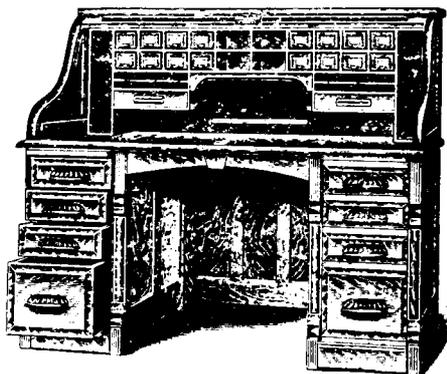


From The Editor's Desk

by Sheldon Dingle



Dear Sirs,

I can hardly wait for the Watchbird to come every two months. I raise a lot of birds and really enjoy reading and learning more about them. The June/July issue of the Watchbird didn't come until August 8th. I was really upset and disappointed when I found the whole magazine was on "gamebirds"

The first story on waterbirds I didn't mind and I turned right on hoping to find something on cage birds. The next article was on Peacock Pheasants, then waterfowl, then Pigeon Pox, then Geese, Tragopans, and Doves. By this time I could hardly believe I was reading the Watchbird.

I haven't joined a poultry club or a gamebird association because I am not interested. I don't mind sharing an article or two with the gamebird people but please lets have *something* for people who raise cagebirds. Now I have to wait another two months for the next issue and pray it has some information on cagebirds as that is why I took the magazine in the first place.

Sincerely,
R. L.
Chico, CA

You have brought up two very pertinent points of interest. First, regarding our specialty issues we have taken your advice

and shall include a broader variety of articles in the magazine. We will try to go about 50% specialty and 50% general interest articles and hope you are not disappointed in the future. On the other hand, Madam, I think anyone who is really interested in the birds of our world would have to enjoy the June/July Gamebird issue. The color photographs alone make the magazine worthwhile, The Tragopan pictured on page 38, the Impyan on page 35 and the Mandarin Duck on page 14 are among the most beautiful birds on earth. Their beauty is their justification. They should be appreciated as rare and lovely avian gems regardless of what you raise in your birdroom.

Now, the second point you alluded to is the fact that your magazine arrived late. Our apologies for that. To prevent that from happening again we have done some reorganizing at our staff level. The most important change is that Mr. Lee Horton has been appointed Managing Editor. His responsibility is to run the business end of the magazine and expedite all phases of publication. Although Mr. Horton is a rather young man he has been retired for several years now and spends most of his time drinking mint juleps with his feet propped up under a shade tree on his estate. We are confident that he can handle the business end of the Watchbird with expertise and skill and that the activity will be a welcome change for Mr. Horton.

Ed.



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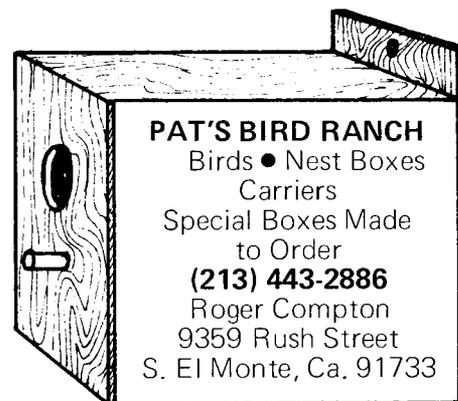
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Dear Sirs,

I am very interested in obtaining birds for breeding stock. I have a brochure from a company in Florida. Before I purchase birds from them or anyone else I would like to obtain information on the companies. I'd like to know about their reputation, quality of birds, etc. Also if your association has information on good reputable firms that sell birds for pets or especially breeding stock I would very much appreciate receiving information on them so I could contact them.

Thanks,
R. S.
Salt Lake City, UT

Your's is an understandable and reasonable request but it is absolutely impossible to satisfy. The very best I can do is to recommend you do business with the people who advertise in our magazine. If we learn that any of our advertisers are convicted of the crimes outlined in our code of ethics we will expell them from our organization and refuse their ads. There are many good and reputable dealers who do not advertise with us. With those people you have to pay your money and take your chances.

Our Ethics Committee has wrestled with the idea of serving as watchdog and arbitrator over the bird industry but found that there are so many legal and moral pitfalls that it is impossible to be fair and honest. What one person thinks is a bad deal another person might be quite happy with. Who are we to judge? Who is anybody to judge except in cases of statutory law — and then it takes a series of court decisions to reach a conclusion.

Our country still operates with some vestiges of the free-enterprise system. If a particular dealer is consistently crooked or wrong his reputation will reflect that fact and his business will suffer. Right now the bird industry is very competitive. Talk to bird people and find out who they are happy with and who they are afraid to deal with. If I put my opinions in print or even in a personal letter to you the good guys and the bad guys would be at my throat . . . and in my circle of friends who needs another enemy?

Ed.



Dear Sir

I just this year became interested in raising birds. One of the birds I would like to have and raise is the Java Rice Bird. I have found out it is not legal to raise, buy, sell, keep or give away these birds. I

thought you might be able to help me. As I am new to all this I don't know how to find out which birds are illegal. How do you go about this? Is there any possibility the Java Rice Bird will ever be legal again? I would also like to know a little about your organization and what you do?

Sincerely
M.H.
Kingston, Tenn.

The Java Rice Bird was declared an illegal alien because it eats everything in sight and could be very harmful to American agriculture. In California most of our illegal aliens eat only beans and tortillas and are very helpful to American agriculture but they are still illegal. In Washington there is no consistency.

As you get started in the bird fancy you ought not worry much about illegal birds. If you buy birds from a reputable dealer or a dedicated breeder they will be legal. I'd

say that about 95% of the birds on the market are legal.

