

AFA in action...

NEWS and VIEWS

FEBRUARY 1991

42nd National Cage Bird Show A Tremendous Success

The 42nd National Cage Bird Show took place November 15-17 in Atlanta, Georgia at the downtown Radisson Hotel. A total of 2,572 birds were entered to compete for 13 divisional Kellogg Awards and the coveted Scannell Award for best bird in the show. An enthusiastic group of 235 bird breeders plus 35 commercial exhibitors and several hundred interested spectators contributed in making the 42nd National one of the most successful since the annual event began in 1949.

The National show travels across the country in order to allow breeders in all regions an opportunity to exhibit and compete in a "national" scale. Future locations for the National are: 1991 - Detroit, MI; 1992 - Oklahoma City, OK; and 1993 - Houston, TX. For further information regarding the National Cage Bird Show, contact John Ulrich; Kellogg, Inc.; Seeds and Supplies at 1-800-627-5495.

Kellogg, Inc. is proud to sponsor the annual awards for Best in Division and Best in Show. The 1991 National Kellogg Best in Division winners are:

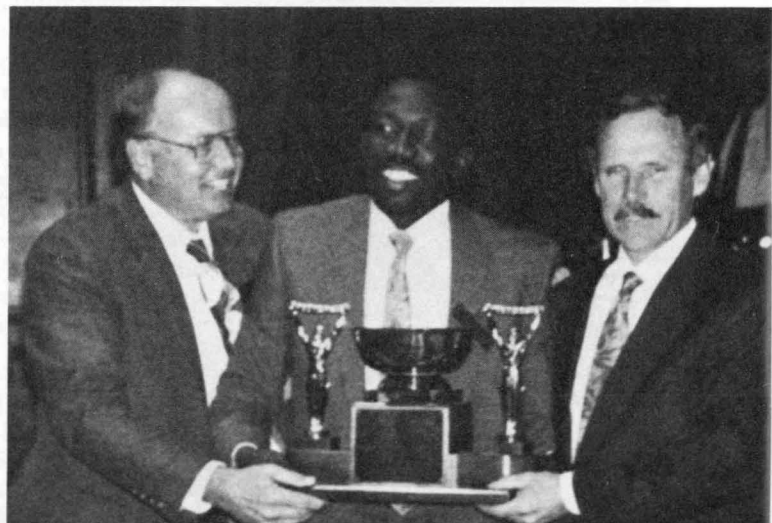
Division 1 - Border Fancy Canaries	Mr. Steve Howarth, Watsonville, CA
Division 2 - Glosters	Mr. Winfield Checkley, St. Leonard, MD
Division 3 - Type Canaries	Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Sheldon, Niles, OH
Division 4 - Old Varieties	Dr. and Mrs. Mac Saedi, Toledo, OH
Division 5 - Domestic Hartz Canaries	Mr. and Mrs. Earl Nice, Fenton, MO
Division 6 - American Singers	Mr. and Mrs. Marion Omiatek, Wauconda, IL
Division 7 - Lipochrome Colorbred	Mr. Felix Piedra, Miami, FL
Division 8 - Melanin Colorbred	Mr. and Mrs. Ken Minder, Cypress, TX
Division 9 - Finch & Softbill	Mr. Bob Ziegler, Mattson, IL
Division 10 - Parrots	Mr. and Mrs. Jim Eckman, Bacto, MD
Division 11 - Agapornis/Lovebirds	Mr. and Mrs. Karl Wiley, Wayne, MI
Division 12 - Budgerigars	Mr. and Mrs. Bill Richardson, Jasper, AL
Division 13 - Cockatiel	Ms. Lynn Dressi, Smyrna, GA

The Scannell Award - Best Bird in Show winner was Mr. Winfield Checkley, St. Leonard, MD. ●

Photos courtesy of Kellogg, Inc.



The 1990 Kellogg Trophy for Best Bird in the Division.



The 1990 Scannell winner for best bird in the show. L to R: Mr. John Ulrich, Manager - Cage Bird Products, Kellogg, Inc.; Mr. Winfield Checkley, Scannell winner; Mr. Patrick Varian, judge, Gloster Division.

