

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

NOVEMBER 1994

The Parrot Association of Canada

On February 26, 1994, a small group of parrot breeders in Canada met to form a national organization to deal with both present and future government regulations and, most importantly, to assist Canadian parrot breeders with the many facets of parrot breeding.

The objectives of the Parrot Association of Canada are:

- to educate the general public on the benefits of aviary bred parrots,
- to promote responsible parrot ownership,
- to promote cooperative captive breeding programs,
- to support the efforts of conservation groups.

For more information, please contact Brian Eddy, (416) 244-6976 or Jacquie Blackburn, (416) 282-7375. For those wishing to join this new organization, please send a check payable to: Parrot Association of Canada, 108 Meadowvale Rd., West Hill, Ontario M1C 1S1.●

Captive Hatching of the Bahama Parrot

On May 4, 1994 the first of three Bahama Parrot chicks *Amazona leucocephala bahamensis* hatched from a clutch of four eggs at Ardastra Gardens and Zoo in Nassau, Bahamas. Two other eggs hatched on May 7 and 10. The fourth egg proved to be infertile.

The chicks were pulled for handrearing at 4, 1 and 4 days old respectively. This precaution was taken since the previous year three chicks had hatched successfully but then all died mysteriously after nearly a month with the parents.

Currently, the chicks are fully weaned and fledged and are doing just fine. Their first years will be spent educating the island population of the plight of their own endangered parrot species. As they reach maturity though, plans are in the works to pair them up with wild-caught stock from their native island of Great Inagua.

This is the first time in the world that Bahama Parrots have ever been successfully handraised. Also, to our knowledge, this is the world's only captive breeding pair of Bahama Parrots.●

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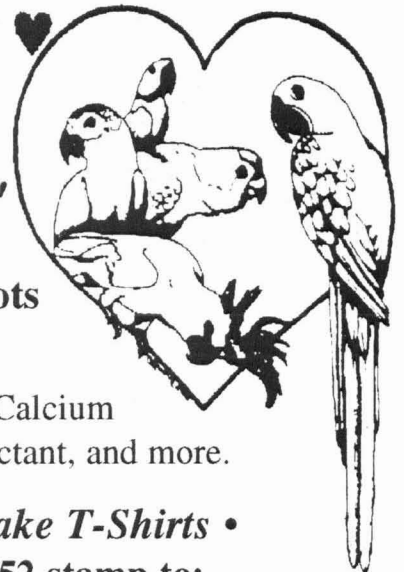
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*Kathleen Szabo
& Rick Jordan*



World Bird Sanctuary & L'Avian Pet Products Provide Co-op Program

L'Avian Pet Products of Stephen, Minnesota and the World Bird Sanctuary of St. Louis, Missouri are pleased to announce a cooperative program to provide care for captive birds of all species.

Dick Hebert and Doris Mortenson, owners of L'Avian Pet Products and Walter C. Crawford, Jr., Ornithologist and Executive Director of the World Bird Sanctuary (WBS) have joined together to help provide supportive, ongoing programs for captive birds.

The World Bird Sanctuary's (WBS) mission is to preserve the earth's biological diversity and to secure the future of threatened bird species in their natural environments. They work to fulfill that mission through education, captive breeding and an extensive rehabilitation program for bird species. WBS has a long time association with various conservation organizations such as the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators, the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, the Raptor Research Foundation and numerous others as well as an excellent working relationship with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and various state conservation agencies. This is a cooperative effort to provide a productive life for captive birds that are endangered or for birds that have been mistreated, abandoned or need medical assistance. The program involves placing many of these birds with breeding projects, zoological institutions or in private homes if they require monitoring or treatment.

According to Walter C. Crawford, Jr., a major consideration with captive birds is providing a proper, nutritious and clean diet. L'Avian Plus Caged Bird Diets were selected because of their cleanliness, their special quality ingredients and balanced nutrition because the products are free of added chemical preservatives. This helps provide a more natural balanced diet for the variety of species WBS deals with.

Of special importance to World Bird Sanctuary is the Thick-billed Parrot which is the only remaining native parrot species in the United States today. This species lives only in the mountains of Arizona where less than 15 birds remain in the wild. This extremely endangered parrot is noted for its loud calls and specialized feeding habits, preferring to feed on pine cones. To maintain these in captivity takes a balanced diet and they need a clean food with unprocessed ingredients which L'Avian now produces in its diets. The importance of whole, unprocessed, untreated and unsalted ingredients in these diets is what attracted us to their use.

