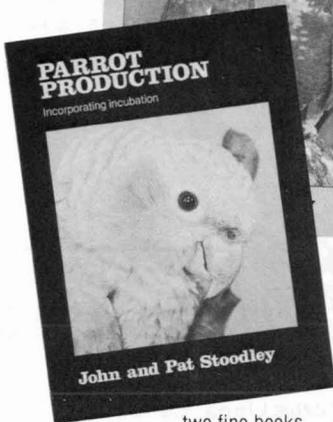


## PIONUS PARROTS



John and Pat Stoodley

two fine books . . .

### PIONUS PARROTS

104 pages 8 1/4" x 11 1/4" / 31 full color plates

### PARROT PRODUCTION

108 pages 8 1/4" x 11 1/4" / 42 full color plates

by JOHN and PAT STOODLEY

\$29.95 ea. + \$1.50 shipping  
(Calif. residents add  
6 1/2 % sales tax)

Dale R. Thompson  
P.O. Box 1122, Dept. AF85  
Canyon Country, CA 91351

If you love parrots ...  
You'll love Parrot World!



Join us and receive a year's subscription to our fact-filled bi-monthly magazine. All about Parrots, Macaws, Cockatoos, Conures and more. Expert tips on breeding, nutrition, taming, training, health care, Q's & A's, classifieds, D.V.M. and bird-boarding referrals, shows, book reviews. DISCOUNT BOOK CLUB. annual photo contest. Much more. Only \$16 yearly (U.S. and Canada.) Foreign \$26. (U.S. funds only.)

## National Parrot Association

8 No. Hoffman, Dept. W, Hauppauge, N.Y. 11788

## 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

*My dear fellow members, please consider for the moment that this very magazine now in your bird-stained little hands is the last Watchbird you will ever receive from the AFA. Consider, if you can, that never again will you have the Watchbird and its humble staff to kick around.*

*A dismal thought, Eh Wot? Where now will you have your fun? When the magazine disappears where is your relationship with the AFA? Have these pages of paper been the only thread that connects you to the AFA?*

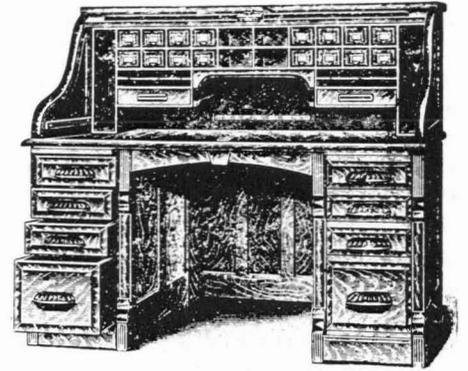
*For thousands of you the answer is YES. Shame on you. But shame on us also. We haven't been diligent in explaining what the AFA really is and how you can get involved. We intend, however, to correct that error beginning now.*

*The AFA is a non-profit volunteer organization with things to do and goals to achieve. This means PEOPLE — yes, human beings (into which category most bird people fit — vaguely). People bound together into cohesive, involved units are what gives the AFA life.*

*If you think back to your old Boy Scout or Girl Scout days you won't remember much about the publication you received but you will remember individuals and the events you shared with them.*

*When you think of the Red Cross, you envision throngs of volunteers bound together in some urgent activity — people choosing to work together a few hours here and a few hours there to achieve a specific goal.*

*Hell's bells, folks, I even look upon the military as a volunteer organization since that is what I did back in the Korean era. A lot of time has passed but memories still flood my mind whenever I think of the good old 2nd Infantry Division. When you voluntarily give of yourself in an effort or cause, believe me, you feel good about it.*



*Now, I'm asking you to think of the AFA as a volunteer organization, an outfit staffed with volunteer workers from all parts of the country each doing his or her bit for the overall benefit of aviculture. Think of the AFA in terms of people and projects. You'll find more satisfaction and fulfillment in your relationship with the AFA.*

*Trust me. If it were not so would I have told you?*

*Now that you're all on fire to spend some time and energy as an AFA volunteer please turn to Executive Director Winters' words on volunteers on page 16. And I guess it's safe to tell you that this isn't really your last Watchbird. We'll keep the thing coming and we may even mail it a little late once in a while just to test your alertness and marksmanship.*

*It's time now to get on with a few letters that have come across my desk recently.*



March 6, 1986

Dear Mr. Dingle:

I was very disappointed by three AFA-connected events during the past year. They have to do with basic philosophies in bird breeding and have reflected poorly on AFA's efforts to demonstrate the value of aviculture in avian conservation.

