Falcons, chickens, & avian flu

Flowering, along with factory farming, cockfighting, bird-shooting, wild bird trafficking, and keeping caged song-birds, has emerged as a factor in the increasingly rapid global spread of the deadly H5N1 avian influenza.

As the March 2006 edition of ANIMAL PEOPLE went to press, 92 humans in seven nations had died from H5N1. More than 30 nations had experienced H5N1 outbreaks since 2003, 14 of them since January 1, 2006. Hi, in chronological order, were Iraq, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Iran, Austria, Germany, Egypt, India, France, and Hungary. Of more than 200 million domestic fowl have been killed in mostly futile efforts to contain H5N1, according to the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization—almost entirely because of the persistence of practices long opposed by the human community. Safeguard Falcon became implicated when five trained hunting birds died from H5N1 at a veterinary clinic in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Saudi agriculture ministry officials confiscated and killed 37 falcons who were kept at the clinic.

“The virus might have been introduced by illegally imported falcons from China and Mongolia early in the season,” the moderators of the International Society for Infectious Diseases posted to the society’s PostMED online bulletin board.

ProMED zoonotic disease moderator Arnon Shimony called for “enhanc[ing] the alertness of authorities responsible for control of international trade in avians, with special attention to captive birds.”

“Earlier H5N1 incidents related to such trade have been recorded in Taiwan, Belguim, the U.K., and probably elsewhere,” remarked Shimony, who is a member of the Knesset School of Veterinary Medicine faculty at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

(continued on page 17)

“I noticed that the Hind was not used for sport hunting in 1977,” has made non-consumptive wildlife watching the nation’s second largest and best known industry.

Much of the faltering Zimbabwean economy is based on trophy hunting.

The Kenya model requires attracting large numbers of tourists, who in good times employ thousands of hotel staff, drivers, guides, and souvenir vendors.

The Zimbabwean model draws far fewer people, who seek much less by way of accommodation, minimizing the need for up-front investment in infrastructure. Yet trophy hunters spend considerably more per person than wildlife watchers.

The prospect of high return from low investment has tended to encourage other African nations to emulate Zimbabwe rather than Kenya.

“Theoretically, hunting is a fantastic way to preserve very large eco-systems,” Laikipia Predator Project director Lawrence Frank told a conference of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and World Conservation Union in Johannesburg in January 2006. “but the practicalities of getting that money to the little guys who are paying the costs is a big intrigue.

The conference was called to address the loss of African lions from more than 80% of their former range. Attendees were critical of Kenya—whose lion population has been poached to the verge of extinction from many regions—for prohibiting lion hunting.

The conference closed by issuing a joint statement favoring trophy hunting “as a way to help alleviate human-lion conflict and generate economic benefits for poor people to build their support for lion conservation.”

This was an endorsement of the Zimbabwean economic model. But economic good times ended in Zimbabwe more than five years ago.

The Kenya economy, despite a crippling drought in 2000, as well as the current drought, continued to improve. Relative prosperity helped opponents of trophy hunting to persuade Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki to veto a hunting authorization bill that cleared the national legislature in December 2004, pushed by wealthy landowners seeking to capitalize on Zimbabwean instability.

But hard times in much of Kenya, despite 5% economic growth in 2005, may have increased the inclination of politicians to try to cash in on wildlife before losing it, after already losing visitors who prefer not to see animals dying from thirst and starvation.

The political tendency to think short-terms is why Youth for Conservation founder Joshuah Nygere wrote a piece on an ongoing campaign against exporting 175 Kenyan animals to the newly opened Chiap Mai Night Falconing Zoo in Thailand—a deal concluded by President Kibaki himself.

(continued on page 9)

Drought tests Kenyan and Zimbabwean hunting policies

NAIROBI, HAREKE—The vultures inspecting drought-stricken Kenya and Zimbabwe have counterparts in the corridors of national capitals, watching to see whose wildlife management mode will fail first.

Kenya, since hunting sport hunting in 1977, has made non-consumptive wildlife watching the nation’s second largest and best known industry.

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(continued on page 9)

The West Ain’t Big Enough For Us & Wildlife, Claim Ranchers

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK—The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on February 2, 2006 recommended removing gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains from the federal endangered species list, 10 years after the first of more than 60 wolves translocated from Canada were experimentally released into Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho.

As of April 2004, there were officially 153 wolves in Montana, 260 wolves in Wyoming, and 422 wolves in Idaho. There are now nearly 1,000 wolves in the three states, said federal wolf recovery coordinator Ed Bangs. The species’ recovery targets were met in 2002. Bangs said.

“Federal agents and livestock owners have legally killed more than 300 wolves in the region that were confirmed or suspected of having preyed upon livestock,” wrote John Miller of Associated Press. “In 2005, federal wildlife agents investigated 93 rancher complaints, with wolves confirmed or suspected of having killed 181 sheep, 18 calves, six cows, and 11 dogs. That compares to 2003, when wolves were blamed for killing 118 sheep, 13 calves, and six dogs.”

The delisting would include all wolves in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, the eastern third of Washington and Oregon, and part of north-central Utah—everywhere that wolves from the Yellowstone region are known to have wandered, except Colorado.

“In 2004 a young, radio-collared female wolf from Yellowstone was found dead near Idaho Springs, Colorado,” recalled Denver Post staff writer Kim McGuire. “A year later, the state wildlife commission approved a plan to manage packs that come into Colorado. That plan says the state will let wolves roam where they choose, but urges killing wolves who prey on livestock.

Polls indicate that about two-thirds of Colorado residents favor wolf recovery. Defenders of Wildlife in September 2005 offered to compensate Colorado ranchers for livestock losses if reintroduction proceeds.

Defenders of Wildlife has paid ranchers more than $500,000 for confirmed livestock losses to wolves in connection with the Yellowstone reintroduction and the
Dear Partner,

Brooklyn hid in a pile of rocks, among the ground squirrels, where we have a feeding station for abandoned dogs.

She was born in the wilderness, and has never been around people. Her struggle was so intense, she cannot begin to understand what “help” means. There is no help in the wilderness... one mistake would cost Brooklyn her life.

Her mom and litter mates are long gone... she was the only survivor. She lived in an area full of predators that can attack from the ground or from the air... day or night. Always fearful, this little cat hugged the ground until she found our feeding station. I don’t know how long she lived off our dog food, but it was at least many months.

I do know, over the years, that I’ve spotted coyotes, eagles, hawks, owls, turkey vultures and rattlesnakes where Brooklyn grew up. And Brooklyn heard the shrieks of pain, from the other animals, as they were killed and eaten by these hungry predators.

Last night when I took her picture for you, I aimed my camera into the holding cage where Brooklyn is staying until she has all her shots and the vet gets spayed. You can see her confusion.

She knows we are helping her... feeding her, keeping her safe and warm. And she’s in a hospital room where other cats run around and play between treatments... so Brooklyn knows she’s in a good place.

But she can’t understand being fed... without working for her meals. She can’t understand how she is able to be warm without finding a hole in the ground to curl up in... and she can’t begin to fathom what all our love and kindness means. She wants to run from it, because she’s afraid of what she doesn’t understand.

But Brooklyn also senses that we are looking after her... so she remains confused... torn... because the lack of struggle, the abundance, is so utterly foreign to her.

Brooklyn is now a D.E.L.T.A. Rescue cat. That means no more suffering alone in the wild, where her parents were abandoned. She will be safe and loved and fed and cared for... for the rest of her life. She will even have the one thing she has secretly wanted more than anything else... other cats to talk to.

AND SHE DOESN’T HAVE TO EARN IT! No... she doesn’t have to be a lap cat to “deserve” all of this. She can be either a cat’s cat, or a people cat... we will shower her with love in either case.

This is Brooklyn’s time... it’s a celebration of her courage, and of her gift to us... her life. But time passes so quickly, and we know that so well... by watching our animals get old, so fast!

It won’t be long before I’ll see Brooklyn at the other end... an old cat, skinny and on medications for some chronic condition or another, and on the final “countdown” to leaving us to mourn for her... yet another empty space where our loved one was a beautiful being just moments before.

At that moment, at the end, that’s when I realize more than ever, just how important this mission has been... to have given a whole lifetime to an animal who had none.

Please keep this profound mission alive. Send your best gift today.

For the animals,

Leo

Leo Grillo, founder

D.E.L.T.A. Rescue
PO Box 9, Dept AP, Glendale, CA 91209

Attention: Rescuers and Shelters

Build your own inexpensive straw bale dog house for your pets’ maximum protection, comfort and fun!

Here at D.E.L.T.A. Rescue, we invented a better housing system for our more than 859 dogs. Using 25 common bales of straw, and three sheets of plywood, two people can build a straw bale dog house in under 10 minutes! This is the same simple structure that withstood our terrible El Nino rains in 1998. The simple straw design can last 20 years, but because we are a permanent sanctuary, our houses must last longer.

Our dogs love to play on the straw... before, during and after construction!

Simple straw house, 4x6 foot interior, 10 x10 foot rooftop play area, and steps!

Our dogs climb their steps and play on top and inside their houses. They have a ball!

One village at D.E.L.T.A. Rescue. Two dogs per yard, and a deluxe house for both!

