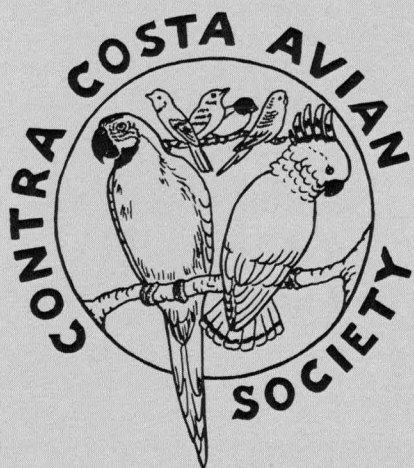


# AFA in action...

# NEWS and VIEWS

DECEMBER 1991

## The Club Connection



### Contra Costa Avian Society

by Nancy L. Vigran

**Meeting Location:** Contra Costa Water District Building, 1331 Concord Avenue, Concord, California.

**Meeting Date:** Last Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. (not the fourth Friday).

**Contact for more information:** Contra Costa Avian Society, 984 Dar Court, Concord, CA 94518 — Laurella Desborough, (510) 372-6174; Sybil Gunderson, (510) 689-6632; Al McNabney, (510) 945-1785; Shelly Hodson, newsletter editor, (510) 945-7553.

**1991 Club Co-Chairs:** Laurella Desborough (510) 372-6174. Sybil Gunderson (510) 689-6632.

**General Information:** The Contra Costa Avian Society was formed in the fall of 1983 with three purposes: first, to provide information to people who own and breed birds; second, to gather funds for conservation and research organizations and third, to promote captive breeding of avian species. On the advice of longtime aviculturist Jack Marlatte, the club was structured in a way where there wasn't a president and board per se. It was felt that this would cut down on infighting and power trips. Laurella Desborough and Sybil Gunderson started the club as co-chairs in 1983 and have remained as such since. The C.C.A.S. is some 300 members strong and, in their newsletter, members are informed of any important information they may have missed if unable to attend the last meeting including a synopsis of the speaker's presentation. The newsletter also contains capsule announcements regarding any local, state or national legislation, current bird shipping problems, etc.

**Activities and special Events:** The Contra Costa Avian Society has a variety of speakers throughout the year including at least one speaker strictly on conservation matters, at least two veterinary speakers, one speaker on hand-feeding or care of the nursery and one on bird behavior or training as well as speakers

on numerous other topics. The C.C.A.S. maintains a balance of \$2,500 in their bank account to cover newsletter expenses, speaker expenses, etc. and all remaining funds at the end of the year are donated to conservation or research projects such as AFA, the Thickbill Project, the University of California Davis, Psittacine Research Project, RARE and PJAC.

The Contra Costa Avian Society is also involved in helping conservation efforts towards saving the wetlands, local politics such as helping individuals to keep pet chickens and actively promotes AFA.

**Editorial Note:** The club connection was designed to let members of A.F.A. know what regional clubs are available for members and to give clubs ideas and a chance to learn from what other clubs do. If your club is a member club of A.F.A. and would like to be highlighted in the club connection, please send information with a contact person's name and phone number to: Nancy Vigran, c/o A.F.A., P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ 85017. ●

## Plan Now for the 1992 AFA Convention aaaaaaaaAugust!

Smooth, fine-grained warm sand held in miles long, broad beaches; sparkling azure ocean waters and brilliantly blue skies, out of which blow gentle breezes; daily temperatures between 76° and 92°F and just enough warm rain to almost compel the use of the phrase, "The Tropics!" The largest tropical botanical garden in the continental U.S. — Orchid Jungle with blossoms from every part of the world where the cloning and growth process can be watched from behind glass; a one-of-a-kind museum of live spice, nut and fruit plants from around the world, and graceful palm trees everywhere.

Although the Tropic of Cancer is about 165 miles further south, the sun is still intense and the use of lotion with a protection factor of at least ten, reapplied after water sports, is urged for those who burn easily.

