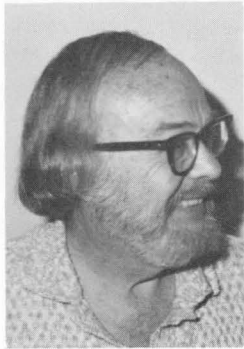


View from the Perch

by Russ Sutton



Russ Sutton

Today I became acquainted with the owners of a neighborhood pet shop. They had come to my home to see our aviaries. As their time was limited our conversation was brief, however the most salient part of our conversation which re-

mained with me, was their statement, "the retail pet dealers should support the hobbyist pet breeder. Without them the pet stores will surely have difficulties." This is so true. All concerned must support each other. We cannot survive alone. There are many well financed conservation organizations which are lobbying and exerting extreme pressure, at both the Federal and State level, to prevent pets from being owned, bred, bought and sold, and/or transported.

The American Federation of Aviculture was formed in January 1974 by bird clubs, hobbyists and commercial interests. The commercial interests provide financial support as corporate members. All felt a voice was needed to present the hobbyist-aviculturist side of the issue to our adversaries, or if you will, a group to protect our interests.

I am constantly amazed at how much has been accomplished in this short time span by a surprisingly small number of dedicated persons. No one involved with A.F.A. or the Watchbird receives any compensation whatsoever. In fact, until just recently meetings were held every other Friday night, lasting 5 to 6 hours, and hundreds of miles have been driven, without compensation to attend these meetings. The Officers, Board of Directors and Watchbird Staff all donate their time.

The printer and postage must be paid.

In this and past issues of the Watchbird we have learned about the Lacey act "Injurious Wildlife" proposal promulgated by the U.S. Department of the Interior, the ban on importation and controls on Quarantine stations governed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the regulations imposed on the Airlines by the F.A.A., the State of Illinois endangered species law passed last year and the California SB 1766, also passed last year.

This is another year and you can be-

lieve me when I say it's not over yet. We'll be faced with the same, and more problems this year, next year, ad infinitum.

In addition to our efforts to educate the bureaucrats and the politicians, we are starting an A.F.A. educational program. Mr. Rodger Talley, a San Diego High School teacher, has prepared a curriculum which provides teaching instructions for all grade levels from Kindergarten through High School. This will be published in the Watchbird.

In my opinion our educational program will arouse national interest and attention and should serve to stimulate and motivate more and more persons to have a greater understanding about ecology, conservation, and aviculture.

Your continued support of our efforts will benefit you, your community and our nation.

Nathaniel Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior, who began all these difficulties for us, is leaving his position with Interior and Mr. Clyde Jones is in line to fill his vacancy. Mr. Jones is a much more understanding person and, at this point, seems to be the person with whom we will be able to communicate. Joseph Griffith has met him, sat in meetings with him and recommends him highly. Your letters, wires, and calls supporting Jones' appointment will surely help ■

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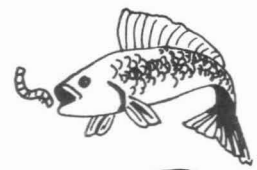
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