

Last Minute Madness — Again



Convention Gossip
by Rona Parrot
Seattle, Washington

Birdhearts! What are you doing just sitting there? You have things to do, darlings. The convention is nearly upon us! It's just a few weeks away, a matter of days, really! Rona has been *dashing* here and *dashing* there. You know, the hairdresser, the florist, the bird sitter. Tryouts are being held for the banquet entertainment! Rona and the Birdettes have been rehearsing for days. Again. Maybe this year. It's so strenuous, darlings, but so worthwhile. Tap dancing your way into the hearts and minds of convention committees these days isn't as easy as it used to be, I can tell you that, birdhearts!

Well, darlings, the magic list of speakers is no longer a secret. By now you've all received that silver bullet of a convention packet with all the where to's, why to's, how to's, and who to's.



Transportation is the key to Seattle's economics and to the quality of life for the people of the Northwest. Extensive bus service is offered free to most of downtown Seattle. The monorail (pictured) connects downtown Seattle to the Civic Center in minutes. The Space Needle, with its fine revolving restaurants and viewing platform, is a prominent landmark left over from the 1962 world's fair. Entertainment, food booths, amusement rides and a fine science center can be enjoyed on the Civic Center grounds.

The big surprise this year was that list of tours! So much great Northwest all in one week! Leave your boas at the hotel, birdhearts.

Rona is baffled. The mail bag this month has turned up a number of letters from you birdhearts who actually think *cost* is a consideration for the convention. Obviously, darlings, you

haven't thought it through. The AFA Convention is one of the last Big Bargains left in the world for aviary addicts! And just to prove it, Rona has whipped out her calculator, so stand back: If you were to visit each of the speakers you will hear in August, just to chit-chat, you know, and pick up a couple of golden secrets, it would cost

you at *least*, darlings, at *least* \$24,700! Now really, wing-watchers, that *is* a bit extravagant, even for the zebra finch breeders out there. But you, the ordinary birdheart, can have it all for a lousy \$110! And most of that is for the meals you'll get! For heaven's sake, darlings, sell another bird! Two birds if you live on the east coast. You get the point, birdhearts.

Rona remembers her first convention. Like most of you birdhearts, Rona did not know a soul, not a *soul*, who was going to the convention except that crazy veterinarian from Ohio. Rona had not only never been to a convention, but she had never even been to California before! The thought of flying to some place called "Long Beach," alone, for a whole week was absolutely *unthinkable*. Besides, Rona only had a tiny flock of birds. It was more like a flockette, really. Of course, the thought of a whole convention about *birds* was irresistible. There might even be a whole *room* full of crazies like Rona, herself. So, the afternoon before the convention, Rona, with great trepidation, gingerly pulled out her credit card and the next morning, at 3:00 a.m., arrived at the Queen Mary, exhausted and certain she had flipped her feather boa. By Saturday night, Rona was in a state of absolute shock from which she has never fully recovered. The impact of that convention has left Rona dazzled and dizzy to this day. Ask not what is wrong with that crazy veterinarian from Columbus. He was with Rona the whole time! And now it's your turn, birdhearts. Rona envies you the experience.

I know you're all waiting for an inside look at the secret registration list, darlings, but there's no time! There's raffle tickets to fill out, photos to send to the photo contest, shopping to be done to pick up something that looks smart against an emerald background! One little peek at that registration list and I can see there will be *plenty* of gossip for our next visit. Come see for yourself! Trust me on this one, birdhearts.

I hope you've enjoyed these little visits. Rona realizes that you may not know many of the people who have been mentioned in these columns, darlings, and most of them don't even know each other. They all do know, however, that much of the benefit of attending the AFA Convention is a human one, and that's what we hoped to communicate to you with this little column. So pick up some Rona Parrot crossword puzzles and coloring books at your local news stand for the trip, and I'll see you in Seattle! ●

Super Raffle Planned for the Seattle Convention

By now the convention promotion packets have been long mailed out and are in the hands of our members. A pack of raffle tickets accompanied each mail-out. Don't ignore them! Fill out the ticket stubs and send them in with a check.

You do not need to be present to be a winner!

AFA greatly appreciates everyone's contribution and participation. All donations of money or items for the drawing are welcomed and gratefully received. The great list of prizes grows longer as new donations are presented.

