Hurricane Andrew Relief Update

A Big THANK YOU!

by Chuck Saffell, First Vice-President
Palmetto, Florida

As part of the Hurricane Andrew avian relief effort, between September 3rd and October 17th, the following supplies were collected at the Palmetto, Florida warehouse and trucked to the AFA-SOFAR warehouse which is located three blocks from the Miami International Airport:

- 32,000 lbs. seed and pellets, 250 lbs. millet, 300 lbs. Avi-cake, 200 lbs. hand feeding formula, 40 lbs. vitamins and minerals, 170 lbs. veterinarian supplies, 10 lbs. Lactobacillus, 50 lbs. peanuts, 50 lbs. Honeytreat, 100 lbs. Crazycorn, 700 lbs. Zoo-preem, 80 lbs. "J" clips, 30 lbs. wire cutters, pliers, J clip and other tools, 50 each syringes, 600 feet shade cloth, 2,000 feet cage wire, 80 each premanufactured cages, 40 each stainless steel food bowls, 3 boxes bird toys and dishes, 200 each cage door latches, 1 each very large bird net with extension handle, 12,000 each flashlight batteries, 6 cases juice drinks for the workers.

Between September 2nd and October 31st, 700 manhours were donated at the Miami warehouse by AFA-SOFAR club members. Sixty-eight trips were made out of the warehouse by truck or van and on these trips 220 deliveries were made. An additional 30 trips were made from the warehouse to West Palm Beach, Lantana and Ft. Lauderdale to pick up donated supplies from other depots.

On the first day that the SOFAR warehouse was opened, the following load went out to drop-off points where people could pick up supplies: 2,000 lbs. parrot mix, 1,000 lbs. canary, 1,000 lbs. finch, 2 boxes of corn and 500 lbs. hookbill mix. On the same day, four fully loaded vans made additional deliveries directly to breeders and another van delivered special supplies to the Miami Metro Zoo.

One hundred twenty-five cages have been built at the warehouse and cage wire has been cut and delivered to be assembled on site at breeders' locations. Included with cut wire were kits of "J" clips, door latches and pliers. Cages were 3' x 3' x 3' and 3' x 3' x 4' with smaller cages supplied if requested. Almost 80 commercially manufactured cages have also been distributed.

I would like to give special recognition to the following AFA-SOFAR members who have worked especially hard carrying 50 lb. bags, delivering supplies, mixing seed, cutting wire, making cages and donating time, vehicles and fuel to the effort:

Denise Barth, Phil Barth, Gloria Ballaban, Robert Benaim, Len Brower, Stephen (Bear) Brown, Barbara Kennedy, Jim Swain, Vivian Swain, Bob Tame, Jan Jame, Neva Wheeler.

I must give "Bear" a double thank you for service above and beyond the call of duty. He has kept the warehouse open and presentable six days a week for the last two months. Bear operated the forklift, cut wire, made cages, unloaded supplies, loaded the trucks, kept track of receipts, maintained records, scolded, cajoled and even smiled once in a while. He’s a great guy.

We also owe a special thank you to Robert Benaim who donated the warehouse, phone, fax and manpower.

It is impossible to adequately express my gratitude and appreciation to all the wonderful people who have responded to our request for avian relief for south Florida. We have not listed amounts by donor in the Watchbird as you gave from your hearts and this was not a commercial or competitive effort. But as you can tell from the totals, the generosity was outstanding.

To give you a flavor of what happened:

• A commercial donor called immediately and asked what we needed. When I said we could use two tons of seed, the response was, "In what size bags do you want us to package it?"

• When there was an emergency need for hand-feeding formula, a bird club purchased it and paid $90 additional to ship overnight air.

• Financial gifts ranged from a $2,000 check to an envelope with no name but a dollar bill enclosed.

• An individual who is on a limited disability income called and said although she could not afford to send money, could she send some of her food stamps so we could buy rice, beans and other foods for the birds.

