

Cynic's Corner

by Rick Jordan
Kutztown, Pennsylvania

The Self-destruction of Aviculture

You are about to read a cynical article that has been brewing inside of me for some time. I am certainly not trying to imply that any of you had anything to do with the situation, only that we, as aviculturists, often fail to unite our voices against our worst enemies. Because our business of raising and caring for birds is a charismatic one, we often overlook the most important things and donate our time and money to the most "popular" agenda of the times. If only we could re-focus our efforts to take care of ourselves, we would have the power to overcome many of the obstacles that are threatening our livelihood.

I hadn't noticed how far apart we all had drifted until about 1991 when the "Wild Bird Conservation Act" was still in committee. It seemed that no one understood the importance of stopping

this law before it passed. The pet owners and smaller breeders thought it was only a problem for the big guys . . . "we don't import birds anyway," they said, "it will have no effect on us whatsoever." The big breeders said that "we have all the birds we want, if importation closes down our birds will be worth more money." No one seemed to see the real point in this law, *control* by our government and by non-governmental agencies. They had an agenda to stop the importation of all birds, captive bred or wild-caught. Using the statistics and horror films from the trapping trade of wild-caught birds in Third World nations, they succeeded.

The full effect of this law is yet to be realized by any of us. Our Congressmen and Committeemen that did bother to write to the government were given a "coined" letter of answer that read "we are not stopping legitimate breeders from exchanging their young or from importing birds for their breeding efforts; there will be a section of the law where any approved cooperative-breeding program will allow these breeders to import birds." It wasn't exactly a lie, but it is not the total truth either. Now that the law has been voted in, try to establish a cooperative breeding program and actually import birds. It doesn't matter if you are trying to bring in captive bred babies or wild-caught endangered species, the regulations are the same. Don't blame the government, it is our fault for allowing this ingenious piece of *Control legislation* to be passed.

To date there have been few who have applied to form a "cooperative breeding program" under the law. The governmental people at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seem very willing to assist you and to approve these programs if possible. One of the biggest problems is that the law requires publication of all proposed programs in the Federal Register prior to approval. This allows the non-governmental agencies or anyone to make comment or ask for

specific information on your program before it is approved. Many organizations are out there watching the Register so they can stop you from getting an exception under this law. They do not want any birds to be imported for private aviculture.

You probably think that I am exaggerating a bit just for effect. Well, I wish that were the case. However, the Humane Society of the United States, several other animal humane and animal rights groups, and even the Wildlife Conservation Society (formerly the New York Zoological Society) are making comments to the Federal Register publications to keep any private individual from importing any birds. We supported these organizations and made them what they are today. Don't send them any more of your money!!! We have created a huge monster and it is now attacking us.

Where were the bird clubs and other avicultural organizations when the talks were taking place to stop this law? Where was the Association of Avian Veterinarians? Where were the bird breeders and fanciers? Where were the suppliers and seed companies, the toy companies, the cage companies, the brooder manufacturers? We were left out in the cold!!! Only 96 letters were received by the government that requested that the law be changed to accommodate bird breeding in the United States. Those 96 letters were to represent the thousands of breeders in this country. It saddens me greatly to see that we, as Americans, are slowly losing any rights we had. Democracy drifts very parallel to Communism if you allow the government to make all the decisions. We must get our act together and fight for our own rights. No longer can we sit around and hope that someone else will do it for us. The birds that we keep are endangered in the natural habitat...not in the cages we keep them in. Why is it so difficult to convince the many animal rights groups that we are doing a justice to the birds? When the last Umbrella Cockatoo is killed in the wild to be eaten or made into a head-dress, there will still be thousands in cages breeding and surviving that wrath. That is more than we can say for the Carolina Parakeet.

Care for a little more cynicism? Let's look at our fund raising efforts over the past few years. The thousands of bird clubs and thousands of organizations that we belong to are raising hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. This

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- July 15 - 22: Escorted by Charles Siegel, Curator of Birds, Dallas Zoo.

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money is usually donated to a "good cause." *Well, I say Aviculture is our BEST cause.* Why do we constantly give our money to release programs (that are governmentally funded), eco-tourism groups (that charge a fee to tour you and make a profit), habitat education programs (that are also governmentally funded), and finally, Avian Medical Research (that is attached to a University with Grant writing capability). All of these groups can solicit their own funding from huge corporations that have money to give to conservation and research. What makes us feel as though these groups are keeping us alive and in business? It simply is not true. They will all survive without our generous help. The tests for the many diseases will still cost the same no matter who funds the research. Did you know that \$5 of the test cost goes back to the Universities that have developed them? That is a significant donation on top of the hundreds of thousands that we have already given them. We paid for the development of the test and now we are still having to pay a royalty for the test we helped to fund. To make matters worse, are you aware that only a small portion

of the money you donate to these Universities actually goes to the project that you specify? The remainder is divided among other projects that are being done at that particular University. It really isn't fair!!! The simple truth is that AVICULTURE is the endangered species here. WE NEED OUR OWN HELP AND MONEY!!! I don't see these other organizations donating huge sums of money to send an Avicultural representative to Washington every time a new law is proposed.

