

ENTER THE SHUTTERBUG CONTEST

SUBJECT: Exotic Aviary Birds
DEADLINE: August 1, 1979
ENTREES: On Display at
AFA Convention, Hollywood, FL
LIMIT: 5 per person

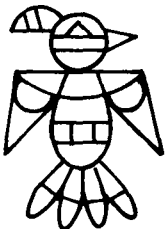
WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED
SATURDAY EVENING, AUGUST 25th
at the Banquet

For details and Entry Form see
Convention Tear Out Forms
in this issue

For additional information
write or call:
Ron deVolder
4724 Collier, Lake Worth, FL 33463
(305) 968-4214

There will be a special ABS
(American Budgerigar Society)
district five meeting called by the district
director Mrs. Sherrill Capi. She will be
receiving input from this district to be
presented at the annual meeting of the
ABS in conjunction with the
"All American Budgerigar Society Show,"
to be held in Bridgeport, Connecticut
on September 8, 1979.

Ollson's Rare Bird & Animal Farm



PROPAGATION OF EXOTIC BIRDS
AND ANIMALS
FOR ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

L. MICKEY OLLSON
DIRECTOR/OWNER

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Glendale, Arizona 85301
(602) 939-1003

Endangered Species Held In Captivity In The U.S. To Be De-regulated

At the A.F.A. regional conference in Washington, D.C. in April, 1979, Ms. Joan Caton of the Federal Wildlife Permit Office presented the following status report on captive wildlife regulations under the Endangered Species Act. The below outlined steps to be taken by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, with the accompanying timetable, are a direct result of the continuous efforts made by A.F.A. to de-control the sale and shipment of captive born endangered species within the United States.

Status report on captive wildlife regulations under the Endangered Species Act

The Service published final rules determining that eleven species of Endangered wildlife had Captive Self-Sustaining Populations (CSSP's) in the United States on June 1, 1977. Subsequent experience of the Service and the affected public showed that although the CSSP system was intended to reduce red tape, there were still difficulties in complying with it in the course of normal propagation activities. Also, it was apparent that the prohibitions applied against activities involving non-CSSP's were inhibiting their captive propagation.

Re-examination of this situation led to a policy decision by the Service that primary emphasis of the controls applied under the Act should be on conserving species *in the wild* along with their ecosystems, while interfering as little as possible with the captive propagation of these species. The Service published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking on April 14, 1978, announcing this policy and requesting public comment on several possible courses of action. Over 1,000 comments were received, overwhelmingly in favor of reduced Federal controls for captive wildlife.

In a parallel effort, the Service and ESSA developed a definition of the exemption in the Endangered Species Convention for specimens "bred in captivity." The Party nations recently adopted this definition. In the interest of reducing conflicts between Act and Convention, we are considering use of this definition in our regulations for captive Endangered and Threatened species.

The aim of the Service is to reclassify the captive (or captive bred) populations of exotic Endangered and Threatened Species in the United States as Threatened,

and to provide special rules for them. These rules would provide that interstate commerce and normal practices of animal husbandry previously interpreted as "taking" could occur without need for permits. However, the regulations will likely require that transfers of specimens be reported to the Service and that certain activities contrary to the purposes of the Act will still be prohibited. International trade would still require permits.

We hope to extend this treatment to all exotic species, but not to native U.S. species because of the risk that it could pose to accessible wild populations. Such treatment will only be considered for those native species for which protection of wild populations is assured and where the origin of captive specimens can be proved.

Our timetable for revision of the regulations if 50 CFR, Part 17 as they relate to populations of Endangered and Threatened species in the United States is as follows:

April 30, 1979 — Completion of draft proposed rulemaking

May 18, 1979 — Publication of proposed rulemaking in the FEDERAL REGISTER, inviting public comment for 60 days

July 17, 1979 — Close of comment period

August 17, 1979 — Completion of draft final rulemaking

September 7, 1979 — Publication of final rulemaking in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

The Office of the Solicitor in the Department of the Interior has advised us that it might be necessary to make such a rulemaking for exotic wildlife species-by-species. If so, this will be a much longer process that might be more effectively addressed by a technical amendment to the Act. Should our efforts to improve the regulations be blocked by such a requirement, we will work with Congress to draft an appropriate amendment to the Act.

If the timetable provided by the FWS is closely followed, it will mean the successful conclusion of a long campaign by A.F.A. to eliminate the restrictions that have forced many breeders to give up their breeding programs involving endangered species. We can now look forward to being able to move such birds as Scarlet-chested Parakeets, Swinhoe Pheasants, and Venezuelan Siskins from one state to another without bureaucratic hassles by the end of the year.