



Angel Wings

A monthly journal for human angels who make a positive difference in companion birds' lives.

April 2011
Volume 6, Issue IV

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In this month's issue:
Angel Announcements
Recycling, Angel Style
Featured Fid ~ Fiery Shouldered Conure
Female Birds and Egg Binding
Rice, Grain & Carrot Juice
Angel Tips
Plan Your Escape: Protect Your Parrot
Feather Discoloration
Rikki Sez
Toy Safety: Plastic Rope
CITES - Wild Bird Conservation Act
Help Us



Angel Toys For Angels

April's Featured Toys



[UFO](#)

Large - X-Large Birds



[Perch Pacifier](#)

Medium - Large Birds



[Birdie Swiffer](#)

Medium - Large Birds

Check out all the [Angel Toys for Angels](#) now!

ANGEL ANNOUNCEMENTS
Watch for upcoming events, news, website
updates, etc. here



NEW NEW

ON THE SITE:

♥ [New Items](#) ♥

♥ ♥ ♥



♥ ♥ ♥

Spring Auction

June 9 'til June 19, 2011

Accepting donations now!

Spring is on it's way and so is Parrot
Toy Angel's Spring Auction.

This one promises to be as good as our
last one. We will have many items for
both you and your birds. Bird toys and
toy parts, gift baskets, handmade items,
DVD's, jewelry and lots of surprises are
just a few of the items that will be up
for auction.

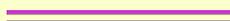
We are currently accepting donations to
add to our auction. If you would like to
donate an item, please contact
donations@parrottoyangels.org.

Anything you may want to donate will
be appreciated. (All donations are tax
deductible). Please help us make the
Spring 2011 Auction the best yet!!

Here's just a few of the goodies we'll
have up for bid.....updated often!

[Auction Preview](#)

♥ ♥ ♥



♥ ♥ ♥

Recycling, Angel Style
Simple Chew Toy
By Wyspur Kallis



Supplies you will need:
Small plastic baby spoon
6 small birdie bagels (1")
Small piece of 100% Cotton Supreme™
Rope
Small pear link or baby link
Drill



Drill a small hole in the plastic baby spoon.
Start on the back of the spoon handle for the
best results.



Thread the small birdie bagels over the end
of the plastic baby spoon.



Thread the piece of bird safe rope through
the hole in the baby spoon and tie a knot.
Make sure the loop is too small for your
finger to fit through and snip off any extra
rope.



Now add the hanger and introduce your newest creations to your feathered friend.



Featured Fid ~ Fiery Shouldered Conure By Delta Holder



Caster, Fiery Shouldered Conure who owns Delta H.

Fiery Shouldered Conures are a very tiny conure measuring in at roughly 26 cm (10.2 inches) and only weighing roughly 75 grams as an adult. Along with their tiny stature comes the tiny voice. They are not a loud conure and tend to only be heard when extremely excited or with a warning call. My Fiery Shouldered does a call that sounds like you are saying "shhhhhhhhhh" in a loud voice. It truly is adorable.

They are primarily a dark green color on the chest with a mixture of black in the head. They do have gray colored feathers around the bottom part of the neck, with flight feathers being a vibrant, beautiful blue. They have a maroon tail and on the shoulders and under the wings they have yellow and orange which looks like fire. I am assuming this is where they get the name Fiery Shouldered. Their beak is a bone color and they have a large white eye ring.

These birds originate from Highlands of Western Guyana, South Central Venezuela, and Northern Brazil. They are found in mountain forests and along the forest edges. Their population in the wild is unknown as they are very hard to spot due to their coloring and their habitats in the dense foliage. In captivity they are rare. They can live up to 35 years in captivity given the appropriate food and environment.

They are a playful and very intelligent bird. When younger, they are a bit shy, but can be aggressive with other birds. According to my research, a hand-fed baby will grow up to want lots of cuddling. They have been described as the cuddle bugs of the conure species. They are very good natured, not loud and are not as destructive as other birds. Despite their quiet nature, they still require a dedicated owner. If they are ignored or not given a chance to keep themselves mentally and physically stimulated, they can acquire behavioral issues.

My research indicates that they can become nippy like most conures, but I've not experienced that with my conure. I obtained Caster by way of a friend. Caster landed on her shoulder while she was outside and when the owners could not be found, she offered him to me. At first, Caster was very shy and frightened. He is now showing more of his personality and he is very outgoing, quiet, and very rarely shows any aggression. I

can easily handle him now and very rarely does he use his beak for protection.

