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the Vet's Corner

by Kendal P. Svedeen, D.V.M.
Mission Viejo, California

U.S.D.A. Rules on Pet Bird Transportation

A number of changes have been instituted by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture regarding the importation of personally owned pet birds. Commercially imported birds in large numbers come under an entirely different set of U.S.D.A. regulations. The most recent pet bird importation regulations were effective as of Jan. 15, 1980, and apply to all countries except Canada. In some ways they are more strict than previous regulations, and in other ways more lenient. The overall objectives are to eliminate the importation of birds infected with Exotic Newcastle's Disease (V.V.N.D.), and to control the spread of Psitticosis. Newcastle's Disease is becoming more of a worldwide problem. It is estimated that if this disease was to become a problem in the United States, it could cost the taxpayers in excess of \$230 million a year to attempt to control it.

Psitticosis, or Parrot Fever, is contagious to humans, and without proper treatment is usually fatal to both man and bird. This disease is treatable with Chlortetracycline (C.T.C.), and all birds under the minimum quarantine period of 30 days are appropriately treated with this antibiotic. However, we know that it takes at least forty five to ninety days of treatment with C.T.C. to be assured that birds are "clean." Therefore, it is advisable to isolate and treat newly acquired birds with C.T.C. for two to four weeks.

Requirements:

A pet bird brought into the U.S. must be quarantined for at least 30 days in a U.S.D.A. operated facility. A maximum of two psitticine birds per family per year are allowed. There is no limit on other species (within reason). During the quarantine period, the birds are isolated and treated in individually controlled and ventilated cages to prevent any cross contamination. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (A.P.H.I.S.) conducts appropriate tests on the birds to insure that they are free from any disease communicable to our poultry population. If any birds are found to be infected, they will be refused entry, and must be either returned to the country of origin at the owner's expense, or humanely

euthanized. All imported birds will have numerically registered leg bands attached.

Procedure:

If one is planning a trip to a foreign country, and anticipates the purchase of birds, quarantine space at one of the listed U.S.D.A. facilities must be reserved and paid for in advance. A deposit of \$40 per cage is required, and a cage will accommodate two parrot type birds, or a variable number of soft-bills, as long as they are compatible. Total cost estimates at present are about \$80 per cage for one bird, and \$100 per cage for two psitticines (or a larger number of small soft-bills) which must be paid upon release from quarantine. Obviously, it is more practical and economical to bring in two birds as long as they get along well together.

Additional charges can be incurred for transporting birds from the Port of Entry to the quarantine station.

When a bird is purchased in a foreign land, it is necessary to obtain a health certificate signed by a veterinarian accredited by the government of that country, certifying that the bird is free from any communicable disease. It must also indicate that the bird is being exported in accordance with the laws of that country, and must be written in, or translated into the English language. When applying for the cage reservation, request that U.S.D.A. form 17-23 be sent to you. It is an acceptable health certificate in English. Transportation from the Port of Entry to the bird's quarantine station must be pre-arranged as well. When the bird is released from quarantine, have it examined by your personal veterinarian, and treat it with C.T.C. for thirty days.

Ports of Entry:

In order to obtain the cage reservation, first write to the Import-Export Staff, Veterinary Services, A.P.H.I.S., U.S.D.A., Hyattsville, M.D. 20782. Request a copy of the pet bird import regulations and Form 17-23. Send the form and a certified check for \$40 to the Port Veterinarian, A.P.H.I.S., U.S.D.A., (City, State, and zip code below):

Nogales, AZ 85621
Lawndale, CA (L.A.) 90261
San Ysidro, CA 92703
Miami, FL 33152
Honolulu, HI 96850
New York, NY 11430
Brownsville, TX 78520
El Paso, TX 79902
Laredo, TX 78040

Canadian Birds:

The same basic rules apply, but the



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE

Dedicated to conservation of bird wildlife through encouragement of captive breeding programs, scientific research, and education of the general public.

