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**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  
Norco, California

Dear Sheldon,

As the convention draws near I am faced with the problem of farming out baby African greys and macaws to family and friends for hand feeding so that my wife might accompany me. I wonder how many others must cope with this problem. The solution for us in the past five years has been to miss two conventions entirely and for me to attend two by myself. My wife and I were able to go to San Diego together.

It seems to me that the August tradition for the convention was very logical in the early days of AFA when the membership was mostly canary and budgie people. But I suspect that now the membership is more balanced.

I would like to suggest that the membership at large be asked when and in what part of the country would they like their convention to be held. Perhaps a review of the numbers attending each of the last five conventions would offer some clues. Compare San Diego and Chicago and Washington, D.C. with Florida.

To me the highlight of the San Diego convention was the bird tours and the trip to Birds Unlimited and last year the opportunity to visit Parrot Jungle, Life Fellowship, and the birds at Busch Gardens was the frosting on the cake.

In closing, my vote would be for the convention to be held in February. Alternating between 3 or 4 cities that could provide bird tours with an emphasis on *how-to* information.

Thanks,  
John Gibson,  
Tiller, Oregon

*I am in hearty agreement with your concern about the location and time-of-year of the AFA conventions. It is hard to determine the best time of year to visit large collections of birds. Many breeders would be hesitant to allow convention traffic through their facilities in February just when most birds are serious about nesting. August, for many reasons, including lousy weather, seems*

*an equally dismal time of year. I think I would opt for a fall month but then we would compete with other organizations' conventions.*

*There is a questionnaire on the insert in this issue which should provide a medium for the general membership to voice its opinions. Please respond and the data can be used by the AFA leadership to plan future conventions.*  
Ed.

Dear Mr. Dingle,

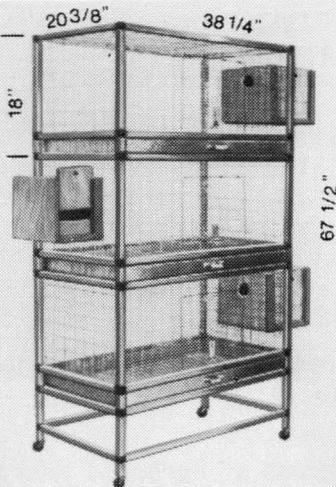
I would like the opportunity to address two issues. The first is the outrageous destruction of Ms. Coleman's birds. I see no reason why the exposed birds should not have been put into a quarantine situation to see if they, indeed, had contracted the disease. Then, if any birds fell ill, yes, they should be mercifully destroyed. Although the pain is still there, at least there is some sanity and justification involved.

A friend of mine once had to have her horse destroyed in a somewhat similar bizarre event. The animal was diagnosed with a positive Coggins test. This test is for Equine Infectious Anemia, a contagious blood disease transmitted by flies and mosquitos. Many states require the test for show, race and other events where horses come together.

When the horse showed positive, all the stable was put in a quarantine situation (i.e. no one could transport a horse in or out). Tests were run on all the horses, including a second test on the positive individual. No other horse was positive. How could all the other horses have lived in such proximity without contracting the disease? Why didn't the affected horse show any signs of the EIA?

Vets speculated the horse was a "carrier," harboring the disease yet unable to transmit it. Even though the horse was in good health there was no questioning the regulations regarding the positive Coggins and the horse was taken away for "disposal." I will never forget how my friend looked during the week when all this was going on. It made no sense but at least the animal and other exposed animals were given a chance.

We all know the import/export laws governing animal health are important. Sometimes they are strict to the common man's standards, but is an epidemic worth the risks of waiving laws? I expect we will see many articles regarding animal exports and imports as the 1988 Olympics in Korea grow



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nearer. Many of the equestrian teams will be allowed to enter the country, but there are some who, due to their country's strict laws, will be unable to return their horses home following the competition. Horsemen are hoping the officials will relocate the equestrian events before any international incidents can develop.

So, as you can see, every animal industry has its wild tangle of red tape and, yes, it is all necessary. We do not need new rules, laws, regulations, etc. God knows there are already enough. What we need is better management by the officials to ensure that the laws are delegated humanely and justly to both man and beast! No, we can't spare a pet budgie if it has Newcastle disease nor a child's pony if it contracts EIA but we can treat the animals and owners with a little dignity instead of the way Ms. Coleman and her birds were treated!