That’s why we now build the deluxe “stucco” version. Our materials cost for this stucco version is about $400, while you can put up the simple building for under $150. Good news! We put all the building instructions for both versions on video tape for anyone to use, or copy in its entirety. And it’s FREE! To help us help precious animals, besides our own 859 dogs and 552 cats, please get this video today and pass it around!

We spent a year making this video tape. Now, for the sake of cold, unsheltered dogs everywhere, we are offering it to anyone for free. To pay for duplication and postage, we are asking for a $5 donation per tape, but only if you can afford it! And we can send the tape to anyone you want. Or you can get one, copy it yourself, then give it to friends.

Write today to get your free video, and then build a house your dog will truly love and enjoy. Send to: D.E.L.T.A. Rescue, P.O. Box 9, Glendale, CA 91209.
Or call us at 661-269-4010 and get it faster!
The Year of the Dog, observed throughout the regions of Asia sharing cultural affinity. China’s New Year has already been marked in many of its cities, towns, and villages. A Chinese New Year festival is usually held in the city of Shanghai, where a major狗肉餐厅 (dog meat restaurant) is located. The festival lasts for several days, and visitors can enjoy traditional Chinese dishes made from dog meat, such as dog soup and dog meat cakes. The dog meat is typically served with rice and vegetables, and the festival is a celebration of the Year of the Dog.

A few days later, the government of Shanghai announced that it would no longer allow the sale of dog meat in the city. The announcement was made in response to public pressure and concerns about animal welfare.

The ban on dog meat sales in Shanghai is expected to have a significant impact on the consumption of dog meat in China. In recent years, the consumption of dog meat has declined in China due to increased awareness about animal welfare and the negative impact of dog meat consumption on public health.

In conclusion, the ban on dog meat sales in Shanghai is an important step towards improving animal welfare in China. It is a reminder that every small action can make a big difference in the lives of animals.
**Temple Grandin**

**Hunters, hoarding**

Thank you so much for your review of my book Hunters, Herders, & Hamburbers: The Past & Future of Human Animal Relations. Your observation that I am “more interested in stimulating thought than in clashing arguments” is right on the money. I hope your review will encourage some of your readers to take a look at the book. Everything I say in it may not suit them, but I tried to ask thoughtful questions on a number of issues so perhaps they will find, as you say, something stimulating.

Richard W. Bullet Middle East Institute Columbia University 420 West 118th St. New York, NY 10027 reBullet2@columbia.edu

**Well put**

The bottom line of your January/February 2006 editorial “Fossils of 9/11 & December 7 haunt animal advocacy” was well put, not just that a lot in this movement will take it to heart. I must keep trying to make it reference to the inhumanity of the animal testing procedures.

—Steve Hindi

**Letters to the Editor**

**The Editor replies:**

The three basic means of reducing the universe of suffering, in any sphere, are reduction, refinement, and replacement. In the area of food pro-
duction & consumption, reduction and replacement are obviously the two approaches that achieve the most dramatic and immediate results. However, ev
tually, whatever is done will be contingent on the viability of the ecosystem, the availability of alternatives, and the political will to make the necessary changes. This leaves refinement as the area in which the meat can be...
A: He has only two feet.

Actually, less than two feet. Twenty-two inches to be exact. His entire life is spent chained in a wooden pen measuring only 22 inches wide, and 25 inches long. The crat is so small that the calf can’t walk or even turn around.

Most people think animal abuse is illegal. It isn’t. In real life, it happens to us. "Milk-fed" veal is produced by making a calf anorexic.

The calf is not fed mother’s milk. It’s fed an antibiotic-laced formula that leads to health problems. ItStarve the calf in his own excrement—chocking on the ammonia gases. It’s chained with hundreds of other baby calves suffering the same fate.

Tainted Veal

According to the USDA, submaxilarch (0.6 mm in CUBAROs), corynebacteria, staphylococci, streptococci, and staphylococcus have all previously been found in veal.

Doesn’t the USDA prevent tainted veal from being sold? Absolutely not. The USDA itself admits that most veal is never tested for toxic residue.

The industry claims that the drugs used in veal have been approved by the FDA. But don’t buy it. The fact is: Illegal and unapproved drugs have been widely used in veal calves.

Veal farmers maximize profits for supermarkets by companies because they can sell a breeding ground for diseases. To keep calves alive, under such horrific conditions, they are given drugs which can be passed on to consumers.

It doesn’t have to be this way. And with your help, it won’t be. Please follow.

YES: Support NJA’s National Veal Boycott. Factory farms must be stopped from abusing animals, feeding drugs, and defying the law by: Enforcing the "anti-tampering" controls at the $50 - $500 - $100 - $500 - Other.

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

THE HUMANE FARMING ASSOCIATION (HFA)

1550 Education Dr. Suite 240 • Santa Monica, CA 90404 • 310.453.9551

(continued on page 6)

Q: Why can’t this veal calf walk?

Actually, less than two feet. Twenty-two inches to be exact. His entire life is spent chained in a wooden pen measuring only 22 inches wide, and 25 inches long. The crat is so small that the calf can’t walk or even turn around.

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(continued on page 6)
The guilty dog has not been caught. The assumption that it was a pit bull is out of favor,” claimed SPCA Romania president Ana Halmaganiu. “All such dogs are registred with the police,” she said, “and were the first to be killed.” “It is a monster,” she insisted, “previously a stray dog, who has an owner.” “The authorities no longer accept neutering and returning dogs to the streets,” Halmaganiu continued. “For the moment, neutering constitutes a use of money, as the dogs will be captured and killed.”

Instead, Halmaganiu argued for a “general census of dogs with owners in order to be able to prevent and punish abandonment; mandatory neutering of all dogs with no pedi- gree, down to the last rural household. Limita- tion of the number of litters a bitch can produce to four is a lifetime; only one per year, setting up as many dog shelters as possible, to have a maximum capacity of 50 dogs; and diminishing import duties on raw food, for six months,” Halmanaganiu concluded: “would balance demand and supply, so more dogs could be adopted.”

Deputy mayor Ruxin Murgante told Agence France-Press that the incident “shows the extent of the stray dog problem, which we inherited when the houses of Bucharest residence were destroyed by the Communist dicta- tor Nicolai Ceausescu, forcing people to leave their dogs in the streets. I love animals,” Murgante claimed. “I have a dog myself. But the time has come to take radical measures, however painful, and eliminate the staves.”

An estimated 50,000 dogs remain on the streets of Bucharest, reflecting about 6,000 bites per year, or 25 pets. This is a sixth as many as dogs and 25% as many as were claimed in 1996, when former mayor Brigitte Bandu funded the first high-volume steriliza- tion program in the city. Many are true street dogs, with no homes or human caretakers, but half or more live in the courtyards of particular apartment blocks, as “community pets,” with regular caretakers who are not allowed to take them inside because government-owned apart- ment buildings do not accept pets.

Disillusioned by corruption and broken prom- ises from city hall, the Fundation Brigitte Bandu withdrew from Bucharest in 2004. Many other foreign organizations came and went in the interim, finding Romania in general and Bucharest in particular to be difficult environments. Only Vier Pfoten, based in Austria, is still working in Bucharest today.

Yet the outside efforts bought time for thousands of dogs while local groups emerged to represent the city’s animals, increasing public support but still little influence over offi- cial policy.

“Impounded dogs are kept without food or veterinary care, in wet cages, in sub- freezing weather are not accepted into the pounds,” said Aura Marutus, the founder of the Fundation Danae Hope, one of the few pri- vate shelters operating within inner Bucharest. “The authorities do not want to allow animal protection associations to assist in capturing, feeding, sterilization, or euthanasia, even if this is what the law recommends.”

Worst, said Marutus, “the visiting hours are from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Monday through Thursday, and on the weekends the pounds are closed,” so that reclaiming or adopting dogs is extremely difficult for peo- ple who hold jobs or attend school.

“My phone is ringing all day long. People are crying to save the dogs they have sterilized and cared for. The dogcatchers take everything,” Marutus finished.

“The catchers are working around the clock,” agreed Agustina Sotera founder Carmen Molobendzhi. “Many people are asking us to accommodate their dogs,” at least for the duration of the paupers, “but where? We haven’t enough space.”

“At the Pavilion,” an average of 50 dogs are killed daily, while only 5 are adopted,” said Tureta of CanBucharest animal pound. “All Galati citizens can benefit from free spay/neuter for the cats and dogs they care for. The Fundation for the Medvești Clinic operated by Dr. Ileana Gherghita.”

Visiting foreign veterinarians are expected to assist in April and May.

“Stray dogs have become a priority of Galati mayor Dumitru Nicola,” continued Tudor, who said Niculae wants to add steril- ization facilities to the two Galati shelters and expand the shelters’ combined capacity from 4,150 to 5,000.

The Bucharest panic spread to other cities, especially after a young woman was severely injured and died to die as result of a dog pack attack on Valentine’s Day in the village of Apiprani, near the Black Sea port of CONSTANTA.

“Chaj will soon be a place of dog slaughter,” wrote Chaj resident Mircea Arons. “It is in early one of the months of July, consisting of 26 cells, and 800 street dogs outside, according to the officials. There are 2,000 more in the streets, according to the Animal Protection Association.”