The article on "Susan Lane's Suburban Flights" in the June/July 1985 issue of the Watchbird was interesting and showed a unique adaptation of aviculture to a particular living situation. However, I was disturbed by her plans to replace her blue and gold macaw male with a scarlet macaw male, apparently intending to produce hybrids. Is this a proper use for endangered species? Shortly thereafter, I

# Did You Know...

**MOISTURE IN YOUR PET'S LITTER MAY BE HARMFUL.**

Wet litter may grow **Fungus** which breeds **Harmful Bacteria** — Bacteria which may help spread diseases.

Litter material such as newspaper, wood shavings and ground corn cobs, if **swallowed** by your pet, may **expand** causing internal injuries.

**MOST LITTERS CANNOT BE CLEANED, AND MUST BE DISCARDED WHEN DIRTY OR SOILED.**

Now there is one litter product that can be **easily cleaned** with a handy scoop, and helps to keep your pet's play area tidy and fresh 2 - 3 times longer.

**Dr. Quinn's Critter Litter** is made from a **safe, non-toxic** material which **will not expand** if swallowed by your pet.

And **most important**, Dr. Quinn's has **minimal moisture absorbancy** which almost **eliminates bacteria breeding areas**.



*Hey Mac,  
I see you're  
using New  
Dr. Quinn's  
Critter Litter  
too... You  
are a smart  
bird! When  
will Polly  
catch on?  
She always  
has a mess  
in her tray.*



## Dr. Quinn's CRITTER LITTER

The ideal pet litter  
for all cages and playpens.

Made from an exclusive formula.

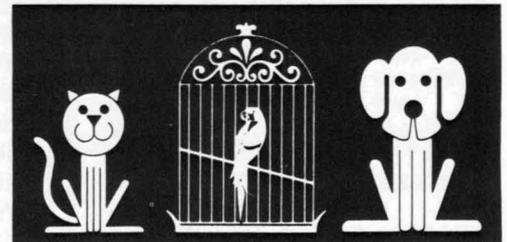
- ECONOMICAL
- BIO DEGRADABLE
- ATTRACTIVE
- EASY CLEANING
- NON-TOXIC
- 100% NATURAL

*Right now you can get  
FIVE POUNDS FREE!\**



\*Buy 20 lbs.  
and receive  
an additional  
5 lbs. FREE!

(\$4.95 per 5 lbs.  
Freight not included.)



## FREY, LTD.

7250 Auburn Boulevard, No. 152, Dept. B  
Citrus Heights, CA 95610 U.S.A.

**(916) 922-3202**

# Magnolia Bird Farm



Owner  
Frank Miser

## We Buy Birds We Ship Birds

COMPLETE BIRD SUPPLIES  
(714) 527-3387

Open 9 to 6 Closed Sun., Mon., Holidays  
8990 Cerritos Ave.  
Anaheim, Ca. 92804

## Bird Pet and Supplies Retailers —

did you know that one  
of the most prestigious  
bird publications,  
**The Watchbird**  
is available for  
resale in your store?

Call or write for information:  
American Federation of Aviculture  
P.O. Box 1568  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
(213) 372-2988

attended the AFA Convention in San Francisco where I heard some other-wise informative presentations that promoted similar practices. Mr. Stan Sindel proposed and expounded upon the hybridization of lory species in order to introduce new color varieties from one species into another. Mr. George Smith, another speaker, supports another approach: deliberate inbreeding to "bring out" recessive genes that might result in new color varieties. While such measures might be of little consequence in domestic species (canaries, budgies, etc.) or in species of great abundance, in most exotic species such practices threaten the long-term viability of captive populations, and possibly of the species as a whole.

I am disheartened that fellow aviculturists would deliberately (carelessly?) hybridize and inbreed exotic birds. This is especially offensive and unethical, in my opinion, when an endangered species like the scarlet macaw is involved. The attitudes shown make me feel, at times, that the conservation groups that are critical of aviculture are somewhat justified. How can we claim that we are concerned about the fate of avian wildlife when Catalina macaws — a non-species — become the objects of our pursuits? Can we honestly say we are working toward the long-term survival of our birds when we follow breeding programs that alter their natural genetic composition?