I would recommend a cage size for a Fiery Shouldered to be no less than 24 x 22 inches in measurement and preferably bigger if funds allow. They are very active and like to be in the center of all that is going on.

As with any parrot, a good diet is very important. I find Caster enjoys his fruit the most out of all the things I give him. They become good eaters if introduced to a varied diet when young.

Toys are very important as well. Even though they are not as destructive as other parrots, they still need wood to chew on and toys to keep them entertained. Toy safety should be considered as they are a very active bird.



Caster, Fiery Shouldered Conure Loves Bathing

They enjoy bathing in a dish of water. Caster bathes every day on his own and loves water.

I also find that they enjoy showing off their beautiful wings when you talk to them and make a big deal of them. If you get them excited and feeling good about themselves, they will lift their wings and show you the fire color that is truly, absolutely beautiful.

In the wild, their clutch size is normally 4 - 5 eggs with an incubation time of 23 days and they fledge in about 7 weeks.

Editor's Note: For more information or to hear their call you can follow this link:
www.parrots.org/index.php/encyclopedia/profile/fiery_shouldered_conure



Female Birds and Egg Binding

By Jan Lewis

Easter always brings to my mind Easter eggs, the Easter bunny and springtime! Well, now that I have a female parrot it reminds me that I need to make sure that both of us are ready should she start laying eggs. For many years I have only had male birds. Yes, it was my thought out decision. I had always wanted male birds because of hearing horror stories of females becoming egg bound. I was terrified at the thought of losing a beloved female bird simply because she was female and had complications with egg laying.

Recently on a parrot forum where I am a member, one of the members was having problems with several of her females laying eggs. In this case it was females that kept laying eggs and not being egg bound. This reminded me that I now need to prepare

myself and my female bird for the time she begins laying eggs. I'm a bit nervous since I've never had a female bird before and also due to limited avian veterinary services in my area. So I thought it might be appropriate to share some of my beginning research on how to prepare for a female bird's egg laying cycle.

First, I would just like to say that while I love all birds, whether they are male or female, I feel it is important to know the sex of your bird. A male bird will never need veterinary assistance with laying an egg. An egg bound female needs to be quickly diagnosed and provided medical care to save her life. Your avian vet can sex the bird for you. He will most likely draw blood to be sent off to the lab. Or, you can do the testing yourself inexpensively through several reliable companies. DNA testing is a safe and relatively inexpensive means of sexing your bird. You will need to order a free testing kit based on whether you wish to provide a blood or feathers sample for testing. The kit is free but you will be required to pay when you send in your sample for sexing. There are two methods of DNA testing either blood or feather.

Blood method:

Requires clipping a toe nail just enough to get it to bleed. Be sure you have corn starch, flour, or Kwik Stop** powder to coat the nail to stop any bleeding once you get the test sample prepared as directed.

Feather method:

Requires you to pluck approximately 5 feathers from the chest area of your bird. You need freshly plucked feathers from this area to get an adequate DNA sample for sexing. Feathers that have molted have little or no viable DNA material for testing.

Once it has been determined that you do have a female bird, you may wish to consider planning for her egg laying time. Are you both prepared? Here are a few things you may wish to consider:

Health -- I highly recommend a good avian veterinary check-up to help diagnosis any health problems. A healthy bird is less likely to become egg bound.

Diet -- A healthy diet is very important especially for a female bird. Calcium and Vitamin D are critical. I keep on hand some liquid calcium that has been highly recommended especially in emergencies.

Exercise -- Without exercise, the body cannot stay healthy. Exercise strengthens muscles throughout the body. Laying an egg, just like human childbirth, is very strenuous, so it requires the body to be in shape and healthy to be able to perform the natural egg laying process. The bird must be able to push out the egg.

Please consult your avian veterinarian for his/her professional recommendations for YOUR female bird. Your female bird should have at least a yearly check-up even if you do not plan on breeding her. The egg laying process is a natural part of being a female bird and no male is necessary for her to begin egg laying!

Remember that spring weather and its associated increase of light, warming weather, and increase in food supply may trigger the breeding/egg laying cycle. Please sex your birds if you haven't already. Once you've determined you have a female bird, please talk to your avian veterinarian about check-ups and his/her suggestions for keeping your female healthy to lower the risk of potential egg laying problems. May you and your avian companions, male and female, have a long and happy lifetime together.

**Caution: Kwik Stop (styptic powder) and other similar products should only be used on nails. Never use it on the skin. These products can burn the skin, so avoid using them

on skin or feathers.