To list but a few of these fine prizes:

- Automobile
- Variety of home appliances
- Pair of rose breasted cockatoos
- Round trip airline tickets for two
- Five bird paintings by well-known artists
- Assorted pairs of birds
- Many other prizes

This super annual raffle is the major fund raising event for AFA. We urge you to participate, buy tickets, sell tickets, donate something? (Contact address below.) There will be many chances to be a winner. Additional tickets are available. The raffle is open to AFA members and non-members alike!



Dick Dickinson, AFA Raffle Chairman

Please make your check payable to AFA and mail it and ticket stubs to: Dick Dickinson, AFA raffle chairman, 1216 Greenbriar Ave., San Jose, 95128. Phone (408) 248-1641.

Thanks for your help. Thanks for helping AFA! ●



Topics and Speakers

by Nancy Vigran, Speaker Chairman
Studio City, California

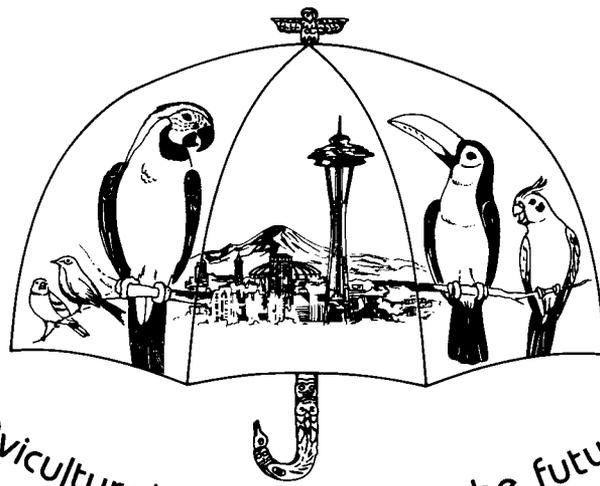
Speakers from around the world will be in attendance at the thirteenth Annual National Convention of the AFA in Seattle, Washington, August 13 - 16, 1987. Planned speakers include Mr. Anthony J. Mobbs from England, author of *Gouldian Finches* and *Hummingbirds*. Mr. Mobbs has been raising Australian finches since 1976. He has kept hummingbirds for over a decade with special interest in display, song and moult variations of these birds. Mr. Mobbs will be speaking on Gouldians and hummingbirds.

We have received confirmation from Mr. Patrick Tay from Singapore, a very notable aviculturist from the area of southeast Asia. He will be speaking on the black palm cockatoo and aviculture in southeast Asia as he knows. This could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear this wonderful gentleman speak.

From the land down under, Mr. Denis Carlisle will be speaking on the somewhat controversial subject of the pros and cons of exporting Australian avifauna. Mr. Carlisle has been a senior environmental park ranger for many years and through Monarch Tours, is involved in leading birding tours through some of the finest birding areas of the world, in Australia.

Along with these foreign speakers the AFA convention will include some of the finest speakers in the United States.

The AFA convention will feature several workshops which will be conducted by experienced aviculturists in their fields. The workshops will include slides, diagrams, equipment and, hopefully, even some live birds for demonstration. Workshop plans include: peachface lovebird genetics conducted by Dr. Rainer Erhart; sex-linked heredity in canaries conducted by Mr. Norman Nelson; cockatiels conducted by Ms. Linda Rubin; finch husbandry conducted by Ms. Nanci VanDegrift; and ringneck mutations conducted by Mr. Sheldon Dingle. These workshops are for registrants of the convention only and will allow for much audience participation.



