

# Letters to the Editor

Mr. Jack Clinton-Eitnecar, President

Dear Sir:

I have just returned from the AFA Convention in San Diego which I greatly enjoyed. It was well done and one of the most important parts of any convention — it was on time. I enjoyed speaking as I always do and I felt well received.

I have been a member of AFA since the beginning and have always supported it in many ways, but I must take exception to your speech as president of AFA at the banquet. I and all the other people at our table, as well as many others that I talked to afterwards, felt the AFA was against hunting and felt that the hunting people took advantage of political power in their pursuits.

I am not sure if you are misinformed or misguided as to what the hunter, especially the bird hunter, has contributed to the preservation and welfare of wildlife. Ducks Unlimited, for one, has raised millions of dollars and spent it on the purchasing of wetlands in the U.S. and Canada. Without their dedication to preserving these thousands of acres of wetlands they have purchased, ducks, geese, many of the shore birds and small passiforms would now be in very serious trouble. There would not be 30% of the population left now. It may be self-serving so that they may be able to kill birds, but the hunting groups are ready to put their money where their mouth is. I might add that I have

not shot a shotgun in ten years.

I personally feel that if AFA is now going to take a stand against the hunter I will withdraw my support. I feel that AFA should take heed to Ducks Unlimited and hope that they, too, may be as powerful and helpful in preserving wildlife.

Sincerely,  
L.H.  
Camarillo, California

Dear L.H.,

Thank you for your letter of 12 August and I am pleased that you enjoyed the recent convention in San Diego. Rest assured I am neither "misinformed nor misguided" on the hunter's issue. If you will read the enclosed transcript of the banquet speech, you will see that not only am I not "taking a stand against the hunter" but state that "as long as birds have value, whether it's a hunter's dollar, derived from ecotourism, or harvesting for the pet trade, they will share our planet."

The point I was making is that you and your avicultural activities are being condemned by major animal welfare groups such as the Humane Society of America stating that keeping birds in captivity is cruel and inhumane. My only point is, if they are going to take us on, why do they not also take on the hunters, as surely they would view shooting birds just as cruel as keeping them in captivity? My thoughts were that the hunters compose a large, organized group not easily overcome, but we aviculturists are easy targets.

In summary, I am not against hunting but simply wondering why we are under attack for the inhumane acts of aviculture when hunters are allowed to shoot their birds in order to raise funds to assure their future survival.

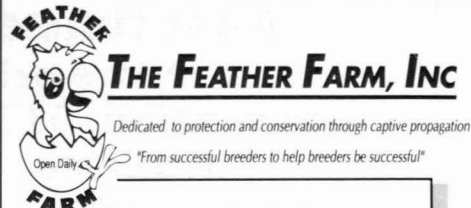
I hope this answers your questions and addresses your concerns. If I can provide any additional information, feel free to write me directly in Texas.

Sincerely,  
Jack Clinton-Eitnecar, AFA president  
999 E. Basse Road, Suite 180-164  
San Antonio, TX 78209

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Dear Editors:

Readers of *Watchbird* and other avicultural publications must by now be familiar with the major arguments for and against hybridizing. I support

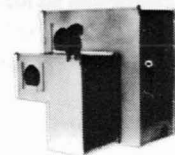


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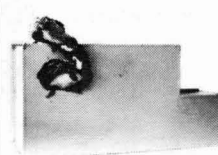
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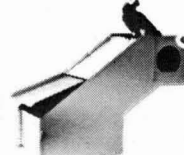
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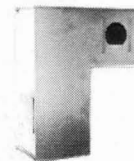
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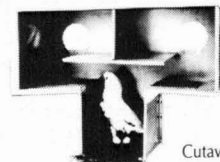
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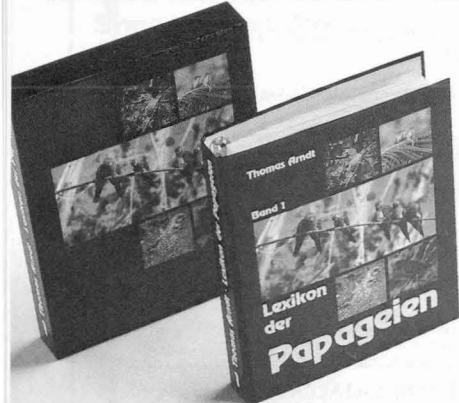


