



# PUBLIC EDUCATION

## EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOM

by Roger Talley



Roger Talley

The Classroom Study Guide is nearly complete. The first section will be ready for publishing in the June issue of the Watchbird.

I've had a lot of help from friends, much support from the A.F.A., and the Finch Society of San Diego County. My own 5th grade students have been most valuable in helping me work out certain parts of the program. The boys were very interested in a cage building project. It gave them

an opportunity to use tools, like a plane, hammer, saw, ruler, and paint. The girls were very interested in a project designed to help students observe certain behavioral instincts of birds. They were most fascinated with the nest construction, who was involved and what materials were preferred. The length of time spent in constructing the nest was only one of many observations.

Other subjects of observation being built into the study guide are: how birds keep clean, their feeding habits, social orders, language, breeding, territorial establishment, courtship ceremonies, songs, signaling for food, and family protection.

It is my earnest hope that everyone will be able to derive some good from the study guide — not just our youngsters in the classrooms. Perhaps a few new techniques for future research in aviculture. Perhaps better bird breeders for tomorrow.

It's the only way to fly! ■

## READING, WRITING, AND BIRDS

by Roger Schwalm

The South Coast Finch Society has put together an educational program in an effort to interest and educate people in birds.

Club members have shown great enthusiasm by donating birds for the units used in the school classrooms and by giving their time in placing the units in the schools.

Each unit consists of a cage, a pair of finches, and all items needed for their care. Eleven of these units have already been placed by the members and more are planned.

The birds are enjoyed by students and teachers. The children learn how to feed the birds and clean their cages. There is always a waiting line to do these chores.

We are anxious for the AFA to finish its study program as the students and teachers have many questions about their new friends ■

## NATURE AT WORK

by Liz Snyder

Orange County Bird Breeders educational project has had a successful year. Over one thousand students have been able to observe the birds. This year, instead of introducing new birds to expand the program, the offspring are helping to do the job. Sixteen units of birds are located in five schools at this time, and expansion of the project to more schools is anticipated.

This is the first opportunity that many of the children have had to observe the breeding process of living organisms, to see the eggs being hatched and young reared.

The Zebra Finch are offering more for the children to see, since the 'Budgies' seem to prefer larger groups of their own kind to stimulate breeding activity. There are exceptions though — one unit of Budgies has laid eggs in the nesting box.

Some difficulty has been experienced in care of the units during the week long holidays of the school year. To alleviate this problem, mason jars will be used for both feed and water.

The Orange County Bird Breeders, through its program of educating these youngsters and getting them involved, will greatly expand interest in individuals for aviculture — to produce better, healthier birds for the future ■

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