

# Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center Established at Texas A&M University

by Sheldon Dingle  
Norco, California

Texas A&M University at College Station, Texas, already well known for its macaw breeding and research program, was the recent recipient of a \$1 million endowment fund donated by Richard Schubot of Loxahatchee, Florida. Schubot's \$1 million was matched with equal funds by Texas A&M with the whole amount specifi-

cally earmarked for the establishment of the Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center, a facility for research into the diagnosis, treatment, control and prevention of avian diseases. In addition to matching Schubot's endowment, Texas A&M has also supplied a newly rebuilt and furnished laboratory, an additional \$100,000 for new lab equipment and \$100,000 more to establish aviaries for breeding and research colonies. The colonies will be comprised of specific-pathogen free small macaws and conures. The university has also provided for two graduate student and two lab tech. positions.

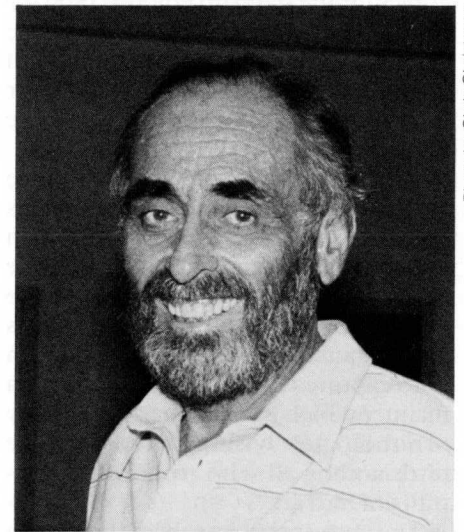
Serving as director of the Schubot Center is Dr. David Graham, a man well known for his avian interests. Graham comes to Texas A&M from Cornell University at Ithaca, New York where, for the past six years, he served as professor of avian pathology in the Department of Avian and Aquatic Animal Medicine. He holds a degree in zoology from Pennsylvania State University, a DVM degree from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in veterinary pathology from Iowa State University. For over 20 years Dr. Graham has been involved in clinical and research work on diseases of pet exotic and wild birds.

"The College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M has had a continuing interest in, and commitment to, the area of avian medicine and provides a logical home for this endowment program," said Graham. He then touched upon three points he feels are important and hopes to develop. First, the Center will focus on applied research on the infectious and non-infectious diseases of pet, exotic and wild birds. Second, the Center will provide an environment which will encourage visiting scientists to participate in the Center's research program. And third, Graham feels it is crucial to develop a comprehensive diagnostic service for pet, exotic and wild birds in order to maintain awareness of diseases of present and emerging significance in avicultural, pet and wild bird populations. All this bodes very well for private aviculturists as well as for zoos and other public avian displays.

The originator and power behind this monumental program is Richard Schubot, a retired businessman and entrepreneur whose love of birds is

matched only by his desire to provide the optimum environment for birds in captivity. Schubot is well known for his outstanding collection of rare psittacines housed in perhaps the most magnificent quarters in the United States if not the world. At Avicultural Breeding and Research Center, Schubot's facility in Florida, he keeps and breeds many species of cockatoos, macaws and other exotic birds that are the envy of other aviculturists world wide.

Early in the game, Schubot recognized the value of expert veterinary care for his avian charges. Indeed, before



Richard Schubot, aviculturist

accepting three birds from my own collection he insisted upon about \$500 worth of vet checks to ensure the birds' good health. Then upon their hand-carried arrival his own staff veterinarian re-examined the birds in great detail. This great concern for the well being of all birds in aviculture led ultimately to probably the largest single endowment on behalf of exotic avian medicine.

After much study, Schubot found Texas A&M the most receptive university to the progressive ideas that accompanied the truly generous endowment. Thanks to Richard Schubot and Texas A&M great progress is under way in the realm of exotic avian medicine. The Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center under the direction of Dr. David Graham deserves the support of everyone involved in aviculture. If you so desire you may mail a donation to the Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843. ●

Photo by Chris Christman



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