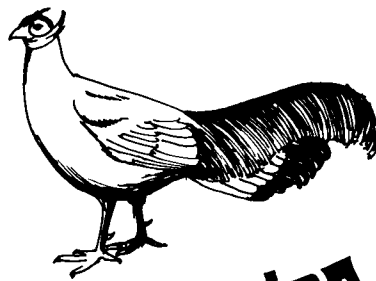


Gamebirds



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Isis

RECORD KEEPING

by U.S. Seal, Ph.D. and J.M. Olsen
ISIS, Minnesota Zoological Garden

Present day zoos and private breeders face the task of establishing and maintaining multigeneration, self-reproducing populations of captive wild species. In some instances these captive populations provide the only reservoir for species on the verge of extinction or already extinct in the wild. The greatly reduced availability of wild birds has resulted in an increased interest in sustained captive breeding programs. Considering that perhaps 700-800 species of wild birds are being bred in captivity and that these are dispersed among perhaps 10,000 or more breeders, and that replacements are increasingly difficult to obtain, then there is an obvious need for minimum record keeping standards and a means of pooling, collating and sharing basic data for captive population management of each species or subspecies. This is a challenge with high stakes including the complete loss of species when they become extinct

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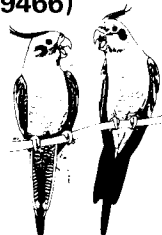
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in the wild.

The International Species Inventory System (ISIS) was initiated by the AAZPA and AAZV in 1974 to collect, analyze and disseminate in a usable form, census and vital statistics data on wild species held in captivity. Such data are considered essential if the hazards of fortuitous losses of species and of loss of genetic variability are to be avoided in working with dispersed, small captive populations. The ISIS program provides a convenient and participant-oriented record system designed for manual and computer use. The reports are designed to provide useful information for local management as well as interesting biological information on the species.

Participants are provided annually with three reports. The participant Inventory Report is a complete and detailed listing by species of the inventory of the individual participant. The Acquisition/Release Report is a similarly arranged report itemizing all changes in the collection during the year. The ISIS

Species Distribution Report is a summary by species of all specimens recorded in ISIS and provides an overall picture of the status of the species in captivity. All participants holding a given species and the age and sex composition of their holdings are listed, followed by tables on age and sex structure, mortality, births, and other acquisition and release information. Similar summaries are provided at the level of genus, family, and order. The report for 1977 was 2,400 pages long and is provided in its entirety only in microfiche. Individual portions are available in hard copy.

Participants are also provided with a set of directories. The ISIS Institution Procedures describes the methods for recording and submitting data to ISIS. The ISIS World Geographic and Zoological Institution Directory provides a hierarchical listing of geopolitical divisions of the world, including a listing of organizations and individuals holding wild animals in captivity. The ISIS Avian Taxonomic Directories use a hierarchical taxonomic

coding system assigning unique members to each taxonomic grouping.

Data is submitted for each individual animal on forms provided by ISIS (figure 1). The data reported include species and participant identification, identification numbers of parents (if known), and source of the animal if not born in the collection. A form is also completed when the animal is removed from the collection, whatever the cause — whether sale, donation or death. If sent elsewhere, this is indicated so that a linkage is provided for tracing the animal throughout its life.

The census and vital statistics data system described has been operational for mammals for three years and was expanded to include the birds in 1976. As of the end of 1977 ISIS had information on 13,172 living birds, 1,577 live hatchings and 1,226 deaths. It is anticipated that information on approximately 30,000 birds will be included by the end of 1978.

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demography system for providing the analyses and outputs of interest for genetic and demographic management. This system includes studbook reports with the data organized by animal I.D. number, by parents, and by owner. Basic data reports providing such information as seasonality of births and deaths, birth sex ratios and life tables can be provided in a simple graphic form. Population history reports provide graphs showing the size of the captive population by year with sources of new acquisitions in terms of wild-born, captive-born F-1 and F-2 animals for each year. Genetic analysis reports will include calculated inbreeding coefficients for all individuals in the species and statistical analysis to search for effects of inbreeding on longevity and fecundity. There is also the possibility of a report with choices for matings based on calculations of projected inbreeding coefficients. Demographic reports will provide information on

whether a population is growing and at what rate and will allow projections of future population sizes and sex ratios and age structure. Further analyses of data can be developed as needs are identified. It will be possible with such a computer-based model to test the effects of proposed strategies for removal of animals from the breeding population.

All operating costs for the program are provided by the participants in the form of fees calculated at the rate of \$1.00 per living animal in the participant's reported inventory at the end of each calendar year or \$100.00 minimum if fewer than 100 specimens are included. The \$100.00 minimum fee reflects our experience with the costs of providing manuals, forms and reports.

If you are interested in further information or participation, please contact ISIS, Minnesota Zoological Garden, 12101 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Apple Valley, MN 55124, U.S.A.

Figure 1

New Inventory Data

Scientific Name _____ SPEC ID _____
Common Name _____ HOUSE NAME _____

TATTOO NO. _____ LOCATION _____
TAG NO. _____ COLOR _____

I. Common Data

A 1 _____
(1) TAXONOMIC CODE (2) INSTITUTION CODE (3) SPECIMEN ID (4) TRANSACTION DATE

II. Birth Data

A _____ (1) CODE (5) SEX (6) HYB (7) DAM ID (8) SIRE ID (9) DAM INSTITUTION (10) SIRE INSTITUTION

III. Vital Statistics Data

A _____ (1) CODE (5) SEX (6) HYB (12) B (13) LOCATION (14) HT/DEPTH (15) AGE/BIRTH DATE

IV. Transaction Data

_____ (1) CODE (16) VENDOR/RECIPIENT CODE (17) W/R SPEC ID (18) PRICE (19) DELIVERY

V. Death Data

B A _____ (2) CIRCUMSTANCE OF DEATH (21) CARCASS DISPOSITION (22) AUTOPSY (23) CARCASS RECIPIENT

VI. Special Data

CLASS	NUMBER	CLASS NAME
S A	STUDBOOK SPECIMEN	
S F	TATTOO NUMBER/HOUSE NAME	
S B	MARINE MAMMAL/MIGRATORY BIRD PERMITS	
S C	POSTENTRY QUARANTINE	
S D	ENDANGERED SPECIES PERMIT	
S E	INJURIOUS ANIMAL PERMIT	
S G	COLOR PHASE	
S H	TAG NUMBER	
(24) SPECIAL		

Institution _____
Date _____
Recorded By _____
189979

AVIARY OWNERS SENTENCED FOR BIRD SMUGGLING

William Hampton and Marion Martinez of Basically Birds, Alpine, California, have been convicted of the offense of transportation and concealment of merchandise in violation of 18 USC 545 (smuggling). This conviction places Hampton and Martinez in violation of AFA's Code of Ethics. They have been relieved of AFA membership and advertising privileges in the Watchbird.