

# AFA in action...

# NEWS and VIEWS

JUNE 1989

## State of California Moves to License Bird Breeders

by Jerry Jennings  
Woodland Hills, California

Assembly bill #2232, introduced by Bradley of Escondido on March 10, 1989, attempts to license all bird breeders, dealers and exhibitors. To qualify for a license under AB2232, a person would have to be at least 21 years old and have apprenticed for two years under a curator at a zoo or another licensed bird breeder. The bill would further specify minimum cage sizes for parrots, finches and other birds. Minimum space for parrots was defined as a cage with six square feet of floor space, three square feet of floor space for one finch. Shipping regulations are also prescribed, requiring the height and width of the containers to be 1-1/2 times the length of the bird being shipped. Containers would require absorbent litter on the floor.

AB 2232 had its first hearing for the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on May 2nd. AFA appeared before the committee opposing the requirement for licensing of breeders, special use permits, the minimum cage sizes for parrots and finches, and the specifying of container sizes with absorbent litter on the floor (birds can ingest litter and suffer serious harm).

The bill was published on short notice after its introduction, giving AFA little time to respond. Nevertheless, California legislative liaison Laurella Desborough was able to visit a number of committee members a couple weeks prior to the hearing as well as organize a telephone campaign to get AFA members to respond in writing to oppose this bill.

**Good news** — the hearing held May 2nd was amended to exclude birds from its coverage. Needless to say, AFA members, along with bird breeders from all over California, responded to this bill and were certainly instrumental in getting "birds" dropped from its coverage. The bill has been rescheduled for hearing May 9th, as amended.

## Convention '89 Speaker Sponsorships

Many thanks to the Arizona Seedcrackers Society who is attempting to solely sponsor Mr. Joseph Forshaw's travel expenses from Australia to the AFA Convention. Also a big thank you to Dr. and Mrs. Robert Travnicek for sponsoring Mr. Jeffrey Attwood on behalf of the budgerigar societies.

There is a great need for sponsorships like these to bring us more nationally and internationally famed speakers. If your club or you personally are interested in sponsoring or co-sponsoring a speaker on behalf of AFA (remember, donations to AFA are tax-deductible), please contact Nancy Vigran, chairperson, Speaker Committee, (818) 980-4694 or write to her through the AFA Office, P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ 85079-6218.

## Ten Years Ago...

Ever wonder what AFA and its *Watchbird* magazine was like ten years ago? A brief glance into the June/July 1979 issue finds Sheldon Dingle, Jerry Jennings, Jean Hessler, Sue Reese (Dingle), Janice Pritchard and Lee Horton listed as the magazine's staff. Dr. Richard Baer was president with Lee Horton as 1st vice-president and Clifton Witt as 2nd vice-president.

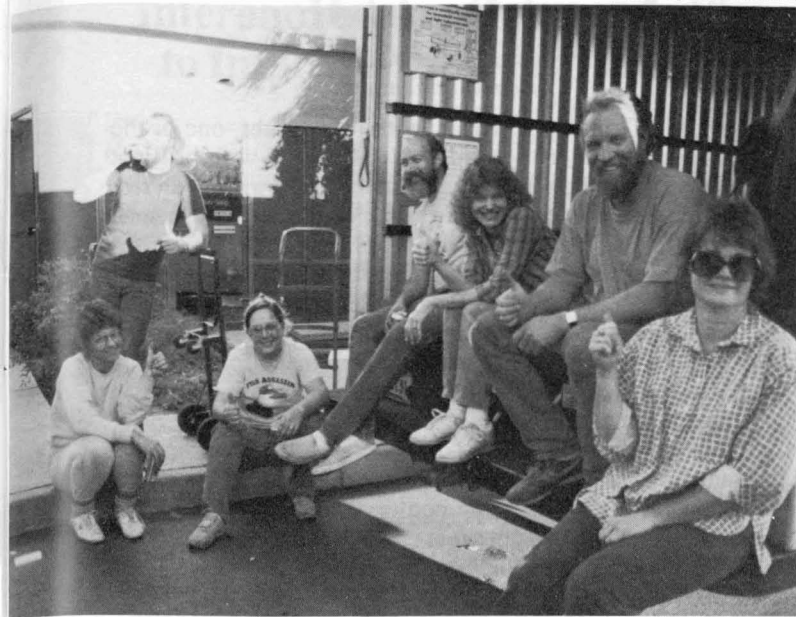
The issue contained an article on canaries and four finch articles by authors Herschel Frey, David McKelvey, Jerry Jennings and Sig Larson. Also within the issue was an article on eared pheasants by Loretta Vaughn, one on fulvous tree ducks by Francis Billie and a review on a book on Hawaiian birds by Sheldon Dingle. While the issue had no major parrot articles, it did devote a great deal of space to its 1979 Convention to be held in Hollywood, Florida. Guess some things haven't changed! For your financial amusement, a subscription to *Watchbird* was \$12.50 or \$2.50 a copy. An ad from Mendocino Birds on the back cover had birds priced close to today's prices with the exception of the Mexican species which were about half their 1989 prices... oh, the good, old days!

