

# AFA in action...

# NEWS and VIEWS

APRIL 1991

## Albuquerque Convention A Success

by Jack Clinton-Eitniear

Over 100 aviculturists settled in on the Albuquerque Hilton Hotel February 8 through 10 for what was undoubtedly one of the most successful winter conventions yet held. What was lacked by numbers was matched with the warm hospitality and organizational skills of the local club, the New Mexico Bird Club. The festivities got started Friday night when the hospitality room opened, complete with punch, mounds of munchies (including blue corn chips!) and a cake with an Amazon parrot decoration. Saturday was full of insightful and informational talks. Although I've been to scores of conventions over the years, I learned a great deal from the knowledgeable assemblage of speakers put together by Nancy Vigran. How unusual I bet this seems, to non-aviculturists, as Dr. Harlin projected slide after slide of bird fecal material on the screen! Even Davis Koffron, dressed in coat and tie, proved that he really did know his stuff when it came to the various parrotlets.

Saturday was topped off with a well attended banquet during which Gail Ranshaw, president of the New Mexico Bird Club, presented awards to the speakers. The highlight was undoubtedly the drawing for Tony Silva's book. Now believed to be valued at over \$3,000, it was turned over to the winner, Sunny Clarkson. After an insightful slide show and talk from yours truly, the hospitality room was once again open for business.

The Rio Grande Zoo put the icing on the cake, on Sunday, with a tour including a table set up with beverages and cookies! Of course, those folks who are the real "nuts and bolts" of the organization (i.e., the delegates and board members) met several times to make mounds of decisions, listen to presentations and discuss needed changes.

It was a great time in New Mexico, thanks to the hard work of the local committee composed of Debby Collard, Corinne Weis, Anne Thomas and Gail Ranshaw. Together with the assistance of two local vendors (UPCO Pet & Veterinary Supply and For The Birds) and AFAers Nancy Vigran, Davis and Barbara Koffron, Sue Jordan, Vicki Fletcher and Gary Clifton, the convention will go down in the annals of AFA history as being one of the best ever. If you missed it, you have another chance this August in San Diego. It promises to be another winner as well!

Feb 9, '91 — AFA president Jack Clinton-Eitniear, left, presented logo T-shirts to (L to R) Gail Ranshaw, president; and Corinne Weis, vice president of NMBC.

## Board of Directors Meet in New Mexico

The Board of Directors conducted one of their quarterly meetings during the recent winter regional convention in New Mexico. The following are a few of the motions approved during the main session on Sunday. Club delegates will be receiving a complete transcript of the meeting as well as a meeting summary within three weeks. For those AFA members who are not members of an affiliated club, you can receive a copy of the meeting minutes by writing the AFA business office.

### Motions approved:

1. Committee members for existing committees were approved as was Dr. Jonathan Fink as the new CITES Committee chair.
2. Approval was given to continue with the AFA Fast Ad service.
3. An agreement to produce three short Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos for local television was made with videographer Peter S. Forton.
4. Approval was given for AFA to offer eight videos to its affiliated clubs through its EDUCATION Committee.
5. Sun Seed Company was given permission to print AFA promotional information on their seed product packages.
6. Funds in the amount of \$1,000 were approved to match a donation of \$2,000 from Sun Seed, to produce a poster on bird room sanitation.
7. Approval was given for the installation of an 800 toll free number at the AFA Business Office for membership promotion purposes.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 17-19, 1991.



Photo by M. Jean Hessler



*New Mexico Bird Club — based in Albuquerque, members made a good showing as host club for AFA winter meeting. L to R, 1st row: Gail Ranshaw, president; Evelyn Candelaria. 2nd row: Kelly Tucker, club AFA delegate; Corinne Weis, vice president; Bill Weis; Jae Redwing; Karen Beeson; Gary and Debby Collord; Dave Beeson; Bill Ghormley.*



Photos by M. Jean Hessler

*Sunny and Mark Clarkson, Phoenix, Arizona, were the big winners of the Conservation Raffle prize, a collector's edition of "Monograph of Endangered Parrots" by Tony Silva. This rare volume is now thought to be valued at \$3,000.*



*Albuquerque, Feb. 8-10 winter meeting. Working at the AFA "store" tables, L to R: Vicki Fletcher, AFA's CFO, checks current data just entered into her new lap-top computer. Standing, Gary Clifton, editor of AFA's monthly "News in Brief," and Sue Jordan, manager of AFA's Phoenix office and "on site" sales.*



*New Mexico Bird Club — host club committee members for the AFA February 8-10 Albuquerque winter meeting. L to R: Corinne Weis and Gail Ranshaw, co-chairs of the event, door prizes and silent auction donations; Jae Redwing, hospitality; Debby Collord, advertising; Karen and Dave Beeson, hospitality; and Ann Thomas, tours (not pictured).*

## Kellogg Funds Red Siskin Brochure

Kellogg, Inc., Cagebird Products Division, recently donated \$1,000 to the Red Siskin Program for use in offsetting the production cost of a full color brochure being produced on the siskin project. The brochure will be distributed to canary and finch clubs throughout the United States. Kellogg is not a new sponsor to AFA but has regularly contributed to AFA activities. Its official sponsorship of the Red Siskin Project is greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged on the brochure.

