

AFA in action... **NEWS and VIEWS**

APRIL 1992

1992 Avy Awards Nominations

To AFA members, aviculturists, and all bird enthusiasts: the following avian species have been nominated for a possible U.S. First Breeding Avy Award. Any knowledge of prior breedings should be submitted to Dale R. Thompson, chairman, Avy Awards Committee, in care of the AFA Home Office in Phoenix, Arizona.

1. Kulikoro Firefinch, *Lagonosticta variata*, hatch date: February 27, 1991.
2. Desmarest Fig Parrot, *Psittaculirostris d. desmarestii*, hatch date: January 2, 1989.
3. Spectabiled (New Britain) Mannikin, *Lonchura spectabilis*, hatch date: July 15, 1990.
4. Bodin's Amazon, *Amazona festiva bodini*, hatch date: June 2, 1991.
5. Fischer's Touraco, *Tauraco fischeri*, hatch date: April 23, 1991.
6. Timor Red-winged Parrot, *Aprosmictus jonquillaceus*, hatch date: June 23, 1991.
7. White-eyed Conure, *Aratinga leucophthalmus callogenys*, hatch date: January 30, 1991. ●

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.

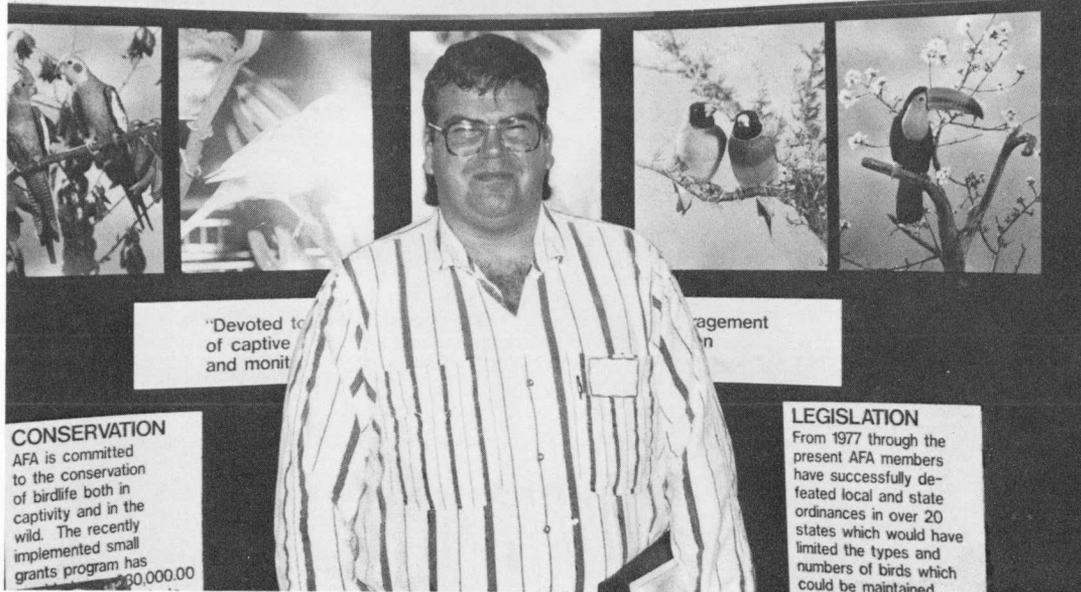
Donations received from January 1 through February 28, 1992

David Albertson	Abraham Finkelstein	The Family of Don Littrell	Corrine Prescott
Karen Allen	Kathleen Finn	Dallas Bird Club in memory	Eugene Prusak
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Thomas Discher	Society	Sue Parks	Wingsong Aviaries
David Drumm	Rae Lastella	The Pet Health Spa	Wisconsin Cage B.C.
Robert Dunbar, Jr.	Bill & Charlene Lemoine	Kathryn Pfleger	Yuma Imperial E
Emporia Friends	John Linnert	Robert Phillips	Ed Zuidema
Rainer Erhart			

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE

Founded 1974

Photo by J.C. Eitnhear



Bill Sager, D.V.M. at the AFA booth.

