

SERVICE AWARDS

presented by Jack Clinton-Eitniece
at the Utah Convention
August 5-8, '93

Gary Clifton
President's Award

Vickie Fletcher
*honored upon retiring from
six years as CFO*

Joanne Abramson
*served as chair of Conservation
Committee Small Grants*

Kathline Harrison
Hurricane Andrew volunteer

Morgan Knox
Hurricane Andrew volunteer

Chuck Saffell
Hurricane Andrew volunteer

Diane Morrison
*Bird World publication's
support of AFA*

Mary Perry
chair of the Utah Convention

Janet Lilienthal
state legislative coordinator

**Aletta M. Long honored two
southern California State
Coordinators for donating
special effort to AFA:**

Marty Muschinske
San Diego area

Jami Kennedy
Los Angeles area

**Chuck Saffell presented the
following AFA-SOFAR members
awards for hurricane disaster
efforts:**

Robert Benaim
Jim and Vivian Swain
Barbra Kennedy
Phil and Denise Barth
Neva Wheeler
Len Brower
Gloria Ballaban
Bob and Jan Tame
Stephen "Bear" Brown
Jan Clements
Diana Skalsky
Sarr Kirchoff
Bob and June Smith
Louise Auger
Dwight Greenberg ●

Convention '93 Salt Lake City

by Sheldon Dingle
Los Angeles, California

People, including your humble servant, are creatures of habit and accustomed to routine. My troubles began when I left my downtown Los Angeles home to attend the AFA's 19th Annual Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

As the plane crested the ring of jagged mountains and dipped into the Great Salt Lake Valley, I knew something was wrong. The sky was blue. Really blue blue, with a scattering of snow white clouds. The air was crystal clear.

When I debarked and tried to breathe, I panicked. I couldn't see the air nor feel it. Perhaps Utah doesn't have air. I'll die.

Well, I didn't die but the invisible air was not easy to get used to. Fortunately, the van from the hotel arrived and took us aboard. On the plane, my travelling companions had banished me to a distant seat and asked me to act as though we didn't know one another — they do this routinely — but the van was small and cozy enough that we three, Aletta Long, Jean Hessler and myself, arrived at the convention as a group. The others on

the van routinely stood aloof from our group — naturally.

The Little America Hotel, I must admit, was a very pleasant and comfortable place to stay. The ambience was a mixture of comfort and modest luxury situated in an almost park-like environment. It was a very enjoyable experience to walk about the grounds amidst the intense colors, greens and blues for the trees (yes, folks, blue trees) and the brilliant red, yellow and pink of the flowers. And an unlooked for blessing was that of being able to meander freely about the grounds and surrounding neighborhood without a thought of getting mugged or having to dodge the drive-by shooters. Capital folks, those denizens of Utah.

Inside the hotel, a friendly, homey atmosphere prevailed and promoted a relaxed sense of ease and comfort. The convention meeting rooms, large auditorium, banquet hall and commercial displays were very conveniently laid out in close proximity so that it was quite easy to get from attraction to attraction. Once the action began, I detected a traffic pat-



Al B. McNabney, left, of the "Watchbird" staff, chats with Keith Howman of the U.K. Mr. Howman gave two superb talks at the convention. He represented the World Pheasant Association with subjects on the aviculturist's conservation roles.

Photo by Sheldon Dingle

BRIGHT & HEALTHY SPIRULINA



Ronald and Paula Henson along with their son represented the fine product "Spirulina." Ron wore a colorful macaw tie!

tern that pulled the vast majority of attendees into the hall where the featured speaker was holding forth. At the end of that particular talk or slide show, all hands would migrate a few feet to the commercial display hall and mob the folks at their various booths and displays. Soon, another talk would start and everyone would troop off to that.

The commercial exhibits covered a wide range of subjects and items of interest to aviculturists. Of course, the excellent selection of bird books offered by JDP Enterprises, Inc. caught my book-loving eye immediately. There were all sorts of items from Australia at the Absolutely Aussie booth and I understand they had a booming business. J.W.R. Exotic Bird Products had on display air purifiers that may have been the reason I couldn't see the Utah air. Good things for your bird rooms. Pets 'N Such is a Utah company that had a full line of bird supplies on hand and Petporium Ltd./Millenium Cages had some excellent handcrafted cages.

Sunseed Company, Premium Nutritional Products, Kaytee Products, Inc. and Earthrise Co./Bright and Healthy all offered a wide assortment of feed, seed, grass and grain for your birds. Enough to make the pickiest little bird's mouth water.