In her keynote address at the San Francisco Convention, Mrs. Lee Phillips, former AFA president, espoused the idea of aviculturists thinking ahead to the next century, to the establishment of captive, self-sustaining populations of various bird species. Putting this philosophy into practice would be both a hedge against future import restrictions and a true conservation measure in the (likely) event that wild populations continue to decline.

If this is, in fact, the philosophy of the AFA leadership, and if AFA truly considers itself "dedicated to conservation of bird wildlife," then individuals advocating practices contrary to the spirit of our organization should not be provided an open forum in AFA's official publication and meetings designed to enlighten. This will only encourage others to do the same and provide the detractors of aviculture with more ammunition. I would like to see the *Watchbird* initiate a policy whereby articles that promote hybridization or other similar practices are subject to some type of control or censure (re-

jected for publication, edited). The selection of speakers or the material they present should be subject to similar controls. At the very least, a disclaimer should be made stating AFA's disagreement with such practices. If this is not done, then AFA is not what it claims to be.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Gabel, Aviculturist  
Propagation & Laboratory  
Investigations Section  
Endangered Species Research Branch  
U.S. Department of Interior  
Fish & Wildlife Service  
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center  
Laurel, MD 20708

March 19, 1986

Dear Mr. Gabel:

I am responding to your letter of March 6, 1986 to Sheldon Dingle regarding AFA's policy toward hybridization; even though the letter was not addressed to me, I feel it important enough to personally respond.

It is not now, nor has it ever been the position of AFA to encourage or support the hybridization of any species of birds. Although I realize there have been certain presentations at our annual conferences over the years that mention hybridization, those statements were not endorsed by our group.

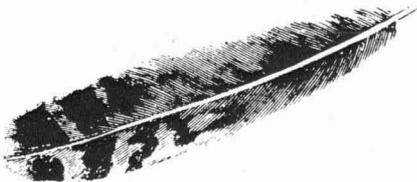
We are not in a position to exercise prior restraint on the statements of speakers at our conferences, for several reasons: First, we do not require, nor do we receive papers either before or after a presentation, so we do not have any idea what the speaker will actually say. If the speaker makes a statement we do not support as a group, we do not know of it until after the fact. Second, we feel that prior restraint is contrary to the rights of free speech. As you will have noticed, we have published many letters to the editor in *Watchbird* that were contrary to our views, and certainly controversial. We are not afraid of differences of opinion, or controversy, and feel the expression of the full range of ideas, however controversial, bring those issues to the forefront for discussion. Once they are on the front burner, they may be examined closely under the eye of public scrutiny, wherein our views may be made known and the public may fully understand why we take the position we do.

The Letters to the Editor column allows for the public discussion of hybridization, pro and con, and it is there that we as an organization can state that we do not encourage the practice, and for the very same reasons you suggest.

Please do not look upon the statements of our conference speakers or our authors as expressions of AFA policy. When we want to express our official opinion, we will do so in an unmistakable manner. Again, our position is that we do not encourage it. We do, however, recognize that it is a common practice among some groups of aviculturists, though their numbers are quite small. Most inbreeding occurs in the canary and budgerigar fancy, as well as with cockatiels, and lovebirds. Very little is going on with endangered species and should be discouraged.

We shall take your advice and place a disclaimer in *Watchbird*, and hopefully we will get an article in there outlining the reasons why people should not hybridize and inbreed for mutations. Perhaps you would be willing to write such an article. It would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,  
Jerry Jennings  
President



Dear Mr. Dingle:

We have recently read the letter from Janice Giles concerning her 7 week old baby yellow nape Amazon. Our reason for writing is first to compliment you on your empathy and obvious concern for the hand raising of birds. We have gone through the hand raising of a yellow nape and recently a "harlequin" macaw.

Our second reason for writing is to chastize you for your obvious oversight in not being a little more harsh with Ms. Giles and your encouragement for her to go out and buy another baby bird. First off, you, of all people, must realize that the hand raising of a baby bird is not something that everybody should attempt. Ms. Giles has every right to feel the second veterinarian she consulted gave her bad if not criminal advice but it is also ridiculous for her to have starved

her bird for over a week before she got concerned that his breastbone was protruding. Weaning is a stressful time on the bird and bird feeder. It is sad to believe that you suggest that Ms. Giles shrug this off as a learning experience at the expense of the death of a bird which might have been prevented if she had taken the effort to learn a little more about what she was undertaking.

