While the mammal collection grew, the birds continued to increase. Emu pens were built, along with mixed species flights of cranes, waterfowl, and various species of cracids (curassows, guans). Several flights were added for jays and it was becoming apparent that a small zoo was emerging. It may not have been obvious to the casual observer that the farm was moving in that direction, but it was to Mickey, for it had been his lifelong dream.

Although Mickey had some wallabies prior to 1973, the new farm had the space to dramatically expand. Initially, the new farm maintained duplicate flocks of the species at the Glendale location. As the mammal collection increased, Mickey began to think it was time to go public, which he decided to do in 1982. During the ensuing two years, construction began and was completed on a variety of projects that would enhance the character of the collection and make it attractive to the public. A walk-through aviary — the largest of its type in the southwest — was opened along with a gift shop, primate enclosures, and a walk-in lory feeding exhibit — the very first of its kind in the U.S.

In 1984, Wildlife World Zoo opened its doors to the public. Today the public portion of the zoo occupies over thirty-five acres of bird and mammal exhibits. The collection has dramatically expanded since the early 1980s. The bird collection is one of the largest in numbers of species in the U.S., and probably the largest in the southwest.

There are over thirty species of parrots, including ten species of lories in the lory feeding exhibit. Twice daily the public is allowed into the lory flight, where they are given pieces of apple to feed these lovely residents. All the birds in this flight are handfed and tame. They fly down and land on the visitors to eat the apples out of their hands. It is, needless to say, one of the most popular exhibits at Wildlife World Zoo.

Other bird exhibits include one of the largest pheasant collections in the world, and a couple of alligators. As mentioned previously, Mickey has over a hundred species of parakeets and parrots under the encouragement of his small child, when he acquired some finches, waterfowl, and budgies under the encouragement of his parents. He liked other animals as well, especially "zoo types," and kept squirrels and a couple of alligators. As Mickey grew up, his interest in animals became more intense, and the menagerie larger.

In 1963 Mickey graduated from Arizona State University with a B.S. degree in advertising. He worked a couple years, then began teaching junior high school in 1965. That same year he acquired five acres in Glendale, a northwest suburb of Phoenix, and founded Ollson's Rare Bird Farm. By the early 1970s, Mickey had earned an international reputation as an aviculturist with a collection of over 135 species of birds of which he bred over a hundred.

In 1973 Mickey purchased forty acres in Litchfield Park, next to Luke Air Force Base and over 25 miles from the edge of Phoenix. Some of his friends thought he was crazy to buy so far out, but Mickey knew better, and today the city is catching up with him.

Originally, the forty acres in Litchfield Park were an investment and an expansion of his Rare Bird Farm which, by then, was bursting at the seams in Glendale. First, up went the aviaries for pheasants and waterfowl. Then came the mammals. Llamas were first on the scene, followed in quick order by several species of wallabies, wallaroos, and the red kangaroo. Sitatunga antelope and zebras were close behind.
U.S. and the second largest collection of currasows, chachalacas, and guans in the world! The crane collection is also quite large and interesting. In fact, Mickey has had exceptional success breeding the Stanley crane (over 80 young), and has done well with three other species. If you are into ratites, Mickey has five species — ostriches, emus, cassowaries, and two species of rheas. Other unusual birds include both species of seriamas — red-legged and the Burmeister’s, the king vulture and Andean condor, and the brush turkey of the South Pacific Islands — a curious species that builds a large mound of organic material in which it buries its eggs, letting the heat generated by the decaying material incubate them. These brush turkeys have successfully reared young at Wildlife World.

The mammal collection is equally varied. It consists of five species of marsupials, fifteen species of primates, many species of antelope, including the Beisa, scimitar horned, and Arabian oryx. The latter, formerly extinct in the wild, has recently been reintroduced from captive born stock. Wildlife World also has a good representation of camels, giraffes, maned wolves, African hunting dogs, jaguars and tigers. The tigers recently gave birth to six youngsters which were auspiciously born on exhibit!
Upon entering the large walk-in lory aviary — a new experience for many — is the thrill of a beautiful lory alighting on your hand for a sampling of food.

The original gift shop has been turned into an exhibit — "Waters of the World" — featuring both fresh and salt water fishes, including electric eels, piranhas, and sharks. A new gift shop and administration building were recently completed. Future plans call for the development of the remaining eleven acres of grounds, an educational bird show, and a Polynesian style restaurant.

While the new bird farm has become Wildlife World Zoo, the emphasis still remains on breeding birds and mammals. If success is the proof in the pudding, there is plenty to show. Wildlife World is one of the most productive zoos in the U.S. The number of young birds and mammals reared there annually is inspiring, a model for the kinds of contributions captive propagation can make to conservation. As Mickey says, "The emphasis is on conservation. We are stewards of a sacred trust. We maintain these fellow inhabitants of our planet, not in captivity, but in zoovity, where they are in pleasant and comfortable surroundings, not unlike their natural state. As with any trust, we work with them for their benefit, knowing they are capable of being reintroduced into their native habitat when that day comes."