New AFA Research Committee Chair Announced

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Bill Sager, D.V.M. has been chosen to chair its Research Committee. The principle function of the committee is to provide small grants for research into avian diseases and other avian medical

topics. Anyone wishing to submit a proposal for funding consideration should forward such to Dr. Sager at P.O. Box 575, Littleton, MA 01460. ●

U.S. Bans Wildlife Trade With Thailand

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan announced that the United States is banning trade with Thailand in wildlife protected under an international treaty that regulates trade in endangered species.

"This trade ban will protect wildlife by denying a market for illegally taken animals," Lujan said. "Through this action, the United States is living up to its responsibility as part of the international environmental community."

Lujan's action, which takes effect 30 July 1991, bans imports and exports of all wildlife protected under the 111-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The action affects an estimated \$18 million in annual trade in CITES-regulated wildlife between Thailand and the United States. The vast majority of the trade is wildlife exported from Thailand to the United States.

The ban follows an 22 April 1991 notification from the CITES Secretariat asking all party nations to "take all measures" to prohibit trade with Thailand, recognizing that the country is unable to control wildlife trade as a result of inadequate laws and ineffective enforcement. Twelve European community nations have also taken steps to restrict wildlife trade with Thailand, and similar action is under consideration in Japan.

In 1990, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service seized illegal Thai shipments of ivory jewelry, sea turtle products, leopard and tiger parts and products, and a wide range of reptile products such as shoes and belts. The seizures represented more than three times the normal rate of noncompliance in shipments of wildlife from other countries.

Thailand serves as a staging point for shipments of live cheetahs, tigers, bears, orangutans, and gibbons. Thailand is a signatory to CITES but has no effective means of enforcing CITES regulations and no laws to protect wildlife that enters Thailand from other countries. In practice, this has meant that smugglers may obtain CITES permits from Thailand in an effort to slip illegal wildlife shipments past Customs and Fish and Wildlife Service inspectors.

Under the ban, the Fish and Wildlife Service will not clear for importation shipments of CITES wildlife that originate in Thailand or are re-exported to or through that country regardless of the documentation provided. Furthermore, the United States will not approve for export to Thailand from the United States any CITES-listed species. Shipments may be returned to Thailand or seized if they violate United States law.

Lujan said the United States will consider lifting the ban when sufficient evidence indicates that Thailand complies fully with treaty requirements. ●

Canadian Exotics — Birds, Animals, Reptiles & Plants Will All Be Impacted

by Jacquie Blackburn

Bill C42, cited as the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection Act* received first reading in Ottawa on November 7, 1991. Each of you who owns or aspires to own any form of exotic should be aware of this piece of legislation.

As a member of the Durham Avicultural Society, the Avicultural Advancement Council of Canada and the coordinator for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Canadian Parrot Symposiums, my concerns are naturally with the effect this act will have on those of us who keep/breed birds.

As I interpret it, this act will apply to all species identified in an appendix to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Included will be the eggs, sperm, tissue culture, seed, spore, pollen, etc. The Act can be expanded to include or exempt any specimen or species of animal or plant.

Prohibitions and regulations will cover:

- a.) importing into Canada, adhering to international agreements and conservation laws of any foreign country.
- b.) transporting from one province to another, in contravention of provincial laws.
- c.) possession of an animal/plant that has been imported or transported in contravention to this Act.
- d.) possession for the purpose of exporting from Canada or transporting from one province to another in contravention to this Act.
- e.) possession for the purpose of distributing or offering to distribute endangered species (Appendix I to the CITES).

If you are concerned with the effect Bill C42 will have on aviculture, immediately join and support the Avicultural Advancement Council of Canada (AACC). The AACC, comprised

of many affiliated clubs and individual members, is your voice on this and all matters related to aviculture at the local, national and international levels. Apprise them of your views; they need and value your input. Membership dues are \$20/year, including a subscription to the "Avicultural Journal." Make your cheque payable to the Avicultural Advancement Council of Canada and mail to P.O. Box 5126, Station "B", Victoria, B.C. V8R6N4.

