AFA Convention 1994 Knoxville, Tennessee

In these hectic 1990s, family members find themselves separated by distances, by distractions and by disasters; family reunions are a great joy and that's just what the AFA members found in Knoxville at the Annual Convention! Activities ranged from a country banquet to scientific discourses on aviculture, yet the same family spirit prevailed.

The Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club (TVEBC) was our host. They did a fabulous job lining up facilities and activities. The AFA Executive Board started their meeting early on Wednesday morning and were rewarded for their efforts with a grand tour of the University of Tennessee's College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Susan Orosz introduced the Board to several of her colleagues, divided the group into three smaller groups, then dazzled them all with the avant-garde procedures, size, physical layout and teaching capabilities of this fine school. The doctors topped the tour off by hosting a light lunch of fresh fruit, assorted cheeses and crackers. All in all, a wonderful tour of a splendid veterinary school.

With the fun and education process well underway, Wednesday evening's schedule offered a tour of the Knoxville Zoo. A special bird show was presented to the AFA members. This was followed by an outdoor barbecue dinner. The weather was great and so was the bird show and barbecue!

If you missed the Thursday and Friday evening hospitality room hosted by the TVEBC members, you missed some of the best food at the convention. These folks outdid themselves. They had a huge table that dominated the center of the room and they loaded it with a great assortment of homemade goodies.

Breaking Concrete Blocks for Conservation

Phil Jones breaking concrete blocks for conservation took place in Knoxville, Tennessee at the AFA Convention on August 5, Friday afternoon in between rain showers! The blocks had

been set up, mainly by Phil and Ray Agutter of Salt Lake City, with some help by AFA Board members. Setting up the blocks is a long, tedious exercise and took place over several days on the open air Rotunda of the Flags, which had a large concrete-based public area. Live television cameras were present and local dignitaries in their finery presented Phil with proclamations on camera prior to the block breaking. Phil was resplendent in his white Taekwondo uniform. Local Taekwando school members were present to assist in preparing the blocks for the break. A large crowd of convention goers stood on the steps facing the event, talking in hushed and expectant tones as they watched the preparations.

At the moment of truth, with television cameras rolling, Phil Jones, his hands tightly wrapped in white medical tape, began smashing blocks, one stack after the other. He moved rapidly down the rows of blocks and when the bones in his hands broke, he started using the weight of his forearm to come down on the blocks with great force. When the 60 seconds were up, Phil's hands were bloody and he immediately plunged both arms up to the elbow into a large bucket of ice water to stop the pain and reduce the swelling. Two local dignitaries counted the broken blocks ... 236 in all! Setting a record break! And as Phil stood with his hands and arms in ice water and responded to questions, the most surprising thing, he said, was to discover the blocks were not the standard martial arts strength blocks, but blocks about three times as hard! What a surprise to him as he began hitting the blocks and realizing he had to use even greater force to make any impact at all! The crowd cheered Phil as he completed the break. Checks, cash and pledges were placed into a large fish tank by members of the crowd . . . checks for \$500 and \$1,000 were received! A total of \$2,229.11 was raised on the spot! We will not know the total raised until

all pledges and donations have been received at the AFA Office. Phil put his body on the line for conservation . . . let's match his effort by sending in our pledges and donations to the AFA Conservation Fund *now!*Laurella Desborough

The Red Siskin Program

Saturday was a very busy day, beginning with the Red Siskin Summit proceedings. This program began with an introductory talk by Project Director Kevin Gorman. He noted the Project's many achievements, including last year's summit (which hosted international speakers), the Project's ever-improving organization structure, and the energy with which members combine their love of birds with scientific breeding tactics. Dr. Rainer Erhardt spoke to the group on the wild siskin population in Puerto Rico, which may also become a focus for the Project's conservation activities. Ms. Mary Cahow, a biologist from the University of Wisconsin, presented a fascinating computer program for examining genetics and survival potential of captive breeding populations. Experienced breeders brought to the foreground several people. Mr. Raymond Smith of Illinois is a wildlife biologist with a long history in bird breeding and species preservation; he has enjoyed success with siskin breeding and will be taking on the duties of breeder coordinator. This will involve coordinating breeder techniques, shipping and related issues. Ms. Sandra Correll of Oregon is a new but successful breeder in the Project. She presented a slide show of her beautiful aviary in the mountains of Oregon.