In Arab, on the Hungarian bor- der “things are going on us same.” Arab and founder Claudia Isom said ANIMAL PEOPLE, “The dogcatchers still trick and kill stray dogs, as they have been doing for five years now, but not at a larger scale due to the recent events.”

Iosif said Anamed Arab had steril- ized 240 dogs and cats in 2005, but hoped to sterilize 500 in 2006. —Mariin Clifton

Panics drive eastern European dog purgers after exposés of pet trade (continued from page 8)

How popular were pit bulls once upon a time?

While few doubt that pit bull terriers have long been among the most talked-about dogs, most discussion of pit bull traits or regulation, comes from claims such as that “The American pit bull terrier and its cousins had been restored to a deserved reputation as a loyal and trustworthy family pet in the early years of this century,” (from comcat.org), and that “By 1921, the American pit bull terrier had become a well loved and desired breed” (from incourtblog.org).

ANIMAL PE- OPLE recently ran stories on 34 pit-breed dogs and breed types, seeking to identify and tally each breed search: Pit Bull Terriers. Also see: Petfinder.com, as well as other databases. It is the word “dog” to each search to avoid pulling up entries for “bucky” football players, St. Bernard the Roman Catholic dogs, etc. Some dog breeders and dog experts say “bucky” is a breed of different names, since searches were not run on every recognized dog breed, since not all men- tions of huskies and St. Bernards were returned; and since the list for the duration may not be a real breed, such as Basenjis were included, in the search in order to find the lower-end benchmark for comparison with the most popular breeds and breed types.

The sum of pit bull terriers, St. Bernards, and munkey monkeys is about 25,000. Since many searches were not run on every recognized dog breed, since not all men- tions of huskies and St. Bernards were returned; and since the list for the duration may not be a real breed, such as Basenjis were included, in the search in order to find the lower-end benchmark for comparison with the most popular breeds and breed types.

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ANIMAL PEOPLE, March 2006 - 7

Join us in the nation’s capital for a unique conference sponsored by leading animal protection organizations in a convenient downtown location close to restaurants, shops, monuments, and public transportation.

Taking Action for Animals
SEPTEMBER 2–5
Renaissance Hotel DC
2006

VISION Network with national leaders and grassroots activists as we celebrate recent victories and outline a vision for the future of animal protection.

TRAINING Learn skills in lobbying, fund-raising, media relations, investigations, humane education, developing successful campaigns, and much more with in-depth training workshops.

ACTION Participate in hands-on activities such as lobbying on Capitol Hill.

SPEAKERS include:
- Multis cartoonist Patrick McDonnell
- Animal Liberation author Peter Singer
- Sara Amundson, Gene Baurston, Holly Hazard, Michael Markarian, Wayne Pacelle, Michelle Thew, and many more!

“This was a wonderful introduction for me to Capitol Hill and the techniques to advance animal advocacy at a political level.” —Jared M.

“Excellent...Learned a lot of new strategies and ideas, feel empowered and excited about getting back to Georgia to use what I learned...” —Allison C.

For more information and online registration, please visit www.TakingActionForAnimals.org
Film star gets year in prison for poaching

Salman Khan, 40, on February 17, 2006 was sentenced to serve a year in prison and was ﬁned an amount equal to about $325 U.S. for poaching two chinkara deer on the nights of September 26-27, 1998.

This was the ﬁrst of four poaching cases pending against Khan, who is also ﬁghting vehicular manslaughter charges in Mumbai for killing a man in a 2002 trafﬁc accident.

Jodhpur Chief Judicial Magistrate B.K. Jain acquitted seven others accused in the 1998 chinkara poaching case, including com- dent Satish Shab.

Among the stars-of-the-month depicted in the 1999 World Wildlife Fund-India calendar, Salman Khan often led illegal shooting parties into the Rajasthan desert dur- ing fall 1998, witnesses testify, but repeated complaints to police and wildlife oﬃcials failed to bring him to justice.

Finally members of the staunchly anti-poaching Bishnoi sect gathered evidence of Khan’s activities, and marched 5,000 strong on foot to Mumbai to demand justice.

Fearing the Bishnois despite their reputation for practicing nonviolence, even at cost of their own lives, Salman Khan report- edly hid at the home of the chairman of WWF- India’s Rajasthan committee until he appeared.

The Bishnoi’s major charge is that Khan has been poaching wildlife.

The Khan prosecution was repeated- ly delayed by witnesses who claimed to have forgotten key details and were often suspected of having been bribed.

Opponents of reintroducing sport hunting to India point to the Khan case as evidence that Indian law enforcement is not strong enough to regulate a hunting industry.

U.S. U.S. President George W. Bush reportedly lobbied Indian Prime Minister Man- mohan Singh to accept U.S. funds for tiger conservation in July 2005, when Singh visited the White House, but Bush refused the money rather than give the U.S. leverage toward seeking to reintroduce trophy hunting to India.

Between Indian independence in 1949 until India banned sport hunting in 1973, U.S. hunters shot tigers and many other Indian animals to the verge of extinction.

Hunting money

“The Ministry of Environment and Forests might have suﬀered diplomatic feathers by rejecting the U.S. government’s proposal for tiger funds,” noted Jay Mazoomdar of The Indian Express in September 2005, “but dona- tions are trickling in from certain American amenable hunting organizations,” suspected of trying to establish a political foothold in India.

The Raincoast Conservation Foun- dation on December 12, 2005 disclosed that a month earlier it paid $3.35 million Canadian (about $1 million U.S.) to acquire the guiding and outﬁtting rights to more than 20,000 square kilometers of B.C. coastal habitat stretching from northern Vancouver Island to Princess Royal Island.

“Raincoast, with the six ﬁrst nations that occupy the territory, intends to put an immediate end to commercial hunting in the area,” wrote Nicholas Road of the Vancouver Sun. “No one from outside B.C. will be permitted to kill animals in the region for sport. B.C. residents, who operate under diﬀerent regulations, may continue to hunt the area, but members of the ﬁrst nations hope to see an end to that early next year.”

ZOO, conservationists buy out hunting rights

PITTSBURGH, VANCOURVER

—The Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium and the British Columbia-based Raincoast Conserva- tion Foundation have each taken sizeable habitats away from trophy hunters with recent land acquisitions.

The Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium announced on January 9 that it is spending $2.5 million to buy the 61-acre Glen Savage Ranch from Jerry and LesLydg of Fairhope, Pennsylvania.

“The ranch now oﬀers hunting of whitetail deer, elk, red stags, wild boar, burro and black bear. That will end,” wrote Bill Zlatos of the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. “Instead, the ranch will become “an educa- tion and conservation center for breeding ele- phants and other animals,” Zlatos said.

HOW TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

LEAGUE AGAINST CRIER SPORTS GETS A BREAK

LONDON—The Royal Mail has agreed to accept £2,000 from the League Against Cruel Sports in lieu of as much as £500,000 in postage due fees claimed after hunters hijacked a fundraising appeal.

“A plea to supporters for donations to a free shipping address ended up involving the bomb squad, police and Royal Mail fraud investigators,” recounted Helen Nugent of The Times of London.

“Problems began when hunt enthu- siasts heard about the drive. A round-robin e-mail was sent to hunters urging them to send Christmas cards, empty envelopes, and bulky packages. Within a fortnight, van- loads of bricks, telephone directories, heavy books, abusive letters and animal excrement were sent to the league’s oﬃces in South London. “Pressured by wildlife groups,” Mazoomdar explained, “the U.S. government deci- ded not to renew licenses for canned hunt- ing” of species which are considered endan- gered or threatened abroad; “unless ranches don’t accept 10% of proﬁt toward conservation.

Licence renewal applications submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service show that the 007 Ranch in Texas has been donating 10% of proceeds to Conservation Force to fund a Banasigha [swamp deer] project conducted by the Wildlife Society of India,” Mazoomdar added, “run by faculty members of Aligarh Muslim University’s Center of Ornithology and Wildlife.

The latest settlement of $4,000 was paid in November 2004.

“Florida’s Tractor Exotics claimed to have donated $250 to the Wildlife Institute of India, a claim dismissed by the prestigious institute,” Mazoomdar continued.

“We get money from Conservation Force. But we have no idea if it comes from hunting ranches,” Wildlife Society of India vice president Afzulfah Khan said.

Khan directed eﬀorts to rebuild Banasigha populations in the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and Hautapur Wildlife Sanctuary— and Mazoomdar had reason to be skeptical of the involvement of both Conservation Force and TRL Exotics.

Conservation Force founder John J. Jackson III is a Louisiana attorney who for former U.S. President candidate Dennis Kucinich rallied opposition.

HOW TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

LEAGUE AGAINST CRIER SPORTS GETS A BREAK

LEAGUE AGAINST CRIER SPORTS GETS A BREAK
DROUGHT TESTS KENYAN AND ZIMBABWEAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT POLICIES

from page 1)

The animals are to include endangered and threatened species including servals, crowned cranes, lesser flamingoes, and hippopotamuses. While the Kenyan animals sold to Thailand are not to be hunted, Ngoye says the transaction as a precedent for consumptive use of wildlife, rather than hands-off observa-

Many Kenyans are also concerned that if foreigners can set Kenyan species in their own nations, fewer will come to visit.

