

# *AFA in action...* **NEWS and VIEWS**

AUGUST 1992

## Sun Seed is an Official Sponsor of American Federation of Aviculture



## The Club Connection Mid-America Cage Bird Society

by Nancy L. Vigran

The Sun Seed Company, Inc., of Bowling Green, Ohio has been named an official sponsor of the American Federation of Aviculture and will dedicate a portion of its company profits to the AFA's work in the bird industry.

In a joint announcement by Sun Seed President Les Gonda and AFA President Jack Clinton-Eitnrear, the sponsorship is hailed as "an important step toward promoting a new level of education and awareness in this very significant field."

"This is another way of underscoring our position as a company of bird owners for bird owners," Gonda says, "and we're proud to take this step forward."

In addition to its continuing educational programs for both the industry and the general public, Clinton-Eitnrear says the AFA plans to expand the number of AFA breeding consortiums and to encourage its affiliated clubs to choose a species and begin a breeding consortium as well. Such programs will allow future aviculturists and pet owners access to variety of genetically diversified species.

In a related step, Sun Seed has donated 250 pounds of bird seed to the AFA to assist in a program of releasing some 60 Amazon parrots back into the Mexican wilds after they were confiscated on the Mexican side of the Texas-Mexico border as smugglers were attempting to bring them into this country illegally.

"This is a continuing problem and one we will continue to work on," Clinton-Eitnrear adds, "this smuggling has a serious impact on the industry, including health hazards for many species."

In support of its sponsorship of the AFA, Sun Seed will display the association's seal and a statement of sponsorship on Sun Seed bird products.

Packaging will also list the AFA address, and an invitation to write the association for more details on its membership and its work.

AFA membership numbers some 6,000 individuals and 250 bird clubs throughout the United States, Clinton-Eitnrear reports. ●

**Meeting Location:** Botanical Center, 909 East River Drive, Des Moines, Iowa

**Meeting Date:** Fourth Sunday of every month.

**Contact for more information:** Flo Horrell, 5800 Francis, Des Moines, IA 50322, (515) 277-1956, or Ermafern Collins, 304 Kelley, Dallas Center, Ia 50063, (515) 992-3539.

**General Information:** As the name implies, the Mid-American Cage Bird Society meets in the central part of the country in Des Moines, Iowa. With dues being a mere \$10 per family annually, the MACBS boasts a membership of 150 to 200 members a year. The MACBS is a cagebird club and membership includes both breeders and pet owners, keeping finches to macaws. Speakers include veterinarians, accomplished breeders and fellow members sharing ideas which they have found to be successful.

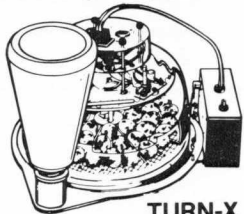
**Activities and Special Events:** The MACBS holds four bird shows per year. Three mini shows, held in March, May and August are practice, exhibition shows. Over thirty tables of birds are set up and the public is invited where members help to educate them about exotic birds. In October, the MACBS holds a licensed judge show with 750 to 1,000 entries. MACBS is associated with many national clubs including the National Color-Bred Association, National Finch and Softbill Society, Society of Parrot Breeders and Exhibitors, American Cockatiel Society, African Lovebird Society and the American Buderigar Society and entries at the October show can earn points in their appropriate national organizations.

In July, the MACBS holds a summer barbeque at a member's home (usually the President's) and in December, they have a Christmas party at their regular meeting hall.

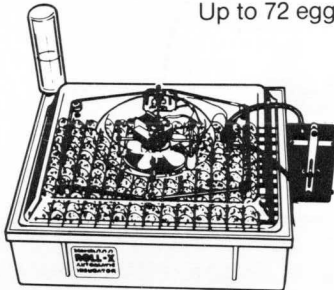
**Editorial Note:** The Club Connection was designed to let members of A.F.A. know what regional clubs are available to them, and to give clubs ideas and a chance to learn from what other clubs do. If your club is a member club of A.F.A. and would like to be highlighted in the Club Connection, please send information with a contact person's name and phone number to: Nancy Vigran, c/o A.F.A., P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ 85017. ●

