



**Golden Crescent Cage Bird Club
First Fall Feathers Bir-A-Fair**

September 11, 1988

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

1969 N. Ridge Road E.

Lorain, Ohio

For information contact:

Janet Cheely, Treasurer

5330 Mills Creek Lane

Ridgeville, Ohio 44039

(216) 327-3777

Orange County Bird Breeders

7th Annual Bird Fair

Sunday, September 18, 1988

Orange County Fair Grounds, Bldg. 10

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Free parking, Free lectures, Auction

For more information contact:

Felice Bahner, (714) 544-6965

or (714) 544-2183

Susan Mooney, (213) 868-8292

Minnesota Cage-Bird Association

1988 Exotic Bird Show

September 23-25, 1988

Regency Plaza Hotel

41 North Tenth Street

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

For information contact:

Ron Heard, Show Manager

17062 Forfar Court

Farmington, MN 55024

Long Island Parrot Society

2nd Annual Parrot Show

Saturday, September 24, 1988

Plattduetsche Park Restaurant

1132 Hempstead Turnpike

Franklin Square, New York

Doors open at 8:00 a.m.

Registration at 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Judging starts promptly at 10:30 a.m.

Judge: A.E. Decoteau

Awards: standard class, specialty,

children's div., judge's award

For additional information call:

Debra Megidson, president

(516) 242-5855

Maris Dunn, show secretary

(516) 867-3866

Boston Cockatiel Society

3rd Annual Exotic Bird Show

September 24, 1988

Framingham Civic League

214 Concord St. (Route 126)

Framingham, MA

Judges:

Parrots & Finches — SPBE & NFS Panel

Judge William G. Parlee

Lovebirds — Cyndi Sorenson

Pet Division — Ed Brunell

Cockatiels — NCS Panel Judge Charles

Kruger

For more information contact:

Bob Broxton

154 West Main Street

Marlboro, MA 01752

(617) 481-7850

**Sun Coast Avian Society
13th Annual Exotic & Pet Bird Show**

October 8 & 9, 1988

Sheraton Tampa East

7401 East Hillsborough Ave.

Tampa, FL 33610

Reservations: (813) 626-0999

Judges and Categories:

Walter Lepke — ABS

Shirley Courts — ACS

Earl Courts — NFS

Dan Land — ALBS

Ralph Milos — Psittacine

Louis Marzarro — Type/Color Bred

Allen Gibson — American Singers

Baltimore Bird Fanciers

48th Annual All-Bird Show

October 15, 1988

Holiday Inn

Cromwell Bridge Road

Towson, Maryland

(301) 823-4410

For more information contact:

Karen Allen

(301) 679-2152

Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club Show

October 29, 1988

Embassy Suites Hotel

555 N.W. 62nd Street

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Judges:

George Warren — Finches & Canaries

Tom Ireland — Exotics

Tony Mancini — Budgerigars

Orville Lyons — Cockatiels

Roland Dubuque — Lovebirds

For more information contact:

Karl S. Kline

204 N.E. 14th Street

Delray Beach, FL 33444

(407) 276-8711

Northwest Bird Club

8th Annual All Breed Bird Show

November 19 & 20, 1988

Josephine County Fair Grounds

Grants Pass, Oregon

Arts & Crafts Building

Judges:

Bob Nelson

Pat Klein

For information contact:

Bud Mozley

1600 Coyote Creek Rd.

Wolf Creek, Oregon 97497

(503) 866-2576

Miami Parrot Club, Inc.

Second Annual Cage-Bird Show

The Biltmore Hotel

1200 Anastasia Ave.

Coral Gables, Florida

For information call:

Regina Cussell, Show Chairman

(305) 251-3895

Turquoise Parakeet

(*Neophema pulchella*)

by Sheldon Dingle

Norco, California

Almost all of you are familiar with our beautiful cover bird, the turquoise parakeet. It is one of seven species belonging to the genus *Neophema*. A resident of southeastern Australia, it frequents open forests and grasslands often along water courses. It is a cavity nester using holes in trees, stumps, or even logs on the ground. All *Neophemas* are ground feeding seed eaters especially favoring seeding grasses. After all, these tiny parrots are only about the size of a budgerigar and can't be expected to crack large seeds and nuts.

The turquoise's status in the wild has had its ups and downs but, at present, it seems to be doing well and its numbers are actually increasing. It is not thought to be in great jeopardy unless there is an unexpected and very radical alteration of its habitat.

Likewise, in captivity the turquoise seems to do fairly well. It seems strange to me that there are some aviculturists (Ralph Smith being an example) who have tremendous success with the *Neophema* while others, alas, can barely raise enough babies to replace their losses. But the overall success rate with captive turquoisines is quite good enough to supply the demands of newcomers to aviculture who want to try a beautiful little parrot which is more challenging than the zebra finches and budgies with which they started.

