

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

APRIL 1993

Winners at the 44th Annual National Cage Bird Show

Kellogg, Inc., Seeds and Supplies of Milwaukee, Wisconsin announces the award winners at this year's National Cage Bird Show held November 19-21 in Oklahoma City. Dedicated bird breeders/hobbyists entered 2,421 birds in the show's competition, the largest in North America. An additional 510 birds were brought for the sale room, bringing the total birds in attendance to 2,931.

The coveted Scannell Award for **Best Bird in Show** was presented to Tony Fiumerodo and Sons of Thousand Oaks, California by John Ulrich, Kellogg's manager - cage bird products.

Kellogg, sponsor of the show since its inception in 1948, also presented awards to the **Best Bird in each Division** as follows:

Division 1 - Border Fancy Canaries

Winner: Tony Fiumerodo & Sons, Thousand Oaks, California.

Division 2 - Glosters

Winner: Vince Sanzone, Sykesville, Maryland.

Division 3 - Type Canaries

Winner: Lewis and Ellen Sheldon, Niles, Ohio.

Division 4 - Old Varieties

Winner: Tony Giuomar, Hayward, California.

Division 5 - Domestic Hartz Canaries

Winner: Robert Wild, Bolingbrook, Illinois.

Division 6 - American Singers

Winner: Bob and Judie McGuire, West Chicago, Illinois.

Division 7 - Lipochrome Colorbred Canaries

Winner: Gerardo Cherta, Miami, Florida (305) 635-4800.

Division 8 - Melanin Colorbred

Winner: Magali Alvarez, Tampa, Florida.

Division 9 - Finches and Softbills

Winner: Gene and June Miller, Seminole, Oklahoma (405) 382-7066.

Division 10 - Parrots

Winner: Bob and Veta Hollaway, Lexington South Carolina 29071 P.O. Box 1526 Ph: (803) 781-7202.

Division 11 - Lovebirds

Winner: Fred and Helen Thompson, Athens, Tennessee (615) 745-8179.

Division 12 - Budgerigars

Winner: Mike Rankin, Arlington, Texas.

Division 13 - Cockatiels

Winner: Jack Graves, Ft. Worth, Texas. (817) 732-4246.

Division 14 - Fife Fancy Canaries

Winner: Frank Avoledo, Fresno, California.

The 45th National Cage Bird Show is scheduled to be held in Houston Texas, November 18-20, 1993.

For more information regarding the 1992 National Cage Bird Show, contact John Ulrich, Manager - Cage Bird Products, at (800) 527-5495. ●



Pictured left to right: John Ulrich, Kellogg's Manager-Cage Bird Products, Tony Fiumerodo and son, winners of the Scannell Award.



1992 Scannell Award Trophy

Illegal Wildlife Trade and Aviculture

by Jack Clinton-Eitniew, President
American Federation of Aviculture

I received a telephone call one night from an outraged aviculturist. No, he wasn't complaining about something I said nor a bird he bought, but rather his excitement was due to an ad in the local paper. Toucans were being advertised, at a rock bottom price, and he was outraged as they were "obviously smuggled." My advice was, of course, simply don't buy them! When asked what can we do to stop the activity, I replied "file a complaint with the local USFWS law enforcement agent."

The fact is, we really don't know how many birds enter the United States illegally. I've seen figures everywhere from 25,000 to 250,000. Like the drug trade and other contraband, the exact amount entering the U.S. really isn't that important. The fact is, however, that such activity is a direct threat to our avicultural activities.

Illegally imported birds not only pose a health threat to your birds but are contributing to endangerment of parrots in the wild. The Green-cheeked Amazon (*Amazona viridigenalis*) is a good case in point. The species has been added to the newly revised Red Data Book as in imminent danger of extinction. Every illegal bird that crosses the Rio Grande contributes to its endangerment. For those who are not concerned for the species survival in the wild, another threat exists. Given that it is difficult to actually observe individuals crossing the border with parrots, the use of "sting" operations are needed. (See article to follow). Additionally, state legislation requiring the registering and regulation of commonly smuggled species is likely on the horizon. The avicultural community would prefer not to have to deal with either situation. The answer is simple, stop the smuggling. This means a changing of attitudes. AFA has made steps in this direction through the printing and distribution of an anti-smuggling poster. Additionally, a short public service announcement has been produced for local television stations that suggests you either know the breeder (source) of your bird well or purchase closed banded (or microchipped) birds. As a final step, the AFA president, legal counsel and CITES chair have begun a dialog with the various government and non-governmental individuals with an interest in trade. Thus far, this has involved not only discussions with USFWS and APHIS officials in Washington D. C. but with local USFWS law enforcement officials at the border itself.

