

WILDLIFE REGULATIONS PROPOSED INJURIOUS

by Russ Sutton



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It has been brought to my attention that there are many persons who have heard of the "Injurious Wildlife" regulations proposed by the United States Department of Interior under authority of the Lacey Act, but few are aware of its impact. Hopefully, by quoting excerpts, I will be able to put together, for the reader, an understandable and comprehensive picture of what is considered by many to be another

example of more Government controls.

The USDI proposes to modify the regulations "regarding the importation of injurious wildlife as promulgated under the authority of the Lacey Act". The proposal defines injurious wildlife as: "... those wild mammals, wild birds, fish, mollusks, crustaceans, amphibians, and reptiles or the offspring or eggs of the foregoing which are injurious to human beings, to the interests of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, wildlife, or to the wildlife resources of the United States, hereinafter called the named interests". "Such wildlife may not be imported into the United States except as permitted by the Secretary for zoological, educational, medical, or scientific purposes. Present ecological data and other knowledge, including an awareness of the large and growing volume of imported live wildlife, demonstrate that a thorough regulation of such importations is necessary to protect the named interests from additional injury".

"No injurious wildlife, imported under permit, or any eggs or progeny thereof, may be sold, donated, traded, loaned, or transferred to any other person unless such person has written authorization from the Director authorizing him to acquire and possess such wildlife or the eggs or progeny thereof".

When put into effect the regulations will prohibit all importations into the United States, or shipments between the U.S., Hawaii or Puerto Rico, of live injurious wildlife, or the eggs thereof, unless a permit is issued by the Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Also included is wildlife taken, transported, or sold in violation of foreign law.

The Secretary of the Interior has determined that there are some "low risk" birds which can be excluded from the regulation. They are the Rock Dove: Common pigeon (racing and show varieties), *Columba livia* (Ginelin); Zebra Finch, *Peophila guttata* (Vieillot); Bengalese or Society Finch, *Lonchura striata* (Linnaeus); and the Canary, *Serinus canaria* (Linnacus). Of

the 8,650 birds of the world only these are considered low risk.

The next two quotes speak for themselves and require no comment.

"Nothing... shall restrict the importation and transportation, without a permit, of any live wildlife by Federal agencies solely for their own use".

"Nothing... shall restrict the importation and transportation, without a permit, of birds of the family Psittacidae (Parrots, Macaws, Cockatoos, Parakeets, Lories, Lovebirds, etc.), the importation of which is governed by U.S. Public Health Service regulations... and the U.S. Department of Agriculture..."

According to Government records there are fifty species of birds imported into the United States during the years 1968 through 1971. Of these fifty, 18 species were Psittacines, which would not be controlled by this act, and 31 species were birds which would be controlled by the act.* As of this date, to my knowledge, not one specie of the 31 has proven injurious to the named interests. If any have escaped or have been turned loose, they have not been able to survive long enough to hybridize with any domestic species nor have they been able to find another of their own kind with which to breed. It is highly doubtful any ever could. The USDI has included all birds except four, two of which are cage bred, in their regulation, leaving the burden of proof with the citizens. It seems to me that our Government, with all that tax money at its disposal, should determine which birds would or would not be harmful to the named interests. According to Joseph Griffith and Michael Cunningham, who wrote the Annotated List of Birds of the World, there are but two or three.

The thousands of migratory birds, flying in and out of the U.S. every year, cannot be controlled by anyone and can carry all kinds of diseases.

The American Federation of Aviculture was formed so that each and every citizen of this country, who wants his or her voice heard by the Department of the Interior, can be represented. Our position was stated in the last issue of the Watchbird. Our voice will continue to be heard across this Nation telling our views. Our educational programs will seek to encourage everyone within the sound of our voice to make every possible effort to enlighten the general public.

There are very few, if any, persons now employed as politicians, or advisors and assistants to them, who have the slightest knowledge of Aviculture. The PhD's in Ornithology, as a general rule, are working in totally different areas. They may have knowledge gained from studies and research in great depth but how many times have they succeeded in pairing exotic wild birds so that they felt secure enough to go to nest and raise their progeny to fledge? This is what Aviculture is all about.