Enjoy key lime pie, stone clams in season, Caribbean dishes, fresh fruit daiquiris, black bean soup and foods from 100 cultures. Dance until dawn. Dawn? Yes, some places do not close until 5 a.m. and the night life is often as energetic as the daytime activities and there are many of those, for both families and adults. And the birds! We will talk about the birds next time, but start making plans NOW for August 1st through the 8th, 1992 in Miami Beach, Florida. Come and meet old and new bird friends at the Fountainbleu Hilton Resort and Spa in 20 acres of lush gardens right on the beach. The hotel has two lagoon pools, one is heated saltwater, and 12 restaurants and lounges, one of which features floor shows and top entertainers. Come join us and get away from it all for a bit, so that you can go back to your birds feeling refreshed. We want to see your face and hear your ideas and make friends in Miami Beach in August. ●

## Confiscated Parrots Need Assistance

Parrots confiscated on the Mexican side of the border are now being rehabilitated and released into safe habitat in Mexico. The effort is being undertaken by the Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas in Ciudad Victoria, the capitol of the Mexican border state of Tamaulipas. Under the supervision of the Mexican government (SEDUE), CSTB (a Texas-based conservation organization) and with financial assistance from three California bird clubs (Avicultural Society of America, Orange County Bird Breeders and Long Beach Bird Breeders), an aviary is now being constructed and plans made to release the first group of 50 *Amazona* parrots back into the wild.

While aviculture and the pet trade have consistently been blamed for the continued smuggling of Mexican parrots, no effort, until now, aided in correcting the problem by the avicultural community. Recently, Sun Seed Company donated 100 pounds of parrot seed, but more support is needed both in terms of parrot seed and funds for radio transmitters and follow-up on the released parrots. **All bird clubs are encouraged to get involved with this project by donating either seed or funds.** For more information, contact Jack Clinton-Eitniear, President AFA, telephone (512) 828-5306 (evenings). ●

## 1992 Conference Plans Set by Association of Avian Veterinarians

The Association of Avian Veterinarians announced its Call for Papers for the 13th Annual Conference to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A. August 30 - September 5, 1992. Proposals will be accepted for clinically oriented case reports, research projects, conservation programs, and comprehensive reviews. Material must be original and previously unpublished.

Veterinarians and veterinary technicians are also invited to submit papers for the Technicians' Program held concurrently with the Annual Conference.

Non-members may request Call for Papers "Proposal Application" and general information from the AAV Conference Office. Deadline for Paper applications is February 15, 1992. The papers will be reviewed and selected by the Conference Committee at a meeting on March 6.

The Association will present a day-long Basic Avian Medicine Symposium in Los Angeles on Sunday, March 8. To be placed on the mailing list, non-members are invited to send their name and address to the AAV Conference Office by mail or FAX.

For further information, contact the AAV Conference Office, 1625 So. Birch St., Suite 105, Denver, CO 80222, phone (303) 756-8380, FAX (303) 759-8861. ●

## Aviculturists Receive Awards for Work with Lories

The First International Lory Society held its conference from June 7th through 9th at Vogelpark Walrode in Germany. During the meeting, Jan van Oosten and Rosemary Low were presented with an award for "promoting the interest and maintenance of and the reproduction of the *Loriinae* in captivity". The award was an exquisite life-sized, mounted carving of an Ultramarine Lory. ●

## AFA Begins Programs to Curtail Smuggling

No single issue is more threatening to our ability to have birds than the issue of smuggling. Due to the continued, uncontrolled transporting of birds into the United States, humane groups are proposing stiff regulations on ALL birds in captivity. While AFA has maintained a policy of excluding from membership any member convicted of smuggling birds, we have done little else to express our concern on this issue. Recently, a 20 second Public Service Announcement was developed by AFA to educate individuals about the issue. A poster is also being drafted for distribution along border areas. In addition, AFA supports the aforementioned activity in Mexico and will be meeting in Washington, D.C. in November with law enforcement officials to determine how best AFA can aid in dealing with the smuggling issue. ●

## Nanday Conures and Mannikins May be Outlawed in Virginia

Inland Game and Fisheries officials have proposed a new regulation (VR-325-01-1) that would make it unlawful to take, possess, import, cause to be imported, export, cause to be exported, buy, sell, offer for sale or liberate the following: Red-billed Pigeon, Inca Dove, Ground Dove, White-fronted Dove, White-winged Dove, Mannikins, Munias, Spotted Munia, Blackbirds, Cowbirds, Madagascar Weaver, Baya Weaver, Cape Sparrow, Dioch, Zosterops ssp. Monk Parakeet and Nanday Conure. The final hearing will be held on October 18th in Roanoke. ●

## Third Canadian Parrot Symposium Planned

The Third Canadian Parrot Symposium has been announced for October 3-4, 1992. The symposium will be held at the Toronto Airport Hilton and will feature Rosemary Low as a confirmed speaker. The recently held Second Canadian Parrot Symposium reports that it provided \$2,600 in excess revenue to the following organizations: The Avicultural Council of Canada, RARE Center for Tropical Bird Conservation, the World Parrot Trust and Dr. Branson Ritchie. ●

