WASHINGTON, D.C. — The February, 1977 Newcastle Story is by now, very familiar history to us all. We've experienced the tragedy, we've seen the pictures, we've even taken the government to court. Those of us who were not terrified by it obviously were not paying close enough attention. But certain issues remain and will be discussed for months to come. Certain questions remain unanswered, some of them quite simple, on the surface, and seemingly quite easy to answer. For example, "What conclusions were reached after six months of investigation regarding the source of the infection last February? Who, in the end, was responsible?"

This is the question I pursued in Washington, D.C. in August. I talked to some of the highest level officials in U.S.D.A., Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. They could not answer that question. Not that they lack data or evidence, but the implications of answering that question are enormous. The question is really somewhat longer than "Who was responsible." It should read: "Who was responsible for the death of over 13,000 birds, the destruction of lifetimes of careful breeding, the end of the love a person had for their pet of 20 years, the emotional trauma of watching a part of someone's life killed, the horror of knowing the damage is irreversible, the snuffing out of endangered and irreplaceable birds, the end of a business venture always dreamed about and finally realized, and the cost of $1,500,000 to the taxpayer," and on and on. It is a very "heavy" question. Would you answer it?

The APHIS officials declined to answer the question on the grounds that the origin of the infection may not have been any of the locations from which the positive virus isolates were taken. This is to say that the sick birds were most likely smuggled into the country and found their way to locations and people who could be innocent of any wrong doing. Since there is no proof of anyone connected with the sick birds being involved with the illegal entry of those sick birds, the responsibility for the infection cannot be placed on the head of anyone or any group of people. For a government official to make a public statement to the contrary would open the door to law suits for libel, defamation of character, and who knows what else by any named persons or businesses.

This forces the most sincere, honest, and well informed, officials into using our local Washington, D.C. dialect, "Government-ese." While the objective of this language is to say nothing, some government officials can use it in ways that communicate information without it being damaging to themselves, and others. In our case, for example, one high ranking official in APHIS pointed out that "the epidemiological studies are clear and are a matter of public record." Here is that record:

1—Exotic Newcastle Disease (VVND) was isolated and confirmed by laboratory tests in birds coming from the following premises:
   a) Yanik's Rainbow Aviaries, Charlotte Courthouse, Virginia.
   b) The Hinkle Farm, Alpine, Calif.
   c) Basically Birds, Alpine, Calif.
   d) The Russell Cranor property, Spring Valley, Calif.
   e) Bronze Wing Aviaries, Colton, Calif.
   f) A private aviary in Florida (unnamed due to the circumstance that the infected bird, a cockatoo, came directly from one of the above dealers.

2—The virus isolates from Rainbow Aviaries, Basically Birds, The Hinkle Farm, and the Cranor property, were a "hot" VVND virus. The Bronze Wing virus was less virulent, and therefore, could possibly be of different origin than the others.

3—The infected parakeets at Rainbow Aviaries were shipped from California to Mr. Yanik in Virginia.

4—There is nothing in the record to indicate the source of infected birds at Basically Birds.

5—Mr. Hinkle received birds from Basically Birds during this same period.

6—The Cranor property is adjacent to an unnamed property from which a chicken with VVND strayed. (See March 21 below.)

Below is a chronology of events as they unfolded beginning February 17, 1977. It has been compiled for the A.F.A. by persons who must remain nameless. The sources are mainly U.S.D.A. news releases and memos. Verbal reports at meetings that were not tape recorded have not been used. This represents the most complete record available at this time. There is some indication that APHIS, itself, will issue a "full report" at some later date, but until then, the following may be used for reference.

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NEWCASTLE DISEASE FEBRUARY 1977
The End of the Story (?)

by Clifton R. Witt
Legislative Liaison, Washington, D.C.

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February 17, 1977
Exotic Newcastle disease was diagnosed at Veterinary Services Laboratories, Ames, Iowa, from birds owned by Harold Yanik, a pet bird wholesaler.

February 18, 1977
Northern READEO partially activated in Keysville, Virginia.

February 18, 1977
Bronze Wing Aviaries, Colton, California, placed under quarantine.

February 19, 1977
Depopulation of birds on the Yanik premises was completed.

February 19, 1977
Western READEO activated in San Diego, California.

February 22, 1977
Exotic Newcastle disease diagnosed at the San Gabriel Laboratory from birds submitted by Al Hinkle.

February 22, 1977
Poultry industry met with task force members in San Bernardino, California.

February 24, 1977
Federal quarantine placed on three premises of Harold Yanik. Epidemiological evidence indicated that infection entered the Yanik premises from a shipment of parakeets from Dulzura, California, on February 2, 1977.

February 24-25, 1977
Hinkle premises depopulated.

February 26, 1977
Cleaning and disinfection of the Yanik premises completed.

February 26-27, 1977
Depopulation of Basically Birds flock. Virus was isolated and characterized as VVND.

March 2, 1977
State-Federal quarantine placed on a 30-square mile area surrounding the Hinkle and Basically Birds premises.

March 2, 1977
Indemnities in California to date total $194,599 of which $190,513 was for birds. A total of 88 employees on task force. Sixty-four Federal and 24 State.

March 4, 1977
Meeting held at the University of Maryland concerning Virginia and California outbreaks of VVND. Approximately 125 poultry, pet bird industries, and USDA personnel attended this meeting.

March 8, 1977
VVND virus isolated from birds depopulated on February 19, 1977, due to a shipment from the Yanik premises on February 16, 1977. This was the first indication of spread from the Virginia outbreak.

March 10, 1977
Newcastle task force closed at Charlottesville, Virginia.

March 11, 1977
VVND confirmed at Bronze Wing Aviaries.

