

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

MARCH 1995

Bird Fair in Kansas

Congratulations are in order to the Northeast Kansas Cage Bird Club in Topeka Kansas on their success at their first annual Bird Fair held in the Kansas Natl. Guard Armory on August 20th, 1994. This group of hardworking, bird loving people put a lot of effort in hosting their very first bird fair. There was a constant flow of curious people moving through the halls and President Joe Bolin has every right to be proud of his group. Pati Hazell, Kansas State Coordinator, and S/C Regional V-P Richard Hazell were on hand at Joe's request to represent AFA. Pati was handfeeding a clutch of Budgies and that caused many curious people to spend time at the AFA table to see this event.

Photo by Richard Hazell

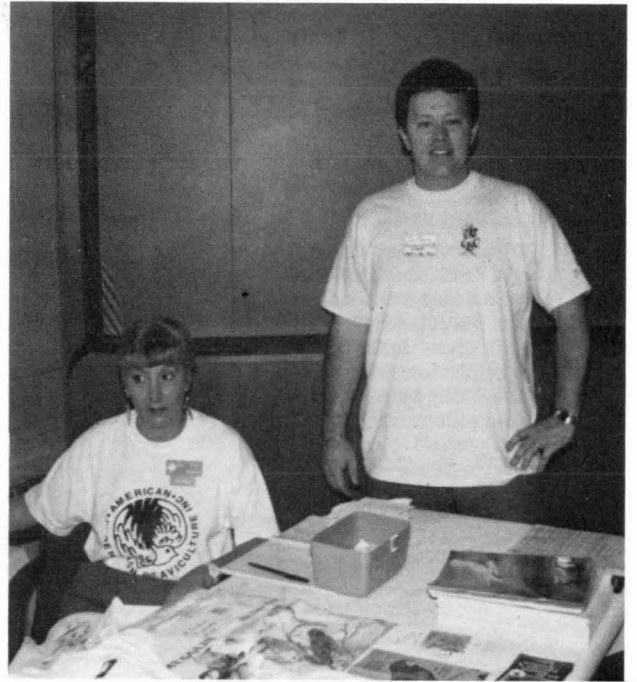


Pati Hazell S/C during set-up of the AFA table with Watchbird Magazines, T-Shirts and information to hand out to patrons.

Breeders' Connection

This nonprofit association was formed to provide a link between breeders across America. We encourage domestic breeding of exotic birds for pets and to help maintain public interest in ensuring continuation of bird species, especially the endangered. Information from our breeding research and data derived from member surveys are presented through our publication, Breeders' Bulletin, to enhance breeding success.

Photo by Richard Hazell



Cage Bird President Joe Bolin discussing the finer points of hosting a Bird Fair. Joe looks very proud in the photo and has every right to.

6th Annual Mardi Gras Avicultural Conference

The Mardi Gras Avicultural Conference brings a unique flair to the field of avian education. The conference, hosted by Dr. Gregory Rich, is held each year 10 days prior to Mardi Gras Day, the biggest and most fun filled party one can imagine. Parades actually start 14 days prior to Mardi Gras. Each year the conference highlights some of the country's most notable lecturers in the field of avian medicine, aviculture and conservation. Past speakers have included Drs. Branson Ritchie, Susan Clubb, Brian Speer, Marge Wissman, Greg Harrison and aviculturists Rick Jordan, Laurella Desborough and Gloria Allen.

This year the conference brings Dr. Jack Gaskin, Dr. Jeff Jenkins and Joanne Abramson to New Orleans for an exciting day of avian education. The date was February 19th. The location was the Jefferson Orleans South in Metairie (one block from the Landmark Hotel).