Winners of the unofficial "to kill for" AFA tie contest are . . . !

Photos by Sheldon Dingle



Jeff Radzak, JWR Exotic Bird Products, the man to see for a clean air filter system. Jeff wore a great Toco Toucan tie!

A number of organizations were on hand to offer their special services and slant on aviculture. Of course, the AFA had a nice display that was staffed with excellent folks. The A.S.A. was there with Harold Hanson holding things together while Helen was out drumming up business as usual. The National Cockatiel Society presented their program in the person of my old friend Rose Lawson and Laurella Desborough presented the Model Aviculture Program (as though she had nothing else to do). Great reader that I am, magazines attract me and I had numerous conversations with Ron McMurtry who represented *Bird World* magazine and handled their booth very well in the absence of editor Diane Grindol Morrison. I was impressed with the contents of the new *Bird World* magazine and its strong support of the AFA.

The one exhibit, perhaps, that appealed to every single person present was the Kakapo Rescue display. A strong fund-raising effort is based in Utah with the express purpose of doing everything possible to aid the legendary conservationist and aviculturist Don Merton in his heroic effort

AVY AWARDS

presented by Dale R. Thompson
at the Utah Convention
August 5-8, '93

Seven U.S. First Breeding Avy Awards to:

Mary McDonald and
her son Joe McDonald
for breeding the Bodin's Amazon
(April 17, 1989)

Robbie Harris
for breeding the
Blue-rumped Parrot
(May 9, 1992)

Robbie Harris
for breeding the
Tui Parakeet
(June 22, 1992)

Rick Jordan and Carol Schnure
for breeding the
Javan Moustached Parakeet
(March 14, 1992)

Larry and Kathy Weisz
for breeding the
Celebes Hanging Parrot
(October 31, 1992)

Memphis Zoo
(Curator of Birds Herb Roberts)
for breeding the
Wompoo Fruit Dove
(June 28, 1992)

Carol Anne Calvin and Stash Buckley
for breeding the
Peale's Parrot Finch
(November 15, 1991)

One Avy Appreciation Award to:

Kay Snow
for outstanding service given to
the Avicultural Society of Utah

Two Silver Avy Awards to:

Jack Graves for
1992 Show Standards in Cockatiels

Gerald Oldberg for
1992 Show Standards in Cockatiels

Two Watchbird Avy Awards to:

Joanne Abramson for her
series on "Nutritional Analysis
of the Avian Diet"

Ubaldo Leli for
"The Gouldian Finch" ●



1993 Convention Committee Chairman Mary L. Perry received a special thanks for a job well done from out-going president Jack Clinton-Eitnrear.



Steve Chindgren of Tracy Aviary's "Free Flying Bird Show" provided live action, excitement and awe at several wonderful bird shows. The parrots talked like champs but the birds of prey stole many a heart with their sheer magnificence.

