





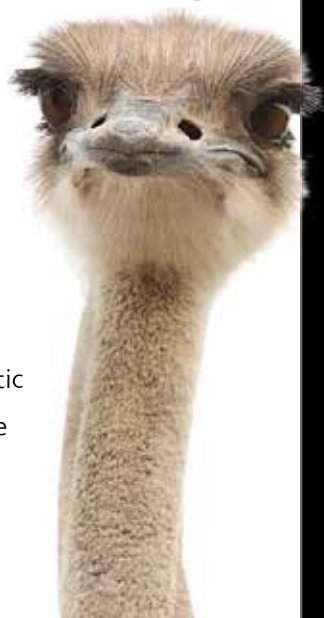
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FROM
**Dr. Elizabeth
Koutsos,**
Mazuri Director,
SPEAKING AT THE
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April 27-30 in
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The purposes of the Society are the study of foreign and native birds to promote their conservation and protection; the dissemination of information on the care, breeding, and feeding of birds in captivity; the education of Society members and the public through publications, meetings, and available media; and the promotion and support of programs and institutions devoted to conservation. Front Cover: Demoiselle crane (*Anthropoides virgo*) Photo: Dhaval Varagiya. Feather Paragraph artwork by Susie Christian © 2012-2016 Avicultural Society of America. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced without express written permission by ASA.

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May/June 2016
President's Message

The Conference Was Fantastic!

So fantastic, that no words come close to conveying how every moment was sheer perfection. We will attempt to achieve this perfection again next year in Monterey. Practice your speechless and expect the unexpected.

Carol Stanley
President, Avicultural Society of America

p.s. check out conference coverage beginning on page 26

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Trader Joe's Low Tech Incubation

Susie Christian

Morro Bay, CA



PHOTOS BY SUSIE CHRISTIAN

WEEK OLD CHICK



THE CHALLENGE

Would you believe Trader Joe's sells chicken eggs that will hatch? The answer is yep, they certainly do!

Several friends who live in Morro Bay told me they heard the rumor, so I had to investigate for myself. Plus, I just bought a new incubator and wanted to try it out. It would be a good way to test the new incubator, using eggs far less precious than parrot eggs. I previously used a small incubator at the suggestion of a respected aviculturist. It was such a dud, I lost two eclectus eggs just before they hatched. A cheaply made 'toy' in my estimation, and I learned the hard way.

My daughter bought a Brinsea incubator for my granddaughter several years ago, and they have successfully hatched many chickens and quail in theirs. I was impressed with the sturdiness, accuracy and simplicity of the little unit. It holds seven chicken eggs and an additional turner, bought separately, holds twelve quail or parrot size eggs horizontally. I had a Brinsea cradle type incubator years ago and it also worked well. This Brinsea unit resembles the old TurnX incubator I always had great success with.

The Brinsea Mini Advance incubator is menu driven and extremely easy to use. Just program the length of incubation for your species and the micro-controller holds the correct temperature, turning and length of incubation with no further input. The display counts down each day to tell you when eggs are due to hatch and turning will stop automatically 2 days prior to hatching. All you need do is refill periodically with water. It is ideal for learners, hobbyists, and teachers wanting to hatch eggs in the classroom – and serious aviculturists as well, in my opinion.

I would, however, suggest checking the temperature presets, as I discovered that the one for Eclectus and other common parrot species is 98.3 to 98.6, rather than the 99.1-99.5 I have been successful with. The temperatures can be easily modified & the incubator 'remembers' the reset.



OFF TO TRADER JOE'S

I paid Trader Joe's a visit on Valentine's Day and found a couple of managers to question. Additionally I asked around the store, inquiring if anyone knew if the 'fertile' eggs would hatch and had anyone ever tried. They gave me some



20 DAYS AND DRAWING DOWN FERTILE EGG

silly grins and said, good luck. No one knew for sure. The fertile eggs, found in the regular cooler, were a very reasonable \$2.99 a dozen and by the looks of how fast they were selling, I found the March 8th date on the carton worth a try. I knew I'd be getting White leghorn chickens. Not my favorite, but I was conducting an experiment.

