

AFA in action...

NEWS and VIEWS

JUNE 1988

Good News! First Hatching of California Condor Baby Conceived in Captivity

Most of the news reading/watching world knows by now of the very rare California condor chick hatched late Friday afternoon, April 29, 1988 at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. This rare baby boosts the world's California condor count to twenty-eight. None exist in the wild. Fifteen are in captivity at the Wild Animal Park, San Diego, and thirteen are at the Los Angeles Zoo. These birds are not on exhibit to the public.

The chick weighed in at 6-3/4 ounces. Twelve hours later it began eating food offered on the keeper's fingertips. The adult condor parents of this chick are known as AC-4 and UN-1. Their chick has been named Molloko, a Maidu Indian word for condor. Its sex will not be able to be determined for another four or five weeks.

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for the \$20 million California Condor Recovery Program. The goal is to be able to return some of the spectacular birds to their natural southern California habitat in about five years.

The AFA salutes the San Diego Zoo/Wild Animal Park for its dedication to captive breeding programs. Congratulations for the hatching of this very special first baby condor.

Legislative Update

by Jerry Jennings
Woodland Hills, California

Pennsylvania Wild Bird Ban Law

— Hearings will be held on May 19, 1988 in the Pennsylvania legislature on Bill #2227, a proposal to prohibit the sale of all wild-caught birds.

The original proposal, introduced last year, would have banned the possession of all wild-caught birds, as well as their sale. However, thanks to AFA and its members' efforts, the ban on possession has been removed.

Still, AFA opposes the ban on the sale of wild-caught birds and will vigorously oppose this current effort. Wild-caught bird ban laws are counter productive and only serve to encourage the smuggling of

birds. It was no coincidence that the first Newcastle Disease outbreak on the east coast occurred in the state of New York, shortly after they began enforcement of their wild bird ban law.

International Shipping Regulations

— At a meeting requested by the AFA with the U.S. Department of Interior, PIJAC, and the International Air Transport Association, the Interior Department



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NOTICE — as of September 1, 1987, all correspondence intended for the editor of the *Watchbird* should be mailed directly to the AFA business office. Send to Sheldon Dingle c/o AFA, P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.



AVICULTURE ADELAIDE '89

You are invited
to attend
the

Fifth National Avicultural Convention

to be held
at the
University of Adelaide
Union Complex

April 21st - 24th, 1989

The city-centre location of the University of Adelaide will be most convenient for both delegates and non-delegate partners.

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5 Lang Street
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We will keep you informed as
further information becomes
available.

Hosted by The United Bird Societies of South
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agreed to postpone the implementation of the regulations regulating the international shipment of birds. Had the regulations gone into effect, the importation of birds would have probably ended.

Though the regulations are designed to ensure the humane transport of birds coming to the U.S., many aspects of these regulations would have done the exact opposite. The new rules required boxes be large enough that birds would not be able to touch each other when their wings were outstretched. One can only imagine the impossible size of a box needed to ship macaws, toucans, or cranes. Perches were required to be placed in such a manner that birds would have become trapped underneath, thus suffocating. Feed and water dishes were to be placed such that birds would have become soiled, wet, and possibly even fall in the water dish. Minimum temperatures were prescribed, such that penguins would have been cooked (no exceptions for penguins).

Shortly after the regulations were suspended, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) filed a lawsuit against the Department of Interior in an attempt to force them into enforcing the shipping rules. HSUS apparently is uncaring about the true nature of the regulations, and unwilling to learn.

During the suspension, the Department of Interior will entertain further comments on the shipping standards, that will eventually be implemented, and they have promised to work closely with the AFA. AFA will continue to support humane standards and inform the Department on those standards that are inhumane.

Captive Bred Wildlife and Endangered Species Permits

— The U.S. Department of Interior has proposed regulations for holders of Captive Bred Wildlife Permits and Endangered Species Permits that would stiffen penalties for violations and provide for revocation of permits for technical violations that, under current policy, require correction by the holder of the permit without fear of loss of the permit. Under the new proposal permit holders could lose their permits for technical violations they were unaware they had committed.

Model State Law — The Model State Regulations for the Interstate transport of live animals and birds, has been retitled the Model For State Regulations Pertaining To Captive Wild and Exotic Animals which also represents a revision from the original, very restrictive version. Although the new proposal leaves much to be desired, the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study group, drafters of the model, are still pushing forward.