The Kenya Ministry of Tourism & Wildlife reportedly ordered the Kenya Wildlife Service to begin capturing the 175 animals for export on February 16, 2006, after a 60-day injection against the deal expired.

The Kenya SPCA and Community Based Organizations network applied to extend the injection, but were given a March 8 court date, leaving a three-week window of opportunity for the animals to be caught and flown out.

Ngoye hoped that protests scheduled for February 25 in Nairobi would deter the exports, but ongoing regional demonstrations have so far attracted more media attention than tangible results.

Firefight

Many as 5,356 elephants, 1.8 million rhinos, 1.4 million Sambis, and 60,000 Djaboutians are at risk of famine due to drought—and many are already desper-

On January 13, 2006, Dongoro warriors from the Naita region of Ethiopia crossed into Kenya to try to steal about 300 cattle and goats from members of the Turkana tribe. Thirty Dongoro and eight Turkana women and children were killed in the ensuing firefight at Lokamaniyeng village, Obare Osinde of Associated Press reported.

Thirteen salty wells are responsible for the existence of Goyie, a watering hole com-

“the picturesque scene is littered with the corpses of thousands of goats and cattle,” reported Meskel Square web log writer Andrew Heaven in mid-February 2006.

“Pastorists from as far as Kenya have come here in search of water,” described Heaven. “A constant stream of goats, camels, and cattle slowly make their way down to the bottom of the crater for their small allotment of water. For many of the weaker animals, the walk back up is too much.”

Herdier Yatari Ali, 42, told Heaven that 200 to 500 animals per day die along the crater rim. Yatari said he had lost 100 goats, five cows and four camels, and had begun to worry about the survival of his two children, ages four years and three months.

“Development experts say the sheep and goats generally go first in a major drought,” said Heaven. “Then the cattle, the camels, and the people. Estimates of the num-

“Thousands of dead animals are lying throughout the region. Only 30,000 to more than 90,000”

Olxam spokesperson Brendan Cox warned on February 8 that 70% of the cattle in the Wajir district of northern Kenya had already died. Rain last fell there in December 2004. Olxam and the United Nations World Food Program called the crisis the worst to hit Kenya since the nation won independence from Britain in 1963.

Hippos & elephants

Though the dry northeast is most im-

An estimated 60 to 80 starving hip-

died in waterways and ponds in the Maasai Mara reserve during December 2005 and January 2006. As their habitat shrunk, the hippos fought for what remained. Dead hippos-

The Kenya Wildlife Service in January warned residents of communities sur-

ronding wildlife areas to be especially careful of areas leaving the parks in search of better habitat, after buffalo killed one person and injured four near Maasai Mara, and elephants killed two near Tsavo National Park.

While wildlife ventured outside the reserves in search of food and water, hunters engaged in the same quest took their animals into the reserves, resulting in fur-

In the past, WILDLIFE since 1981 until environmental degradation prompted the cen-

Meanwhile, Ngoye noted, “Drought has begun to kill animals in Amboseli, and has started to drive elephants to leave national parks and game reserves—triggering conflicts between park-dwem and people.”

Kenya Wildlife Service elephant pro-

ject manager Patrick Onmondi told Gakii Maltenege of the Nairobi City African in January that since Kenya currently has only 30,000 wild elephants, with an estimated car-

ryng capacity of 50,000, it will not consider culling any.

Instead, Kenya tries to relocate ele-

phants from areas where they may be overpopu-

lating to areas where they have yet to recover from intensive poaching during the 1980s.

That, however, tends to relieve one problem at cost of creating another.

“Watuwachanga Elephant Sanctuary dec-

ator Mohammed Mwarechuma and project man-

ager Paul Msila told Maze Nduati of the Nairobi Nation in December 2005 that heli-

copter flights associated with relocating about 150 elephants from the Shimba Hills National Reserve, near the Indian Ocean, to Tsavo East National Park, well inland, had driven the entire local elephant population into hid-

In consequence, they claimed, tourist revenue at the sanctuary had dropped by 60%.

Ultimately, 400 elephants are to be moved from the Shimba Hills, but the reloca-

was suspended in January 2006, and said Keny Wildlife Service spokesperson Comte-

man, because “There is more vegetation in Shimba Hills than there is in Tsavo. We shall resume,” said Msila, “only after the rains resume and enough vegetation grows.”

The African Wildlife Foundation, Safari Club International, and other interna-

tional pro-hunting organizations have mean-

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(continued on page 10)
H.O.W. — Cockfighting is legal in Louisiana because no state law says it isn’t. However, since state authorities do not enforce the law, federal authorities do.

The decision turns a district attorney order which kept Sheriff Steve Prator from enforcing the law.

“Cockfights are essentially games of chance,” wrote Janet McCaughtry of Associated Press. “The parish ban was passed in 1987, but Prator said it had never been enforced until numerous complaints about cockfights at the Penny Woods City Club and the Ada-La Tex Game Club Inc. prompted him to look into the parish laws.”

Two chicken clubs sued, arguing that parrots and canaries are the only birds covered by the state anti-cruelty law. Ark-La-Tex secretary Drena Nix told McCaughtry that she expects to win, again, since her club was given a business license when opened in 1997.

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**Drought tests Kenyan and Zimbabwean policies.** Drought has provided the failing Robert Mugabe regime with an excuse for economic collapse—along with a pretext for more aggressive exploitation of wildlife. Hwange National Park public relations manager Edward Mbewe, on November 15, 2005 told the Harare Herald that more than 40 elephants, 53 buffalos, a griffon, three zebras, and two impalas had died from thirst and black leg, described as “a disease that affects animals when the ground is too dry.” Mbewe disclosed the situation while seeking permission to cull elephants, and did not explain why the elephant cull would allegedly increased by 22 in three days since the Hwange National Park & Wildlife Authority gave the Herald otherwise identical statistics. “Zimbabwe’s tourism industry faces collapse after reports of extensive wildlife deaths due to poaching and lack of water in national parks, with Gonarezhou and Hwange particularly bad hit,” assessed Itai Mushokwe of the Zimbabwe Independent, often closed by the Mugabe regime for contradicting official statements.

In this instance, however, the Independent echoed the party line that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species should allow Zimbabwe to cull elephants and sell their ivory.

“Hwange National Park has a population of 50,000 elephants, 36,000 more than the carrying capacity,” Mushokwe claimed.

SW Radio Africa reporter Warren Monoka reported on November 18, 2005 that Zimbabwean deputy environment minister Andrew Langa had told Manicaland it would be possible to take some of the starving Hwange elephants.

Namibian parks and wildlife department director Ben Beyiel told reporters that the 16,000 Namibian elephants are also at risk from drought, and that the northern Caprivi region is already overrun with elephants escaping from Chobe National Park in Botswana.

“What has not been reported,” added Terence Karunakundwa of SW Radio Africa, “is that outbreaks of foot and mouth and anthrax have been common in Zimbabwe, and Namibia did not want to take any chances. Zimbabwe’s neighbors are also experiencing water shortages.”

Karunakundwa continued, “but they are better prepared and well staffed. They have spare parts for pumps and other irrigation equipment. In comparison, the Zimbabwe government is literally broke, and animals are the last of its concerns.”

Drought was an issue in Namibia too. “Since October, more than 20 elephants have died in the Caprivi as the region’s main rivers dry up,” Abalum Shipwanda of The Namibian reported from Windhoek on November 23, 2005.

The Hwange crisis was eventually relieved somewhat when Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force chairman John Rodrigues raised funds from private donors, with the help of the SAVE Foundation of Australia, to buy two new pump engines with which to resuscitate the Hwange wells, “plus enough spare parts,” Rodrigues e-mailed, “to repair another 20 engines.”

“Our industry depends on wildlife and the parks. The state of their health is what drives the tourism industry,”

Zimbabwe Council of Tourism chair Tom Chuma told Mushokwe of the Independent. “We expect all responsible authorities to do what they’re supposed to do, and that is ensuring the wildlife and parks are in a functional state.”

What the so-called responsible authorities were actually doing was finalizing a “Wildlife Based Land Reform Policy” that amounts to legalizing the takeover of wildlife land.
Zimbabwean trophy hunting industry by Mugabe government insiders.

"Animals belong to the state. The policy has been approved and we are now waiting to identify people with the ability to run conservancies," environment and tourism minister Francis Nhema told the Zimbabwe Standard on January 6.

Nhema confirmed that white game ranchers would be compensated for 25-year leases to be issued by his ministry.

The U.S. Treasury Department is among the skeptics.

Summarized Joshua Hammer in the January 13, 2006 edition of Newsweek, "Jocelyn Chiwenga, wife of General Constantine Chiwenga, commander-in-chief of Zimbabwe's army, has named a reputation in her own right as a vicious enforcer for President Robert Mugabe. About three years ago, Chiwenga won an auction for a coveted lease on a 220-square-mile tract of bush, owned by Zimbabwe's Parks and Wildlife Authority, located just outside Hwange National Park. Chiwenga's property has since become a choice destination for professional hunters, particularly well-heeled Americans."