Photo by Davis Koffron



The Redondo Beach, California, office, pictured above, closed Friday, March 3, 1989. This humble little office (our third location) served AFA since May 1981. Prior to the Redondo Beach location our second office was in El Cajon, California from approximately December 1, 1978 through April 1981. First office was at the home of Joseph deAguiar, Huntington Beach, California, from August 1974 through November 1978.

Photo by Davis Koffron



Part of the Arizona moving crew takes a well deserved rest break. Left to right: leaning on a dolly and fading into the sunlight is Gary Clifton, seated; Sue Jordan, Diana McNabb, Steve McNabb, Barbara Koffron, Jim Emmett and Melody Emmett.

Photo by Davis Koffron



AFA's new office at 3118 West Thomas Road, #713, in Phoenix, Arizona. After a marathon weekend of long hours of driving, packing and unpacking, the doors of this new office were opened Monday, March 6, 1989.

## AFA Business Office Relocates

After more than a decade of being located in California, the AFA business office has recently relocated to Phoenix, Arizona. The mammoth task of moving the office equipment and supplies was undertaken by a group of cheery volunteers including Mark and Sunny Clarkson, Sue Jordan, Barbara and Davis Koffron, Opal and Tal Crosser, Pat and Rich Issleib, Fran and Steve Owens, Jim and Melody Emmett, Gary Clifton, Diana and Steve McNabb. Davis Koffron, AFA 2nd vice-president, presented certificates of appreciation to volunteers assisting in the move during a recent meeting of the Arizona Avicultural Society. While the future looks bright for AFA in its new location, it was only possible because of over 15 years of volunteer service by

dedicated aviculturists in California. A great deal of appreciation is due them for their endless hours of service. The new address is P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, Arizona 85079. Telephone is (602) 484-0931.

## AFA Enhances Communication With Two New Publications

Communication is the key to effective organizational management. Believing in this philosophy and with the generous assistance of two volunteers, AFA has begun to enhance its communication network with two new in-house publications. *AFA in Brief*, originally edited by Davis Koffron, is now under the editorship of Gary Clifton. Sent to all AFA-affiliated clubs and societies for publication in their bulletins and newsletters, the one page sheet highlights AFA activities and concerns. The second communication tool recently implemented is the *State Coordinator's Newsletter* being edited by Paddy Lambert. This newsletter is being sent to all state coordinators and contains a variety of items from articles on membership promotion to ways to monitor legislation. Both informal in-house publications are designed to keep the communication channels open and enhance communication. Both, however, require a great deal of effort to compile and distribute, therefore, the efforts of Gary and Paddy are greatly appreciated.

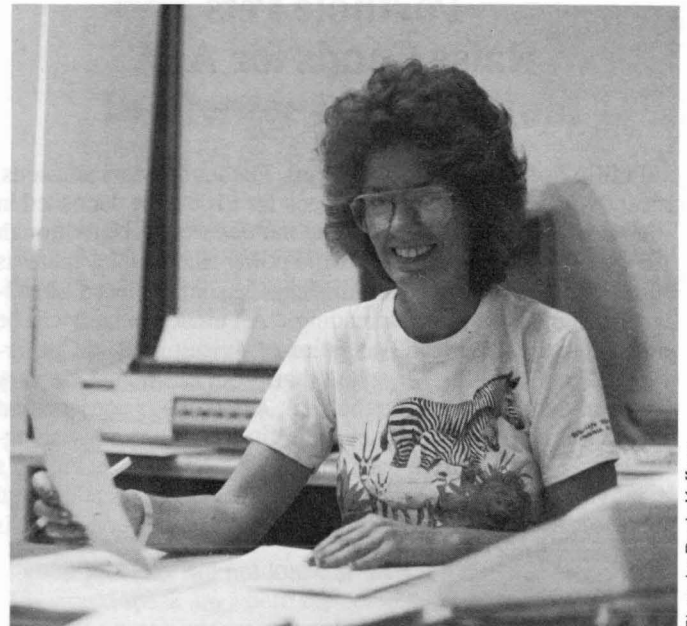


Photo by Davis Koffron

This is who the bright, professional AFA office "voice" looks like—the likeness of Sue Jordan.