MEMBER NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

African Love Bird Society British Columbia Avicultural Society
American Cockatiel Society American Pigeon Fanciers Council
International Bird Institute Avicultural Society of America American Budgerigar Society

MEMBER CLUBS

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society
Dixie Zoological Society

ARIZONA

Arizona Avicultural Society

CALIFORNIA

American Canary Fanciers
Aviary Association of Kern
Budgie Fanciers of San Diego County
Butte County Bird Club
California Game Breeders' Association
Capitol City Bird Society
Central California Cage Bird Club
Exotic Bird Breeder's Association
Exotic Hookbill Society
Finch Society of San Diego County
Foothill Bird Fanciers
Fresno Canary & Finch Club
Golden Gate Avian Society
Golden West Game Breeders & Bird Club
Great Western Budgerigar Society
Hookbill Hobbyists of Southern California
Long Beach Bird Breeders
Los Angeles Pigeon Club
Norco Valley Bird Breeders
Nu-Color Bird Association
Orange County Bird Breeders
Redwood Budgie Hobbyists
San Diego County All Bird Breeders Association
San Diego County Canary Club
San Gabriel Valley Parrakeet Association
Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club
South Bay Bird Club
South Coast Finch Society
Southern California German Toy Pigeon Club
Valley of Paradise Bird Club
West Valley Bird Society
Western Bird Breeders Society

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Association for Aviculture

FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida
Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club
Greater Jacksonville Avicultural Society
Greater Miami Avicultural Society, Inc.
Sunshine State Cage Bird Society
Suncoast Finch Society

GEORGIA

Georgia Cage Bird Society

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club
Illinois Game & Pet Breeders Society

INDIANA

Indiana Bird Fanciers

IOWA

Mid-America Cage Bird Society

KENTUCKY

Central Kentucky Bird Society
Kentuckiana Bird Society

LOUISIANA

Gulf South Bird Club

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Inc.
Maryland Cage Bird Society
National Capitol Bird Club

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Society for Aviculture
Western New England Cage Bird Society

MICHIGAN

Mid-West Canary Club, Inc.
Motor City Bird Breeders

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Cage Bird Association

MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society
Missouri Cage Bird Association

NEBRASKA

Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society

NEVADA

Las Vegas Avicultural Society

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Avicultural Society

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey Bird Breeders Association

NEW YORK

American Singers Club, Inc., Chapter #1
Long Island Cage Bird Association
New York State Budgerigar Society

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte-Metrolina Cage Bird Society
Smokey Mtn. Cage Bird Society

OHIO

Central Ohio Bird Fanciers, Inc.
Mid-America Exotic Bird Society
Ohio Valley Cage Bird Club

OREGON

Columbia Canary Club
Exotic Bird Club of Oregon
Southern Oregon Game & Cage Breeders

PENNSYLVANIA

The Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society
Philadelphia Avicultural Society

TEXAS

Alamo Exhibition Bird Club
Capital City Cage Bird Club
Dallas Cage Bird Society
Gulf Coast Avicultural Association
Fort Worth Bird Club

UTAH

Avicultural Society of Utah

VIRGINIA

Tidewater Cage Bird Fanciers of Virginia

WASHINGTON

Northwest Aviculture Society
Northwest Exotic Bird Society
Washington Budgerigar Society

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Cage Bird Club

birds need not be quarantined as long as you certify that they have been in your possession for at least 90 days, were kept isolated from other birds during that period, and are in good health.

Taking your bird out of the U.S.?

Identification of the bird is the key factor. Either a numbered leg band or a tattoo is essential. Leg bands can be removed or exchanged, so a tattoo is a much more reliable means of identification. If a bird is going out of the country for less than 60 days, a health certificate signed by a U.S.D.A. accredited veterinarian, identifying the bird by tattoo or numbered leg band is all that is required. Special provisions must be made in advance with the U.S.D.A. if the bird is going to be outside the U.S. for more than 60 days. The bird must also be isolated from other birds during its absence. ●