The Avian Preservation Foundation (APF), a registered foundation, is administered by the AACC. This foundation is available to bird breeders/keepers to register their birds, regardless of number. The government would almost certainly recognize this foundation as a legitimate self-governing body under the act. Officials will accept an APF certificate, dated prior to implementation of the act, as proof of ownership. Include a donation (tax deductible) to the APF with your membership to the AACC.

Request from the Canadian Wildlife Service, Conservation and Protection, Environment Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3 a copy of Bill C42, the two supporting documents, "highlights and Steps to Implementation" and "Compliance and Enforcement Policies" and a copy of the Appendices to the CITES. Acquaint yourself with their content, then contact your MP with your views. Having provided the policy makers with intelligent input, aviculturists, hobbyists, collectors and pet owners alike should welcome and support the Wild Animal and Plant Protection Act. Contacts: Jacquie (Toronto) (416) 282-5997 or Judy (Port Perry) (416) 985-1491 / Stouffville (416) 642-1161. ●

T-Shirt Produced to Fund Field Research

The Psittacine Research Project, located at the University of California Davis, is now offering a full color T-shirt. The profits from the sales of the shirts will offset costs in their Guatemala field project (see *Watchbird* Dec/Jan 92, vol. 6:4-7). To obtain your shirt, write: Psittacine Research Center, University of California-Davis Campus, Davis, CA 95616-8532. ●

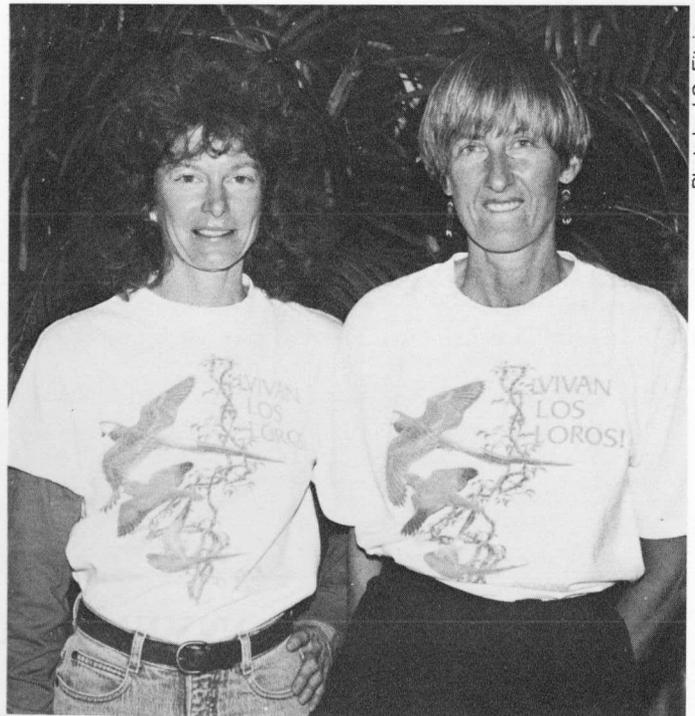


Photo by J.C. Eitnear

Ann Brice (left) and Susie Whaley model the new Psittacine Research Project T-shirt.

Pigeon Museum Project Set to Take Flight

A long awaited effort to create a national pigeon museum is being organized by the American Homing Pigeon Institute.

Renewed interest in creating a home for the Institute's extensive collection of books and artifacts relating to homing pigeons came after a study by the American Racing Pigeon Union (AU), an organization made up of over 10,000 members, found with strong support for the concept. This encouragement, combined with a \$100,000 contribution from a generous pigeon fancier, has rekindled support for the AHPI program.

"We are delighted that the AU has helped to renew enthusiasm in the concept of a national museum and headquarters for pigeon fanciers," said AHPI President Thelma Snyder, former publisher of the American Racing Pigeon News. "We are doubly pleased that this enthusiasm was solidified with such a wonderful opening pledge of support."

The \$100,000 contribution came from former AU and AHPI Director Elwin Anderson of Everett, Washington. His gift was made to help fund the acquisition of land, and construction of an AHPI facility capable of providing both display space for the Institute's collection and be able to offer office space for the AU. Mr. Anderson challenged the AHPI to raise an additional \$900,000 in 1992.