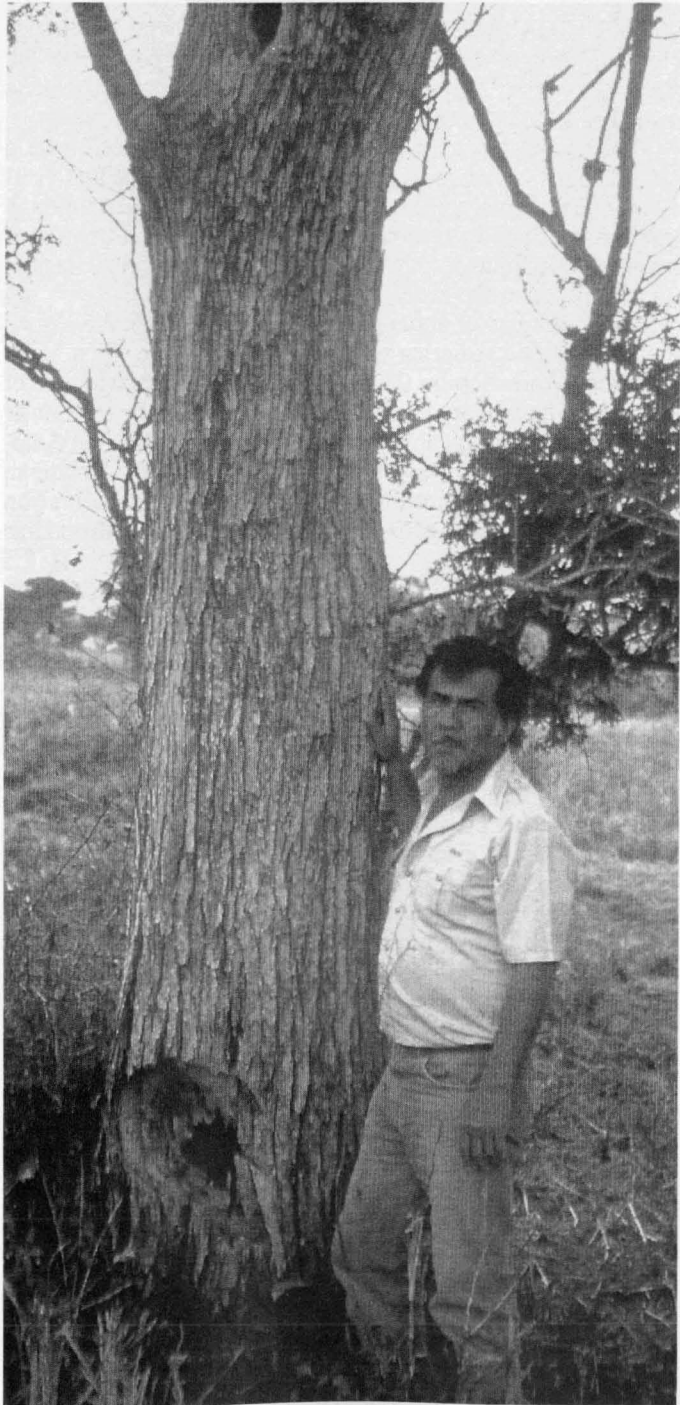
Conservation Update

The Green-cheeked Amazon studbook questionnaire has been mailed to gather data documenting founder stock for a comprehensive population management program. A sufficient population is known to exist in the United States, but only through a cooperative management plan can genetic diversity be maximized throughout several generations to come. Anyone