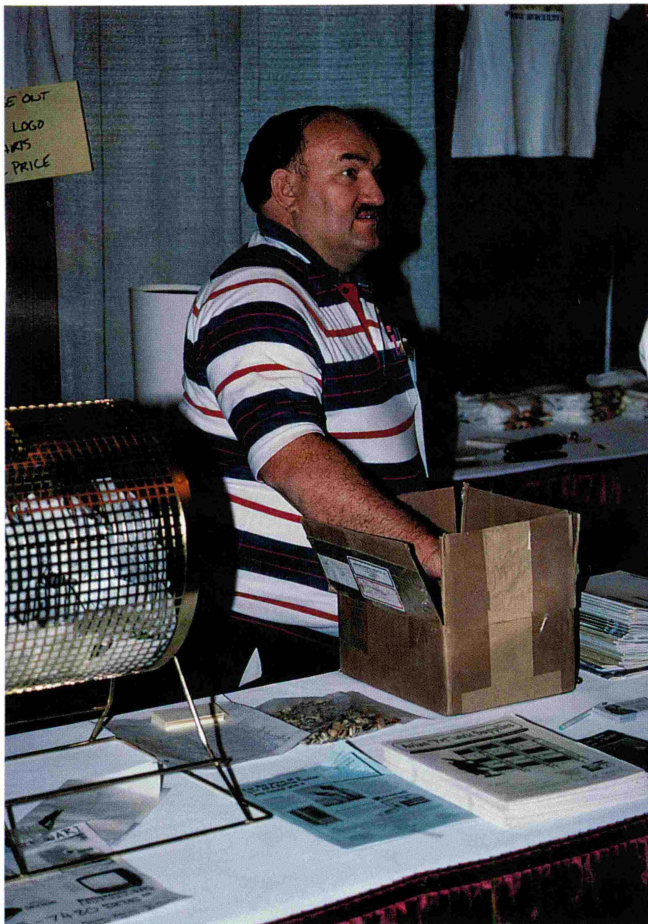


Many tee shirts were sold with a Kakapo painting reproduced on the front side along with Don Merton's signature. Profits went to support the Kakapo Recovery Program. Don Merton, seated at right, spoke about the very rare and unusual parrot. He is coordinator of the Kakapo Recovery Program and operations coordinator in the Threatened Species Unit of New Zealand Dept. of Conservation. Leatha Betts, seated at left, worked in the booth along with Rebecca Dennett, center.

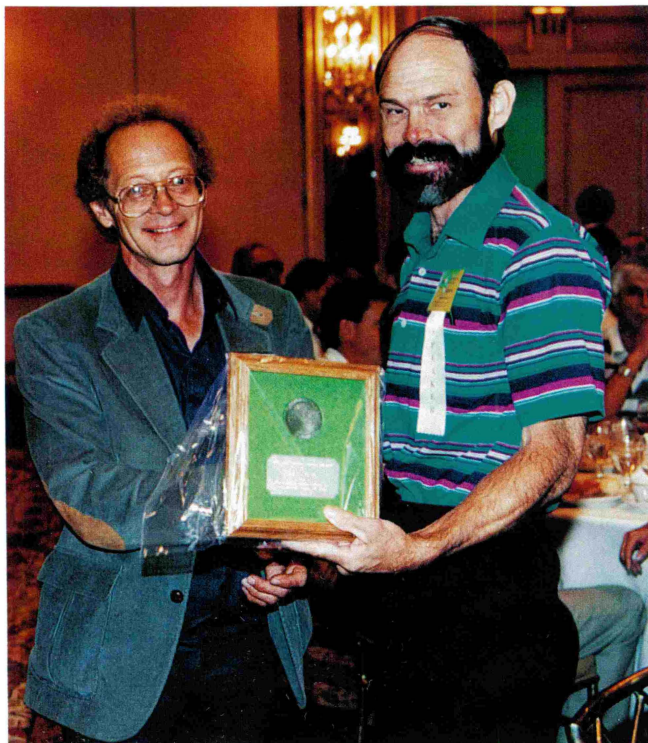


In-coming president Laurella Desborough delivered an inspiring message at the Saturday evening banquet.

Jane Kennedy (L) and Mary Perry spent a lot of the convention working behind the registration desk. The beautiful painting of Blue and Gold Macaws hanging behind Jane is an original by Bob Elgas. There was a special fund raiser auction for this fine painting. After a spirited bidding battle, Chuck Saffell, Palmetto, Florida, was declared the winner.



Melvin Crawford helped man the booth and chaired the special raffle for host club, Aviculture Society of Utah (ASU).



Dale R. Thompson (R) presented an award of special recognition to Kay Snow (L), president of the host club, the Avicultural Society of Utah.

Sun Seed representative Jeff Clark presented a wonderful gift of \$12,000 to the AFA. Jack Clinton-Eitmiar accepted the donation at the Saturday evening banquet.



Working at the ASU club booth, Bob Larabee modeled the convention conservation theme souvenir tee shirt. The full color, species-accurate montage of endangered birds was designed by Grenville Roles.



Grenville Roles signed '93 convention tee shirts until they were all gone. A complete sell-out!



to save the critically endangered Kakapo from extinction. Rebecca Dennett heads the Kakapo Rescue group with the zeal of a crusader. Her dedication paid off, though, and she was able to present Merton with a sizeable check.

Well, folks, everything written thus far just gives you an overview of the physical location, the hotel and the commercial exhibits. These things change a bit as the convention moves from city to city across the U.S.A. And these things are not really why we attend conventions.

We attend conventions because of the PEOPLE and the IDEAS. The speakers are the first and most formal examples of people and ideas and at the 1993 convention these were of the highest quality. Someone had the good sense to make a schedule where no two speakers were up at the same time. We had the opportunity to hear them all. Believe me, gentle reader, the speakers were lively, humorous, learned, witty and FUN to hear. They were the best. There is no way for me to convey the spirit and electricity of the presentations. You have to be there.

The same spirit and electricity, however, also prevail outside the speakers' halls. Each gathering of bird people has its own mixture of feelings and attitudes. I once attended a get together where one old venerable bird man said he only came to see if he could remember who he hated. I loved it. We had great fun playing the scrooge.