Aviculture's Umbrella for the future

1987 A.F.A. National Convention Seattle, Washington

List of Speakers

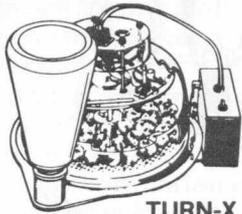
Keynote Address	Gary Lilienthal
Waterfowl	Paul Dye
The Common Trumpeter	Cynthia Horning
Biology of Toucans in the Field & Aviary	Jerry Jennings
Softbills	Don Wells
Hummingbirds, Their Diversity	A.J. Mobbs, England
Doves	Don Adams, Edmonton Mall Zoo
Papua, New Guinea Consortium	Ron Johnson, Metro Zoo, Miami
Tanagers	Erika Harris, Woodland Park Zoo
Softbill Breeding Program at the Houston Zoo	Bob Berry, Houston Zoological Park
Breeding Aratinga and Pyrrhura Conures	Tom Ireland
Lories and Lorikeets	Joe Longo
Cockatoos	Bob Berry, Houston Zoological Park
Moving and Managing Macaws	Dick Stocker
Amazons	Jim Murphy
African Parrots	Gail Worth, Aves International
Mutations	Dale Thompson, Behavioral Study of Birds
Black Palm Cockatoos	Patrick Tay, Singapore
Cockatoo Feather and Beak Syndrome	Dr. David Graham, Cornell University
Concepts of a Mall Zoo	Don Adams, Edmonton Mall Zoo
Pros and Cons of Exporting Australian Avifauna	Denis Carlisle, Australia
Aviculture in Southeast Asia	Patrick Tay, Singapore
Legislative Panel	Jerry Jennings, Gary Lilienthal and Lee Phillips
Tips on Aviary Management for Psittacines	Barry Wold
Gouldian Finches, Their Care and Breeding	A.J. Mobbs, England
Budgerigars	Carl Slavin
King Vultures — Another Avicultural Success Story	Jack Clinton Eitnrear
Canary Workshop	Norman Nelson
Finch Husbandry Workshop	Nanci VanDegrift
Cockatiel Workshop	Linda Rubin
Peachface Lovebird Genetics Workshop	Dr. Rainer Erhart
Handfeeding Workshop	Speaker to be announced

This is a near complete listing. A few more confirmations are yet to come. All efforts will be made to maintain the above mentioned topics and speakers,

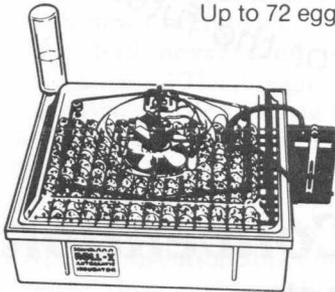
however, the AFA Speaker Committee cannot guarantee that all speakers will be in attendance. Additional topics are being worked on and may be added. ●

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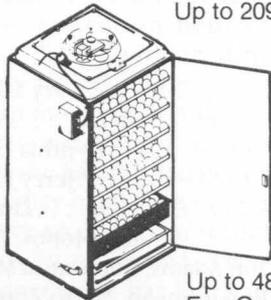
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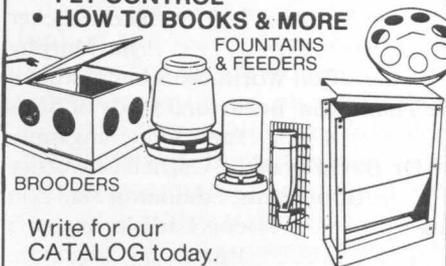
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Highlights of the AFA Winter Meeting and IFCB Symposium

by Chris Christman
Garden Grove, California

February 11, 1987

Over sixty AFA delegates and officers gathered on February 11, 1987 at the Sheraton Premiere, Studio City, California, for the winter board meeting. A full agenda occupied the whole day.

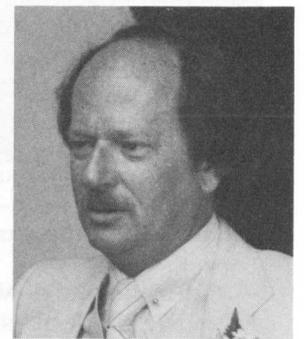
Gary Lilienthal's (AFA legal counsel) sobering address left no doubt in our minds as to the importance of AFA. Without it, the aviculturist would be heavily burdened with legislative restrictions, if not virtually put out of

business. Our problems are not solely with government, but with well funded private organizations as well. These groups believe extinction of many endangered species is inevitable and acceptable!

Lilienthal also reported on a cooperative effort between AFA and federal officials to resolve the "thick billed parrot" problem. (See News & Views section in this issue.)



AFA supporters gather for cocktails before the IFCB banquet. Left to right, Brenda Geesey, Carole Wheeler, Ruth Hanessian, Bill Wilson.



Jim Jewell,
AFA chief financial
officer



Meeting half-time — (left) June Halfon, delegate from the Avicultural Society of Puget Sound, Washington, discusses the 1987 AFA Seattle convention with Jeri Wright, Washington state coordinator and chairperson of the convention.

