

As president taking over the reins, Jerry Jennings addressed the assembly of convention attendees.



Alan Fudge, D.V.M., chairman of the Veterinarians Seminar, launched an information-packed day Sunday, August 10th.

## Two Views of Convention '85 Highlights

### Convention '85

by Tom Marshall  
Great Falls, Virginia

Color the eleventh annual AFA Convention in San Francisco *green!* Conventioneers were greeted by a coterie of professional-looking volunteers in smart-looking *green jackets*, manning the information table, the registration desk, and the AFA sales-store. As an extra gesture of hospitality, these "gophers and chauffers" also managed to make thirty-three trips to the airport to pick up more than 50 speakers and AFA officers. Directing this awesome *green machine* was Convention Chairman Jim Coffman, who ensured a first-class production at the Cathedral Hill Hotel.

Everyone was *green with envy* to learn that it was someone else who had won the automobile, the trip to Australia, and the pair of blue (*not green*) Indian ringneck parakeets, which constituted the top three raffle prizes.

*Greenbacks* were spent in profusion at the AFA Commercial Exhibit Hall,

where many fantastic bird-related items were for sale—original art work and photographs, beautiful cages and aviaries, and a collection of birds, not commonly seen, including Jaynee Salen's new pied mutation of the Indian ringnecks and the most recent cockatiel mutations.

The *green light* was given to a brand new set of officers to head AFA for the next year: Jerry Jennings was elected president; Don Cavender and Ray Rudisill were elected first and second vice-president respectively, while Hubert Morris and Lorene Clubb ran unopposed for their positions of Chief Financial Officer and Executive Secretary.

Lee Phillips, president for the past two years, was warmly applauded at every opportunity for her *green thumb* in helping AFA grow stronger in spite of the threat of unfriendly legislation in the eyes of governmental agencies, conservation organizations, the pet industry, and, most importantly, the aviculturists.

This year's convention schedule was designed for the *greenborn* as well as for the indecisive regular. The convention planners added one more day of



Photo by Simon and Daphne, El Paso, TX

Interest ran high as one of the largest and best attended board meetings chewed its way through a long agenda Wednesday, August 7th.

speakers and had one speaker per hour. Time was provided for an extended question and answer period in an adjacent area following the discussion so as not to interfere with the next lecturer. Large, enthusiastic crowds met with each speaker, and everyone was content with this less hectic approach. The various specialty groups, e.g., Pionus Breeders Association, African Love Bird Society, etc., had scheduled meetings with their own speakers and programs that were not in conflict with each other. Of course, this meant that many of us kept some long hours trying to get as much information as possible. Consequently, on Sunday many tired but pleased conventioners returned home, looking a little *green around the edges*, but vowing to be in New Orleans next year.

## Convention '85

by Davis A. Koffron  
Phoenix, Arizona

Like the swallows returning to Capistrano or the turkey buzzards' yearly flight to Hinkley, Ohio, more than 1,200 aviculturists from across the U.S. and several foreign countries recently flocked to the Cathedral Hill Hotel in San Francisco. This curious migration could only mean one thing, it was time for the A.F.A.'s 11th annual convention.

For approximately 130 officers, state coordinators, club delegates and committee chairs, the convention began at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 7th, when President Lee Phillips convened the annual board meeting. Throughout the day numerous ideas and opinions were shared on such diverse topics as legislation, conservation and various organization matters, to name but a few.

The "Emerald City" of Seattle, Washington was selected as the site for A.F.A.'s 1987 convention and 4 avian research projects were approved to receive A.F.A. grants totaling \$12,000. New state coordinators were approved for Hawaii, Indiana, Nevada, Ohio and Wisconsin. The board unanimously approved a motion that the A.F.A. provide health insurance for its full-time salaried employees. Incoming president Jerry Jennings and the select committee were given the authority to proceed with the engagement of a professional management company to assist with certain A.F.A. functions such as conventions. These were long-standing goals and have been desired

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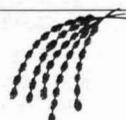
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for some time.

I was tired but felt good as we left the meeting that evening knowing that I had just shared the day with an extremely diverse and dedicated group of men and women whose common goal is the protection and improvement of American aviculture through a strong A.F.A. Special recognition should be given to those people that made the extra effort, took the extra time, and spent the additional money to participate in a process that has helped A.F.A. mature and become stronger. Be assured that you are the backbone of the A.F.A. and your efforts and participation are both needed and appreciated.

Thursday morning found the grand ballroom chirping with anticipation of the next four days' events. The crowd grew silent and the lights dimmed for the opening ceremony which included President Phillip's address titled "The Challenges in Aviculture." Her inspiring message set the tone for the coming days when we were to hear talks on such diverse topics as exhibition zebra finches, legislative issues relating to aviculture, and artificial incubation techniques.

Don Cavender taught us painless methods for building aviaries whereby we won't get blisters from cutting wire or smash our thumb when trying to pound in those funny, little "U" shaped nails. John Stoodley shared his innovative techniques for fostering amazon

and macaw chicks. He also described a daring method for improving the hatching of eggs from high elevation birds by piercing a tiny hole in the shell to allow for correct moisture loss. We were told about a new threat to old world psittacines by Kevin Clubb. It is called sarcocystis and is spread by opossums. (Please, Kevin . . . I'm still having enough trouble with the old problems.)

