



The American Federation of Aviculture Inc.

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Dear House Corporations Committee

I am Jodie Olmos, the Legislative Vice President of the American Federation of Aviculture, Inc., a 52 year old educational nonprofit that represents all avenues of Aviculture. This includes pet owners, commercial companies, breeders, rescues, sanctuaries and conservation groups. Our organization opposes proposed House bill 7334 introduced on January 28, 2026, that seeks to prohibit the sale of all psittacine species (parrots) within the borders of the State of Rhode Island by all legally licensed pet stores that otherwise would be within their legal rights to do so.

AFA strongly supports meaningful animal welfare protections, enforcement against bad actors, and public education. **Blanket bans on responsible breeders and retailers are not effective policy solutions.** Additionally, restricting sales exclusively to rescues creates a **false dichotomy** that harms both responsible breeders and reputable rescues. Rescues exist to rehome birds in need—not to serve as the sole pipeline for acquiring companion parrots. This bill risks overwhelming rescue organizations while removing consumer choice and transparency.

If H7334 is enacted, at the end of the grace period described in this bill, where would birds go that are still in pet stores? To these two rescues that claim they are already overwhelmed and overburdened with Birds? This bill creates a monopoly in the state Rhode Island. It interferes with the United States Constitution and Fair Trade act. This bill creates restraint of trade. The people in your great state should have the right to choose where they would like to purchase their birds from. This bill creates two stakeholders in your state. Foster Parrots, Ltd. and Rhode Island Parrot Rescue. This puts the state of Rhode Island in the position of picking winners and losers.

Rhode Island has one bird specialty store. The owners are highly respected in the community, and have maintained their business in this state, without any issues for over 35 years. Other businesses will also be impacted by this law. While many of these stores are small, local businesses, they also include 10 national chains that operate in this state with great success for themselves, pet owners, the State of Rhode Island, and its municipalities through the generation of tax revenue and jobs. The pet industry reports 6% of pet store sales are live animals, while approximately 73 % of pet store traffic is from customers that are there to see the live animals. How many pet stores in Rhode Island will close due to the lack of traffic?

If H7334 is enacted, it leads to several issues that may, or may not, have been thought of previously. It will require residents who wish to obtain a parrot, legally, to choose between three options. The first, is to purchase directly from a breeder, which there are very few parrot breeders in Rhode Island. The second, is to go to one of the two rescues that this bill expressly endorses by vesting them with express advisory powers: Foster Parrots, Ltd. and Rhode Island Parrot Rescue. The third, is for Rhode Island residents to go out of state to make their purchases. If this is done there is no oversight by Rhode Island. This directly takes money and tax dollars away from local businesses, the state and its municipalities.

As the USDA is already regulating bird breeders and bird exhibitors. It is unlikely that H7334 would serve any greater benefit to the animals than if the stores continued to be monitored for following the previously well-established laws for properly caring for the animals in their care.

Respectfully,

Jodie Olmos, Legislative Vice President
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Survival on the Ark: Life-History Trends in Captive Parrots

Institutional Research Affiliations (Source Study)

- Department of Biology, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM, USA
- International Species Information System, Eagan, MN, USA

Understanding Median vs. Maximum Lifespan

- Maximum lifespan reflects exceptional, outlier cases under ideal conditions.
- Median lifespan represents what most owners can reasonably expect.

Data Source & Methodology

Peer-Reviewed Scientific Study: Young, A. M., Hobson, E. A., Bingaman Lackey, L., & Wright, T. F. (2011). *Survival on the Ark: Life-history trends in captive parrots*. *Animal Conservation*.

Study Scope:

- Analysis of 83,212 life-history records of captive birds from the International Species Information System (ISIS).
- Lifespan and breeding parameters calculated for 260 species of parrots (approximately 71% of extant species).
- Species varied widely in lifespan, with larger species generally living longer than smaller species.
- The highest maximum lifespan recorded exceeded 90 years; however, only 11 other species had a maximum lifespan over 50 years.

Maximum and Median Parrot Lifespans (Captive)

| Species | Maximum (years) | Median (years) | Individuals Surveyed |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Umbrella (White-crested) cockatoo | 32.24 | 11.15 | 228 |
| Blue and Gold (Yellow) macaw | 48.52 | 20.78 | 273 |
| Sun conure | 29.70 | 18.98 | 23 |
| Yellow-naped amazon | 66.81 | 19.48 | 38 |
| African grey | 48.26 | 8.75 | 882 |
| Galah cockatoo | 72.82 | 10.08 | 249 |
| Sulphur-crested cockatoo | 72.95 | 12.38 | 309 |
| Goffin's cockatoo | 30.39 | 13.46 | 131 |
| Cockatiel | 35.92 | 8.98 | 241 |
| Rainbow lorikeet | 37.94 | 6.70 | 1325 |
| Eclectus parrot | 40.76 | 10.08 | 416 |
| Indian ringneck | 33.63 | 9.58 | 274 |
| Peach-faced lovebird | 34.10 | 8.23 | 120 |
| Black-masked lovebird | 24.24 | 5.56 | 106 |
| Fischer's lovebird | 32.24 | 7.80 | 203 |
| Moluccan cockatoo | 92.55 | 11.07 | 314 |
| Budgerigar (parakeet) | 18.01 | 5.20 | 324 |
| Senegal parrot | 27.16 | 5.47 | 186 |
| Hyacinth macaw | 54.26 | 21.77 | 141 |
| Scarlet macaw | 48.26 | 21.24 | 188 |
| Green-wing macaw | 63.04 | 19.19 | 180 |
| Military macaw | 54.43 | 20.12 | 110 |
| Golden conure | 60.90 | 21.68 | 34 |
| Nanday conure | 30.24 | 20.79 | 19 |
| Patagonian conure | 34.12 | 11.19 | 62 |
| White-bellied caique | 23.14 | 5.79 | 26 |
| Red-lored amazon | 37.84 | 18.44 | 26 |
| Double yellow-headed amazon | 41.50 | 20.78 | 54 |

* Median derived from adults over four years of age.