When I got the eggs home, I stood in the dark and candled every one of the dozen, to see if some were

pinker with signs of fertility. I selected the pinkest of the lot and set seven of the eggs on February 14th. I really was skeptical about their chances of hatching. However, within days, most of the eggs were looking like they were viable, glowing with pink and veins attaching. I was pleasantly surprised. Now, if these eggs came from a chicken farmer, with a visible rooster roaming the chicken yard, I'd have expected them to hatch. But from Trader Joe's cooler, I was pleasantly surprised.



PIPPING EGGS

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

I fussed over those silly big white eggs in the days that followed as if they were valuable parrot eggs. Five out of the seven I set proved to be fertile. I had lots of fun candling them often, observing development. This was something I normally wouldn't do with eclectus eggs, for fear of damaging the developing, veiny innards forming inside.

Chicken eggs hatch in 21 days. Sure enough, right on schedule, the first chick to hatch was exactly at 21 days. It was great fun to

see the chicks enthusiastically burst out of the shell. A chick, who three weeks before, could have been someone's mushroom and cheese omelet, had I not bought that carton of eggs and changed their fate. I helped them to become chickens, albeit common-looking White leghorns. I love the more exotic chicken breeds, but it looks like I am stuck with plain vanilla-white chickens.

Out of the seven eggs set, two were either infertile or not fertile enough to 'take'. Two others went full term but were dead




JUST HATCHED!



TWO DAY OLD CHICKS

in shell. The remaining three all hatched within hours of each other. Wonderful little balls of yellow fluff! I'm guessing two are hens and one is a rooster. It is indeed possible that the quintessential, golden Easter chick, seen on millions of greeting cards, can originate from the Trader Joe's egg cooler.

I learned two things. That little Brinsea incubator is a darned good one for the money (about \$190.00), and when Trader Joe's says they sell fertile chicken eggs, you can take it to the bank. They are telling the truth. 



Editor's note: Susie Christian, long time eclectic and rose breasted cockatoo breeder and maven, plays an instrumental part in providing editing and art work for the ASA Bulletin. Thank you, Susie, for your commitment to aviculture and education.



5 WEEKS OLD



MR. CRISPY



DEMOISELLE CRANE "DANCE" (ANTHROPOIDES VIRGO) PHOTO DHAVAL VARAGIYA

Cranes of Porbandar, Gujarat, India

Dhaval Varagiya



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Porbandar is an administrative district of Gujarat located in the western part of the state with its headquarters located at Porbandar town. The district covers an area of 2,298 sq. km with total population over 500,000. Porbandar was carved out of Junagadh district. There are some worth visiting wetland sites in and around Porbandar. Topographically, Porbandar district is considered as the plain land slopping from Barda hills to

the seacoast, near which are tracks of marshy land known as Ghed[1]. A total 226 wetlands have been mapped by the Space Applications Center (SAC), ISRO including 95 small wetlands (< 2.25 ha) with 22,199 ha area in Porbandar district[2]. Inland wetlands contribute 27.3% of the total wetland area and coastal wetlands contribute 72.7% of the total wetland area[2].

DEMOISELLE CRANES (ANTHROPOIDES VIRGO) PHOTO DHAVAL VARAGIYA





SARUS CRANE (G. ANTIGONE) PHOTO DHAVAL VARAGIYA

Porbandar is one of the mega biodiverse district of Gujarat, as it supports 261 species of birds, 22 species of mammals, 39 species of reptiles, four species of amphibians, 55 species of butterflies, and 759 species of plants and many species of fresh water fishes[3]. Wetlands

of Porbandar support more than 124 water bird species out of total 261 bird species recorded in the district[4]. Shree Sahajanand Swami District Community Science Centre (SSDCSC)- Porbandar, in collaboration with Porbandar Forest Division- Porbandar, Indian Coastguard-



Porbandar, Green Wildlife Conservation Society and Mokarsagar Wetland Conservation Committee, organized an Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) on 1st February- 2015 at 21 different sites of Porbandar district and recorded 1,93,358 water birds[5].

Wetlands of Porbandar host three species of cranes i.e. migratory Demoiselle crane (*Anthropoides virgo*), migratory Common Crane (*Grus grus*) and resident Sarus Crane (*G. antigone*).