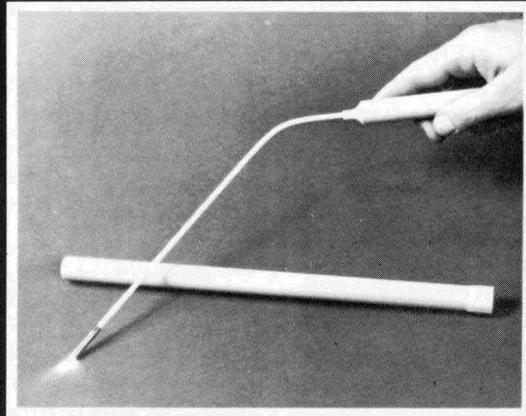
I also wanted to say I am sick of people who write to magazines, not only the *Watchbird*, complaining of content. Whine, whine, whine! Either it is too technical, not technical, too many stories, not enough; I have seen it all! What in the world do all of you want? I have a simple explanation to people who are unhappy with a magazine's content. First, write an intelligible letter to the editor expressing what you as a reader would like to see; no need to be hateful. If you really hate the magazine, cancel your subscription and don't get yourself all worked up. Or get off your fat patootie and write an article drawing on your own vast wealth of knowledge! It takes a lot of effort and time to write an article so, before criticizing, try it yourself! I like the *Watchbird*; I don't understand every concept but consider it a challenge to try and figure some of it out and, heck, if I don't understand any of it I'll look at the pictures, dammit!

Teresa D. Ralenkotter  
2708 Wesley Drive  
Villa Hills, KY 41017 ●

## THEFT NOTICE

On July 27th, 1985, a rare female black palm cockatoo disappeared from the Dallas Zoo and is believed to have been stolen. The bird can be identified by a band on her right leg with the inscription FRM095. The Dallas Zoo would appreciate any information regarding this bird—so would this bird's mate. The pair was set up for breeding. Please call zoo, (214) 946-5155, bird curator Greg Toffic. ●

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**Kansas Avicultural Society**  
**4th Annual Cage Bird Show**  
**October 11, 12, 1985**  
 Holiday Inn (Holidome)  
 1000 N. Broadway, Wichita, KS  
 Contact show secretary:  
 Agnes Geigenmiller  
 1227 N. Wood, Wichita, KS 67212

**Cleveland Canary and Cage Bird Club**  
**Annual All-Bird Exhibition**  
**October 13, 1985**  
 German Central Organization Lodge  
 7863 York Road, Parma, Ohio  
 Contact: CC&CBC president, Ray Ptak  
 7102 Wilber Ave., Parma, OH 44129  
 (216) 842-0948

**Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society**  
**9th Annual All Bird Show**  
**October 19th, 1985**  
 Heritage Inn  
 15201 S. 71 Hwy., Grandview, MO 64030  
 Contact show mgr.:  
 G.K.C.A.S., Don Bates  
 1109 W. 41st Terrace,  
 Kansas City, MO 64111

**Baltimore Bird Fanciers**  
**Annual Bird Show**  
**October 19, 1985**  
 Elks Lodge, Essex, MD  
 Contact show sec.: Judy Schrauder  
 759 Seawall Road, Essex, MD 21221

**Central Ohio Bird Fanciers, Inc.**  
**All Bird Show —**  
**A.B.S. & I.B.F.C.C., Affl.**  
**October 19, 1985**  
 Holiday Inn  
 351 S. Sandusky, Delaware, Ohio  
 For Information contact: Cindy Mullen  
 9218 Sunderland Dr.  
 W. Chester, Ohio 45069

**Sun Coast Avian Society**  
**10th Annual Exotic and Pet Bird Show**  
**October 19, 20, 1985**  
 Tradewinds Beach Resort Hotel  
 (813) 367-6461  
 5500 Gulf Blvd.  
 St. Petersburg Beach, FL 33706  
 Contact show chairman:  
 Cal St. Clair, (813) 323-5705  
 or president:  
 Juanita McLain, (813) 726-8326  
 c/o Sun Coast Avian Society  
 P.O. Box 115, Safety Harbor, FL 33572

**Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club Inc.**  
**10th Annual Open Bird Show**  
**October 26th, 1985**  
 Palm Beach Ocean Hotel  
 2830 S. Ocean Blvd.  
 Palm Beach, FL 33480. (305) 582-5381  
 Outside Florida call (800) 327-9407  
 Show Mgr. Roger Heroux  
 2213 Bermuda Road  
 West Palm Beach, FL 33406

The Watchbird offers free publicity for member club bird shows by announcing the dates and locations of the shows. To have your show listed it is necessary to get the data to the Watchbird four to five months before the show date. For example, if your show takes place the first week of October, it should be listed in the August/September issue. The deadline for that issue is June 1st. (Copy/Article deadline is two months preceding publication date.)