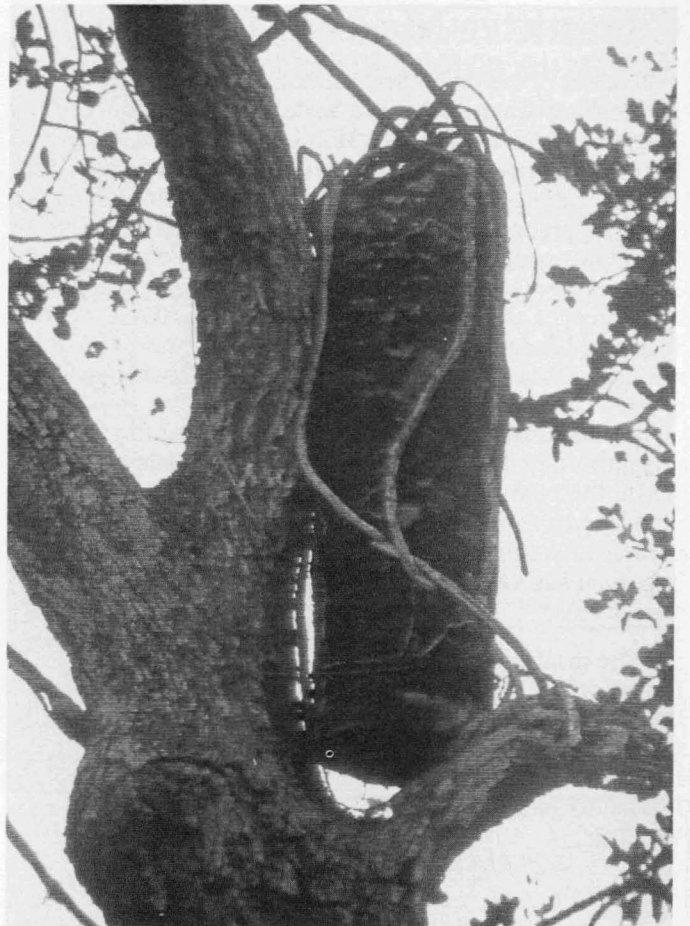
with a pair or pairs of *Amazona viridigalis* (Green-cheeked Amazon, Mexican Redhead) willing to participate, should contact AFA Green-cheeked Amazon Coordinator Ron Holtz for more information or if they haven't received the questionnaire by late December. Ron can be contacted at (602) 982-2125 or through the AFA Business Office. ●

Avicultural Society of America Supports Nestbox Effort

While most Americans are familiar with bird houses, it is a rather infrequently observed item in tropical countries. As habitat destruction continues, however, and nesting trees are cut by parrot poachers, suitable nesting cavities become limited. In order to reverse this trend, the Avicultural Society of America recently provided a grant of \$1,000 to the Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas, Mexico for the construction and erection of 50 palm trunk style nestboxes. The boxes will be placed on the Los Colorado Ranch in northeastern Mexico. The ranch's 1,500 acres are being managed for parrots, with



Nestboxes are necessary as parrot poachers frequently destroy nests in search of chicks. Note hole at top of trunk and chopped out portion at bottom where young Yellow-headed Amazon was extracted.



Palm trees are frequently used as nests, therefore, appear very suitable for artificial nestboxes.

Amazona oratrix, *A. autumnalis* and *A. viridigenalis* being present.

In addition to the nestboxes, the site is to be visited by a member of ASA who will prepare a report for the organization's board and membership. ●

AFA Winter Regional Meeting

Breeding New World Parrots will be the emphasis of the Winter Regional Meeting in Albuquerque, February 8-10. In addition, both the Board of Directors and the House of Delegates will meet. The meeting will be held at the Albuquerque Hilton, registration is \$45 per person in advance, \$50 at the door. Visa and MasterCard are accepted. Contact the Business Office to register in advance; for room accommodations contact the hotel at (800) 274-6835. ●

Traffic's South American Office Launches New Publication

A new quarterly publication titled "*Alerta*" is now being produced by the recently established Traffic office in Uruguay. Vol. 1 No. 1 (September 1990) dealt with several avian topics including: the arrest of Estudillo Lopez; the reintroduction of a group of Hyacinth Macaws in the Pantanal of Mato Grosso, Brazil; and the new strategy for the Spix Macaw. The publication is in Spanish and available by writing: Traffic Sudamerica, Carlos Roxlo 1496/301, Montevideo, Uruguay. ●

