

# AFA in action...

# NEWS and VIEWS

OCTOBER 1990

## CITES Update

**NEW CITES PARTIES:** Cuba will become the 107th CITES party, effective July 19, 1990, following Poland, whose accession was effective March 12, 1990!

Cuba's management authority is Ministerio de la Agricultura, Virtudes No. 680 esquina a Belacoain, Habana Vieja, Ciudad Habana.

Poland's management authority is Ministry of Environment Protection, Natural Resources & Forestry, Ul. Wawelska 52/54, 00-922 Warsawa, phone 25-50-82.

**BIRD TRADE:** Argentina has established a quota system for the export of 11 species of Psittaciformes listed on Appendix II.

**GREATER RHEA:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay (all of the range states) have prohibited the export of skins and leather of *Rhea americana*.

**PELLE AMENDMENT PETITIONS:** Two petitions/requests have been received to certify countries under the Pelly Amendment: Japan and Mexico for sea turtle trade, and China, the United Kingdom (for Hong Kong) and Zimbabwe for trade in African elephant ivory. The Department of Interior and Commerce (sea turtles) are currently investigating whether or not trade by these or any other countries is diminishing the effectiveness of CITES. (Late press reports indicate that Mexico has banned commercial use of sea turtles.)

**CITES COMMITTEES:** The Conference of the Parties has established the following committees, all of which the U.S. Office of Management Authority and/or Office of Scientific Authority are closely involved with:

Committee	Chair
Standing Committee	Henri Nsanjama, Malawi
Animals Committee	Merlin Shoemith, Canada
Plants Committee	Bruce MacBryde, U.S.
Identification Manual Committee	New Chair being sought
Nomenclature Committee	Stephen Edwards, IUCN
Working Group on the Transport of Live Specimens	Ian Muchmore, United Kingdom

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** The next meeting of the Standing Committee is scheduled for November 19-23, 1990, in Perth, Australia. The eight Conference of the Parties of CITES (COP8) will be March 2-13, 1992 in either Yokohama or Kyoto, Japan.

**MEXICO AND SEA TURTLES:** The Government of Mexico announced on May 28, 1990 its prohibition of "removing, harvesting, pursuing, disturbing, or harming of any of the species and subspecies of sea turtles" in its waters. Up until this

announcement, Mexico banned all commercial exploitation of sea turtles, except for the olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) fisheries on the Pacific Coast. This decision is accompanied by a program to study the incidental take of sea turtles during other fishery activities; extension of offshore and beach refuge zones; increased scientific studies and programs aimed at the protection and conservation of sea turtles; and registration of all existing stockpiles of sea turtle parts and products.

**MEXICO AND CITES:** President Salinas de Gortari has announced Mexico's decision to join CITES. CITES will be implemented in Mexico by the Ministry of Urban Development and Ecology (SEDUE). The Service's Offices of Management Authority, Scientific Authority, and Law Enforcement will provide extensive technical assistance, as requested by Mexico, to aid in the implementation of CITES.

**CONSERVATION EDUCATION:** On the occasion of World Environment Day, the CITES Secretariat and the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have developed an "Endangered Species Game." Copies of the game can be purchased from the CITES Secretariat or from UNEP. Please contact OMA if you would like to see a copy of the game.

**CITES SECRETARIAT VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS:** UNEP has announced a search to fill the following vacancies at the CITES Secretariat: Secretary General, Programme Officer (Special Projects), and Programme Officer (Information and Training). Interested individuals should contact: Recruitment Unit, UNEP, P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya, before July 18, 1990.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** The Plants Committee met in Caracas, Venezuela, July 4-5, 1990. The next meeting of the Animals Committee will be November 12-16, 1990 in Darwin, Australia.

**TECHNICAL BULLETIN:** The May, 1990 issue of the *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin* (Vol. XV, No. 5) published by the Fish and Wildlife Service, can be obtained by contacting: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Correspondence and Information, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 400, Arlington, VA 22203.

**NEW MAILING ADDRESSES:** Office of Management Authority. *All correspondence:* 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 432, Arlington, VA 22203.

Office of Scientific Authority. *Express mail and messenger mail:* 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 750, Arlington, VA 22203. *All other mail:* Mail Stop ARLSQ 725, Washington, DC 20240. ●

## First Mesoamerican Macaw Workshop Planned

A workshop on the conservation and management of macaws in Mexico and Central America will be held from January 4-7, 1991 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The workshop is being organized by The Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, Inc. (CSTB) and the International Council for Bird Preservation: Honduran National Section (ICBP:HNS) and sponsored by the Department of the Interior, Office of International Affairs, as well as the International Council for Bird Preservation, Panamerican Section (ICBP:PAS). Additional sponsors are being solicited. Topics to be discussed will include: Status and Distribution of Macaws in the Region, Macaw Ecology, Psittacine Censusing Techniques, Management Alternatives, Public Education, and Ethology: Data Collection and Analysis. For further information, contact Macaw Management Workshop, The Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, Inc., 218 Conway, San Antonio, TX 78209, phone (512) 828-5306, FAX (512) 828-5911.

