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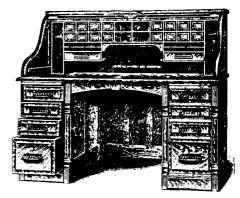
NOTICE

All correspondence intended for the editor of the Watchbird should be mailed directly to his address.

Sheldon Dingle P.O. Box 340 Norco, CA 91760

Editor's Des

by Sheldon Dingle



Los Angeles Reception **Honors Forshaw**

Once in a while in this rather shoddy day and age someone still does something right. And to prove the point I refer you to a nice reception last November 5th in a hall at the Los Angeles Zoo. The affair was sponsored by Lansdowne Press, Inc. and was given to honor Joseph Forshaw and his new book Kingfishers and Related Birds.

The reception included the elite of the southern California ornithological community with Dr. Jean Delacour and Joseph Forshaw being the men of the hour. The whole thing was, of course, great fun but its whole reason for being was Kingfishers and Related Birds by Joseph Forshaw and William Cooper, published by Lansdowne Press, Inc..

Receptions are quite nice, you understand, but books, my friend, good books are a delight to the soul. And making good books is the thing that Lansdowne Press does right. Lansdowne took Joseph Forshaw's meticulous ornithological text and William Cooper's extraordinary color plates and made a truly magnificent book — I mean in the finest nineteenth century tradition.

This great work will be comprised of three parts of two volumes each. The first volume is done and was on display at the reception. The remaining volumes will be published one per year until all are completed.

The first thing to impress you is the books imperial folio size — 20 inches by 14 inches. Put the tape to the largest book on your shelf for a comparison. Believe me, gentle readers, books like this are not made every day. It was designed, printed and bound to the very highest standards. Specially imported

paper was used to enhance reproduction of Cooper's outstanding color plates. Each book is hand bound with the finest English leather and French fabric reminiscent of the bindings used by nineteenth century master craftsmen. The two volumes of each Part will be presented in a cloth covered solander box.

Kingfishers and Related Birds is limited to 1000 copies worldwide of which only 100 are allocated for sale in the U.S. and Canada. The recommended price per volume is \$750.00. You may contact Lansdowne Press Inc., 420 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, 10017 to place your order. I intend to buy several sets as soon as I overcome a temporary state of mendicancy.

Letters to the editor:

Dear Sheldon:

On the cover of Watchbird (Jun/Jul 83) you featured a beautiful color photo of a Painted Finch, which demonstrates, once again, the high quality of photography exhibited regularly in the magazine. However, the bird depicted is not exactly a true exemplar of the naturally occuring bird, in that it should not have the white wing feathers. True, the white feathers will probably disappear in the ensuing molt, but then another bird could have been photographed. Just thought you should know in case some of your readers are ultimately disappointed because the birds they receive lack the white splash. So rare are these birds I would be happy to receive them in any condition, so long as they are still upright.

Regards, Jerry Jennings

continued on page 44



A major purpose of the WATCH-BIRD is to monitor legislative events at the national level which might adversely affect aviculture. We, however, cannot follow events that take place at the state and local levels of government. We, therefore, call upon the readers to keep us informed of similar legislative attacks in the lower levels of government. We would like to publish the various threats to aviculture, and what the final outcome was. Perhaps your story will aid someone else in keeping aviculture unencumbered by government.

Editors.

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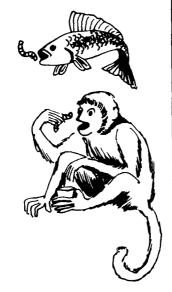
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Dr. Jean Delacour, left, and Joseph Forshaw discuss ornithology at a November 5th Los Angeles Zoo reception.

Dear Editor;

As a breeder of Zebra Finches, I feel I must write to you on behalf of myself and my birds. So many articles written about aviculture and/or finches are passing these delightful creatures off as being the bottom of the ladder in aviculture.

These birds are not special as an endangered species (neither are cockatiels, canaries, or budgies!), but this fact should not exclude them from being taken seriously. In other countries Zebras have their own show standards, specific show cages, and various clubs and societies. (Unfortunately, the typical American-Bred bird would be laughed off the bench if shown in England!).

Most references state that Zebras are an ideal choice for the novice breeder because of their prolific nature. I wonder how many newcomers have tried the advice of these articles only to find themselves faced with problems such as: infertile eggs, egg-binding, feather-picking, refusal to incubate, high mortality of young, and others.

My rule of thumb is this: Zero effort equals zero success! If Zebras are so incredibly simple to breed why isn't the market flooded with them? Why don't they sell for a dollar a pair at the local pet shop?