## Marsh Farms INCUBATORS

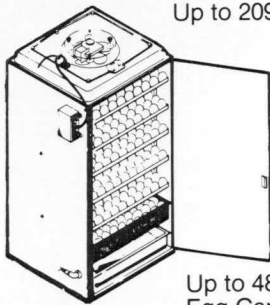
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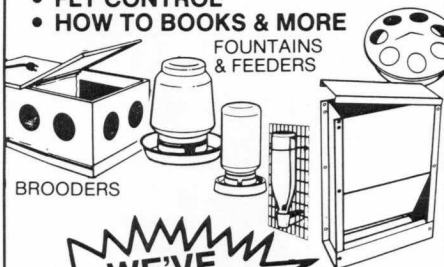
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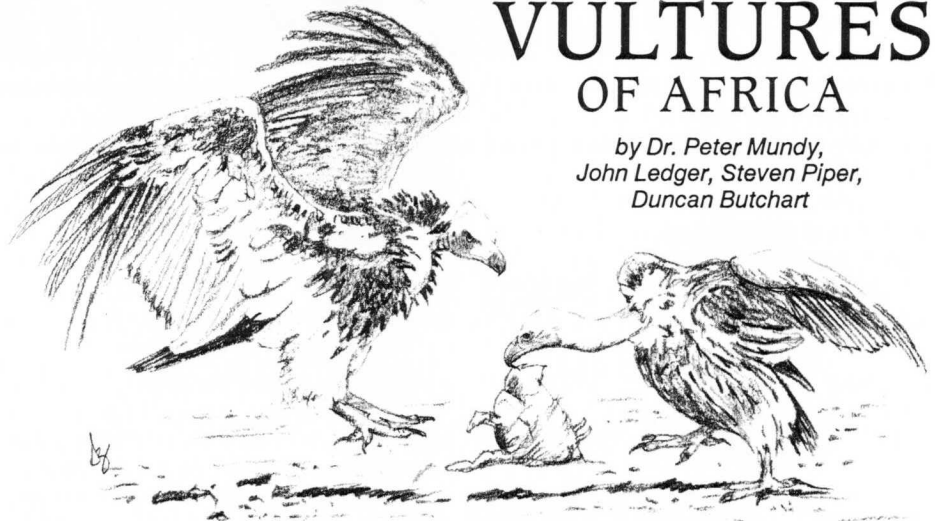


# EX LIBRIS

reviewed by Jack Clinton-Eitnrear

## THE VULTURES OF AFRICA

by Dr. Peter Mundy,  
John Ledger, Steven Piper,  
Duncan Butchart



Acorn Books and Russel Friedman Books, in association with the Vulture Study Group, are pleased to announce the publication of a major new and fully illustrated monograph. For the first time, all eleven species are presented in an authoritative account that will rank as one of the most important ornithological works on these fascinating yet threatened birds.

Vultures have always evoked a strong response in people, whether it be one of reverence, as in the ancient Egyptians or the present-day "vulture-watchers", or of aversion, as shown by some of the explorers and hunters of the last century. In this book, Dr. Peter Mundy and his fellow authors set out to answer every conceivable question on the biology and lifestyles of these birds, in a text that is a refreshing departure from traditional bird monographs in terms of its lively and contentious style. The book, nevertheless, remains comprehensive in its approach and is full of new insights from a combination of the authors' personal experiences and a thorough review of all the available literature.

The book is divided naturally into four parts. First, the vultures are introduced, from the evolutionary standpoint, both globally and in an African context, so that the world's 22 species are grouped and defined. Then, the African vultures are placed under the spotlight. Each species' account encompasses the history of the bird's discovery, its complete

identification, distribution and preferred habitats. Its behavior, foraging and feeding, breeding, and current conservation status are examined in detail. The third part reveals the diversity within this group of scavenging birds by taking a comparative look at their foraging, feeding, socialising and breeding habits. The final section documents the interrelationship of vultures and humans in Africa, and modern-day conservation issues and strategies are discussed in depth.

Each species is superbly illustrated by Duncan Butchart in a watercolor painting of the adult in its habitat. Over 100 of his pencil sketches also adorn the text. More than 130 photographs, many by leading wildlife photographers, capture the birds throughout the continent: we see them flying, feasting or fighting at a carcass, in "threat" postures, or relaxing after feeding, on their nests and rearing their young, and, through the eyes of history, in the paintings of the San and of the ancient Egyptians. A unique feature is the reproduction of eighteenth and nineteenth century "type specimen" paintings. In addition, numerous maps and diagrams lend visual immediacy to the absorbing text.

This is a book that all bird enthusiasts, conservationists and ornithologists have been waiting for, and one that will amply reward both the informed reader and the collector of fine works of Africana. This book will be available in the fall of 1992 from *Academic Press*. ●