J. Clinton-Eitniear ●

## Reader's Survey Results

Readers may recall that the *Watchbird* staff has been printing a reader's survey in past issues of the magazine. While the survey sheets are still arriving at the office, some trends appear to be surfacing.

- Response to the survey is low — only 3.84% of the membership has responded thus far.
- Readers would like to see more beginner articles.
- Of greatest interest are articles on nutrition, avian medicine and parrots (in general). Of medium interest are articles on avian research followed by bird care, veterinary viewpoints and conservation. Bottom of the list (of least interest) were articles on canaries, lovebirds, cockatiels and budgies.

Comparing the results with a similar census taken in 1983 shows little change. In 1983, the three top "want more articles on . . ." were avian nutrition, successful aviaries and avian medicine and health care. In response to this survey, the *Watchbird* staff will attempt to add one additional nutrition/medicine/health care article as well as one beginner's article to each issue. Thank you to those who took the time to fill out the survey and return it to the office. ●

## Call for Papers for 1991 Avian Medicine Conference

The Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV) announced its Call for Papers for the 12th Annual Conference to be held September 23-28, 1991 in Chicago, Illinois. Proposals will be accepted for clinically oriented case reports, research projects, conservation programs, comprehensive reviews, or practical labs on avian medical or surgical topics. Suggested categories include conservation, PBF, nutrition, aviculture, non-psittacine, surgery, pharmacology, and chlamydia. Material must be original and previously unpublished.

Request Call for Papers "Proposal Application" from the AAV Conference Office, 1625 So. Birch St., Suite 106, Denver, Colorado, USA 80222, phone (303) 756-8380, FAX (303) 759-8861. Deadline for applications is February 15, 1991. ●

## Association of Avian Veterinarians

In recent months, the Association of Avian Veterinarians received various requests for financial support of projects that did not involve avian medical research. Such requests included the funding of projects that provided pet birds to the handicapped or elderly, conservation and preservation of the environment, and education of the public regarding avian care and management.

In response to requests such as these, the association has allocated funds to be granted to certain projects involving avian interests that do not qualify for medical research awards. At the discretion of the funding review committee, grants of up to \$500 will be awarded to selected projects that deal with avian care and management, the pet/owner bond, conservation, etc.

Organizations active in areas such as these may apply for grants by contacting Dr. Don Harris, Chairman, AAV Funding Review Committee, Association of Avian Veterinarians, P.O. Box 299, East Northport, NY 11731. Applications must be in writing and must include a detailed description of the project for which the funding is requested, the dollar amount requested, an account of the anticipated cost of the project and the amount and source of all other funding obtained. Grants are awarded each year during the annual conference of the association in September. ●