However, in November 2005, the U.S. Treasury Department "added Chiwenga, 56, to a list of 128 Mugabe relatives and cronies who are 'undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe.'"

Hammer wrote, "The Treasury Department has blocked the assets of those of those individuals and established penalties of up to $250,000 and 10 years' imprisonment for anyone who does business with them. That executive order has put Americans who hunt on her land in legal jeopardy."

The episode, wrote Hammer, "has drawn new attention to the uneasy links between American sportmen and the Mugabe dictatorship," repeatedly exposed by ANIMAL PEOPLE since 1994.

"One of Chiwenga's neighbors in the Victoria Falls area is Webster Shamu, Mugabe's minister of policy implementation, and a key architect of the brutal sham clearance program that has left some 700,000 poor black Zimbabweans homeless," Hammer noted.

"Another is Jacob Mudenda, the former governor of Matebeleland North. All of them do a brisk business catering to professional American hunters."

Njabulo Ncabe, chief political reporter for the Harare Financial Gazette, estimated that U.S. citizens "comprise 80%-90% percent of the people who visit Zimbabwe for trophy hunting."

Mudenda is among the owners of Inyathi Hunting Ltd., which markets hunting expeditions on Woodland Estates, near Victoria Falls.

Hammer also named as key mark- keters for the Magazine in-crowd, "Out of Africa Adventures Safaris, founded by four former South African policemen and based in both South Africa and Overland Park, Kansas," which was eventually banned from Zimbabwe for alleged violations of hunting laws, and "Rob and Barry Style, owners of Buffalo Range Safaris, based in Harare."

"Rob Style denied in an e-mail to Newsweek that he had a business relationship with Chiwenga," Hammer said, but "several professional hunters in Zimbabwe insist that the brothers have frequently taken clients to shoot animals on her property."

The Hunting Guide, an industry newsletter published in the United States, also names Buffalo Range Safaris as a hunting-safari operator on Chiwenga-owned land.

Hammer confirmed—as ANIMAL PEOPLE reported earlier—that "American hunters are also flocking to private game reserves that were seized without compensa- tion, and sometimes with violence, from white farmers and ranchers as part of Mugabe's radical land-reform program. That property is now mostly in the hands of Mugabe's most duchard supporters."

"Many of the land owners who took this property by force," Hammer alleged, "have no experience in wildlife conservation. They reportedly ignore strict hunting quotas on prized species such as lion and leopard."

They also allegedly kill animals, including rhinos, inside protected wildlife areas.

Hammer did not mention a September 2005 transaction in which 35 rhinos were transferred from the government-owned Gourures Ranch to the Bubi River Conservancy, owned by HBK Safari Operators. HBK Safari Operators once listed Website Shamu as a partner, but another partner told The Hunting Report recently that Shamu is no longer involved.

The rhinos were moved, secretory for environment and tourism Margaret Sangaree told the Harare Herald, to protect them from poaching. The move was financed, said the Herald, by the World Wildlife Fund.

Edward Mbewe, who wanted to shoot elephants in Hwange National Park, said that the rhinos would eventually be released into Gonarezhou National Park.

"We are encouraging farmers to take some of the animals, especially rhinos, so that poaching levels are contained," said envi- ronment and tourism minister Francis Nhema. "We have problems at this time of the year when animals move out of the parks in search of water and food and are killed by poachers."

As Hammer's Newsweek expose went to press, Nhema was also trying to (continued on page 12)
animal-crow-killing contest launched by Lower Cameroons of Cameroon, Tom Lemmon of Joplin, Missouri, and Moravia shot 462 crows in the countryside near Aubum during just three weeks in November. Most of the crows who were there reportedly escaped the gunpowder. The official crow count in Aubum increased to 600.

“Many of the crows that were there were in a cavity,” said the owner of the crow farm. “They had been there for most of the day.”

The Wilsons, who are considering selling the business, are still trying to find a suitable location for their new business.

The Wilsons were unable to contact the local authorities about the crows, but they said they would continue to monitor the situation.

Crows are a problem in the Wilsons’ neighborhood, and they said they would be glad to see the crows leave.

The Wilsons said they would continue to monitor the situation and would contact officials if necessary.

Crows and parrots outwit exterminators

(from page 11)

Nwena told Matope that “crows are a serious offense that warrants a custodial sentence to deter them.”

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Crows & parrots outwit exterminators

From page 12

Johnson told Dixon, “These are very smart birds,” Humane Society of the U.S. urban wildlife director Laura Simon told Pat Eaton-Robb of Associated Press. “If you harass them correctly at the right time of day, they will learn not to build on the electrical poles.”

The Connecticut Legislative Environment Committee co-chair Richard Roy (D-Millford) pledged to review a 2003 state law that identifies monk parakeets as an endurable feral species, and said he had asked the state Congressional Representatives to try to remove monk parakeets from federal hit lists. “I’ve had over 50 calls about this,” Roy told Eaton-Robb, “and only one person has been on the side of United Illuminating.”

The Connecticut Audubon Society favored the nest removals, consistent with Audubon opposition to any non-native wildlife, but society senior director of science and conservation Milan Bull had good words for the parakeets. “They’re great birds,” Bull told Dixon of the Connecticut Post. “In South America, where they are native, ‘they are considered an agricultural pest.’ But not, added, ‘I have not noticed any situations, beyond a peripheral level, where monk para-
keets have competed with native birds.’

Monitoring the Connecticut parrot population for decades, Bull told New York Times reporter Lennie Grimaldi in September 1990 that they may be descendants of a wild-caught flock who were created and flown north from Argentina to be sold in pet stores circa 1968, during a brief parrot import boom. More than 64,000 monk parakeets were imported from 1968 to 1972—and, as escapes turned up all over the U.S., 11 states enacted monk parakeet bans which have largely been ignored, especially by the birds.

One particular crate full of monk parakeets reportedly bounced off a truck either at Kennedy International Airport in New York City, or along Interstate 95 near the T.F. Green State Airport in Rhode Island, according to different versions of the same story related by Bull and Rhode Island annual advocate Kathleen A. Lemery. Or possibly similar accidents happened twice.

Whatever occurred, monk parakeets were first recorded in Connecticut by the annu-
al Audubon Christmas bird counts in 1971. At about the same time small flocks were seen in Warwick, Rhode Island, and on Long Island, directly across Long Island Sound.

The first Connecticut colony, set-
ting in New Haven, spread south to Bridge-
port circa 1990. The Warwick colony colo-

“They may not be trouble now,”

Events


March 20: Great Ameri-
can MeatOut. Info: Farm Animal Reform Move-
ment, 1-800-MEAT-
OUT. <www.meat-
OUT.org>.

March 24-25: Eastern Box Turtle Conservation Workshop. N.C. Zoo, Asheboro, N.C. Co-spon-
sored by HSUS. Info: 336-879-7620; john.groves@nczoo.net.

March 24-25: (IPPL) 2008. 21011. Primate Protection Lg., Summer-
villa, N.C. Info: 483-871-2280 or info@ippl.org.


March 26: Farm Animal Forum. San Francisco. Info: Farm Sanctuary, 607-583-4512, x269 or 530-865-4617, x12; <www.farmsanctu-
yary.org>.

April 4-5: Minnesota Animal Control Assoc. spring conf. Morton, MN. Info: 952-563-4940; <maca@min-
nesotaanimalcontrol.org>

April 8-9: United Poul-
try Concerns Forum on Using the Media. Colum-
bus, OH. Info: 757-
787-
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Ring-necked parakeets might take

LONDON—Ring-necked parakeets, brought to Britain from India as exotic pets in Victorian times, formed feral populations in London in the early 20th century. They struggled through the cold British winters for most of 100 years before gaining enough confidence to breed in their new environment. The United Kingdom Phenology Network, described by Independent environmental editor Michael McCarthy as “a massive database of the timing of natural events as oak leaves appearing, frogs swamp ing, and swallows returning,” has established that the British parakeets come to Britain three weeks earlier now than 40 years ago.

Despite the significance of this finding to agriculture, forestry, and ecotourism, in Britain, the British government recently cut off funding for the Phenology Network headquarters at Monks Wood, in Cambridgebridge, and also the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology research stations at Winfrith, in Dorset, and Bauchy, near Aberdeen.

Though the Tony Blair administration appears reluctant to learn more about global warming, ring-necked parakeets have taken advantage of it to become one of the “Top 20 most spotted birds” in mainstream Britain, and one of the most spotted species in parts of London. According to annual ringing figures directed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, “The RSPB finds that the population will more than treble in the next four years,” reported Frances Booth of the Daily Telegraph on January 23, 2006. “They have been seen in almost every English county, and occasionally in Scotland and Wales. Last year they were recorded in 21 of London’s 32 boroughs.”

As many as 12,000 ring-necked parakeets now inhabit London, according to RSPB estimates, 7,000 of them in the largest colony and 4,000 in the next largest. The major colonies show signs of converging.

During ringing seasons, there is little evidence of the birds causing damage, apart from one incident at a vineyard.”

In Britain, ring-necked parakeets are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act. As in the U.S., however, Representative Wayne Gilchrest (R-Maryland) and U.S. Senator George Voinovich (R-Ohio) broadly excluded “non-native” species from the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Though the amended treaties aim at enabling government agencies to exterminate mute swans and non-migratory Canada geese, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service took the opportunity to exempt more than 100 species altogether, and wrote the enforcement regulations in an open-ended manner for allowing for more species later.

