

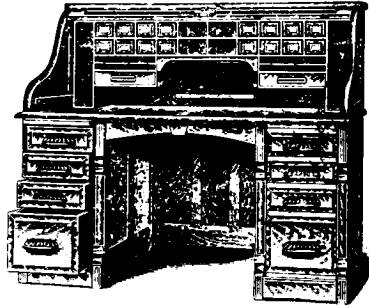
## NOTICE

All correspondence intended for the editor of the Watchbird should be mailed directly to his address.

Sheldon Dingle  
P.O. Box 340  
Norco, CA 91760

# From The Editor's Desk

by Sheldon Dingle  
Norco, California



and food mix.

This time I had taken my record book with me in order to show the owner that my first canary egg hatched on 1-3-86; the last one hatched on 6-3-86. I keep accurate records of my birds. My records show parents and both band numbers, date egg was laid, date egg hatched, babies' band numbers, sex or if un-sexed and which way sold, color, type, if died, date died, if known what it died from. In the space of time from 1-3-86 till the date this shop called I had a mortality rate of eight birds out of 143 hatched. The last one died on a night when we had several earthquakes in this area. These two birds that I replaced for this shop are also recorded in my books bringing the total to ten deaths.

During breeding season my nestling food only cost me \$5.14 every 29 days. I feed one of two of the top roller mixes on the market along with other canary products on the market. My birds are paired in individual breeding cages, with very controlled, selective breeding. Due to the care, time and type of food fed to my birds I feel that if my birds were sick and going light that I would have a larger mortality rate than what I have had. Also, it is my estimation that, if a canary does not get the proper food and enough of it and proper flight space, this is a cause for them to go light and die in a matter of just a very few days.

This same shop owner asked me if I feed my canaries safflower seed. When I said no, he informed me that they love it and really like it to feed to their babies. He was talking about seed that is still in the shell. Now I know why he did not have good luck in breeding his canaries. I do toss a couple sunflower and/or safflower seeds in the dish to give the birds something to play with so that I do not have them fighting and pulling each other's feathers so much. But I have never had a canary crack a safflower seed. Most canaries cannot even crack hemp seed without it being soaked first.

I went back to this bird shop 16 days after they bought my birds. Yes, you guessed it, not one thing had changed. The same birds in the same cages. The same cages being used with the same perches in the same location in the cages and the same seed dishes with the same type seed in the dishes.

I feel if bird shops do not take common sense advice from the breeder and the birds die, the breeder should not be held responsible and be expected to replace birds that die past a 72 hour period from the time of sale. Name and location withheld by request

Dear Editor:

Please help me and other breeders of canaries. I feel there are some bird shops and private individuals that need educating for the sake of the canary if nothing else.

After selling thirty canaries at a quantity discount to a bird shop, I received a call six days later that one of my canaries had gone light and died. Knowing that my canaries were healthy when sold but wanting to keep good public relations, I took a canary to the shop to replace the dead canary.

At that time I talked to the shop

owner, who was also the buyer, about the cages some of my canaries had been put into. One in particular was 23" wide x 23" wide x 33" tall. All of this type of cage that had canaries in them had two perches that were located within the top 12" of the cage. No lower perches at all. The food and water was on the floor of the cage. This is not the type of cage for canaries, for they are a bird that flies across, not straight up and down. Even the shop owner said, "canaries are not helicopters" and he knows that they need length, not height.

The particular cage that my canary had died in was this type cage. Fifteen of my canaries had been put into this cage with other canaries, finch and a pair of Bourke's parakeets. One of the canaries already in the cage was picking a finch bald. The finch just sat on the perch and let him do it. The canary just stayed on the perch also. I was told the canary "had a broken leg or something."

The seed in the cages with this mixture of birds was mostly millet and finch mix. I asked the owner about the seed and was told this is the way the seed comes as a mix for finch and canaries in one bag. I suggested the shop put a good roller mix in the cage for the canaries and was told that it was very expensive. These seed dishes are about six inches across and one inch deep. The exact same type dish is used for water. There were between 30 and 40 birds in these cages by the time my birds were added to them.