## Ad Hoc Committee of State Coordinators and Club Delegates Formed

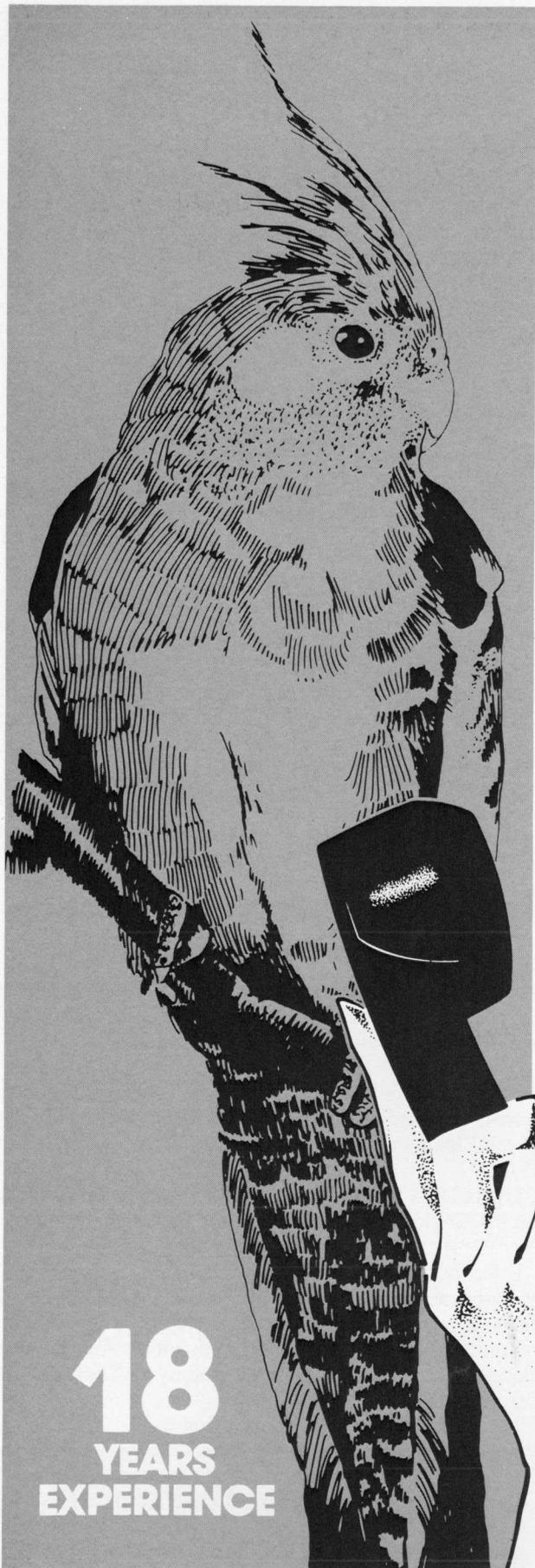
At the fall meeting of the Board of Directors (to be held in Salt Lake, City from November 2-5, 1990) the current president will solicit approval from the Board for the establishment of an ad hoc committee of State Coordinators and Club Delegates. The function of the committee will be to convene during the mid-winter meeting and the annual convention as a forum for discussing plans and policies consistent with the general aims of AFA, such findings are to be forwarded to the Board of Directors for an actual vote count for or against. Under Article VIII, Section 6, the official establishment of the committee requires a Board vote. It is hoped that the establishment of this committee will facilitate the exchange of information, views and opinions between the Board of Directors and the State Coordinators and Club Delegates. ●

## RARE Center Appreciates AFA's Support

Thanks to support from the AFA Conservation Fund, 5,000 St. Vincent Parrot conservation badges have been produced for the ongoing education program on St. Vincent.

Brian Johnson, the director of the St. Vincent Forestry Division, reports that the badges are being distributed to school children as part of the ongoing school visitation program by Forestry officers. He thanks the AFA for providing the funds to have more of these popular educational materials produced.

RARE Center For Tropical Bird Conservation appreciates the AFA's support of our conservation education program in the Lesser Antilles. With the AFA, RARE Center, and the St. Vincent Forestry Division working together, the future for St. Vincent's national bird, *Amazona guildingii*, looks bright. ●



**18**  
YEARS  
EXPERIENCE

CALLERS UNDER 18 MUST HAVE PARENTAL CONSENT

# ATTENTION!

We can answer your questions, both complicated as well as basic, about parrots and exotic birds.

## NEW & PROSPECTIVE:

### BREEDERS

- CHOICE & SELECTION OF PAIRS
- CAGE & NEST BOX SIZE
- HANDFEEDING
- MARKETING BABIES
- GENERAL INFORMATION

### PET BIRD OWNERS

- SELECTING A BIRD
- DIET
- CARE & GROOMING
- TALKING
- SAFELY HANDLING YOUR BIRD

**P** **AD** **Q**  
PARROT  
ADVICE  
QUICK

# HOTLINE

**1-900-740-FAST** \$2.00 PER MINUTE

This **HOTLINE 1-900-740-3278** is intended to relieve the frustration that new and prospective bird owners feel when urgent questions go unanswered. We recognize that breeding birds on a full-time basis is a demanding job which leaves little time to answer questions posed by novice or prospective breeders. Also, avian veterinarians can seldom get involved in the husbandry aspect of birds. We do not provide medical advice and in no way intend to replace qualified avian veterinarian services.

OPERATORS ON DUTY 24 HOURS A DAY

# QUESTIONS ANSWERED

## Delegates Elect 1990-91 Officers

The ballots were counted Saturday, June 30, 1990 at Jordan's Restaurant, 2633 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.