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the AFA's position against hybridization but, until recently, have felt some sympathy with some of the points made by those who accept the practice. This sympathy lately has been fully overshadowed by my conviction that a hybridized animal is a cheated animal. I've been convinced by three bits of information.

1. The director of the Wildlife Way-station (Martine Colette, I think?) has said that many wolf/dog hybrids end up in her facility because they have not adapted to life as pets. From observing these animals, she has come to believe that the problem is not simply that a wolf-like animal is unsuited to be a pet, but that the hybrid is a victim of the conflicting instincts it has inherited.

2. If I show my bare-eyed cockatoo a magazine spread of photos of cockatoos, including some closely related to her such as long-billed Corellas and Goffin's, she will ignore all except the bare-eyed. She will "kiss" the bare-eyed every time. Clearly she "knows" what species she is, despite having been hand-fed (from day one, I believe).

3. In Joanne Abramson's recent article (Aug/Sept 1991) about the wonderful, large, flight cage for weaning macaws, she points out how strongly the youngsters identify with their own species. Given the opportunity, they will always roost with their own species and, when alarmed, will fly to others of their species, even if they must fly over macaws of other species.

Of course, I do not believe that every hybrid is doomed to a life of unrelieved confusion and depression. I do believe, however, that there is a high probability that a hybrid's life will at some point be diminished by the absence of a species identity. For me, nothing else need be said. The desire to avoid this risk is, by itself, reason enough to oppose hybridizing.

I know you have touched on this point in your past explanations of the harms of hybridizing. I suggest in the future you may want to spell out the problem in more detail. Different points carry varying weights with different people. Some who may not be interested in genetics or who may doubt release back to the wild will ever happen might be impressed by an argument based on the happiness of individual birds.

L.P.  
Thousand Oaks, CA ●

# **AFA says THANKS to Conservation, Research and General Fund Supporters**

**The AFA Conservation, Research and General Committees  
would like to thank the following individuals  
for their generous support.**

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Dear AFA Supporters:

As the president of the American Federation of Aviculture, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your recent generous donation. Your contributions will allow us to continue our programs in research and/or conservation which have made us the premiere avicultural organization in the Americas.

I know that when times are tough, it is difficult to choose which charitable organizations are deserving of our contributions. Rest assured your choice was an excellent one and that the funds you donated will enhance our efforts at supporting avian medical research and/or the conservation of birds in the wild.

Thanks again for your generosity.  
Sincerely,  
Jack Clinton-Eitnrear  
AFA President ●



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For information contact:  
Dale Laird  
(407) 657-7989

**Bird Clubs of North Carolina**  
**Third Annual Convention**  
**October 12 & 13, 1991**

Holiday Inn North  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
For information contact:  
Jane A. Stutz  
P.O. Box 1472  
Henderson, NC 27536  
(919) 492-9690 evenings

**Avicultural Society of Tucson, AZ**

presents its  
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**October 13, 1991**

Tucson Convention Center  
New Exhibition Hall  
For information contact:  
Jerry Bock (602) 682-7043 or  
Darlene Danko (602) 749-0862

**Capital City Bird Society**  
presents its

**15th Annual Open Bird Show**  
**October 18, 19 & 20, 1991**

Placer County Fairgrounds  
800 All American Blvd.  
Roseville, CA 95678  
For further information:  
Mike Beach (916) 476-3539  
or Susie McKinney (707) 448-0680

**Colorado Cage Bird Association's**  
**6th Annual Cage Bird Show**  
**October 19, 1991**

Colorado Springs City Auditorium  
221 E. Kiowa, Colorado Springs, CO  
For more information:  
Anna Sinclair  
2340 San Marcos Drive,  
Colorado Springs, CO 80910  
(719) 634-6404

