

Napes that have come down with Newcastle VVND. The closed bands on these birds, according to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, were of sufficient size to be placed on the birds well after they were babies, and possibly would be able to be put on or taken off at this stage. They are now looking at further restrictions in the law to restrict the sizes of the bands for the birds being sold in New York state. I have seen some bands on birds, now that I am aware of the new ways being used to circumvent the law, that could be taken off the birds when they are full grown. I do not sell to stores that use these practices since they would be jeopardizing my birds. A couple of problems arise because of such practices. First, the bird is more apt to be caught on something that protrudes from his cage. Second, this bird may be a swimmer, illegal, and have a possibility of VVND. If you are boarding a bird in a store that has these large bands, you may be taking a chance of losing your bird if VVND is found.

You must always keep in mind that the birds sold in the local papers may fall into the same category as the store. This person may also sell birds with no bands. This is not legal unless he has the paper work required by New York state law. If you see a deal that is too good to be true, you can bet it probably is.

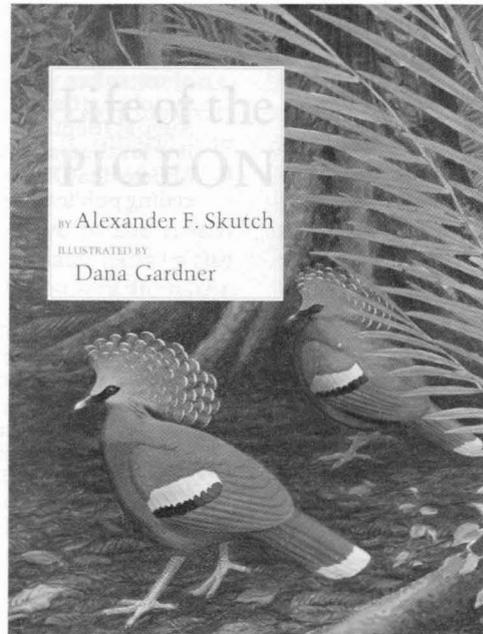
Banding a bird is extremely important to the bird breeder since he is able to trace the bird and find out if he has any other progeny from that pair of breeders. We have found that a lot of people do not band birds for many different reasons, one of them being you may not be hand feeding, and risk losing a finger while trying to get a bird out to band, then trying to replace it. Believe me when I say I know exactly what you mean. I have had to do the same thing and sometimes have given some blood in the process. It is worth it if that bird may ever become a breeder. It is vital to have a clean and true gene pool and to minimize inbreeding when we are unable to acquire new breeding stock.

These are my opinions and very strong ones to be sure. As breeders and holders of captive wildlife, we are responsible for their well-being. No matter what success we achieve as breeders in the eyes of the animals, we are nothing more than benevolent dictators. ●

## EX LIBRIS: *Life of the Pigeon*

by Alexander F. Skutch  
(illustrated by Dana Gardner)  
130 pp., Cornell University Press, 1991

reviewed by Jack Clinton-Eitniear  
San Antonio, Texas



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 straight forward 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 "The 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  
Choate 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 Mido Resort Hotel  
25 Bellevue Blvd.  
Clearwater, FL 34616  
(813) 442-6171  
For information contact:  
Deborah Dollar (813) 938-3893  
Categories:  
SPBE - Darren Decoteau  
NFS - Steve Hoppin  
ABS - Ermafern Collins  
ALBS - Lee Horton  
ACS - Bert McCauly  
NCS - Glen Gibson  
Canaries:

Melanin - Ignacio Perea  
Lipochrome - Roberto Font  
Type - Ray Rudisill  
Pet Bird - TBD

**South Jersey Bird Club**  
presents its

**10th Annual Bird Show**  
**October 5, 1991**  
Garden State Park  
Route 70 & Haddonfield Rd.  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey  
For information:  
South Jersey Bird Club  
Box 21, Richwood, NJ 08074  
Phone: (609) 893-0955



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.)

**Avicultural Society of Tucson, AZ**

presents its  
**Annual Bird Fair**  
**October 13, 1991**  
Tucson Convention Center  
New Exhibition Hall  
For information contact:  
Jerry Bock (602) 682-7043 or  
Darlene Danko (602) 749-0862

**South Bay Bird Club**

sponsors its  
**Southern California**  
**Finch and Hookbill Show**  
**October 19 - 20, 1991**  
Alondra Park Community Bldg.  
Lawndale, California  
Judges:  
Hookbills - Clarence Culwell - SPBE  
Cockatiels - Lee Horton - NCS  
Lovebirds - Nancy Polarino - ALBS  
Finches - Clarence Culwell - NFS  
For information call:  
Lee or Sharyn Bolivar (213) 416-9877  
Rita Holmes - (213) 640-3292

**Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club**

is hostings its  
**Annual Fall Bird Affair**  
**October 26-27, 1991**  
Municipal Auditorium  
417 Fourth Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee  
For show information contact:  
Phyleen Stewart  
2131 Elm Hill Pike, F-127,  
Nashville, TN 37210  
(615) 885-2523  
For fair information contact:  
Ed Ramage  
2131 Elm Hill Pike, F-127  
Nashville, TN 37210  
(615) 885-2523

**Motor City Bird Breeders**

is sponsoring its  
**40th Annual**  
**Canary and Cage Bird Exhibition**  
**October 26 & 27, 1991**  
St. Stephen's Hall  
4330 Central Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan  
For information:  
Kathy Frank  
19400 MacArthur, Redford, MI 48240  
Phone (313) 538-6598

**Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture**

is hosting its  
**29th Annual Bird Show**  
**November 1, 2, and 3, 1991**  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
Interstate 70 and Havanna St.  
Denver, Colorado  
Judges:  
Canaries - Mark Whiteaker, NCA, IGBA & others  
Budgies - Don Powers, ABS  
Cockatiels - Glen Gibson, NCS  
Lovebirds & Parrots - Ralph Milos, ALBS, SPBE  
Finches - Marty Von Raesfeld, NFS  
Pet Birds & Photo Contest - Tim Murphy  
American Budgies - Kevin Wirick  
For information contact:  
Dorothy Rae Bien  
P.O. Box 3663  
Englewood, Colorado 80155  
(303) 369-4804

**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

**Greater Pittsburgh**  
**Cage Bird Society**

**Annual All Bird Show**  
**November 2, 1991**  
Century Plaza Inn  
(Exit off I-70) Washington, PA  
For more information call:  
Marlene Ayres  
(412) 746-1384  
836-1/2 McClane Farm Rd.  
Washington, PA 15301

**Smoky Mountain Cage Bird Society**  
**Bird Show Fair**

**November 9, 1991**  
Great Smokies Hilton  
Asheville, North Carolina  
For information:  
Michael Jarrett (704) 433-8036