## Conservation Education for the Caribbean

### The Mobile Interpretive Center

The group "RARE" reports that their first mobile interpretive center has become a reality. The British-based World Parrot Trust purchased and reconditioned a retired bus from the British transportation system. Funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed the Trust and RARE Center to trans-

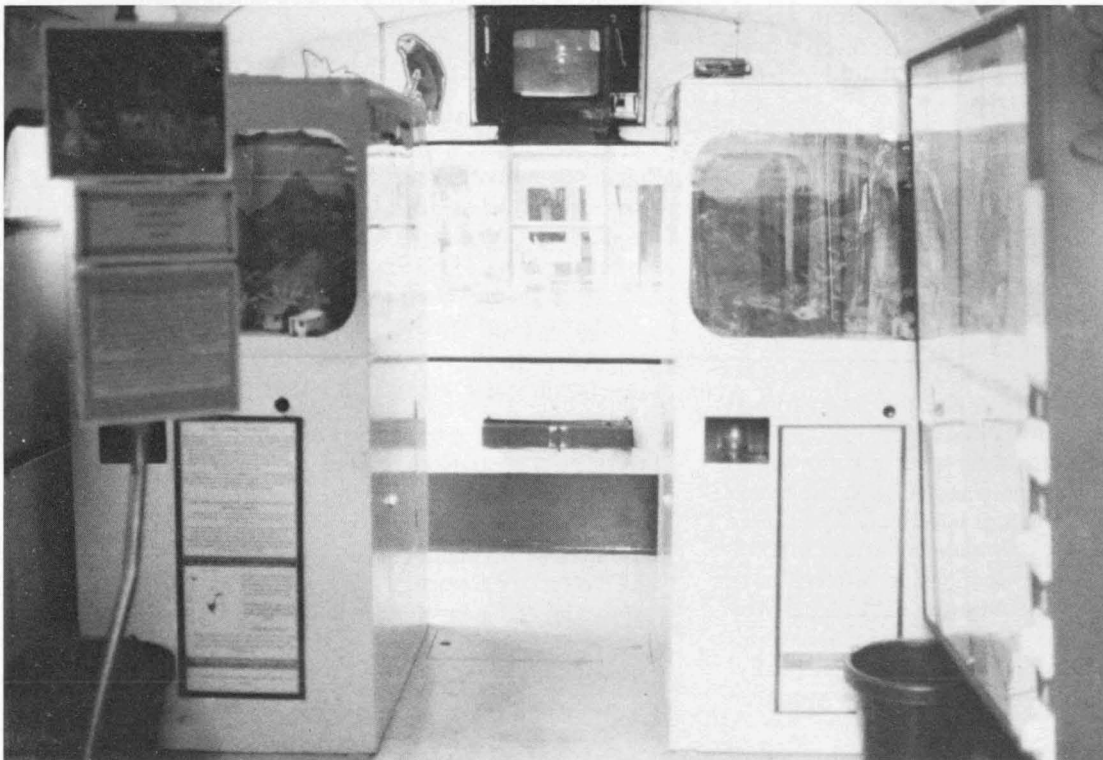
form the bus into a classroom on wheels. It premiered on St. Lucia in April of 1991.

A medium-sized bus stripped of its seats and outfitted with a mobile generator, audiovisual equipment, and interactive displays, our first mobile interpretive center is traveling throughout St. Lucia to remote villages and every city neighborhood. Unlike a fixed facility most people are unlikely to visit, our bus, called the "Jacquot Express" after the national bird, is bringing conservation education to everyone.

Brightly painted in forest motifs and squawking like a parrot from a loudspeaker on top, the Jacquot Express is attracting a

lot of attention. Forestry officers run the bus and make presentations about environmental issues, such as forest conservation and water quality. RARE plans to change the bus's exhibits periodically so that there is always a fresh message. Advertising space on the back of the Jacquot Express bus has already been sold to three local businesses, which have pledged to pay for the bus's fuel, maintenance, and next series of exhibits.

On St. Lucia, the Jacquot Express has markedly increased RARE's capacity to reach people with their conservation education program. Dominica has requested a mobile interpretive center for its ongoing environmental education program. ●



Photos courtesy of RARE

*Bus interior, view of island dioramas on either side, monitor in center for video presentations.*

*A classroom on wheels; the group "RARE" and British-based World Parrot Trust pooled their resources to purchase and recondition a bus named "Jacquot Express" to bring conservation education to remote island areas.*



## Bali Mynah Status

The Bali Mynah (*Leucopsar rothschildi*) Species Survival Plan (SSP) currently has 70 participants. In addition, about 30 private individuals participate in this species recovery with some making greater contributions than some institutions.