The results of the 1990 election are:

President Jack Clinton-Eitnietar  
First VP Chuck Saffell  
Second VP Jeri Wright (declared after a runoff election)  
Executive secretary Linda Sun  
Chief financial officer Vicki Fletcher  
Northeastern VP Paul Gildersleeve  
Mid-atlantic VP Dick Ivy  
Southeastern VP Wilford Pace  
Mid-eastern VP Bob Smith  
North central VP James McCabe  
South central VP Patty Lambert  
Northwestern VP Ron Sweere  
Western VP Gary Clifton  
Northern California VP Dick Dickinson  
Southern California VP Aletta Long

Congratulations to all those were elected. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be in Salt Lake City, Utah, November 2 - 4, 1990. ●



AFA's large display unit used at the Pet Industry Trade Show held in March 1990 at Tampa, Florida. Phyllis Martin (L) and Sallie Klink, corresponding secretary, worked the show and did very well recruiting members. They even received a \$500 cash donation from Willie Lawson, Pet Farm, for AFA's research fund.

## AFA Completes Audit

The Board of Directors recently contracted with the accounting firm of Johnson and Ward to audit its books for the period of twelve months ending August 31, 1989. While no financial irregularities were located, the accounting firm recommended that we consider both bringing the books up to the 1989 year-end as well as consolidate the accounting functions into one central location. In response to these suggestions, the Board has approved the funding of an additional audit to get the books up to a 1989 year-end. The consolidation suggestion will be explored by the Finance Committee. ●

## AAZPA Reports Breeding of Stork, Cassowary, and Rare Amazon Parrot

The Jacksonville Zoological Park recently announced the successful hatching of a Marabou Stork (*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*) on April 9. The producing pair was acquired as wild caught in 1978 and has since been housed unpinioned in a 30 x 35 x 10 meter flight cage. Nesting activity and egg laying have occurred annually with this pair since 1984, with fertile eggs verified only once previously (1987). The chick represents the first successful U.S. breeding of this species since 1979, when Busch Gardens, Tampa produced two hand-raised offspring. Current information indicates this to be the first successful parent raising of this species in the United States.

A double-wattled cassowary (*Casuaris casuaris*) chick hatched at the Greater Baton Rouge Zoo on May 19. This represents the first surviving cassowary chick hatched at the zoo. While fertile and infertile eggs were produced in 1989, only one egg hatched, but did not survive. The 1990 clutch has had a higher percentage of fertile eggs; however, as the adult birds are egg breakers, the eggs must be artificially incubated. Several more eggs are now incubating.

Four St. Vincent Parrot chicks were raised this season at the Life Fellowship Bird Sanctuary, Seffner, Florida. This brings the total to 11 bred at the sanctuary since 1982. Of the ten captive-breeding programs dedicated to the St. Vincent Parrot (*Amazona guildingii*), some of which have existed since 1970, this has proved the most successful to date.

AAZPA Communique', August 1990 ●

## AFA Funds Research and Conservation Projects

During the recent 16th annual AFA convention, four research and one conservation project were awarded small grants from the research and conservation funds. They include:

### Research

Potential use of Doxycycline-medicated corn and soy bean feed to treat Chlamydiosis in psittacine birds. Principle investigator Keven Flammer, D.V.M., North Carolina State University — \$5,000.

Use of DNA probes for the detection of subclinical carriers of the PBFV virus in breeding aviaries. Principle investigator Dr. Branson Ritchie, University of Georgia — \$5,000.

Effect of dietary iron on the accumulation of iron in the liver of European Starlings. Principle investigator Susan D. Crissey, Ph.D., Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield, Illinois — \$5,000.

Stimulation of breeding in Orange-winged Amazons. Principle investigator J.R. Millam, University of California, Davis, California — \$5,000.

### Conservation

Financial support was provided for the *First Workshop on the Conservation and Management of Macaws in Mesoamerica*. Organized by the Center for the Study of Tropical Birds and the Honduran Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation, the workshop will be held in Honduras during January of 1991. See notice in this issue for additional details.

The AFA Board of Directors and the Chairs of the research and conservation committees would like to thank all the AFA members who have provided donations during 1990. Without your support, there would be no small grants programs. ●

## Alleged Parrot Egg Smuggling Ring Broken

### A Las Vegas Couple is accused of hatching the eggs of exotic birds illegally imported from Australia.

by Alan Tobin  
Review-Journal

A Las Vegas federal grand jury indicted five people Thursday in an alleged scheme involving the sale of exotic Australian parrots whose eggs were smuggled into the United States.

The eggs were allegedly incubated at the Las Vegas home of Paul and Jeannette Parker and then sold for thousands of dollars to buyers throughout the country.

The Parkers were charged in a 24-count indictment along with Las Vegas Denise Hassler, and Suzette Morrison, a U.S. citizen who lives in Australia, and Australian John Leleu. Authorities said the alleged ring was broken after a joint investigation by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Customs Service.

Investigators executed a search warrant on Dec. 8 at the Parkers' residence at 1415 Francis Ave.

