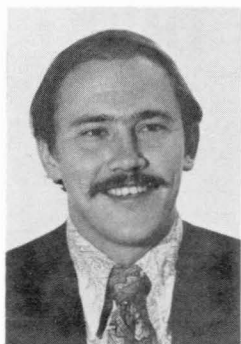


the 'Ills' of Illinois Endangered Species Act

ILLINOIS ENDANGERS ENDANGERED SPECIES

by Jerry Jennings



Jerry Jennings

As with many well-intentioned but ill-conceived government programs, the Illinois Endangered Species Act has spawned regulations that may very well critically reduce if not eliminate the number of aviculturists breeding endangered species of birds in that state.

The Illinois Act provides for the confiscation of any endangered species, however, a moratorium was granted aviculturists until adequate permit procedures could be drafted. In addition to providing adequate care, the permittee will be required to justify his reasons for desiring to breed endangered species. He must demonstrate that his breeding program will further scientific or educational purposes and that he is qualified to handle endangered species. Breeding for the pleasure and satisfaction so worthy an endeavor provides is deemed insufficient grounds for issuing permits. "Unqualified" aviculturists will likely be forced to give up the birds they already have.

The Department of Conservation unfortunately is more concerned about whether aviculturists, in selling endangered species offspring, might "make a profit" than whether these endangered species are being bred at all. The high cost of maintaining a breeding operation is considered irrelevant while the Department's ensuing search for justifiable motives has all but obscured the most basic right of any endangered species — the right to survival.

An appreciation of the Department of Conservation's appalling unfamiliarity with the biology and ethology of birds provides the necessary perspective of the Illinois aviculturists' dilemma. Administrative detail is preferred at the expense of providing pragmatic conservation measures.

At a time when the importance of captive propagation is on the ascendance, the Federal Government has taken measures to encourage such efforts. Their recent issuance of permits to private aviculturists to import captive-reared White-eared Pheasants, for example, is indicative of the good faith approach desperately needed in Illinois.

Since the U.S.D.I.'s Office of Endangered Species has effectively regulated the international traffic in endangered species in the U.S., it is reasonable to assume state jurisdiction should be limited to those species native to that state, as is the case in California. Exotic species reared in captivity should be of least concern, especially since many have been domesticated.

The U.S. Department of Interior has stated they intend to re-classify many common avicultural subjects from endangered to threatened. Hopefully, this will occur before those species become extinct in Illinois.

LETTER TO AVICULTURISTS

by Kai Juhl



Kai Juhl

We can no longer afford to sit back and be Mr. Nice Guy. Undoubtedly we are a minority, but when you are right, you must not give in to political bureaucracy. The time has come for us to take a stand and then search our souls to see how much of an effort we are willing to put forth. When you fight bureaucrats, time and money is on their side. They use our money and they have plenty of time. So, before we even start

they are way ahead of us. We are, however, lucky in one respect. The unjustness of the regulations that have been or are in the process of being passed are great enough to upset us to a point where we can no longer sit quietly in the background. The wrong-



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