I would like to see the clubs start keeping their money or donating it to a national Avicultural Organization. At the very least, split the money in half. Put half into research if you feel that it is of benefit to you, and put the other half into Aviculture where it definitely will be a benefit to you. It is hard to believe that the oldest Avicultural organizations in this country are slowly going broke when all this money is being made and donated to "highly emotional" charities. If this current trend continues, we will all have to give up our birds due to governmental regulations. All the medical research in the world won't save your birds when a law is passed that makes it

illegal to cage them in your home or your aviary. The healthiest birds in the world can still be confiscated when the law allows for it to be done. People, we have a serious problem.

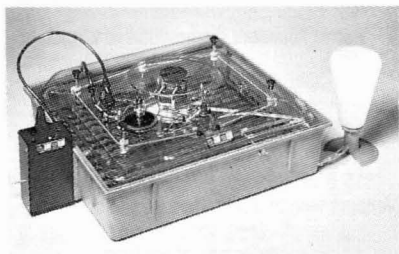
We have very few friends out there in the government and in the animal rights sector of the public. Anyone who is involved with the keeping of parrots or other birds in captivity must help with the fight to maintain our rights. This takes money and participation by a significant number of people. No longer can the few protect the rights of the many. If you have any doubt that there are proposed laws out there to stop the breeding and keeping of birds, simply pick up your phone and call the legal council of the American Federation of Aviculture. They can provide you with the names of the States that are writing anti-animal laws as you read this article. The war is on and we haven't even armed ourselves yet. I care about each and every one of you and each and every bird you keep...but, you have to help to protect your own rights too. Know your enemies, support your allies, and give a little to aviculture before it too is extinct in America. ➤



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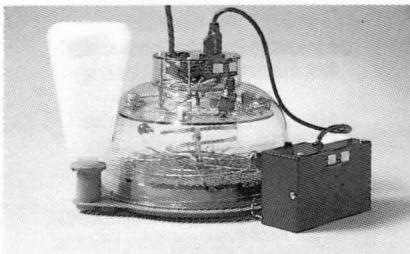
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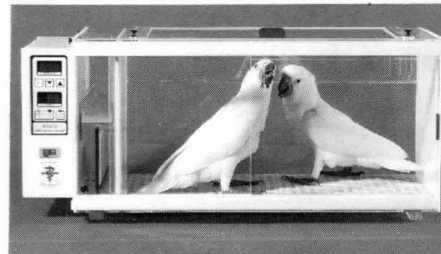
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Avian Trade Shows & Seminars

Macaw Landing Foundation Public Viewing Aviary Third Thursday of each month

Jantzen Beach Center, exit 308 off I-5
1919 N. Jantzen, Portland, Oregon
Mon. - Fri. 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Bird care seminar. Speaker Pat Huff, D.V.M.
Macaw Landing 7:30 p.m.
For information call: (503) 286-0882

Exotic Bird Club of Florida Bird Auction and Vender Sales March 12, 1995

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Greater Palm Bay Senior Center
1275 Culver Dr., Palm Bay, FL
For information, contact:
EBCF, P.O. Box 1177, Melbourne, FL 32902
(407) 723-7739

Bird Clubs of Virginia's 11th Annual Convention & Bird Mart April 1-2, 1995

Holiday Inn Koger Executive Conference Center
1021 Koger Center Blvd., Richmond, VA 23235
Hotel reservations: (804) 379-3800
For information, contact:
Kris Peters (805) 784-3975
or Jo Engels (804) 994-2191, fax (804) 994-5458
or write: BCV, Route 1, Box 1282, Hanover, VA
23069
For bird mart information, contact:
Cindy Parry (804) 973-0275
or: Jo Engels (804) 994-2191, fax (804) 994-5458
or: write to BCV at above address

Greater Rochester Hookbill Association '95 Bird Sale and Auction April 1, 1995

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Genesee Conservation League
1570 Old Penfield Road
Rochester, NY
For information, call:
Linda Matterson (315) 597-4836

Mid-south Budgie Club All Bird Fair and Sale April 1-2, 1995

Day's Inn - Airport, International Plaza
Nashville, TN
For information, contact:
Mary Russell (502) 651-8150
416 W. Cherry St., Glasgow, KY 42141