How can you help? First, get the word out that aviculturists are "sick and tired of smuggling and are not going to tolerate it any more". Do this through sales of the anti-smuggling T-shirt, distribution of the poster and viewing of the PSA on your local station.

Finally, if someone tries to sell you a bargain bird or mentions that they have purchased smuggled birds, respond to them that you are emphatically opposed to the activity.

Self regulation is always preferred to governmental regulation. This is one situation where, as the old Indian proverb goes, "When cobwebs unite, they can tie up a tiger." We need to get together and change the apathetic tolerance of this activity to a demonstrated, active intolerance. If we don't, both aviculture and the birds will lose.

For T-shirts and posters, contact the AFA business office. The PSA (Public Service Announcement) is available by telephoning 1-210-828-5306. ●



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Federal Bldg
Hyattsville, MD
20782

Mr. Gary P. Lilienthal
National Legal Counsel
American Federation of Aviculture
125 Summer Street, Suite 1300
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Mr. Lilienthal:

We wish to commend you and the American Federation of Aviculture in your efforts to prevent the smuggling of birds into the United States and your efforts in informing bird dealers, owners, and others of the potential disease and other problems posed by smuggled birds.

The poster which you developed and distributed is excellent in conveying the hazards of dealing in smuggled birds.

Efforts have been made in recent years by this Agency to distribute fact sheets, press releases, and other information concerning this subject. Your poster and the information you have provided should greatly increase awareness of the problems associated with smuggled birds.

If possible, we would like to receive 10 additional posters for distribution to our Regional offices.

Once again, thanks for developing the excellent poster and for distributing information pertaining to smuggled birds.

Sincerely,

M. A. Mixson
Chief Staff Veterinarian
Emergency Programs
Veterinary Services



Jack Clinton-Eitniew, President, AFA (right), presenting Joe Ramos, USFWS law enforcement officer for Texas, with a copy of the AFA anti-smuggling poster.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

P.O. Box 96464
Washington, DC
20090-6464

Mr. Gary P. Lilienthal
National Legal Counsel
American Federation of Aviculture
125 Summer Street, Suite 1300
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Dear Mr. Lilienthal:

Thank you for the attractive poster and your letter of February 11, 1992, to Secretary Madigan and me on the problem of smuggled exotic avian species. Our Agency conducts inspections of all birds entering the United States and quarantines those coming from points of origin where avian diseases exist.

We believe your eye-catching poster will be effective in delivering the important message that smuggling is illegal, and having the message in both Spanish and English will reach more people. We welcome the use of this poster and believe it will be helpful in reducing bird smuggling.

We are analyzing the impact of H.R. 2541 and S. 1218, the Exotic Bird Conservation Act of 1991, on Agency programs. We appreciate the intent to stop the smuggling of exotic birds and are preparing a policy statement on these bills.

The Department supports the efforts of the American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) in combatting the problem of smuggled birds. Persons smuggling birds pose a threat to both the pet bird and poultry industries through the potential introduction of avian diseases. We realize many of the illegally traded birds are transported inhumanely and are members of a threatened or endangered species. We look forward to continuing to work with you and AFA to reach a solution to this problem.

Sincerely,

Robert Melland

Robert Melland
Administrator



Photo by Tom Marshall

Pat Borow, American Bird Company, Falls Church, VA, displaying AFA anti-smuggling poster.

AFA Board Meets in Las Vegas

The quarterly meeting of the AFA Board of Directors and the semi-annual meeting of the House of Delegates was conducted recently in Las Vegas at Bally's Casino. Following are some of the highlights of the meeting. Club Delegates will receive a complete copy plus a summary to be read to their clubs. Individual members may request a copy of the minutes at the business office.

