



# WILDLIFE TRADE MONITORING UNIT

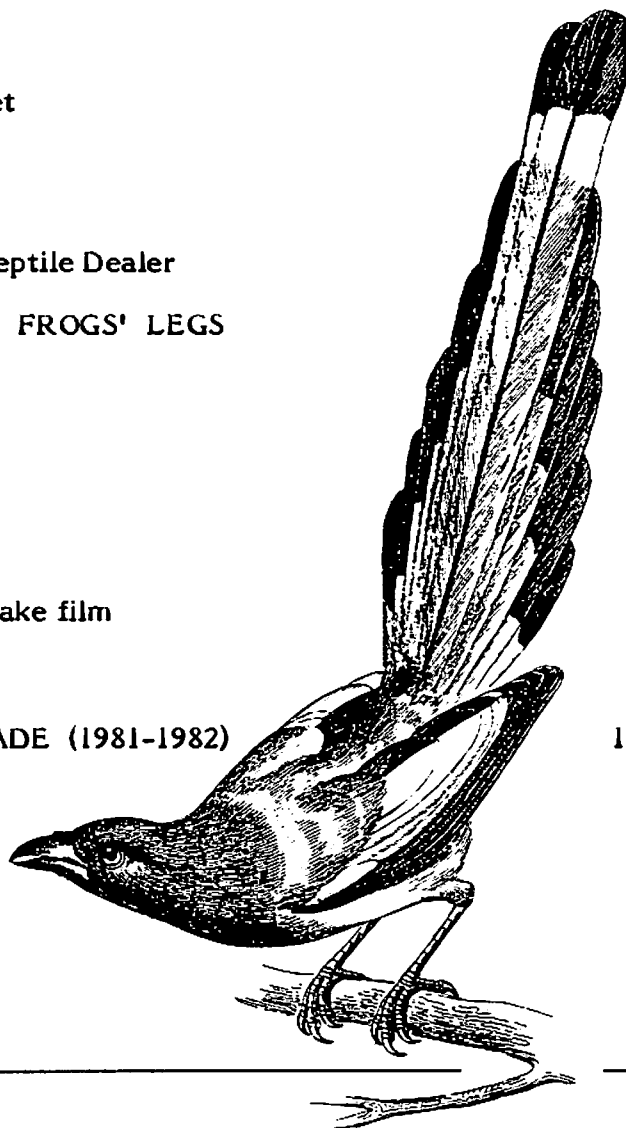
# Traffic Bulletin

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## Somalia's Ivory Sale

The forthcoming sale of 51 tonnes (t) of ivory, comprising some 17 000 tusks, has recently been advertised in newspapers in many countries. Little further information was added apart from an address in Essex, UK, from where the tender documents could be obtained.

Many people have expressed surprise that such a quantity of ivory could be available for sale and that such a sale could be legal. However the tender documents reveal that the ivory was from stock held by the Somali Government and now owned by the Shirre Company, and that the sale was due to take place in Mogadishu, Somalia, in April.

Accompanying the tender documents was a report prepared for the Shirre Co. by a firm of consultants, Resource Management and Research (RMR), which contained a description of the ivory and the way it was stored, a report on an aerial census of elephant carcasses in Somalia, and a hypothetical breakdown of the tusk size classes and numbers that were for sale. The report indicated that most of the ivory was clearly of recent origin and that substantial substitution of the larger tusks by smaller ones had taken place. One of the more strange aspects of the report, however, was that the ivory was held in three 20-foot sea containers and was piled haphazardly to a height of 1.3 metres. The stock of ivory so described could not possibly have amounted to 51 t and led to a suspicion that there was a considerable shortfall from the advertised quantity.

It has been known for some time that the Somali authorities held a considerable store of ivory, possibly amounting to about 40 t, and more recent information (E. B. Martin, pers. comm.) suggested it was nearer 50 t. Somalia introduced a ban on hunting in 1970 and subsequently all confiscated ivory has become State property and held by the police for subsequent sale for the benefit of the State. It is further believed that in the early 1980s the Somali Government purchased all privately-held stocks of ivory in order to discourage elephant poaching and private ivory carving industries.

In recent years there has been heavy and indiscriminate poaching of elephants over much of Africa and attempts to "legalise" the ivory have taken many forms. Several consignments of ivory accompanied by forged Somali documents came on to the world's markets during 1985 and it was feared that the Somali stock was possibly being used to cover a laundering operation for illegally obtained tusks.

In order to clarify the situation caused by the confusing and conflicting reports in circulation concerning the Somali ivory, the CITES Secretariat sent a mission to Mogadishu on 10 March 1986 to inspect the ivory and to discuss the proposed sale with the Somali authorities in the light of Somalia's recent accession to CITES (2 March 1986) and the newly introduced international ivory quota system.