Information Needed on the Indian Hill Mynah

Ivano Mortaruolo has asked for information on the Indian Hill Mynah *Gracula religiosa* for his book. Information is requested on breeding in captivity, importations, historic and folk lore, biology, curious behavior and any aberrant mutations (albino, leucism, etc.). Photos of nests in nature are also desired. Please contact:

Ivano Mortaruolo
President
Associazione Ornitologica Ternana
Centro Studi Ornitologici
Casella Postale 198
05100 TERNI (ITALY)

Estrildid Breeding Project

This project acts as a clearing-house of information for U.S. finch breeders. If someone has an odd bird and is looking for a mate, has an excess of birds of a certain species, or simply would like to exchange information, they can call either the East or West Coast Breeding Coordinator to be placed in contact with someone with a similar need. This program is mainly designed for the non-established species since their survival in aviculture is particularly threatened.

One need not be a member of the Estrildid Forum to be a participant in these projects. There are no dues, sign-up fees, leg band requirements or other restrictions to meet in order to participate in these programs.

East Coast Breeding Coordinator

Levin H. Tilghman
6419 No. 15th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19126-3503
Phone: (215) 924-6252

West Coast Breeding Coordinator

Ben Cooper
607 Eighth Street
Coronado, CA 92118
Phone: (619) 435-1062

Immediate Opening For AFA Members From New Hampshire & Rhode Island

The American Federation of Aviculture is presently seeking a dedicated individual, residing in Rhode Island or New Hampshire, to become the AFA State Coordinator for their state. No experience is necessary, only a sincere desire to monitor state legislation, promote AFA at state-wide avian events, and a willingness to recruit AFA members. Training materials will be provided. AFA State Coordinators become automatic members of the AFA House of Delegates, receive quarterly reports, and will be listed in the AFA WATCHBIRD.

If you are interested in volunteering and growing with a foremost avian conservation organization in U.S. aviculture, please call or write: Linda S. Rubin, Northeast Regional Vice President, 93 Woodcliff Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167, or 617-469-0557.

From the USA to Australia — to Speak at a Bird Meeting!

Bob Beech of Greensboro, North Carolina, was the guest speaker at the Avicultural Society of Australia's October 1994 monthly meeting. Among the 160 members present were three interstate visitors: Jack Hannant - Adelaide, South Australia; Fred Bohner - Howlong, New South Wales; and Geoff Girvan - Elanora, Queensland.

When Barry Hutchins and Graeme Hyde of Australia met Bob and Marie Beech at the AFA convention in Knoxville (August 1994) they discussed, among many other things, the virtues and the pleasure if Bob and Marie traveled to Australia for a bird-watching trip. As secretary of the ASA, Graeme told Bob that when their (possible) trip eventuated to let him know the dates so it could be arranged for Bob to speak at the Society's monthly meeting in Melbourne, Victoria.

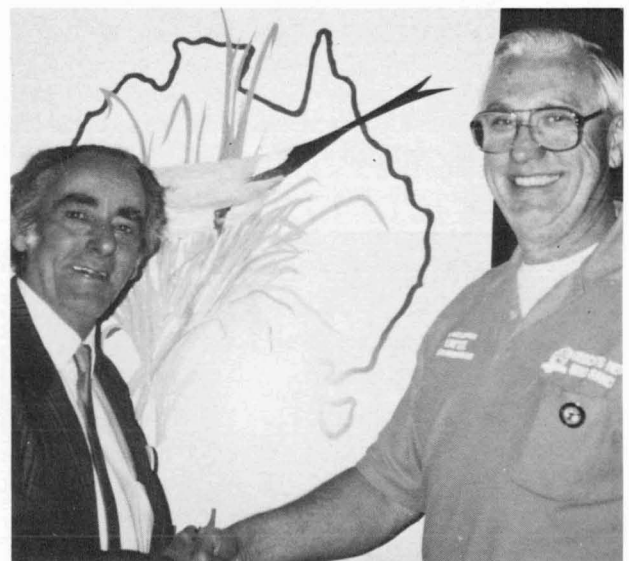
Little did Graeme realize he'd hear from Bob just a few weeks later, but a quick re-arrangement of the previously planned program made it possible for Bob Beech to be the speaker. His topic was "Experiences in Breeding Parrots in America." The color slide presentation covered the quite different methods used to breed and handrear birds at Beech's Nest Bird Ranch. Few Australians breed parrots indoors - let alone in trailers (called semi-trailers in Australia).