Actions taken:

- A presentation was made by Laurella Desborough on the Model Avicultural Plan (MAP). The board applauded her efforts.
- A grant of \$3000.00 was approved for the Bali Mynah Project. Funding will be contingent upon donations received through the appeal contained within this issue.
- A suitable advertising sales candidate has not been located despite two ads placed in the Phoenix newspaper. The board approved the president to sell ads for a period of six months until a sales person could be located and trained.
- Dues will be increased by \$4.00 effective May 1, due to the escalating costs in printing and postage. (See President's Message).
- The spring meeting was changed, due to federal legislation activity, to Washington, D.C. Dates are from May 14 until May 16, 1993. The hotel location will be announced at a later date.
- Approval was given to distribute up to \$5000.00 from the Disaster Relief Fund to individuals with large avian medical bills if it can be proved that they resulted from the hurricane.
- Delegate comments made at the Miami convention were discussed.
- Distribution of "AFA in Brief" was expanded to include

State Coordinators and Club Delegates. Currently only club editors receive the in-house publication.

- An Ethics Committee was created with Gary Lilienthal, Linda Sun and Jack Clinton-Eitniear as committee members. ●

1993 U.S. First Breeding Avy Award Nominations

To AFA members, aviculturists and all exotic bird enthusiasts: the following avian species or subspecies have been nominated for a possible U.S. First Breeding Avy Award. Any knowledge of prior breedings should be submitted to Dale R. Thompson, Chairperson, Avy Awards Committee, in care of the AFA Home Office in Phoenix, Arizona.

1. Bodin's Amazon, *Amazona festiva bodini*, hatch date: April 17, 1989.
2. Rueppel's Parrot, *Poicephalus rueppellii*, hatch date: May 7, 1992.
3. Blue-rumped Parrot, *Psittinus cyanurus cyanurus*, hatch date: May 9, 1992.
4. Tui Parakeet, *Brotogeris sanctithomae sanctithomae*, hatch date: June 22, 1992.
5. Javan Moustached Parakeet, *Psittacula alexandri alexandri*, hatch date: March 14, 1989.
6. Celebes Hanging Parrot, *Loriculus stigmatus*, hatch date: October 31, 1992. ●

President's Message

(for Watchbird and AFA in Brief)

Aviculture: Here today gone tomorrow?

"The world is moved not only by heroes but . . . also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker."

Helen Keller

There was a lot of excitement at the recently held meeting of the AFA Board of Directors. I'm not referring to the slot machines below in the casino nor to my ambitious future proposals but rather to the difficulties being encountered with the implementation of the Exotic Bird Conservation Act of 1992 and some recently submitted legislation in the state of Colorado that would, among other things, ban the possession of wild-caught birds. AFA is frequently referred to as a "parrot organization". Individuals with interest in non-psittacine birds, therefore, seem less concerned as to what AFA is doing. The reality is, however, that toucans are smuggled across the border as well as parrots; that legislation, both state and federal, affects all bird families; and that disease and captive management issues are of equal importance to the finch and softbill specialist. Breeders of domesticated species are not unaffected by the actions of AFA either. Cockatiels and canaries are imported by the thousands both for resale and breeding. Additionally, numerous state health bills use the term "exotic bird". Canaries and cockatiels are just as exotic as Green Singing Finches and Blue-fronted Amazon Parrots.

Clearly, the American Federation of Aviculture is the VOICE for aviculture in the Western Hemisphere. AFA carries out its programs with a small membership base, considering the 11.9 million pet birds in the United States, and without a paid staff to execute its programs. Volunteers are the "backbone" of the organization but it is difficult to find individuals who are willing to devote 9 to 5 Monday through Friday, week after week, to AFA without any compensation. Most national non-profits house their staffs in a highrise, frequently in Washington, D.C. AFA is based out of Phoenix where, in an industrial park, we lease a small office housing one full-time and one part-time employee. **FOLKS, THIS HAS GOT TO CHANGE.**

AFA is not the only "kid on the block". But, no other avicultural organization puts out a full color magazine and has ONGOING programs/efforts such as the Red Siskin Consortium, federal and state legislative monitoring, etc. Most other avicultural organizations either are small in size and not capable of dealing with national issues or so specialized that their very survival requires constant attention (note the demise of the International Dove Society and International Softbill Society in 1992).

