Not Just Parrots . . . 
USDA Finds Many 
Birds Carry Exotic 
Newcastle Disease

WASHINGTON—Parrots aren’t the 
only birds capable of bringing exotic 
Newcastle disease into the United States. 
Many families of exotic birds have 
been refused entry because they were in-
fected with viruses that kill domestic 
poultry and other cage and aviary birds. 
The infections showed up during U.S. 
Department of Agriculture or USDA-
supervised quarantine.

“More than 70 percent of the 221,600 
birds refused entry into the United States 
from 1973 to 1981 because of disease 
were Psittaciformes—parrots, cockatoos, 
parakeets, conures, macaws, cockatiels 
and parrotlets,” said Dennis Senne, of 
USDA’s Animal and Plant Health In-
spection Service. “We expected that. 
However, we didn’t expect to find 
members of ten other bird families in-
fected.

Senne is a diagnostitian at USDA’s 
National Veterinary Services Labora-
tories, Ames, Iowa.

“We found infection in the Fringil-
liidae family—the finches and canaries; 
Sturnidae—mynah and starling; Cotinga-
idea—cock of the rock; Corvidae—Mag-
pie; Turdidae—Pekin robin; Ploceidae-
silver bill; Columbidae—pigeon; 
Musophagidae—touraco; Grundi-
daes—crane; and Phasianidae—pheasant 
and francolin.

“USDA veterinarians isolated less 
virulent strains of Newcastle disease virus 
from 26 groups of birds,” Senne said. 
“We allowed these birds to enter the 
country because those strains of the virus 
already exist here.”

The 221,600 birds, which USDA re-
fused entry, made up 147 lots of 2,274 
offered for importation, Senne said. Lots 
varied from 10 to 36,800 birds.

“Of these, USDA refused 141 lots 
because they had velogenic viscer-
trophic—exotic—Newcastle disease,” 
Senne said.

USDA veterinarian isolated many 
other viruses from the imported birds— 
paramyxovirus 2 and 3; influenza; psit-
tacine herpes—Pacheco’s; pox; reovirus 
and adenovirus, Senne said. USDA vet-
erinarians allow birds carrying these 
viruses entry because federal regulations 
are designed to detect and exclude only 
viruses that kill domestic poultry.

“USDA refused entry to the highest 
number of birds during 1973—the first 
year of the import bird program—when 
almost 32 percent of the lots and more 
than 40 percent of the birds were denied 
entry,” Senne said. “Since then, we 
haven’t refused nearly as many lots of 
birds.”

The reduction may be due to these 
factors, Senne said:
—Importers may have become more 
cautious in the types of birds they import 
and the countries from which they im-
port them;
—The USDA 90-day ban on imports 
from countries when exotic Newcastle 
disease is isolated in birds from that 
country;
—The large number of birds imported 
from some countries may have reduced 
populations to the point where there is 
little disease left;
—Some importers may quarantine 
birds in the country of origin to 
eliminate lots with clinical disease.

Directory Completed for 
Veterinarians/ 
Aviculturists

The Pennsylvania Association of Avian 
Veterinarians would like to announce 
that the first printing of its avian 
Veterinarian/aviculturist directory has 
been completed. The directory will be 
revised as needed, so we are still welcom-
ing those who would like to be included.

Breeders: please forward name, add-
dress, types of birds currently being 
bred, and $10.00 to the address below. 
You will be in our next printing, which 
is anticipated to be needed shortly.

Contact: Gloria J. Goodman VMD 
P.O. Box 564, Langhorne, Pa. 19047.

May ’82 PA Assoc. of 
Avian Vets. a Success

Almost two-hundred veterinarians at-
tended PAAV’s (Pennsylvania Associa-
tion of Avian Veterinarians) annual Mid-
Atlantic States Avian Medicine Seminar 
May 4-5, 1982, at the Holiday Inn-Inner 
Harbor, Baltimore.

Topics of avian post-mortem, 
hematology, infectious and nutritional 
diseases, feather abnormalities, 
radiology, laparoscopy, and hobby 
poultry were presented by the excellent: 
Dr. David Graham, Dr. Joshua Dein, 
Dr. Wilbur Amand, Dr. Sidney Evans, 
Dr. Michael Stoskopf, and Dr. Dwight 
Schwartz.

The Regional Poultry Laboratory 
Diagnosticians Group and the U.S. 
Animal Health Association Committee 
on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry and 
Other Avian Species (subcommittee on 
Model State Programs for Pet Birds) also 
met in conjunction with the PAAV 
meeting.

high quality black and white 
signed and numbered prints of 
Brown Pelicans 
(Pelecanus occidentalis)

by Marvin Gelder
west coast artist

$35 including tax and shipping, U.S.A

American Federation of Aviculture 
P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 (213) 372-2988

Never before has such a comprehensive 
encyclopedia been offered, both for the specialist 
and hobbyist. 
YOUR LIBRARY IS NOT COMPLETE 
WITHOUT THIS BOOK. 
FINCHES and 
SOFT-BILLED 
BIRDS 
(revised edition)
by Henry J. Bates and Robert L. Busenbark

$16.95 
Order Your Copy Now From 
PALOS VERDES BIRD FARM INC. 
P.O. Box 1305, Torrance, CA. 90506 
Include $1.50 postage and handling 
Calif. residents add 6% sales tax.