Program after program the speakers shared their experiences, knowledge, enthusiasm and love for birds. The quality of the presentations was consistently outstanding throughout the convention. Darel Cavender and the members of the speakers committee are to be commended for their selections and scheduling of the speakers. Also, having the speakers retire to a more informal setting to field questions after their presentations was a nice added touch that should be continued.

As aviculturists become increasingly aware of the need and the advantages in specializing, we have seen a parallel growth in the number of specialty clubs. This year ten groups, ranging from Forpus Fanciers to the National Finch Society to the Macaw Society, held meetings and round-table discussions during the convention. The need to keep records, support the A.F.A. breeding registry and develop stud books for all species was echoed by each organization.

If one started to feel like his head would burst from all the information and new ideas being presented in the lectures and meetings, he could stroll out into the foyer to relax by looking at the beautiful photo contest display. It hardly seems possible, but every year the number of entries increase, the photos get better and the competition tougher. I was frequently drawn back to the display during the convention and now look forward to seeing many of these wonderful pictures in this and future issues of *Watchbird*.

Feeling relaxed and refreshed, it was time to wander into the exhibit hall where more than forty commercial and club displays could be viewed. Here one could always find beautiful birds, new products, and lively discussions. There were nestboxes and nets, books and brooders, paintings and playpens, and much, much more. Many people were seen leaving the exhibit area with shopping bags overflowing with treasures and gifts for family, friends, birdsitters and birds left back home.

On Sunday, over 100 aviculturists and veterinarians attended the annual Veterinarian Seminar for a full day of lectures, clinical case reports and panel discussions led by some of the finest avian veterinarians from across the U.S. and Canada. For those unable to attend the seminar, the proceedings are currently available in a limited number and can be purchased from the A.F.A.



Representing Central Alabama Avicultural Society, Charles E. Clift took two well-earned Avy Awards home with him. President Lee Phillips presented the awards.



Photos by Ron Fournier, Campbell, CA

Jayne Salan received a Silver Avy Award for most progress with color mutations and pied Indian ring-necked parakeets.



Gloria Allen earned a U.S. first breeding Avy Award for her work with the blue-eyed cockatoo.

As if all of the above wasn't enough, there were also luncheons, banquets, a hospitality room, tours, public seminars and a tremendous drawing. I almost won a new car and a trip to Australia. I would have won except for the fact that someone else's name somehow got on my winning ticket.

By now you may be thinking . . . no convention can be that great. There are always some problems and disappointments, and you're right. First, no one told me how cold it can get on Fisherman's Wharf at night. Second, the band stopped playing before I stopped dancing. Last, it all ended too soon.

I wish to congratulate convention chairman Jim Coffman, the convention committee and the many dedicated aviculturists in northern California who worked so hard on this year's convention. Your cooperative efforts resulted in one of the best conventions to date. You have set a standard for future conventions that will be hard to beat. Everyone who was involved can take pride in a job well done.

Now, for those of you who missed this year's convention, don't make the same mistake next year. Plan NOW to attend the 1986 convention in fabulous New Orleans, August 6th through the 10th. If you miss this one you will have every reason to sing the blues.

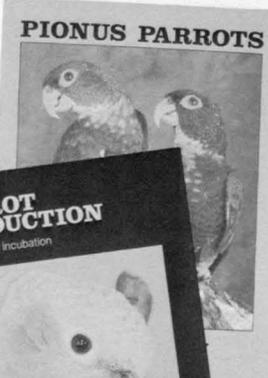
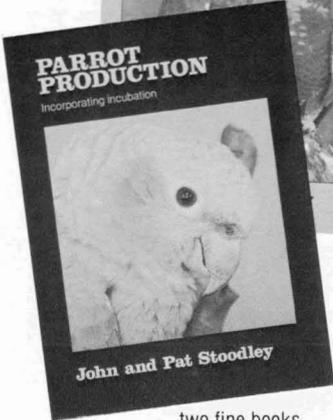
### Funds Granted for A.F.A. Research Proposals

1. *Vitamin A stores an onset of hypovitaminosis A in cockatiels and parrots.* C.R. Grau and Tom Roudybush, Department of Avian Sciences, University of California, Davis. \$3,000.
2. *Artificial incubation temperature requirement of cockatiel eggs.* U.R. Abbott and B.A. Cutler, Department of Avian Sciences, University of California, Davis. \$3,000.
3. *Handling and disturbance stress in captive psittacines.* Kevin T. Patton and Walter C. Crawford, Raptor Rehabilitation and Propagation Project. \$3,000.
4. *Environmental control of reproduction in cockatiels.* J.R. Millam, Department of Avian Sciences, University of California, Davis. \$3,000.



As a member-spokesman for the A.F.A. Research Committee, Skip Madsen presented five grant proposals to the board of directors August 7th. The board approved four out of five. Presiding at the head table (L to R), Lee Phillips, president; Lorene Clubb, executive secretary, and Gary Lilienthal, legal counselor.

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