DEMOISELLE CRANES (ANTHROPOIDES VIRGO) PHOTO BHASKAR THANKEY



COMMON CRANE (GRUS GRUS) PHOTO BHASKAR THANKEY





The Common Crane also visits Porbandar but comparatively less in numbers as that of D. crane. Some individuals are often sighted feeding alone in the group of 9 to 10 and sometimes join the large flocks of D. crane. Sarus cranes are rarity for Porbandar as their numbers are much less these days. This year, we could spot only four of them and that too after a gap of two years.



Steve's Photo Pick

TKing Eider, *Somateria spectabilis* nests in the

circumpolar Arctic tundra. Females perform all incubation and chick-rearing duties and may stay on the nest for several days straight. During breeding season, they feed on the surface of the water primarily on floating arthropods and plant matter. In winter, they often congregate in very large flocks numbering in the thousands off the coasts of Alaska's Aleutian Islands, in the Atlantic from New England north to Labrador, and along the coast of Norway . In the winter, King Eiders feed by diving dozens of feet to the sea floor to gather crustaceans and algae.

Photo taken at Dry Creek Waterfowl Sanctuary.



	C	R	A	N	E	S
Site	<i>Demoiselle</i>		<i>Common</i>		<i>Sarus</i>	
<i>Amipur</i>	29068		30		0	
<i>Mokarsagar</i>	4000		52		0	
<i>Coastal sites</i>	0		0		0	
<i>Lamba</i>	4000		19		0	
<i>Visavada</i>	270		72		0	
<i>Medha creek</i>	70		0		0	
<i>Kuchhadi</i>	1040		17		0	
<i>Javar</i>	0		0		0	
<i>Bardasagar</i>	15000		110		0	
<i>PBS</i>	7		11		0	
<i>Subhashnagar</i>	0		0		0	
<i>Chhaya rann</i>	0		0		0	
<i>Karly</i>	0		0		0	
<i>Vanana</i>	400		0		0	
	53855		311		0	

From the above table, we conclude that more than 50,000 Demoiselle cranes are hosted in different wetlands of Porbandar.

COMMON CRANES (GRUS GRUS) PHOTO DHAVAL VARAGIYA





DEMOISELLE CRANES (ANTHROPOIDES VIRGO) PHOTO BHASKAR THANKEY



Demoiselle crane visits Porbandar in very large numbers which could be more than 80,000 every year in winter. It migrates long distances

of thousands of km without even resting or feeding. It prefers grassland habitat close to wetlands. In winter, it feeds chiefly on grass



DEMOISELLE CRANES (*ANTHROPOIDES VIRGO*) PHOTO DHAVAL VARAGIYA

seeds but, also takes large insects and lizards in summer[6]. The ballet dance of cranes is a treat to watch. Though it is the smallest species of

crane in the world, it needs plenty of water and is often sighted near fresh water inland wetlands.



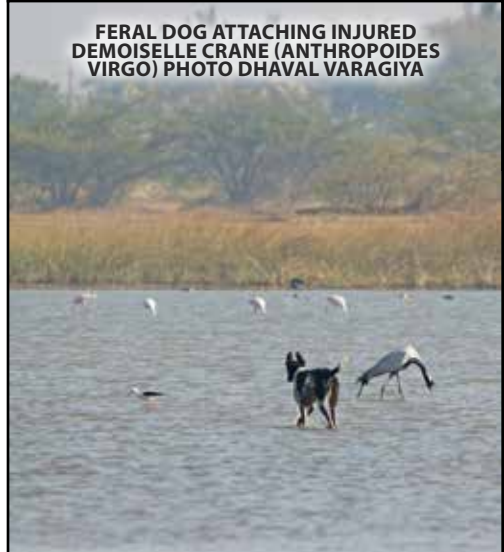
DOG DEMOISSELLE CRANES (ANTHROPOIDES VIRGO) PHOTO DHAVAL VARAGIYA

The Ghed region of Porbandar is ideal for the farming of sorghum, locally known as Juwar, and cranes are often seen raiding on these farms but farmers don't hurt them at all. There are also some minor threats to these birds here. Village pond deepening is considered a threat to wetland habitat and so to the water birds. Sometimes, injured birds are targeted by feral dogs and boars. We are thankful to rescuers of Green Wildlife Conservation Society who rescue the wildlife, including cranes, from rural areas and urban areas. I am thankful to all the contributing photographers who provided their beautiful photos for this article. 🍷

