Once again, the prolific Costa Rican naturalist Alexander Skutch has produced a popular reading account on the life of a popular avian family. Having observed Central American pigeons/doves for several decades, he could certainly have written this book entirely from a New World perspective. His decision to include information on species throughout the world, however, increases the breadth and, therefore, usefulness of the book. "Life of a Pigeon" has a rather straightforward organization starting with a bit of history on the pigeon family, then progressing to "Eating and Drinking," "Daily Cycle," "Voice and Courtship," etc. The chapters on "Nests and Eggs," "Incubation" and "The Young and their Care" should interest the aviculturist. One should not, however, neglect to read the chapter on "Rate of Reproduction." Aviculturists often set their goals at 100% when it comes to pairs nesting, eggs hatching and young fledging. Information assimilated by Skutch into a table indicates that for nine species (Feral, Wood, White-crowned, Mourning, Eared, Gala pagos, White-winged, Croaking Ground, and Ruddy Quail), only 54% of over 5,000 nests constructed were used for egg laying. Even more astounding is his data on the percentage of eggs that hatched. Of over 11,000 eggs laid, only 48% actually hatched!

The center of the book contains 24 color plates, including the rather well known Blue Ground Dove of the Fiji Islands. Throughout the book, the author placed 30 figures and four tables including "Incubation Schedules of Pigeons," "Schedule of Feeding for two Mourning Doves" and "Nesting Success of Pigeons."

For the pigeon and dove owner/breeder, this book makes an excellent companion to Derek Goodwin's "Pigeons and Doves of the World/Third Edition." The chapters on "Homing Pigeons" and "Pigeons and Man" should appeal to those with domesticated breeds. Finally, to the connoisseur/collector of fine books on birds, this book deserves a rightful place alongside Skutch's previous contributions, "Life of a Tanager," "Life of a Woodpecker," and "Life of a Hummingbird."
Central Alabama Avicultural Society presents its All Feather Bird Fair & Show August 31 & Sept. 1, 1991 Governors House Hotel 2703 South Blvd. Montgomery, Alabama 36116 For information contact: Charles Reaves (205) 892-0015 or Lorene Clubb (205) 857-3817

The Carolina Classic September 7 & 8, 1991 hosted by Charlotte Metrolina Cage Bird Society supported by South Carolina Bird Buddies and the Palmetto Cage Bird Club Piedmont Kennel Club Choice Circle at the Carowinds Blvd. Exit, off of I-77 near the SC/NC state line. For Information contact: Glen Gibson (704) 588-1616 or Bob Hollaway (803) 781-7202 or Earl Owens (803) 855-3193

Sun Coast Avian Society hosts the Kaytee Great American Bird Show October 4 and 5, 1991 Bellevue Midlo Resort Hotel 25 Bellevue Blvd. Clearwater, FL 34616 (813) 442-6171 For Information contact: Deborah Dollar (813) 938-3893


Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club is hosting its Annual Fall Bird Show October 26-27, 1991 Municipal Auditorium 417 Fourth Avenue North Nashville, Tennessee For show information contact: Phyleen Stewart 2131 Elm Hill Pike, P.O. Box 127, Nashville, TN 37210 (615) 885-2523 For fair information contact: Ed Ramage 2131 Elm Hill Pike, P.O. Box 127 Nashville, TN 37210 (615) 885-2523

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club presents its 59th Annual Bird Show November 2, 1991 Holiday Inn 3405 Algonquin Road Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 For general information: (708) 705-6260 or call Frank Smolen (708) 916-0224


Smoky Mountain Cage Bird Society Bird Show Fair November 9, 1991 Great Smokies Hilton Asheville, North Carolina For information: Michael Jurett (704) 433-8036

The Watchbird offers free publicity for member club bird shows by announcing the dates and locations of the shows. To have your show listed it is necessary to get the data to the Watchbird four to five months before the show date. For example, if your show takes place the first week of October, it should be listed in the August/September Issue. The deadline for that issue is June 1st. (Copy/article deadline is two months preceding publication date.)