Who can predict which youngster in your town, or on your block will someday end up as a politician? If

*Canaries are included in the records but are "low risk".

he or she has gained some knowledge about Aviculture during the formative years, this will be remembered forever. If more people in politics today had some knowledge about Aviculture, we probably would not be faced with the type of legislation we are encountering. Every effort we can make in this direction will provide a better future for the hobby. Anyone interested, is invited to join the American Federation of Aviculture in our efforts to provide better information to the general public. United we succeed, divided we fall. ■

Nu-Color Canary Club ANNUAL BIRD SHOW TO EMPHASIZE EDUCATION

by Charlotte Bartke

A special effort will be made this year by the Nu-Color Canary Association in their Annual Open Canary and Foreign Bird Show, to invite the general public to observe the judging, view the labelled exhibits, and to ask the "experts" present any questions they may have about birds. Typically, bird shows are given for the benefit of the fancier — the visitor sometimes cannot even tell what kind of bird is being displayed.

The club intends to use notices in the newspapers and on certain radio stations, signs in local pet stores, and announcements at other bird club meetings to attract non-members to exhibit or visit the show. These services are usually free to clubs.

Thinking of the yellow canaries imported in large numbers in years past, many people are amazed to see the many colors, sizes, and shapes that are now available. Similarly, in foreign birds, people are most familiar with the large, colorful birds seen in zoo collections or shown on television, with the popular budgerigar or "parakeet", and less often with the cockatiel and a few of the small finches such as zebras that are sold in pet stores. However, they are not often aware of the wide variety of colorful finches, softbills, and parrotlike birds that can be maintained and bred in captivity. The NuColor club hopes that by having information about the exhibits available, visitors interested in making a start in birdkeeping will be better able to make decisions regarding their first choices of birds and equipment, and in properly caring for them.

Both trophies and cash prizes will be awarded in the main categories. Cash prizes will also be given in many sections. The club has found that cash prizes are preferred over trophies by most exhibitors. Judge Don Foster of Justamere Bird Ranch, Monrovia, is donating \$35.00 for Best Non-Type Canary (this includes Red Factors and the New Colors) and Judge Joe

Griffith of Orn Imports, Inc., Monrovia, is donating \$50.00 for the Best Foreign Bird, and \$25.00 for Best Hybrid. Breeders of foreign birds tend to be reluctant to show their birds, because the birds are seldom trained to a cage. However, with the emphasis on education and the generous awards, Judge Griffith hopes to attract large Foreign Bird and Hybrid Sections. The show is open to non-members, and since the clubs specializing in foreign birds are not planning shows this year, the NuColor Association hopes to attract a sizeable number of exhibitors from these groups.

Bud Ricks will judge the Type Canaries. This category includes the Border Fancy, the huge Norwich and tall Yorkshire, the tiny Gloster and Fife Fancies, the Lizard with its clear cap and unusual spangles, and the Frills. These canaries are rarely seen in pet stores, and visitors are fascinated by them.

The show will be held November 29 through December 1, 1974 in the Masonic Temple, 204 W. Foothill Blvd., Monrovia, Calif. For further information about entering or showing your birds, or to request a copy of the show catalog, write to the Corresponding Secretary, Charlene Massey, 11143½ Elliott Ave., El Monte, Calif. 91733. Ship-ins are not being accepted, but the location is accessible to much of Southern California. ■

A.F.A. President Named to State Wildlife Importation Advisory Committee

Avicultural interests have been recognized by the Department of Fish and Game, with the September appointment of AFA President, Jerry Jennings, to the Wildlife Importation Advisory Committee. An official department organization, the Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Department of Fish and Game regarding decisions to allow or restrict importation and possession of any non-native wild animal in the state of California. Areas of concern include whether an animal could be injurious and whether it is domesticated. All recommendations are based upon a majority vote of committee members after careful examination of scientific data and other information.

Fish and Game policy, as indicated by Deputy Director Charles Fellerton, will be to implement committee recommendations and to allow unrestricted importation and possession of domesticated forms of non-native animals. Domestication is considered to be the successful breeding of a species in captivity.

For the first time, aviculturists will be represented at the decision-making level of state government. The recent appointment to the Wildlife Importation Advisory Committee is a milestone in the effort to perpetuate aviculture. ■