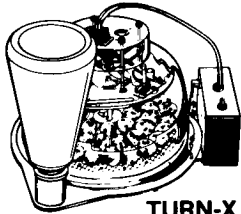
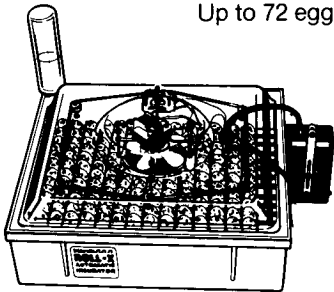


Marsh Farms INCUBATORS

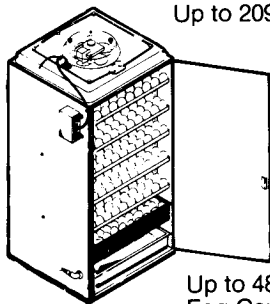
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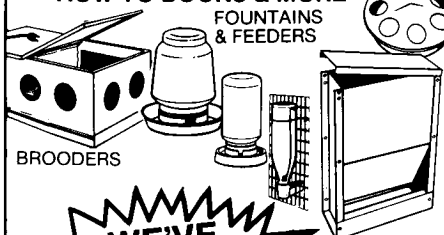
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Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Jennings:

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the article on Mr. Walter Moe and his finches in the August/September issue of *Watchbird*. I have a number of questions and I hope you will be able to assist me.

1. Looking through all my catalogs, I do not see the feeder that is shown on Walter's cages listed anywhere. Can you provide a source to contact?

2. The perch holders look unique also, and I was unable to find them either.

3. Looking at your photographs, it appears the backs and sides are opaque plastic, but the top appears to be the same as sheet metal. Wouldn't the top be translucent?

4. If each cage is individual, does that refer to housing or the cage itself? I see the side brackets for holding the plastic but see nothing for holding the bottoms or attachment to the plastic back. How is that done? I'm amazed!

5. The wire on the front of the cage looks like a single piece for all cage fronts. Does it attach to the plastic sides? If so, how? Can the plastic be removed from the front to give it a 64" length?

I have over 200 hundred finches and canaries. I am converting my garage to a breeding room and after looking at many setups, this is the one I think is fantastic. We really enjoy your work for *Watchbird* and appreciate your time and effort that is put forth to set out such a fine product.

Thanks!
Sincerely,
Robert & Shari Gibson

Dear Robert and Shari:

I am glad you enjoyed the Moe aviary visit, and that you ran out of questions. Whew! The Moe cage system was designed by Walter Moe, who authorized Erect Easy Wire Co. to market the product under the name "Stoddard Hotel." All the attachments, i.e. perches, feeders, etc. are available from Erect Easy. The backs and sides are opaque plastic

and the top is sheet metal. The top of one row serves as a tray below the bottom of the next higher tier. Each cage is individual in the sense that it houses one pair of birds, each of which is visually isolated from neighboring pairs. Bottoms are attached by using a very short carriage bolt on the wire, which can easily be detached to remove the bottom. The plastic back has a small, opaque plastic bracket glued to the plastic. The wire front is one continuous piece held in place by a plastic bracket.

Sincerely, ED.



Dear Sir:

As editor of the "Parikieten-Revue," the Flemish Revue of the Belgian Parrot Society (Belgische Parkieten Vereniging) I would like to get some information from you.

How much does your Revue cost in foreign countries? Would you be interested in an exchange of our revues? Ours is inferior to yours, but it appears monthly.

Would you give us the permission to translate one or several of your articles to publish it in our Revue? Would you give the permission to reproduce one of your photos and how much do you ask for one photo?

Awaiting your answer, I thank you for your help.
Yours faithfully,
Erik Holvoet

Dear Erik:

Thank you for your interest in our "Revue," the AFA *Watchbird*. You may receive *Watchbird* by joining AFA for \$20 annually plus \$8.00 for foreign postage and handling.

It would not be practical for us to exchange publications, but thanks for the offer.

We only allow member clubs to reprint articles from *Watchbird* on a regular basis, and require credit be given to the *Watchbird*. We would be willing to extend this courtesy to you on a "per request" basis, provided you advise us in advance, since

many of our authors may not approve of their material appearing in other journals without their permission. If you let us know which article, we could advise you. Again, as to the sale of photos, this would depend on which photo you have in mind. Please let us know, and we will endeavor to assist you.
Sincerely yours, ED.



Editors:

Thank you for printing the address by Jorgen Thomsen to the AFA banquet (Oct/Nov '89). I find his arguments very persuasive. In fact, it had occurred to me before that the valid claim of the AFA that some imports are necessary for responsible aviculture and conservation is insufficient to justify the present large scale importation of birds for the pet trade. I would be interested in reading the AFA Board's response to Mr. Thomsen's address, specifically his suggestion that the AFA take the lead in "a program to gradually reduce wild bird imports, except as needed for captive breeding and species survival programs." Such an exception might allow, even encourage, taking some birds from areas scheduled for immediate destruction.

