

# ***AFA in action...*** ***NEWS and VIEWS***

AUGUST 1989

## **Errata**

*edited by Jack Clinton-Eitniear*

Ron Holtz and Bill Vaugh assisted in the move of the home office from California to Phoenix, Arizona and were inadvertently omitted from the list in the June/July "News and Views" section.

## **Parrot Smuggler Gets 27 Months**

*by Francisco Gonzales  
(Reprinted from The Monitor, McAllen, Texas)*

A Tennessee man who pleaded guilty to parrot smuggling charges received a 27-month prison term Thursday in McAllen federal court.

U.S. District Judge Ricardo Hinojosa gave William Zoner, 51, the maximum penalty allowed under federal sentencing guidelines.

Zoner pleaded guilty in April to one count of smuggling 88 parrots into the United States from Mexico in the trunk of a car. Thirty-eight of the parrots died in transit.

"The fact that you brought the birds into this country illegally is totally unacceptable," said Hinojosa as he sentenced Zoner. "The inhumane treatment of the birds is totally unacceptable."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Terry Leonard called the sentence "appropriate considering the inhumane treatment of the birds and the potential dangers to the poultry industry."

Mexican parrots are potential carriers of Newcastle's disease, a fatal fowl disease. A 1985 outbreak of Newcastle's disease caused \$52 million in damage to the California poultry industry, Leonard said.

Leonard said Zoner was arrested in January after U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent Joe Ramos saw Zoner smuggling birds from Mexico into Brownsville.

Ramos followed him to an Alamo address where he loaded the birds into a second car, driven by Gary Bellamy. Bellamy and Zoner drove to a U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint in Sarita, where Ramos and Border Patrol agents seized the birds and arrested Zoner, Bellamy, Zoner's wife, Shirley, and two others.

A grand jury charged the five in February with seven counts of conspiracy and bird smuggling.

Bellamy, Mrs. Zoner and the others pleaded guilty to smuggling charges and agreed to testify against Zoner in exchange for leniency, Leonard said.

Ramos said the Fish and Wildlife Service is stepping up its investigation of parrot smuggling.

"Between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Attorney's Office, we are going to vigorously enforce the smuggling law," he said.

The maximum penalty for bird smuggling is five years in a federal prison and a \$250,000 fine.

## **Contributions Received for Conservation/Research**

*edited by Jack Clinton-Eitniear*

The following individuals made financial donations in the months of April/May to the Conservation and/or Research Funds. A special thanks is given for your generosity.

Barry Adler, D.V.M.  
Albert Bippus, Sr.  
Judith Brennan  
Laura Chalifoux  
Sunny Clarkson  
Mary Colliflower  
Marilyn Culp  
Carol Dohme  
Joan Duswalt  
David Green  
Carol Greene  
Gail Heyer, D.V.M.  
Dawn Janney  
Drs. Stephen & Amy Jurewicz  
Barbara and Davis Koffron  
Craig Lewis  
Kent Lewis  
Annette Lotito

Dr. Edwin D. Malone  
Phillip Mastres  
Anita Mills  
Vincent Moase  
Linda Mudge  
Roger O'Connell  
Joy Oswald  
Lee Phillips  
Larry & Karen Podrouzck  
Robin Rea Salo  
Phillip Smith  
Margaret Strand  
Kathleen Sullivan  
Cheryl Swanhall  
Catherine A. Toft  
Terry Veraldo  
Sandra Woosnam  
Warren & Marian Wotten

## **AFA Salutes its Life Members**

*edited by Jack Clinton-Eitniear*

The Life Membership category is the highest caliber of membership allowed in AFA. Being a Life member is an excellent way to express your support for an organization and to show faith in its future survival and development. We applaud the following nine Life members in the American Federation of Aviculture and encourage the membership to consider increasing their membership category to Life and show support for AFA and its vast array of activities.

