

AN OPEN LETTER from the Illinois Game & Pet Breeders Society



As a new member of the A.F.A., I would like to introduce myself, tell you who and what I am and why I joined. I'll tell you my problems, and what you can do for me.

I am the Illinois Game & Pet Breeders Society. I'm about a quarter of a century old, and I'm made up of about 700 people. I was created by those who not only enjoy keeping birds for display, but also to propagate and help each other to acquire or sell good breeding stock. I publish a monthly newsletter — the manual work being done by my very able and dedicated secretary-treasurer. In it, I have a section for advertisement of birds and animals my members want to sell, and try the best way I can to tell everyone about what has taken place. I also have a question and answer section, and 3 of my members will do their best to give you a solution to any question or problem. I put on a Show once a year and if I may be allowed to brag a little, this Show is undoubtedly the biggest game bird show in the country.

The reason I joined A.F.A. is really very simple — I'm selfish. I want first hand information on what is going on regarding aviculture. I want to be notified of new changes in the law when they are made, not 3 months later. I want to know about any possible changes coming up in advance, not after all hearings are over.

Is it my fault that the people of Taiwan, in utilizing the Swinhoe pheasant as a food source, have failed to provide adequate propagation? If my government, who placed this bird on the Endangered Species List, would like to purchase 50 or 100 pair of Swinhoe pheasants, and then arrange to release them in Taiwan, I will be most happy to cooperate and have my members make the birds available.

Is it my fault that farmers in Australia indiscriminately poison waterholes to get rid of rabbits and other pests and kill the scarlet-chested and turquoise parrakeet in such numbers that the birds become endangered?

Is it my fault that the brown-eared pheasant is being hunted for food and that its natural habitat is being destroyed by what people call progress?

Your Senators and Representatives were asked to look into the problem of endangered species. They held a few hearings, but must have decided they knew little about such matters and weren't really interested. They shirked their duty and turned the matter over to the Department of the Interior. Here, a Commission was formed, made up of people, who do not have the slightest idea of the amount of endangered species being kept and propagated in this country. Rules and regulations were made and read in the Senate and House when everyone must have been on vacation or asleep. Subsequently, laws, very detrimental to my

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members and aviculturists throughout the country, were promulgated.

Were it not for game bird breeders throughout the world, many of the pheasants on the endangered list surely would by now have reached the point of extinction.

My members have watched, in disbelief, the blunders the government has made the past few years under the guise of conservation. Being mostly quiet, law-abiding citizens who believe that all wrongs automatically will be righted, they have been sorely disappointed.

It is now time for my members and everyone else to stand up and be counted. It is time for us to join together to let the politicians and public be aware of what we have and can accomplish. Our record of propagating endangered species is beyond reproach, and by far excels any program the Department of the Interior has undertaken.

We are not asking to have somebody give us the privilege to keep and breed endangered species — that is a right we have earned, and we want to keep that right.

In joining, I hope my members will help make the A.F.A. stronger, and that its voice in the future will become loud and weighty enough to be heard.

Sincerely, *Kai Juhl*

ILLINOIS GAME & PET BREEDERS SOCIETY

* NOTICE *

DATA BANK FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES NEEDED

Increasing concern for endangered species has led the USDI and several states to regulate the importation and breeding of endangered species of birds. The federal government currently prohibits the interstate shipment and sale of any endangered specie without a federal permit granted to those breeding the animals.

Government officials are unaware of the extent to which aviculturists are breeding the various species of endangered pheasants and Psittacine birds. The State of Illinois has indicated its reluctance to allow private aviculturists to own an endangered species. In order to justify the continued possession of these birds, the A.F.A. is compiling a list of the endangered species kept by breeders, the numbers in captivity, and the number being bred each year. We must demonstrate that there are large numbers in breeders' hands and that these breeders are making a worthwhile contribution to their preservation.

If you have any of the endangered pheasants, quail, or Psittacine birds, please send this information to Mr. Kai Juhl, 1704 Pickwick Lane, Glenview, Illinois 60025. Names and addresses of respondents will be kept confidential. ■

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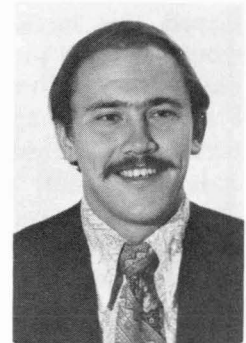
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continued from page 1

Movements on the Federal Front



Jerry Jennings

Injurious Wildlife Regulations will become law, bringing an end to the availability of most non-Psittacine birds in the United States.

Psittacine birds are not covered by the Lacey Act under which the Injurious Wildlife Regulations were drafted. They fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Please send your comments on expanding the tentative list in writing, to PIJAC, which will take legal action supported by A.F.A.

As soon as the list is officially published by the USDI the A.F.A. will notify you requesting your letter be sent to your Congressmen. ■

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