Every species from the Hyacinth Macaw to the smallest parakeet, from the small screech owl to the largest eagle pass through the doors of the sanctuary. Many are endangered. Some have been mistreated or abused, some are injured and some have been confiscated as they are smuggled into the United States or entered with incorrect paperwork and permits. It is the mission of WBS to take these birds and make sure that they are properly cared for and placed in suitable environments.

At present, one can find numerous species of birds at WBS and the species vary from month to month. WBS is a non profit, tax exempt organization which receives its funding from corporations, small companies, private individuals and some foundations. The food provided by L'Avian Pet Products not

only provides premium diets that ensure optimal nutrition for the birds but also help defray the costs of maintaining the many patients and residents at the sanctuary.

Walter C. Crawford, Jr. is a noted expert in this field and works with groups and agencies throughout the world to make sure that all bird species are treated humanely and preserved for future generations.

For additional information and interviews, contact Walter C. Crawford, Jr., World Bird Sanctuary at (314) 938-6193. ●

The Club Connection



The Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc.

by Nancy L. Vigran

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.*

Meeting Location: Brandon Park and Recreation Center, 510 E. Sadie Street, Brandon, Florida.

Meeting Date: Third Sunday of every month at 1:30 p.m.

President: John Meade, (813) 677-5200.

Club Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1178, Brandon, Florida 33509-1178.

General Information: Now 10 years old, the Greater Brandon Avian Society is an informal group of people brought together through mutual interest in birds. Members include professional breeders, hobbyist breeders and those who are strictly pet owners. Membership includes people who breed the largest macaws to the smallest finches and everything in between.

Meetings consist of three different sections — the business meeting, then a break for simple refreshments and conversation followed by a speaker and a small raffle. A variety of speakers each year talk not only on exotic bird care and breeding, but on native birds as well.

Activities and Special Events: The GBAS holds two fundraising events each year — an exotic bird extravaganza the first weekend of May and an exotic bird show in September. The funds are donated to many worthwhile causes including the Lowry Park Zoo, Hurricane Andrew relief efforts, the University of Florida and the University of Georgia for avian research, the University of California, Davis Guatemalan project and AFA projects. The club has been involved in an aviary project with a local elementary school and provides programs to schools, libraries and nursing homes as well.

GBAS holds two strictly "happy events" each year including a picnic in a local park and a Christmas party. Both are covered dish affairs with GBAS purchasing the meat, eating utensils and beverages.

The GBAS members believe that domestic propagation is conservation and strive to do whatever they can to provide protection for exotic birds and education to those who keep them as pets. ●

Softbill Interest Group Forms in AFA

A group of softbill enthusiasts met at the AFA Conference in Knoxville to form the "Softbill Section" within AFA. The Softbill Section will coordinate activities and communications among AFA members interested in keeping and breeding the many species of softbills currently in captivity.

The Softbill Section will circulate a quarterly or semi-annual newsletter via the AFA home office, outlining their upcoming activities. Roland Cristo and Jerry Jennings will serve as co-chairs of the group, with Grenville Roles as Communications Coordinator and David Sefton as Financial Coordinator.

The Softbill Section will provide the speakers to fill four slots in the AFA Convention Program and have selected jays, tanagers, toucans and "Introduction to Softbill Care" for the 1995 Convention, in keeping with the overall theme of "South America." The group will also have an evening workshop on softbills at the conference and intends to assist the *Watchbird* editorial staff with the acquisition of softbill articles for the magazine.

To defray the cost of the group's activities, including the communique, an additional dues of \$5.00 will be requested of participants, for which they will also be given an opportunity to vote on softbill speakers at conferences.

If you wish to participate in the Softbill Section, please send your \$5.00 to the AFA Office, P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ 85079-6218.●

Announcing a Breakthrough in Exotic Animal Nutrition

Scenic Bird Foods Announces Revolutionary New Hand Weaning Food for Fledgling and Juvenile Parrots

Plymouth, MN and Santa Barbara, CA - March 30, 1994 . . . Marion Zoological Inc., developer and manufacturer of foods for captive wild animals and the Scenic brand of bird foods for exotic birds is introducing Scenic Hand Weaning Food' for Fledgling and Juvenile Parrots, a revolutionary new food for weaning psittacine (parrot type) birds.

Scenic Hand Weaning Food for Fledglings and Juveniles is an essential part of Abundance Weaning, a technique developed to reduce mortality rates of young parrots.

"Abundance Weaning is the process," says Phoebe Linden of the Santa Barbara Bird Farm. "Scenic Hand Weaning Food for Fledglings and Juveniles is the tool. The result is increased survival rates in altricial birds."

