

Plaudits and Praise...

AFA Volunteers

Carole Wheeler

by Sheldon Dingle
Norco, California

The Congress of the United States has an Office of Technology Assessment (OTA). Ordinarily the OTA and the AFA would not cross paths but at present the OTA is assessing technologies that maintain biological diversity. And maintaining biological diversity is one thing the AFA is all about.

There are, no doubt, hundreds of ways and many entities that are somehow involved in maintaining biological diversity but the early thrust of the OTA happened to focus on various grassroots efforts. Indeed, the OTA's first background paper is titled "Grassroots Conservation of Biological Diversity in the United States."

In this paper the OTA says, "The bulk of this background paper highlights and assesses specific 'showcase' examples of grassroots individuals and groups maintaining biological diversity in the United States." The AFA, dear friends, is highlighted as a "showcase" example. This is high recognition and can only enhance the reputation of the AFA. How did this recognition come about?

Several factors were involved but the key ingredient in presenting the AFA to



Carole Wheeler, Virginia state coordinator and AFA volunteer extraordinaire.

the OTA was a five foot tall, hundred pound dynamo named Carole Wheeler. She gives credit to the workers in the bird department of the Cincinnati Zoo for originally recommending that the OTA contact the AFA. Wheeler also gives credit to Lee Phillips for providing much of the data that was supplied to the OTA. Still, these efforts were channeled through one very dedicated and steady AFA volunteer, Carole Wheeler, and this short article is to give credit where credit is due.

Carole Wheeler is the pattern to follow if you want to make some more volunteer workers. She is the backbone and the work horse of a non-profit volunteer-oriented organization such as the AFA. Without her kind of input the AFA would be helpless.

Wheeler began her bird-keeping activities a few years ago with English budgies and a lutino cockatiel. She now keeps at least 16 species of hookbills because she can't decide which she likes best. She has pretty good success breeding them and she likes to hand feed young birds.

In addition to her family and her birds, Carole Wheeler's interests have focused on several bird clubs where her volunteer instincts have been put to good use. She served as AFA delegate from National Capitol Bird Club and then as the Virginia state coordinator which position she has held for about three years. At the same time (1983 and 1984) she was president of the Maryland Cage Bird Society and then in 1985 vice president of the same two clubs.

Her interest in cockatiels involved her as a state representative for the American Cockatiel Society and later as a charter member and secretary and point registrar for the National Cockatiel Society. She writes articles on cockatiels and is qualified as a judge.

Because of her interest in many species of birds, Carole Wheeler is an active member of numerous specialty clubs. She fields phone calls for the Audubon Society and a local wildlife rescue group when it comes to exotic birds.

For years the AFA has had a small cadre of very hard working volunteers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Carole Wheeler is one of the

elite few and should serve as an inspiration for the many volunteers the AFA is mobilizing at this very moment.

Our thanks and appreciation to you, Carole, for bringing the AFA to the attention of the OTA, and for the many good deeds you've done that are not as noticeable but are just as important. ●

Vicki Fletcher



Vicki Fletcher, the AFA volunteer who prepared the first *Watchbird* Index.

by Sheldon Dingle
Norco, California

AFA members frequently call or write and ask whether or not a certain subject has ever appeared in the *Watchbird*. Other members request a certain article they read years ago but can't remember in which *Watchbird* they saw it. Until now those members were usually out of luck and unable to acquire a photo copy of the article in question. No one could find it.

Now, thanks to the superb dedication and tireless effort of one AFA volunteer, all of the *Watchbird* magazines have been indexed in a large computer-generated 93 page volume. This *Watchbird Index* is divided into four parts: Chronological — a listing of articles in chronological order from the first *Watchbird* (August 1974) through the Feb/Mar 1986 issue; Alphabetical — the articles listed alphabetically; Authors — authors and their articles listed alphabetically by author; Topically — the articles are listed under general topics and sub-topics. Each index is cross-referenced to the others, i.e., each listing

**Yes, count me as a member of the
American Federation of Aviculture**
P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, California 90278



THE WATCHBIRD IS THE OFFICIAL BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE AFA, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Please accept my application for membership in the American Federation of Aviculture. Send me 6 issues (1 year) of *the a.f.a. WATCHBIRD* magazine, and a membership card which entitles me to all the rights and privileges of AFA membership.

Check membership category desired: NEW RENEWAL
Individual \$20/year **Supporting** \$35/year **Sustaining** \$50/year
Commercial \$100/year, includes listing in WATCHBIRD

FOREIGN MEMBERS: Add \$8/year in U.S. Funds. First class rates available on request.
 My check is enclosed for the amount of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please allow 60-90 days for delivery of your first issue.

Telephone (_____) _____
AREA

\$15 of the \$20 membership/subscription goes toward the publication and distribution of *The Watchbird*.

**Yes, count me as a member of the
American Federation of Aviculture**
P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, California 90278



THE WATCHBIRD IS THE OFFICIAL BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE AFA, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Please accept my application for membership in the American Federation of Aviculture. Send me 6 issues (1 year) of *the a.f.a. WATCHBIRD* magazine, and a membership card which entitles me to all the rights and privileges of AFA membership.

Check membership category desired: NEW RENEWAL
Individual \$20/year **Supporting** \$35/year **Sustaining** \$50/year
Commercial \$100/year, includes listing in WATCHBIRD

FOREIGN MEMBERS: Add \$8/year in U.S. Funds. First class rates available on request.
 My check is enclosed for the amount of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please allow 60-90 days for delivery of your first issue.

Telephone (_____) _____
AREA

\$15 of the \$20 membership/subscription goes toward the publication and distribution of *The Watchbird*.

