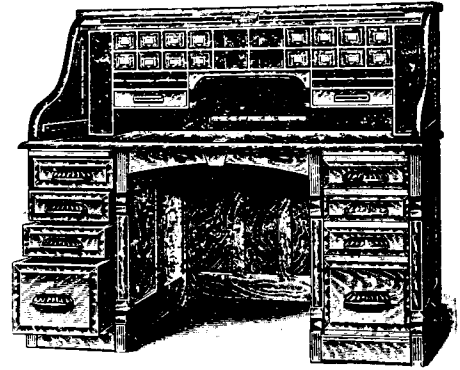


# From The Editor's Desk

by Sheldon Dingle



Dear Editor

I am very much interested in Red-Crested Cardinals (*Paroaria coronata*) and enjoyed the article by Mr. Chris LaRue very much [Watchbird, Vol. III, No. 4, Aug/Sept 1976]. I cannot think why Mr. LaRue failed to describe the Red-Crested Cardinal hen, however. I too, Mr. LaRue, am somewhat disappointed with the "Watchbird"; you with the ridiculous cover and I with your failure to attempt to describe the hen.

Another point of contention. I'd like to point out to Mr. Gerald Moore that for many years aviculturists around the world wanted to get their hands on the scientists who are naming the birds. Mr. Rae Anderson told me that when his Gould Finch article was written, the proper scientific name for the bird was *Poephila gouldiae* rather than *Chloebia*. I would like to find out where you, Mr. Moore, came by the knowledge of the "new" scientific name for the Gouldians. The bird was named by its discover, John Gould. He named it after his wife. Was Gould right or wrong?

E. Necek  
Los Angeles, CA.

*Interesting points you bring up, Mr. Necek. I'll leave the answers to the two capable gentlemen you've addressed.*

Ed.

Dear Editor

A year or so ago I received a bird from a well known, highly reputable breeder of exotic birds. This breeder shall for the following reasons remain "A. Nomimus". The bird is a grey male cockatiel about five years old. It has a good appetite, clear eyes, open nostrils, strong beak, average feet and no feathers. The bird's neurosis is dramatically characterized by its compulsion to pick out every new feather. Is this S/M syndrome hereditary or acquired?

F. Gross  
Las Vegas, Nevada

P.S. Please don't suggest a vest.

*Please refer to "Feather Plucking In Birds" by Joseph G. Griffith in the December issue of the Avicultural Bulletin. That article will lead you to believe that your bird is intelligent and suffers an emotional trauma – probably brought on by conditions of pandemonium in your household. I concur entirely. You can treat your bird as suggested in the article, cut its tail off (just behind the ears) or quietly commit seppuku.*

Ed.

Gentlemen:

I have recently lost my half-moon parrot (he was almost twenty-six years old). I find that our home is very empty and we would like to have another conure. Do you know of anyone in Southern California who breeds conures or small parrots? We prefer a bird that has been "born" here. Any information will be greatly appreciated.

F. Ross  
Beverly Hills, CA.

*The information you want is not known to me right now. Your best bet is to place "want" ads in the Watchbird and other avicultural journals. If any of your readers have young conures for sale you can contact this editor and the information will be forwarded.*

Ed.

Gentlemen:

I am particularly interested in breeding finches but can find very little information on the subject. Could you give me any references? Thank you.

C.D. Myers  
Tustin, CA.

Dear Sirs:

I am interested in breeding canaries and wonder if you have any publications

or information that would be of interest to me. Thank you very much for your consideration.

E. Gold  
Moorestown, N.J.

We are interested in the propagation of various species of quail. Could you please send us any bulletins, pamphlets, or breeders lists that would assist us in locating or raising quail? Thank you.

D. McDonald  
Mercer Island, WA.

*The three letters above are samples of the many requests for information that we receive constantly. We are now developing a series of handbooks and pamphlets each of which will treat a particular bird or type of bird in considerable detail. (Charlotte Nierenberg's handbook on canaries is available through the A.F.A. now.) There will also be information on aviaries, plantings, nutrition, shipping, and a myriad of other things that are intrinsic to aviculture. But, people being social creatures, no printed material will ever take the place of the local bird club meeting.*

*It is at the local club meeting that one can best learn how to raise canaries, quail, parrots, or peacocks. (After the meeting is when one learns to raise one's elbow.) There are always numerous tales of fantastic avicultural exploits. More birds are bred, more babies raised, and rarer birds encountered at the bird meeting than any place on earth. It is uncanny the fish stories that bird people tell. It is possible, however, for an astute listener to separate the chaff and gain a grain of truth about bird keeping.*

*I am confident that nothing is better than the bird club meetings to keep avicultural information flowing. Bird club meetings are fundamental to aviculture – even if they are sometimes a pain in the fundament.*

Ed.