Bob and his wife Marie own and operate Beech's Nest Bird Ranch on a 28 acre farm, raising birds for the American pet bird trade. The whole operation as outlined by Bob in his address enabled those present to appreciate and understand the "hows" and "whys" of the enterprise.

The results achieved by Bob and Marie, and their staff, prove the success of the project. They have now handreared over 2,000 parrots and currently have thirty trailers and 250 breeding pairs of African Grey Parrots!

At the end of the presentation the president of the Avicultural Society of Australia, John Buchan, moved a warm and eloquent vote of thanks to the speaker for his informative address.

Photo by Graeme Hyde



John Buchan (left), president of the Avicultural Society of Australia, welcomes Bob Beech of North Carolina, USA, to the Society's October 1994 meeting in Melbourne, Australia.

Winners at the 46th Annual National Cage Bird Show

Kellogg Inc., Seeds and Supplies of Milwaukee, Wisconsin announces the award winners at this year's National Cage Bird Show held November 17-19, 1994, in Manchester, New Hampshire. Dedicated bird breeders/hobbyists entered 2416 birds in the show's competition, the largest in North America.

The coveted Scannell Award for Best Bird in Show was presented to Patrick and Mary Krichter of Hanover, PA by Kellogg Representative John Ulrich.

Kellogg, sponsor of the show since its inception in 1948, also presented awards to the Best Bird in each Division as follows:

Division 1 - Border Fancy Canaries

Winner: Ancil Salazar of Ontario, Canada

Division 2 - Glosters

Winner: Pierre Casavant & Robert Larochelle of Quebec, Canada

Division 3 - Type Canaries

Winner: Patrick Kane of Taylorville, IL

Division 4 - Old Varieties

Winner: Dr. Mac Saedi of Toledo, OH

Division 5 - Domestic Hartz Canaries

Winner: Dianne Groves of St. Louis, MO

Division 6 - American Singers

Winner: Marion Omiatek of Wauconda, IL

Division 7 - Lipochrome Colorbred Canaries

Winner: Gabriele Alfano of Ontario, Canada

Division 8 - Melanin Colorbred

Winner: Gerardo Cherta of Miami, FL

Division 9 - Finches and Softbills

Winner: Patrick and Mary Krichter of Hanover, PA

Division 10 - Parrots

Winner: Todd Etzel of Sarasota, FL

Division 11 - Lovebirds

Winner: Joe DeLuca of Brunswick, OH

Division 12 - Budgerigars

Winner: Sharon McCarthy of Manchester, NH

Division 13 - Cockatiels

Winner: Augie Murray-Young of West Chester, PA

Division 14 - Fife Fancy Canaries

Winner: Bob and Pattye Roberts of Austin, TX

The 47th National Cage Bird Show is scheduled to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 16-18, 1995. For more information regarding the National Cage Bird Show, contact Kellogg at 800-527-5495.



John Ulrich, Kellogg Representative, presents the Scannell Award to Patrick and Mary Krichter

CITES: 1995. Ft. Lauderdale, Florida AFA Was There

by Laurella Desborough

Representatives from 119 countries attended COP9, the Ninth Convention of the Parties, Non-governmental observers (NGO's) numbered 221. Several non-party governments attended as observers. The next CITES meeting will be held in Zimbabwe in the first half of 1997.

The meetings were held daily for two weeks and the U.S. government, as the host country, presented each participant with two CITES binders that were four inches thick with printed material related to the proposals and matters under discussion.

Among the NGO's were many "user" groups: alligator ranchers from Australia, turtle ranchers from Central America, exotic fish importers, members of whaling associations, collectors of coral, safari hunters (trophy and photography), pet industry representatives, lawyers and lobbyists who represent both sides of the importation issues, and two avicultural representatives: Al McNabney, Chair of the AFA CITES Committee and Laurella Desborough, President of AFA. These two attended the meetings and manned an AFA exhibit booth in the Exhibit Hall and met with representatives of other countries.

