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## Clubs Specializing in African Birds . . .

### The African Parrot Society

by Isabel Taylor  
Saluda, North Carolina

The African Parrot Society was started in the summer of 1990. Written information about African parrots has always been scarce and it was because of this need that this organization was formed.

The African Parrot Society (APS) is a non-profit international organization with members in six foreign countries. APS was started following the demise of *The Poicephalus Newsletter*, but includes African Grays and Vasas as well as the Poicephalus species. We felt it very important that the newsletter be contributed to by as many people as possible, acknowledging that we need to share our experiences with these birds. The African Parrot Society strives to be an organization in which its members participate. Membership includes a quarterly newsletter and all members are urged to write an article, or at least a paragraph, of their experience with these birds to support each other and further the body of knowledge about these birds.

The stated goals of the society are:

1. Encourage high standards and promote responsible breeding of African parrots by aviculturists and zoological institutions.
2. Share information about breeding, behavior and management through a periodic newsletter to benefit the preservation of these species in captivity.
3. Promote the protection of these species in the wild and the preservation of their habitat.
4. Promote a better liaison between aviculturists, ornithologists, field researchers, zoo personnel and veterinarians.
5. Establish studbooks to insure genetic diversity.
6. Take an annual census of captive populations.
7. Support and encourage veterinary, avicultural and field research.
8. Promote cooperation between the owners of rare species so these birds will have a chance to breed and be established in captivity.

The newsletter of APS, *The African Ark*, contains articles about breeding African species, and also articles for pet owners. Observant pet owners provide valuable information on behavior and often become future breeders. We have had many requests from owners of African Gray pets for help with these intelligent birds. We give up-to-date veterinary advice and information and keep abreast of the latest research. We are now in touch with some field researchers of these birds, whose observations in the wild will be very valuable to us. Working with zoologists to try to coordinate our efforts with other branches of the avian world and to understand different points of view is also an important part of a speciality organization. Last, but not least, we try to have a sense of humor about ourselves and what we are doing. "Little Nikki" articles with their unique view of humans and the world from the bird cage are enjoyed by all.

The African Parrot Society takes an annual census and those members who participate will be given free classified ads in the newsletter. We support and promote stud books for Vasas, Capes, Ruppell's, Yellow-faced, Niam-Niam and Jardine's Parrots and urge anyone with these species to join and cooperate with us. You do not have to be a member of APS to participate in any studbook. Dave Blynn is the studbook keeper.

We urge owners with rare Poicephalus species to gather as much information and experience with common Poicephalus species as possible before working with the rare species. The California condor program "practiced" with Andean condors first and this resulted in success. Many of these species are so rare that the loss of one individual may decide the fate of that species in captivity. We are a growing and changing society and welcome members and ideas from all concerned aviculturists and pet owners. The welfare of these birds is our first concern as we promote responsible and ethical ownership. Very few zoos in the world are breeding African parrots, thus every breeder's aviary becomes an Ark, preserving species for the future. Since very few of us can keep enough individual birds of a spe-

cies to preserve them from extinction, we must cooperate and work together.

The APS is a non-profit organization run by volunteers and welcomes your help and participation. Membership (\$15 per year) and information can be obtained from Randy Karg, P.O. Box 204, Clarinda, Iowa, 51632-4190. ●



## The African Love Bird Society

by Roland Dubuc  
Vista, California

In 1976, co-founders Lee Horton and Roland Dubuc realized that a very important void needed filling in the avicultural environment. Every state and many communities had individual bird clubs but only breeders of canaries and budgies had their own specialty societies. With that thought in mind, the African Love Bird Society was founded. The timing seemed appropriate, AFA was beginning to grow and needed more support and more club affiliations if it were to succeed.

The goal of the Society was set: "The African Love Bird Society is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement and standardization of all species of Agapornis and their mutations. The Society's purpose is to establish these species and their mutations for future generations, and to disseminate any information pertinent to the Agapornis family through the official journal *Agapornis World*."

A letter of invitation was sent to over 300 bird breeders, inviting them to join the newly formed society and to attend a meeting to be held on the 15th of August, 1976. Some 75-plus

individuals attended this first meeting and, by the end of the day, 62 individuals had joined paying an initial membership fee of \$10. This in itself was quite amazing since the membership fee for the Avicultural Society at the time was only seven dollars. Members were promised monthly meetings to be held throughout southern California and the publication of a professionally prepared journal to be called *Agapornis World*.

One week later, the ALBS had its first display booth at the second AFA convention held at the *Queen Mary* in Long Beach, California. By the end of the convention, the membership had risen to well over 100 members from all over the country and two individuals from overseas.

ALBS' close ties with AFA continued and it was at the fourth convention held in Dallas that ALBS decided with an international representation to attempt standardization of the color mutation names for the lovebird. It was voted and approved at that time to follow as closely as possible those names used by the American Budgie Society. This quickly led to the first classification for the lovebird for any major bird show. By 1979, the Society supported and joined the National Cage Bird Club and had its first major showing in El Segundo, California in November. Over 100 birds were exhibited in the lovebird subdivision judged by Gene Hall. Today, lovebirds have their own division and soon we hope to have two separate divisions at all major shows, one for the peachfaced and one for all other lovebirds.

In 1979, ALBS challenged all other AFA affiliates to support AFA further by buying, in the club's name, an additional \$100.00 worth of National Raffle tickets. In 1980, ALBS took on the task of coordinating all of the mail-outs for the AFA convention.

The Society itself has changed and grown over the past 17 years. Monthly meetings in California were dropped for more national meetings held in conjunction with the AFA convention and the National and Great American Bird Shows. The strength of the Society has remained in its journal and editor, Roland Dubuc who has held

that position since the first journal was published in October of 1976. The journal is now published bi-monthly with the exception of a December journal and a January roster.

The Society still remains very strong with an international membership from some 20 different countries, as well as a very strong showing here in the U.S. The ideals of the Society have remained the same, with, perhaps, some greater support from the show circuit. Over 50 societies have affiliated with the Love Bird Society and they hold annual bird shows in conjunction with the Society rules.

A panel of official judges has been formed with judges from all over the United States. But, even with the emphasis placed on the shows, the Society is first and foremost involved in the breeding and caring of the Agapornis, which is certainly evident in the articles produced in their journal.

We welcome new members: for further information please contact Janice Pritchard, c/o ALBS P. O. Box 142, San Marcos, CA 92079-0142. ●

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Photo courtesy of D. Grenville Roles

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