In Salt Lake City, though, the spirit of the whole convention was one of great cooperation and unity. There was an anticipation, an almost electric feeling, that the AFA is on the verge of great things — I mean world class multi-million dollar involvements. The sense of futility was banished. Everyone was up. The feeling was contagious and the opportunities are real.

In this context of harmony and cooperation, a number of serious issues were addressed. During a roundtable meeting with officials of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 was discussed in some detail. There is a copy of the Act reprinted in *Watch-bird* Dec. '92/Jan. '93 issue. Read it. Study it. It will not go away.

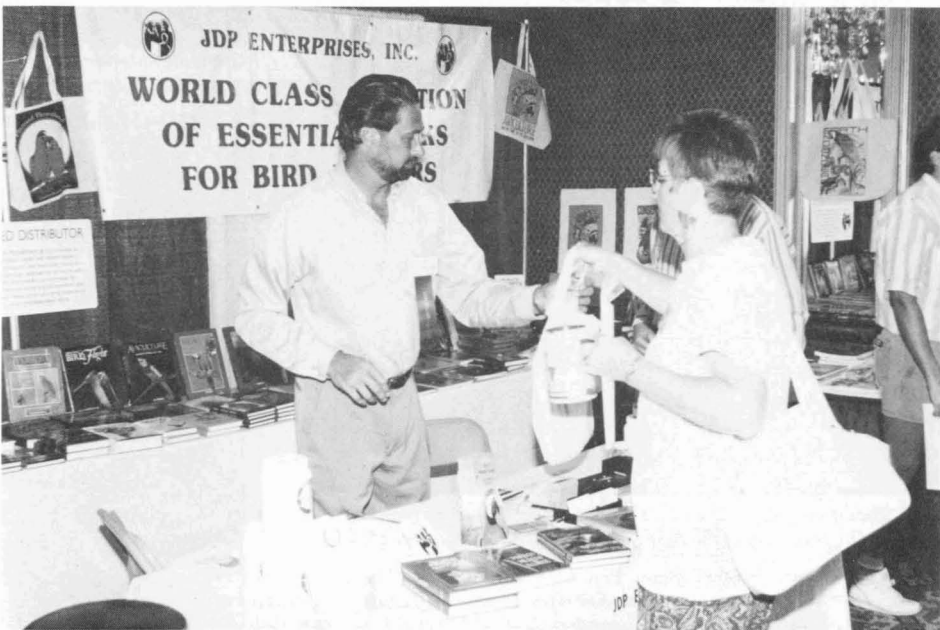
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (and others) have been given the



Lucky is the bird that finds Sun Seed products in its feed dish! Jeff Clark displayed a tempting array of special seed mixes. Sun Seed Co., Inc. not only produces some of the finest avian feeds, it's also a big supporter of AFA programs.



The Absolute Aussie booth was loaded with small gift items. The Aussie bird tea towels were a sell-out again! With customer waiting, Sue Pack, center, watches as partner Michael Tom digs out some more treasures stored beneath the display table.



Need a good book on "such and such"? Chances are Doug Phillips, J.D.P. Enterprises, Inc. could find it for you. Another conventioneer carries away some of his stock.

A few names rise above the others

Well, eventually the time came to hop the plane back to L.A. and the thick, visible air that I love. Back to the staccato of gang gunfire and the wail of sirens. It's good to get home. One of the best parts, though, is the memories I bring. Memories of dear friends, new acquaintances and the intense action of the AFA convention. Next year, I sincerely hope you are part

Please, be good to yourself. Attend the next AFA convention . . . 1994 in Knoxville, Tennessee, August 4 - 6. ●

Sept / Oct '94
Featuring
SETTING UP AN AVIARY
OF COMMONLY KEPT SPECIES
 Aug. 1 – editorial copy
 Aug. 15 – display ADS

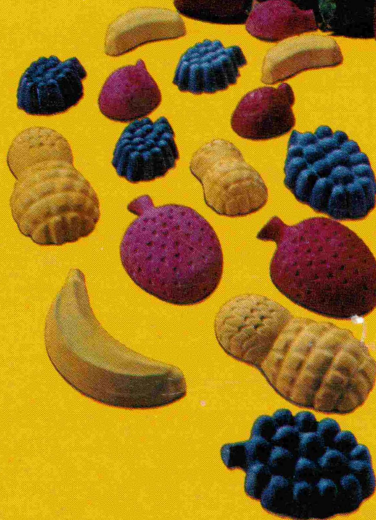
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