• The south Florida people volunteered to help with avian relief in the heat and sun even though their own homes and aviaries had been damaged, needed repair and, in some cases, were without electricity or water.

There were many times when tears came to my eyes. Thank you all!
Bird Clubs and Commercial Donors Who Have Contributed Supplies Directly to the AFA-SOFAR Relief Program

Due to all of the confusion during the first two weeks of the program, it is possible that we may have missed someone. If so, we beg your forgiveness and ask that you let us know so we can acknowledge your participation.

BIRD CLUBS:
- Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club
- Arizona Avicultural Society
- Arizona Seed Crackers
- ASOP Bird Club
- Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida
- Bird Clubs of Delaware
- Bird Clubs of Virginia
- Bird Information Network
- Boston Cockatiel Society
- Gateway Parrot Club
- Gold Coast All Bird Club
- Greater Brandon Avian Society
- Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society
- Gulf South Bird Club
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Kansas Avicultural Society
- Kansas City Bird Club
- Kenosha Exotic Bird Club
- M.A.C.A.W.
- Madison Area Cage Bird Association
- Miami Parrot Club
- Missouri Cage Bird Association
- National Capitol Cage Bird Club
- Parrot Society of South Florida
- South Alabama Cage Bird Society
- South Florida Budgie Society
- Suncoast Avian Society
- Sunflower Bird Club
- Town & Country Feathered Friends
- Tropical Cockatiel & Lovebird Society
- Wisconsin Cage Bird Club

COMMERCIAL DONORS:
- About Birds
- Airtite
- Animal Care Equip. & Svs.
- Avi-Sci, Inc.
- Avian Specialties
- Corners Limited
- Crazy Corn
- Dodge Grain Co.
- Dr. Lafeber
- Dr. Lori Minteer
- Dr. Ruth Sosis
- Feed & Seed, Ft. Lauderdale
- Frank D. Torchia
- General Practice Mktg. Group
- Hagen Products
- J.D. Pet Paradise
- Jeffers Vet Supply
- Kaytee
- Kellogg
- Lakes Macaw
- M. McCormick
- Mr. Gene Morgensen
- Pittman Moore
- Prettybird
- R. Benaim Warehouse
- Sunshine Bird Supplies
- Suplix Bird Supply
- Topper Bird Ranch
- Tropical Wings
- Upjohn Corp.
- Valentine Supply Co.
- Varta Corp.
- Vernon Hills Animal Hospital
- W & W Willoughby
- Westerby Associates
- Zoopreme

AFA says THANKS to the These Supporters in the Following Categories

Disaster Relief

Donations received from August through October, 1992

Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club
Christa Aspittle
Avicultural Society of Tucson
Avitech
Gwendolen Bailey
Beaks
William Bennett
Bird Info Network
Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society
Gisele Busby
Busy Beak
Doris Lee Carscaddon
Central Florida Bird Breeders
Mary Colliflower
Contra Costa Avian Society
Lu Crow
William Curry
Mamie D’Alcorn
Dallas Cage Bird Society
Katherine Dawson
Teresa De Brito
Deloris Dean
Paul & Ruth Dove
Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society
Greater Rochester Hookbill Association
Marcia Hammerl
Susan Hartman
Donald & Brenda Hayes
Franklin & Joyce Hu
JD’s Pet Paradise
Cheryle Jones
Kansas Avicultural Society
Randy Karg
Ken & Bouena Karsten
Royce King
Davis & Barbara Koffron
Dawn Kopf
Lansing Caged Bird Club
Dennis & Linda Lehman
Long Beach Bird Breeders
Carolyn McCreeery
Jane McCulloch
Mike & Donna McGinn
Gary & Jean McKibben
Missouri Cage Bird Association
Lauren Mitchell
Mary Elaine Moix
Sudha Sharma
South Sound Exotic Bird Society
Shava Spector
Sunflower Bird Club
Scot & Nancy Taylor
The Happy Bird House
Norma Webb
West Pasco Exotic Bird Club
Western Kentucky Cage Bird Club
Dixie White
Ginger Wolnik
Anette Woodams
Zoogen, Inc.
Mary Zuidema
Theresa Albertson
American Cockatiel Society
Anonymous
Avian Genetics Company - Terry Dunham
Avis Northwest
Brian & Tamara Billie
Bird Clubs of Virginia
Sharon Boatright
Lehigh Valley Bird Club
Loritidae Production Network
Madison Area Cagebird Association of WI
Carolyn & George Mauro
Trisha Melrose
Motor City Bird Breeders
Mountain Lake Aviary
Donna Muscarella
Terry & Barbara Nixon
Oklahoma Avicultural Society
Lynne Page
William Palmer
Phil & Judith Payne
Ronald & Donna Petrelli
Sharon Putz
Mary Elaine Radford
Raleigh/Durham Caged Bird Society
Merlyn Rhea
Herta & Heinz Richter
Larry & Donna Schulte
Ruth Sosis
South Mississippi Cage Bird Society
(list continues on next page)
Reintroduction of Whooping Cranes to Florida

