

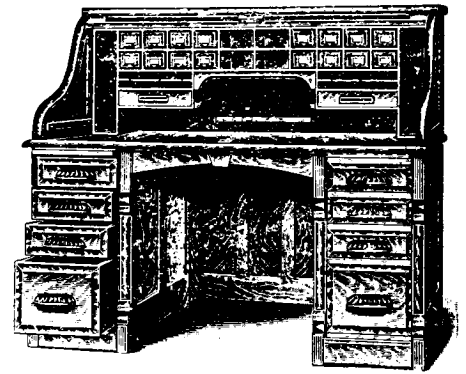
Wildlife Rehabilitation Symposium

March 22 - 26, 1989

The National Wildlife Rehabilitators' Association will hold its 8th annual symposium on March 22 - 26, 1989 at the Grand Hotel in Anaheim, California. Topics will include: veterinary advances in wild species; rescue, restraint and handling techniques; avian, reptile and mammal treatment and biology; captive breeding; wildlife urbanization; post release and population studies; cage design; conservation education programs; administration and project fundraising. Concurrent presentations will be offered for beginning, advanced and professional levels of expertise. Professional sessions will be limited to veterinarians and medical professionals. Those interested in submitting manuscripts contact: Richard H. Evans, DVM, MS, NWRA Program Chair, P.O. Box 7673, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677, phone (714) 831-1178. For other information or registration materials contact NWRA Host Committee, Pacific Wildlife Project, P.O. Box 7673, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. ●

From The Editor's Desk

by Sheldon Dingle
Norco, California



Dear Mr. Dingle:

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$40 for one year's membership for both myself and my wife. We only need one copy of *Watchbird*, so please withhold the other copy that would usually come with a membership.

I must admit, we enjoy reading *Watchbird* but not nearly as much as we used to when you wrote your super editorial comments. Why not start them up again? Sincerely, Charles A. Stutz, Jr., D.V.M.

Dear Dr. Stutz:

It's good to hear from someone with a sense of humor. Unfortunately, the AFA regime that took over August 1987 didn't

share my particular variety of humor and put some restrictions on my editorializing. Not being quick enough to tell whether I'm in or out of bounds, I've opted to flee to the hills until the revolution comes. Ed.



My dear friends, by the time you read this I will have taken my retirement as editor of *Watchbird*. I've had a long and interesting association with the AFA and the *Watchbird* beginning with the August 1974 issue — Volume 1, number 1. Indeed, Jean Hessler and I are the only two individuals left who have an unbroken record of service to the AFA from

AFA proudly presents

Western World Pet Supply Association
1445 Huntington Drive, Suite 101, Box 1337
South Pasadena, California 91030

with an

Avy Appreciation Award

for their outstanding support of AFA through their generous cash donations given over the past four years; and for providing AFA with complimentary exhibit space at WWPSA's shows and bird fairs.

The AFA Board of Directors thanks the following members of Western World Pet Supply Association:

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the beginning to the present.

But time moves on, things change. As much as I've enjoyed editing the Watchbird over the years, I find now that other priorities prevail.

Throughout the years of service, the hardest part has been trying to find out just who is the boss. There have been, over the years, transitory figures elected for this or for that who have sent occasional signals my way. But, generally, by the time the signals were clarified and expounded the sender had himself faded vaporously into history and a new electee was generating new signals. Your humble servant carried on in the vacuum.

Under the circumstances, I don't feel anyone but myself can be blamed for the general contents and philosophy of the Watchbird. Its appearance, layout and art work, of course, can be laid at Hessler's door.

But I am satisfied that the Watchbird has been a pioneer in avian publication. There have arisen two or three worthy journals that have followed the trail blazed by Watchbird. And I believe that an unbiased future will look back at the first 14 years of Watchbird and say, "Well done." I sincerely hope that we've laid a worthy foundation for future years of Watchbird to build upon. My best wishes to whomsoever the new builders may be.

In the meanwhile, the groom has the horses saddled and awaiting without. The wife and I bid you all adieu, and 'til we meet again, we're off on a well deserved gallop. Ed.