Alamo Exhibition Bird Club hosts its 1995 Spring All Bird Mart April 8, 1995

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Embassy Suites Hotel
7750 Briaridge at 1-10 & 410
San Antonio, TX
For information, contact:
R.B. Wangler (210) 732-8025, fax (210) 735-2250
642 Beryl Drive, San Antonio, TX 78213-3411

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club Annual Spring Fair and Sale Eggstravaganza April 8-9, 1995

Tennessee State Fair Grounds
Creative State Fair Grounds
For information, contact:
Bob Bryant (502) 825-3628
495 McLeod Lane, Madisonville, KY 42431

Exotic Pet Showcase Garden State Racetrack Cherry Hill, NJ April 8, 9, 1995

For information, contact:
Vicki Clark's Expo USA
503 East Penn Blvd., Woodbury, NJ 08096-2823
(609) 848-3312, fax (609) 384-6704

12th Annual Greatery Dayton Bird Expo April 9, 1995

Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds
1043 South Main St., Dayton, OH
Includes bird fair and auction.
Baby to adult birds, feed, supplies, cages, etc.
For information, contact:
Pete or Paula DeSalvo 1-800-4819

Kansas Avicultural Society, Inc. Spring Bird Fair April 22, 1995

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
4-H Building
7001 West 21st St., North (21st & Ridge)
Wichita, Kansas
For information, contact:
Lurita Norman (316) 263-7197
or: Louise Ferguson (316) 524-5019
3631 S. 119th West, Wichita, KS 67215

Northeast Avicultural Seminar and AFA Annual Northeast Meeting hosted by Aviculturists of Greater Boston and Boston Cockatiel Society, Inc. April 22, 1995

Speakers: Jerry Jennings, Frederick Beall,
Bill Saver, Janet Lilienthal, Gary Lilienthal,
Pre-registration \$30, on-site registration \$40
at the Franklin Park Zoo
Boston, Massachusetts
Send registration & information requests to:
Linda S. Rubin
93 Woodcliff Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167

Tri-State Bird Club presents its 7th Annual Bird Mart April 23, 1995

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Winchester National Guard Armory
Winchester, VA 22601
Free admission
For information & space reservation, contact:
Dowl Boteler
Route 3, Box 5595, Berryville, VA 22622-9611
(703) 955-3039 or Fax (703) 955-4182

Way Out West Bird Expo April 23, 1995

Arizona's Biggest Bird Mart
State Fairgrounds
19th Ave. and McDowell, Phoenix, AZ
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Over 300 vendors with everything from
finches to macaws, cages, feed,
bird toys and more.
For more information, call (602) 973-9282

AZA Western Regional Conference Utah's Hogle Zoo April 23-25, 1995

2600 E. Sunnyside Ave.
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
For information, call (801) 582-1632, ext. 123

California Exotic Pet Expo '95 April 29-30, 1995

Riverside Convention Center
3443 Orange Street (downtown)
Riverside, CA
Vendors contact: Mike
(909) 352-3420, fax (909) 352-1079

Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club 7th Annual Spring Bird Fair April 29, 30, 1995

Knoxville Convention Center
World's Fair Park
Knoxville, TN
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
For information, call:
Eva & Paul Loser (615) 539-9521 or
Jane Parrish (615) 938-3036 or
Cindy Aident (615) 690-7252

Parrot Breeders Association of Virginia's 4th Bird Mart May 6, 1995

9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Admission: \$1.00
Pembroke Hall
4815-B Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA
Vendors with bird related items and domestic bred
birds,
contact for information:
Lee Edens (804) 456-0085 or
Bob McConnell (805) 523-2500 or
write to PBAV, c/o Lee Edens,
640 Jacqueline Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Texas Avian Expo May 13, 1995

Embassy Suites Hotel
San Antonio, TX
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
For information, contact:
Honey Wood (210) 695-2644 or
Denise Crisp (210) 612-3222
P.O. Box 380522, San Antonio, TX 78280

**Central New York Caged Bird Club's
Spring Exhibition
May 20, 1995**

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Cicero Great Northern Mall
For information, contact:
Dave Dixon (315) 598-5927
RD #8, Box 1540, Fulton, NY 13069
or Martha Cardassi (315) 697-9934
RT #5, Box 80, Canastota, NY 13032

**Erie Cage Bird Club
Annual Bird Fair
May 20, 1995**

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Perry Hi-way Hose Co.
8270 Peach Street, Erie, PA
For information, contact:
Michelle Bules (814) 866-6636
2520 Dorn Road, Waterford, PA 16441

**Central Penna Cage Bird Club's
Annual Bird Mart & Pet Bird Show
May 21, 1995**

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn Harrisburg West
5401 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA
For more information, contact:
Sam Karns (717) 957-4846
2204 Whispering Pines Drive
Marysville, PA 17053
Pet Bird Show:
Gail Blake (714) 533-2393
1148 East Caracas Avenue
Hershey, PA 17033