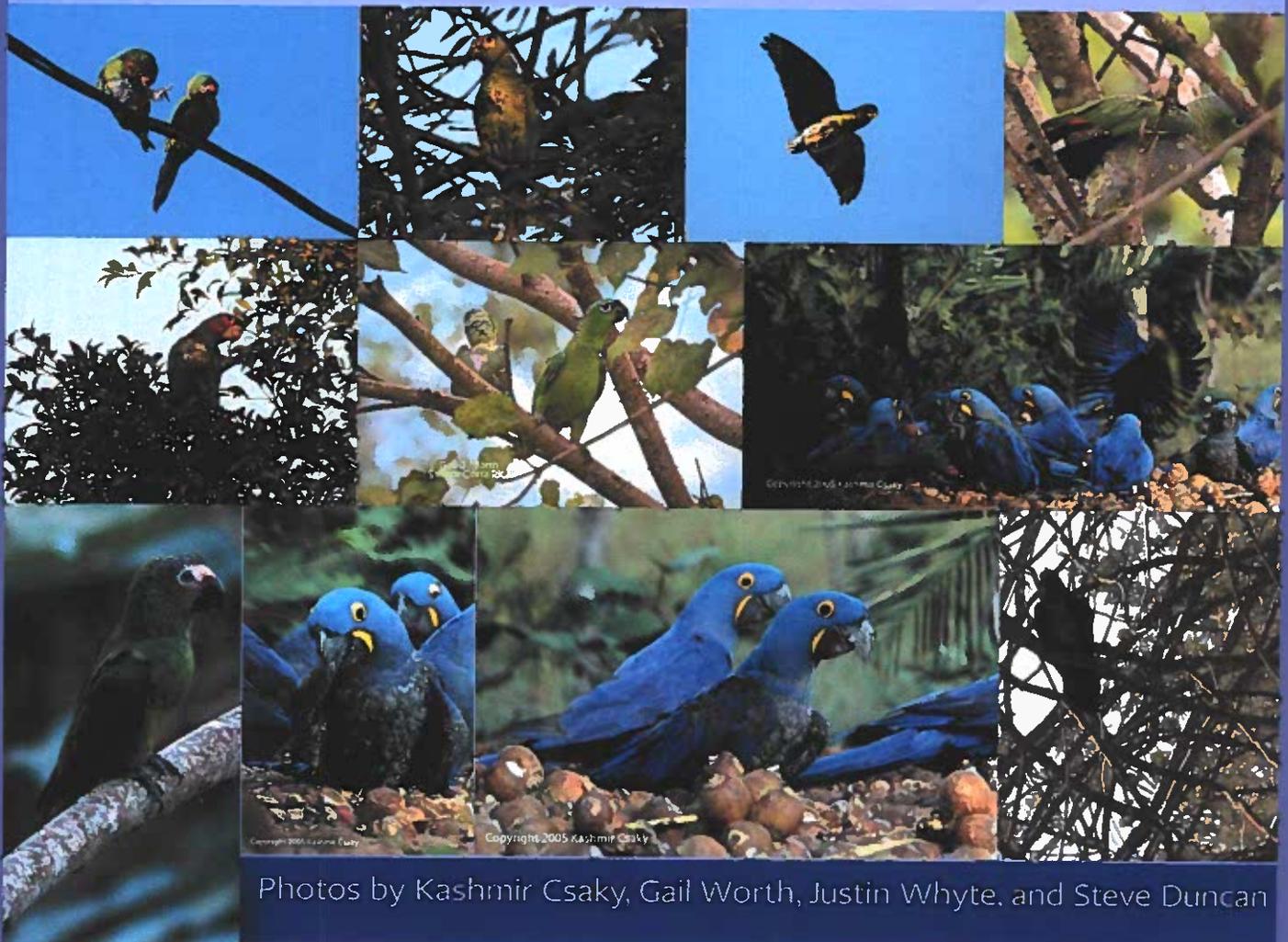
Feather Destruction in the Wild



Feather destruction does occur in the wild. It has not been studied much because birds in the wild are hard to track. Also, plucked birds in the wild often are unable to survive once they get to the point they can't fly.

These photos were taken by four internationally recognized Aviculturists who are very well-traveled.

- Hyacinth Macaw photos taken by Kashmir Csaky in Pantanal, Brazil.
- Mealy Amazon photos taken by Gail Worth in Costa Rica.
- Crow photo taken by Justin Whyte of Australia.
- Remaining photos taken by Steve Duncan in various countries around the World.



Photos by Kashmir Csaky, Gail Worth, Justin Whyte, and Steve Duncan