Ms. Giles states she purchased a seven week old baby (49 days old). Considering the required 30 day minimum federal quarantine period, that would indicate this bird was about two weeks old when it was captured. BULL! You have encouraged Ms. Giles and other readers to continue in the purchase of obviously smuggled birds. We are owners of a pet shop and know of several other "very reputable" pet shops that deal in the sale of smuggled baby parrots.

Ms. Giles purchased a sick, smuggled, baby parrot. It was ill from the first day she purchased the bird. The one who should receive our pity is the bird, not Ms. Giles. Although it sounds as if her intentions were good she, like the majority of the bird owning public we see, was not qualified to undertake the responsibilities of hand raising a bird.

Serious aviculturists must start taking a stand to institute a set of ethics into the hobby. If we don't the naive public will overreact and we will suffer from the "puppy mill syndrome" and all be branded as animal slavers. My wife and I like birds. They enrich our life and provide a great deal of enjoyment. We have also shed a few tears and have seen the death of a few birds that in hindsight might have been saved if we were better educated.

Pat and Rich Davies  
Scotts Valley, California

Dear Sheldon,

My heart goes out to Ms. Giles on the loss of her pet yellow nape, Cleopatra. Her story underscores the problems that still remain in avian veterinary practice despite the advances in recent years. Even more disturbing are the ethics and motives of a "reputable" pet store owner who would sell a 7 week old amazon to an admitted novice. And what about the breeder?

My point is that there are people in every aspect of aviculture whose only motive is profit. A true aviculturist's primary concern must always be the

**DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED  
Limited Offer!**

Large International Company Needs Bird Oriented People to Handle Birds (livestock) and Full Line Pet Supply Business.

**PROTECTED TERRITORY & ACCOUNTS**

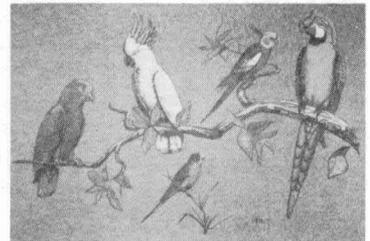
We need small business people that want to grow with us. We back you 100%. The following territories are available:

California	Minnesota	So. Louisiana
Oregon	Iowa	Oklahoma
Arizona	Mississippi	Texas
Nevada	Wisconsin	Florida
Idaho	Illinois	Missouri
Wyoming	Ohio	Michigan
Montana	Georgia	Kansas
Colorado	The Carolinas	
New Mexico	The Dakotas	
Virginia	New England Area	

For more details call I.C.C.  
(616) 694-6478 ask for John or write:

**I.C.C.**  
**P.O. Box 4100**  
**Farmingdale, NY 11758**

**EXOTIC BIRD FLOOR MAT**



TROPICAL BIRDS GREET YOU ON THIS COLORFUL, COLOR-FAST FLOOR MAT WOVEN OF INDOOR/OUTDOOR CARPET. CAN BE CLEANED WITH HOSE AND BRUSH. 20"x30".

**\$29.95 ea.**

Send check or money order plus \$1.95 postage & handling (NYS residents add tax)

**Planned Parrothood**<sup>®</sup>  
P.O. Box 437 W, Highland Mills, N.Y. 10930

**YOUR EXCLUSIVE  
BIRD BOOK HEADQUARTERS!**

We are the nation's largest distributor of Specialized and Imported Bird Books. Our reputation of integrity and service to the public for 10 years is widespread.

**MANY TITLES NOT FOUND  
IN BOOK OR PET STORES**

- |                                |             |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Cage Bird                      | Aviculture  | Game Fowl   |
| Game Bird                      | Pigeon      | Dove        |
| Waterfowl                      | Poultry     | Ornithology |
| Endangered Parrots, R. Low     | ... \$22.50 |             |
| The Gouldian Finch, A.J. Mobbs | \$15.00     |             |
| + \$2.50 for postage           |             |             |

MC & VISA accepted - include exp. date  
Send \$1.00 for our catalog (Refundable with first order.)

**AVIAN PUBLICATIONS**<sup>™</sup>  
310 Maria Drive - Dept. WB  
Wausau, WI 54401  
(715) 845-5101

health and welfare of the birds in his/her care. Those of us dedicated to aviculture must continue to speak out and speak out loudly, against the unscrupulous, the greedy, the ignorant and the inhumane. Sacrificing a bird's welfare for money is inexcusable.

Ms. Giles' story also serves as a reminder to those of us who raise and handfeed birds, of a basic tenet that may be overlooked after raising dozens, or even hundreds, of baby birds. Baby birds are *BABIES*. They do not have full immunities and are very vulnerable to stress. Growing, weaning and fledging are stressful enough without being moved from breeder to pet store/wholesaler to owner.