Photos by Chris Christman, Garden Grove, CA

As the meeting commenced, Jim Jewell was introduced as chief financial officer, replacing and filling out the retiring Hubert Morris' remaining term. Jewell comes well equipped to handle the organization's finances. He is the vice president of General Leasing Corp., Orange, California. His professional position addresses corporate budgeting and finances.

A highlight in the meeting came with the presentation of a badly needed computer system for the AFA business office. Hal Koontz made the presentation — a new IBM XT clone, heavy duty printer and appropriate software. The system was paid for by twenty-six AFA supporters (bird clubs, businesses and individuals). The machines were purchased from D.C. Electronics, Scottsdale, Arizona. The software came from Warehouse Data Products, Phoenix, Arizona. Hal acted as banker for donations until the cost of the system was covered. He personally took charge of installing the equipment on March 7th. The system is "up and running"!

During a brief recess in the meeting, the office staff was introduced to the board — Pat Benoit, manager, and Cheryl Hale.



A break between meetings: (l to r) Linda Sun, Laurella Desborough, Dick Dickinson.

After the board meeting adjourned, a private tour was made available to AFA members to visit the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Los Angeles. This institution houses the world's largest egg collection, approximately 800,000 eggs! These eggs were carefully cataloged and rested in orderly fashion in many drawers within cabinets. There was also a beautiful collection of "skins" including cock-of-the-rocks, owls, echidna, opossums and countless native birds. The favorite

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subject was a beautiful skin of the now extinct Carolina parakeet. These skins and eggs have been used in 3,000 scientific research projects around the world. Many of these items came from private collections. The Foundation also has a huge library of bird books and periodicals. Jim Jennings, assistant curator for the Foundation, was the host guide for the AFA group.

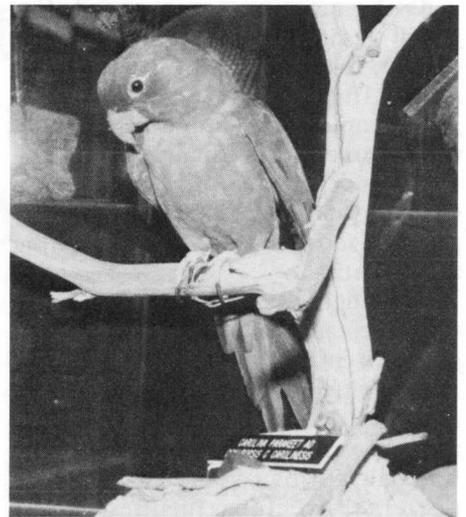
IFCB Symposium

February 12- 15, 1987

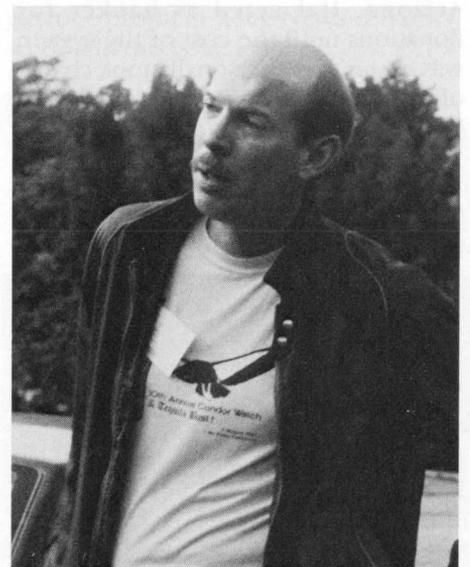
The second Jean Delacour/IFCB (International Foundation for the Conservation of Birds) Symposium was a first-class affair. It was held at the Sheraton Premiere Hotel, Studio City, California. This great assembly of avian specialists from all around the world was gathered to share their life-time collection of avian experiences. It was a fitting tribute to the memory of Jean Delacour (1890-1985), a great world-renowned scientist and ornithologist, and to the memory of Rocco Sanducci (1925-1983), humanitarian and artist, with acute love and respect for all life forms.

Gerald Schulman, executive director of the IFCB, made the opening remarks to approximately 400 attendees. "The goal of IFCB is to enhance the commitment of all gathered here to preserve and continue avian conservation for the present but, most important, to insure the survival of endangered species for the future."

