

## INJURIOUS WILDLIFE PROPOSAL DIES

occasions, but unfortunately in June of 1975, following the removal of the female for a recovery period due to poor health, the male died.

Of the young birds, one proceeded to have a bad foot and was not suitable for breeding and the other one proved to be a female. One additional bird was acquired from Busch Gardens to provide some stability and hopefully set up a third breeding pair. Unfortunately due to the loss of the male and a little bad luck, we presently have one breeding pair and three extra females.

The purpose of this recounting is to demonstrate that even though the breeding behavior is understood and proper breeding environments are provided, a species is not established in captivity until this is done with a minimum of twenty pairs. The fact that every pair attempted to nest leads one to believe our technique was proper. Several zoos and private aviculturists have since followed this technique with encouraging results. It is important that rather than lamenting the unavailability of exotic birds, aviculturists concentrate on a few unique species and establish them. The Bronx Zoo and the Los Angeles Zoo presently have successfully cooperated in breeding programs involving Tawny Frogmouths, Green Wood Hoopoes, Kookaburras, Eclectus Parrots and hopes for the future regarding the Monkey-eating Eagle. Although we do not rob our collection for their needs, we do cooperate in every way possible with the aforementioned birds. We do not pass judgment on techniques although we do discuss and visit whenever possible.

Our toucan breeding program has not shifted into a new direction. We know our technique will work with any species. Rather than add new species to our collection, we are now attempting to stabilize the Plate-billed Mountain Toucan into a regular breeding program similar to the success of our Crimson-rumped Toucanet. If this can be accomplished and other zoos and private aviculturists follow suit, then birds will be available in the future regardless of import regulations ■

Lynn Greenwalt, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, has officially withdrawn the Injurious Wildlife Proposal despite last minute assertions the proposal would go through. Although his action spells victory for aviculturists, zoos, and the pet industry, it is expected new and similar proposals will be drafted in the future

PIJAC (Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council) spear-headed the drive to overturn the proposal with a well-organized campaign that objected to the "low-risk" list approach to determining which animals would be allowed into the country. Under that concept, a bird would have to be proven harmless to be imported, whereas existing law requires that an animal be proven injurious to be kept out. In short, Interior attempted to reverse the principle of "innocent until proven guilty"

Fortunately, for aviculturists, new breeding stock of heretofore uncommonly kept birds will remain available for some time. With the threat of future restrictions, aviculturists must make every effort to establish the lesser known species in captivity before it is too late.

Many organizations participated in the movement to thwart import restrictions. In addition to PIJAC, the AAZPA, ZOO-ACT, A.F.A. and others made contributions, as did many individual aviculturists, whose letters to Interior achieved an impact. Many ornithologists and biologists contributed their knowledge on behalf of the above groups in an atmosphere of unity never before demonstrated by these diverse animal interests ■

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