

the tearing beak of birds of prey, seed-cracking beak of parrots, cockatoos and finches and the bill strainers of flamingos underwater to assimilate natural feeding.

The species-specific diurnal or circadian activity cycle is very important as it relates to the time of presenting food. Nocturnal forms such as owls and frogmouths, initially may find all food unpalatable until darkness has set in. Many birds feed only on live, moving foods in nature. Insectivorous birds may be gleaners (e.g. white-eyes Zosterops, wrens, tits) others may be aerial feeders (e.g. bee-eaters, rollers and drongos). Others are pursuers (e.g. fly catchers, phoebes, and kingfishers) and still others are probers (e.g. woodpeckers, creepers and barbets). This poses a difficult problem for quarantine stations and attendants to meet such a variety of feeding habits.

Social factors affect the attractiveness of food to the birds. It is a well-known fact that quail and jungle fowl kept in groups will eat more and gain more weight than when fed in isolation. Some newly captured birds are readily induced to feed when placed with others of their kind. When birds are kept in social groups, numerous feeding containers must be provided and spaced at different levels in the aviary to better meet the needs for separate species kept in the same pen that in nature dwell on the forest floor or in tree tops.

In many instances, low levels of antibiotics have been incorporated in the diets of birds but preferably should be avoided.

Tips and Ideas

1. New arrivals – don't endanger your collection – quarantine – look for ticks, fleas, mites, worms, and get them accustomed to your type of food and water and build up strength.
2. Do you have mice and rats under control? Warfarin poison bait may be used safely outside of any bird aviary. Use bait boxes only mice and rats can get into and keep boxes sanitary. Free rodents spread all types of germs and will kill nestling birds.
3. Keep a night light burning in all bird buildings all night. If birds are frightened by mice, owls, fox, opossums, raccoons, they will fly around in the dark and injure themselves. This is why so many birds die annually and are found dead in the aviaries in the morning for no other apparent reason.
4. One half of the top of any aviary should be covered with plastic or wood to prevent predators, cats from disturbing birds while roosting at night.
5. It's wise to have a bird first-aid kit ready to go for patients use. Tape, cotton, alcohol, wood for splints, scissors may save a bird's life if you work fast.
6. When new bird arrives – study the crate, look at food provided – get a sample of droppings and examine it under microscope (cheap one will do) – look for worms. Then wash box thoroughly or destroy if contaminated. ■

MINNESOTA TO RESTRICT BIRDS BY THE POUND

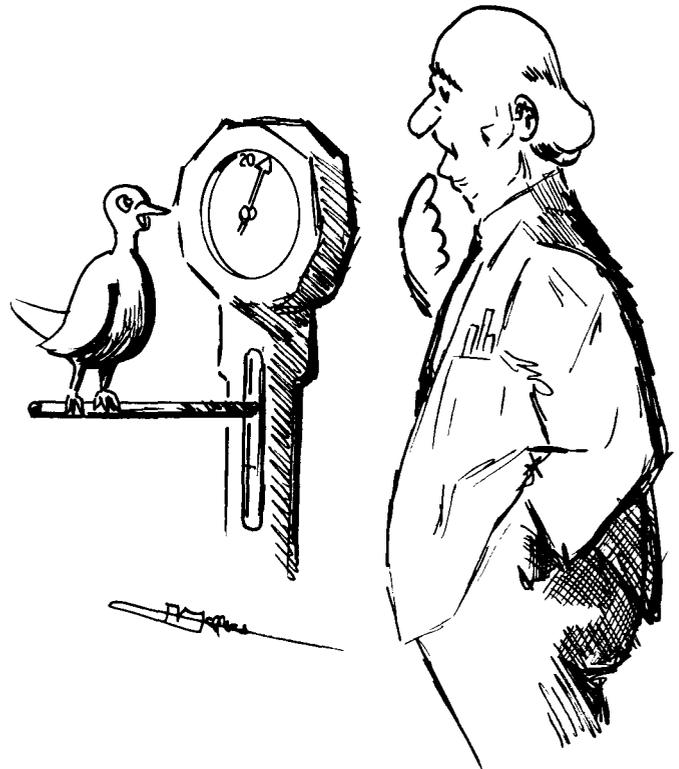
by Jerry Jennings

Senate Bill 449, recently introduced into the Minnesota State Senate by Messers. Lewis, Brown, and Spear offers a novel approach to the movement to restrict private ownership of animals.

The proposed legislation would prohibit possession of any animal not native to the state of Minnesota which "customarily attains a weight of 20 pounds or more" at maturity; zoos and circuses exempted.

State enforcement officers will each be issued a set of scales as standard equipment. Overweight animals may be forced onto crash diets in compliance with the new law, however, their owners should benefit from a savings on feed.

Let it never be said that the far-sighted Minnesota legislators are "penny wise and pound foolish".



HURD ABOUT THAT NEW MINNESOTA LAW
COVERING PEOPLE TOO? YOU CAN'T BE
OVER 65, 5'8" TALL AND WEIGH MORE
THAN A 150 LBS -

NOTE:

As of March 20th, 1975, we have been informed that this bill, which was introduced in both the legislative houses, has died in the House Committee, but is still pending in the Senate Committee. ■