

Impressions of the AFA's 1994 Convention

by Graeme Hyde
Elliminyt, Australia

In August of this year I was one of three Australian aviculturists who attended the American Federation of Aviculture's 20th Annual Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee.

As I had attended each of the seven Australian AFA conventions (1980 to 1994) I was looking forward to Knoxville with great anticipation because such events bring together a diverse and interesting group of aviculturists. This was certainly a feature of the Knoxville convention.

The Australians - Barry Hutchins, Ruby Hutchins, Warwick Remington and I - were most impressed with the welcome by members of the Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club upon our arrival in Knoxville. This warmth and friendship was a highlight of the convention and certainly made us feel "at home" in the US.

The convention was well planned, the range of speakers were as diverse as they were interesting, and the theme "Down Under and Out of Africa" was the catalyst for the sharing of a lot of useful avicultural information by all the speakers.

The trade exhibit was, for the Australians, an eye-opener into the way aviculture and the pet bird market is catered for in the US. It enabled us to see species

that are not available in our own country and that, in itself, was most interesting.

We prefer the American system of scheduling only one speaker at a time. The Australian system of having two speakers both speaking at the same time (in different lecture rooms) means that delegates cannot always attend their preferred lectures.

We missed the mid-morning and mid-afternoon coffee breaks that are a feature of Australian conventions which, apart from providing refreshment, enable the mixing and mingling of both delegates and speakers. We observed with interest that most of the convention officials were women, in Australia the reverse applies.

Contracting the speakers to illustrate their lectures with color slides, and having a theme for the convention, were notable aspects of the convention planning.

From Australia to Knoxville, Tennessee, is a long way to attend an avicultural convention, but it was well worth the effort involved! ➔

(Editor's Note: Graeme Hyde, along with Barry Hutchins and Warwick Remington, was one of three Australians invited to speak at this AFA convention.)

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

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

Exotic Bird Club of Florida Bird Auction and Vender Sales March 12, 1995

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Greater Palm Bay Senior Center

1275 Culver Dr., Palm Bay, FL

Info: EBCF, P.O. Box 1177, Melbourne, FL 32902

(407) 723-7739

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

12th Annual Greatery Dayton Bird Expo April 9, 1995

Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds

1043 South Main St., Dayton, Ohio

Includes bird fair and auction.

Baby to adult birds, feed, supplies, cages, etc.

Contact Pete or Paula DiSalvo 1-800-4819 for info.

Tri-State Bird Club presents its

7th Annual Bird Mart April 23, 1995

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Winchester National Guard Armory

Winchester, VA 22601

Free admission

For information & space reservation contact:

Dowl Boteler

Route 3, Box 5595, Berryville, VA 22622-9611

(703) 955-3039 or Fax (703) 955-4182

(continued on next page)

Photo by Linda S. Rubin



Some of the foreign and national AFA Convention speakers following the banquet (L to R): Dr. Christopher Kingsley (So. Africa), D. Grenville Roles (U.S.), Warwick Remington and Graeme Hyde of Australia.