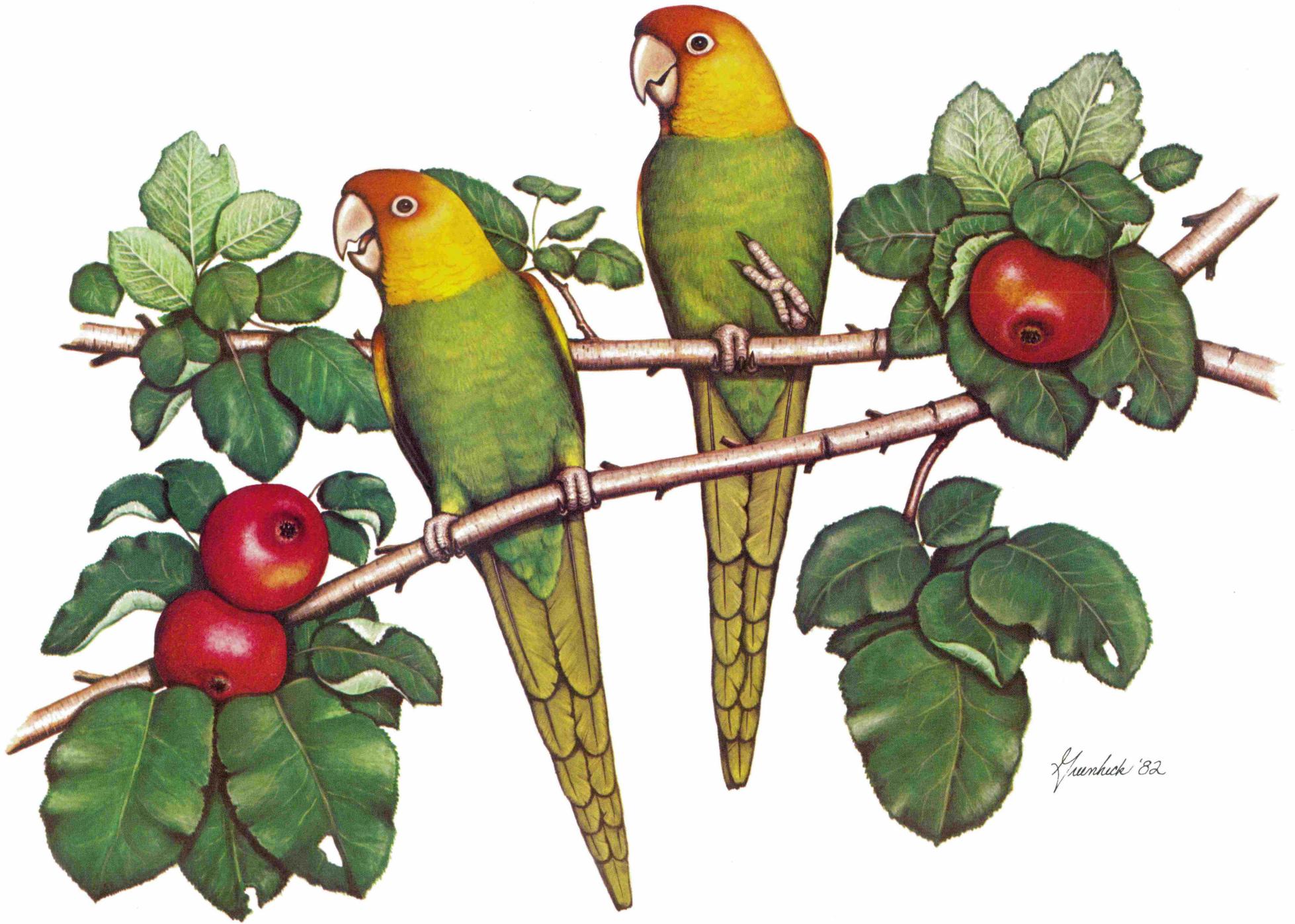
Tamaulipan Biotic Province

Announcing an International Symposium on the Tamaulipan Biotic Province. The Symposium will include all ecological aspects of the biome: vegetation, invertebrates, vertebrates, ecological structure and function, biological resources (use and effects), and management. It will include aspects of applied science and conservation. The meeting will be held at La Quinta Royale Motor Inn, Corpus Christi, Texas, on October 28, 29, 30, 1982. Those interested in contributing papers should submit an abstract by 1 August 1982; abstracts for contributed papers must be received by 1 September 1982. For information on either, contact Gene W. Blacklock, Curator, Welder Wildlife Foundation, P.O. Drawer 1400, Sinton, Texas, 78387 or David Riskind, Head, Resource Management Section, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas, 78744. For information on registration contact Jimmie R. Picquet, Director, John E. Conner Museum, Texas A&I University, P.O. Box 2172, Kingsville, Texas, 78363. ●

Watchbird Deadlines

The "Watchbird" deadlines are as follows: All copy and photo support must be in the editor's hands two months before the publication date. The August/September material is due on June 1st.

All camera-ready ads must be in the hands of the art director one month prior to publication date, i.e., an ad for the Aug/Sept issue is due July 1st. ●



Shunkuck '82