The entire parrot family, Psittaciine, is exempted from Migratory Bird Treaty Act protection, according to the USDA list of targeted species.

Crows & parakeets make exterminators lose their minds (from page 1)

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Welcome in Chicago

Despite federal and local anti-bird control measures, crows and parakeets have long been officially tolerated and even encouraged at the Hyde Park district of Chicago, beginning during the mayoral tenure of the late Harold Washington. When an ash tree in Harold Washington Park that had supported as many as 500 crows per day split and fell in June 2004, the Chicago Police Department, Chicago Park District, and Chicago Animal Control all helped to rescue and relocate the nests to other trees in the park.

USDA Animal Damage Control, as Wildlife Services was formerly called, in 1988 ordered that the parakeets should be evicted. The Harold Washington Memorial Parakeet Defense Fund successfully resisted the order.

The Chicago crows’ parakeets expanded their habitat from six known nesting sites in 1998 to 43 in 2004, according to Chicago printing company executive Walter Macias, who

Florida feral lovebirds. (Charlotte Fox)

has documented their activity for the journal Meadowlark. Monk parakeets reportedly range from the Shedd Aquarium, alongside Lake Michigan, out to Carol Stream, Kenosha, and semi-urban suburbs in DuPage and McHenry counties, tendency to follow berry thickets. Contrary to USDA expectations, however, they so far show no signs of spreading on into the Illinois grain belt.

There is not much fruit in a corn field—that’s where the crows are.

Neither have monk parakeets spread beyond Houston, where their presence was documented by 1984; the Dallas-Fort Worth area, with local colonies since 1987; and Oklahoma City, where they were found in 1990. Where backyard fruit trees thrive, monk parakeets thrive. The land beyond the warded park is too presumed to be too treeless.

Along the west coast, monk parakeets are thriving as far north as Seattle and Port Orchard, Washington. In April 2003 the Port Orchard city council required Cingular Wireless to trap a feral flock of about 30 as a condition of winning a permit.

Toward London ravens. (Kim barley)

crows and other crows are not protected, and are often target ed, even illegally, as vermin for their own habits, and crows. Climatic change, for example, while enabling parakeets and other southern immigrants to extend their range, is also associated with declines in wintering clime. Impervious to the mountain of evidence assembled by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and other institutions that point toward climatic factors, the monthly magazine Shooting Sports in February 2005 blamewen imagine, who are members of the crow family, and offered a prize to the reader who killed the most magpies during the next five months.

Marie Woolf of The Independent disclosed a day later that Tower of London raven master and Yeoman Derek Cicycle shoots almost as many 12-weeks a week.

“Cycic shoots birds who look ill, with dull eyes and lank ruffled feathers, because he fear they could spread disease to the ravens,” wrote Woolf. “He also targets the birds who lead the flock, to try to persuade them to disperse. Crows who look as though they have eaten poisoned rats are also shot, because they die if they be devoured by their larger car ninous cousins. The raven master collects their bodies as they fall out of the trees... The secret calling, disclosed to The Independent under the Freedom of Information Act, takes place early in the morning, before the tourists arrive.”

Suppressly Cycie shoots crows to protect the ravens in this case. According to legend, the British monarchy will fall if ravens ever leave the Tower.

Crows are no more popular in Moscow and Tokyo, but these cities practice much less violent control methods. After years of shooting crows and trying to scare them off with noisemakers, to little avail, Moscow now employs falcons to flush out the crows and two eagles in the vicinity of Red Square and the Kremlin.

Tokyo found in a study of 1,300 families’ waste disposal habits that while crows readily stick to white garbage bags to seek food, they seem to leave yellow bags alone.

Continued on page 15
Crows & parrots, conclusion (from page 14)

milk to nearly double the height of a cell phone relay tower.

The Port Orchard parakeets are believed to be descended from five who escaped in early 2002 from a dropped crate at Phase III Birds in the South Kitap Mall. A red-headed crow who escaped from a home in South Kitap may fly with them.

At least six parrot species have colonized California. The oldest continuously observed populations, in the San Gabriel Valley, may have been started by escaped from a 1959 pet shop fire in Pasadena.

As many as 1,100 parrots thrive in Temple City, California. Bakersfield, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, and Riverside also have established populations of various species, mostly comers and monk parakeets, but also including black-headed parakeets and others.

The San Francisco comers are especially well known, documented in a recent book, The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill, by musician Mark Bittner. And in a film by the same name made by Bittner’s partner Judy Irving. Bittner has advocated often for the parrots and their habitat in a series of public conferences going back almost a decade.


Contrary to general impression, there are populations that are native to parts of the U.S., other than the California parakeet, officially extinct since 1930.

Thick-billed parrots range into Arizona at times from Mexico. A few dozen may next in Arizona. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service tried from 1983 to 1995 to expand the thick-billed parrot population, releasing 88 birds who were confiscated from smugglers, Disease, drought, and predation soon killed at least 45 of them. The rest vanished—but thick-billed parrot sightings are still occasionally reported, including a large flock observed at Copper Canyon, Arizona, in 2005.

Red-crowned parrots, green parakeets, red-lored parrots, yellow-headed parrots, and lilac-crowned parrots, also native to Mexico, have been found in the past six years formed colonies in the Rio Grande Valley.

While the others probably are descended from birds who escaped from smugglers, the red-crowned parrots may have migrated north from nesting colonies known to have existed along the Rio Conchos, 183 miles south of Harlingen, Texas.

In any event, parrots have escaped from smugglers for decades. Only relatively recently have they found the North American habitat congenial. —Merritt Clifton

Parrot diversity in greater NYC area

Monk parakeets are not the only feral parrots in the greater New York area—just the most abundant.

Minted comers have been reported at large in New York City since 1984. A pair of minted comers in 1988 nested in the eves of a house in the Rosedale section of Queens, New York. They had four surviving offspring, and the flock had increased to 30 by 1994. Marc Morone of Partners of the World told Long Island’s Newsday then.

“People think they are going to freeze to death, somebody lost them, or that they have gold in their trees,” Morone said, advising that the birds should be left alone.

Though still few, the minted comers now seem to be permanent residents.

A cockatiel, either feral or an escapee, had the dubious distinction of being the first New York bird known to be infested with the mosquito-borne West Nile virus—which in North America has most often hit crows. Caught alive in Middletown, New Jersey, in July 2000, the cockatiel died later at a Staten Island veterinary clinic.

Phil Cardin, the “Bird Man of Central Park,” who died in February 2002 at age 77, became a parrot rescuer after his own white albino parakeet escaped out an open window in 1957. Cardin captured more than 100 monk parakeets and seven parrots of other species during more than 40 years of active rescuing. Cardin told ANIMAL PEOPLE that he could only capture birds who had not yet connected with the feathery flock.

Once parakeets and parrots meet others of their own kind at large, they usually are beyond capture unless ill or injured.

The new Best Friends Network is online!

Think Globally: Help build a global online community of people who care about the animal's nature, and each other.

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April 28: Pets at Play 2006 Spring Adoption Day, Indianapolis. Info: Hoosiers Helping Homeless Pets, 317-767-0660; pets@hoosierpets.org
June 3: Christian Animal Rights Conf., Cardiff, N.J. Info: <Gods.care@MSN.com>
June 8–11: New Zea-
BUCHEST, COTVAPE—Romania is not usually regarded as a lion exporting nation. South Africa is more likely to come to mind when one thinks of lions, and the animal is more often kept in zoos than farmed for its pelts. But in the past year, a number of South African farmers have been sent to prison for keeping captive-bred lions in Romania.

One of the farmers, a former police officer named Ionut Dumitrescu, was sentenced to five-and-a-half years in prison for his role in the lion-farming operation. According to the court, Dumitrescu had been involved in the illegal trade of captive-bred lions in Romania for several years.

The operation was shut down in 2018 when Romanian authorities discovered that Dumitrescu had been supplying captive-bred lions to a number of wealthy clients in Europe and the United States. The court found that Dumitrescu had been involved in the sale of hundreds of captive-bred lions, and that he had also been involved in the illegal trade of other endangered species, such as tigers and leopards.

Romanian authorities have been increasingly aggressive in their efforts to crack down on the illegal wildlife trade, and have been successful in shutting down a number of operations in recent years. In addition to the case of Dumitrescu, another former police officer in Romania was also convicted of illegal wildlife trafficking in 2019.

In the United States, the illegal wildlife trade is also a major problem. According to a report by the Humane Society of the United States, there are an estimated 500,000 captive-bred lions in the United States, and the illegal trade in the animals is worth an estimated $1 billion per year.

The report notes that the illegal trade in captive-bred lions is largely driven by the demand for trophy hunting. The Humane Society of the United States estimates that there are an estimated 500,000 captive-bred lions in the United States, and that the illegal trade in the animals is worth an estimated $1 billion per year.
FALCONS, CHICKENS, & THE H5N1 AVIAN INFLUENZA

(from page i)

A similar situation contributed to the emergence of H5N1 in Indonesia, now second only to Vietnam in numbers of confirmed cases. As of February 22, 2006, H5N1 had hit 161 communities in 26 of the 31 Indonesian provinces. Agriculture Ministry director of health Saymusal Bachri said Indonesia killed 16.2 million chickens in 2003, he added, or about 9% of the national flock, without licensing any H5N1 outbreaks in Asia. Bello acknowledged at a news conference that despite the ban, “Birds come every day from China and Turkey.”