In a joint effort between the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the endangered whooping crane has been proposed for reintroduction into the State of Florida.

The proposal calls for the release of from 9 to 12 juvenile whooping cranes within the state's Three Lakes Management Area in south-central Florida north of Vero Beach. The reintroduction site is part of the nearly 260,000-acre Kissimmee Prairie region of Florida, more than half of which is in public ownership. The Kissimmee Prairie was chosen as the site for reintroduction because of the suitability of its habitat. The area currently sustains one of the largest and most productive populations of Florida sandhill cranes, a relative of the whooper, as well as numerous federally listed endangered and threatened species.

The stately 5-foot whooping cranes are the tallest birds in North America. Florida is part of the crane's historic range, having been reported from the state in the early 1900s, but has not been seen since 1927 or 1928. The whooping crane was named to the federal list of endangered species in 1967. Today, about 145 birds comprise the only remaining self-sustaining natural wild population of whoopers in existence. The birds winter at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and adjacent areas on the Texas Gulf Coast and nest in Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada's Northwest Territories. The flock rebounded from a population low of 16 birds in the winter of 1941-42.

Due to the bird's limited wintering distribution along the intracoastal waterway of the Texas Coast, the population is vulnerable to destruction from natural catastrophe, such as a hurricane, red tide outbreak, or contaminant spill. The Florida flock will be made up of captive-reared birds from the Service's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland, and the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The birds to be used in the reintroduction have been conditioned for release into the wild by being reared in isolation from humans. The flock will be nonmigratory and will remain in the Kissimmee Prairie region year-round, since studies have shown migration is a learned rather than innate behavior.

A copy of the proposal to reintroduce the whooping cranes can be obtained by contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3100 University Boulevard South, Suite 120, Jacksonville, Florida 32216-2737.

H.R. 5013 Legislation Donations

David & Theresa Albertson  For the Birds and More
Aviary Association of Kern  Charles Fourong
Sharon Casmier  Gainesville Bird Fanciers
Central California Avian  Lindley Ginn
Society  Greater Brandon Avian
Mary Colliflower  Society, Inc.
Charlene de Haven  Byron Kim
Ann & Larry Engleman

Kenneth Leach  F. Ray McCormick
Sandra Jarmuth  Susan McMullan
For the Birds and More  Shelley Millard
Russell Harvey  Margaret Mullan-Wilson
Bob & Joann Holman  Northwest Ohio Exotic Bird
John Linnert  Club
Gloria Suarez  Mary Ragain
Sheryl Suarez  Mary Ragain

Conservation and Research Donations

Bryan & Barbara Batulis  South Mississippi Cage Bird
Yvonne Blanchard  Society
Catherine Bourne  William Vanbeginne
Jacquelyn Hartley  Barbara Wells