## AFA Profile . . . Susan Jordan

If you have a need to call the AFA business office in Arizona, the pleasant voice answering your call will most likely be that of Sue Jordan. Sue studied art at Arizona State University and bought her first bird (grey-checked parakeet) in 1978. She has worked as secretary as well as newsletter editor for the Arizona Avicultural Society and operates Animal Ark, a pet store in Litchfield Park, Arizona. A native Arizonian, Sue lives with her husband Allan and two children Karen and Mark as well as her numerous birds and dogs. We welcome Sue as one of AFA's newest employees and hope that her relationship with AFA will be long and enjoyable.



*Young customer by the name of Barry was the first to donate change to "Porthole Pets" fishtank, turned into a collection box, for AFA's conservation fund. Sign above tank read, "All money in tank will be donated to the American Federation of Aviculture bird conservation fund."*

## Porthole Pets Raise Funds for AFA

*edited by Jack Clinton-Eitniear  
San Antonio, Texas*

Phillip Sorenson of Porthole Pets, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, recently presented AFA with a check for \$100 to be deposited in the AFA Conservation Fund. The monies were raised through the use of a Hagen Aqua Clear Mini power filter display that was turned into a wishing well. Phillip says he simply placed a hand-written sign above the tank reading, "All money in tank will be donated to the American Federation of Aviculture Bird Conservation Fund." He further stated that, "our customers are very happy to dump change into the well. Aviculture is conservation but conservation takes money." Phillip's tank-turned-wishing-well generated \$76.10 in two months. AFA appreciates Phillip's creativity and effort at raising funds and encourages additional members who own or are employed in a pet shop to consider this novel approach at fundraising.

### Thank You!

AFA would like to thank **Western World Pet Supply Association** for the donation of booth space at their spring trade show, held Saturday and Sunday, April 15 & 16, 1989, at the Bellvue Red Lion Inn, in the state of Washington. AFA received tremendous exposure before a large number of pet industry wholesalers and retailers. Thanks also goes to Washington state coordinator **June Halfon**, June's daughter **Pamala Halfon**, and **Craig Snodgrass of the Northwest Bird Society**, for manning AFA's booth for those two days.

## Love — Fear — Hope

*by Mark S. Brotherton  
Indiana Bird Fanciers*

The Lady Gouldian finch is, without a doubt, one of the Cadillac members of the bird world. Covered with brilliant colors of green, yellow, purple and blue, then crowned with red, black or orange, one will not have to ask why John Gould named this beautiful gift from God in honor of his wife. Once flourishing in the wild, a frightening occurrence is developing. The Lady Gouldian is becoming rare in its natural habitat, northern Australia. Ornithologists are not certain of the reasons but, once again, the finger is pointing toward man and his quest for industrial prosperity. Gravel pits and deposits of iron ore have Australian and foreign companies fighting for and destroying the land.

Sometimes one must stop and try to understand the stupidity of man. How can we put a man on the moon and destroy our environment all in the same century? Though I am not an extremist, I feel if we do not act at once to mend the situation we will lose the opportunity forever.

Another problem we as bird breeders face is that many people are fighting our efforts to breed and keep caged birds. Many states have placed laws in their books forbidding birds to enter their state unless bred within the United States. Other states have counties with ordinances making it illegal to breed birds altogether. Many breeders and caged bird lovers are unaware of this and more frightening is that many who are aware are not doing a thing to stop it. The American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) is the largest group to represent bird breeders, importers and pet bird owners. The AFA dispatches lobbyists to fight proposed laws unfavorable to our responsible efforts. They were instrumental in defeating a proposed law which would have made it illegal in Indiana to import animals into the state. Without the AFA our hobby would be in more danger than it is now. Even with the AFA, our hobby is in danger but, as our most effective lobbyist world-wide, we must support their efforts.

In closing, let me present the question: Are you going to let them fight alone or are you willing to join them so we can all fight together?

Please, for the hobby's sake . . . *join!*

## Information from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Permit Office

AFA has been informed by the Wildlife Permit Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that some people have been incorrectly referring to one species of macaw on Appendix I of the Convention of Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) as the "caninde macaw" or "Ara caninde." According to the Permit Office, the valid scientific name for the species which people think they are identifying as the "caninde macaw" is, in fact, the "blue-throated macaw" or "Ara glaucoglaris" which was added to the CITES Appendices on June 6, 1981. The Permit Office advised that additional confusion can arise when persons intending to describe "blue and gold macaws" ("Ara ararauna") refer to them as "caninde macaws" or "Ara caninde," so caution should be exercised in this regard as well. AFA is pleased that the Wildlife Permit Office contacted AFA to discuss this situation so that AFA could properly inform its membership and the avicultural community.

## Interior and Army Agree to Plan to Improve Waterfowl Habitat

*from the Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

The potential for conservation and improvement of thousands of acres of wetlands managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers throughout the United States will be advanced under a new agreement between the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Army.