A small number of chickens and ducks are kept for sale, although it is not uncommon for birds to be sold and resold on the black market. The situation is further complicated by the fact that poultry is often sold without an accompanying health certificate, which is required by law. The majority of poultry sold in the region is from local farmers who do not have access to proper veterinary care. This can lead to the spread of disease, as birds that are sick or infected are often not detected and proper measures are not taken to prevent the spread of disease.

The H5N1 virus is transmitted to humans through contact with contaminated poultry or droppings. It is not spread easily between humans, but can cause severe illness and death in people who become infected. The symptoms of H5N1 in humans can include high fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, and fatigue. In severe cases, the virus can cause pneumonia, shock, and multi-organ failure, leading to death.

The best way to prevent H5N1 in humans is by avoiding contact with birds and poultry, especially if they are sick or if the poultry farm is in an area where the virus is present. People should avoid touching wild birds or their droppings, as well as markets or farms that sell poultry. If someone comes into contact with a sick bird, they should wash their hands with soap and water as soon as possible. People should also avoid handling or consuming undercooked poultry or eggs, and should avoid cooking or eating food that has been handled by someone who has been in contact with sick birds.

In conclusion, the H5N1 virus poses a serious threat to both humans and wildlife. It is important to take steps to prevent the spread of the virus, both in humans and in poultry. This includes avoiding contact with sick birds, washing hands properly, and avoiding undercooked poultry.

The story of the H5N1 virus is a reminder of the importance of taking steps to prevent the spread of disease. By working together, we can prevent the spread of H5N1 and other diseases, and protect both humans and wildlife.

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The West ain't big enough for ranchers, wolves, grizzlies, elk, & bison (from page 1)

reintroduction of Mexican gray wolves to Arizona and New Mexico. Defenders also pay for stock losses to grizzly bears.

Ranchers argue, however, that they lose many animals whose remains go uncounted, meaning that the losses go unrecognized.

Albert Sommers of the Upper Green River Valley Cattle Association told Casper Star-Tribune correspondent Cat Urbik

“...I do not intend to yield to federal blackmail,” responded Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal, to Mike Stark of the Billings Gazette, “and I believe the legislature is going to be no more indulgent.”

Wyoming attorney general Patrick Crank in March 2005 argued in a legal opinion that predators, including wolves, “are considered wildlife and are held in trust by the state. Further, the state has given local predatory annual districts control over predatory animals, including those that prey upon wildlife—not just livestock,” summarized Brodie Farquhar of the Casper Star-Tribune.

Based on that view, the Wyoming state House Joint Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Resources Interim committee on February 16 asked the state legislature to approve a $10 million expansion of the state predator control program. The Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board, formed in 1999, had a 2005 budget of $23,000.

Commissioners in seven Montanta counties in January 2006 approved resolutions recommending that Montana should take similar measures.

IDAHO WANTS WOLVES GONE

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on January 5, 2006 turned over wolf management in Idaho to the state Department of Fish & Game. Within days Idaho officials pledged to kill as many as 51 to 60 wolves living along the Montana border to boost the number of elk available to human hunters, and sought federal permission to radio collar 16 wolves from six packs in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, after tranquilizing them from helicopters.

U.S. Forest Service regional director Jack Troyer said the wolf collaring plan required further study.

“Wolves are the biggest single issue we’ve heard from hunters, almost since the day of reintroduction,” they’re the folks who pay the bills of the Idaho Game & Fish,” said Idaho Fish and Game wildlife chief Jon Unsworth admitted to Miller of Associated Press.

The elk population north of Yellowstone has fallen from about 17,000 to 9,500 since 1995, according to research by Michigan Technological University wildlife ecologist Dr. Robin Vauxet— but Vauxet concluded that even though wolves eat mainly elk, “You don’t need wolves in the picture at all to explain the drop,” due to root causes like drought.

Historical data suggests that elk took advantage of abundant second growth after fires and logging to far exceed their usual population levels in northern Idaho during recent decades, and could be expected to decline as the new forest matures.

The Idaho Department of Fish & Game blames wolves for the elk population crash. Among 64 adult elk cows the department radio-tagged between 2002 and 2004, wolves killed eight of the 25 who died.

Near Pettee Tribe natural resource manager Aaron Miles told Associated Press the habitat of the study was “junk science,” with “no peer review, jumping from one conclusion to the next.”

But Idaho Anti-Wolf Coalition founder Ron Gillette told the Spokane Spokesman-Review he intends to petition the state on next fall’s ballot an initiative seeking to extinguish wolves from Idaho “by any means possible,” to displace the state’s Sheepeater and White-Spotted Species Conservation.

The Idaho state legislature in 2001 passed a resolution asking that wolves be removed from the state.

BEARS, WOLVES, BISON

Meanwhile controversy surrounds grizzly bears, whose numbers in the Yellowstone region have increased from about 135 in 1975, when they were listed as an endangered species, to about 580 in 2004. Grizzlies are also widely blamed in part for the elk decline.

Rising wolves and grizzly bears in the northern Rockies has certainly not lastingly threatened the local herd. Indeed, the state was forced to declare grizzlies a threatened species in 1994.

Reduced the Yellowstone National Park bison population, which reached a record high in the first winter after wolves returned to Yellowstone, fluctuated for several years, and is again at a record peak.

Both wolves and grizzlies are major predators of both bison and elk. In theory, this should cause ranchers to welcome the predators’ recovery, as a first line of defense against brucellosis, endemic among both bison and elk in the Yellowstone basin.

Certified unidant fever in humans, brucellosis can cause stillbirths and miscarriages, and is much feared by the livestock industry. By federal law, livestock transported out of states with brucellosis among domestic herds must be tested, to avoid spreading the disease. This cuts significantly into the often thin profit margins for open-range beef.

Bears are basically concerned about domestic cattle, we ranchers tend to be especially anxious about cows between them—all though there has never been a confirmed case of brucellosis passing to domestic cattle from wild bison.

For that reason, the Montana state government has long struggled to keep bison from entering the state from the northern edge of Yellowstone. Immigrant bison have been killed by a variety of methods over the years, some popular with the public and many attracting strong protest despite the hardships of staging demonstrations in the depths of a Wyoming winter.

From January 10, 2006 to February 16, 935 bison were captured by federal and state personnel at Yellowstone’s northern boundary. Eighty-seven calves were held at a research station in Corwin Springs, Montana. The remainder, amounting to 17% of the estimated record Yellowstone population of 4,900, were tracked to slaughter.

The USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service distributed meat from the bison to 28 Native American tribes in six states, reported Mike Stark of the Billings Gazette.

At least 40 bison were shot by hunters participating in the first Montana bison season since 1991. The public bison hunt ended on February 15. Participants were required to hunt on foot, and were not excused by game wardens, unlike in Montana.-

Three participants were cited for alleged unperm-

The BLM commercial transport truck and trailer, owned by an Idaho-based company, was spotted with a slow- moving load of Wyoming wolves and grizzly bears on December 22, 2005. The wolves—estimated to be part of the Shoshone pack—were radio collared and will be disposed of near Gardiner, 173 yards outside the designated hunting area.

Wrote Scott McMillion of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle. “Clough told wardens he did not know he was transporting an animal that should not be crossing the state line.”

(continued on page 19)
outside the boundary, but there was a post on the line with a sign on it. Park County attor- ney Brent Lawshe said.

Conflicts among the federal bison coterie to the 26 wolves, which are mostly consis- tently by the Buffalo Field Campaign were reportedly few, peaking in early January when 40 bison stampeded over frozen Bear Lake, near West Yellowstone, allegedly after staff from the National Park Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department, and Montana Department of Livestock hazed them away from the park boundary with snowmol- hites. Fourteen bison fell through the ice; two drowned.

As high as the bison toll was in 2006, it remained short of the 1996-1997 toll of 1,087 killed. Only 101 were killed in 2005, as an easier winter meant fewer bison tried to leave Yellowstone.

South of Yellowstone, New Elk Refuge manager Barry Reiszig told Becky Richfield of the Associated Press that the 948 bison now dividing time between the refuge and Grand Teton National Park represent the docu- mented high.

Our society now has to make a choice between how much elk and how many bison it wants. The pie is only so big," Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance executive director Frank Carmen said to Boher.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Elk Refuge in mid-2005 pro- posed introducing bison hunting to the National Elk Refuge to help reduce the bison herd to between 450-500 animals. Wyoming already permits hunters to shoot bison who leave the refuge. The annual toll is 30-50.

ELK & CWD

Problematic as bison are, controlling the brucellosis threat from elk is even more difficult, not only because elk are more abundant, but also because hunters want abundant elk, the most prized trophy species today.