Formed 18 years ago as a non-profit corporation, the AHPI collection includes the libraries of several internationally known pigeon fanciers, including the entire library of E. Lang Miller, and a portion of the library of Charles Heitzman. Both men were highly successful businessmen who amassed extensive collections of books and periodicals on pigeons. In addition, the Snyder Collection includes artifacts relating to pigeon racing and the use of homing pigeons in both World Wars and the Korean conflict. The library and memorabilia are considered by many to be the finest English language collection on pigeons in the world.

The AU is America's largest pigeon racing association and has been a financial contributor to the AHPI since its inception.

"We are very pleased to see the level of commitment within the racing fraternity to make this project a reality," said Charles Weaver, President of the AU. "AU Director Rick Phalen conducted a survey of leading members of the sport just prior to our annual convention in November. The results we reviewed in Detroit showed us that key contributors and organizers in the sport are willing to help make this project a reality."

According to Snyder the AU survey generated renewed interest and the museum and national headquarters became a topic during the convention. The Anderson pledge was the first formal offer made, but others are pending.

The institute has 501(C)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service, making contributions to its project tax-deductible. The organization already has over \$250,000 in cash assets.

The Institute was founded by William Bonwell, a Kansas

attorney and pigeon flyer, to save the E. Land Miller collection from a dispersal sale. Bonwell still serves as AHPI secretary-treasurer. Over the years, the Institute has accepted cash contributions and donations to the library. To raise funds, Snyder has sold lithographs depicting the historic 1943 flight of G.I. Joe. This homing pigeon is a symbol of the messenger birds used by the U.S. military in both World Wars. G.I. Joe is credited with delivering a message in Italy that saved the lives of over 1,000 British soldiers.

Earlier efforts to create a library and museum were slowed by a lack of significant contributions. According to Bonwell, the Anderson donation and the AU's support are enough to convince the AHPI that the project is finally possible.

"What we have to do now is organize a fund-raising drive, move forward with our search for an appropriate site and design a building," said Bonwell. "It will be a lot of work, but with proper planning, we're confident we can raise the money."

Asked about a deadline for the fund raising and construction, Bonwell said the AHPI plans to raise an initial one million dollars in 1992 and begin construction as early as 1993.

"We know that we'll need more than a million dollars to make this dream a reality," said Bonwell. "We want to make sure we have cash reserves to maintain a quality facility and create interesting exhibits on the history of homing pigeons and their contributions to mankind. And we have to work with the AU to determine their requirements in a headquarters building. Luckily we have already done a lot of research over the years. And we have enthusiastic volunteers."

"But if I had to pick a deadline that the entire pigeon fancy can rally around, I'd have to say that October 12, 1993 is a very momentous day. That will mark the 50th anniversary of G.I. Joe's famous flight in Italy. Even though he was only one of thousands of birds who saved lives, G.I. Joe has become a symbol of our effort. I hope we can begin construction no later than on the 50th anniversary of his flight."

According to Bonwell, the AHPI Board also includes avian veterinarian Dr. David Marx and James Jenner, the advertising executive who created "Marathon In The Sky," a video history of pigeon racing. Rick Phalen has been named as the AU Liaison to the AHPI project.

The group is in the process of recruiting individuals to run the fund-raising and construction program. A site selection committee will be charged with recommending a site for the facility. A full-time staff person is also expected to be hired soon to coordinate the mostly volunteer effort. An office and telephone line will be established in Wichita, Kansas, where the AHPI is incorporated, by year-end.

Persons interested in contributing funds, their personal time or memorabilia to the project may contact the Institute by writing: AHPI, P.O. Box 4550, Wichita, Kansas 60204. ●

AFA CONVENTION —August 2 - 6, 1992

Plan for a hot time in Miami Beach, Florida at the fine and fabulous Fountainbleu Hotel, Resort and Spa!
Twenty acres of lush gardens on the beach!



Photo by J.C. Eitnear

Mary Bonacci, AFA's new business office director.

New Business Office Director

Should you telephone the AFA Business Office you may well be greeted by a new voice. Recently, Ms. Mary Bonacci has joined the AFA office staff as our new business office director. For the past seven years, Ms. Bonacci worked for the nonprofit American Video Association where she handled spe-

cial projects, conventions, membership and their newsletter. The majority of her time now is being spent on securing advertisers for AFA's magazine, convention program and proceedings as well as selling commercial booths. The business office director position was previously a volunteer position held by Davis Koffron. ●

New Hampshire Avicultural Society
17th Annual Bird Show
October 10, 1992
 Hudson Memorial School
 Hudson, N.H.