Sincerely,
Lynne Page

Dear Lynne:

Thank you for your comments on Mr. Thomsen's address.

While the AFA Board has not specifically discussed Mr. Thomsen's banquet address, his ideas have found an ear in AFA's policy on international trade of birds, as detailed in our recently published CITES Special Issue (Fall 1989). In fact, Mr. Thomsen has sat in on and advised the AFA CITES Committee as well as the AFA Conservation Committee.

It would appear that the best way to regulate trade is through CITES in terms of both the number and variety of species in trade and the quantity of individuals of any species allowed in trade, since CITES allows in trade only species that can sustain a particular level of harvest.

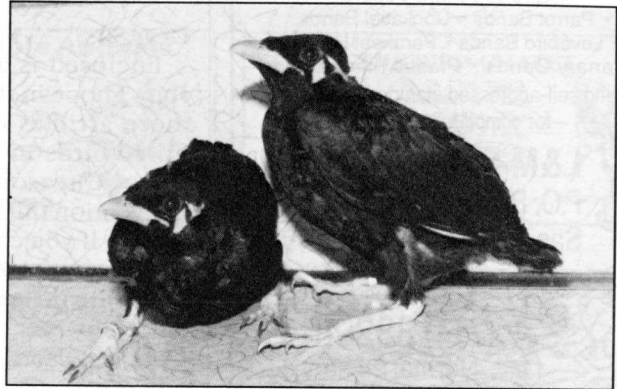
Further, as American aviculturists increase the production of domestic, hand-fed birds, which make far superior pets, the demand for wild-caught birds will diminish and eventually disappear from the pet

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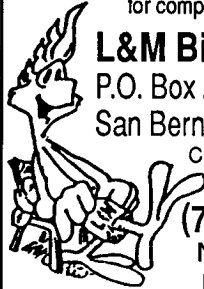
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trade. It is, therefore, in the best interests of conservation for us to refine and improve our husbandry techniques and efficiency. Naturally yours, ED.



Dear Sirs:

Enclosed is a check for membership. I hope in the future there will be more articles on finches and soft-billed birds in your magazine. This was the reason I didn't attend the convention this year.

Also, if you could send me information about the Siskin sub-committee's activities, I'd appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Douglas Olson

Dear Mr. Olson:

Thanks for your membership and we hope you will find more articles on finches and soft-billed birds, which we are struggling to provide.

You may inquire directly to Jack Clinton-Eitniar at area code (512) 828-5306 for information on the Siskin sub-committee. Their activities are reported from time to time in the "Conservation Update" published in Watchbird.

Sincerely, ED.



Dear AFA editors:

I just received my "Golden Conure" print (signed and numbered by artist Jim Hayward). *It is beautiful!* The birds are grouped in an authentic pose, the colors are vibrant, the background scenery provides a lush finishing touch. *Please* sponsor more fine art prints through the *Watchbird!* My friends and I would love to support AFA through purchase of promotional or other items (posters, T-shirts, bumper stickers, and more). What's available?

Thanks,
Gail Gatewood-Colwell

Dear Gail:

Come on down to the AFA store! We will be happy to sell you anything you need — even the Brooklyn Bridge! Personally, I'll take Manhattan for a few beads.

Every now and then, appearing in Watchbird or on the dust jacket is a list of all the items we offer for sale. We have a number of posters, including one featuring all the cockatiel mutations, Leadbeater Cockatoos,

and a collage of bird photos on a poster entitled "Get to Know Your Birds."

We will continue to support art and the artist and strive to provide quality to our membership.

If you are holiday shopping and need a quick list of items in our larder, call the business office in Phoenix at (602) 484-0931. Our friendly staff is eager to assist you. How about a pair of Scarlet Macaw earrings (replicas, of course!)?
Enterprisingly yours, ED.



Dear Editor:

The following quote was made in Ed Lawrence's article, "Siamese Firebacks" (*Watchbird*, Feb/Mar 1989, p. 25): *"Unfortunately, this is one of the selective mechanisms that is operative in all aviculture, so that the least colorful species of birds are the ones that are likely to quietly go into extinction, simply because no one is particularly attracted enough to them to be willing to put in the time, effort and expense necessary for preservation, no matter how endangered they may be."*

Rosemary Low made similar statements with regard to the Vasa Parrots, which have a dull black coloration (*Watchbird*, Apr/May 1989, p. 30).

Would it be possible to get a listing of birds of all types (hookbills, seed-eaters, softbills) which fit the above category, namely, birds that are in need of captive breeding because of their current or imminent status in the wild, but are neglected by professional breeders due not to difficulty in breeding or unavailability in the U.S., but to a lack of interest (lack of eye appeal and consequent saleability).

Such a list would be very helpful in aiding the amateur or hobbyist breeder to determine where his efforts are best directed.

Sincerely,
Raymond V. Puzio

Dear Mr. Puzio:

Thank you for your letter but, unfortunately, there aren't any lists readily available to meet your needs.