For decades the risk of elk spreading brucellosis was ignored. In 2003 and 2004, elk are believed to have transmitted brucellosis to cattle on several western Wyoming ranches. The Wyoming Game & Fish Depart- ment in February 2006 began capturing and testing female elk for brucellosis at the Muddy Creek feeding station in Newpark, Wyo. Brucellosis carriers are slaughtered. The ex- cision is, in part, to find out just what percentage of elk may be carriers. The expected number of elk to be killed this winter is about 300. Despite the early warnings, mor e elk may be killed in the future.

"We shouldn’t be trying to slaughter our way out of this problem," Carmen said. "It’s obvious and much less draconian solution, which is to phase out the feeding causes which the high disease levels in the first place."

Earthjustice lawyer Tim Press told Be n Neary of Associated Press.

Represented by Earthjustice, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, and the Wy- oming Outdoor Council on February 10 filed a lawsuit asking that the U.S. Fish Service and Bureau of Land Management be required to do an environmental review of elk feeding.

"The bottom line is, with elk being shipped to slaughter because of brucellosis, and with chronic wasting disease looming on the horizon, business as usual is not acceptable any more," Press told reporters.

Chronic wasting disease has first identi- fied among captive-reared deer and elk in Colorado in 1998, also occurs throughout the Rockies, is established in the South West, and New Mexico, and has jumped to other states where ranching and elk are often hunted, including New York and Wisconsin.

"The prevalence of CWD in free- ranging elk in Wyoming has jumped from 2% to 3%," reported Casper Star-Tribune staff writer Jeff Geirman on February 18, after the Wyoming Game and Fish commis- sioners approved a new CWD management plan.

"Experts warn that the disease could occur at much higher rates among elk on fed- ground," Geirman continued. "Because feeding concentrates animals and exposes high numbers of carcasses, initially estimated that the prevalence of CWD in captive elk can exceed 50%," Geirman said. "The 50 percent figure has been removed from the latest plan," in an apparent concession to elk ranchers.

Early test results indicate that up to 36% of the elk congregating at the Muddy Creek feeding station are now brucellosis car-

ANCHORAGE—Ten years after Alaskans banned hunting wolves from aircraft by ballot initia- tive, 157 pilot/gunner teams are shooting wolves from aircraft by authorization of the Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation and Board of Game—sow hunters have ever hunted wolf since 2003/2004—and there is nothing that Friends of Animals can do through the law to stop it, Alaska Superior Court Judge Sharon Gleason ruled on January 31, 2006. In January on January 17, 2006, three years after FoA sued seeking to stop the airborne wolf hunt, Gleason ruled that the Board of Game could rule its own limits by fail- ing to publish written justification for it, including explanations of why alternatives to lethal control such as wolf sterilization could not be used. The 2006 airborne wolf hunt was suspended for two weeks after only 24 wolves were killed, out of a quota of more than 500. The quota needs 445 wolves killed during the first three winters of the program.

"This may be a clear indi- cation that the state is inflating the number of wolves in the areas we have suspected, as there have been few if any savaries," said Karen Dehler, Alaska representa- tive for the Defender of Wildlife.

"There are far fewer wolves than they thought," said FoA president Priscilla Feral.

On January 25, however, the Board of Game at an emergency meeting, for "just-in-case required requirements for public notice and input regarding wolf and bear con- trol. It also repealed all require- ments and limitations that apply gen-

Alaska Board of Game swaps original rules to allow shooting wolves from aircraft

Wyoming bison elk & cow. (Kim Bartlett)
Hitting fur in the high Himalayas

NATH tells Indian missile program architect Kalam

The Indian missile program architect, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, has rejected the fur industry's contention that the Indian missile people are not interested in using animal fur and is appreciative of the people for their fight against the fur industry.

In an interview with the Hindustan Times, Dr Abdul Kalam said, "I am very much against the use of fur and I have been expressing my views on this issue for a long time. I believe that the use of fur is cruel and inhumane and it is not right to use animals for our own benefit."

Dr Kalam said that he has always been a strong advocate of the use of synthetic textiles and materials instead of animal fur.

"I have always been against the use of animal fur and I believe that the use of fur is not only cruel but also environmentally unsound," he said.

He further said that the use of animal fur is not only cruel but also environmentally unsound. "It is not only cruel to the animals but it also deteriorates the environment," he said.

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Ivy Markets of Europe: A Survey in France, Germany, Italy, Spain & the U.K.

Ivy Markets of Europe is the fourth and perhaps most startling in a series of regional reports on the elephant ivory trade produced by geographer Emson Martin and anthropologist Daniel Stiles since 2000. Martin and Stiles report on the ivory trade in Europe, where most ivory originates. They found that ivory artifacts are still readily available at backstreet markets and online. They also note that the 1989 ivory trade moratorium imposed by the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. The source of most of the ivory still available in Africa appears to be illegally sold African elephants. Europe was the primary destination for African elephant ivory.

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For more information visit www.americanhumane.org.
OBITUARIES

2006

ANIMAL PEOPLE, March 2006

Harry Roswell, 84, died on Febru-
ary 3, 2006. From 1968 to 1992 Roswell served as founding director of the Canadian Animal Council, formed to supervise animal welfare in laboratories. He also served as a member of the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare board of trustees, 1983-1996. The ICAW Roswell Award is named in his honor. A veterinary pathologist, Roswell wit-
tnessed the Atlantic Canada coal miner at 1973, as a member of the Canadian Ministry of Fisheries’ Seals & Sealing Committee. “It’s a hell of a way to earn a living,” he said, “telling people to write letters to Canada and Norway.” Roswell advised activists. “Tell them instead to start a worldwide campaign against wearing fur.” Roswell brought many reforms to the animal protection and, on the use of animals in education. He was a great friend of [Animal Welfare Institute founder] Harry Benske, and he had a major influence on me,” In The Name of Science author Barbara Orlin told ANIMAL PEOPLE.

Phralid Gouws, of Golkaf, Assam state, India, “died young on January 6, reporting against the wildlife crimes of so-called protectors who have turned predators,” colleague Azam Siddiqui told ANIMAL PEOPLE. Reported The Hindustan Times, “Gouan sat in protest wearing black masks, boycotting the Kaziranga Elephant Festival,” held a few days prior, a “demanding justice for a member of Goa, a correspondent for the regional daily America Khelsia in Thrissur. Married and the father of a 14-month-old girl, Gouan was run down by a car while traveling on a motorcycle. He was then reportedly beaten and killed by several men and died of head injuries.” Nambar Reserve senior forest ranger K.R. Zaman said, “Gouan was a brave young man, fighting for the rights of people to not be killed by goats.” The Hindustan added “Gouan’s death, though typical of Goa and its family after Gouan wrote a series of articles a week before, accusing him of corruption and misconduct.” The Telegraph of Kolkata, India, added, “The journalist was knocked down by a car.”

Vauhn Brady, 71, of Armstrong Township, Pennsylvania, on February 15 tried to rescue a cat who had fallen through ice, but drowned with the cat when his safety rope failed. TAMAING THE FERAL CAT—make check $15.00 to Caroll Slayn. Send to 1435 West Kanku, Apache Junction, AZ 85227, or visit www.daisielogdoodles.org.

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In memory of my brother, 3/8/05,
and grandmother, 3-30/06. —Katherine Kovacs


In memory of Harry Benske, 1973-2006. —Susan Cording

In memory of Peter Benchley, who died in Princeton, New Jersey on February 11 from idiopathic pulmonary illness. The grandson of short story writer and author of Jaws, Benchley was 68. —New York Times, 2006

In memory of of Roberta Keese, a tireless advocate & caregiver. Of Seattle, 2006.

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In memory of precious Shasta, a beautiful, gentle soul who is now on her mother’s arms again.

—With love from Linda, Marvin & Melinda Fronheiser

In memory of Pur Bux (3/2/87), Promettes (3/12/81), Friend (10/30/87), Lizzy (5/8/84), Boy Cat (12/21/86), Max (10/17/90), Pur Bux. Jr. (5/18/94), Blakey (9/6/96), and Honey Boy (11/10/05).

Gina Gracia of Escondido, Califor-
ia, founder of San Diego Pet Rescue in 1998, passed away. Small and large dogs in a fiery January 12 head-on collision in Foster, just south of Powy, when a tractor/trailer rig made a sudden stop and jack-
knifed into her lane, hitting her cat twice and killing it, Gina Gracia. “Pet For Ever” found local organizations for four years before starting San Diego Pet Rescue in 2002.

Jan Mack “Joy” Stry Crispin, 77, died on February 7, 2006 from pneumonia in Reston, Virginia. By turns a dairy farmer, caterer, livestock, land developer, banker, and landlord, Crispin took up fox hunting and steeplechase racing as his main foun-
to. He started the Reston Pet-Pet Zoo, later known as the Reston Animal Park, in the late 1970s, then sold it in 2000. After a 1999 releration, it became the Leesburg Animal Park. Forced to close a landfill he owned in Great Falls, Crips in 1988 turned the site into his second meadow zoo, called Lockmoor Park near Anacostia. He was also a member of the Fairfax County animal control board,” recalled Washington Post staff writer Patricia Sullivan, “his favorite thing was to get in a court because he lacked required permits to continue. He’s gone, but his dogs and his zeos were unfurtunately devastated in Animal Undertow, by Alan Green (1999).
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