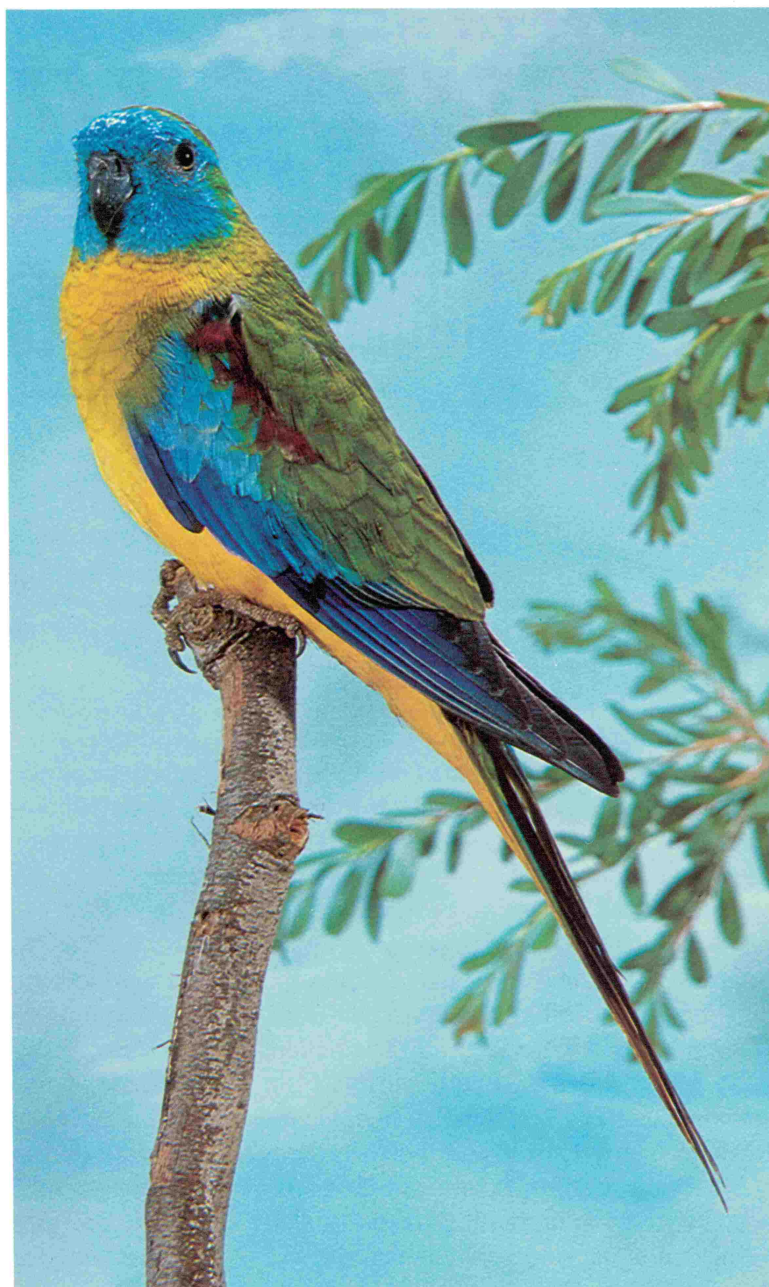
Turquoisines have long been one of my favorite species and off and on over the years I've kept and bred them. Years ago, when almost all aviaries had dirt floors and piperazine was the only known worm medicine, internal para-

sites were the bane of the turquoisines. They seemed fore-ordained to die of ascarid infections. With the advent of suspended cages and a whole spectrum of excellent wormers available, the turquoisine has a much better chance today. I used to spend hours with the old microscope monitoring the droppings of the whole flock and keeping a sharp eye out for the ova of various species of ascarids. And I always had trouble mixing the right dose of piperazine for the various species of birds in the flock. Some of you old timers can recall, I'm sure, birds weaving drunkenly and occasionally falling off their perch — O.D.ed on piperazine.

I tried breeding turquoisines colony-style and determined that it was disastrous unless the little buggers were in a *huge*, well planted aviary. A normal 8' by 4' aviary is just right for *one* pair of turks. Two pairs equals total death and destruction and three or more pairs per aviary creates mass chaos but not much blood. Not much breeding either.

When I was young and foolish, I tried things no prudent person would do and I once put one pair of turquoisines in an 8' by 8' aviary containing four pairs of then quite rare albino cockatiels. Believe me, gentle people, turquoisines can be downright savage. The pair of turks trounced and terrified all eight of the cockatiels. It was the female turk who was the roughest. She commandeered *all* of the nest boxes — actually entered and drove the nesting cockatiels out. Needless to say, that experiment didn't last long.

Turquoisines do well on a diet of budgie mix with a few sunflower seeds



Turquoise grass parakeet (*Neophema pulchella*)

included and lots of greens. Some fruit, mostly apple, was eaten by my turks but they really relish leaves of chard, lettuce, spinach and several species of weeds I commonly feed to my birds.

For aviculturists in high density areas where noise is a problem, the *Neophemas* are ideal aviary birds. They are very quiet but do have a pleasant little chirp that I always enjoyed. A normal sized backyard (50 x 100 feet or so) could contain many beautiful flights for the various *Neophema* species without the neighbors even knowing they were there.

And believe me, dear friend, if you want to upgrade your birds and lay in a supply of big money fellows, you can

stick to turquoisines and do just that. There are several color mutations that are very costly. In fact, one of the most beautiful birds in the world is the lutino version of the turquoisine. There is also a red-bellied variety where, through selective breeding, a German breeder has extended the red, normally on the thighs only, to the point where the entire belly and breast are brilliant red.

All things considered, I believe the turquoisine to be one of the most desirable and beautiful of all aviary birds. Your collection can be enhanced by adding a few pairs of *Neophema pulchella* whose very name means beautiful. ●