Dr. Gail Gatewood-Colwell showed a video of siskins breeding and raising their young. She is a psychologist by profession who finds time after her practice hours to be the membership coordinator for the Project. The group held long discussions on the future of the Project, spotlighting such critical areas as ensuring genetic diversity and wild traits in the siskin population, promoting communication among members (the members of this Project face the daunting challenge of carrying out this Project despite being spread over the entire country), and finding funding for the Project. Currently, the director runs the proceedings on a shoestring budget, despite the many costs of shipping, medical care for the birds and administrative costs. Despite all these challenges, members are devoted to the Project. and will continue to work hard to ensure its success. As always, Director Kevin Gorman urges interested people to contact him through the AFA Office. The Project needs many types and levels of participation to help with many varied parts of this ambitious and noble undertaking. AFA members are reminded that this Project is important not only for the saving of the siskin but also as a pilot project for future AFA cooperative breeding proiects for parrots!

Dr. Gail Gatewood-Colwell

Some of the Speaker Highlights

The theme of the 1994 AFA National Convention held in Knoxville, Tennessee was "Down Under" and "Out of Africa." This was the convention to attend if you had any interest in avian species originating from Australia and Africa.

The knowledge and background of the speakers from Australia were simply outstanding. Having personally met with these three men while attending an Australian convention in 1983, it was very good to renew our friendship.

Graeme Hyde's humor was very evident even in his presentations. He was very entertaining while being very educational. He gave an overall look into modern Australian aviculture. Impressive when one realizes that our Australian counterparts have not had the privilege of receiving imports of exotic birds since the middle 1950s. They still have a number of African and Asian finches in their aviaries. They also have a great number of foreign parrots which have been reproduced in captivity for many years. Of course, they have Australian species, but are not allowed to remove any from the wild state. They are permitted for their species and have had to deal with governmental restrictions for several decades. American aviculture can learn so much from Australian aviculture.

Warwick Remington spoke on reproducing cockatoos and parakeets in the Australian aviary. They only reproduce the Australian cockatoos as



Yes, count me as a member of the



American Federation of Aviculture

P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, Arizona 85079-6218 Phone (602) 484-0931 Fax (602) 484-0109

THE WATCHBIRD IS THE OFFICIAL BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE AFA, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Please accept my application for membership in the American Federation of Aviculture. Send me 6 issues (1 year) of *the a.f.a. WATCHBIRD* magazine, and a membership card which entitles me to all the rights and privileges of AFA membership.

Check membership cat	egory desired:	NEW RENEWAL		
Individual \$24/year □	Family \$2	29/year □ Supporting \$39/year □		
Sustaining \$50/year ☐ Comme		ercial \$100/year, includes listing in WATCHBIRD 🗆		
FOREIGN MEMBERS request.	: Add \$16/yea	r in U.S. Funds. First class rates available on		
☐ My check is enclosed	for \$	☐ My money order is enclosed for \$		
Name		Charge my MC or VISA account:		
Address		Account #		
City		Exp. Date		
State	Zip	Signature		
Telephone ()		Please allow 60 to 90 days for delivery of your first issue.		
AREA		for delivery of your first issue.		

Siskin Project supporters, L to R, back row: Mary Cahow, Kirby Colwell, Kevin Gorman, Gail Gatewood-Colwell, Ray Smith, Yvonne Patterson, Virginia Baker. L to R, kneeling, front row: Sandy Correll, Tudi Smith, Rita Smith. They display artwork generated to support the Red Siskin Project. At center, a beautiful representation of a pair of Venezuelan Red Siskins by world-renowned British artist Eric Peake. Front foreground, two illustrations of the Siskin family by Jay Fullmer. Prints of these lovely works of art are available through the AFA Office.



Some of the main motivators of the 1994 AFA Convention, Knoxville, TN. Host club TVEBC members, L to R, top row: Mike Aident, Gary Reid, Marie Reid, Cindy Rich, Sondra Ott, Peggy Tubbs. L to R, bottom row: Pat Hornbeak, Cindy Aident, Sharon Whitaker, Jane Parrish, John Rich.