Many authorities claim that Zebras can and should be colony-bred. My reply is that you had better have a full room to house a maximum of a dozen pairs! Among other problems, Zebras are highly susceptible to stress due to overcrowding. At the end of a year's breeding you will find that you have a motley crew of "mutt" birds that are in poor feather and poor condition due to their squabbling and inbreeding. You may (if you're lucky), find that you have produced as high as an average as two offspring per pair at the end of the year. Of course, you will not have the faintest idea of the parentage of these offspring since you have no control in a colony set-up.

Sadly, I have seen the quality of Zebras steadily fall over the years. The birds offered for sale as being "high quality" are only one-half of two-thirds the size of the show standard in England. These are usually "snaky" (long, narrow-bodied) birds with flat skulls and poor markings.

Unless serious breeders of Zebras speak out soon on behalf of their species, nothing will remain but a memory of the champion Zebra long ago.

If you're thinking of breeding Zebras *PLEASE* invest a little time into learning about then. Start with the very best pair you can find, NEVER crowd them, and

study their genetics. If you do these things you may find yourself hooked for life, ever striving for a better bird. Isn't that the way aviculture should be?

Thank-you for your time. Susan Smith, V.T. Minneapolis, MN.



Dear Friends at Watchbird,

Hi! I've been reading the Watchbird faithfully for about a year and cannot tell you how much knowledge I've gained from your informative articles. Two years ago I had one cockatiel. Now I have over 150 birds of ten species.

I'm 23 years old and never seem to meet any bird people my age. Are many young people taking up aviculture? Are there any organizations that combine the inexperienced with the experienced bird breeders so as to pass along the things the experienced folks learned the hard

Keep Up the Good Work Roger Crowden, Salem, Oregon

In answer to your second question, the various local bird clubs are precisely the place to go for a mixture of novice and expert aviculturists — not always to the benfit of the novice, however. I firmly advocate bird club activity and a few old timers will give you a lot of help with your birds but some of the other old bats will be part of your learning the "hard way".

Now, regarding your first question, while at the local club meeting please note that stooped, bald, wizened fellow with the shaking hands. And there next to him is a wrinkled up fellow chainsmoking and nervously tapping his cane.

These fellows (and others like them at every bird meeting) are in truth not yet thirty years old. They began keeping birds just a few years ago and the task has taken its toll. Raking up dead birds daily, vet bills for other dead birds, being bitten by one's own guard dog, paying for birds that never arrive, club politics, hand feeding at ungodly hours, rats and mice — the list is endless — all combine to age one rapidly.

Be of good cheer, Roger, many of those bleary-eyed ancients are not much older than you. Another year or two and you'll blend in perfectly.

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Ed.

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HANDFED Green wing macaws, Moluccan and Umbrella cockatoos, others . . . S.A.S.E. for list. WANTED, Banksian hen. Bill Rodgers, P.O. Box 822, Gibsonton, FL 33534. Phone (813) 677-1137.

MALE AFRICAN GREYS. Breeding Stock. \$100.00. Call David at (213) 760-1877.

MACAW BABIES READY FOR CHRISTMAS. Domestically bred, tame Yellow collars, August 1983 hatch. Cockatiels: all cinnamon mutations, 1984 hatch from \$50 (other mutations available). Craig or Marie, Thousand Oaks, CA., phone (805) 497-2581.

YELLOW NAPE AMAZONS — handfed, talking. Personality plus, handfed from egg, Triton cockatoos and Grand Eclectus. Lee and Linda, 3M Farm (813) 294-2424 or 299-7659, Florida.

WANTED — Peter's Twinspots for breeding. Write or call J. Yantz, 2201 Van Buren Place, Wilmington, Delaware 19802. Phone evenings (302) 571-1180. Also interested in corresponding with other Twinspot breeders for future trades and exchange of information.

HANDFED UMBRELLA COCKATOOS, African grey, Solomon Island Eclectus, and Yellow red rump parakeets, Pearly cockatiels, Java greed peafowl, Greenwing and Australian crested doves. John Curtis, 505 E. Romie, Salinas, CA 93901. (408) 422-4779.

AFRICAN GREY — domestically bred, spoonfed from day 1, 11 months old, good talker, exceptionally affectionate, to loving home only. MUST SELL, includes cage, stand and carrier \$800. Petria Mitchell, (802) 257-4021, Vermont.

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MACAW SPECIALS — Blue & golds \$299, Green wings \$450, Yellow collars \$125, Severes \$135, Hyacinths \$2000, Scarlets \$750, Militarys \$500. We ship nationwide. Live delivery guarantee. Quantity prices available. Open 12-6 p.m. daily. MICHAEL'S BIRD PARADISE INC. P.O. Box 9046, Riviera Beach, FL 33404. Phone (305) 842-1050.

FOR SALE: pair Golden mantled rosellas with cage \$380, or offer. Cockatiel with cage \$40. (213) 372-7309 Los Angeles area.