Committee Meets in Los Angeles

Members of the "AFA Special Committee on the Cooperative Working Group on the Bird Trade" met on November 30 to December 2, at the Quality Hotel-Los Angeles Airport to discuss the proposed national legislation on bird trade. With numerous drafts of the bill strewn about the table, the group began the arduous task of commenting on areas in which the document would have a substantial impact on aviculture. Considering its ramifications upon both the large and small scale breeder, the end result, as recorded by AFA Executive Secretary Linda Sun, will be presented at the next scheduled meeting of the cooperative working group in Washington, D.C. by AFA's representative Gary Lilienthal.

AFA members will be receiving additional information on this important document within the next couple of months. While the committee and Board of Directors are actively involved in the drafting of AFA's position, membership participation (re: comment on materials sent out) is extremely important and vital if this document is to meet the needs of all aviculturists.

Those in attendance at the special meeting were:

Davis Koffron	Tom Marshall
Dale Thompson	Laurella Desborough
Janet & Gary Lilienthal	Dallas Johnson
Jack Clinton-Eitniear	Susan Clubb
Joanne Abramson	Dick Ivy
Val Clear	Amy Worell ●

Avian Research

AFA is an important source of funding for avian research. One of the research projects funded for this year is Potential Use of Doxycycline-medicated Corn and Soy Bean Feed to Treat Chlamydiosis in Psittacine Birds. The principal investigator is Kevin Flammer, D.V.M., of North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Incidence rates of 15 to 30% for chlamydiosis in pet psittacines have been reported by veterinarians and diagnostic labs, making it fairly common in pet birds. (The U.S. avian population is in excess of 40 million birds.) Bird owners and retailers will benefit if this research is successful in its goal of developing a safer, more effective regimen for treating chlamydia (psittacosis, parrot fever).

Currently, usual treatment is chlortetracycline administered 30 to 45 days via medicated mash or pellets. Success is contingent upon the bird's acceptance of the unfamiliar diet, additional complications can arise from malnutrition and secondary microbial yeast and gram negative bacterial infections. Due to its better absorption and slower excretion rate, doxycycline can be given less frequently and at lower dosages. This research will determine if a doxycycline medicated diet of corn and soy bean mix can maintain adequate levels of medication to effectively treat chlamydia in a variety of hookbills.

Corn and soy bean mix were selected as the base diet due to ready availability and the fact that corn is a familiar food item for most psittacines. The research will work with Goffin's, - Sulphur-crested and Umbrella Cockatoos, African Grey Parrots, Noble Macaws, Senegal Parrots, Sun Conures and Blue-crowned Conures ●

Macaws in Central America Threatened by Smuggling and Forest Destruction

by Pat Walsh
Takoma Park, Maryland

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — Americans who buy smuggled wild-caught macaws, the largest and most colorful of the parrots, are contributing to their extinction in the wild, experts agreed at a recent conference.

"There is an analogy with the drug trade," said Noel Snyder, a U.S. biologist in charge of parrot conservation for Wildlife Preservation Trust International, referring to the fact that although trade in macaws in Central America is illegal, it continues because of demand, despite the fact that birds smuggled illegally frequently die in the process.

Snyder was one of about 30 representatives from the United States and Latin America who participated in the 'First Meso American Workshop on the Conservation and Management of Macaws.' The January conference was sponsored by the Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, Inc. (CSTB) based in San Antonio, Texas. Locally, the conference was hosted by the Honduran Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) and the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras (UNAH).

Participants learned, for example, that macaws are already extinct in war torn El Salvador and are being driven into smaller pockets of forest in Honduras and Nicaragua.

While slash-and-burn methods of clearing forest are a major factor, poaching of chicks from the nest for the pet trade in the United States, Europe and other parts of the world is a big problem. In Central America, the sale of one Buffon's Macaw chick can represent a month's salary.

Even governments can get involved. Conference participants cited reports that Nicaragua's former Sandinista-led government was suspected of dealing in birds, and that U.S. military planes based in Honduras and Panama may have flown birds out.