There were 20 exhibit booths. Most represented conservation organizations such as World Wildlife Fund. Several conservation groups were from other countries such as Taiwan and Japan. Aviculture was well represented by the high profile AFA exhibit booth. The 12 page AFA CITES Supplement was provided to representatives of each country and all NGO's, and also made available to all CITES attendees. The supplement contained information about aviculture, captive breeding, conservation projects and research projects funded by aviculturists.

Major issues at CITES of interest to the avicultural community:

1. **DISPOSITION OF CONFISCATED WILDLIFE**, or what to do with confiscated reptiles, birds, animals and plants. Some countries wanted the wildlife returned. The problem of releasing disease carriers into wild populations is a major concern when returning confiscated wildlife. Specific procedures need to be in place to determine the health status of the animals. Confiscated wildlife may include very common or rare species.

2. **TRANSPORTATION OF WILDLIFE** was discussed. Several recent studies of birds shipped into Europe from countries of origin provided the surprising information that only 1 to 2% mortality occurred. These figures are in direct conflict with those often reported by animal rights organizations.

3. **ENFORCEMENT OF CITES** regulations worldwide was a major concern of the conference participants and was strongly promoted by animal rights organizations.

4. **DELEGATES** reviewed the status of national legislation within countries which would require complying with CITES.

5. **SUSTAINABLE USE** was a very hot issue with third world countries pushing for it. The debate is between those who believe that the only way to save wildlife is to prohibit trade and those who think that for wildlife to survive, it must provide economic benefits to the local human population. Our impression was that sustainable use will increase in importance as an important conservation tool.

6. **SPECIES** proposals included tigers, whales, elephants, rhinos, and also reptiles and plants. Indonesia proposed that the Goffin's Cockatoo be transferred from Appendix I to Appendix

II. This proposal was withdrawn prior to a vote. Concerns were voiced about the adequacy of the survey done on the populations in the wild and about the adequacy of trade controls. Italy's proposal to list the Edible-nest Swiftlets withdrawn in favor of a resolution to hold a workshop on sustainable use.

This is a brief condensed report on the CITES meeting. Al McNabney has prepared a more extensive and detailed report which will be sent to delegates.

Highlights of the Quarterly Directors Meeting in Phoenix from 10/27-30/94

- Richard Hazell moved that AFA establish an Executive Committee consisting of the President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Secretary to execute day to day business, and to stay within board approved budget with a committee budget of \$5,000. 2nd and carried.
- Natalie Frumin moved that AFA support the recommendations of the Job Description Committee. 2nd and carried. "The Executive Committee is authorized to make the final hiring decision for the Executive Director." "The Executive Committee will provide oversight and direction to all AFA activities involving employee or contractors. Each member of the Executive Committee should have at least some involvement in each area."
- Kelly Tucker moved that AFA's Executive Committee begin negotiations with Stat Marketing and enter into a contract for their services. 2nd, 1 abstained, motion carried.
- Dwight Greenberg moved that AFA approve Dale Thompson as the 1995 Convention Speaker chairman. 2nd and carried.
- Aletta Long moved that AFA approve Cathy Ford as the 1995 Convention Drawing chairman. 2nd and carried.
- Gary Clifton moved that AFA approve the Nominations and Elections committee members. 2nd and carried.
- Dwight Greenberg moved that AFA approve the funding of the research project by Pam Orsten "Reproductive Hormone Profiles of Five Crane Species", in the amount of \$5,000. 2nd, 1 abstained, motion carried.
- Aletta Long moved that AFA approve the Publications committee to decide any name changes to the publication Watchbird. 2nd, 1 abstained, motion carried.
- Dwight Greenberg moved that AFA approve Gary Clifton, James McCabe, Aletta Long and Natalie Frumin as By-Law committee members. 2nd and carried. Gary Lilienthal will be asked to review the final version. Election to occur at next BOD meeting.
- Natalie Frumin moved that AFA hire an employee for business office by 1/1/95, to help Carol and to do bookkeeping. 2nd and carried.
- Dwight Greenberg moved that AFA approve the CFO to open a money market account. 2nd and carried.
- Gary Clifton moved that AFA authorize the CFO to make adjustments as necessary to the 1994 budget to put us into compliance with the bylaws. 2nd and carried.
- The following State Coordinators were approved: Beth Rowan - South Carolina; Katherine Levine - Alabama; Melissa Coxen - Oklahoma; Sharren Bird-Shelton - New Mexico.