**Central Oklahoma Bird Club
6th Annual Bird Fair and Mart
June 3, 1995**

State Fair Grounds, Oklahoma Bldg.
Oklahoma City, OK
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
For information, contact:
(405) 789-7881 or (405) 454-3866
Gary Blankenbiller
2640 S.W. 107th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73170

**Central Indiana Cage Bird Club's
7th Annual Fair
June 24 & 25, 1995**

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Marion County Fairgrounds
Indianapolis, IN
Large raffle with proceeds benefiting
Avian Research and Conservation
For information, call:
Carrie (317) 297-0387 or
Sheryl (317) 241-3023

**Northwest Exotic Bird Society
Western Washington Exotic Bird Fair
July 15, 1995**

Puyallup Fairgrounds
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Birds, supplies, food, toys & more
Vendors call: Janay Teloo (206) 485-8734
All other info. call: Susan Hoyer (206) 441-0360

**West Pasco Exotic Bird Club
6th Annual Exotic Bird Expo
July 16, 1995**

Ahepa Convention Center
1355 Rainville Road
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
Contact: West Pasco Exotic Bird Club
P.O. Box 5032, Hudson, FL 34689
Jackie Feierabend (813) 863-7217

**Exotic Pet Showcase
Raritan Center Expo Hall
Edison, NJ**

August 5, 6, 1995
Contact: Vicki Clark's Expo USA
503 East Penn Blvd., Woodbury, NJ 08096-2823
(609) 848-3312, fax (609) 384-6704

**Exotic Bird Club of Florida
Bird Auction and Vendor Sales
August 13, 1995**

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Greater Palm Bay Senior Center
1275 Culver Drive, Palm Bay, FL
For information, contact:
EBCF, P.O. Box 1177, Melbourne, FL 32902
(407) 723-7739

**Foothill Bird Fanciers
Foothill Fanciers Bird Mart
August 27, 1995**

Roseville Fairgrounds
All American Blvd., Roseville, CA
Contact: Lewis Tuttle (916) 771-2336
4003 Lowdan Lane, Roseville, CA 95747

**Central Alabama Avicultural Society
Annual Show and Fair
September 2-3, 1995**

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Governors House Hotel
2705 East South Blvd., Montgomery, AL
For information, call: (334) 857-3817

**Erie Cage Bird Club
Annual Auction
September 16, 1995**

Starts at 1:00 p.m.
Holtz's Auction Center
Norcross Road, Erie, PA
Contact: Michelle Bules (814) 866-6636
2520 Dorn Road, Waterford, PA 16441

**The Biggest Little Bird Expo in Reno
September 16, 1995**

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Reno Livestock Events Center, Exhibit Hall
Washoe County Fairgrounds, Reno, NV
For information, contact:
Reno Area Avian Enthusiasts
P.O. Box 10393, Reno, NV 89510-0393
(702) 331-5125 or (702) 826-9714

**Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club
10th Annual Fall Show and Fair Eggstravaganza
October 7, 8, 1995**

Tennessee State Fairgrounds
Exhibitor's Bldg. and Annex
Nashville, TN
For information, call:
Fred & Helen Thompson
(615) 745-8179

**Kansas Avicultural Society, Inc.
Annual Caged Bird Show and Fall Bird Fair
October 14, 1995**

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Ramada Inn-Airport - reservations 800-835-2913
5805 W. Kellogg, Wichita, KS 67277
Contact: Pati Hazell (316) 942-8864
455 S. Howe Road, Wichita, KS 67209-2207

**International Pet Expo and Conference
October 16-18, 1995**

Sands Expo & Convention Center
Las Vegas, NV
Theme: "Unique Opportunities in a Global Market-
place"
Keynote session, international reception,
special exhibitor networking, seminar program.
For information, contact:
Tom McLaughlin, Show Management Office
406 S. First Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006-3829
(818) 447-2222, fax (818) 447-8350

**Exotic Pet Showcase
Illinois State Fairgrounds
Springfield, IL
October 28, 29, 1995**

Contact: Vicki Clark's Expo USA
503 East Penn Blvd., Woodbury, NJ 08096-2823
(609) 848-3312, fax (609) 384-6704

**Exotic Bird Club of Florida
Annual Show
November 4, 1995**

Ramada Inn - reservations (407) 723-8181
1881 Palm Bay Road, N.E.
Palm Bay, FL
For information, call:
(407) 452-0706 or (407) 632-7494

**Exotic Pet Showcase
Valley Forge Convention Center
King of Prussia, PA
November 25, 26, 1995**

Contact: Vicki Clark's Expo USA
503 East Penn Blvd., Woodbury, NJ 08096-2823
(609) 848-3312, fax (609) 384-6704