Ecological tourism, or ecotourism, may be one way to protect macaws and their habitat, conference participants agreed. Costa Rica is employing this technique which allows tourists to watch macaws in the wild while putting badly needed currency into the country's coffers. Unfortunately, most of the financial benefits are frequently lost as tour companies and hotels are often foreign-owned. Nature enthusiasts should insist upon local guides and reside in facilities owned by local, not foreign, parties.

Conference participants agreed that education and habitat protection are crucial to protecting macaws. While some, like Snyder, believe macaws should not be pets, others advocate educating pet buyers to seek only domestically-bred birds. All agree public awareness is key.

"If we don't change the demand, they're so easy to poach and so difficult to defend . . . that we're not going to change things unless we change attitudes," Snyder said.

Proceedings of the workshop will be available April 1st. To reserve your copy, forward \$25 (\$5 additional for air mail) to: C.S.T.B., P.O. Box 20219, Charleston, South Carolina 29413. ●



The workshop participants took a break to visit Honduras' "La Tigra" National Park.



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October 29, 1990

Board of Directors
 American Federation of Aviculture, Inc.
 P.O. Box 56218
 Phoenix, AZ 85079-6218

We have reviewed the accompanying balance sheet of AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE, INC. (a California not for profit Corporation) as of December 31, 1989, and the related statements of support, revenue and expenses and changes in fund balances functional expenses for the year then ended, in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All information included in these financial statements is the representation of the trustee of the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE, INC.

A review consists principally of inquiries of Federation personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an examination in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

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As of January 1, 1990, AFA's policy was reaffirmed to no longer allow hybrid birds to be offered for sale in its official publication, the *AFA Watchbird*.

**Central Florida
 Bird Breeders' Association**

**4th Annual
 Bird Swap Meet
 Kissimmee, Florida
 April 28, 1991**

For information call:
 Jim Scott (407) 348-2079
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The Bird Mart has become the marketplace for buyers and sellers.