So, what can you, as an AFA member or a club delegate, do to aid in the effort to keep aviculture strong? First, become PRO-ACTIVE. A questionnaire was sent with the March AFA Fast-Ads asking members and clubs how attendance at conventions could be improved. Take the time to answer the questionnaire. Our slate of programs is growing faster than our membership and financial ability to deal with them. Dues have not been raised in ten years. Because of the ever increasing costs in printing and postage, we have had to raise the dues \$4.00 effective May 1, 1993. That amounts to 34 cents a month! Hardly a substantial increase, but nonetheless one we did not want to have to make during economically depressed times. Additional revenues will have to be raised through charging fees for services previously provided as a benefit and raising the cost of services/products currently being provided. We can avoid all of

this if the membership becomes active and advertises with AFA, provides charitable contributions, and clubs donate a portion of their revenue to AFA. This is not a new concept. Profits from that box of Girl Scout cookies you purchased went to both the national and local headquarters. Additionally, the National Audubon Society derives a significant amount of monies from local chapters as does the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums.

Finally, how about promoting AFA and its convention through the distribution of pamphlets and convention materials to clubs and places where bird related products are sold? It won't cost you a thing but you will be making a major contribution towards everyone's goal of seeing aviculture strong and viable for years to come.

Sincerely,
Jack Clinton-Eitniew, President
American Federation of Aviculture ●

Noticias Psitacidas

A quarterly newsletter devoted to enhancing communication among individuals and organizations involved in the conservation of New World parrots. The text will be in both English and Spanish and include short notes as well as project updates and project profiles.

An \$8.00 fee is being proposed to cover the cost of printing and postage. The fee will be waived for those residing in Latin American countries and to major contributors.

For information write or fax:

Noticias Psitacidas
The Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, Incorporated
218 Conway Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78209-1716 USA
Fax (210) 828-5911 ●

New Employees at AFA Business Office

Carol Inderrieden and Brenda Traul were recently employed to replace long time AFA employee Sue Adams (Jordan), who resigned for personal reasons, at the Phoenix Business Office. Ms. Traul will resume the duties of Ms. Adams on a full-time basis being assisted part-time by Ms. Inderrieden.

The newly created part-time position was justified due to the expanding programs of AFA as well as to the Board of Directors' desire to increase the number of mailouts to delegates, state coordinators and commercial members. An additional factor was the centralization of other AFA publications including "Siskinews" and "AFA in Brief." Both these publications were previously printed outside the Phoenix office but, due to expanded mailing lists, became difficult to maintain on a volunteer basis.

Ms. Traul was previously employed by a Phoenix distribution company as an office/credit manager. Ms. Inderrieden was employed for six years at the Glendale Elementary School District as a substitute coordinator and clerical worker in the personnel department.

Both individuals were selected from numerous responses received from several ads placed in the Phoenix newspaper. Resumes were reviewed by Davis Koffron, Vicki Fletcher, Gary Clifton and Jack Clinton-Eitniew. Final interviews were conducted by Davis and Barbara Koffron, Gary Clifton and Jack Clinton-Eitniew. ●

The AFA's Red Siskin Project Siskin Summit '93

The beautiful Red Siskin (*Carduelis cucullata*), is a small finch from Venezuela that has been one of the most frequently smuggled birds ever in existence. Both sexes are very lovely, but the male Red Siskin is extremely gorgeous with his intense scarlet body and jet black head. This bird has been hybridized with the canary to produce a red-orange canary, the Red Factor.

At the AFA convention in Miami last August, project members met with a field biologist from Venezuela. She had spent nine months in the state of Lara, which used to have one of the heaviest concentrations of Red Siskins. During that time, she only saw seven birds. If there were greater laws protecting near extinct birds other than CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), the Endangered Species Act, and Venezuela's national laws, this bird would definitely be listed there.

The AFA's Red Siskin Project is a pilot program which is being observed by people around the globe. The goal is to raise in captivity approximately 2,000 Red Siskins prior to releasing offspring on private land in South America. All banded babies are matched up with their best genetic mate by Orland Baker, M.D., the studbook keeper. Birds are then shipped to whichever breeding facility the "cupid computer" has chosen.

Experienced breeders donate their expertise and careful management to produce as many healthy babies as possible. Beginning this year, Spray Millet America and Kellogg, Inc., are providing fresh seed to all project breeders. It is vital that all consortium birds are conditioned with exact diets, extremely fresh foods, adequate light cycles, etc.

The AFA Red Siskin Project is having a Siskin Summit in Kansas City, Missouri, August 20 through 22, 1993. Project breeders are attempting to get local bird clubs to sponsor their trip. The guest speakers listed below should raise many of your eyebrows. No matter what type of birds you're raising, even YOU could benefit from participating.