Attention African Parrots Lovers . . .

"THE FEATHER TREE" is proud to present the 10 most popular parrots of Africa and Madagascar together in one elegantly crafted, 23 x 30, full color lithograph. Never before done, the photographers have managed to capture the individual personalities and charm of each of bird.

The 10 domestically bred birds featured are: Grey Parrot, Timneh, Rueppell's, Red-bellied, Brown-headed, Meyer's, Senegal, Jardines, Cape, and Greater Vasa Parrot. Information is given for each bird including age, gender and bred by. On the back is a compelling message of conservation and the importance of captive breeding. For those of you who love these birds, "The Feather Tree", and its message, deserves a prominent position in your home or work place. When comparing Meyer's to Rueppell's, Congo to Timnehs, it will make an excellent educational tool for those retail shops and individuals working with psittacines. "The Feather Tree" is available in either a matte or gloss finish, both are suitable for framing.

For more information, please contact: The Feather Tree, P.O. Box 8401, Long Beach, California 90808. California residents add sales tax.

Trade Show Notice and Northeast Avicultural Seminar And Annual AFA Northeast Meeting

The Aviculturists of Greater Boston/Boston Cockatiel Society, Inc. will be hosting their first Northeast Avicultural Seminar on April 22, 1995 at the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston, MA. South American theme: Keynote Speaker Jerry Jennings, CA: The Neotropical Rainforest; Franklin Park Zoo Bird Curator Frederick Beall on Hyacinth Macaws; AFA Conservation Chair Kevin Gorman, NY: AFA Red Siskin Project; avian veterinarians, legislative panel, catered lunch, and zoo tour. HOST OF THE 1994 AFA NORTHEAST MEETING. For registration materials, contact: Linda S. Rubin, 93 Woodcliff Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167.

The 1995 AFA Northeast Meeting & Avicultural Seminar

By Linda S. Rubin
AFA Northeast Vice President

A successful first AFA Northeast Meeting held during 1994 has prompted the announcement of the Second Annual AFA Northeast Meeting and Avicultural Seminar in Boston this spring. The seminar meeting, sponsored by Aviculturists of Greater Boston, Inc. (formerly known as the Boston Cockatiel Society, Inc.), will be held Saturday, April 22, 1995, at the Franklin Park Zoo, in Boston, MA.