## Sun Seed Company Promotes AFA

The Sun Seed Company recently became an official AFA sponsor. The company, which produces a variety of seed mixtures for birds, has agreed to print AFA promotional information on all of its product labels. Additionally, the company will donate a percentage of its gross profits to AFA and has contributed \$1,000 toward the cost of a Bird Room Sanitation Poster to be produced by AFA. We greatly appreciate the generosity of Sun Seed Company and look forward to working with them on numerous additional projects in the future.



## AAV Donates Funds for Conservation

Members of the Association of Avian Veterinarians presenting a check representing 1% of the Association's gross annual income to representatives of the Nature Conservancy and BIOMA. Left to right: Dr. Gerry M. Dorrestein, director and chairperson of the European Committee of the AAV; Dr. Glenn H. Olsen, chairperson of the Conservation Committee of the AAV; Alma Lopez, Venezuela program director of the Nature Conservancy, and Luisa Elena Guinand, liaison officer for BIOMA.

In 1990, the Association of Avian Veterinarians voted to donate 1% of its gross annual income to a worthy conservation project. The funds are to be awarded for direct field studies, preferably involving avian fauna. The recipient study should be directly related to 1) critical habitat land acquisition, 2) critical habitat land management, or 3) development of management plans for critical habitat.

The 1990 Conservation Project, chosen and approved by the AAV Board at their annual meeting in September, is jointly sponsored by the Nature Conservancy and BIOMA, a Venezuelan conservation organization. The study involves Cienaga de los Olivitos, an area designated as a wildlife refuge by the Venezuelan government. Despite this protection, there is still a threat of development by a commercial salt production plant.

A preliminary survey has shown that 43% of the birds inhabiting this area are migratory species. The AAV grant will be used for field work to further assess the species' diversity and use of the area. The target date for completion of the study is 18 months after initiation. Expected results will provide the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources with the information needed to develop an appropriate management plan to protect the refuge. BIOMA has successfully used this approach to protect another area in Venezuela.

## Amazon Parrot Alert

For the past few years, parrots confiscated at the U.S./Mexico border have been quarantined at various USDA facilities and auctioned to the general public. Given that Mexico is not exporting any of its parrots, these auctions have become sources of birds for those needing such species as Lilac-crowned Amazons and Halfmoon Conures.

Unfortunately, certain individuals have been marketing their birds as being purchased at the auction when, in fact, they are from a different source. Aviculturists approached by vendors of Amazon parrots should look at the stainless steel bands and note if they show signs of mutilation (an indication that the band was removed from another Amazon) or do not have the proper coding on the band. **All Amazon parrots sold at the Mission, Texas auction have the coding USDA XB followed by four numbers.** If someone tries to sell you Amazon parrots without this coding, they are not from the Texas auction and should be considered of questionable origin. As always, your best defense is to be aware of the normal range of wholesale-retail prices and avoid "bargain" birds.



## First International Loriidae Society Conference

Sponsored by Loriinae Europa,  
June 7, 8, & 9, 1991

To be held at Luisenhohe Heidjengrill,  
Walsrode, Germany  
(directly across from Vogelpark Walsrode)

Loriidae Europa will be sponsoring the First International Loriidae Society Conference at Vogelpark Walsrode, Germany, on June 7th, 8th and 9th, 1991. This will be a first for a specialty group of psittaculturists. It will be a great opportunity for all aviculturists interested in the maintenance, reproduction and conservation of the Loriidae (Lories and Lorikeets) to come together and share experiences and learn from one another to better care for the birds we love.

Loriidae Europa and the International Loriidae Society cordially invite you to attend this gathering of people from around the globe, all with a common interest. There will be many speakers presenting papers on many subjects connected with these wonderful birds — the Loriidae. In addition, there will be a tour of Vogelpark Walsrode, a welcoming cocktail party and a wonderful banquet.

Your registration fee of \$110 (U.S. funds) will cover all of the above, so please register early as room space is somewhat limited in Walsrode.

Proceedings of the Conference will be available at the Conference. These Proceedings will be in English as well as German.

All talks will be simultaneously translated from German into English and from English into German.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Walsrode next June.

For more information and travel arrangements, contact Maurine Schroeder, Regal Travel Service, 9100 S. Supulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045, or phone (213) 215-9909.