

Businessman Guilty in Bird Smugglings

by Drew Broach
St. Tammany Bureau
THE TIMES-PICAYUNE
New Orleans, Louisiana
Nov. 19, 1987

The owner of Bird World in Lacombe has pleaded guilty to two federal charges in a parrot-smuggling operation that stretched from Tijuana, Mexico, to Conway, S.C., authorities said Wednesday.

Gregory B. Jones Sr., 51, and his son, Frederick Jones, 29, who also pleaded guilty in the scheme, will be sentenced Jan. 13.

Both men entered pleas Tuesday in San Diego before District Judge Judith N. Keep, Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles S. Crandall said.

The government alleged that the Joneses and six co-defendants were part of an unlicensed ring that brought 300 yellow-naped Amazon parrots into the United States in violation of interna-

tional treaty, Fish and Wildlife Service regulations and laws enforced by the Agriculture Department and Customs Service.

Some of the birds carried exotic Newcastle disease, a viral malady that does not directly affect human beings but can be devastating to poultry populations.

Gregory Jones admitted receiving 60 smuggled parrots flown into New Orleans from Los Angeles on March 20, Crandall said. He said Jones also admitted lying four days later about his bird shipments to a Department of Agriculture agent investigating an outbreak of Newcastle disease.

Jones faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$50,000 fine on each count. Crandall said prosecutors will recommend probation on the perjury charge.

He said Frederick Jones admitted storing 60 parrots for his father at his home near Slidell until learning of his father's arrest.

Frederick faces as much as a year in prison and a fine of as much as \$10,000.

Three other defendants in the scheme have pleaded guilty. A fourth has been convicted at trial.

Eugene M. Carrier, 37, and his wife, Teresa L. Mooney, 25, entered pleas in August along with Robert O. Wylde, 62, Crandall said. All three are from Escondido, Calif.

The government alleged that Carrier, who owns a commercial bird distribution business in Valley Center, Calif., and his wife imported the parrots and distributed them in the U.S.

Wylde helped deliver the birds. He was placed on probation for two years and ordered to perform community service.

Mooney was sentenced to three months in prison and given a 15-month suspended sentence.

Carrier has not been sentenced. He faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine.

Crandall said Joseph O. Rowe of Conway, S.C., who owns a pet shop there, was convicted of five charges Oct. 7 after a 1½-week trial. He is to be sentenced Nov. 30, and could receive 45 years in prison and a \$1.2 million fine.

Two other suspects are awaiting trial.

Jose Gomez, 41, and Fernando Rojas, 44, both of Tijuana, were arrested Oct. 31 when they came to Chula Vista, Calif., to meet with a federal undercover operative, Crandall said.

He said Gomez was to pick up \$20,000 that he was owed for supplying birds. Rojas is believed to be an errand runner for Gomez. ●



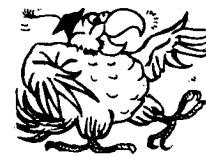
AAV Prepares For 1988 Conference

Association of Avian Veterinarians Annual Conference. September 26 to October 1, 1988, Adams Mark Hotel, Houston, Texas. Contact Sylvia Kornelsen, AAV Conference Office, 1625 S. Birch, Suite 106, Denver, CO 80222. Phone (303) 756-8680.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Association of Avian Veterinarians is accepting proposals for clinically oriented case reports, comprehensive reviews or wet labs on avian medical or surgical topics. Material must be original and previously unpublished. Papers will be presented September 26 - October 2, 1988 in Houston, Texas. Send brief abstract to AAV Conference Office, 1625 S. Birch, Suite 106, Denver, CO 80222. Phone (303) 756-8380. **Deadline: March 1, 1988.**

Teach Your Bird Fast



First speech training cassettes recorded entirely by a PARROT.

You'll be amazed at the total attention your pet devotes to "Mande's" clear and enthusiastic voice. Your bird will love his lessons as he learns the phrases:

VOL. 1: - 60 min. Stereo -

Side A: 1) "What you doing?" 2) "Where you going?" 3) "Wake up."
Side B: 1) "Hi pretty lady." 2) "Hello, what you doing?" 3) "I love you." 4) "Hi Mary."

VOL. 2 also available. These cassettes have been proven to be the best speech training method commercially available.



Included with each order is a 5"X7" **Master Of Speech Degree** for your bird. This beautiful diploma is in full color on a heavy parchment-like paper with our Double Yellowhead teacher parrot "Mande" vividly pictured.

When your pet learns the phrases in VOL. 1 you can give your bird a graduation party. Fill in the diploma with his name, date, your signature, and frame it proudly over his cage. **TEACHER'S GUIDELINES** are also included with each order.

Help your bird be all he can be.

One year written guarantee. Specify your choice. Send \$11.98 (+ \$1 P&H) for one or \$22.95 (+ \$1.50 P&H) for both to:

PARROT CLASSROOM
1430 Willamette, Suite 544
Eugene, OR 97401
(503) 484-5889

Diploma & Guidelines for \$2 (+\$1 P&H)
All orders sent 1st Class mail. Dealer inquiries invited.