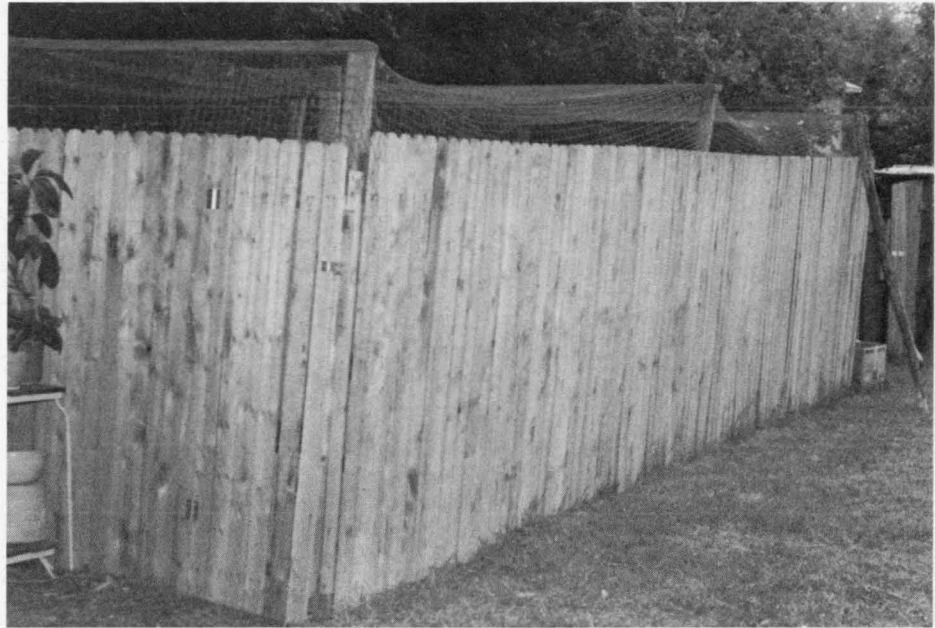
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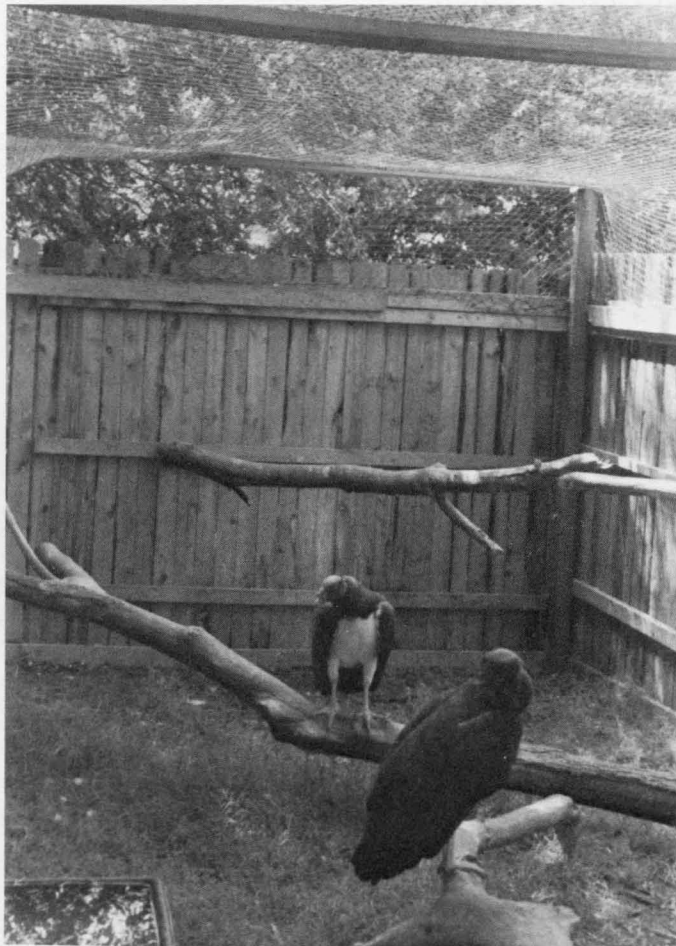
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The Original, The #1 Bird Mart

A Non-psittacine Aviary



Use of prefabricated/assembled wooden fencing panels allowed for a minimum of construction time and labor. Wooden panels allow for sufficient ventilation as well as create a desired sight barrier.



The nylon netting was attached with poultry staples as well as with strips of lumber firmly secured with wood screws. Utilizing eight foot support timbers, the effective height of the enclosure was increased by two feet.

These young King Vultures were hand raised by Jack Clinton-Eitniear. He likens their personalities to puppy dogs. They follow him around for hand-outs and annihilated the garden hose in destructive play.



An entrance hallway is necessary to prevent escapes and provides a useful area for the storage of maintenance supplies.

A Backyard Enclosure for Non-psittacine Birds

by Jack Clinton-Eitniear
Tangara Aviaries, San Antonio, Texas

As aviculture increases in popularity, individuals are discovering they have exhausted the amount of space in their homes for birds and must move their activities outdoors. In addition, the species of birds being maintained is changing to include those classically considered zoo birds. Hornbills, touracos, cracids and cranes are increasing in popularity; therefore, more and more aviculturists are considering aviary construction in their backyards.

A number of considerations must be made *prior* to constructing a backyard aviary of any type. First, your city and county codes must be consulted. Generally obtainable at most city/university libraries, many communities have restrictions on birds and/or buildings that can be erected. A few hours in the library will save you a great deal of mental anguish later when you discover your new aviary is one foot too close to your property line or that you have made some other preventable code violation. Your second consideration should be in reference to the type of bird(s) you plan to house. What requirements do they have, and how will they affect your neighborhood? For example, housing psittacines in many areas requires provisions for limiting the transmission of their dawn and dusk calling. Sound barriers constructed of wood, masonry or plants often will "deflect" the sound away from sensitive neighbors. In addition, if you have a "sensitive" neighbor or one that actively utilizes his/her backyard, you may wish to consider including a solid wall sight barrier on one or more sides. Some aviculturists are concerned about broadcasting the presence of birds to the entire neighborhood and others about the possible disturbance neighbors might cause the birds. In both situations, limiting the visibility of the enclosure is advantageous.