For more information contact:
 Bill Sager, D.V.M.
 P.O. Box 575
 Littleton, MA 01460
 Phone (508) 486-3101

The Greater Pittsburgh
Cage Bird Society's
17th Annual All-Bird Show
November 7, 1992

Judges:
 Sig Larson - Type Canaries
 Otto Mahnke - Colorbred Canaries
 Brenda Geesey - Finches/Softbills
 Jon Hoffman - Parrot types
 Ray Johnson - Cockatiels
 Dan Land - Lovebirds/Am. Budgies
 Joe Sabella - English Budgies
 Coleen Sullivan-Baier - Talking/
 Trained/Pet Birds
 Show secretary:
 Margie Jonnet
 434 Northview Drive,
 Verona, PA 15147
 Phone (412) 795-1904



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.)

Greater Kansas City
Avicultural Society's
Annual Bird Show
October 17, 1992
 Location:
 Ramada Inn South
 5701 Longview Road
 Kansas City, MO 64137
 Show manager:
 Steven Shaw

Portland's
Rose City Exotic Bird Club
5th Annual All Bird Show
and Bird Expo
November 7 & 8, 1992

Washington County Fairgrounds
 Hillsboro, Oregon
 25 minutes from Portland

Parrot, Exotic & Finch Judge
 Dr. Al Decoteau

Canary Judge
 Dr. David Guinn

Budgerigar Exhibitors:
 two shows one weekend

Saturday, Nov. 7, 1992
 Rose City Exotic Bird Club
 Judge Gary Hicken

Sunday, Nov. 8, 1992
 Cascade Budgerigar Club
 Judge Dennis Lalevee

Both shows ABS points,
 ABS show standards

Fly-in entries accepted,
 for details please call (503) 641-4457

For show entries or
 vendor space information:
 Ron or June Marks,
 Show & Expo Managers
 19235 SW Pilkington Road
 Lake Oswego, OR 97035
 Phone (503) 684-3799



The Club Connection Avicultural Society of Utah

by Nancy L. Vigran

Meeting Location: Hogle Zoo —Elephant Hall Auditorium, 2600 Sunnyside Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Meeting Date: Varies depending upon convenience of speaker, but usually the 3rd or 4th Saturday evening of the month and sometimes both Friday and Saturday evenings if out-of-town speaker.

Contact for more information: Kay Snow, president, 3220 South, 1100 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84119, phone (801) 973-0200, or Kathy Livingston, secretary, 1025 Ganetle, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116, phone (801) 595-1998.

General Information: The Avicultural Society of Utah (A.S.U.) was founded in 1978 by bird people who answered an ad in the paper requesting those interested in forming a bird club to answer. The A.S.U. became affiliated with A.F.A. at the time of its conception. Current membership is on the rise with close to 200 members and 100 to 125 members attend each meeting. Dues are a nominal \$10 for single mem-

bership and \$15 for couples or family memberships. Although the main body of the membership seems to be psittacine oriented, speaker topics range from psittacines to softbills, finches and gamebirds. Often speakers are brought in from out of town and sometimes speak two nights in a row on different subjects.

Activities and Special Events: While other clubs around seem to be dwindling or having apathetic memberships, the A.S.U. is booming larger than ever. This aggressive club participates in at least three different education programs for the public each year. For the past ten to twelve years, they have maintained a booth at the Salt Lake Tribune's Winter Home and Garden Show and more recently have held a booth at the Desert News' Home Improvement Show. During the Utah State Fair, the A.S.U. participates for the one day filling up a 500' x 1500' display area with over 300 birds in cages, on stands and in aviaries. During these events, special raffles for hand-fed birds have taken place and the monies received from these raffles have been donated to help preserve native birds in Utah such as the Peregrine Falcon and Golden Eagle.