The two Federal agencies have signed a formal pledge to work together to conserve wetlands on the more than 9 million acres managed by the Corps. The properties include wetlands in navigation and flood control projects, many of which are important waterfowl habitat. Under the agreement, the Corps and the Service will cooperate in studying additional opportunities for wetland management at the project level.

The effort is in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a project in the United States and Canada to reverse the decline of wetlands and waterfowl. The Service's National Wetlands Inventory Office currently estimates the annual loss of wetlands to be approximately 458,000 acres, mainly because of development. President Bush has said he wants "no net loss" of those resources in the future. Wetlands are essential not only for ducks and other wildlife but also for the storage and cleansing of water supplies in many areas.

The governments of the United States and Canada, states and provinces, and private conservation groups are cooperating in the continent-wide project. U.S. Federal participation in the effort is directed by the Service's North American Waterfowl Management Plan Office. The campaign's goal is to protect and enhance six million more acres of wetlands by the year 2000. Less than half of the 215 million acres of wetlands that existed in the United States before Europeans arrived remain today.

The cooperative agreement was signed by John S. Doyle, Jr., Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and Becky Norton Dunlop, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. Other Federal land management agencies that previously agreed to support the plan are the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"This agreement is another step forward in our efforts to conserve wetlands and reverse the decline of America's waterfowl," said Assistant Secretary Dunlop.

"We are pleased," said Doyle, "that the Army Civil Works Program can provide opportunities to advance this important goal of the North American Plan."

A major provision of the agreement is that the Corps and the Service will exchange information outlining civil works projects within the boundaries of the North American Plan's six joint ventures, located from coast to coast. The Corps will describe current waterfowl management activities, seasonal waterfowl use, and the potential for increasing benefits to wildlife. The Service will brief the Corps on national, regional, and local objectives and identify opportunities for improvements.

After this information is shared, the two agencies will determine how Plan activities and goals relate to present and future Corps projects. Objectives of the plan will be considered in the conception, engineering, design, and construction phases of Corps civil works projects. The agreement is effective for three years, subject to renewal and modification.

## Executive Committee and Board of Directors Meet in Dallas

A meeting of the AFA executive committee was held in conjunction with the winter regional meeting in Dallas, Texas on February 17, 1989. Only two of the fifteen ex-committee members were not present at the meeting. Highlights of the meeting included approval of a grant of \$3000 to Dr. Jack Gaskin for his studies with umbrella cockatoos, approval of a contract submitted by the new *Watchbird* staff, discussion on moving the business office to Phoenix and approval of a \$3000 donation to the Trade Monitoring Group of the IUCN.

On February 18, 1989 the AFA Board of Directors met and items discussed included: an announcement that AFA now accepts MasterCard and Visa; approval of small grants for hurricane impact studies in the Yucatan, an Andean wildlife film and a field study on the yellow-shouldered Amazon in Venezuela. Discussion as to the details surrounding the AFA siskin project and approval of the use of the AFA logo on siskin bands as well as granting \$750 as startup funds for the project was approved. Finally, the following state coordinators were approved: Danny Gonzalez (south Texas), Dick Ivy (Virginia), Cal Kimura (northern Florida), Charles Reeves (Alabama), and Ron Sweere (Oregon). Prior to the closing of the meeting the members of the nominations and elections committee were approved and a statement was made by Janet Lilienthal (legislative vice-president) as to the various bird bills and their dispositions.

## In Memory of Kay Mahi

*by Dorothy Griffith, Member  
The Exotic Bird Club of Oregon*

It has been awhile now since the passing of our friend, who was the Oregon representative for AFA for many years, and I thought it would be an honor to her to see this in print in the *Watchbird* magazine.

She loved all animals, and was very active in several Oregon bird clubs, showing her birds in numerous shows and winning many ribbons and trophies.

She represented our state very well, and was always working locally for what she believed would help to improve not only coloration but also the preservation of several different species. Last year she spoke at the symposium in Corvallis, and again did a good job. (We did not know at the time she was already ill.) Kay would speak anywhere she could to help people understand how important birds are, not only to their owners, but also to the elderly and the handicapped as well.

She was a very talented lady and several times the Exotic Bird Club of Oregon had her judge budgerigars at our show. She was a good judge because budgies were one of her favorite birds, and she was always working toward better mutations and larger sizes.

All the clubs remember Kay as a hard working lady and a very honest, loveable person.

We will all miss her for what she was, as well as for what she tried so hard to do for our feathered friends.

No one who knew her will ever forget her gentle smile or her sweet personality. Her faith that everything would be alright was a blessing to us all.

My sadness is not only because of all the above, but because I have lost a wonderful, dear and kind friend.