Recently, I had the need to house a number of large birds outside. After investigating the city and county code limitations, I began considering the second point. Being non-psittacines, I had more flexibility in my construction choice. One major concern was that I did not want the entire neighborhood to know that the birds were present so some sort of a sight barrier was needed. Being that they do not make any appreciable noise, a sound barrier was not necessary. The cost and amount of labor required to build the enclosure was an additional consideration. The final decision was to utilize a design frequently encountered in falconery operations. The walls were constructed of six foot high by eight foot long wooden fence panels.

The roof consisted of Toprite nylon netting. The netting was attached with poultry staples as well as with a strip of lumber adhered with wood screws. Two strips of netting were connected with "hog rings."

The entire enclosure required about one full day of work for one individual. The panels are held securely by anchoring landscape poles in the corners and in the middle. These poles could be cemented into the ground if a more permanent structure is desired. The final dimensions are 20 feet wide and 32 feet long.

While this might not be the solution to your aviary needs, it is one option for an easy-to-construct, fairly inexpensive, large enclosure for non-psittacines which doesn't advertise to the neighborhood that you've got something rather unusual living in your back yard. ●

Legislative Roundup

Texas — A representative from the Texas Animal Health Commission stated that while the Commission had not yet planned its next meeting, they would not enforce the recent administrative ruling that all non-indigenous birds entering Texas require a permit and health certificate indicating the birds are free from ectoparasites.

New Jersey — AFA State Coordinator Vicki Clark reports Assemblyman Bennett Mazur's office stated Assembly Bill 649 (prohibiting the sale of "wild birds not raised in captivity") is being rewritten to incorporate avicultural concerns. AFA will be provided with a copy of the new bill for comment.

Vermont — AFA State Coordinator Peter Lowry reports that while an import permit and health certificate is required for birds in Vermont, a recent bill would require all birds to have a closed band and contain enough information to trace the birds back to the breeder in case the bird became ill or was transmitting exotic Newcastle Disease (VVDN). The bill is being rewritten, all indications are the new version will not contain any provision requiring closed banding.

AFA would like to thank Gary Lilienthal, David Bluma and Dr. Harwell for information on legislative matters. Anyone with knowledge of anti-avicultural bills being proposed should contact the AFA Business Office and forward any pertinent materials for review. ●

AFA "Fast Ads" A Success!

As members should now be aware, AFA has implemented an experimental effort of publishing/distributing a classified ad service on a monthly basis titled "AFA Fast Ads."

While this idea has been circulating for many years, it was only after AFA's President Jack Clinton-Eitniear traveled to Phoenix, Arizona and discussed the project with Business Office Manager Sue Jordan and Office Director Davis Koffron that the concept became a reality.

During the fall meeting of the Board of Directors, approval was given to the project on a trial basis with a review at the next meeting. Initial useage and responses have been extremely favorable; therefore, it seems very likely that the membership benefit will continue. ●

Puerto Rico Seeking Assistant Aviculturist

Puerto Rico's Department of Natural Resources is actively seeking interested candidates for the role of Assistant Aviculturist for the Rio Abajo Aviary in Utuado, Puerto Rico. The aviary will be a second propagation site for the endangered Puerto Rican Amazon. Applicants must have a B.S. degree and/or several years' experience working with birds (preferably psittacines) and be willing to live on-site in government provided housing. To apply, send a cover letter and resume (or send a request for more information and a SASE) to Jose Rodriguez Velez, Head Aviculturist, Rio Abajo Aviary, Box 439, Arecibo, PR 00613-0439. ●

Research Committee Under Review

Since its inception, the AFA Research Committee has focused its activities upon veterinary seminars and providing small grants for research. Within recent years, however, the Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV) and various additional organizations devoted exclusively to raising funds and promoting avian research have been created. Attendance at AFA's veterinary lectures, held during our annual convention, has progressively decreased.