At a recent meeting with the proposal's drafters, AFA Regional Vice President Dallas Johnson presented AFA's views on the regulations and strongly urged that a provision be included that would exempt aviculturists. At present, we are awaiting the third draft and hope it will contain more acceptable standards.

California Wild Bird Ban Study

— On February 16, 1988 Assemblyman R. Campbell introduced Assembly Bill 3397, which mandates the California Department of Fish & Game conduct a study of the bird trade and aviculture in the state of California. Among various issues, the study must consider what impact there would be if the sale and possession of wild-caught birds were banned in California.

The first committee hearing was held on Wednesday, April 19th, 1988, conducted by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and passed unanimously.

Assemblyman Campbell's office indicates there are a large number of groups pushing for legislation to ban the bird business in California and this bill would provide information that could lead to that event.

Since A. B. 3397 is an information gathering mechanism, its passage will not mean the banning of birds. However, it can lead to that if the information gathered is erroneous or heavily biased against aviculture. Various interest groups will be invited to participate in the information gathering process, including the AFA. Members can rest assured AFA will push for support of aviculture.

California Legislation Alert: AB3397

by Laurella Desborough
Northern California State Coordinator
April 17, 1988

California proposes legislation on the importation of wild-caught birds.

Humane organizations have asked legislators to sponsor a New York-style wild bird ban.

Assemblyman Robert Campbell has taken the first step by proposing a study of the bird trade: AB3397.

AFA has contacted Assemblyman Campbell's office, through AFA Legislative Liaison Laurella Desborough, to inform his staff on the effects of such a proposal on aviculture.

While AFA has no objection to any educational process such as a scientific study, AFA strenuously objects to banning importation of birds for reasons stated below.

AFA is protecting aviculture's interests by making sure the California legislators do not hear just one side of the story on conservation and importation of wild-caught birds.

AFA has been successful in making sure that aviculturists are included as part of the process and will continue to communicate with those involved in this legislation.

AFA is extremely concerned about any legislation on the bird trade.

Import Bans Do Not Help Birds

1. Import bans result in increased smuggling by making it more profitable.
2. Import bans encourage the spread of disease since smuggled birds do not go through quarantine.
3. Import bans prevent the rescue of threatened species by preventing them from reaching aviculturists interested in breeding them.
4. Import bans prevent aviculturists from obtaining birds needed to expand limited gene pools.
5. Import bans do not save birds in the wild. Australia is a good example. Thousands of cockatoos are killed annually. If these birds were exported, many would be saved, some for breeding and some for pets.
6. Importation is a means of conservation and wildlife management.
7. Import bans do not save birds in the wild because they are losing their habitat. Every four days an area the size of New York state is cleared of all forest.
8. Import bans don't save birds, they promote and accelerate extinction of species.

AFA urges you to write and call Assemblyman Campbell and your own assemblyman. Let them know your position so they can make an informed decision.

Office of Assemblyman Robert Campbell
State Capitol, Room 2163
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (616) 445-7890

When calling, if you are unable to speak with Assemblyman Campbell, state your position to his staff and aides, so that your position is known.

We need more AFA members to gain credibility. There is strength in numbers. Legislators are influenced by the number of calls and letters they receive on proposed legislation. AFA can't reach people if they aren't members. Take action to protect your interest in birds . . . please sign up at least one new AFA member today . . . and contact your assemblyman by phone and letter. Remember, extinction is forever.

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IMPROVE MANAGEMENT & PRODUCTION

By what methods do lovebirds, cockies, & budgies feed chicks?

Can the birds be bred in bright light & plain view?

At what time of day:

→ are budgies most likely to mate?

→ are budgie fathers busiest feeding chicks?

→ is there a truce in lovebird aggression?

Why do cockie parents:

→ check eggs carefully?

→ steal eggs from each other & sometimes split clutches?

How can breeding be stimulated in small groups of budgies?

Is there any bias in feeding chicks?

While one parent feeds a chick the other often is very busy beside it. What is it doing?

How is liquid food fed to one chick yet semi-solid food to another?

Will cockie males incubate at night in place of females?

How do parents react if a clutch is missing?

Lovebirds sometimes feed older chicks but ignore cries of unfed hatchlings. Why?

Is privacy sought for mating?

The only book that addresses and answers these questions & many others of interest to breeders and owners is:

Lovebirds, Cockatiels, Budgerigars:

Behavior and Evolution by Prof. J. Lee Kavanau, UCLA

March, 1987, xxvi + 1,001pp., 7 indices, \$49.95

Send ck or m/o + \$4 p/h (\$6 outside US) + \$3.25 s/t in Calif.

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