Thirteen days after the sale of my birds to the shop I got another call. One of my birds had again died from going light. In order to keep good public relations I again took a replacement bird to this shop. I know these were my birds and got the body back each time. The canaries were still in the same cages with the same birds except for the finch that was being feather picked and the canary that had "a broken leg or something." They had been removed. Same food mix (finch with millet). Same two perches in the same location. Again I spoke with the owner about the cages



## AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

Welcomes new members

An Australian Society catering to all birds both in captivity and in the wild. We publish a bi-monthly magazine on all aspects of aviculture and conservation. Anyone interested in membership please contact: **Ray Garwood, 19 Fahey's Road, Albany Creek, 4035 Queensland, Australia.** Annual subscription: \$22 (A) airmail, or \$16 (A) surface. Please remit monies or bank drafts in **Australian currency.**

## Association of Avian Veterinarians MEETING NOTICE

First International Conference on Zoological and Avian Medicine, sponsored by the Association of Avian Veterinarians and the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians.

**September 6-11, 1987  
Turtle Bay Hilton  
Oahu, Hawaii**

Contact Sylvia J. Kornelsen, 1625 South Birch, No. 403, Denver, CO 80222, phone (303) 756-8380, or Suzanne D. Silberman, P.O. Box 49325, Atlanta, Georgia 30359, phone (404) 321-0948.

The AFA is an educational organization so we gladly publish your letter. Perhaps it will help.

The problem, however, is tremendous. There are thousands of pet shops around the country that seem unable or unwilling to give top notch care to their critters. In your own case, with your specific pet shop, there are a number of things you can do.

First, the major reason many shops provide mediocre care is money. They don't want to spend it — on competent help, proper diet, appropriate cages, etc. If you have a shop that buys from you in large volume you may be able to provide your own cages and food for the birds you supply to the store. Yes, I know, this eats into your profits, but it is a way.

Second, you can arrange to sell your birds retail right out of your house. It takes a lot of advertising and an iron grip on your nerves. You may also have to figure out how to deal with the local zoning and tax authorities but it can be done.

Third, you can puff up in your most haughty and imperious, domineering posture and intimidate the owner of the questionable shop into conformance with your standards. Judicious jabs with the old umbrella generally hasten the process.

And if all the above fail, you can search out one of the many really good pet shops where your beloved canaries will get the good, conscientious care they deserve. Ed.



Dear Sir:

Your magazine is prized by me and I was told by a friend that you carried an article about what veggies and fruits to feed tropical birds and in the list appeared jalapeno peppers and other hot peppers — is this true?

My concern is that peppers are listed as a carcinogenic (causing cancer) for humans. Please reply.

Respectfully,  
W. Douglass Rowell  
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Rowell,

I'm very glad that you like the Watchbird. It is also encouraging that you are concerned with your bird's diet.

Indeed, your friend told you the truth. In an excellent article by Lisa D. McDaniel, U.C. Davis (Watchbird, April/May '82, page 36), hot peppers were listed as an ingredient much

avored by Amazon parrots. The article focuses on Amazons, not all tropical birds.

The subject of nutrition is not very well understood — for humans, much less for birds. Parrots do like peppers, as McDaniel points out. There does not seem to be any hard data to suggest that parrots who eat peppers are more subject to cancer than those who don't. Who knows?

My feeling, based on many years' experience with parrots, is that very few seem to expire due to cancer. In fact, I'm very partial to peppers myself and I've passed the half century mark having consumed a few tons of jalapeños. Many ethnic diets all over the world (Mexico, India, Indonesia, China, etc.) depend heavily on peppers for savor.

It would be very nice to know exactly what to eat and what to feed our birds but, alas, I fear that sure knowledge will never be known. Use common sense, judgement and experience.

There are many articles on nutrition in the pages of back issues of Watchbird. I recommend getting the AFA Watchbird Index and asking the home office for copies of the articles that are pertinent to your situation. Ed.



Dear Mr. Dingle,

I am writing to your reference to an "in house" publication and your statement that it is of the utmost importance that we members let our interests be known.

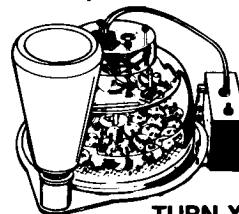
Baloney! I consider the Watchbird under your editorship to be an "out-house" publication used to promote the interests of you and your friends, particularly your "good friend Richard Topper."

You used our publication to give him free publicity; and when I let my interest in Mr. Topper's research be known, you and Topper both lied to the entire membership of the AFA, using a masterpiece of subterfuge to cover up the facts. I think you know and I am sure Mr. Topper knows that he never sent me any of his research papers. I don't believe he ever did or is capable of doing any research before putting his feed or feed-hype on the market. And you compounded the farce by stating in the Watchbird that Topper sent his research papers directly to me.

