



Towel the bird in upright position and find the regenerated blood feathers. Expose the feather for harvesting.

Harvest the feather with a clean instrument.



Feather Sexing

by *Bil Parker*
Santa Fe, New Mexico

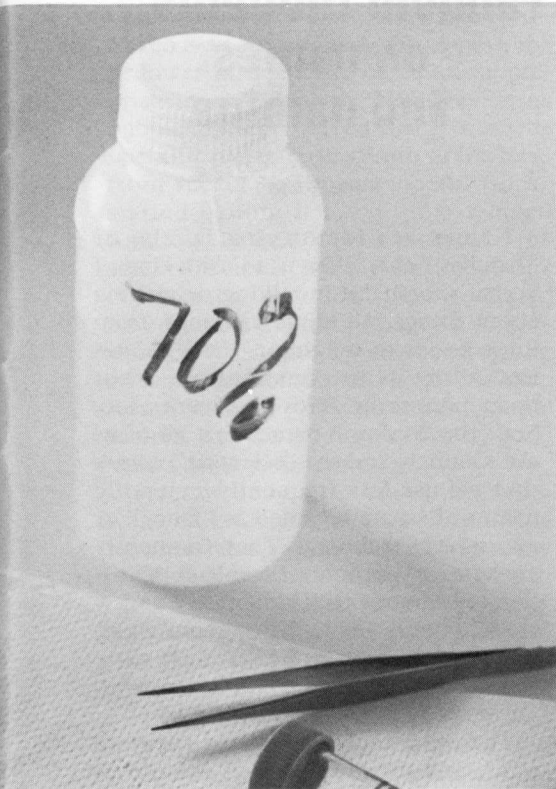
Vivigen, Inc. of Santa Fe, New Mexico, the world's largest human cytogenetics laboratory, has also developed a cytogenetic method for determination of sex in avian species, and has been commercially "sexing birds" since early 1987. This method of sex determination for birds developed from the technology already available for the detection of chromosome abnormalities in humans. Basically, cells are extracted from blood feather pulp; grown in tissue culture, harvested, and specially stained to reveal the chromosomes. The method is 100% accurate, providing the sample is properly harvested and promptly sent to the lab.

Vivigen, Inc. has, as of January 1, 1989, passed the avian genetic laboratory to Bil Parker who, with Dr. Carll Goodpasture and Gustavo Seluja, was instrumental in the original development of the "Bird Lab" at Vivigen. The new name for the company is AVIGEN and is located at the Vivigen facility at 550 St. Michael's Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

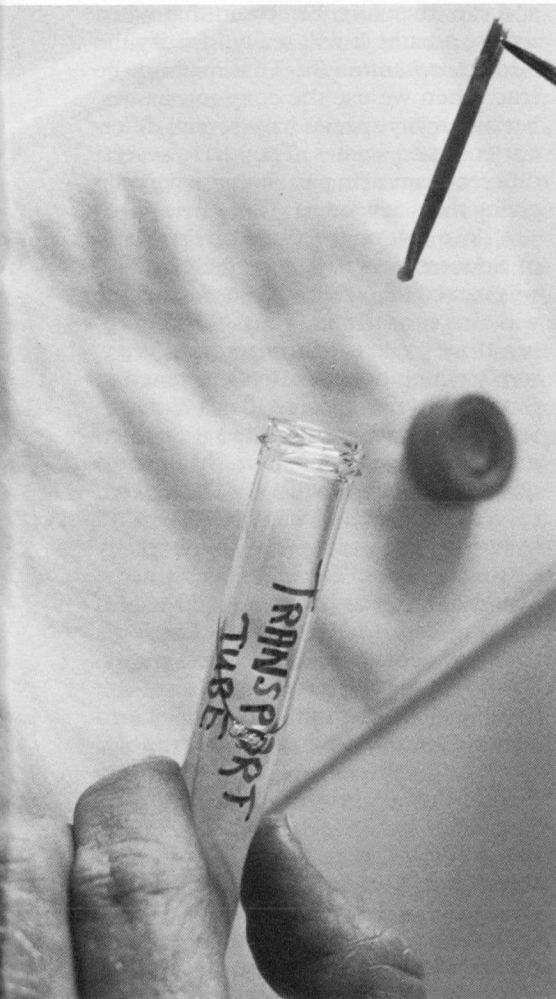
Chromosome testing for sex determination is available to the aviculturist wishing a non-invasive alternative to surgical sexing. AVIGEN supplies all submission materials and instructions. Results are available in 5 to 10 days following receipt of samples. The good news is the price for testing has dropped. For further information contact Bil Parker at AVIGEN at the above address, or call Bil at (505) 984-8720.

In the face of increasing restrictions of certain species being imported or exported and the risks of surgical sexing, AVIGEN offers another logical alternative for pairing our precious parrots to ensure their future in aviculture. ●

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70% alcohol is used for cleaning instruments and rinsing the feather after harvesting.



Place the harvested blood feather in the media-filled transport tube.



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