POND DEEPENING THREAT TO WETLAND HABITAT PHOTO DHAVAL VARAGIYA

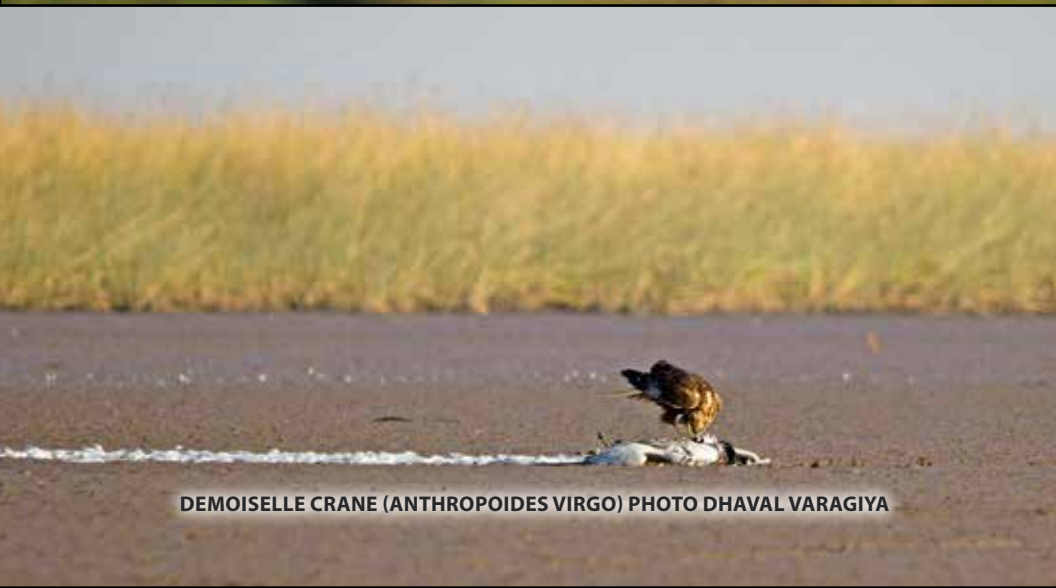


FERAL DOG ATTACKING INJURED DEMOISSELLE CRANE (ANTHROPOIDES VIRGO) PHOTO DHAVAL VARAGIYA





DEMOISELLE CRANES (ANTHROPOIDES VIRGO) PHOTO DHAVAL VARAGIYA



DEMOISELLE CRANE (ANTHROPOIDES VIRGO) PHOTO DHAVAL VARAGIYA

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Heaven, Conference, Both!
Editorial Staff





The 2016 Avicultural Society of America 11th Annual Education Conference has garnered very positive feedback. Don't kick yourself too hard for not joining us. Come to Monterey next year!

The conference was held at the Red Lion Hotel in Port Angeles, Washington, which is nestled along the shoreline of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, surrounded by tall conifers and lush greenery. The hotel was absolutely flexible and accommodating to our unusual needs, (providing a room for a walk in aviary and later bird show), and also reasonably priced.

Registration duties were expertly tackled by ASA Secretary, Kimberly Robertson and her mother, Wanda. Upon arrival, the first thing Kimberly asked was, "How can we help?" After stuffing tote bags with fliers and ASA Bulletins, (with additional help from Dot Rambin), registration was open for business.

Dick Dickinson and Mary Rose ran the raffles and auction. Many, many thanks for their outstanding work.

Orange County Bird Breeders provided our continental breakfast and coffee each morning. Yum!



**OCBB CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
PHOTO CAROL STANLEY**

SeaWorld San Diego's Laurie Conrad and Bill Robles, with help from hosts, Arnold and Debbie Schouten, created a great speaker lineup. Speaker presentations began Thursday morning.

Longtime ASA and conference supporter, Mazuri was represented by speaker Liz Koutsos, Ph.D.

The speakers are the rock stars of aviculture and pay their own travel, meal and lodging expenses. This conference was like going to Coachella at no charge and seeing all your favorite bands.

**KIMBERLY ROBERTSON, SECRETARY, DISCUSSES THE
HAND-REARING RESOURCE CENTER WITH DAVID
HANCOCK PHOTO GLEN BROWNING**



Many attendees stayed glued to their seats for lunchtime bird shows, compliments of Debbie Goodrich. For the first time in ASA conference history, a walk-in aviary, filled with a variety of birds, was supplied by Julie Corwin of the Lory League. A bird show was sanctioned by the National Finch and Softbill Society with Judge, Sally Huntington.



