



## HOW TO KEEP YOUR BIRDS FROM BEING STOLEN

by Ray Brode

It seems that every bird meeting I attend I hear of someone losing their birds to thievery. This need not occur if the proper precautions are taken. With all the new problems we aviculturists are having with the various laws and regulations we do not need added worries. This thievery is something we can control. With the experience I have had in the security and alarm business, I will tell you what you can do to safeguard your birds.

Most important is to be very careful who you invite over, or let in, to see your birds. Eight out of ten times when birds are stolen, it was by someone who knew the set up. If they did not do the stealing, it was someone else they informed about the layout.

Most bird robberies occur during the day and if you plan to leave home it is wise to notify the neighbors you know

will be at home, such as housewives, retired, or elderly people. They are the most observant.

Put locks on aviary doors. If possible use heavier gauge wire screening on the outer areas of the aviaries. Many people I know have aviaries enclosed in a fenced-in area as an added precaution, with only one or two entrances. A dog is a good deterrent, especially one that will bark when a stranger appears and is not too eager to make friends with anyone.

The most worthy and effective precaution, without a doubt, is a good burglar alarm. In most cases it may cost you the price of what one of your birds is worth. One thing a burglar will not cope with is to be detected. When a loud bell or horn, or flashing light goes off, he will immediately disappear. Security technology has advanced to such a high degree that almost any situation can be handled.

At the time of this writing I can honestly tell you that of forty four aviaries and seventeen pet stores that have alarm systems installed, NOT ONE has lost so much as one bird to a break-in.

Before the installation of a burglar alarm, some of the stores were burglarized as many as three times, some twice, some of them were never robbed and wanted to make sure they never would be, especially as their bird collections increased in size and value. Every now and then I see ads in the paper or bird magazines where people offer a reward for the return of their stolen birds. Chances are nil of their ever seeing those birds again. In many cases where the thief or thieves were apprehended, they have not gone to jail, but were put on probation. I doubt seriously if that stops their thievery. I also find in many cases when the stolen birds are reported to the authorities, the theft is not taken very seriously.

I have been asked to come up with some recommendations to help people prevent having birds stolen. I hope this article helps. In the future I will write and describe how the break-ins actually occur, such as the areas, the times of day, the means of entry, damage to aviary and all other information involved.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**CLASSIFIED RATES** — \$3.00 minimum charge for 4 lines of type (average 7 words per line). Additional charge of 9¢ per word for ad running over 28 words. (28 words to include name, address and phone.) All copy to be **RECEIVED BY 15th** day of month preceding publication.

**WANTED:** Additional breeding stock of miniature dove, quail and exotic finches. Will trade or purchase. Call or write: Frank J. Kozeluh, 6171 Amarillo, La Mesa, CA. 92041. Phone (714) 469-4724.

**FOR SALE:** TWO FINE BOOKLETS to help with care and training of Cage Birds. "Raising Parakeets for Pleasure and Profit". "Raising Canaries for Pleasure and Profit". \$3.00 each — or both for \$5.00. Mrs. A.D. Myers, 6076 — 82nd Terrace, Pinellas Park, Florida 33565.

**FOR SALE:** Welded Wire 1/2" x 1/2", 4' x 100'. Wholesale price. Jerry Jennings, 1803 Pontius Ave., L.A., Calif. (213) 884-5476 evenings.

**FOR SALE:** Lady Goulds, 1975 hatch, all birds raised in my outside aviary. Art Schultz, 2666 Circle Dr., Escondido, CA. 92025. (714) 745-1290.

**LIVE MEAL WORMS** encourage breeding, provide natural vitamin-packed nutrients for growth and development. Fun to hand feed for taming! Wholesale to Club Members: 5000 @ \$9.25; 10,000 @ 17.50, 20,000 @ 32.00. Handy cups of 500 in bran only \$15.60 per dozen. **SO POOL YOUR ORDERS!** Call tonight (714) 298-5678 until 7 p.m. Olympic Meal Worms, Dept. A.F.A., Box 2500, La Jolla, CA. 92038.

**FOR SALE** — 1 pair Red Rump Parakeets, \$150.00. 1 pair Bourke Parakeets, \$140.00. All birds early '76 hatch. Jerry Jennings, 1803 Pontius Ave., L.A., CA. (213) 884-5476 evenings.

**AFRICAN GRAY** Breeder-Female. Talks all the time. 35 or 40 words. Bob Whyte, 2118 Republic Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA. 92627. Phone 548-7611.

**WANTED:** Cuban Melodious Finch. Jerry Jennings, 1803 Pontius Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90025. Tel. (213) 884-5476 evenings.

**FOR SALE** — Parrots of all kinds — Dusky, Yellow Streaked, Black Capped Lories — Also Parrots, Macaw's and Cockatoos — Crimson Wings — other Lories. Exotic Bird and Animal Imports — P.O. Box 402343, Oceanview Branch, Miami Beach, Florida 33140.

Have peach face color mutations, some breeder pairs. Also blue masked and cockatiels. SASE for list. Need hen Elegants and hen red front Kakariki. Phil Ryan, 183 14th Ave., N.W., New Brighton, Minnesota 55112, (612) 636-5133.

**FOR SALE:** Moluccan (Great Salmon Crested), young, hand tamed, very entertaining, whistles, dances, talks. Beautiful condition, outstanding crest. \$2000. Private collection. W.W. Fetner — Phone (314) 965-5677.

**FREE** — Laying hens, adult Barred Rocks and Rhode Island Reds. Jerry Jennings, 1803 Pontius Ave., L.A., CA. (213) 884-5476 evenings. No shipping.