Eric Peake with his fabulous display of originals and prints. Viewers were struck, as always, with his accuracy and knowledge of his subjects. He donated a beautiful Hyacinth Macaw print to the AFA auction, a much coveted item, to say the least. Gail Worth, left, studies out a decision for the right subject to hang on her wall.



the Indonesian cockatoos cannot be found in their aviaries. Still, their black cockatoos are some of the most impressive of all cockatoos. Warwick went through the complete list of Australian parakeets and included the lories, eclectus and fig parrots in his talk.

Yours truly did an American view of reproducing Australian parakeets and there was considerable difference between the reproductive techniques of Australian and American aviculture. This was mainly in the types of nests supplied to the Australian parakeets.

Barry Hutchins, one of the great Australian aviculturists and ornithologists, spoke on the Australian cockatoos found in the wild. He showed why Australia is called the Land of Parrots. The knowledge imparted by this respected man was greatly appreciated. Due to an unfortunate respiratory illness, he was unable to present his Australian finch presentation but it was ably covered by Graeme Hyde.

The foreign speakers from South Africa were well received by American aviculturists. This was not surprising as their knowledge on African parrot and finch topics led to a great deal of discussion.

Whether it was the topic of subspecies or color variances of Jardine's and Meyer's Parrots or the dietary needs of the many African finch species, these two speakers from South Africa really imparted excellent information.

Chris Kingsley, D.V.M., was knowledgeable on many subjects. Being a



Final adjustments were made to the hundreds of concrete blocks stacked seven high. Phil Jones was interviewed by a local news team as the audience gathered to cheer Phil on.



Phil Jones in action, smashing his way through an impossible 60-second-time-limit block breaking feat. He succeeded in breaking his own world record of 152 concrete blocks broken in 60 seconds. To raise funds for AFA conservation, Phil broke 236 blocks!

Jeff Clark, left, representing Sun Seed Co., Inc. of Bowling Green, Ohio, got a giant standing ovation from the Saturday evening banquet crowd with his presentation of a \$15,000 check to the AFA. AFA First Vicepresident Gary Clifton accepted the gift.

veterinarian, he had considerable knowledge on the activities of aviculturists in South Africa. Besides being a veterinarian, Chris has also been an aviculturist for many years. He was very detailed in his presentations on many avian subjects found in South African aviculture. He had extensive knowledge on parrots, finches and softbills.

David Dennison was another very knowledgeable South African aviculturist. His experience not only covered the African avian species but also many avian species from around the world. Of great interest was his development of a lory nectar. Most American aviculturists are aware of the dry and nectar lory diets found in America. In a long discussion with David, I was certainly impressed with his scientific work in perfecting a lory diet for South African aviculturists. He perfected lory diets according to the specific needs of the different types of lories. I would dearly love to see his lory diets become available to American aviculturists.

Both of these gentlemen were very kind and imparted their wide-ranging knowledge with such a professional attitude.

Although there were many highlights in the Knoxville convention, renewing my friendship with the Australian aviculturists and beginning new friendships with our South African colleagues was the greatest reward for me.

For finch enthusiasts, this convention was a bonanza. Besides the previous speakers, Linda Oja gave a presentation on breeding finches in the U.S. She also put a highlight on Finchsave, a program sponsored by the National Finch and Softbill Society.