I do hope Ms. Giles tries again but I suggest she seek out a breeder who will take the time to help her. I would also recommend a slightly older bird. There are few things more satisfying than rearing a baby bird to independence. Ms. Giles has the makings of a fine aviculturist — she cares. We need more like her.

Sincerely,  
Linda Walker  
Bradenton, Florida

Editor:

Having read the heart-breaking account of Janice Giles and her yellow-naped Amazon for the second time I'm compelled to write you if only to dry my tears and offer some support to Ms. Giles.

I also want to appeal to all students of veterinary medicine to specialize in avian science. In our city of over 600,000 people there are only three avian vets and only one of those is kind, competent and trustworthy enough to handle my birds. And this vet is in so much demand that I fear total exhaustion will set in all too soon.

As to Ms. Giles' horrible experience, I'd like to tell her that I, too, lost a bird because I trusted a vet who was really not qualified to treat the bird that I loved so much. I have never stopped loving and longing for my "Captain Hook" and I look for a similar bird every time I go to a pet store. But I haven't found a new "Captain" and maybe never will.

I hand fed, nurtured, loved and trained a wonderful yellow-naped parrot, took her for walks, gave her a whole apple tree just to be happy in only to find that after a year the bird fell in love with my husband and now

barely tolerates me. Is love lost worse than death? I don't know.

But, in any case, I'm crying for and with Ms. Giles. Though she may never find another "Cleopatra," there are so many birds in pet stores that are in desperate need of the kind of love Ms. Giles can offer that I know she can find another bird to share her life.

G.I. Jensen, M.D.  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Sheldon Dingle:

A bouquet of flowers and my special thanks to you for your sensitive, understanding and compassionate response to the letter from Janice Giles of Illinois. As you so aptly phrased it, all of us who raise these intelligent beauties grieve with her over the needless death of her pet, for all of us who raise them have learned how to do this task the hard way. I lost my first lovely parrot baby many years ago because of my ignorance in knowing how to care for it. I know only too well the pain this dear lady feels and my heart goes out to her. The loss of my baby parrot gave me the drive and stubborn determination to learn how to properly raise parrots in captivity, so their death has not been in vain. So much has been learned by all who keep and raise birds in the past few years, so that many aviculturists are now able to feel a sense of pride in our small successes with breeding and keeping these birds.

You gave Ms. Giles some sound advice and I hope she tries again with another baby parrot. It may not take the place of the one she lost, but I guarantee it will find its own place in her heart.

In my opinion, you are superbly qualified for your editorial duties with *Watchbird* and I commend you on a great job.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Jo Hall  
Belton, Texas

*You will all be glad to know that Janice Giles had the courage and determination to try again and she is successfully hand feeding a wonderful baby parrot. Out of the tragedy of "Cleopatra" has come a dedicated, courageous and experienced aviculturist who will gain more and more experience and who will ultimately contribute a great deal to the bird fancy.*  
Ed.



Dear Mr. Dingle,

A development of great interest and considerable significance is taking place within the Avicultural Society of Utah, with the establishment of an "Endangered Species Committee."

Unlike so many aviculturists who merely pay lip service to the values of conservation and preservation of endangered species, the A.S.U. is taking steps to participate actively in developing and sharing in captive breeding programs for endangered and threatened species of birds.

Basically the club will "adopt" a small number of species, acquire a number of pairs of those species (minimum three pairs), and deposit them at one of three public Utah zoological/avicultural collections. The birds deposited will be housed on exhibition in breeding facilities owned and maintained by the collection, and will be accompanied by educational and informative graphics. Offspring reared will be disposed of in the following manner: one third would be held to expand and/or maintain the program, one third would become the club's property to dispose of as they see fit and similarly one third would become the property of the maintaining collection.