DEBBIE GOODRICH AND FRIENDS

**PHOTOS
GLEN
BROWNING
UNLESS
NOTED**



**ROBERT CUMPSTON WITH
JESSIE - BLUE AND GOLD
MACAW (ARA ARARAUNA)**



**WALK-IN AVIARY
PHOTO CAROL STANLEY**



**BEST IN SHOW -
PET PARROT DIVISION
EXHIBITED BY JULIE CORWIN
CLONCURRY PARROT
(BARNARDIUS ZONARIUS
MACGILLIVRAYI)**



Top left: Susie Kasielke, Carol Stanley, Dot Rambin Photo Steve Duncan; Top right, clockwise from left: Steve Duncan Randy Berry, Dick Schroeder, Riki Schroeder, Jonathan Beilby, Susie Kasielke, Carol Stanley, top photos Steve Duncan; Bottom left: Steve Duncan; Bottom right: Debbie Schouten Dot Rambin, Frank Todd; photos Carol Stanley

In addition to the excellent presentations and beautiful surroundings, the local eateries were very, very good.

Outstanding birding opportunities were just steps away from the hotel and many attendees were out with cameras and binoculars at the crack of dawn, searching for a “lifer” (first sighting of a particular species of bird) and chasing the elusive “best shot ever”. Many species of waterfowl reside in or migrate through this area, making it a birder’s heaven. Sea mammals are also resident and easily seen.

Debbie and Arnold Schouten shared the Pacific Northwest piece of heaven they call

home with us on a sunny Friday afternoon in Port Angeles, Washington.

The weather reports were not favorable for the day but proved erroneous. The sunshine washed over Debbie and Arnold’s facility, putting their extensive ponds and lush, colorful landscaping in the spotlight. The only thing that outshone it were the birds. Sea ducks of various species were happily swimming, diving and playing in the large ponds. At each pond, an attendant answered questions as guests took advantage of seating provided in viewing areas.

Arnold and Debbie’s collection of sea ducks is extensive and the Schoutens are considered experts in their husbandry and breeding. As with most aviculturists I know, “the work in progress” will be the best enclosure yet, and Arnold and Debbie are no exception. Their newest pond is expected to be completed shortly after





**OLDSQUAW OR LONG-TAILED DUCK
(CLANGULA HYEMALIS)
PHOTO STEVE DUNCAN**



**SMEW (MERGELLUS ALBELLUS)
PHOTO STEVE DUNCAN**



**COMMON EIDER (SOMATERIA MOLLISSIMA)
PHOTO STEVE DUNCAN**



**PIED AVOCET (RECURVIROSTRA AVOSETTA)
PHOTO STEVE DUNCAN**



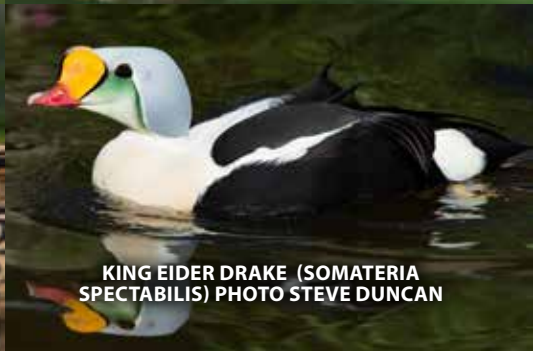
**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE DRAKE(BUCEPHALA
ISLANDICA) PHOTO STEVE DUNCAN**



