

**Missouri Cage Bird Association  
43rd Annual Fall Show  
November 4, 1989**

Days Inn  
15 Hill Top Village, Eureka, Missouri  
Show secretary, MCBA:  
Sandra Zak

**Central California Cage Bird Club  
36th Annual All Bird Show  
November 4 & 5, 1989**

American Legion Hall  
1001 S. Santa Cruz Ave.,  
Modesto, California  
For information call:  
Darlene Cortese  
(408) 923-1178  
P.O. Box 3000J, San Jose, CA 95156

**Six San Diego Bird Clubs  
combine to bring you their  
23rd Annual Show**

**November 10, 11, 12, 1989**

Del Mar Fair Grounds  
Mission Tower Building  
Sponsored by:  
Finch Society of San Diego  
Hookbill Hobbyists of So. Calif.  
North County Aviculturists  
San Diego Bird Breeders  
San Diego County Canary Club  
San Diego County Game Breeders  
Big bird auction to be held  
November 12, 3 p.m.  
For information contact:  
Janice Pritchard  
(619) 443-6684 eves. or  
(619) 442-1164 days  
449 W. Douglas Ave.,  
El Cajon, CA 92020

**Delaware Valley Bird Club  
of Pennsylvania  
announces our**

**34th Annual Show  
November 11, 1989**

Creamery 4H Center  
Creamery, Pennsylvania  
For information contact:  
Larry Weider (215) 234-0280  
Kris Kroner (215) 628-4143  
433 Houston Road, Ambler, PA 19002

**Mid-West Cage Bird Club  
will hold its**

**54th Annual Cage Bird Exhibition  
November 11 & 12, 1989**

at the Friendship Center  
1119 Newburgh, Westland, Michigan  
Judges:

Type Canaries - Ken Stubbart  
Color-bred Canaries - Otto Mahnke  
Foreign, Hookbills & Cockatiels -  
Conrad Meinert  
For additional information:  
Jean Wiley, show secretary  
P.O. Box 982, Wayne, MI 48184  
(313) 326-2424

**Miami Parrot Club, Inc.  
3rd Annual Cage Bird Show  
September 24, 1989  
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

# From The Editor's Desk

Dear Editor:

When two pairs of my smaller Australian parrakeets produced young, I thought that it might be wise to close-ring them since, what with the turmoil over captive birds, I could foresee being called upon to prove my birds were captive-bred, not smuggled. Accordingly, I ordered rings from an advertiser in the *Watchbird* who shipped them most promptly. They were exactly what I had in mind, numbered 01 through 25, contained my initials and the year.

At 12 days of age I slipped rings no. 01 through 04 onto the right legs of the brood in one aviary and thought smugly that I had short-circuited any potential problems, at least with this lot.

Wrong! On 4/25 at 0930 the first chick, a female wearing ring 03, exited the nest. At 1400 on the same day, a male (01) emerged. Two days later, on 4/27, the third (04) abandoned ship, followed an hour later by the fourth and last one (02).

On 4/30, a Saturday, I noticed that no. 04 seemed to have difficulty standing on perches so I caught him up to examine him. He was unable to use his right leg, it hung uselessly, and I resolved to take him to the vet on Monday, which I did.

When I caught him up to transport him I saw that his ring was gone and I remarked upon this to my wife, wondering how this was possible.

The vet found that one toe was necrotic (it was removed), the leg was broken high up, and there was considerable tissue damage. She also pointed out two grooves in the flesh that looked to me to be much like those in softwood perches that I push through the 1/2" x 1" wire mesh, then rotate to groove them to prevent them becoming dislodged. After she completed her ministrations, I took the bird home and, since he still requires his parents to feed him, placed him once again in the flight where they fed him at once.

Later that same day, about 1800, I noticed that no. 02, the last to leave the nest, was also holding her right leg awkwardly. As I write this I await the opening of the vet's office so that I can take her in for treatment. I'm reasonably certain that it will be a repeat of the injury sustained by her brother.

It seems too much coincidence that both birds have injured the ring-bearing leg — I'm satisfied that the rings somehow cause the injury, perhaps by the bird's foot and leg passing through the wire mesh from which it cannot be withdrawn, the edge

of the ring catching on the wire and holding it fast. Only after the legbone breaks and the bird can no longer move it does it fall loose and slip back through.