Ken & Paula Rhodes  S.C. Bird Buddies
Ronnie & Glenda Smith  Wings of Paradise
Avis Northwest  David Eskelund
New Mexico Bird Club, Inc.  Nancy Storey
Marlene Oblom  Sara Swift

afa WATCHBIRD 53
AFA AVY Service and President’s Award Recipients

Last month we listed winners of the following AVY Awards: Gold, Silver, Appreciation, Watchbird, and First Breeding. In this issue, we would like to congratulate the following President’s and Service Award winners that were announced in conjunction with the annual AFA Convention in Miami Beach:

AFA President’s Award
Award of Appreciation for Outstanding Service, Support, and Contributions Toward the Achievement of AFA Goals
GARY LILIENTHAL

AFA Service Awards
Awards of Appreciation for Outstanding Contributions and Continuous Support of AFA
GARY CLIFTON
SUSAN DALY
ALAN LADD
ALETTA M. LONG
BIRD TALK MAGAZINE

Award of Appreciation for Contributions as Volunteer Business Office Director
DAVIS KOFFRON

Award of Appreciation for Outstanding Contributions and Continuous Support as Legal Counsel in California
HAL KOONTZ

Data on Longevity of Birds Requested

Dr. Herbert Schifter (Naturhistorisches Museum Wien), Marvin Jones (San Diego Zoological Society) and the undersigned are currently preparing a series of papers on longevity in birds. We would be very interested in receiving any data available on this subject from the readers of this magazine. Information on longevity of both captive and wild birds is welcome.

Please include exact dates of arrival, birth and death if these are available. Post mortem reports would also be appreciated. Please also include data on the last age of reproduction if this is known.

Acknowledgements will include names of individuals and institutions that provided us with data.

An article on longevity and reproduction of storks has been accepted for publication in the International Zoo Yearbook and will be the first in a comprehensive series. Papers on longevity in ibises, spoonbills and hornbills are currently in preparation.

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The Club Connection
Connecticut Association for Aviculture, Inc.

by Nancy L. Vigran

Meeting Location: Veteran’s Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge Road, East Hartford, CT
Meeting Date: Second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
Contact for more information: Robert Sunday, 1992 president, (203) 525-8338
Club Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8041, East Hartford, CT 06108

General Information: Formed in 1976, the Connecticut Association for Aviculture is an all bird club. As stated in the purpose of CAFA, it “was founded . . . by a group of people interested in spreading the fun and enjoyment of exotic birds.” This remains the focus of CAFA which is in excess of 250 members interested in a wide variety of birds. Following a brief business meeting, monthly meetings provide a wide variety of speakers from all over the country discussing such topics as nutrition, disease-related problems, and specific families of birds. CAFA has a large monthly bulletin (38 pages in October) full of informative topics, club-related info and local advertising of birds and bird-related items.

Activities and Special Events: Birds can find new, appropriate homes through the CAFA adoption program. Members fill out an adoption request form for the opportunity to adopt wayward birds, which are advertised through CAFA. A committee sifts through the desired owners, to provide the best possible home for these birds, whether in pet or breeding situations. This program is designed solely for the benefit of our feathered friends. If the adoptive parent can no longer care for a bird, it must be returned to the club for re-adoption.

In October, CAFA participates in the Greater New England Cagebird Show which is an all bird show with approximately 150 to 200 entries. They also have other extra curricular activities such as summer picnics, trips to the zoo and non-bird related activities such as whale-watching trips.

CAFA, long affiliated with AFA, jumped in to provide hurricane relief. Not only did they ask members to make contributions through the AFA-Avian Emergency Relief Fund, but they also held a collection drive of seed dishes, cages and toys. In October, they held a plant and bake sale, proceeds from which are to go towards rebuilding Florida and Louisiana aviaries. In the past, CAFA has held other fund-raising drives for scholarships and in the past two years for avian research programs.

Editorial Note: The Club Connection is designed to let members of A.F.A. know what regional clubs are available to them, and to give clubs ideas and a chance to learn from what other clubs do. If your club is a member club of A.F.A. and would like to be highlighted in the Club Connection, please send information with a contact person’s name and phone number to: Nancy Vigran, c/o A.F.A., P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ 85017.

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