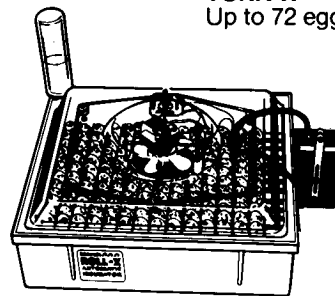
Although this all happened seven years ago I have never had any faith in

## Marsh Farms INCUBATORS

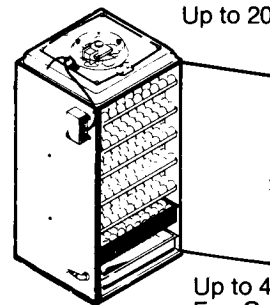
- FEATURING fully automatic turners, temperature and humidity control.



**TURN-X**  
Up to 72 eggs.



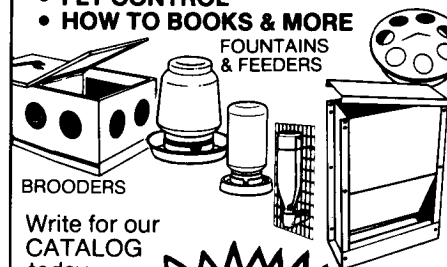
**ROLL-X**  
Up to 209 eggs.



Up to 480  
Egg Capacity.

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WE ACCEPT





**Central Alabama Avicultural Society**  
presents its  
**Sixth Annual All Feather Bird Fair  
and Judged Cage Bird Show**  
**September 5th and 6th**  
Governors' House Hotel and  
Conference Center  
2705 E. South Blvd., Montgomery, AL  
For information contact:  
Chuck Clift, Chirman  
Montgomery Zoo  
P.O. Box ZEBRA  
Montgomery, AL 36109-0313

**Central Louisiana Budgerigar Society**  
**September 11-12, 1987**  
Gordon Trethaway, ABS Panel Judge  
Rodeway Inn  
Airline Highway  
Baton Rouge, LA  
Contact Show Manager Ken Dunkin  
5288 Elkhorn Dr.  
Greenwell Springs, LA 70739  
Tel: (504) 261-6563

**Toledo Bird Association**  
**Zebra Finch Club of America, Inc.**  
affiliated with  
**The Zebra Finch Society of England**  
**Seventeenth Annual Show**  
**September 26, 1987**  
at  
The Grotto Building  
3005 West Laskey Road,  
Toledo, Ohio  
For information contact  
Roxann Bennett  
4449 Jackman #5  
Toledo, OH 43612

**Exotic Bird Club of Oregon**  
presents  
**Educational & Judging Show**  
**October 3rd and 4th**  
Linn County Fairgrounds  
Albany, Oregon  
Exotic birds welcome from  
out of state for judging  
For more information:  
Write to Exotic Bird Club of Oregon  
c/o Dorothy Griffith  
1804 East First Avenue  
Albany, Oregon 97321  
or call (503) 267-7874

**Cascade Budgerigar Society, Inc.**  
**Sixth Annual Budgerigar Show**  
to be held  
**October 16, 17 and 18, 1987**  
at  
The Ramada Inn  
at the Coliseum  
10 N. Weidler Street  
Portland, Oregon 97227  
For information contact  
show manager Roy Krause  
5500 S.W. Lombard Ave.  
Beaverton, Oregon 97005

you or an organization which allows you to be its official spokesman. I still get calls about this matter and I still tell all callers that you and Topper lied to us all.

I recently got a notice to renew my membership in the AFA. I intend to renew it alright — just as soon as you publish an expose stating that you and Topper are unethical, that you used the Watchbird to promote his product, and that you are sorry that you and Topper lied to the membership about his research papers.

Have a nice day,  
Luther Dean  
Dripping Springs, Texas

*My Dear Mr. Dean,*

*Many, many thanks, dear friend, for your expressive letter. For, lo, these seven, long years I've stood the lonely vigil, my eyes on the horizon, waiting, waiting for your long expected paeans of praise, your ode to joy, as it were. And at last — it came.*

*You restore my faith in humanity. Once or twice some poor soul expressed some small faith in me and even, God forbid, in my truthfulness and ethical behavior. I was beginning to sweat.*

*But you, dear sir, have, to my untold relief, reestablished the normal, tried-and-true relationship between civilized human beings. My undying gratitude, sir. Bless you.*

*There are, however, thousands of AFA members who were not privy to the editorial responses of seven years ago so I feel a general recapitulation is needful. I'll give chapter and verse for those who have the 1980 and 1981 Watchbirds available.*