It seems that, in the main, the uncolorful species are not the ones imported and, therefore, not available to the aviculturist in general. The positive side to this is that there is, therefore, no pressures on their populations attributable to the

international pet trade. Those "non-trade" species fitting Mr. Lawrence's description, i.e. threatened or endangered, or protected by a variety of national and international laws, makes their import quite difficult.

As to those species now in captivity in the U.S. that fit the bill, perhaps Mr. Lawrence will enlighten us in a future letter to this column.
Evasively yours, ED.



To my dear friends at AFA,

I've made a corporate decision . . . every time I sell a bird, I'm giving the purchaser a one-year subscription/membership to AFA.

I'm sure they'll re-up after the year runs out, but perhaps that can be considered me doing my "bit."

Now, to get myself to the point where I'm selling lots of birds, as well as breeding, and holding back babies . . . then I'll feel good about myself, and who knows, maybe if I start the ball rolling, we can get other breeder types to do the same.

It's really a small enough amount to pay, considering what baby birds sell for! (And, of course, it could even be included in the price of the bird, which isn't the way I'm doing it, but . . .)

At any rate, I enjoyed the August convention, the networking was well worth the entire trip, which is a side benefit to the program itself!

I met loads of really knowledgeable people and trading information, especially for someone really new at this such as myself, is invaluable.

Plus, of course, one of my photos won honorable mention (the Severe Macaws!)

Be well, and enclosed is my personal check (the business checking account is having a computer problem the past week, so I don't want to take a chance on anything bouncing. I'd look super stupid after trying to do a good turn!)

Sincerely,
Nancy Neil
President, Fancy Feathers

Dear Nancy:

Thank you for sharing a wonderful way for our members to support the AFA and its many programs. We are very appreciative of your efforts and your past generosity on behalf of the Federation.

ED. ●

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Wednesday, August 9

- B1 Board of Directors Meeting — AFA Business, Thomas C. Marshall, Presiding
- B2 Board of Directors Meeting (continued)
- B3 Board of Directors Meeting (continued)
- B4 Board of Directors Meeting (continued)
- B5 Terry Johnson, Non-game Branch Supervisor, Arizona Game & Fish Department addresses the Board on Thick-billed Parrots

Thursday, August 10

- B6 Introductions & Keynote Address by *Mickey Ollson*
- B7 Avian Facility of Birds International by *Antonio M. DeDios & Peter Hill, DVM*
- B8 Macaw Breeding & Conservation by *Joanne Abramson*
- B9 C.I.T.E.S. Conference on International Trade in Endangered Species by *Mrs. Lee Phillips*
- B10 Softbills for the Working Aviculturists by *Richard Schmidt*
- B11 Husbandry & Breeding of Pheasants by *Mike Cunningham*
- B12 Wildlife Rehabilitation by *Cathy Ingram, DVM*
- B13 Eclectus Parrots by *Laurella Desborough*

Friday, August 11

- B14 Beak & Feather Disease Update by *Branson Ritchie*
- B16 Working with Pionus by *John Stoodley*
- B17 "Finch Save," the Future of Finch Species by *Bill Parlee*
- B18 Understanding the British Exhibition Budgerigar by *Jeffrey Attwood*
- B19 Pesquet's Parrots by *Mike Cunningham*
- B20 Basic Avian Genetics by *Darrel Styles, DVM*
- B21 Touraco Husbandry by *Richard Schmidt*
- B22 Currasow Conservation & Aviculture by *Andrea Ouse*

Saturday, August 12

- B23 Lories & Lorikeets by *John Vanderhoof*
- B24 A Study of Amazons by *John Stoodley*
- B25 Reintroduction of Thick-billed Parrots in Arizona by *Noel Snyder*
- B26 Budgerigar Workshop by *Jeffrey Attwood*
- B27 Breeding of Spix' Macaw, Golden Conure & Other Endangered Species by *Antonio M. DeDios*
- B28 Uncommon Lovebirds in Aviculture by *Rainer Erhart*

Sunday, August 13

- B29 Reproductive Anatomy & Physiology by *Scott McDonald, DVM*
- B30 Preventative Veterinary Medical Management by *Robert Clipsham, DVM*
- B31 Selected Problems in Psittacine Pediatrics by *Susan Clubb, DVM*
- B32 Psittacine Nutrition by *Joel Murphy, DVM*
- B33 Anti-Microbial Therapy by *Keven Flammer, DVM*
- B34 Papillomas in Psittacine Birds by *Scott McDonald, DVM*
- B35 First Aid & Bandaging Techniques for Aviculturists by *Susan Clubb, DVM*
- B36 Treatment of Chlamydiae by *Keven Flammer, DVM*
- B37 Avian Fungal Diseases by *Joel Murphy, DVM*
- B38 The Use of Disinfectants in Aviaries by *Robert Clipsham, DVM*
- B39 Cockatiel Husbandry by *Dale R. Thompson*
- B40 Avian Nursing Care by *Nanci Vandergrift*
- B41 Hand Feeding by *Maralyn Stocker*
- B42 Finch Husbandry by *Nancy Vigran*

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