March 15, 1977
VVND virus was isolated from tissues submitted from a backyard chicken and exotic bird flock in Spring Valley, California. This flock was depopulated on March 14, 1977.

March 15, 1977
Bronze Wing Aviaries depopulated.

March 15, 1977
Total amount expended for the eradication efforts throughout the United States is $727,096.80 of which $534,090.76 has been indemnity.

March 17, 1977
Docket signed to quarantine a 5-square mile area around the premises of Russel Cranor, Spring Valley, California, and the premises of Bronze Wing Aviaries, at Colton, California, which were diagnosed positive for VVND.

March 21, 1977
A chicken submitted by Russel Cranor was positive for VVND. This bird reportedly strayed from the adjoining premises which was at one time a holding area for caged pet birds.

March 24, 1977
Federal quarantine released from the Yanik premises.

March 24, 1977
Meeting held at the University of Maryland with State veterinarians and Veterinary Services key personnel to discuss policy for handling pet birds involved with Bronze Wing Aviaries. The policy encompassed those pet birds in trade channels as one entity and all other classes of pet birds as another entity.

April 18, 1977
Federal quarantine released from premises ofBasically Birds and Al Hinkle.

April 21, 1977
Federal quarantine released from premises in Spring Valley, California.

April 26, 1977
Last remaining Federal quarantines in California released.

April 30, 1977
Task force in California deactivated. Surveillance efforts throughout the United States is $727,096.80 of which $534,090.76 has been indemnity.
NEWCASTLE DISEASE/FEB. ’77 continued from page 23

lance will continue.
July 27, 1977
Total number of premises involved in Virginia and California outbreaks was 252, with about 13,400 birds in 23 States. Indemnities for both outbreaks amounted to about $981,700. Total cost of the Virginia and California outbreaks was approximately $1,500,000.

Some day the complete story may be
written and it may become a part of the
public record. Only then will we really
have The End of the Story. It will be the
end of the story for the February 1977
Outbreak. The Newcastle story will go on
and we will be devastated again and again.
That is, unless you and I stop the smug­
ning. Yes, You and I, not the government.
We are the ones who are the customers
for the smuggers. They sell us psittacosis
and we buy it. They sell us Pacheco’s
Parrot Disease and we buy it. They sell us
inclusion body viruses and we buy it. They
sell us Exotic Newcastle and we buy it.
We get a good deal though. Sometimes we
ever save up to $50.00.

CLASSIFIED ADS
CLASSIFIED RATES — $3.00 minimum charge for 4 lines of type (average 7 words per line). Additional charge of $1 per word for ad running over 28 words. (28 words to include name, address and phone.) All copy to be RECEIVED BY 16th day of month preceding publication.

BIRDS FOR SALE: Complete line of birds, large and small, from Canaries to Cockatoos. Call or write for our newest price list. All birds U.S.D.A. quarantine released and guaranteed healthy. Call now! SMITH’S EXOTIC AVIARIES, P.O. Box 305, Herndon, VA. 22070. Call (703) 620-2222.

FOR SALE: All types of Parrots, Macaws, Cockatoos, Lories, Toucans, Waterfowl, etc. We operate and own our quarantine station! We also rent the station. Louisiana Fauna Institute, P.O. Box 634, Sisdel, Louisiana 70459. Phone (504) 643-8978 or 641-7195.

WANTED: Information on Feral Amazon Parrots — for graduate research on behavior and ecology of the passerine of the Fringillidae family, an inhabitant of an African island. So please folks if you have f2 crosses (female) don’t discard or discount them without test mating them for fertility (if she lays eggs then she’s fertile so please work with her), lets give this fascinating possibility a chance of becoming an established reality.

BLACK HOODED RED SISKIN continued from page 33
wanted to work with pure Red Siskins or only Red Siskin-Canary f1’s. So in a fit of pique the old timer threw open the cage doors and released all the third generation Siskin-Canary crosses. Sadly they are now lost forever to the fancy and such a pity that these birds could not have been used as a foundation to con­tinue the work and fix the strain for pos­terity.

I would very much appreciate hearing from anyone who is working on similar projects. After all we once upon a time did not have a white canary, nor Frills, nor Norwich, recessive and sex linked. All of them came from the Serinus Canarius from the passernine of the Fringillidae family, an inhabitant of an African island. So please folks if you have f2 crosses (female) don’t discard or discount them without test mating them for fertility (if she lays eggs then she’s fertile so please work with her), lets give this fascinating possibility a chance of becoming an established reality.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BUDGERIGAR and FOREIGN BIRD SOCIETY presents their 22nd ANNUAL SHOW at the Oakland Hyatt House. NOV 4, 5, & 6th.


FOR SALE: 1 pair of Triton Cockatoos, true compatible pair, tattooed — $2000.00. Call (714) 653-7461.

FOR SALE: Salvador’s Fig Parrot, $1600 per pair. Jerry Jennings, 1803 Pontius Ave., L.A., CA 90025. Phone (213) 884-5476 even­nings.

WANTED. Zebra Finches in quantities of 150 to 1000. Looking for 1st class birds — top prices paid. Write to Novak’s Aviary, 113 K Brook Ave., Deer Park, NY 11729.


FOR SALE: Baby Chattering Lories, Rainbow Lories, $150 each. Marianne Hayes, Route S, Box 135-B, Denton, Texas 76201. (817) 382-7097.

FOR SALE: 1 pair of Triton Cockatoos, true compatible pair, tattooed — $2000.00. Call (714) 653-7461.

FOR SALE: Salvadore’s Fig Parrot, $1600 per pair. Jerry Jennings, 1803 Pontius Ave., L.A., CA 90025. Phone (213) 884-5476 even­nings.