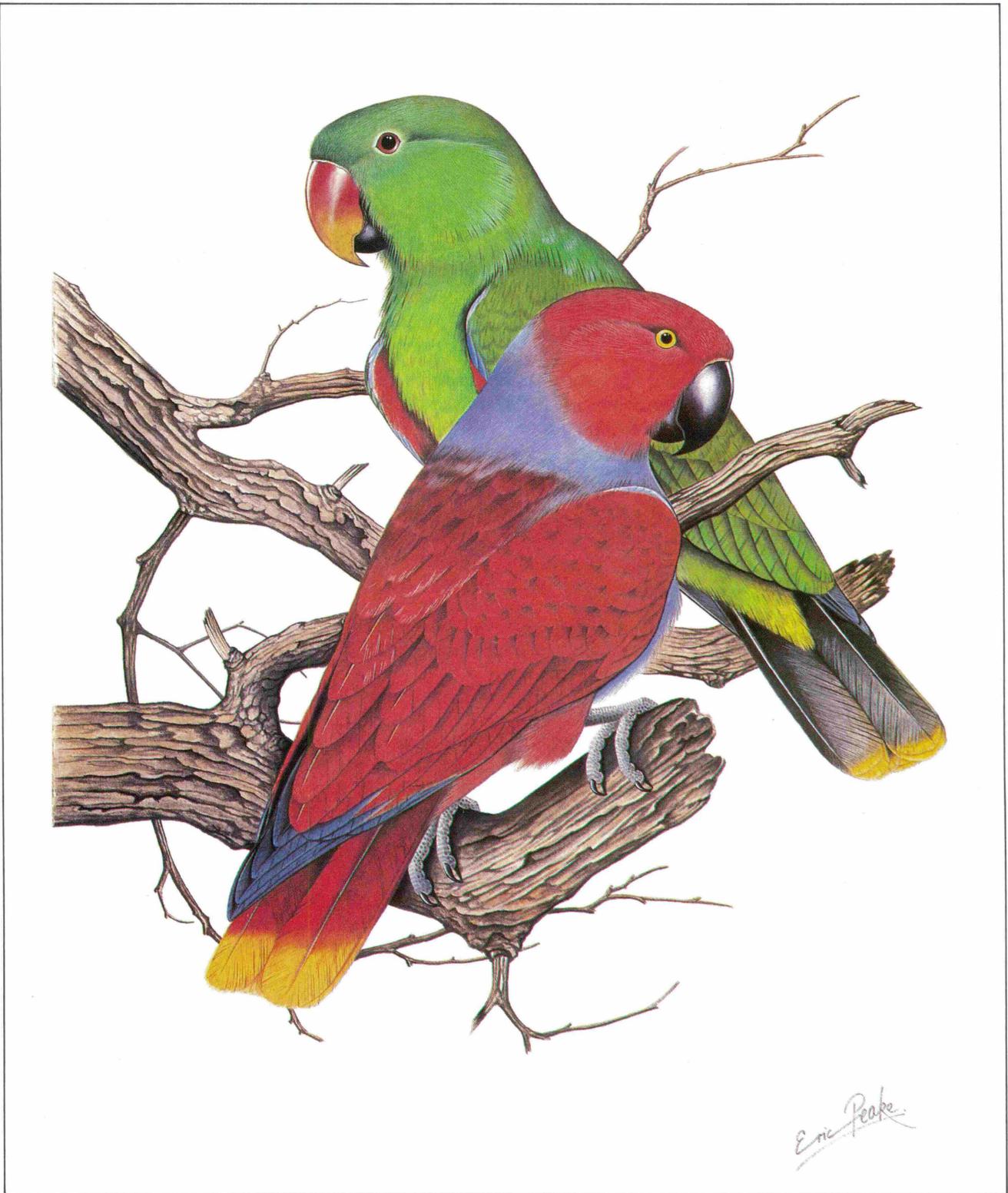
Should this idea be picked up by avicultural clubs and societies throughout the country, we could all have a direct and very positive effect on saving a number of species from total extinction.

In addition to the separate and different benefits for birds, clubs and collections, it obviously benefits all aviculturists, both professional and hobbyists, to be working much more closely together for the greater understanding and to the greater benefit, of our birds.

Those clubs wishing to know in greater detail the guidelines we've established to develop this program, are invited to write to me.

D. Grenville Roles, Committee member  
Tracy Aviary  
Liberty Park, 589 East 1300 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84105 ●

1986 release — from the Eric Peake collection



**Eclectus Parrots**  
*Eclectus roratus roratus*

Eric Peake, of the United Kingdom, is rated as one of the outstanding bird artists of our time. His work has become internationally acclaimed for superb color and accuracy of interpretation of his avian subjects.

This exclusive limited edition print (only 350 signed and numbered), approximately 21" x 15", is ready for framing. \$75 including postage. Available at:

The Eric Peake Collection  
29 Brookshire, St. Peters, MO 63376 U.S.A.  
(314) 278-1561