## There are

## Major Problems

confronting our zoos.

- 1. The federal bureaucracy through its administration of various regulations has made intelligent and legitimate zoological park operations extremely difficult, yet the federalization of our nation's zoos spreads at an alarming rate.
  - —Tens of thousands of exotic birds have been slaughtered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture because of suspected presence of Newcastle's virus in only five or six birds!
  - —The U.S. Department of Interior impedes protection of endangered species by prohibiting zoos from shipping endangered species to other zoos for breeding purposes, even though captive breeding CAN save these species from extinction.
  - Scientific research is stymied by the Department of Commerce through its rigid interpretation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.
  - Importation by zoos of most rare and exotic birds has been stopped.
- Proposed legislation would give the federal government excessive control over every aspect of zoo operations through the establishment of additional bureaucracy, the Federal Zoological Control Board.
- 3. More than 20 organizations, most of them with full-time staffs, are working and lobbying against America's zoos.

Inquiries should be directed to:

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ZOOLOGICAL ACTION COMMITTEE, INC. WASHINGTON, D.C.



## FRANK'S FEEDER

by Frank Miser

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION: I have a problem with my Parrakeet spitting up, is there a cure?

Answer: Birds commonly spit up food for two main reasons. The first is a very natural activity of a young male entering adulthood, trying to feed a toy or mirror in lieu of a female or baby. The only remedy is to remove the toy or mirror and hope the bird does not lavish his affection on still another substitute. This is not a dangerous situation and will stop at the end of the cycle.

A second more serious problem is involved when the bird is puffed up and shakes its head sideways spitting out a wet and slimy food, sometimes getting it on the top or back of the head. This is caused by a toxic reaction from something he has eaten, or a spray of some kind. Some room de-odorizers, like Lysol spray, are very poisonous, as are some insect sprays. Paint or paint fumes can also have a toxic effect. The chewing on aluminum foil, some redwoods, pine needles, and christmas tree ornaments, will often be disasterous.

When a bird is suffering from toxic reaction I use several remedies at the same time. I put 1/4 teaspoon Sal Hapatica in a one ounce water drinking cup, set the cage on a heating pad at medium setting, put a good handful of seed on the cage floor and cover the cage except for the front. This treatment should correct the condition overnight or within 24 hours (or it is not right for that particular ailment). This remedy is also a first aid for any fluffed up, chilled bird, except a pet anti-

botic tablet should be used instead of the Sal Hapatica.

QUESTION: I have just found a baby bird which has fallen from a tree, how can I keep it alive?

Answer: First of all, you will want to do it with the least amount of bother and time. The two most important items needed are food and warmth. The easiest food to use is Gerbers Hi Protein baby cereal mixed with warm water and kept warm to the touch of the tongue all the time you are feeding it. Keep the bird in a box or cage, setting it on a heating pad with a medium setting. Usually it will get plenty of moisture in the food mixture you are feeding, and extra water will not be needed until the bird is eating by itself. As it gets older, you will have to switch the food a little according to the kind of bird it is.

As it starts eating by itself, you should offer finch mix, ripe fruit, canned dog food, sugar water, and insects or mealworms. After you have cared for it from two to four weeks, it should be very healthy and able to fly off and take its part in nature. If you keep it for an extended period of time, it will be more dependent on you and will not adjust as quickly. The wild bird should be cared for as needed, then turned out to nature. There are many other formulas and ways to care for the wild birds, but this is the one I recommend most.

To get my best possible answer for your bird breeding problem, be as explicit and descriptive as possible. Write to: Frank Miser

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