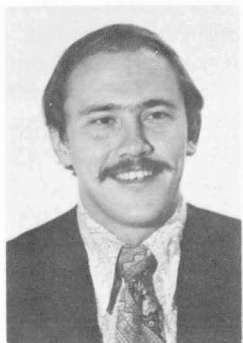


# THE BIRDS YOU HAVE MAY NOT BE YOURS - FOR LONG

by Jerry Jennings



Jerry Jennings

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that all but 59 of the 8650 species of birds of the world are injurious to public health and safety, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and wildlife. Final regulations prohibiting importation of these injurious animals will appear in the Federal Register in June 1975, taking effect six months thereafter.

A.F.A. comments to the revised, but substantially unaltered, proposal published in the Federal Register, Feb. 24, 1975 have been rejected out-of-hand. In his letter of April 16, to the A.F.A. Mr. C.J. Lankford, Program Director for Injurious Wildlife, stated the comment period would not be extended beyond the 45 days allotted, and aviculturists would NOT be specifically included in the permit system. Aviculturists fear they may be forced to prove birds in their possession after the ban were legally acquired, were discounted as unwarranting redress.

Dr. Richard Banks, biologist for the Fish and Wildlife Service, characterized the "List of Birds for Unrestricted Entry into the United States," by Messrs. Cunningham and Griffith, as unrealistic. He further indicated there will be no substantial change in the make-up of the low-risk list, suggesting it could become even more restrictive.

Of the approximately 900 comments received from February 24 to April 10, 1975, nearly one third were from aviculturists, one third from other environmentalists, and one third miscellaneous. Voicing Interior's desire to please all sides, Dr. Banks justified their "no change" position, since most environmentalists favored no importation of any birds whatsoever.

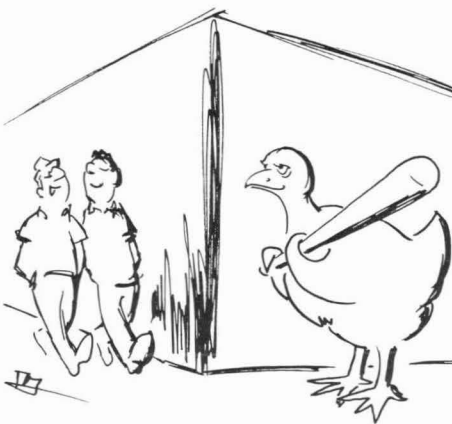
During the six month lapse between final publication and implementation of the Injurious Wildlife Regulations, Fish and Wildlife will process zoo and research institution permit applications, allowing their importations to continue unabated. Concurrently, the amendment machinery for adding to or deleting from the low-risk list will be set-up.

The A.F.A. has embarked upon a project to collect scientific data as documentary support for adding additional species to the list. To date seven biologists, expert in their interest area, have been contacted and have agreed to provide an in-depth analysis of which species are truly injurious and which should be allowed unrestricted importation. First to be dealt with, will be the Hummingbirds, Titmice, South American Seedeaters and Tanagers, and several species and genera of Estrildid finches. Persons with expertise, relevant information, or names of qualified individuals that could assist the data-gathering and documentation process should contact A.F.A.

It is imperative the low risk list be expanded as quickly as possible where warranted. If we are to learn from history, it will be only a few short months before the various states begin to prohibit the possession and sale of birds not considered "low risk". Certainly it is reasonable to assume birds too injurious to import are also too injurious to possess. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) determines the course in declaring that those birds currently in the U.S. (most softbills, finches, and gamebirds) pose a serious hazard to the "named interests".

Although the current proposal does not cover Psittacine birds, they have been described by the EIS as the most injurious bird group of all. Since the Lacey Act of 1900 does not authorize Interior to regulate the Psittacines, the Fish and Wildlife Service will seek specific legislation to bring an end to parrot importation.

**Breeders have been slow to respond to the greatest of bureaucratic threats to aviculture. If this sluggishness continues, the stage will surely have been set. Closing night is at hand and "Bye, Bye Birdie" the final performance ■**



... and they said birds were a threat to public health and safety.



SEE DETAILS ON PAGES 16 & 17

## A.F.A. TO HOLD SECOND ANNUAL FUND RAISING RAFFLE

Tickets are now available for the American Federation of Aviculture's Second Annual Fund Raising Raffle to be held Saturday, August 2, 1975, at the A.F.A. convention, Sheraton Inn-Harbor Island, in San Diego, California, at 6 in the evening.

First prize will feature a one-week, all-expense paid vacation for two to Acapulco. Second prize will be a 19" portable color television with ten pocket calculators as third prizes - twelve prizes in all!

Individual members will each receive a book of ten tickets by mail. Each ticket is valued at one dollar - sell nine and keep one for yourself. If you have not received yours and wish to participate, please write: RAFFLE, A.F.A., P.O. Box 1125, Garden Grove, CA 92642 or contact your local A.F.A. representative.

For the raffle ticket salesman selling the most tickets there will be a cash award of \$25. Runner-up will receive \$15.

All ticket stubs for the drawing must be returned to the A.F.A. either at the convention, or, if by mail, not later than Friday, August 1, 1975. Winners need not be present!