**Rocky Mountain Society**  
**of Aviculture, Inc.**  
**23rd Annual Bird Show**  
**October 26th, 27th, 1985**  
 Lakeside Mall

5801 W. 44th Ave., Denver, CO  
 Contact show manager: Tom H. Pickens  
 2150 Willow Lane, Lakewood, CO 80215  
 (303) 233-0387

**Fresno Canary and Finch Club**  
**22nd Annual Show**  
**November 1, 2, 3, 1985**

Hacienda Inn, Cinton Ave. & Hwy. 99  
 Fresno, California  
 Contact: Hazel Espindula, show sec.  
 1633 W. Zumwalt, Tulare, CA 93274

**Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society**  
**10th Annual All-Bird Show**  
**November 2, 1985**

Casa Royale  
 Washington, PA  
 Show secretary: Sara Prince  
 107 Richard Dr., Glenshaw, PA 15116  
 (412) 487-3758

**Georgia Cage-Bird Society**  
**29th Annual Cage-Bird Show**  
**November 2nd, 1985**

Ramada Inn Central  
 1630 Peachtree St. N.W., Georgia  
 Contact show chairman: John O'Neil  
 2997 Gant Place, Marietta, GA 30067

**Missouri Cage Bird Association**  
**39th Fall Show**  
**November 2nd, 1985**

Ramada Inn, South  
 6926 So. Lindbergh, St. Louis, MO  
 Show secretary: Marilyn Nice  
 1709 Smizer Mill Rd., Fenton, MO 63026  
 (314) 225-5986

**Tampa Bay Canary Fancy Association**  
**4th Annual Show**

**November 2nd, 3rd, 1985**  
 Rocky Point Beach Resort  
 Courtney Campbell Causeway,  
 Tampa, FL  
 Contact show chairman:  
 Manuel Arduengo  
 3411 Grace St., Tampa, FL 33607  
 (813) 872-0326

**"Best in the West"**  
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**November 8, 9, 10, 1985**

Del Mar Fairgrounds  
 Del Mar, CA  
 Contact: Janice Pritchard  
 457 West Douglas Ave.  
 El Cajon, CA 92020

**Columbia Canary Club**  
**Annual Show**

**November 9th, 10th, 1985**  
 Marshall Center  
 1009 E. McLoughlin, Vancouver, WA  
 Contact show secretary: Effielu Shultz  
 4604 S.E. Yamhill St., Portland, OR 97215  
 (503) 232-8001

**37th National Cage Bird Show**  
**November 14th, 15th, 16th, 1985**

Tropicana Hotel  
 110 Lexington, San Antonio, TX  
 Show information: Harold Sodamann  
 Rt. 5, Paola, Kansas 66071  
 (913) 294-4431

**National Cockatiel Society**  
**Annual National Show**  
**November 14-16, 1985**

"Largest cockatiel show of the year,"  
 to be held in conjunction with the  
 37th National Cage Bird Show.  
 El Tropicano Hotel  
 110 Lexington, San Antonio, TX 78205  
 NCS panel judge, Dr. A.E. Decoteau  
 Show chairman: Glen A. Gibson  
 10537 Steel Trace Court  
 Charlotte, NC 28210  
 (704) 588-1616

**Central California Cage Bird Club**  
**Annual Bird Show**

**November 15, 16, 17, 1985**  
 Modesto Racquet Club  
 200 Norwegian Ave., Modesto, CA  
 Contact: show sec., Goldie Dowdy  
 P.O. Box 335, Keyes, CA 95328

**Santa Clara Valley Canary**  
**& Exotic Bird Club**  
**Open Show**

**November 29th thru December 1st, 1985**  
 Peterson Junior High School  
 Poplar Ave., (off El Camino Real)  
 Sunnyvale, California  
 Contact show secretary: Delilah Quieto  
 1952 Beech St., Santa Clara, CA 95054  
 (408) 988-1900