Louise Bauck, D.V.M. from Canada,



Management and Circulation (Required by 39 U S C. 3685)		
THE AFA WATCHBIRD	0 1 9 9 5 4 3 X Sept. 29,94	
Bi-mouthly	No of town Address SIX (6)	montes to 24.
American Federation of Australia 1818 U. Thomas Red To Australia American Celebration of Australia 1818 W. Thomas Red #113 (20 to 1818 W. Thomas Red #114 (The Disc. Beck 56218 Phoenix Policy for the Medical for the Me	AZ \$5079-6218 Z 85079-6218
I proper in many of again immune of sect. If one means by a compression. He when no other manufactured from the sect and address on mall or that of sect redshifts name and address once to sected a three many to complete a	در معنون المراجعة على المراجعة المراجعة المراجعة المراجعة المراجعة المراجعة المراجعة المراجعة المراجعة المراجع المراجعة المراجعة ال	or for proces of proceed in a parentrying
Agent and midders many by season a three many by completed :	Congless Wes	-
American Federation of American in	3118 W. Digmes Rd. #713	
	Phoenix AZ 85079-6318	
A report Bondholder, blangages, and Other Security Medics Divining to Securida (If flore sor way, all retri-	Complete Ma	
ASWE	ADUL	
	toppe (DASH Sureum 424 /2 only) sacres scattus for Faderal recome ten pur	press (Clerk av.)
Miss her Changes During Proceeding 12 March	Of changed publisher mast rations expansions of change with the transmiss of	
Science and Nature of Corculation (See Approximate on Inventor Aultr)	Average No. Copies Each feare During Proceeding 12 Months	Actual No Copies of Single Issue Putmoned Neurost to Filing Date
A Total Ro Copies (Nei Priss Bain	6000	6000
Peut annior Requested Coculation Sales through dealers and country and country sales.	388	325
2 May Substraggen shad and/or represent	5399	5494
C Total Park and/or Requested Circulation (Sun of 1987 and 1982)	578.7	5819
D Free Detribution by Mari Corner or Other Means Semeter Complementary and Other Free Copies	2	2
E Total Description (Sun of C and D)	5789	5821
F Copies Not Detroused 1 Office use light over unaccounted spotted after printing	2(1	179
2 Return from News Agents	Ð	Ø
G TOTAL (Sun of E // gag) - plants again on press for objects in A)	6000	600C
I contify that the statements made by	Total of Editor Publisher Business Man	se cresident

AFA Watchbird advertisers represent some of the best in the business. When you buy from these fine sources, be sure to tell them you saw their ad in Watchbird!

Deadline Schedule

Jan / Feb '95 Featuring **HANDFEEDING**

Nov. 1 -editorial copy Nov. 15 - display ADS

Mar / Apr '95

Jan. 1 -editorial copy Jan. 15 - display ADS

> May / June '95 Featuring **AMAZONS**

March 1 —editorial copy March 15 – display ADS

July / Aug '95

May 1 -editorial copy May 15 - display ADS

> Sept / Oct '95 Featuring **LORIES**

July 1 -editorial copy July 15 - display ADS

Nov / Dec '95

Sept. 1 — editorial copy Sept. 15 – display ADS

spoke on the first aid of finches. She is a representative of Hagen's research facility. Two other veterinarians spoke at the Knoxville convention. Susan Orosz, D.V.M., from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinarian Medicine gave two excellent presentations, one on valuable information regarding antifungal therapy in birds and the other on avian anatomy. Sharon Patton, D.V.M., gave a presentation on parasites found in avian species.

A very pleasant surprise was that all of the veterinarians at this convention gave informative yet understandable presentations. What a pleasure to attend veterinarian presentations that were directly involved in medicine that one could understand. I am quite sure it was not the topic but how it was presented. A job well done!

Two American speakers gave presentations on two African groups of parrots. Bob Beech showed details on his African Grey breeding facility. It also included a hands-on presentation of some of the more important details of his aviary and nursery. Dave Blynn impressed the audience on the unusual breeding habits of the Vasa parrots. These are two such divergent African parrot species. One is rated in the top pet groups of large parrots while the other is a unique, but uncommon, avicultural parrot species that needs so much help in captivity.

A very different but well presented talk was given by Dr. Ulysses S. Seal on cooperative breeding programs around the world. Involved in many organizations critical in preserving animal species in captivity, Dr. Seal gave a presentation involving a great number of both avian (Bali Mynah, Puerto Rican Parrot, etc.) and mammal species. Dr. Seal is chairman of CBSG News which is published by the Captive Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), Species Survival Commission and World Conservation Union. These organizations are concerned with the conservation of many plants and animals around the world. An impressive presentation by a very knowledgeable man who also had a great sense of humor.