Ed Dominguez, a federal fish and wildlife agent who worked on the case with customs agent Jeffrey L. Green, said investigators determined that the alleged bird ring smuggled 208 cockatoo eggs into the U.S. between September 1987 and December 1989.

Investigators also allege the organization had operations in Sydney, Australia, and Las Vegas.

The government contends the smuggled parrot eggs included rose-breasted cockatoos, Major Mitchell's, Gang-Gangs and long-billed corellas.

According to bird experts, the average market price for a rose-breasted cockatoo is \$1,200, while Major Mitchell's sell for \$6,500 to \$8,000 a piece and Gang-Gangs for \$6,500 each.

Authorities said that about half of the 208 eggs brought into the country eventually hatched.

Authorities note there are lawful ways of obtaining these types of birds.

It is illegal to import exotic birds or their eggs into the U.S. without an export permit from the country of origin. ●

## Conservation Committee Implements New ISIS SPARKS Program

SPARKS (Single Population Analysis & Record Keeping System) is a new software tool from ISIS (International Species Information System) for creating and maintaining studbooks, performing demographic and genetic analysis, and supporting population management. Demographic analyses include life-tables, age pyramids, instantaneous growth rate ( $r$ ), annual growth rate ( $\lambda$ ), generation time ( $T$ ), and effective population size ( $N_e$ ). Genetic analyses include pedigree diagrams, descendant listing, inbreeding coefficients, and founder representations. The software package will be used to enhance AFA's Red Siskin and Green-cheeked Amazon Parrot Management Programs. The SPARKS program is currently in use in most major U.S. zoological gardens and endorsed by the AAZPA. ●

## Argentina Establishes Bird Quotas

The Direccion Nacional de Fauna Silvestre de Argentina has established quotas for the 1990 export of psittacines under Resolucion No. 6 of 28 December 1989 as follows:

Species	Export Maximum
<i>Amazona aestiva</i> (Blue-fronted Amazon)	23,000
<i>A. tucumana</i> (Tucuman Amazon)	0
<i>Ara auricollis</i> (Yellow-collared Macaw)	0
<i>A. maracana</i> (Illiger's Macaw)	0
<i>Aratinga acuticaudata</i> (Blue-crowned Conure)	15,000
<i>A. aurea</i> (Peach-fronted Conure)	500
<i>A. leucophthalmus</i> (White-eyed Conure)	2,500
<i>A. mitrata</i> (Mitre Conure)	5,000
<i>Bolborhynchus aymara</i> (Sierra Parakeet)	1,500
<i>B. aurifrons</i> (Mountain Parakeet)	0
<i>Myiopsitta versicolor</i> (Canary-winged Parakeet)	1,000
<i>Cyanoliseus patagonus</i> (Patagonian Conure)	0
<i>Forpus xanthopterygius</i> (Blue-winged Parrotlet)	0
<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i> (Monk Parakeet)	0
<i>Mandayus nenday</i> (Nanday Conure)	15,000
<i>Pionus maximiliani</i> (Scaly-headed Parrot)	5,000
<i>Pyrrhura frontalis</i> (Maroon-bellied Conure)	4,000
<i>P. molinae</i> (Green-checked Conure)	1,000

from TRAFFIC (South America) ●

## TRAFFIC USA/WWF Psittacine Captive Breeding Survey Update



As of mid-August, TRAFFIC has received over 1,100 completed surveys from the American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) mailing and the *Bird World* magazine insert. This unprecedented response from aviculturists large and small and concerned exotic bird pet owners to provide information on the status of psittacine captive breeding is an exciting step forward. We're sure many of you are anxious to know the results. We assure you we are, too. We are busily, yet painstakingly, entering all the surveys into the computer. This process is slow and requires laborious proofing and cross checking, so we hope you will understand why it will be a while before we can publish the survey results. Although we cannot release any quantitative results at this time, we will be sure to keep you updated on our progress.

TRAFFIC wants to thank all of you who participated in the survey, and for your strong support throughout this year for this important research. We especially want to thank those of you who have provided us with many valuable and constructive comments on ways to improve the content and structure of the survey. As a result of the tremendous response and positive feedback for the survey, we would like to conduct another captive breeding survey in 1991 for 1990 breeding data. Your comments will help us to make this second survey effort an even greater success!

This fall, TRAFFIC will be developing the 1991 survey and welcomes any additional suggestions on survey format, content and distribution. While we work on the survey, we hope you will get your 1990 breeding records in order so that participating in the next survey will be easier and maybe even fun.

Congratulations and keep up the good work!  
Catherine Allen, Survey Coordinator