It would appear that it is time for the Board of Directors and House of Delegates to re-evaluate the function of its research committee. After discussing the issue with several members of the AAV as well as with numerous individuals involved with promoting avian health products, a new set of goals and objectives will be drafted for the committee. A formal discussion on the committee will be conducted during the spring meeting of the Board of Directors to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The recommendations will be sent to all members of the House of Delegates prior to the meeting for their comments. Anyone with suggestions as to the future direction of the research committee is encouraged to send his/her comments to AFA Research Committee, c/o AFA Business Office, P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ 85079-6218. ●

Orange County Bird Breeders Donates \$2,000 to Two Worthy Causes

Photo by Chris Christman



December 8th, 1990, general meeting of this very active southern California club, was the time chosen to present a \$1,000 check to Aletta M. Long, AFA southern California Regional Vice President, for AFA's Conservation Fund. Representing AFA at that meeting were Chris Christman, Mary Jean Hessler and Aletta M. Long... complete in their look-alike AFA "uniforms" of red jackets, white blouses, dark blue slacks. The check was presented to Aletta by OCBB president Bob Bramer. OCBB raised the funds by holding a special raffle. L to R: Loraine Shelton, OCBB's AFA delegate; Jean Hessler; Aletta M. Long; Bob Bramer. Loraine is holding another \$1,000 check which the club is donating to Texas A&M University for the study of "Macaw Wasting Syndrome."

Letter Writing Campaign Needed In Support of Alternate Therapies of Chlamydiosis

by Susan Clubb, D.V.M., Chairman
Biologicals and Pharmaceuticals Committee

AFA members are requested to take part in a letter writing campaign to encourage FDA, USDA, Health & Human Services and CDC to examine alternative therapies for chlamydiosis. The resolution that was approved by the Board and submitted to USDA was published in the summer 1989 issue of JAAV (p. 98). We feel the time is right to follow up with individual letters in support of licensing, specifically injectable doxycycline preparations available in Europe. Individual letters are more effective on your letterhead.

Please address the following points:

1. The need for alternative therapies for domestic as well as imported birds, especially or including injectable doxycycline preparations which can be administered IM.
2. Supporting research has been done in Europe. Ask for consideration of this material.
3. Your clients' and patients' need for more effective therapy.
4. Perhaps mention public health importance, or other personal considerations.

It would be helpful if you could make seven (7) copies of your letter. One copy should go to: Alfred W. Montgomery, D.V.M.; Import-Export Animals Staff; Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services; United States Department of Agriculture; Federal Building; Hyattsville, MD 20782.

One copy to: Frederick A. Murphy, D.V.M., Ph.D.; Director, Center for Infectious Diseases; Centers for Disease Control; 1600 Clifton Road NE; Atlanta, GA 30333.

One copy to: Bob Schreiber; Office of Communications; National Institutes of Health/U.S. Public Health Service; Room 2B19, Building 31; Bethesda, MD 20892.

One copy to: Diana Post, V.M.D.; Food and Drug Administration; 2023 Glenn Ross Road; Silver Springs, MD 20910.

One copy each to your State Senator and State Representative (addresses in your telephone book).

One copy to AAV Central Office, P.O. Box 299, East Northport, NY 11731. ●

Traffic Publishes Trade Data For 1984 - 1988

In a recent issue of the Traffic U.S.A. newsletter (Vol. 10, No. 3, October 1990), U.S. trade figures were published for both psittacines and non-psittacines. The highest five species included: Cockatiels 144,868; Fisher's Lovebird 99,893; African Grey Parrot 85,441; Monk Parakeets 84,803; and Blue-fronted Amazons 82,048. The numbers are for the period of 1984 through 1988. The total number of parrots imported into the United States during this period was 1,377,763. Non-psittacine totals doubled that of psittacines. A complete report is available from Traffic U.S., 1250 24th Street NW, Washington, DC 20037. ●