

A.F.A. Conducts First Mini-Convention

The first of a series of regional mini-conventions took place in Chicago the week-end of February 2-3, 1979 at the Sheraton O'Hare Hotel. Despite three feet of snow and sub-zero temperatures, over a hundred members from the mid-west and as far away as California and Florida were in attendance.

Activities began Friday evening with a get acquainted cocktail party at the A.F.A. hospitality suite. Saturday morning began bright and early with the regular meeting of the Board of Directors. A number of important decisions were made affecting A.F.A.'s future course including a more aggressive pursuit of efforts to de-regulate captive, endangered species.

Five lectures were presented Saturday afternoon to an enthusiastic audience. Speakers included Bill Reichert and Don Perez of National Bird Design on Canaries; Dennis DeCoursey, Superintendent of Birds at the Brookfield Zoo, on current breeding successes at Brookfield; Rainer Erhart on Psittacines, their care and breeding; Dr. T.J. Lafeber on acclimation of new birds; and Dr. Dennis Murphy, regional epidemiologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, on the latest developments in the exotic Newcastle Disease (VVDN) program.



Dr. T.J. Lafeber giving the lecture on acclimating new birds.

Joining the lecture hall, a commercial bird display area featuring a number of local and regional manufacturers and distributors was open to the public.

Following the afternoon lectures, a no host cocktail hour was held prior to the dinner banquet. Dr. Val Clear delivered the banquet address, describing the progress aviculture has made over the past twenty years. Dr. Clear noted a number of changes in avicultural sophistication, legislation affecting the fancy, and the dramatic increase in the cost of birds during that period.



Registration desk, Ken Stubbart and Jan Juhl.



Business meeting, L to R, Charlotte LeDoux, Jerry Jennings, Graig Hendee, Dr. Baer, Cliff Witt.



Birds on display in the Commercial Display area.