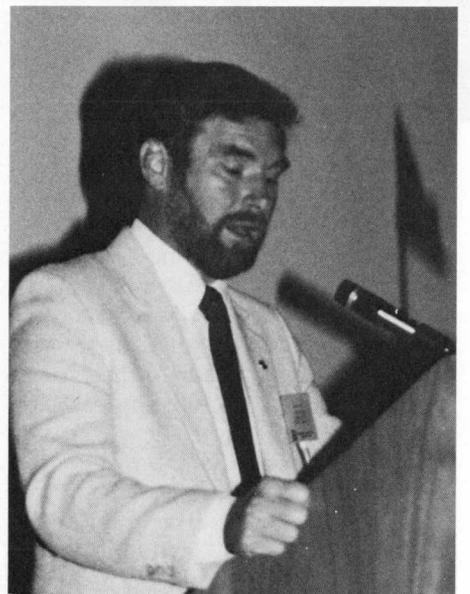
The scheduled speakers were of varied backgrounds — ornithology, aviculture, veterinary medicine, government, and hobby specialists. Forty-four speakers from fourteen countries (Australia, Belize, Botswana, Chile, Columbia, German Democratic Republic, Great Britain, Italy, Panama, Papao New Guinea, People's Republic of China, Thailand, Indonesia, and the U.S.A.) spoke on such diverse subjects as *Breeding Sea Ducks in Captivity*, *Thick-billed Parrots Released in Arizona*, *Cranes in Botswana*, *Penguins, Conservation of Endemic Birds in Columbia*, *Threatened and Endangered Birds of Haiti*, *Establishing Captive Populations from Wild Taken Eggs*, *Status of Bird Conservation in China*, *Raptor Breeding*, *Parrot Production*, *Clinical Avian Microbiology*, *Evolution-Ecology-Etiology of the Shoe-bill*, *Breeding Hornbills*, *Handfeeding Parrots*, *Raising Macaws*, to name only half!



"Skin" of extinct Carolina parakeet at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Los Angeles.



Jim Jennings, assistant curator of Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology.



Speaker, Graeme Phipps, Australia.



Speaker, AFA president, Jerry Jennings.

A moving talk was delivered by Graeme Phipps, curator of birds at Taronga Park Zoo, Sydney, Australia. He indicated that aviculturists, not zoos, hold the key to genetic diversification and survival of many avian species. Zoos simply do not have either the space or personnel to breed large populations of a great many species. Since aviculturists are licensed in Australia, both numbers and kinds of wildlife bred in captivity are easily documented. It is estimated that private aviculturists have an average of one thousand times more individual members of a species than zoos. The genetic pool lies in the hands of the private breeders.

Don Bruning, of the New York Zoo-

logical Society, held a special meeting of zoologists and interested breeders to explore the possibilities of some cooperative efforts between private breeders and zoos to share information and take advantage of the large genetic pool held by aviculturists.

Another highlight was Frank Todd's talk on establishing a captive population of penguins, arctic terns and giant petrels by harvesting an egg out of each nest. The birds do not normally raise all of their clutch. The removal of one egg has zero impact on the ecology. Todd said the egg is one of nature's best packaging efforts. It is far easier to transport eggs rather than live chicks.

Dr. Jorge Orejuela of Columbia, who both attended and taught at Occidental College in Los Angeles, told of his current position as a project leader for the *World Wildlife Fund*. His task is to identify critical wildlife areas for conservation in Columbia. The areas contain the highest concentration of different threatened species. So far, three such areas have been identified and have become *natural preserves* where deforestation is prohibited. He mentioned, in particular, the area known as *La Planada*. It is a research and environmental center. Local school children and adults are given lectures here to impress upon them the value of preserving their natural habitat.

In closing — everyone who attended this symposium felt it was well worth it. The complete *proceedings* was available to purchase, and for such a wealth of information to be packed into a few days of speeches, the written word for reference on one's bookshelf is very nice to have. ●



Levity was offered at the Saturday night banquet in the form of two songs: *Ode to the Organizers*, and *Symposium Satire*. IFCB directors doing their best to carry a tune, left to right: Dr. Scott Amsel, Dale R. Thompson, Ron Phillips, Gerald Schulman, Dr. Art Risser, Jr., Frank Todd, Michael R. Lubbock.



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