



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Service men abroad were advised today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes not to bring parrots back to the U.S., explaining that the trouble involved in getting a parrot into this country is usually more than the parrot is worth.

Because parrots, and other members of their family, may be infected with the dread disease, psittacosis, some cities and states will not allow them to be brought within their borders. In addition Federal regulations have to be followed at those places where entry is allowed.

Birds of the parrot family include, beside parrots themselves, Amazons, Mexican double heads, African grays, cockatoos, macaws, parrakeets, lovebirds, lories, lorikeets, and similar birds, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Maryland, New York, Connecticut, Florida, and the cities of Baltimore and Pittsburg prohibit the importation of all species of parrots under any circumstances; they cannot be brought in even for scientific purposes. If anyone attempted to bring them into those places, the birds would be seized by health authorities and destroyed. Parrakeets or lovebirds may not be imported into California, Maine, Minnesota, and Oregon, in addition to the other states listed.

Three or less parrots may be brought into the United States by the owner without a Federal importation permit if they have been in the possession of the owner for two or more years. Parrots not in the possession of the owner for three or more years cannot be imported without an importation permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, and more than three parrots are subject to a quarantine of six months or more under the regulations of the U.S. Public Health Service.

It is necessary, according to Talbot Denmead, in charge of the Importations and Permits Section, Fish and Wildlife Service, to have a Federal permit for the importation of any wild bird or animal. These permits are free but to save trouble service men should be careful to write for them in advance, otherwise their pets might be retained by customs officers or released only on deposit of a bond, pending production of the permit.

Permits for the importation of wild birds and animals are designed to prevent the entry into the United States of any bird or animal that is or might become injurious to the interests of agriculture or horticulture. This is in accordance

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with the Lacey Act of May 25, 1900, for the regulation of interstate and foreign commerce in wild birds and other animals.

Birds and animals which cannot legally enter the United States for any purpose, scientific or otherwise, include: skylark, common or house myna, crested or Chinese myna or starling, European bullfinch, European yellowhammer, greenfinch, chaffinch, black or house rat; roof, Alexandrian, or white-bellied rat, common or brown rat, common or house mouse, European rabbit, European hare; all species of mongoose or mammals of the family Mungotidae, sometimes known also as ichneumons or Pharaoh's rats; all species of fruit bats or flying foxes, or mammals of the family Pteropodidae.

Requests for permits to import birds and animals have fallen by almost half since the war started. Many of the pets now being brought in are those of service men. Mostly the service men bring in monkeys and marmosets but other recently imported animals have been spotted wild cats, ocelots, honey bears or kinkajous, and a few coatimundi--a small animal with a face like a fox and a tail like a coon. Some 12 or 15 bear cubs have recently been brought in. The cubs were mascots of various service groups.