A presentation of particular interest to me was on the breeding of African Starlings by D. Grenville Roles. It is such a superb group of softbills with irridescent, vibrant colors. The talk included species, diet and many avicultural aspects of this group of birds.

There were two roundtable discussions, one on Australian avian species and the other on African avian species. Although roundtables are not done very often at the national conventions, I personally endorse them. They both lasted over an hour and included many aspects not given in the regular presentations. Speakers generally give an overview of their topics, touching on several details. But in a roundtable discussion, these details can be put into questions and given to the speakers. I was involved in both roundtables, one as a speaker and one as a moderator. The African avian species roundtable involved Dr. Chris Kingsley, David Dennison, Linda Oja, Bob Beech, Dave Blynn and Grenville Roles. What an impressive line-up of people who knew so much about many of the African birds kept in our aviaries. The audience asked questions pertinent to their needs and the answers by the panel of experts was impressive. So much was learned!

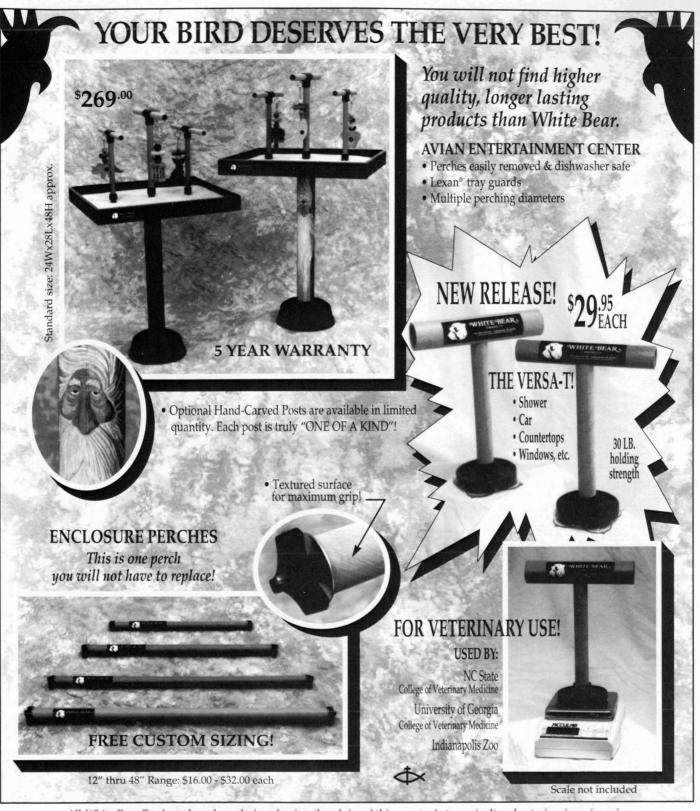
I was personally stopped at the banquet on Saturday night by several people who complimented on how well the roundtables had gone and expressed that this was needed at every convention.

In conclusion, the Convention was a terrific success, allowing members to come together as a family and share their triumphs and tragedies and to lend support and encouragement for the challenges in the coming year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans in '95!

The 1995 AFA National Convention will be held in New Orleans and the theme for this convention will be on the avian species found in Central and South America. The speakers will include respected aviculturists, conservationists and some surprises. I personally hope to see all of you there.

I must commend the many people who helped put on the Knoxville, Tennessee AFA National Convention, certainly the TVEBC group including President Barbara Kimmet and past-President Gary Reed. These were a great group of people. And certainly Mary Perry, Convention Chairperson and Laurella Desborough, President of AFA. And all the people behind the scenes. Thank you all so much!

Dale R. Thompson●



All White Bear Products have been designed using the advice of this country's top avicultural veterinarians, insuring features that best promote the mental and physical strengths that will help make your bird the kind of companion you've always desired!



ORDER TODAY!





Freight Prepaid - Cont. USA

WHITE BEAR PRODUCTS

Division of Gary Dorman & Associates, Inc. P.O. Box 501155 - Indianapolis, Indiana 46250 (317) 849-9637 Fax (317) 577-2573

Dealers Always Welcome!

Call Today For Free Color Brochure! (317) 849-9637 Find out why White Bear Products

Find out why White Bear Products last a LIFETIME!