*Your original letter (June/July 1980, page 44) boils down to a challenge to me to come up with the complete report of Topper's nutritional research. Naturally, I agreed with you that sunflower seeds contain no cholesterol (seconded by Dr. Tkachuck). I also, in keeping with my over-optimistic personality, agreed to get Topper's data and publish it. I also asked for input from all interested and learned readers.*

*True to form, nothing arrived in time for the following issue of the magazine. I did, however, receive a letter and a full length cassette tape from Topper. In the Aug/Sept 1980 Watchbird, page 45, I alluded to Topper's letter in which he said he sent the printed data directly to you. I only now, seven years later, learn that you did not receive the data. On the same page I alluded to a plethora of mater-*

*ial (Topper's tape) and said we'd prepare it as an article. Unknown to you, Dr. Tkachuck and I examined the tape from every conceivable angle and found it inconclusive — there was no hard, publishable data.*

*Finally, in the Oct/Nov '81 Watchbird, page 31, Cathy Sarmiento wrote a letter addressing the sunflower issue. She gave three book references (printed in her letter for every reader's information) that seemed to indicate that sunflower seeds were not much different than safflower seeds.*

*On the same page I publicly indicated that Topper's "plethora of information" was inconclusive. I also said that we'd bypassed Dean and Topper and went directly to the University of California, Davis, Avian Sciences Department.*

*The main problem now was to learn whether or not sunflower seed contained papavarin, the "drug" Topper said it contained. If you'll read page 31, Oct/Nov '81 carefully you'll see that I explained how U.C. Davis sent normal sunflower seed and seed injected with papavarin to the California Dept. of Food and Agriculture for analysis. The laboratory, because of great technical difficulties, was unable to resolve the problem with finality. This left us where we started.*

*I had hoped for a full-blown report from the state laboratory but as no conclusive results were found they opted not to waste time on a paper reporting nothing. The lab does have other things to worry about: fruit-flies of various sorts, pesticides in water-melons, listeria in cheese, etc.*

*Until your wonderous letter above, I've heard nothing more on the matter.*

*I haven't seen Topper for almost ten years. To my knowledge Watchbird has not given him any free publicity other than that initiated by you (in the warm glow of which I'm sure he is basking).*

*In closing, my dear sir, I feel bound to disabuse your mind regarding the most grievous error in your letter. I am not, and have never been, the official spokesman for the AFA. The various elected presidents of the AFA have always fulfilled that glorious position. I, alas, am merely a contract laborer but happily, due entirely to your impassioned and graphic references to my qualities, am elevated to the rank of human being which, regrettably, most editors never achieve.*

*I trust your renewal will be in the mail the instant you put down this magazine and may your springs ever continue to drip. Ed. ●*



**The Kansas Avicultural Society's  
Sixth Annual Caged Bird Show**

will be held  
**October 9th & 10th, 1987**  
at the Canterbury Inn  
5805 W. Kellogg, Wichita, Kansas  
Judges:

Budgerigars: Russ Roberts  
Canaries: David Guinn  
Cockatiels: Keith Jennings  
Hookbills & Finches: Clarence Cudwell  
Lovebirds: David Arthur  
For further information contact:  
Agnes Geigenmiller  
11424 W. First Court  
Wichita, Kansas 67212  
Tel: (316) 722-7934

**Massachusetts Cage Bird Association, Inc.**

presents its  
**71st Annual Show  
October 17, 1987**

Assabet Valley Regional  
Vocational High School  
Fitchburg Street, Marlboro, MA  
Judges:

Finch & Cockatiels: Charles Anchor  
Parrots & Related Birds: Larry Brandt  
Budgerigars: Anthony Mancini  
Borders, Yorkshires & Misc. Types:  
Frank Paiva  
Glosters: Joseph Marino  
American Singers: George Landry  
Color Bred Canaries: Daniel Kaye

**Baltimore Bird Fanciers**

is proud to present their  
**47th Annual All Bird Show  
October 17, 1987**

Holiday Inn-Chesapeake  
Just off Interstate 95,  
Exit 85, Rt 22, Aberdeen  
Judges:

Finches & Hookbills: NFS & SPBE Panel  
Judge Bill Parlee  
Cockatiels & Budgies: NCS Panel Judge  
Dick Sharp  
American Singer Canaries: Hank Mankin  
Type, Hartz & Color Bred Canaries:  
Winfield Checkley  
Judging will begin at 9 a.m.  
Entries accepted 7 - 9 a.m.

