

# Revised Injurious Wildlife Proposal Published

by Jerry Jennings

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published their long-awaited second or revised Injurious Wildlife Proposal in the February 24th issue of the Federal Register\*. The "low-risk" list of birds, as published in the Watchbird (Feb 1975), has been modified to include eight new species, while five have been deleted, bringing the list to a total of 59 species. The Button Quail, Coturnix Quail, Diamond Dove, Barbary or Ring-necked Dove, Aurora Finch, Melba Finch, Orange-winged Melba, and Cuckoo Weaver have been added. Deletions from the list are the Laughing Jay Thrush, Green Singing Finch, Hooded Siskin, Crimson Pileated Finch, and the Black-crested Finch.

In a recent phone conversation with Dr. Richard Banks, author of the proposal, the A.F.A. was informed that the expansion of the original list of four birds was based, in part, on importation statistics during the years 1970-72. Those species imported in the largest numbers were felt to be low risk since they had not established themselves in this country despite some inevitable escapes. Dr. Banks conceded that since many avian species, such as Twinspots, Euphonias, etc., were not imported in large numbers (due to rarity or high cost) it was not meant to imply they were injurious. On the contrary, they may very well be "low risk", however, he felt individual determinations should be made through the amendment process after the proposal becomes law.

The extremely cumbersome amendment process, would make it difficult if not impossible to add new species to the list. Each proposed addition, would be published in the Federal Register subject to a lengthy comment period such as the one on the present proposal. Recognizing the expense involved and the ineffective use of public and private resources, Mr. Jim Lankford, Program Director for the Injurious Wildlife Proposal, has stated his willingness to expand the low risk list prior to its implementation. He further expressed his desire to work with aviculturists through the American Federation of Aviculture and requested their comments be directed to his attention, during his recent conversation with A.F.A. President, Jerry Jennings.

In a continuing dialogue, the A.F.A. will work to resolve other areas of obvious conflict. Specific issues requiring immediate attention are the inclusion of aviculturists in the Permit System to allow them to import so-called injurious species, and the danger that aviculturists may have to prove their birds, (if not on the low risk list) were acquired before the proposal became law. Since many aviculturists acquire birds from each other, they do not have receipts or documentation to show when and how they obtained them.

Concerned aviculturists should send the letter on the righthand page or direct their personal comments to:

Director (FWS/LE)  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 19183  
Washington, D.C. 20240

requesting 1) an extension of the comment period, 2) inclusion of additional, obviously low risk species on the list of birds to be allowed unrestricted importation, 3) publication of the criteria for inclusion of aviculturists in the permit system and 4) publication of an inflationary impact statement. Please send copies of your letters to the A.F.A.

The American Federation of Aviculture's official comments have been reprinted on the next page. (See letter.)

\*NOTE: For copy of Federal Register (Revised) send to A.F.A., P.O. Box 1125, Garden Grove, CA. 92642



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