Scenic Hand Weaning Food is an all natural, nutritionally complete product that addresses both the nutritional requirements and emotional needs of young parrots. Abundance Weaning, as new to captive bird breeding as the food that supports it, teaches young birds essential eating skills while simultaneously preparing them for a well-socialized life in a human environment. Proprietary formulation and manufacturing result in a unique food product that allows the human fingers presenting the food to replicate the natural feeding techniques of parent birds. "Therefore," says Ms. Linden, "the human provider is reinforced as the source of sustenance and care for the young parrot."

It is not surprising that this breakthrough food and its process are available from Marion Zoological, whose mission in the exotic animal food industry, explains Jim Goetz, President and CEO, "has always been one based on commitment to quality, innovation, and welfare of captive populations of exotic animals. Our zoological clients have known and depended on us for seven years because our products are all carefully designed along innovative principles and manufactured to meet vigorous quality standards."

Marion Zoological's Scenic Hand Weaning Food is the only food in the industry specifically designed for fledgling and juvenile parrots; its introduction ensures the company's position as a premier developer and manufacturer of food for exotic animals.

Dr. Christine E. Sellers of The Cat and Bird Clinic in Santa Barbara also stated that, "The Abundance Weaning technique will not only reduce weaning stress in young birds, but the Scenic Hand Weaning Food will also reduce or eliminate the dangers of aspiration and pharyngeal trauma often associated with syringe feeding." Dr. Sellers went on to say that, "the technique is ideal for transition over to a manufactured diet: the nutrition choice of most avian veterinarians."

"Transition to adult eating behaviors is enhanced with Scenic Hand Weaning Food," continues Ms. Linden. "Anxiety, weight loss and trauma commonly seen in birds weaned through deprivation techniques are eliminated through the Abundance Weaning practice of plenitude, while the food itself teaches young parrots how to manipulate actual morsels, an eating skill not learned through traditional syringe or spoon feeding."

Mr. Goetz added even further, "It is a very rare occasion indeed when a new product of such revolutionary and far reaching importance is introduced to the pet industry."

Marion Zoological Inc. develops products, publishes research, and provides education and training to the exotic animal and specialty pet industries and has pioneered research on many products used to feed animals with either difficult to study or difficult to meet nutritional requirements.●

Man Pleads Guilty to Smuggling Eggs

A Las Vegas man pleaded guilty Monday to a federal conspiracy charge for his involvement in a ring that smuggled Australian cockatoo eggs into the United States over a 10-year period.

John Barth, 46, incubated and hand-reared the cockatoo chicks to the point where they could be sold through a business in New York known as "Planned Parrothood."

Barth admitted that the value of the birds smuggled while he was part of the ring was up to \$800,000.

Five others accused of participating in the ring have pleaded not guilty to the charges and are awaiting trial. They are William Wegner of San Diego; Theodora Swanson of Memphis, Tennessee; and Brian Bradley, Mark Skillman and David Freda, all of New Paltz, New York.

The charges, contained in a federal grand jury indictment, also accuse Wegner, Bradley, Swanson and Skillman of smuggling in 137 cockatoo eggs in September 1990, and Wegner, Bradley, Swanson and Freda with attempting to import 71 cockatoo eggs a year later.

The indictment also charges Wegner with money laundering and filing false tax returns for 1987 through 1990, when he lived in Woodland Hills and Malibu.●

Avian Trade Shows & Seminars

Macaw Landing Foundation Public Viewing Aviary

Third Thursday of each month
Jantzen Beach Center, exit 308 off I-5
1919 N. Jantzen, Portland, Oregon
Mon. - Fri. 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Bird care seminar. Speaker Pat Huff, D.V.M.
Macaw Landing 7:30 p.m.
For information call: (503) 286-0882

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club 62nd Annual Cage Bird Show November 5, 1994

(more info top of next column)
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Rolling Meadows Holiday Inn
3405 Algonquin Rd.,
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
Phone (708) 259-5000

Judges:

Type Canaries - Harold Sodemann
Hartz Canaries - Harold Sodemann
American Singer Canaries - Mike Bacon
Colorbred Canaries - Ignacio Perea
Finches & Softbills - Brian Binns (England)
Lovebirds - Lee Horton
Hookbills - Ray Johnson
Budgerigars - Don Langell
American Cockatiel Society - Carl Helton
National Cockatiel Society - Lee Horton
General information: (708) 705-6260

Capital Area Avicultural Society 8th Annual Cage Bird Show, Fair, Sale and Swap

November 12 & 13, 1994

Bellefont Hotel, Great Hall
7370 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA
Sat. - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. / Sun. - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For information call Kathy Erwin (504) 926-5547

Way Out West Bird Expo, Arizona's Biggest Bird Mart November 13, 1994

State Fairgrounds
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Everything from finches to macaws,
cages, feed, bird toys and more.
\$4.00 adults / \$2.50 seniors / \$1.50 children 5-12
For vendor info: (602) 973-9282

