

## **MY PAL STEWART PYPER MEMORIES OF A FRIENDSHIP**

by Mike Curzon

I first met Stewart in the early 1970s at a talk given by George Anderdon to Frome Cage Bird Society. It was the beginning of a firm friendship which, sadly, ended with Stewart's death in October.

In the early days of our friendship, Stewart came to Rode Tropical Bird Garden every Saturday after shopping with his mother. He would pick-up day-old chicks and bananas (always on the look-out for a bargain was Stewart) and any snippets of news and gossip - or, better still, scandal. He then began coming on the occasional zoo visit with me, when I went to collect or deliver birds. Also, we used to go, together with Martin Greene, to the Avicultural Society talks and wine and cheese evenings at the Linnaean Society in London. It was great to travel there with Stewart, because he knew his way around London - in fact he always seemed to know his way around everywhere. Stewart must surely have been the prototype for the first satnav. Whenever we went anywhere together, such as to an Avicultural Society day out, he always knew unerringly which road to take and invariably we arrived half-an-hour early, as Stewart liked to ensure that we had time for coffee and biscuits before the meeting began.

On the society's European trips, Stewart always kept everyone together, apart from Colin Jackson, who he used to give up on about halfway around. Without Stewart, I doubt that Colin will make it past the first aviary. I used to call Stewart, Shep, because of his sheepdog-like efforts to keep us all together. I miss being able to phone Stewart and bounce ideas off him, and miss his calls to me asking what I thought about various things. I also miss his evening visits after he had been to his Uncle John's for dinner and then came around to us for cheese and biscuits - always complaining if there were no digestive biscuits. Then we would share a glass of red wine or port before he dashed back home to Nunney. I will really miss my pal Stewart.

### **WE WILL MISS HIS LAUGHTER**

Stewart was a well-known and popular figure at The Bear Inn at Holwell. He supported a number of charities and among his many loves was real ale and the pub provided two barrels of Funky Monkey, one of Stewart's favourites, for a "farewell party." For every pint sold, £1 (approx. US\$1.50) was donated to the Church Roof Fund. This raised £150 (approx. US\$225).



## Contributors to Volume 117 - 2011

Bertagnolio, Paolo

Visually sexing the Hawk-headed Parrot *Derophtus accipitrinus* .....51

Visually sexing the Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus* together  
with an example of social breeding behaviour by his species .....97

Bralsford, Gary

Breeding the Oriental Greenfinch *Carduelis sinica* .....49

Breeding the White-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha albicapilla* .....7

The beautiful Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster* .....150

The Chestnut-backed Thrush *Zoothera dohertyi* .....102

Bruslund, Simon and Bretschek, Lech

The Southern Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus*, including its  
breeding at Weltvogelpark Walsrode .....122

Bruslund, Simon and Gaede, Martin

News of parrots at Weltvogelpark Walsrode .....32

Bruslund, Simon, Magnus, Wolfgang and Scheres, Geer

Notes on tinamous currently found in aviculture .....75

Collen, Rose, McCulloch, Bronwyn, Butler, David and Holland, Glen

Captive care of the Friendly Ground Dove *Gallicolumba stairi* .....105

de Chabannes, Pierre

A bird extravaganza with a French accent .....174

The Dallas World Aquarium .....59

Daka, Alazar, Kumsa, Tolera, Borghesio, Luca, Lernould, Jean-Marc  
and Bekele, Afework

New studies find challenges and opportunities for the conservation  
of Prince Ruspoli's Turaco *Tauraco ruspolii* .....145

Dunn, Christopher

The care and breeding of the Pekin Robin *Leiothrix lutea* .....13

Edmans, Ian

The 2010 breeding season at Waddesdon Manor .....23

Ellis, Malcolm

The society's Special Interest Groups .....131

Girling, Reuben, B.

On some UK bird breedings by members of the  
Avicultural Society in 2009 .....52



Curzon, Mike. 2011. "My Pal Stewart Pyper Memories Of A Friendship." *The Avicultural magazine* 117(4), 188–189.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/253063>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/314967>

**Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

**Sponsored by**

Biodiversity Heritage Library

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In Copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder

License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.