**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE HEN(BUCEPHALA
ISLANDICA) PHOTO STEVE DUNCAN**



**KING EIDER HEN (SOMATERIA SPECTABILIS)
PHOTO STEVE DUNCAN**



**KING EIDER DRAKE (SOMATERIA
SPECTABILIS) PHOTO STEVE DUNCAN**



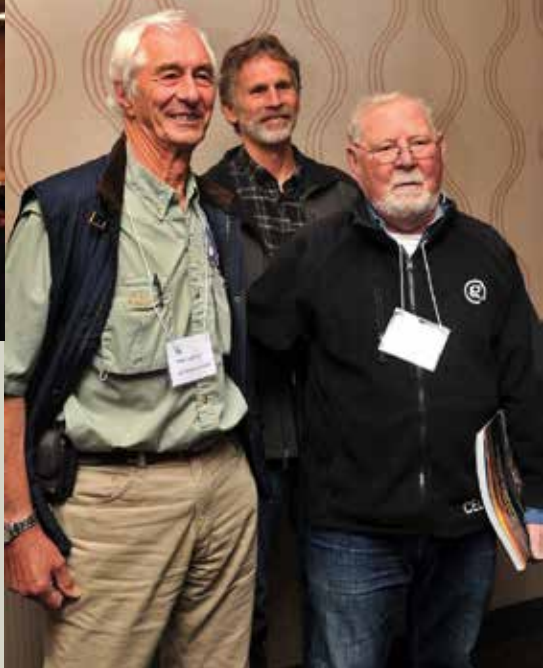
RANDY BERRY, CAROL STANLEY, JONATHAN BEILBY PHOTO GLEN BROWNING

our visit and tour. I think that's good enough reason for us to go back for a future conference.

One of the best parts for me at an ASA conference is meeting online friends in person. This year was amazing. Randy Berry of Italy and Jonathan Beilby of the UK were both in attendance. Randy has a rather large collection of birds and shares his aviary designs, cameras and breeding techniques quite a bit on Facebook.

Jonathan Beilby. Just can't say his name without a smile coming to my face. Very happy to help with whatever is needed, Jonathan made a promo video voiceover for the conference ala Sir David Attenborough with video provided by Ken and Mary Campbell of the Schouten's birds. Here's a link to the video: <https://youtu.be/V4gCCCQZlqA>. Jonathan also donated an outgoing message for an answering machine at the ASA auction, which Arnold and Debbie won.

I can't say enough about the speakers. Incredible doesn't come close to describing them. Every talk was filled with passion about the subject. Going to the far corners of the earth, under extreme conditions, living off the grid for extended periods of time and finally, sharing their adventures with us, was very exciting to see and hear. And they just consider this "their work."



AVICULTURE LEGENDS
KEYNOTE SPEAKER MIKE LUBBOCK, HOST
ARNOLD SCHOUTEN, SPEAKER FRANK TODD
PHOTO GLEN BROWNING

We will be sharing videos on the ASA website of the speakers who give us permission to do so.

After the banquet, the auction was officiated by speaker Maynard Axelson who served as auctioneer, encouraging bidders to stretch to the next dollar amount. Jonathan Beilby helped display the items and provided hilarious descriptions in his well-known Attenborough style.



President's awards were received by Julie Corwin and Arnold and Debbie



WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (MELANITTA DEGLANDI) PHOTO STEVE DUNCAN

Schouten. These awards were the first President's Awards in ASA history to recognize the extraordinary efforts by



DEBBIE SCHOUTEN AND ARNOLD SCHOUTEN
PHOTO GLEN BROWNING

the recipients to make the conference a success. The awards consisted of a shadow box with a beautifully hand painted feather, appropriate to the recipient, by Nancy Lipking-Dodds (email: forthebirds_99@yahoo.com).

Many donated to the raffle and auction. Thank you. Without such donations, ASA would be hard pressed to continue our conferences at the level we have attained. One such donor was David Hancock, of Hancock House, publisher of an extensive library of bird books. His friend Glen Browning provided many of the photos for this publication and I am grateful for his donations.

Keynote speaker Mike Lubbock, "The Waterfowl Man", shared some unknown facts about his personal history. Mike was quite a hit on an English dance TV show during the 60's. His avicultural experience includes Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) in Slimbridge, England, where he held positions as Curator and Director of Aviculture. He

has provided consulting for the Queen of England at Buckingham Palace, working to solve the breeding challenges of Her Majesty's waterfowl. Mike co-founded Sylvan Heights Bird Park in Scotland Neck, North Carolina. www.shwpark.com

Conference founders Frank Todd and Jerry Jennings deserve a great deal of credit for bringing the ASA Conference dream to a reality, starting with the first conference in Long Beach aboard the Queen Mary. Since then there have been many spectacular hosting facilities and speakers. It would never have begun without them. Thanks, fellas!

Woodland Park Zoo provided behind-the-scene tours to attendees at no charge on Wednesday before the conference and Sunday after the conference. They made special arrangements for some attendees who could not meet that schedule. Special thanks to Mark Myers and Shane Pederson for making this possible. In exchange, zoo personnel were welcome to attend the conference talks. And we are pleased they did!