Rice, Grains & Carrot Juice for the Rice Cooker By Toni Fortin

- 5 cups brown rice
- 1-1/2 cups organic millet
- 1-1/2 cups organic wheat berries
- 11 cups carrot juice
- 1 lb. frozen corn
- 1 lb. frozen peas
- 4 cups cooked lentils

Using the measuring cup the cooker came with, measure the grains. Place in a small mesh strainer and rinse well before putting in the rice cooker. Using that same cup, measure the carrot juice.

Start the cooker. While the rice and grains are cooking, pour the bags of corn and peas in a large bowl. When the rice and grains are done, pour into the large bowl with the vegetables. Mix well. Gently stir in the cooked lentils.

Yields: 16 cups cooked. This mixture freezes well.

NOTE: The rice cooker I have cooks 8 cups of brown rice or grains at one time. This appliance is one I use often for the birds and my family. Perfect rice every time.



Angel Tips The Power of Lemons

Here are a few neat ways you can use lemons around the house:

- ♥ To clean cutting boards, cut a lemon in half. Squeeze the lemon juice on stain, use the cut side to rub in the juice, let sit and wash off.
- ♥ 1/2 cup of fresh lemon juice in the washer to brighten light colored clothes.
- ♥ Use a whole lemon on a plate to discard toothpicks used for foods served with toothpicks at parties or family gatherings.
- ♥ Fresh lemon juice and cream of tarter to clean white grout in between ceramic tiles.
- ♥ A lemon wedge and salt to brighten copper.
- ♥ Use lemons with the tops cut off, a little cut off the bottom so it sits even. Use as serving bowls for lemon or vanilla pudding, sorbet, sherbet and mashed sweet potatoes. Use the pulp to make lemonade.





Editor's Note: This article is reprinted with permission from [World Parrot Trust](#). The article appears in the WPT January 2011 newsletter Flock Talk. Remember that April is Tornado Awareness Month and the start of severe weather season in many parts of the country, so here are several good tips for protecting you and your bird if severe weather threatens.

Plan Your Escape: Protect Your Parrot in Times of Emergency

By Desi Milpacher

Being caught in an emergency of any kind is something no one wants to think about. But think about it we should, and arrange ahead for it with a disaster plan. Any emergency plan should, of course, include everyone in the family. That includes pet or companion animals that, in the panic and rush of an urgent situation, may inadvertently be forgotten. This need not happen - to avoid the possibility of tragedy take time to set aside/plan for the following:

Equipment/Rations

These are items to have on site or take with you (see more complete explanations below):

- ♥ emergency radio for weather, disaster updates
- ♥ extra batteries
- ♥ flashlights
- ♥ portable generator(s)
- ♥ fire extinguishers, hoses
- ♥ kennels/cages/carriers
- ♥ blankets/towels
- ♥ dry/easy-to-store food and dishes
- ♥ potable water
- ♥ pine shavings for carriers
- ♥ medications for chronically ill pets

A place to stay

- ♥ kennel or carrier -- if possible get them used to it beforehand
- ♥ chemical-free pine shavings for substrate -- easy to clean (towels get too dirty)
- ♥ ensure there are enough carriers for all pets; don't put incompatible pets together if you can help it, and if you have the space
- ♥ pack dry food away for travel and use if no power available
- ♥ pack potable water, in case of loss of water supply
- ♥ whole fruits (such as apples) -- a moisture-filled, least-spoilable portable food
- ♥ use travel water bottle (train to use beforehand); separate bottle for any ill birds
- ♥ keep generators for loss of power in colder climes
- ♥ pack any medications for ongoing illnesses in pets
- ♥ pack a few toys and other "home" and familiar items -- to help make bird feel less anxious
- ♥ blankets or towels to cover carriers, make them more private for stressed birds
- ♥ keep treats and other favorite food items in case he does get loose

In general:

- ♥ educate all members of family on plan -- give people specific jobs (one look after packing up the birds, someone else securing a shelter, etc.) ahead of time
- ♥ in the event of fire (forest), flooding or other natural disaster have all possible routes out of area mapped out ahead of time
- ♥ ensure there are shelters or family available to take your pet should you need to evacuate an area

- ♥ research local rescue organizations in the event you cannot return to your house; they will likely be allowed into an evacuated area to rescue animals; your local SPCA or Humane Society may have contacts for these
- ♥ if possible have your bird (s) ID'd (band, ID chip (under the skin) in case he should get loose
- ♥ line up friends or family before hand to help you transport out (if you have a lot of birds)
- ♥ Keep bird carriers, back-up rations and emergency first aid supplies all together in the aviary if you have the room to store them; if your emergency is a fire, you often will not have time to race around the house collecting everything
- ♥ Put up "animals in house" stickers in your front and back door windows, and in the window of the aviary if you have one, so emergency crews know to look for them if you are not at home when disaster strikes
- ♥ Keep a current care sheet with your emergency supplies in case you need to drop off your pet with a shelter or friends, so they know the particular needs of your pet (especially if medications are involved).