Avicultural Breeding and Research Center  
James Coffman  
Earl Haga  
Frank and Mary Kozeluh\*  
Felicia Lovelett  
Thomas C. Marshall  
Thelma Scott  
Fredrick and Martha Siegrist  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert G. Travnicek

\* denotes Honorary Life Member



## Affiliated Club/Society Profile ... The Oklahoma Cage Bird Society

*edited by Jack Clinton-Eitnrear*

When we think of avicultural "hot spots," generally California, Florida or Arizona comes to mind. The fact of the matter is that Tulsa, Oklahoma deserves recognition as well being the home of the Oklahoma Cage Bird Society.

Formed in September of 1983, OCBS is nearly as old as AFA itself. Composed of approximately 115 untiring members, they gather on the third Wednesday of the month for their meeting at the Martin East Regional Library. This is a productive society. A sampling of some of their activities includes a bird show in October, a spring cockatiel show and bird fair, an adopt-a-bird program that places unwanted pet birds with suitable individuals, and a Bird Care Hotline where your avian health care questions are answered through referral to a specialist in the area. In addition to these activities, they produce an excellent bulletin under the editorship of Richard Bewley.

While serious monitoring of legislation and public education requires most of the club's time, they do find time to "take their hats off." As quoted from their bulletin, "...but our club is mostly for fun. We hold a monthly meeting featuring programs and speakers on all aspects of aviculture. It's a time to get together with people who love birds as much as you do."

The Oklahoma Cage Bird Society, Inc. is an affiliated society of the AFA and an active supporter. Their officers are frequently in attendance at the annual and winter conventions. In addition, they are currently marketing the Conservation T-shirt. Definitely a respected member of the avicultural community, may they "live long, prosper and grow."

For more information write: Oklahoma Cage Bird Society, P.O. Box 52122, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74152.



*Oklahoma Cage Bird Society board members at annual Club picnic include (L to R): Laura Bewley, show chairman and NFS delegate; Richard Bewley, magazine editor and AFA delegate; Alan LeFors, president; Cheryl Reese, ACS delegate; Woody Reese, vice-president and SPBE delegate.*

## Executive Committee Holds Spring Meeting in Washington

*edited by Jack Clinton-Eitnrear*

The Executive Committee held its annual spring meeting on May 19 & 20 at the Dulles International Holiday Inn, Virginia.

A summary of the meeting's minutes include:

- A report from President Tom Marshall on the membership promotion and fund raiser. Thus far 159 members have responded with donations exceeding \$4,000.
- Opal Crosser, Convention Chair, reported that 32 booths have already been sold for the upcoming convention. *If you have never attended an AFA convention, this is an excellent time to start!*
- It was motioned and approved that the president determine the recipients of AFA Service Awards.
- An additional 500 *Watchbird* binders have been ordered and will be available this fall.
- Bill Wilson has resigned, due to health reasons, as Mid-eastern Regional Vice-president. Bill's contributions to AFA and aviculture are numerous. We wish him the best of success in future endeavors and a speedy hospital recovery.
- Motion was made and approved to increase display advertising rates in *Watchbird* by approximately 25% to become effective January 1, 1990. *Watchbird* rates have not increased in a number of years. Even with the rate increase, the rates will remain substantially below those of other avicultural publications.
- Val Clear has resigned as Chair of the Education and Media Committee but remains active in both the Conservation and CITES Committees. Val implemented the highly successful slide media program and has been a faithful patron of AFA for a number of years.

## 5,000 Years of Bird Breeding Experience

That's a conservative estimate of the number of years' experience in breeding birds of the total AFA membership. Despite this rather impressive resource base, every year countless aviculturists attempt to breed new species of birds without the benefit of those years of experience. Writing an article for *Watchbird* magazine may be the most lasting contribution you can make to aviculture. Articles are frequently referred to for years and cited in major scientific and popular publications. *Watchbird* magazine does not have a staff of writers but relies on its membership to contribute articles for publication. Article writing is not difficult. The editorial staff is always available to assist with your manuscript preparation and will edit articles, if needed, in hopes of correcting (and not adding) grammatical errors. AFA will provide limited compensation for your contributions. Personal experiences on breeding all species of birds are especially encouraged. Articles need not be typed but should be written legibly. Photographic support (slides or prints) are encouraged and will be returned after publication, if requested, providing a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included.