The bottom line is that I'll ring no more birds. Perhaps some design flaw by the rings' manufacturer contributes to this type injury. I hope that it never becomes necessary to prove that my birds were, indeed, captive born because there'll be only my word and the entries I make in my log to verify it. If anyone else has any solution to this or any thoughts on the matter, I solicit them.

Phil Overhage  
Arizona

*Dear Phil:*

*We are sorry to hear of the injuries suffered by your birds, and concur future ringing of that species is inappropriate. You did not specify the species, and some are highly prone to leg injuries, especially Australian Red Caps, bands or not.*

*Recent legislation in New York state requires closed leg bands on all species sold in that state that are not on a list of exempt species, which includes only species thought by that state's authorities to be commonly bred in captivity. Unless you are in New York, sell in New York, or your birds are on their exempt list, I would refrain from banding if injuries are sure to follow.*

*Close banding is appropriate, however, for numerous species to demonstrate they were hatched in captivity, and may be especially significant in captive reared birds of species commonly found in and smuggled from Mexico, such as Double Yellow Headed, and Green Cheeked Amazons, or Military Macaaws!*

*Sincerely,  
Ed. (J. Jennings)*



Dear AFA:

I read about your proposal of a captive breeding program in *Bird Talk* magazine. I am absolutely all for it. I'm always glad to hear that someone's putting forth an effort for our severely suffering wildlife.

Sincerely,  
Laura K. Kenn

Dear Editors:

I am writing you concerning the AFA breeding facility. I have been reading about the facility in *Watchbird*, and feel it is an excellent idea. I have often thought of one on a state level, but a national one is even better.

As I started with birds, they were just another animal I have had interest in as a child. As I grew older, I realized that I have become interested in birds more than any other animal I have had as pets. This interest compelled me to learn more about birds by joining national organizations, and eventually a job in a pet shop that had an extensive bird collection. I then began breeding and thinking about the money I could make from birds. Then I was faced with legislation and that would prohibit this — I am a resident of Pennsylvania. I then became involved in this fight and became friends with our AFA State Rep. Brenda Geesey. Her knowledge and wisdom put me on a new course, breed for the best, help aviculture and conserve birds. Her talk at the Bird Ban Hearing was marvelous. Her words were inspiring.

Now, I am an AFA member, along with a large number of other clubs. My interest in birds is increasingly taking over my life, and I think it is great. Although I am pursuing a degree in business, I would prefer to work with birds for a career. The AFA facility seems ideal. I know this is way in the future, but when the facility is built, and I know it will be, I will offer my services to AFA as a keeper or whatever else you need. I know it will not pay much, but the experience is worth more than money. My experience is not at its peak yet, but I'm sure you won't find a person with more drive than me.

Keep up the excellent work you all are doing with AFA and all its projects. If you can ever use my assistance, please feel free to contact me, I am always more than willing to help.

Sincerely,  
Jerry McCawley

Dear Jerry,

*Thank you for your support of AFA's many activities and I hope to see you as an AFA volunteer either at our proposed breeding facility or elsewhere within the organization. Our president recently issued a fund raising letter for the breeding facility feasibility study. I hope everyone gets on board with their tax-deductible contributions.*

Ed. (J. Jennings)



Dear Editors,

According to the letter from Flo Horrell of the Mid America Cage Bird Society (p. 22, *Watchbird*, April/May 1989), that club is releasing cage birds (assorted finches and canaries) on the grounds of the Botanical Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Your (J.J.) editorial comment not only endorsed that action but urged other clubs to emulate it.

Does this indicate that it is now the policy of AFA to encourage the deliberate release of exotic birds into the United States?

Sincerely,  
Richard C. Banks  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Museum of Natural History  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Banks:

*Please let me reassure you that neither the AFA nor I encourage or condone the release of exotic birds into the United States.*

*The release of birds described by Flo Horrell of the Mid America Cage Bird Society was not on the grounds of the Botanical Center in Des Moines, Iowa, but inside a closed greenhouse containing tropical plants. The birds are prevented from escape to the outside, and are maintained in a "zoo" environment.*

Sincerely yours,  
Jerry Jennings, Editor

Dear Mr. Jennings,

Thank you for your letter of May 6, 1989 clarifying the matter of the release of cage birds by the Mid America Cage Bird Society in Des Moines, noting that it was in a closed greenhouse and, in effect, a zoo environment.