These are some ideas to consider ahead of time. When disaster strikes it *does* help to not have to think of all eventualities right on the spot, especially if you are in crisis mode. Planning for these possibilities will hopefully help you to move your family to safety in the event of catastrophe.

The WPT encourages anyone who has other notes or ideas to please send them along -- email them to: flocktalk@worldparrottrust.org.

Sources:

Desi Milpacher, pers. comm.

[FEMA Pet Disaster Needs](#)

[Ontario SPCA](#)

[Wikipedia - Pet Emergency Management](#)

[Alaska Bird Club - Emergency Preparedness for Parrots](#)

[Bird Channel.com - Safely Remove Parrots from Bird Cages During Emergencies](#)

by Liz Wilson, DVM

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Feather Discoloration

By Angel Savannah

Feather discoloration in birds can be caused by many different things. If this should happen to your bird, the first thing you should do is to get your bird to your avian vet, as some of the causes can lead to more serious health problems as well.

Feather discoloration can be as simple as stress or as complex as liver dysfunction. Stress can cause what are known as stress bars on a bird's feathers. These stress bars typically display as black stripes across the ends of the feathers. The stress that causes them can be as obvious as moving to a new home or being near a new bird, or it can be something more serious. It can be caused by poor diet which has changed to a good diet. If the bird has been on a poor diet, the ends of the feathers will be dark and discolored. Upon changing the diet, the rest of the feathers can come in the normal color. This is something commonly seen in baby birds who are started on a low quality hand-feeding formula and are then placed with a different hand feeder who uses a better

quality formula. For these birds, once you change the diet to appropriately accommodate the bird, the next time the bird molts, the feathers should come in the correct color and look healthier.

Certain birds have isolated causes of feather discoloration. For example, Eclectus can get discolored feathers from being fed fruit flavored/colored pellets. From my experience and research, this is the only type of bird with this specific type of a reaction. Of course, the fix is to switch the Eclectus to a non-fruit flavored or colored pellet type.

Vitamin A deficiency is one of the most common deficiencies in birds. It is caused mainly by improper nutrition. A seed only diet definitely can lead to this. Not only does it cause a myriad of health problems including liver and kidney dysfunction, sinus infections, reproductive and digestive disorders, but it can also lead to discolored feathers. A diet rich in fruits and vegetables containing Vitamin A (broccoli, carrots, spinach, kale, mangos, cantaloupe, papaya, sweet potatoes, egg yolks) and a high quality pellet will help to turn your bird's health around and allow its feathers to grow in normally within the next couple of molts as their health improves. (Birds in the lory family should be monitored for this, as they can store Vitamin A in their livers and it can become toxic to them.)

Sometimes feather discoloration can be as simple as your bird needing to bathe. This is especially true for birds whose water source is a water bottle. Although messier and you have to clean them more frequently, a dish of water is what they prefer for drinking and bathing.

If your bird has discolored feathers, you really should take him or her to the vet first. You want to make sure that if there is a medical problem, you can handle it on your own without the use of medication. Many of these other suggestions are just what we do daily in the care of our birds.



Rikki Sez

Rikki will try and answer frequently asked questions here.



Rikki, Why does mommy wear those toys in her ears if she doesn't want me to play with them? They are so nice and shiny. I would love to beak them.

Signed, Loving some shiny toys

Dear Loving some shiny toys, Oh, how we love those shiny things. Those shiny things

Toy Safety: Plastic Rope

By Kim Perez

Plastic rope is available in many different styles and types, some of which are great toy making parts. The best type of rope to use for making bird toys is one that was made specifically for the bird toy industry. This was introduced in 1992 by Odyssey Productions and was called Paulie Rope. Paulie Rope is a polyethylene rope which is made with a unique weave. Originally there were several single strands of the plastic running through the center as a core. This made the rope really hard to work with, and especially hard to knot. The other thing it did was leave a long length of plastic that a bird could potentially get in trouble with. The good news is that the rope

are called jewelry, earrings to be exact. We shouldn't be allowed to play with them. Some cost a lot of money and beware because you can ingest some of the particles from the metal. Some of them may be toxic to you. My mom takes hers off when she comes in from work, yours should do the same. Tell your Mom to check out PTA's [stainless steel toys](#). These are safe, shiny and fun.



