

# President's Message

by Jerry Jennings  
Woodland Hills, California



Jerry Jennings

The AFA's 12th annual convention in New Orleans was an outstanding success and left the convention goers with a good deal of useful information not to mention the inspiration it offered us to go out and be even more creative in our avicultural pursuits. An underlying theme of the conference was the notion that breeders must redouble their efforts if we hope to have a diverse number of species with which to work in the years ahead. It was noted that fewer countries remain in the export wildlife trade this year than last and the pace of countries closing is accelerating.

For the first time ever at an AFA conference, several speakers made presentations on softbills, an area of aviculture too long overlooked by most of us. It was amply demonstrated that softbills are actually no more difficult to keep than most psittacines or finches, while they offer a wonderful cornucopia of color patterns and interesting behaviors far more numerous and diverse than practically all other bird groups combined. Coincidentally and most auspiciously, the International Softbill Society held its first meeting and presented its members with the first issue of their bulletin, *The Honeycreeper*, which is quite informative. Dues are \$15 per individual annually. Interested breeders may contact this organization at: Softbill Society, c/o National Aquarium in Baltimore, Pier 3, 501 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

The business of AFA was conducted in an atmosphere of enthusiasm that bodes well for our future. A number of new faces have appeared in the executive committee, with the addition of Tom Marshall as first vice president, Ann Bickham as executive secretary, Dallas Johnson as northeastern regional vice president, Tony Silva as midwestern regional vice president, Dick Dickinson as Northern California regional vice president, and Dick Stocker as Southern California regional vice president. It is with great pleasure that I welcome them aboard the executive committee. I would also like to publicly thank outgoing officers Don Cavender, Lorene Clubb, Linda Sun, Bill Wilson, Jim Coffman, and Aletta Long. These people have made invaluable contributions to AFA and their support is appreciated by everyone. Don Cavender also did a splendid job of putting together the convention in New Orleans.

As we head into the fall months I would urge our members to look forward to our winter regional conference, which will be held in conjunction with the International Foundation for the Conservation of Birds' Second Jean Delacour/IFCB Symposium on Breeding Birds in Captivity. The symposium will be held February 11-15, 1987 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Hollywood, California and promises to be one of the most interesting and informative avicultural gatherings ever. AFA will hold its winter board meeting on February 11th, the day before the speaker sessions begin. AFA members should indicate on their registration forms that they are AFA members, as this will directly benefit AFA, since there will be only one registration fee, paid directly to IFCB. Please note that the deadline is November 1, 1986 after which the fee increases. I look forward to seeing you at the symposium. ●

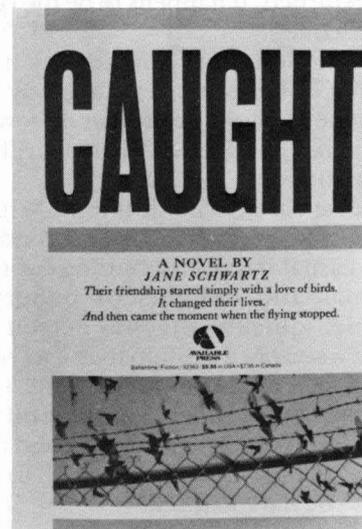
## AFA Mid-winter Meeting—Feb. 11, '87

### IFCB Symposium—Feb. 12-15, '87

If you are planning to attend the AFA Feb. 11th mid-winter meeting and the IFCB Symposium, register before November 1, '86 for the most favorable price. **If you are an AFA member, please make sure you indicate it on your registration form.**

IFCB Symposium information and registration appears on page 39 in this issue of *Watchbird*.

# EX LIBRIS



by Jane Schwartz  
Review by Jan Parrott-Holden  
Vancouver, Washington

There are certain things that simply cannot be described unless you have experienced them (things like winning a marathon, climbing Mt. Adams and flying). Jane Schwartz says as much in her wonderful novel, *Caught*, a book tailor-made for bird lovers.

The title, *Caught*, exemplifies the philosophy of the book's major characters — a group of Brooklyn Flight flyers during the late 1950s. These men, and they are all men, live and breathe, the sport of pigeon flying. They spend hours each day training a "kit" of birds to perform unerringly as one. Those

*Continued on page 14*



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