**I would like to send a GIFT membership in the
American Federation of Aviculture**
P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, California 90278



THE WATCHBIRD IS THE OFFICIAL BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE AFA, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Please accept the individual listed below as a member in the American Federation of Aviculture. Send 6 issues (1 year) of *the a.f.a. WATCHBIRD* magazine, and a membership card which entitles the individual to all the rights and privileges of AFA membership.

Check membership category desired: NEW RENEWAL
Individual \$20/year **Supporting** \$35/year **Sustaining** \$50/year

FOREIGN MEMBERS: Add \$8/year in U.S. Funds. First class rates available on request.
 My check is enclosed for the amount of \$ _____

Gift for _____

Address _____

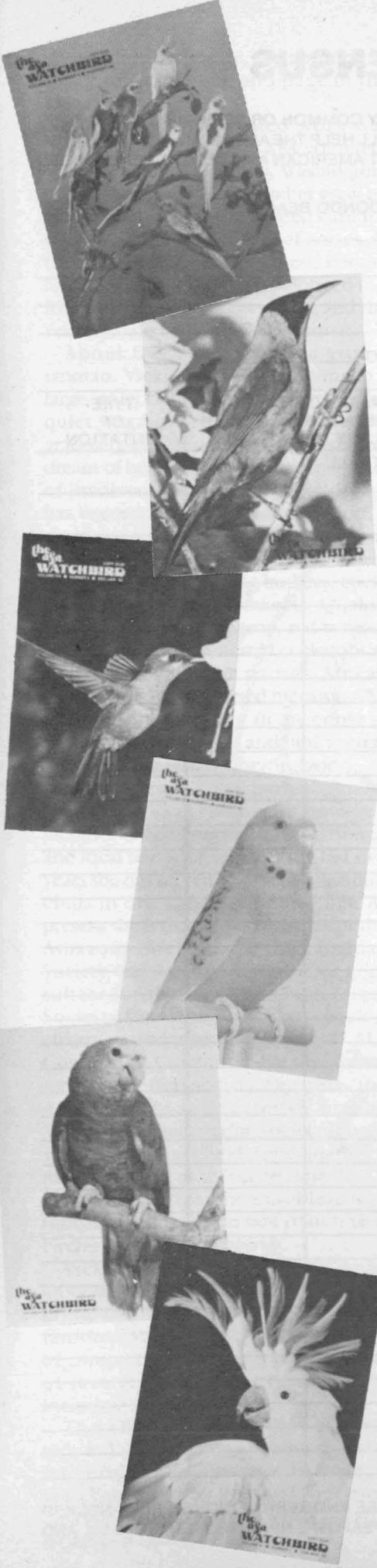
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please allow 60-90 days for delivery of your first issue.

Telephone (_____) _____
AREA

Gift message to read: _____

\$15 of the \$20 membership/subscription goes toward the publication and distribution of *The Watchbird*.



shows the article title, the author, the topic, and the issue and page in the magazine.

And all of this detailed work was done by a most valuable AFA volunteer Vicki Fletcher of Puyallup, Washington.

As a young girl Vicki Fletcher grew up at a kennel where she helped care for over 100 dogs and a couple of horses. At the age of ten she tried to breed her pet budgie with a budgie that belonged to a friend. Everything went wrong and the venture failed but seeds were sown.

About five years ago, as a grown woman, Vicki found herself living in a large, quiet house in a strange city. The quiet was not normal for her so she gradually began to fulfill the childhood dream of breeding birds. After five years of involvement with birds her dream has become a passion, an addiction, a disease, so to speak, and her house is not quiet anymore. It contains about 200 psittacines including budgies, cockatiels, red-rumped parakeets, Quaker parakeets, umbrella, citron, red-vented, goffin, and sulphur-crested cockatoos as well as a few Amazon parrots, African grey parrots, and assorted macaws. And all of the birds are kept *in* the house in specially-built aviaries and bird rooms. The place is a noisy, vibrating zoo.

In her quest to know more and more about birds, Vicki Fletcher has become a member of ten international, national, and local bird societies. For the last five years she has served several of these bird clubs in one capacity or another. At present she is the census registrar for the Amazona Society and the Loriidae Society, the nutrition and disease consultant for the American Budgerigar Society; first vice president, speaker chairman, and member of the 1987 AFA Convention Committee for the Northwest Exotic Bird Society. She is also the AFA delegate and secretary for the Washington Budgerigar Society. These volunteer jobs are held simultaneously, my friends, all at the same time. It is a virtual miracle that she was able to find time for the herculean task of indexing twelve years of *Watchbirds*.

Vicki Fletcher's occupational background is varied but computer programming and data processing are her favorites. She has used her knowledge of computers generously for the good of several avicultural organizations including the AFA.

The AFA owes a deep debt of gratitude to Vicki Fletcher, a volunteer of the finest caliber. Fellow members, when you chance to meet her, doff your hats, curtsy, and kiss her hand — she deserves it. ●

World Birds



Quarantine Station
7519 South Western Ave.
Los Angeles, California 90047

(213) 753-1862

Telex: 4995300 BURX LSA

Moluccan Cockatoos

Umbrella Cockatoos

Goffin's Cockatoos

Red Lories

Rainbow Lories

Great Billed Parrots



No retail sales

Call or send S.A.S.E. for prices.

PARROT SEXING

by

Fecal Hormone Examination

\$30 per bird  with

quantity discounts available. Send dry droppings gathered on six different days packaged individually in plastic bags with the type of bird noted.

Information available with self-addressed, stamped envelope.

AVISEX Laboratory  / 

Box 287, Iowa City, IA 52244