Rikki, How can I tell Mommy I don't like that smelly stuff she wears sometimes?
Signed, Clogged Nares

Dear Clogged Nares, I once lived at a place where the lady wore that smelly stuff. It made my head spin and I know the clogged nares feeling. Things like this you just have to tell like it is. Perfume can be toxic to us birds. Even if not toxic, we can be allergic and have an itchy reaction that could make us self mutilate, you know pluck. It's just down right overloading to our respiratory system. Tell your Mom to ditch the perfume and that soap and water is enough for you. Same goes for those stinky hand creams. The sooner you tell her the better the air.



Do you have a question for Rikki?
Please send it to The Editor at
editor@parrottoyangels.org



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[The Caged Bird Courier](#).

We are here to help, because we care about your bird!!

was redesigned early on and made "coreless." The weave of the rope makes it a little difficult to knot still, but it is worth it. The rope does not fray or unravel so it is a great rope for bird toys.

Paulie Rope has had a few mishaps through the years. A manufacturing process problem caused loops in the rope (an unsafe defect) and then the manufacturing process was moved out of the US. When it was then imported, it arrived dirty and still some had loops. Finally, the production was taken over by a US company and the resulting product has been a high quality one, available in several colors and very safe with no known defects to date.

Other types of plastic ropes include polypropylene ropes. I don't recommend these, as they are typically a stiffer rope and will not hold a knot. The problem with that is that any long length of bare rope can provide a hanging hazard to a bird. Polypropylene itself is a safe product and is used in many ways in the food industry. Yogurt containers are made from it. Hinged lids or 'flip tops' made from plastic are almost always polypropylene because of its long life in thin amounts. When you think of it that way, you can see why the rope made from it wouldn't help us in the bird toy industry. Imagine trying to tie a knot in a yogurt container. It would be so stiff and would likely fall out quickly.

Other forms of plastic, all derived from poly products, are safe in content around animals, but not necessarily in the form we would need to use them. Strangulation really poses the largest threat to our birds, but any ingestion could prove problematic in that plastic cannot be digested.

When it comes to making the safest toys, my instinct is always to use the safest products. In plastic ropes, the safest seems obvious - we use the rope made for making bird toys. The



third party research on Paulie Rope was extensive and confirms the product's safety. To date, there have been no reported bird injuries resulting from it.



CITES and The Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 An Overview - Part 2 By George Goulding

In last month's issue we began a two part series focusing on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). If you missed Part 1 of this series, CITES is an international treaty adopted by more than 175 nations designed to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. It was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of The World Conservation Union, and it was finally agreed to by representatives of 80 countries in Washington DC in 1973, and became effective in July of 1975.

As a group that loves and respects companion parrots, protecting parrots, whether captive bred or in the wild, is important to us. We look beyond the captive bred (or in some cases wild caught) companions that inhabit the cages and aviaries of our homes to the plight of the thousands of unwanted birds that end up in rescues and other shelters, or in situations that cause these beautiful birds hardship and suffering. The illegal trade in wild caught parrots continues to contribute to this problem by making large numbers of birds readily available to uneducated buyers at prices far below what legitimate captive bred birds sell for. Taking large numbers of parrots out of the wild, together with loss of habitat and other assaults on their environment, has, over just a relatively short time, caused most of these birds to become endangered. A recent article in USA Today reported that over 18,000 plant and animal species appear on the IUCN "Red List of Threatened Species." Slightly more than 10 percent of those listed are considered "critically endangered." As we reported last month, all but a few of the roughly 372 species making up the order Psittaciformes (parrots and related species) are categorized by IUCN as being seriously endangered in the wild, and it is not unreasonable to assume that many of these birds will become extinct within the next few generations without serious intervention.

CITES was the first major international effort to recognize the plight of endangered species and legally protect them. The effectiveness of CITES and subsequent efforts around the world has met with varying degrees of success. The United States, once the largest importer of parrots, has become the world leader in implementing laws protecting all endangered species. In the United States, the implementation of CITES was via the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 USC §§1531-1544, and the Wild Bird Conservation Act (WBCA), 16 U.S.C. §§4901-4916, passed in 1992. Enforcement is the responsibility of the enforcement division of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The Wild Bird Conservation Act (WBCA) was signed into law on October 23, 1992. Although not the first such law designed to protect wildlife or parrots in particular, it was the first to have far reaching effects both domestically and globally. In essence, WBCA had the effect of tacking on tough new restrictions impacting the wild bird trade in this country and bringing together previous legislation including CITES, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Migratory Bird Act, and other regulations.

