

FLAMINGOS

by Sheldon Dingle
Norco, California

Flamingos are long legged, bright pink waders that make very impressive displays when seen in large flocks whether in the wild or in captivity. They are generally thought of as tropical birds but, in fact, the five species and several subspecies are found in many parts of the world, tropical and otherwise. Various species are found from Africa, the Middle East, France, Spain to the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America and even in parts of Siberia.

The cover bird is a Chilean flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*) which breeds in the central and

southern highlands of Peru and in similar regions of Chile, Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay. It winters in Tierra del Fuego.

Flamingos are wading birds that prefer brackish lakes, marshes, lagoons and coastal mud flats. They use their strange, inverted bills in sweeping movements to filter water and mud for microscopic organisms such as algae, diatoms, larvae, plant seeds, etc. The larger species may take an occasional mollusk or small fish.

The hen, with young, on the front cover is part of a breeding colony at the Greater Baton Rouge Zoo in Louisiana. ●

Nestmates Anonymous

Address all communications to Ms. Cathy Grosse, 3120 Epworth Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211. Do not write to the *Watchbird!*

I am re-listing the birds that were listed since January 1987 and adding some new hopefuls to the list. If you recognize your request in this list and no longer need a mate, please let me know, so I can update my files.

Wanted:

Male Lesser Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

(*Cacatua sulphurea* [Gmelin])

Male Green-cheeked Conure

(*Molina restricta*)

Female Illiger's Macaw

(*Ara maracana* [Vieillot])

Female Spectacled Amazon

(*Amazona albifrons*)

Female Black-capped Lory

(*Domicella Lory*) ●

OCBB Raises Funds for AFA

by Chris Christman
Garden Grove, California

The Orange County Bird Breeders, based in Garden Grove, California, recently raised over \$1,500 for the AFA. They did it by holding a special raffle, the super prize being a young, captive-raised, handfed African grey parrot. The bird was obtained from OCBB member/breeder Emma Allison. Felice Bahner took charge of caring for the bird and organizing a team of over a dozen club members who volunteered to sell raffle tickets each Saturday from the end of June to September 18th, the drawing date.

OCBB, one of the large, active clubs of southern California, has organized one of these special raffles annually for the last several years. They have donated from \$600 to \$1,600 each year to AFA as the result of their efforts. A hearty thanks goes to Felice Bahner and her dedicated team: Joan Edwards, Donna Gerber, Mark Susanka, Dave Baumgardner, Kirk Reynolds, Jill Dugan, Brandy Bennett, Jackuie Popovich, John Dickson, Bobbie Torrell, Lorraine Shelton, Henry and Peggy Kantrowigz.

More thanks go to Magnolia Bird Farm for allowing the club to display the bird and sell tickets at this point



Joan Edwards helped promote raffle ticket sales for OCBB's special fund raiser for AFA. The lucky winner of this handfed baby African grey parrot was Brad Ranson of Anaheim, CA. Over \$1,500 was given to AFA at OCBB's October 12th, '88 meeting.

of heavy "bird people" traffic.

The lucky winner of the African grey was Brad Ranson of Anaheim, California, who had just been married the day before the drawing. Rumor has it he reluctantly went on his honeymoon and, while on the trip, said he could hardly wait to get home to his bird!

The drawing took place September

18th at OCBB's Annual Bird Fair — another big event this club sponsors each fall. The check of proceeds was presented to Linda Sun, AFA southern California regional vice president, at the club's regular October 12th meeting.

Another big fund raising raffle is planned in the future to raise money for CITES. ●

Photo by Chris Christman