FOR SALE: Moluccan cockatoo 10-12 years old. Asking \$800. Also 3' x 6' wrought iron cage with base \$425. Susan Marten, 1042 Tryon Circle, Springhill, FL 33526. Call (904) 683-0064.

'83 HATCH RINGNECKS, unsexed green females, split-blue males, double split-blue and lounita \$750 each. Glenn Fain, 20076 Vernita Dr., Redding, CA 96003. Call (916) 275-6335.

WANTED — MACAW AND PARROT FEATHERS — CASH FOR FEATHERS dropped by your birds when they molt. Macaw tail feathers 25¢ to \$10 each. We are prepared to buy in quantity. More information and detailed price list on request. Kevin Schneider, 14292 Jennings Vista Way, Lakeside, CA. 92040. Phone (619) 561-6303.

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COLLECTORS, BREEDERS: we have available the finest birds anywhere. S/S pairs, domestic babies and imported birds. Hyacinth, Scarlet, Green winged, Blue and gold, Chaco blue fronts, plain colored Double yellow, Beliaz, Napes. Triton, Lesser, Critron, Eleonora, umbrella Moluccan cockatoos. Lutino ringnecks, Rock pebblars. Alexandrine, Rosellas, and much more. Call or write CRITTERS CORNER, 428 Blossom Hill Rd., San Jose, CA 95123. Phone (408) 578-4414.

FOR SALE: LOVE BIRDS and COCKATIELS. All colors and mutations. English and pet quality parakeets, Gouldians, Zebras, Society finches, Owls, Stars, Shafttails, and many more finches. Diamond and Cape doves. Canaries-yellow and red, Conures, Cockatoos, Macaws, Softbills. Handfed babies. Grass parakeets. Wrought iron cages. Single or stacked breeding units. Will ship. No order too large or too small. VILLAGE BIRDS & PRODUCTS, 2253 South Santa Fe, Unit B, Vista, CA 92083. Call (619) 727-0898.

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TRITON COCKATOOS incubator hatched, hand raised, 18" long when weaned. Sun conures and 28's—83 hatch. 1 pair adult triton cockatoos \$2,500. Cockatiels, normals, albinos, and pearls (min. order 25, wholesale only). FEATHER HOLLOW RANCH, P.O. Box 6391, Woodland Hills, CA 91365. (213) 340-5086.

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SPLIT YELLOW Bourke's parakeets only \$75 while they last. Scarlet chested parakeets, Slatyhead parakeets \$75. Blue rosellas \$125, handfed Cherryhead conures. FINCHES: Cuban melodious, Cuban olive \$150 pair. Jacarina \$75 pair. LOVEBIRDS — Peachface, green \$12, blue \$15, cherryhead \$35, silver \$45, pied \$20, pied cherry (heavy) \$75, lutino \$75, albino \$75, blue masked \$20, Nayasa \$60. D. Cavender, MOCTEZUMA BIRD GARDENS, P.O. Box 1973, Escondido, CA 92025. (619) 741-3421. We ship. Trades considered.

MACAWS & COCKATOOS; Blue & gold, one at \$350, six at \$325. Greenwings \$550, Scarlets \$850. Moluccan cockatoos, one at \$425, six at \$400. Umbrellas, one at \$350, six at \$325, Lessers \$450, Citrons \$550, Goffin's, one at \$130, six at \$120. Surgical sexing available at \$25 per bird. Will ship. Open by appointment only. Conejo Exotics, Newbury Park, CA. Some quanities are limited. (805) 498-7286.

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SURGICAL SEXING done in modern well equipped veterinary hospital. Located in eastern North Carolina. Call Pamlico Animal Hospital (919) 946-2834.

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'83 HATCHED: Pennants, Crimson wings, Princess, Rock pebblers, Many colors, Scarlet chested, Elegants, Yellow Bourke's and splits. ADULT PAIRS: Rock pebblers, Princess, Amboina and Green wing kings, 28's, Pileated, Pennant, Barnard. NO SHIP-PING. Ralph and Betty Woodbridge, Waterford, CA., phone (209) 874-2176.

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YOUR BIRD'S NAME engraved on handsomen durable plastic name plate for cage. Pressure-sensitive adhesive backing mounts easily. White letters on choice of black, blue, yellow, red, orange, wood-tone, pewter-tone, brass-tone plate. Only \$3.75. Genuine brass only \$7.00. Ten characters max., 25¢ each additional letter. NPA, suite 111, 8 North Hoffman Lane, Hauppauge, NY 11788.

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MOLUCCAN COCKATOO for sale, \$800, partially tame, likes women. Best as ladies pet, or breeder. Large iron cage comes with bird. Call (714) 554-3182, Santa Ana. CA.

SUN CONURES, S/S male, cockatiels, all mutations, love birds, blue masked, lutino peach face, blue peach face, gold cap conure baby. All hand fed birds. Carl Helton, Illinois. (217) 774-4292.

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