Thank you also for stating firmly your policy regarding the release of exotic birds in the United States, that the AFA neither encourages nor condones such releases. I would have been very surprised if the policy had been anything else. I hope that no one else misinterprets the response to Ms. Horrell's letter.

I enjoy going through the AFA *Watchbird* as it arrives. Both the organization and the magazine have come a long way in the last 15 years. I know that you, as president in the early years and stepping in now on the editorial committee, have a lot to do with that progress.

Sincerely,  
Richard C. Banks



To the Editor's Desk:

In the April/May '89 issue of the *Watchbird* there was a request for information on organizations dealing with birds of prey. I'm always late on my reading so you may already have had responses to this letter. If not, this report on the Peregrine Fund may be of some help.

I do want to say I was really surprised the AFA didn't already have knowledge of this existing organization regarding these birds. It seems I've read articles on so many various kinds of birds in the magazine that the AFA would also at least be aware of this one. Birds of prey are part of our country's natural resources and national heritage and are as threatened as so many other species of wildlife are.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Pat Weber  
Spicewood, Texas

Dear Mr. Jennings:

In the April/May edition of *Watchbird*, you asked for help for Mr. William Jones in regards to falconry clubs, publications, etc. Perhaps you could forward this information to him.

#### Organizations

The Peregrine Fund  
World Center for Birds of Prey  
5666 West Flying Hawk Lane  
Boise, Idaho 83709  
(They specialize in captive breeding of falcons from around the world.)

North American Falconers Assn.  
Kenneth Filkins, Membership Secty.  
506 S. 14th Street  
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501  
(The organization for practicing falconers.)

In addition, nearly every state has a state organization of falconers. You can get their names from NAFA.

Or you may want to try the following for books:

Wayne F. Pennington  
19492 Cheshire Street  
Rialto, California 92376

North American Falconry &  
Hunting Hawks  
P.O. Box 1484  
Denver, Colorado 80201

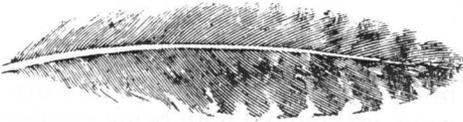
Sincerely,  
Ronald W. Miller  
Ohio

Dear Mr. Weber and Mr. Miller:

Thank you for your letters and information and addresses on the Peregrine Fund and North American Falconers Association.

While we are aware of these fine organizations, we did not have addresses available for them, as our general focus is on exotic birds, rather than native North American species, since the latter are unavailable to most aviculturists, unless rigorous permit requirements are met.

Sincerely,  
Ed. (J. Jennings)



To the Editor:

Correction on page 57, June/July issue of *Watchbird*. Photograph is a fledgling Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*).

A subscriber to *Watchbird*

Dear Editor:

The article "The Fledging of an Evening Grosbeak" by Ron Mackie in the June/July issue of the AFA *Watchbird* was a delightful story of Mrs. Clark's experience with a grosbeak. BUT, it was *not* an Evening Grosbeak — not even close! That cute picture accompanying the story was that of a Black-headed Grosbeak.

Evening Grosbeaks (females) are silvery gray with just enough yellow, black and white to be recognizable. The Black-headed Grosbeaks are one of my favorite birds, seen in large numbers in our Arizona White Mountains when we camp out "up there." Their song is a beautiful warble — a lot like a robin.

I am positive of this correction. If there is doubt in your mind, consult Roger Tory Peterson's "Field Guide to Western Birds."

Sincerely,  
Bobbie Sessions  
Higley, Arizona

Thank you both for the well-deserved forty lashes. The author of the Grosbeak article did mis-identify the bird which is, indeed, a Black-headed Grosbeak per Peterson's Guide. We didn't even get Grosbeak (sic) spelled right. It's always something!

And, to our anonymous "subscriber." You, kind sir, are a "member," not a subscriber, of the AFA. Members receive *Watchbird* free as a benefit of membership, along with many other benefits including representation in legislative hearings, discounts on conference registrations, and a Silver Mastercard, among others.

Sincerely,  
Ed. (J. Jennings)

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