The national AFA Convention will be held at the Clarion Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana from August 9-12, 1995. The theme for this upcoming convention will be avian subjects from Central and South America. The majority of the topics will be on avicultural techniques used to reproduce these birds in captivity. Conservation topics will also be covered. Several speakers will be highlighted over the next four issue of the Watchbird Magazine.

Confirmed speakers and their topics are as follows:
1) Joanne Abramson - Aviculture of Large Macaws
2) Jim R. Millam, Ph.D. - U.C. Davis Amazon (Orange-winged) Breeding Project
3) Rainer Erhart - The Present Status and Future Objectives of the Red Siskin Project
4) Phillip Samuelson - "The Amazon Personality" Extensive information on the Pet Quality and Personalities of Amazons as gathered by Bird Talk editors and readers
5) Suzanne Myers - Aviculture of the Pionus Parrots
6) Sandee & Robert Molenda - Aviculture of Parrotlets
8) Ralph Lima - Aviculture of Caiques
9) Rick Jordan - Aviculture of the Pyrrhura Conures

Joanne Abramson found her great passion for the large macaws. Concentrating her efforts on this group of parrots, she has worked for many years on perfecting sound avicultural techniques in reproducing these birds. Her acquired knowledge has led her in many directions and she has shared this information through many of her articles and seminars. One of the most important and useful subjects to all aviculturists was her series of Watchbird articles on the nutritional analysis of foods found in the avian diet. Food groups in this series included nuts and seeds, fruit, vegetables and legumes. These food groups are found in the diets of most avian species not just macaws.

Abramson has spoken to a great variety of groups including conventions, bird clubs, avian research and veterinarian seminars. She is internationally known for her work. Notable conferences where she spoke include the 1991 United Kingdom Parrot Conference in Chester, England and the 1991 conference held in Honduras on the Conservation and Management of Macaws in Central America.

Abramson has spent several years researching and writing on her upcoming book - Large Macaws: Their Care, Breeding and Conservation. This book will contain extensive information on all subjects concerning the large macaws. Highly professional, this book will also include information from national and international authorities on the large macaws. It should be available at the AFA convention in August, 1995.