Mickey welcomes members of the AFA to visit his zoo this coming August when the annual AFA Convention will be held in Phoenix. He will be delighted to arrange a personal tour for you. The variety of birds and their attractive facilities will both encourage and give new insight to aviculturists of all interests. 

afa WATCHBIRD 61
The Avicultural Society of America, Inc.,
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LORIES: Hand fed, unrelated pairs of blue-streaked, red, dusky, rainbow others. Domestic military macaws, double yellow headed Amazons, canary-winged parakeets and conures. Will ship. Jay’s Birds, (605) 257-3595, southern California. (2X2)

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INDIAN RINGNECK PARAKEETS: blue, split/blue, lutino female, male double split (lutino/blue), Faye Lebeck, call (619) 632-2992, so. Calif. (1X2)

SCARLET CHESTED, 1988 and 1989 birds, unrelated pairs available, (permit outside of Michigan); Bourke’s, normal and rosies. Dennis Lake, Southfield, Michigan. Call (313) 362-8954. (1X2)

RAINTREE MACAWS. Baby greenwings, scarlets, hyacinths, blue and gold, Buffon’s, redfronts and militaries. Lovingly hatched and handled at our breeding farm. All birds are closed banded and veterinarian checked. Unrelated pairs of feather sexed birds available for your breeding program. We will ship birds. Joanne Abramson, call (770) 964-4380. Northern California. (3X3)

RED FRONTED MACAW, year old, very tame and talking; 3 year old Alexandrine male, great talker; pair rock pebbles; pair lutino ringnecks, Dennis Lake, Southfield, Michigan. Call (313) 362-8954. (1X2)

BLACKSTONE AVIARIES Domestic hand-fed baby scarlets, blue and golds, greenwings, hyacinths, militaries, and red-fronted macaws. Also baby Amazons and Congo African greys. All are hand-fed from day one to ensure sweetest babies possible. All are vet checked, closed banded and we will ship. J&C Hollingshead, (619) 749-6100, so. California. (1X2)
DOMESTIC, HAND RAISED Moluccans, umbrellas, bare-eyed trinons, citrons, and Eleanoras — hatched in our own avairy. Domestic of the Force Aviaries. Dale or Leigh Anne, (305) 294-5962, Florida. 10/22

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CONURES: Domestic-bred, hand-fed baby conures. Jennads, blue-crowns and red- throats are now available. Other varieties for breeding are blackcrown hawkheads, St. Thomas', millet, brown-throat and green-cheek. Call for availability. Hawkeye Parrots, (319) 338-2231, Iowa. 1/20

CLOSED BANDED DOMESTIC BABIES: blue and gold macaws $1200, Alexander ringnecks parakeets $375, citron cockatoos $1500, Congo greys $800. All hand fed, vet checked and tame. No shipping. Phone Barb, (516) 589-9201, New York. 1/20


HAND FEEDING SYRINGES: Three piece plastic dispensers of modified syringe design, each clearly marked with graduations. O-rings is inert silicone elastomer. 1/2 ml. $4 for $4.45, 1 ml. $5 for $5.75, 3 ml. $5 for $5.40, 10 ml. $5 for $15.40, 20 ml. $7 for $50.60, 30 ml. $9 for $89.95. Also have double yellow heads and tucaman Amazons. Also baby Congo greys, J & C Hollingshead, (619) 749-6100, so. California. 1/20

CLOSED BANDED DOMESTIC BABIES: blue and gold macaws, all varieties. Alexander ringneck parakeets, $375, citron cockatoos, $1500, Congo greys, all varieties. All hand fed, vet checked and tame. No shipping. Phone Barb, (516) 589-9201, New York. 1/20

QUALITY BIRDS, unrelated domesticates. Closed-bandes and hand-fed. CONURES: sun, jenday, peach fronted, dusky, brown-throated, Wagler's, blue crown, Patagonian, nandy, slender-billed, PIONUS: blue headed, bronze winged, dusky, white crowned. AMAZONS: double yellow headed, lilac crowned, spectacled. MACAWS: blue & gold, military, severe. COCKATOOS: blue & yellow, eclectus, umbrella, Triton's and many others. Prices and info: SASE to LUCHOW Institute Inc., P.O. Box 24494, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-4494. Phone (305) 587-1653. 3/20


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Deadline Schedule

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June 1 — editorial copy
June 15 — ADS, classified & display

Oct / Nov '89
Aug. 1 — editorial copy
Aug. 15 — ADS, classified & display

Dec / Jan '90
Oct. 1 — editorial copy
Oct. 15 — ADS, classified & display

Feb / Mar '90
Dec. 1 — editorial copy
Dec. 15 — ADS, classified & display

Apr / May '90
Feb. 1 — editorial copy
Feb. 15 — ADS, classified & display

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April 1 — editorial copy
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