One of the responsibilities of the A.F.A. is to monitor the governmental agencies and to learn of any new move to outlaw any kind of bird. These laws can be made on the Federal, the State, or on the local level so they are hard to keep up with.

When the state of California proposed to outlaw the Indian Ringnecked Parakeet, the A.F.A. took action to retrieve the Ringnecks that were flying wild and causing the state authorities a lot of worry. The A.F.A. retrieval action (with the wholehearted cooperation of the state) was so successful that the move to ban Ringnecks never became law. It is too late to do anything about the Java Rice Birds or the Quaker Parakeets but no new birds will be put on the injurious species list without a great deal of resistance from our organization.

ED

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED RATES — \$5.00 minimum charge for 4 lines of type (average 7 words per line). Additional charge of 9¢ per word for ad running over 28 words. (28 words to include name, address and phone.) All copy to be **RECEIVED BY 15th** day of month preceding publication. One inch boxed ad - 58 word maximum — \$12.00.

FOR SALE: A large variety of Peachfaced mutations, including lutino, albino, cherryhead, blue, dark-green (jade) and silver. Also yellow Fischeri (\$165 each) and white Bluemasked (\$180 each). **WANTED:** Other lovebird mutations and Nyasa lovebirds. R. Erhart, 5390 Bobwhite, Kalamazoo, MI 49002. (616) 375-6335.

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AFRICAN GREY PARROTS. This year's young. Bronson Tropical Birds, 70 Nagle, New York, N.Y. 10040. (212) 942-1150.

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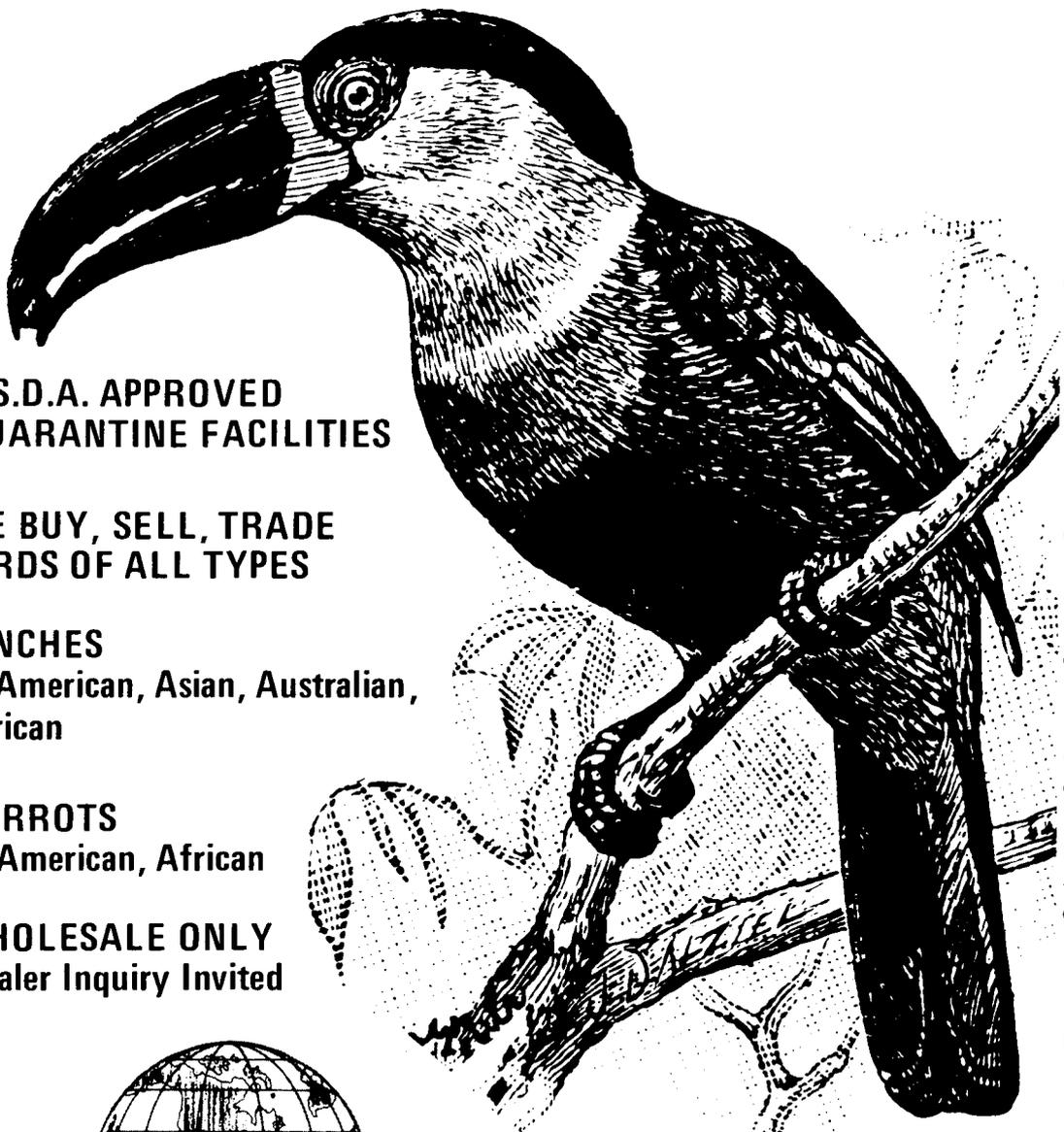
FOR SALE: Hand raised baby cockatiels, grey, white pied and pearlie, \$50.00 to \$100.00. Super tame; these birds make lovely pets. P.O. Box DL, Venice, FL 33595 or call 813-474-2022.

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Scarlet Chested Parrakeet (Splendid Parrakeet) male on left, normal Bourke Parrakeet hen on the right. This most unusual pair has produced some interesting and beautiful results. See article on page 31.



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