



Emerald graphic

Wild bird craze bags big money

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some 100 million wild birds are being trapped each year to satisfy the growing worldwide craze for exotic household pets, pushing several of the most popular and costly species toward extinction, says a private study released Tuesday.

It said that demand for wild birds is so great that a thriving black market has developed, and smuggling commonly is resorted to in efforts to avoid animal protection and quarantine laws.

The study, entitled "The Bird Business", noted that as many as 80 percent of all birds captured in the wild may die before reaching the customer. And it urged the federal government to ban the importation of birds for sale as pets.

The report was funded by the World Wildlife Fund, Defenders of Wildlife, Fund for Animals, Animal Welfare Institute and the Humane Society of the United States.

Some of the birds are startlingly expensive, it said. For instance, a golden-shouldered parakeet, a bird native to Australia, can cost \$10,000. A hyacinth macaw from South America sells for \$8,000.

The study said one recent U.S. Customs seizure involved several hundred cockatoos valued at over \$500,000.

But it added that wholesale legal and illegal trafficking in wild birds is not without peril; at least nine species of parrots are now

threatened with extinction and populations of other species are declining.

Even the mynah bird is growing increasingly rare or has disappeared entirely in parts of its range in Southeast Asia, the study noted. Mynahs, like many species of parrots, rarely breed in captivity; most of the birds for sale in pet stores come directly from the wild.

In addition, it said, caged birds smuggled into this country have been responsible for outbreaks of exotic Newcastle disease in domestic poultry flocks.

In the United States, the study noted, canaries once were the mainstay of the bird trade. "But in the past 20 years the public has become more sophisticated and its demands now include diverse species of parrots, finches, cockatoos, cockateils, mynahs, and even toucans, tanagers and other delicate species."

Alternative legal action talks slated

The Lewis and Clark Law School is scheduling an all-day conference on Saturday, entitled "Alternative Legal Practices."

Through keynote speakers, workshops, and panel sessions, the conference will explore less traditional ways of practicing law and will focus on those particular interests in society which have traditionally been inadequately represented, such as, environmental interests, community law rights, minority rights, and public interest law.

Additionally, the conference will feature procedural aspects of alternative practices such as advertising and problems common to solo practices.

For more information contact Joe Bottomly, the Lewis and Clark Law School, 10015 S.W. Terwilliger Blvd., Portland, Oregon, 97219, telephone 244-1181.

Extend tax deadline by filing IRS form

Taxpayers can extend their tax return filing deadline for two months by filing a Form 4868 according to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

To obtain Form 4868, "Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return," taxpayers can contact a local IRS office or fill out the order blank for free forms and publications found in the tax package.

When requesting an extension, the taxpayer must make two copies of Form 4868. The original is filed with the IRS on or before the due date of the tax return and the duplicate must be attached to the actual tax return when it is later filed.

When sending the original copy of Form 4868 on or before the due date, the taxpayer also must estimate his or her tax bill for that year and enclose full payment for the tax liability.

Later, when sending the duplicate copy with the return, the amount of tax previously paid should be entered on the appropriate line for Form 1040.

Taxpayers receiving an extension of time cannot use the Form 1040A or have the IRS compute their tax bill.



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