

# RETRIEVAL PROGRAM NEWS

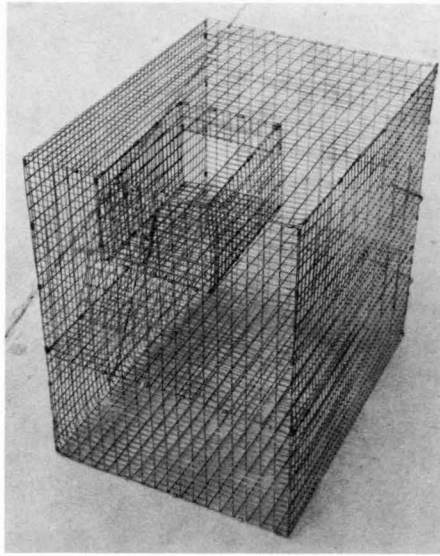
by Hal Koontz

The A.F.A. Exotic Bird Retrieval Program has seen additional good results during the past two months. Since July of 1975, the A.F.A. and the California Department of Food and Agriculture have joined together to recapture escaped aviary birds, the primary emphasis being on the Indian Ringneck Parakeet, the Nanday Conure and the Canary Wing Parakeet. The State views these species as potential agricultural pests and has given the program one year to demonstrate its ability to retrieve them. If the program is not viewed as successful, the State could prohibit possession of these species. On the other hand, if the program is viewed as successful, the program may be extended another year or the proposed pest rating may be dropped completely.

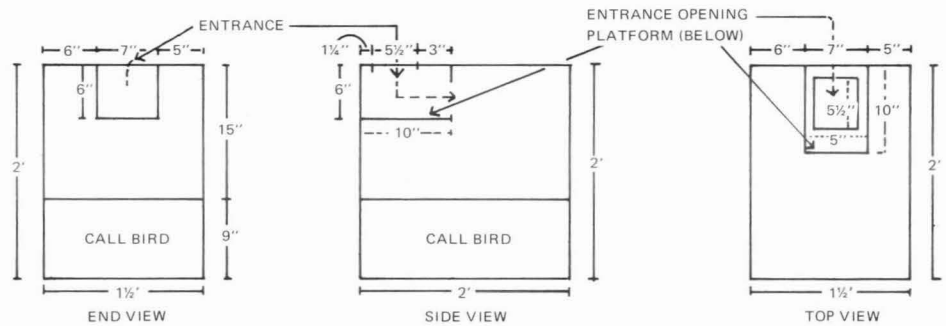
In the past two months, the program has retrieved 14 Indian Ringneck Parakeets and 1 Amazon Parrot. Two ringnecks were captured in Temple City by an aviculturist on his property. The aviculturist had ringnecks in his collection and on two different occasions, a ringneck flew into a hallway between a series of long flights to visit the breeder's ringnecks. The breeder merely quickly closed the hallway door after the bird entered it.

Three ringnecks were shot in Cucamonga by the caretaker of an orange grove and strawberry field. The birds did not eat the strawberries but did eat the oranges. Two more ringnecks were shot in the same location by personnel from the Department of Food and Agriculture.

Seven ringnecks were caught in the Chino-Pomona area by three different persons, all aviculturists. The birds were caught when they either visited the breeder's other ringnecks or came to feed on fruit trees in the breeder's yard. All seven were similarly caught and all were caught one at a time. One breeder caught four by cutting a small opening and adding a door in the side of one of his flights which he had just built and had not yet filled. He built a platform which extended two feet into the flight. On the platform he placed kumquats which the birds were eating off his trees. The ringnecks landed on the platform, entered the flight to eat the fruit and then were frightened away from the opening and deeper into the flight when the aviculturist ran up to close the door. Another aviculturist caught one ringneck by doing



Trap for Indian Ringnecks



Hal Koontz with Ringneck nest taken from eucalyptus tree in Cucamonga, CA.

the same thing to one of his flights. He placed a female ringneck in a carrying cage into the flight and waited until the feral ringneck went deep into the flight to visit her. He then closed the entrance door. Still another aviculturist caught two ringnecks in a double, side-by-side cage. His ringnecks were in one cage while the other cage was empty except for fruit and seed and had a large door open. When the ringnecks entered the empty cage to visit the other ringnecks and to eat, by means of a string which went 30 feet to his house, the aviculturist lowered the door shut.

One Amazon Parrot was caught by drenching it with a hose so that its feathers became so wet it could not fly.

In the last issue of the Watchbird, it was promised that a trap design would be included in this column. The following design has been successful.

The side view shows the best view of the trap entrance. The bird enters the trap from the top; it jumps down onto the platform to eat some food which is placed there; it then jumps down into the larger part of the cage to visit the call bird in the area below it or to eat the more desirable fruit. Once inside, the bird cannot find its way out readily and the retriever comes and closes the entrance. I have shown no doors in the diagram, but they will be needed to give access to the call bird area and the large part of the trap. If the reader wishes to build this trap and has questions, please contact me or write the A.F.A.

The above design has been fruitful when the birds were not on an aviculturist's property and could be lured to the ground by means of food and/or a call bird. A call bird is a bird of the same species which attracts the feral bird to it. When the birds visit an aviculturist's property, the Chino aviary traps described above are by far the most effective.

Please report to me or the A.F.A. any captures of feral exotic birds. By the next issue of the Watchbird, we may know what the State will decide in regard to the possession of the three species in question.