46th National Cage Bird Show Manchester, New Hampshire November 17, 18, & 19, 1994

The Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn
(603) 625-1000
For more information call:
Denise Bourgault (603) 893-8870 or
Charles Anchor (708) 543-3757
Judges:
Borders - Tony Flumerodo, California
Glosters - Margaret Moore, England
Type - Steve Haley, England
Old Varieties - Ray Rudisil, Missouri

(more info top of next column)

Hartz - Mark Whiteaker, Missouri
American Singers - Richard Hoey, New York
Lipochrome Color - Bob Metheny, Texas
Melanin Colorbred - Willfred DeYart, Belgium
Finches & Softbills - Daren Decoteau, New Hampshire
Parrots - Clarence Culwell, Texas
Lovebirds - Walter Petty, Florida
Budgerigars - Len Adams, Illinois
Cockatiels - Lloyd Bailey, Wyoming
Fife Fancy - Clarence King, Texas

Rocket City Cage Bird Club 6th Annual Eggzotic Bird Fair November 19 & 20, 1994

Jaycee's Community Center at the Old Airport
Huntsville, Alabama
For information contact: Katherine Levine
1215 Blevins Gap Rd. SE, Huntsville, AL 35802-2707
Phone (205) 881-4809

National Capital Bird Club 1994 Fall Bird Mart November 20, 1994

Wakefield Park Recreation Center
8100 W. Braddock Rd., Annandale, VA
Info: NCBC, 1252 Elden St., Suite 120, Herndon, VA 22070
Deborah Goodall (703) 471-1231
or Wayne Porter (703) 751-5717

Cascade Canary Breeders Association 26th Annual Canary Show

Executive Inn Convention Center
5700 Pacific Highway East (#5 Exit 137)
Tacoma (Fife), Washington 98424
(206) 922-0080
Judging Only - November 26, 1994
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Open to Public - November 27, 1994
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
For info. contact: Bruce Breniman (206) 486-8673 or
Terry Albertson (206) 839-6533

Kentuckiana Cage Bird Society and Feathered Friends sponsor their

**6th Annual Exotic Bird Fair
December 3 & 4, 1994**
Sat. - 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. / Sun. - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Buechel Armory
4815 Progress Blvd., Louisville, Kentucky
Admission \$1.00 per person
Information: (812) 282-8435 or (502) 935-5440

Alamo City Bird Mart "Biggest Little Bird Mart in Texas!" December 10, 1994

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Live Oak Civic Center
8101 Pat Booker Rd., off Loop 1604
24,000 sq. ft. of breeders cages and supplies,
seminars, microchipping clinic, raffle.
For vendor info call: (210) 648-0788
or send for space application:
2611 Tucker, San Antonio, TX 78222

Arizona Aviculture Society Bird Mart December 11, 1994

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tower Plaza Mall
38th St. & Thomas Rd., Phoenix, Arizona
Adults \$3.00 / Children 12 & under free
For vendor info. call Susan at (602) 381-9934
or Pam at (602) 973-0667

Florida State Fair All Bird Exotic Bird Show February 18 & 19, 1995

Tampa, Florida
Pre-registration recommended before Jan. 20, 1995
Info: Lisa Hinton, AgriBusiness Dept.,
P.O. Box 11766, Tampa, FL 33608
Call 1-800-345-3247
or call Dale Laird, show committee (407) 657-7989

Bird Clubs of Virginia's 11th Annual Convention & Bird Mart April 1 - 2, 1995

Holiday Inn Koger Executive Conference Center
1021 Koger Center Blvd., Richmond, VA 23235
Hotel reservations: (804) 379-3800
For convention info. contact: Kris Peters (804) 784-3975 or
Jo Engels (804) 994-2191 / (804) 994-5458 (fax)
or write: BCV, Route 1, Box 1282, Hanover, VA 23069
For bird mart info. contact: Cindy Parry (804) 973-0275 or
Jo Engels (804) 994-2191 / (804) 994-5458 (fax)
or write to BCV at above address

Tri-State Bird Club presents its

7th Annual Bird Mart April 23, 1995

Winchester National Guard Armory
Millwood Avenue, Winchester, VA
Free admission
For information contact:
Dowl Boteler (703) 955-3039 or Fax (703) 955-4182

Way Out West Bird Expo April 23, 1995

Arizona's biggest bird mart
State Fairgrounds
19th Ave. and McDowell, Phoenix, Arizona
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Over 300 vendors with everything from
finches to macaws, cages, feed, bird toys and more.
For more information call (602) 973-9282