Assist us in documenting 5,000 years of avicultural experience by submitting an article for publication in *Watchbird* magazine.



## Executive Committee Profile . . . Vicki Fletcher

*edited by Jack Clinton-Eitniear*

The American Federation of Aviculture, like other medium sized non-profit organizations, relies greatly upon volunteers. Consistent with a recent finding that six percent of scientists publish over half the literature so, too, only a small percentage of volunteers contribute the majority of the effort. This short profile is about a member of the six percentile.

Ms. Vicki Fletcher was brought to your attention in the June/July (1986) issue of *Watchbird* as a result of her creation of the 93-page computer generated *Watchbird Index*. Elected as Executive Secretary in 1987, she was elected Chief Corporate Financial Officer in 1988 and fulfilled the obligations of both offices above everyone's expectations.

Vicki is a member of many international, national and local bird societies and volunteers her services to these societies as well. She is currently the Census Registrar and Membership Chairperson for the Amazona Society, the International Loriidae Society and the Fig Parrot Group.

In addition to donating her computer and organizational skills to several avicultural societies, she finds time to breed and exhibit a number of psittacines. An article on her breeding of the Umbrella Cockatoo was published in the Oct/Nov '88 *Watchbird*.

There is an old saying, "If you want to get something done, give it to a busy person." Vicki Fletcher, without question, is a busy person and undoubtedly gets "something done." Quoting Editor Emeritus Sheldon Dingle, "AFA owes a deep debt of gratitude to Vicki Fletcher, a volunteer of the finest caliber. Fellow members, when you chance to meet her, doff your hats, curtsy, and kiss her hand — she deserves it." I could not have said it better.

## Conservation Committee Produces Newsletter

*edited by Jack Clinton-Eitniear*

A Conservation Fund Newsletter began production this spring and is being provided to all members of the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs. Copies are available to the general public by writing the Arizona Business Functions Office (AFA, P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ 850790). The newsletter contains updated progress reports on the various Conservation Committee activities.

## AFA Prepares for CITES Meeting

*by Lee Phillips*

The seventh meeting of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) will be held October 9 through 20 of this year in Lausanne, Switzerland. The Fish & Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior has granted approval to the American Federation of Aviculture for observer status at the meeting. It is expected that Dr. Val Clear, Dr. Susan Clubb, Jerry Jennings, Lee Phillips and Richard Schubot will represent AFA at the meeting. Their mission will be to inform the representatives of the 105 signatory nations to the treaty of the present state of aviculture and the benefits of captive breeding.

The AFA CITES Committee has prepared a tri-lingual (English, French, Spanish) brochure for distribution at the meeting. The brochure outlines AFA's position on numerous questions relating to trade, harvest and maintenance of avian species and reflects a strong stand for conservation.

A special issue of *The AFA Watchbird* is being prepared for distribution at the meeting and as an extra issue for AFA members. This special issue will feature articles by well-known and respected aviculturists and will be useful in educating legislators and animal welfare groups regarding the present status of aviculture.

For the first time, AFA has been asked to comment to the Trade Monitoring Group of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on avian proposals presented to the CITES meeting, particularly in the area of captive breeding.

Although President Tom Marshall's special appeal for funding AFA's CITES effort was very successful, there remains a shortfall in the amount of \$9,000 to cover printing costs. It is hoped that additional donations will make up this deficit. Your donations — which are tax-deductible — may be made payable to the AFA CITES FUND and sent to the AFA Business Office at P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ 85079-6218. It is important that the voice of aviculture be heard at the CITES meeting and AFA representatives at the meeting will use the opportunity to make a strong statement on behalf of aviculture and the benefits of captive propagation.

## Volunteers Solicited

*edited by Jack Clinton-Eitniear*

AFA is currently searching for volunteers with skills in marketing and advertising to assist in the development and implementation of a nationwide promotional campaign. Any members with skills in these areas are encouraged to contact Davis Koffron at 1-602-484-0931.