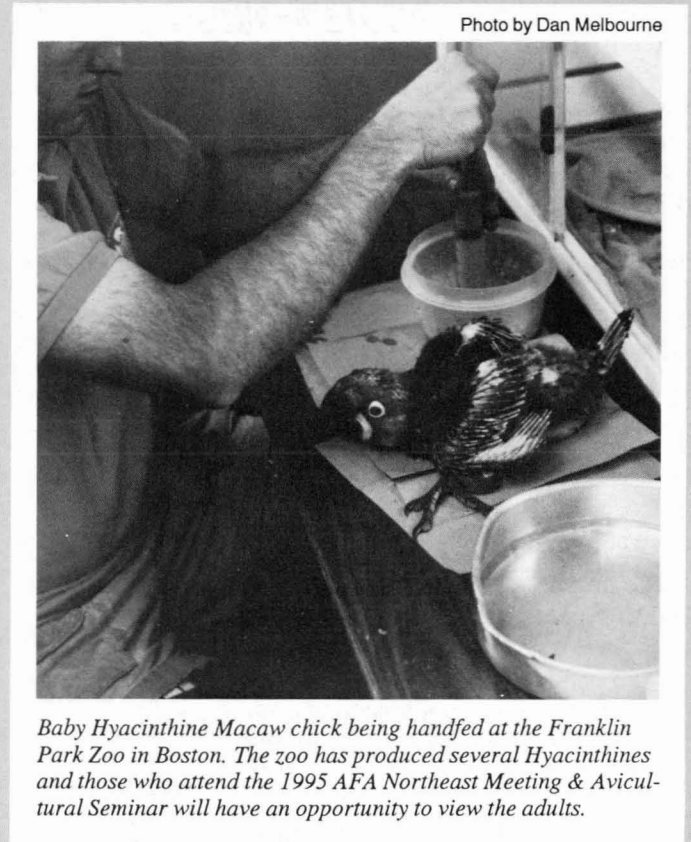
AFA members and guests are invited to register for the full day seminar which includes distinguished national speakers, a legislative panel discussion, the annual AFA Northeast meeting, plus a catered Central/South American theme luncheon, with an opportunity to view zoo exhibits and the Franklin Park's World of Birds.

The featured speakers this year include AFA Founder Jerry Jennings of California, owner of Emerald Forest Bird Gardens and director of the Toucan Preservation Center, who will give the keynote address and present a talk entitled "Walk Through A Neotropical Rainforest"; AFA Conservation Chairman Kevin Gorman of New York will speak on "The AFA Red Siskin Project"; Franklin Park Zoo Bird Curator Frederick Beall will present a talk entitled "Breeding Hyacinthine Macaws at Franklin Park Zoo"; and AFA Avian Research Chairman Dr. Bill Sager of the Littleton Animal Hospital in Massachusetts will present a "First-aid Workshop with Live Demonstration on Zoo Birds".

In addition, a legislative panel discussion on the regulations of the Wild Bird Conservation Act will be held by AFA Legal Council and attorney Gary Lilienthal, AFA Founder and attorney Jerry Jennings, and AFA Legislative Vice President Janet Lilienthal. The AFA Northeast Meeting for state coordinators, club delegates, members, and guests, will be held during seminar. A festive catered luncheon with dishes from Latin America, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Peru, will be included to accent the Central/South American theme of the seminar topics.

A percentage of seminar proceeds will be donated to both the AFA Legal Defense Fund, and the Franklin Park Zoo bird department. Pre-registration is \$30 per person by April 15th, with

limited seating available. On-site registration is \$40 per person and begins at 8:00 a.m. Checks should be made payable to Boston Cockatiel Society, Inc. For pre-registration materials, contact Linda S. Rubin, AFA Northeast Meeting and Avicultural Seminar, 93 Woodcliff Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167, or phone 617-469-0557, or fax 617-469-0368.



New Insurance Benefit

Many bird farms across America have been destroyed by uninsured losses; from western wildfires to eastern hurricanes. Most losses were uninsured because prohibitive insurance costs kept breeders from purchasing coverage.

In light of what happened, we worked to get an insurance program at very affordable rates. This program was designed to protect bird investments and enable breeders to restock after a loss and is available only through EBBAA. This insurance even covers babies on a short-term basis! It is underwritten by Lloyd's of London, a world-renowned insurance carrier.

Coverages available: Fire, Smoke, Explosion, Windstorm,

Hail, Tornado, Flood, Earthquake, Building Collapse, Electrocutation and Riot. Coverage is also available for theft, birds being transported to shows or point of sale and death due to disease or illness.

Write for a no-obligation breeders' business insurance quotation to Exotic Bird Breeders' Association of America.

EBBAA
PO BOX 1419
RIVERBANK, CA 95367
(209) 869-5841
Lynn W. Reed, Chairman