**South Bay Bird Club**  
sponsors its

**Southern California**  
**Finch and Hookbill Show**  
**October 19 - 20, 1991**

Alondra Park Community Bldg.  
Lawndale, California  
For information call:  
Lee or Sharyn Bolivar (213) 416-9877  
Rita Holmes - (213) 640-3292

**Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club**  
is hosting its

**18th Annual Show**  
**October 26, 1991**

Palm Beach Holiday Inn  
International Airport  
1301 Belvedere Rd. / I-95  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
For information:  
Sherry Kovacs  
2221 S.W. 64th Terrace  
Boca Raton, FL 33428  
(407) 482-3759

The Watchbird offers free publicity for member club bird shows by announcing the dates and locations of the shows. To have your show listed it is necessary to get the data to the Watchbird four to five months before the show date. For example, if your show takes place the first week of October, it should be listed in the August/September issue. The deadline for that issue is June 1st. (Copy/article deadline is two months preceding publication date.)

**Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club**

is hostings its

**Annual Fall Bird Affair**  
**October 26-27, 1991**

Municipal Auditorium  
417 Fourth Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee  
For show information contact:  
Phyleen Stewart  
2131 Elm Hill Pike, F-127,  
Nashville, TN 37210  
(615) 885-2523

For fair information contact:  
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**Seven Bird Clubs of San Diego Area**

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**November 1, 2 and 3, 1991**

Open to the public:  
Saturday 10 am to 5 pm &  
Sunday 10 am to 3 pm  
Del Mar Fairgrounds  
Central Grandstand Building  
For commercial booth info:  
Joanne West (619) 690-3317  
For show info:  
Mike Morrison (619) 466-4999

**Rocky Mountain Society**  
**of Aviculture**

is hosting its

**29th Annual Bird Show**  
**November 1, 2, and 3, 1991**

Embassy Suites Hotel  
Interstate 70 and Havanna St.  
Denver, Colorado  
For information contact:  
Dorothy Rae Blen  
P.O. Box 3663  
Englewood, Colorado 80155  
(303) 369-4804

**Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club**  
presents its

**59th Annual Bird Show**  
**November 2, 1991**

Holiday Inn  
3405 Algonquin Road  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008  
For general information:  
(708) 705-6260  
or call Frank Smolen  
(708) 916-0224

**Greater Pittsburgh**  
**Cage Bird Society**  
**Annual All Bird Show**  
**November 2, 1991**

Century Plaza Inn  
(Exit off I-70) Washington, PA  
For more information call:  
Marlene Ayres  
(412) 746-1384  
836-1/2 McClane Farm Rd.  
Washington, PA 15301

**Central California Avian Society**  
**Semiannual Bird Mart**  
**November 3, 1991**

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Fresno District Fairgrounds  
Fresno, California  
For further information contact:  
Ron or Beth Marhenke (209) 226-4377  
or  
Ron Campbell (209) 867-3369  
P.O. Box 5067, Fresno, CA 93755

**Exotic Bird Club of Florida**  
**Third Annual Exotic Bird Show**  
**November 9, 1991**

Holiday Inn  
2605 N. Highway A1A  
Indianapolis, FL 32903  
(407) 777-4100  
For sales table rental call:  
Jim McNamara (407) 723-7739  
For more information call:  
Yvonne Weir (407) 452-0706

**Smoky Mountain Cage Bird Society**  
**Bird Show Fair**  
**November 9, 1991**

Great Smokies Hilton  
Asheville, North Carolina  
For information:  
Michael Jarrett (704) 433-8036

**Rose City Exotic Bird Club**  
**4th Annual Show**  
**November 9 & 10, 1991**

Portland, Oregon  
For show info:  
Mike DeSart  
4137 N. Colonial,  
Portland, OR 97217  
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Dellah Quieto, ph (408) 748-1152  
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Santa Clara, CA 95055