhead whales, various sea birds, tundra birds on the arctic north slope and many other wild subjects. He is a specialist in

the management of wild populations. Indeed, he feels that the scientific community should be responsible for providing realistic data regarding wild populations. And once that data becomes known, of course, aviculturists *must* regulate their demands within the obvious parameters. Dr. Gallaway is a scientist *and* aviculturist who can do much to bring the two camps into closer accord. He has, in fact, discussed with me several very exciting concepts that may prove to be true breakthroughs in macaw conservation but they are each worthy of a separate paper at a later date.

The fourth reason I anticipate a bright future for the Macaw Project is the just-announced liaison between the Project and Robert J. Berry. All of you know of Bob Berry, Curator of Birds at the Houston Zoo, private aviculturist par excellence, leader of the A.F.A. Conservation Committee, recipient of several prestigious honors and awards for avicultural achievements, and Professional Fellow of AAZPA. Robert Berry has just accepted an Adjunct Professorship at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and a position of Avicultural Consultant with EBRA. This means that the Macaw Project now has available the most expert guidance that could be gotten. Even if he lived in Alaska, Berry would be the very man for the job. Coincidentally, he lives in Houston which is close enough for effective communication. Up until now the Macaw Project has re-invented the wheel and spun it a lot. With Berry's experience, thoughtfulness, and conservation-minded vision I expect the Project to get its wheel in gear and move out. We all shall watch with keen interest.

And my fifth reason for optimism is the continuing support of G.T. McAlpin. He knew the program was right when he began it and he has stuck with it through some rocky times. Despite some undeserved personal abuse McAlpin never snapped his purse shut. Even now, poor health aside, he continues to fund the project that will ultimately benefit so many aviculturists as well as the birds. McAlpin has thus far invested about \$400,000.00 in the Project.

Many regrettable things have happened that would have broken the hearts of lesser people but the gauntlet has been run and the way ahead looks clear. I am confident that G.T. McAlpin will one day look back in great satisfaction and feel that the investment in money, tears and toil has paid off in full. ●

HIGHEST QUALITY-MAXIMUM NUTRITION

# FEEDER INSECTS

FOR ZOOS, AQUARIUMS AND AVIARIES

CONTACT US NOW FOR OUR BEST PRICE!

Many major zoos throughout the country use our grubs.

We're known for our quality and prompt service.

## MEALWORMS

The liveliest and hardiest on the market

1000..... \$ 3.50  
5000..... 12.50

Mealworms (*Tenebrio molitor*) are widely used and are well-known as feed for birds. We can furnish the size you need.

## WAXWORMS

The best Bee Moth Larvae available anywhere

## FLY LARVAE

A soft bodied white grub

1000..... \$ 7.00  
5000..... 30.00

The fly larvae (*Sarcophaga bullata*), are excellent if you are having trouble with chiten in your feed.

500 ..... \$ 6.50  
1000..... 12.00

The Bee Moth Larvae is a little more expensive but if this is what you need we have quality.

Prices Include Shipping Charges

Add \$1.00 Handling to any order.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WRITE OR CALL:



INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 2001 · Hamilton, OH 45015  
(513) 863-4937

## At Last! From Colony Pets, Inc. The Original and Ultimate in Nesting Boxes



- \* Made of 1/4 in. high density, agricultural grade polyethylene.
- \* Designed with a parrot's natural nesting instincts in mind.
- \* Dark, natural color.
- \* 3 sizes to choose from.
- \* Rounded bottoms, eggs stay in the middle and together.
- \* Chewproof, almost indestructible.
- \* No cold tin or steel.
- \* No wood for disease or germs, completely washable and easily disinfected.
- \* Keep birds outdoors longer so they stay healthier and happier.
- \* Cutable and drillable with common wood tools.
- \* Custom holes you design or order predrilled.
- \* Nontoxic

- \* Can be positioned flat, upright, put on floor or hung.
- \* Also a weatherproof home or shelter to protect your valuable birds from the cold, wind, rain or any adverse weather conditions.
- \* Protect your birds and eggs from rodents and other predators.
- \* Shipped by UPS to your door.

Model	Size	Area	Use	Cost
800	8"x12"	602 cu. in.	sm bird	\$24.60+ \$2 shp, han
1200	12"x18"	2034 cu. in.	md bird	\$39.60+ \$4 shp, han
2000	20"x36"	9420 cu. in.	lg bird	\$76.80+ \$6 shp, han

- \* If for any reason you are not 100% satisfied with this product, return it to Calvin Colony, Colony Pets, Inc. Your money will be happily refunded. No questions asked.
- \* Your birds deserve the best; Don't set up another pair without one!
- \* Order direct from manufacturer and save; patent pending.

- \* Please state model and hole position and size by drawing an illustration. Otherwise nesting boxes will be sent uncut.
- \* Colony Pets, Inc., RR #2, Box 146, Oxford, Iowa 52322.  
Or phone (319) 645-2831. Dealer inquiries welcome, quantity discounts available.