Many ASA board members were supportive in their attendance, Susie Kasielke, Kimberly Robertson, Jennifer Culp, Alex Culp, Dick Schroeder, Steve Duncan and Carol Stanley.

ASA's Aviculture Apprentice program, chaired by Kimberly Robertson, is being



WOODLAND PARK ZOO; LEFT TO RIGHT, DOT RAMBIN A HOLLANDICUS); TAWNY FROGMOUTH BABY, ADULT (PHOTOS STEVE DUNCAN

outlined and our first Aviculture Apprentice, Gregory Sercel received his Aviculture Apprentice card. Gregory's mother and brother, Jonathan, were also present.

Finally, a big thanks goes to Steve Duncan, ASA treasurer, who has overseen every conference from the beginning. Steve is a major part of the organizing team and watches the budget. This does not even begin to describe all he has done, and will do, for ASA. Steve provides photos for the slideshow during our icebreaker and breaks and keeps the conference on schedule as emcee.

Keep an eye on www.asabirds.org for photos and videos and look to the ASA Bulletin facebook page for updates of releases and postings of material from the conference. You'll find the links in the front of this Bulletin.

Next year, join us in Monterey, California, where you can expect the unexpected! 🍌

ASA CONFERENCE EMCEE AND TREASURER, STEVE DUNCAN PHOTO CAROL STANLEY





AND COCKATIEL (NYMPHICUS ODARGUS STRIGOIDES) WALK-IN AVIARY



HAND-REARING RESOURCE CENTER

Kimberly Robertson and Gail Hedberg, RVT

The Hand-Rearing Resource Center is a very exciting project that is designed to provide a globally-accessible web-based resource to professionals working with mammals and birds and eventually for reptiles and amphibians as well. We began this with "The Inaugural AZVT Focus Group: The Art and Science of hand-Rearing", a symposium that was attended by 80 zoo professionals from around the globe. We have a group in the US who will be reviewing the data sent in for mammals while we have partnered with the Avian Resource Center in the UK to review the information on birds. Currently we are in the process of collecting hand-rearing data which will be reviewed by a group of veterinarians, dietitians, and other experienced professionals in the field before it is made available on the website to ensure that we have the most accurate information possible. We hope to be able to collect information and make it available in a consistent format along with rebuilding a network that was initially developed with the AZA (Aquarium and Zoo Association)

Infant Diet Care Notebook which was a valuable tool back in the day but has not been updated or curated for many years.

We know that there are many of you out there who have dedicated yourselves to learning about the animals in your care. You have, over time developed experiential insights that may be lost without an openly-shared data repository. We hope that you will participate in this project by going online and submitting information on both your successes and some of your hard learned lessons as well so that we can foster and continue to develop the work with animals that we all are all so passionate about.

Visit our Facebook page and "follow our LinkedIn company page". We also have created a "Group" page on LinkedIn with over 100 members where you can view and post discussions related to hand-rearing.

<http://www.handrearingresourcecenter.com/>

www.facebook.com/HRRCGlobal

ASA MEMBER CLUBS

Central California Avian Society

PO Box 5067, Fresno, CA 93755
www.ccasbirds.com

Contra Costa Avian Society

P.O. Box 23115 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
www.contracostaaviansociety.org

Acadiana Bird Club

480 Almonaster Dr Youngsville, LA 70592
acadianabirdinc@hotmail.com

Arizona Seedcracker Society Inc

P.O. Box 26899 Mesa, AZ 85214

Long Beach Bird Breeders

6444 Spring St # 132
Long Beach, CA 90815
longbeachbirdbreeders@gmail.com

Fort Worth Bird Club

P.O. Box 1712 Keller, TX 76244
fwbc@fortworthbirdclub.com

Finch Society of San Diego County

4256 10 Ave San Diego, CA 92103
www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com

The Foreign Bird League

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www.foreignbirdleague.com

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American Dove Association,

American Federation of Aviculture

LoryLeague.org

National Animal Interest Alliance

National Finch and Softbill Society

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Hartford Connecticut - www.afabirds.org

October 2, 2016 - AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA Annual Auction at
Frank Miser's - www.asabirds.org



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