The *Watchbird*, a vision in my mind long before it manifested itself in printed form, became possible over 14 years ago, along with the concept of the AFA, through discussions between myself, Jerry Jennings, Joe Griffith, Sheldon Dingle and other AFA founding personalities.

Through the years, the *Watchbird* has been guided, shaped and structured into a unique, special interest publication that was the only one of its kind in the U.S.A.

As art director and producer of the *Watchbird*, I have enjoyed many accomplishments; however, other professional opportunities ordain my resignation from the staff. It is with regret that I announce this December '88/ January '89 issue as the final *Watchbird* to be produced by the Hessler/Dingle team.

Mary Jean Hessler, AFA Watchbird
Art Director, Aug. 1974 - Dec. 1988 ●

NOTICE — as of January 1, 1989, all correspondence intended for the editor of the *Watchbird* should be mailed directly to the AFA business office. Send to the Editor, c/o AFA, P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

EX LIBRIS

by Sheldon Dingle
Norco, California



A Monograph of Endangered Parrots

Technically speaking, this is not a book review but is rather a book preview as the volume is not yet off the presses. The forthcoming book is titled *A Monograph of Endangered Parrots* by Tony Silva, published by Silvio Mattacchione & Co., Pickering, Ontario, Canada.

Everything about *Endangered Parrots* puts it in the "collectors" category. The text, the illustrations, and the actual physical volume itself, the thing you smell, touch and lovingly turn the pages of — all these things combine, each with its own excellence, to form a volume virtually irresistible to true book lovers. And if you love parrots also, you'll be ecstatic when you finally get *Endangered Parrots* in your hands.

The text — what the book says and how it is said — is, of course, extremely important in any book. The text is an extension of the author's mind including all the education, experience, passion and prejudices thereof. In this case, these ingredients work very well together on the subject of the world's parrot populations and their current status. This says something about the author. Indeed, the author's personal interests and experiences are the very qualities that lend veracity to his text. "Aha!" you say, "How can a kid not yet 30 years old know anything about anything?" Those were my thoughts exactly until I read the text and did a minor background check on Silva.

As it happens, Silva grew up with financial resources sufficient to allow him to do more or less as he pleased. With this advantage, he chose to learn everything in the world about parrots and, I must say, he has crammed more parrot study into the past ten years than most of us can put into a lifetime.

Indeed, Silva has travelled the world over in his quest for parrot lore. When he writes of the chain-saw destruction of the rain forests you know he's gotten sawdust in his hair. When he describes how native trappers work you know he's been with them on the remote jungle trails. His search for knowledge has taken him to the wilds of Argentina and Brazil, to Paraguay and Puerto Rico, from the islands of Grand Cayman to St. Thomas

and St. Lucia. He has tramped across the highlands of Fiji and into the Australian outback. Few people have travelled so far and wide in the study of parrots in their natural habitats.

Silva is also an experienced and successful aviculturist with several first breedings to his credit and with an enviable record that includes the breeding of many species of macaws, Amazons, cockatoos, conures and assorted other psittacines.

I point out the above qualifications (a partial listing, to be sure) because I feel it is hard for a book to be better than its author's qualifications. Silva is already well established as a world class expert on parrots and is very well qualified to write on the endangered parrots of the world.

One of the hardest aspects of writing this book (according to Silva himself) was the selection of the species to include. Many species are in trouble but Silva narrowed it down to the 51 species he feels are most critically endangered and included them in the book.

The difficulties these species encounter are treated in detail in the section *Pressures on Parrot Populations*. This section is divided into "habitat" and "parrot trade" subdivisions in which Silva points out in compelling, graphic detail the worldwide destruction of the delicate ecosystems that many parrots depend on for life itself. He explains from first hand knowledge which species have been trapped to the verge of extinction. And, with his demand that trapping be stopped, he gives some viable alternatives.

Silva is not all gloom and doom. He writes about the possibility of reintroducing certain species into the wild and what can be done to ensure their survival. He also recognizes not all species *can* be reintroduced and explains in detail why not.

In the section on husbandry, Silva provides a virtual textbook on the most up-to-date and successful types of cages and aviaries, feeding techniques, aviary equipment (feed bowls, etc.) and sundry problems to watch for. The section is a comprehensive outline with