Several years ago, the A.S.U. formed an Endangered Species Committee. The club has purchased pairs of endangered or threatened birds and placed them in Tracy Aviaries (a public aviary) in Salt Lake City for educational purposes as well as potential breeding. Species include Turquoise Parakeets, Scarlet-chested Parakeets and Greater Vasa Parrots. Arrangements are currently being made for offspring of the Scarlet-chested to be sent to the Willow Park Zoo in Logen, Utah as it is the hope of the A.S.U. to spread these birds all around the state of Utah. This past year, Tracy Aviaries was able to achieve success breeding the Greater Vasa Parrots as well.

And if this club isn't already doing enough, they are eagerly going to sponsor the 1993 A.F.A. Convention which will be held in Salt Lake City and will be ready to show us a rip-roaring time.

Editorial Note: The Club Connection was designed to let members of A.F.A. know what regional clubs are available to them, 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. ●

Crane Foundation Sends Whooping Crane for Experimental Release

On Tuesday, November 26, 1991, the International Crane Foundation (ICF) will send a Whooping Crane chick named "Wisconsin" on the first stage of a journey into the wild. The six-month-old chick, hatched at the Baraboo facility, will be flown to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland, run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where she will join four other Whooping Crane chicks. Later this winter, all five birds will be sent to Florida, where they will be released into the wild as part of an experimental effort to establish a new wild flock of the endangered species.

"Wisconsin" is the first chick produced by the flock of 28 Whooping Cranes at ICF. In 1989, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sent half of the captive flock of Whooping Cranes from

Patuxent to ICF, to guard against the risks of having all the rare birds located at one facility. In the summer of 1990, ICF received 11 viable eggs from the wild flock breeding in Canada, and successfully raised eight of them.

According to Julie Langenberg, ICF's veterinarian, "This shipment is a milestone in ICF's involvement with the reestablishment of the Whooping Crane in the wild. The chick 'Wisconsin' represents the successful integration of ICF's recovery activities with those of other centers."

At present, there are about 138 Whoopers in the one self-sustaining, wild flock that migrates between the U.S. and Canada. There are 64 in captivity, and another 13 in an experimental wild flock that summers predominantly near Grays

Lake in Idaho. But because of high mortality in the Grays Lake population, plans call for establishing another wild flock at Kissimmee Prairie in central Florida. The five chicks to be released this winter are part of a vanguard, to test for the presence of disease and other hazards that could harm released cranes.

According to Langenberg, "This release is a tribute to progress made so far with the Whooping Crane Recovery Program. The population is stable and healthy enough so that we can send out some 'scouts' to the Florida release site." The chicks will be fitted with radio transmitters to allow monitoring, and if the release proves successful, then additional chicks

will be released within a year or two.

"Wisconsin" is the offspring of two ICF cranes named "Riva" and "Rattler." The chick was hatched on May 10 and raised by her parents in partial isolation from humans, so she will be wild. After only a few days of age, the chick would attack when approached by handlers. Langenberg said, "From the start, she seemed like a bird well suited for a release program—she could take care of herself."

"Wisconsin" will be sent to Patuxent on Tuesday, November 26, unless cold weather postpones the shipment. She will be transported to O'Hare Field by ICF staff in the morning, for shipment by United Airlines. ●



Photo courtesy of CSTB, Inc.

Kenneth Fletcher, D.V.M. sexing one of the birds for release in Mexico.

Proyecto Loro / Project Parrot

The following clubs, businesses and organizations have provided monies and/or material donations to the Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas project to release confiscated parrots back into the wild. Additional information on how your club or business can assist this project can be obtained by writing: Proyecto Loro, 999 E. Basse Rd., Suite 180-164, San Antonio, TX 78209.

Avicultural Society of America
Long Beach Bird Breeders
Orange County Bird Breeders
Seedcrackers Club of Arizona
The Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc.
American Federation of Aviculture
Birdie Bordello
Sun Seed Company ●

Don't miss the excitement
and educational value of
AFA's 18th Annual Convention
Miami Beach, Florida
August 2 - 6, 1992

Four days of some of the world's best
speakers addressing an incredible
variety of avicultural subjects.

Luncheon • Banquet • Big Raffle

**See special Convention insert in
this issue for complete informa-
tion and registration details.**