The Wild Exotic Bird Conservation Act was originally designed to recognize the

immediate threat to populations of mostly exotic wild birds due to the demand from the U.S., which, as noted above was at the time WBCA was passed the number one importer of these birds. According to the World Wildlife Fund, before passage of the Wild Bird Conservation Act, U.S. imports were substantial. In 1990, the United States imported 450,000 live birds, of which at least 150,000 were parrots. This estimate appears to be on the low side because according to an article appearing in the USFWS Endangered Species Bulletin in July of 1998, as many as 800,000 birds were being imported into the United States annually during the early 1990's.

The congressional findings of the Act explicitly recognized that the international pet trade in wild-caught exotic birds was contributing to the decline of those species in the wild, which simply means that it made official what was already well known. It further recognized that the mortality rate of captured species during capture and transit was unacceptably high. In a document titled *The Illegal Parrot Trade in Mexico - A Comprehensive Assessment* by Juan Carlos Cantú Guzmán, et al published in 2007, it was noted that as many as 77% of captured parrots in Mexico die before ever reaching the intended customer. Other estimates ranged from 50% to 60%. Whichever figure is more correct, the numbers represent a horrific mortality rate.

Although WBCA initially prohibited imports of all birds listed by CITES, subsequent changes were made, and its final rule did allow for the importation of wild-caught birds into the United States when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines that such importation is:

1. biologically sustainable,
2. non-detrimental to species survival in the wild, and
3. that CITES is being implemented effectively in the countries from which the birds are exported. This aspect of the final rule lifts prior WBCA import restrictions, which curtailed the importation of all CITES-listed, wild-caught birds. It provides opportunities for importation of wild-caught birds meeting sustainable use criteria.

Along with its enforcement role, the USFWS oversees the importation of otherwise prohibited species as mentioned above. The USFWS must issue a permit prior to importation. Permits may be issued only for the following purposes: scientific research; zoological breeding or display; and pet importation when owners are returning to the United States after at least a year's absence; and cooperative breeding programs if the programs have been approved by the Service. CITES listed birds that were exported from the United States by their owners are allowed to be returned to the United States provided the birds were exported legally with a CITES permit and a copy of that permit is presented when the birds are to be returned. Also, owners must accompany these birds when they are returned to the United States. Needless to say, the "red tape" involved can be cumbersome and time consuming, and anyone planning to import a bird or return a previously exported bird is well advised to begin applying for permits with appropriate authorities at point of origin and the USFWS months in advance.

It is fair to say that the United States has become a leader in the implementation and enforcement of the laws protecting parrots. The USFWS appears to be doing a very good job of enforcement of these laws. According to the [World Parrot Trust](#), the passage of WBCA effectively eliminated the United States as the largest single importer of wild parrots. Today, roughly 17,000 parrots are imported into the United States each year. Roughly 3,600 of these are taken from the wild (compared to as many as 800,000 annually 20 years ago). This assessment is further supported by a study included in the above referenced *The Illegal Parrot Trade in Mexico - A Comprehensive Assessment*, which points out that there has been an estimated 50 - 60% decrease in the number of parrots smuggled into the United States from Mexico. While the illegal wild parrot trade in the United States still exists, it is clear that passage of the Wild Bird Conservation Act and stepped up enforcement by the USFWS have proven to be effective in substantially curtailing it.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the illegal parrot trade on a global basis. Despite international agreements such as CITES and international cooperation among enforcement agencies, the illegal trade in parrots is still a serious threat to the survival of the species. Next month we will continue this series by taking a look at a few countries where the illegal bird trade is flourishing and what is being done to eliminate it.

Sources:

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
World Parrot Trust
Birdlife International
Defenders of Wildlife
Species Survival Network



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Our Angels generously donate their time making toys for our needy feathered friends. Quality toy-making supplies are expensive and shipping charges are outrageous. That's why we need your support to help keep us going. Every dollar amount, large or small, is gratefully accepted. Donations are tax deductible.

We also welcome donations of toymaking parts and supplies. A receipt will be issued for every donation. Contact us at [Parrot Toy Info](#) for further information on donating.



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