Exciting raffle:

Birds, cages, supplies and more  
Cash prizes:  
\$300, \$100, \$100  
No admission charge

For further information contact:  
Karen Allen, Show Secretary  
2815 Beckon Dr., Edgewood, MD 21040  
Tel: (301) 679-2152

**Colorado Cage Bird Association**  
presents its

**Second Annual Bird Show  
October 17, 1987**

at

The Colorado Springs City Auditorium  
For more information contact:  
Brian & Cindy Happ  
5366 Descanso Circle E.,  
Colorado Springs, CO 80918-3009  
or call (303) 594-0003

**Sun Coast Avian Society**  
presents

**12th Annual Axotic & Pet Bird Show  
October 17 & 18, 1987**

Saint Petersburg Hilton & Towers  
3333 First St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
Reservations: (813) 894-5000

Categories & Judges:

ABS: Gil Barboza  
ACS: Carter Atwood  
NFS: Juanita McLain  
ALBS: George Hilder  
Psittacine/NCS: Harold Bowles  
Type/Color Bred: Otto Mahne  
American Singers: Allen Gibson

**The Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club**

will hosts its

**Second Annual Judged Show**

(with sale room)

**October 24, 1987**

at the

Sheraton South Inn and Convention Center  
I-65 South and Harding Place  
Nashville, TN

Judges:

Harold Bowles, Ray Johnson &  
Norman Beyer  
Contact:

Ed Dittmar, Show Chairman  
Rt. 3, Box 469, Lovers Lane  
Lebanon, TN 37087  
Tel: (615) 444-4101

**Rocky Mountain**

**Society of Aviculture, Inc.**

**Annual Show**

to be held

**Saturday, October 31, 1987**

Location to be announced.

For information contact

Terry Rune

6700 Van Gordon St.  
Arvada, CO 80004  
(303) 422-6529

**Wisconsin Cage Bird Club**

**Tenth Annual Bird Show**

**October 30-31, 1987**

Holiday Inn Oshkosh, WI

9th & Highway 41

Judges:

Budgies: Crawford Maddax  
Canaries: Harold Sodaman  
Cockatiels: Nancy Reed  
Hookbills & Finches: Ron Filip  
Show Secretary Alice Ann Wereth  
632 George St., Kaukauna, WI 54130  
Tel: (414) 766-7455

**Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture, Inc.**

**Show information update:**

**Saturday, November 1, 1987**

Embassy Suites

7525 E. Hampden Avenue, Denver, CO  
Contact Terry Rune  
6700 Van Gordon St., Arvada, CO 80004  
Tel: (303) 422-6529

**Central California Cage Bird Club  
All Bird Show**

**November 6, 7 & 8, 1987**

at Turlock Fairgrounds  
Turlock, CA (near Modesto)

Judges:

Budgies: Bic deVictoria  
Hookbills: Mike Cunningham  
Type Canaries: Leonard Quito  
Red Factor Canaries: Mike Harbusha  
Finches: Brian Mandarin  
For information call:  
Darlene Cortese, (408) 923-1178  
San Jose, California

**Avicultural Society of Tucson**

presents its

**Second Annual Bird Fair**

**November 8, 1987**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thurbver Hall, Pima County Fairgrounds  
11300 S. Houghton Rd., off I-10

For information contact:

Doris Vant

4444 E. Benson Hwy., No. 71  
Tucson, AZ 85706

Tel: (602) 574-9288

**African Love Bird Society,**

**San Diego Chapter**

**Hookbill Hobbyists of Southern California**

**North County Aviculturists**

**San Diego Bird Breeders**

**San Diego County Canary Club**

**San Diego Finch Society**

sponsor

**22nd San Diego Bird Show**

**November 13, 14, 15, 1987**

Open to the public Saturday and Sunday

Del Mar Fairgrounds

Del Mar, California

Lower Clubhouse Building

Judges:

Exotics: Ray Johnson  
Love Birds: Janice Pritchard  
Type Canaries: Robert Thompson  
Red Factor Canaries: Albert Varda

Information:

Janice Pritchard

449 W. Douglas Ave., El Cajon, CA 92020

Tel: (619) 442-1164

**Capital Area Avicultural Society**

**First Annual Bird Show**

**November 14, 1987**

Holiday Inn

Seigen Lant at I-10

Baton Rouge, LA

For show information contact:

Roxanne Corsaro

P.O. Box 14732

Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Tel: (504) 343-4647

**Western New England Cage Bird Society**

presents its

**Fourth Annual All Bird Show**

**November 28, 1987**

Ludlow Elks Club

Ludlow, MA

For information contact:

Show Committee Chairman

Lynn Oparowski

Tel: (413) 594-2371