The Siskin Summit is *open to anybody* and costs only \$20. The registration fee includes a luncheon on Saturday and a new Siskin T-shirt which features both the male and female Red Siskins in foliage. Part of the itinerary follows:

- Kevin Gorman, Director of the AFA's Red Siskin Project, giving his slide presentation on The Red Siskin Project.
- Professor Antonio Rivero, author of "El Cardenalito de Venezuela," speaking on habitat, diet and status of Red Siskins in the wild.
- Jim Hardin, Professor of Captive Wildlife Management, University of Wisconsin at Stephen's Point, speaking on keeping wild traits in captivebred flocks of "wild birds."
- Mary Cahow, Dept. of Biology, University of Wisconsin at Stephen's Point, speaking on vocalization patterns of Red Siskins.
- Jim Fowler, New River, Arizona, speaking on design of the siskin breeding facility to minimize disease transmission.
- Geno Abbate, Elizabeth, New Jersey, speaking on a world-wide perspective of breeding siskins.

Audience participation in an open discussion with Red Siskin breeders, bird presentations and more. We need a Spanish translator for Professor Rivero and the translator's registration fee will be waived.

If you would like to help sponsor a breeder's trip, or fund Professor Rivero's trip, your tax deductible donation will be most appreciated. Checks should be made payable to AFA Conservation Fund - Siskin Summit, and forwarded to Yvonne Patterson,

4630 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64133. Motel accommodations are available upon request. Registration is June 15th, so don't delay. We hope to see you there! ●

Attend the "Big One" AFA Convention '93 Salt Lake City, Utah August 4 - 8

See special insert for detailed information or call our
Phoenix Office, (602) 484-0931.

The Club Connection Central Florida Bird Breeders

by Nancy L. Vigran

Meeting Location: Kissimmee Community Center, Monument Avenue, Kissimmee, Florida.

Meeting Date: Fourth Sunday of every month at 2:00 p.m.

President: Ed Flannery, (407) 589-8973

Club Mailing Address: Dianna Skalsky, newsletter editor, 2801 Absher Drive, Narcoossee, FL 34711 (phone 407-892-0643)

General Information: Formed as an offshoot from a show-oriented club, Central Florida Bird Breeders, as the name implies, has a membership mainly interested in the propagation of birds. Although most members are primarily interested in hookbills, the club is open to anyone interested in birds in general and there are many members also involved with finches and softbills. Annual membership costs \$10/single or \$15/dual and the club has approximately 120 members with 40 to 50 in attendance at each meeting.

CFBB members boast of a fine newsletter which contains articles on breeding, medical considerations, nutrition and other bird-related topics. The newsletter is exchanged with many different clubs throughout the country so that articles and information can be further shared among aviculturists.

Activities and Special Events: CFBB is an education oriented club. Monthly meeting speakers present a wide variety of avian topics. Members run bird marts which net tidy profits. These funds are well spent with donations made to research projects as well as the sponsoring of speakers to AFA conventions.

Within the club, CFBB members receive first breeding awards as well as service awards and newsletter appreciation awards given during an annual installation banquet. These awards are designed for the recipient in the form of something useful such as gift certificates for bird supplies.

The CFBB sponsored a one-day seminar in 1991 on captive management of birds which included many veterinary speakers. This was not held in '92 because of the AFA annual convention being held in the region. However, plans are in the works for a future seminar.

Editorial Note: The Club Connection is 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. ●

Conservation Action

Photo by Mark Collins



Bali Mynah

Small Grants Program

What do the Bali Mynah, Bahama Parrot, Socorro Dove, Toucan Barbet, Java Hawk-eagle and the Ocellated Turkey have in common?

They are among the more than twenty species of birds whose survival on our planet has been enhanced through the financial support of the AFA Conservation Small Grants Fund. Parrot conservation projects dominate the program with previous funding aiding the conservation of the Bahama Amazon, Cape Parrot, Yellow-shouldered Amazon, El Oro Parakeet, Puerto Rican Amazon, Green-cheeked Amazon as well as the various New World macaws. AFA cannot continue this valuable program without your financial support. Currently, urgent support is needed for the Bali Mynah project. Captive bred mynahs are to be released onto an island adjacent to Bali but without the presence of "bird catchers"!●

Red Siskin Program

The endangered Red Siskin was driven to near extinction because of its popularity in "canary culture." While we all enjoy the beauty of a red factor canary, it hardly justifies extinction of the Red Siskin. The AFA Red Siskin Project involves a comprehensive program to manage Red Siskin populations in captivity and address the plight of the species in the wild. A siskin consortium has been in operation for several years whereby private aviculturists obtain Red Siskins on "breeding loan" from AFA. This precedent setting private sector program needs your financial support to remain viable.●



Non-Domesticated Bird Registry

The need is clear for a non-profit registry for non-domesticated birds. Modeled after the AKC (American Kennel Club), AFA is committed to initiating such a program in 1993. Start up funds are needed to offset costs in data entry and printing.