A masterplan was developed in 1988. It was determined that a minimum viable population of 600 individuals would be necessary to maintain 90% of the original genetic diversity for 200 years. A major objective of the masterplan was to obtain new founders. Four siblings were subsequently obtained from the Hong Kong Zoo in 1990. All four have been paired with SSP stock with at least one pair producing offspring. In January, 1991, four more birds were acquired from Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust and these have also been paired with SSP stock. The captive population of the Bali Mynah has increased by 5% since last year (Table 1).

Iron storage disease (hemochromatosis) continues to be the primary cause of mortality in adult Bali Mynahs despite the use of "low iron" diets. A veterinary advisor is developing standardized necropsy and postmortem laboratory procedures as well as preparing a nutritional and disease survey. Feather plucking is another consistent health problem affecting approximately 20% of the population.

In addition to captive efforts, there is also a Bali Mynah reintroduction project jointly managed by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria and the International Council for Bird Preservation. In the past year, 12 captive-raised birds were released and integrated into the small remaining flock in Bali Barat National Park. At least one clutch was fledged from a captive/wild pair. It is estimated that there are from 36 to 39 birds in the park which represents a 100% increase over the fall 1990 census. Indonesian officials have begun registering wild-caught Bali Mynahs held illegally by private citizens on Java and Bali. Under the Amnesty Campaign, these persons will not be prosecuted and the genetically-valuable birds will be exchanged for surplus North American birds.

Goals for the Bali Mynah SSP include the importation of additional founder stock from previously untapped sources; complete revision of a husbandry manual to comply with the SSP format; convert the studbook from Houston/Omaha format to SPARKS; complete development of the necropsy protocol; distribute the disease and nutrition survey to all participants; and begin preparations for a new masterplan session to be held sometime in 1992.

*From CBSG News, Vo. 2, No. 3, 1991, page 8 •*

**TABLE 1 — Status of Bali Mynah SSP as of January 1991**

	<u>1 Year Ago</u>	<u>Current Year</u>
Total Number of SSP Participants	68	70
Total Captive Population	163.156.49	171.165.50
No. of SSP Animals Managed	368	386
Total Births in SSP Program	58	50
No. Surviving to 1 Year	23	36
Total Death of SSP Animals	64	47
Total Imports	0	4
Total Exports	0	0
Total Founders with Descendants	37	37

## EEC Conference (European Economic Community) "EURO PARROT '92"

Thursday through Saturday, May 14-16, 1992  
Marienlyst Centre, Windelsvej 138  
5000 Odense C, DK - Denmark

### SPEAKERS

Tony Silva, Loro Parque, Tenerife  
Richard Schubot, Avicultural Breeding & Research Center, U.S.  
Joseph M. Forshaw, Bildera Enterprises, Australia  
Kees Schouten, EEC CITES adviser, Holland  
George A. Smith, Avian Diagnostics, U.K.  
Joanne Abramson, Raintree Macaws, U.S.  
Reinder Sterenborg, Pets Europe, Holland  
Peter Knights, EIA, U.K.  
Jorgen Bent Thomsen, WWF-Traffic, U.K.  
Jan Muchmore, CITES Transport Group, U.K.  
J.M. Vestergaard, Veterinary and Animal Husbandry, Commission of the European Communities, Belgium

### TOPICS INCLUDE

EEC regulations for trade and keeping live exotic birds  
EEC CITES procedures for trade in live exotic birds  
EEC transport conditions of live exotic birds  
EEC trade patterns in live exotic birds  
EEC sanitary regulations at import and quarantines  
EEC veterinary controls  
Captive breeding and conservation  
Incubation and handrearing  
The ornithology view on the exotic birds in captivity  
English will be the official language, but the papers will be translated into Danish and German. Proceedings will be available.

### REGISTRATION FEE

The cost of this event will be approximately DKR 875 per person. This includes all lectures, workshops, welcome reception Thursday evening at Odense Town Hall, buffet lunch on Friday and Saturday, dinner-dance on Saturday evening, coffee, tea and biscuits throughout Friday and Saturday.

**HOTEL** — Participation fees do not include hotel accommodations, which should be reserved by Odense Convention Bureau.

**TOURS** — For tour information, contact Odense Tourist Association.

**AIRLINES** — Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) has been appointed official carrier for this event.

**RENTAL CARS** — AVIS is the official surface carrier.

### OFFICE ADDRESS

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Odense Tourist Association,  
Town Hall, 5000 Odense C, DK - Denmark  
Phone +45 66 12 75 30  
Fax +45 66 12 75 86

**PRINCIPAL ORGANIZERS** — Hans Age Hjeresen, Frydenlund Bird Park; Peter H. Them, Parrot Data