Please help us show that "Aviculture is conservation, too!" by enclosing your donation in the envelope provided. Aviculture and the birds thank you.●



Venezuelan Black-hooded Red Siskin

Photo by Kevin Gorman

You Can Make A Difference

Conservation isn't just helping the birds in the wild. It's also managing the birds we have so that tomorrow a behaviorally and genetically sound species will be available for return to the wild. As we all know, this costs money. But if we are committed to the survival of our birds, both in the wild and in captivity, it should be a small price to pay. Three major AFA conservation programs need your continued support.●

In Memory of Dave West

by Rae V. Anderson
Sierra Madre, California
and
Sheldon L. Dingle
Los Angeles, California

David West, a premier aviculturist for 54 years, has been lost to us. Dave was a major force in aviculture worldwide as well as a good friend and mentor to literally hundreds of us.



Dave West

After a prolonged bout with cancer, Dave lost the battle on 4 February 1993 at the age of 65. His birds first and his rare plants second were his life.

Dave's first avian possession was a pair of King Pigeons and a cage received as a Christmas gift from his parents. He was 11 years old at the time. The pigeons came from a local pet shop near Dave's Montebello, California home. The shop was close and convenient and stocked several species of the more common exotic birds, all of which led young "Davey" (as he was known to members of the Avicultural Society of America) to spend much of his spare time there talking to the proprietor about birds.

Ring-necked Doves and Zebra Finches quickly followed the pigeons, then came cockatiels and gradually some larger and more expensive hookbills—all acquired with his own, hard-earned money.

At the age of 13, Dave was the youngest member of the Avicultural Society of America, noted in the ASA Bulletin Jan/Feb 1941 as follows, "While David may be the youngest member in our Society, we consider him one of the most enthusiastic."

Dave was graduated from Montebello High School, obtained his Bachelor's degree at Whittier College and his Master's degree from California State University at Long Beach. He began teaching at El Monte Junior High School in Montebello but became disenchanted with that career because he felt most of the students lacked interest in learning and, in fact, often displayed concerted resistance to any form of education. As a result, he left teaching and joined the Traveler's Insurance Company for a few years. Dave then decided life was simply too short to spend in endeavors that he didn't enjoy so he quit that profession and concentrated the rest of his years exclusively on his birds, plants, and friends.

Dave could always be relied upon for help with any bird related problem or question. He showed this generosity to close friends and complete strangers alike. He wrote many articles for various avicultural journals and kept in contact with aviculturists in many diverse parts of the world. It was his correspondence with the Duke of Bedford that eventually resulted in the Duke's sending little Davey a pair of the extremely rare blue mutation Indian Ring-necked Parakeets.

With this auspicious start in color mutation parrots, Dave concentrated on various species and color mutations until he became one of the most successful and knowledgeable aviculturists in America. He developed an excellent bird farm a few miles from his Montebello home and spent his time working with a large number of

bird species—mostly psittacines, from budgies to the rare Australian broadtails, but also doves, quail and finches, and other oddities.

The bird farm became quite a show-place and was visited by many of the world's most distinguished aviculturists as well as by the most simple and newest locals in the fancy. Dave had the gift of being himself no matter what the situation. He was the same fellow to the great and to the lowly. He had a very subtle and dry sense of humor and could discuss with great erudition a vast range of subjects.

Dave had his peculiarities, too. I don't know whether or not there are rats, doctors or attorneys where Dave has gone, but he viewed them all about equally while he was here (for a number of good reasons). He also tended to dress a little odd—for his own comfort, I suppose, and he had the rare luxury of truly not noticing or caring what people thought of him. He was a free spirit—one of a kind.

Dave, we will all sorely miss you.

He is survived by his sister, Dawn Collins, his niece, Cindy and grand-niece, Kaillyn. ●



Greenwings
Buffon's
Hyacinths
Militarys
Blue and Golds
Scarlets
Redfronts

- ALL BIRDS ARE CLOSED BANDED and VETERINARIAN CHECKED
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