There were several major discrepancies between the Secretariat's observations in Mogadishu and the report produced by RMR which apparently arose from the following points:

- a) RMR counted three rather than four containers;
- b) RMR inspected the contents of only one container (the most atypical one) and wrongly assumed the others to have identical contents;
- c) RMR misjudged the age of the ivory, claiming it to be of recent origin.

From a close examination of the ivory the CITES Secretariat is satisfied that there are 17 002 tusks weighing around 51 t, that the vast majority were acquired prior to 1982 since which time they have been held as Government property until being sold to the Shirre Company in May 1985, and that the tusks originate from the Somali/Kenyan Elephant population. The Secretariat saw no evidence that the original ivory had been replaced recently with fresh ivory to any significant extent.

The entire amount of 17 002 tusks, which comprises the entire quota for Somalia for this year, is due to be sold and exported before the end of April 1986 and should, therefore, forestall further attempts to launder illegally obtained ivory by giving it Somali identity. The CITES Secretariat urges that importation of ivory from this sale is only permitted after the Secretariat has received confirmation that the shipment is part of this stock. It is thought that any further ivory confiscated by the Somali Government will be held over for the 1987 export quota year.

J.R. Caldwell

Source: CITES Secretariat

## UK and USA Fine Plant Smugglers

On 28 January, a plant dealer in the UK was fined £1800 (US\$2615) for smuggling cyclamen and orchid 'bulbs', in what appears to have been the first prosecution in the UK for an offence involving plants under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 1976.

The dealer, Mr Walter Stagg of Avon Bulbs, Housel's Field, Westwood, near Bradford-on-Avon, UK had six sample offences brought against him; four for imports and two for exports, all between 1982 and 1986. At Bath Magistrates Court he admitted smuggling a total of 1536 bulbs, worth £1827, from Czechoslovakia, Greece and Japan and to F.R. Germany and Japan. For each offence he was fined £300 (US\$435). The Wildlife Inspectorate of the UK CITES Management Authority assisted the Customs and Excise in preparing the case.

A few months earlier, on 29 August 1985, the first plant export conviction was achieved in the USA. On that day, Joseph Anthony of Texas pleaded guilty to illegally exporting twenty-five species of CITES Appendix I and Appendix II cacti from the USA to the UK in 1983. He was fined US\$4000 and put on probation for two-and-a-half years.

Sources: UK Department of the Environment;  
TRAFFIC (USA)



Somali ivory smuggler with sacks of dried pees which concealed illicit ivory - part of the stock now offered at auction.

© Somali Wildlife Dept.

## Rhino Horn Smuggler Jailed

A Zimbabwean who smuggled two rhino horns, worth more than Z\$49 000 (US\$29 945), into the country from Mozambique was jailed on 7 March 1986 for four years.

Duwariti Aliphasi, 62, was arrested whilst trying to sell the horns to an official of the Zimbabwean Department of National Parks & Wildlife Management. The magistrate said that had it not been for his advanced age, Aliphasi would have been given a harsher sentence.

*Source: The Herald (Zimbabwe), 8.3.86*

## Asian Rhino Horn Imports

South Korea and Taiwan have been important consumers of rhinoceros horn. They are not party to CITES but their annual Customs reports include a category for rhinoceros horn and we have previously published their reported imports (see *Traffic Bulletin* VI(1):3-4, VI(2):28). To update the previous information:

South Korea does not appear to have imported any rhino horn in 1984 or 1985; however, it is known that the Korean statistics understated the trade in the past.

Taiwan reports having imported 120 kg of horn, valued at NT\$671 000 (US\$16 870) in 1984, and 43 kg declared at NT\$285 000 (US\$7165) in the first nine months of 1985. Taiwan banned the import of rhino horn in August 1985 (see *Traffic Bulletin* VII(3/4):42).

## The Hazards of Pet Turtles

The export of three to four million turtles a year from the USA, as well as sales of turtles raised and distributed in other countries, may be an important source of the infection *salmonellosis* worldwide, according to a report published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 7.12.85.

Following the contraction of *salmonellosis* by an infant in Puerto Rico who had been in contact with a pet turtle, and the discovery that, in the USA, turtles marked "for export only" were being shipped from Louisiana to Puerto Rico in 1983, a study was carried out in two urban areas of the latter country to measure the extent of pet turtle-associated diseases. Twelve to seventeen per cent of *salmonellosis* cases reported in infants were attributed to pet turtles.

During the study, turtles were collected from eighteen pet shops throughout the island and were tested in lots for the presence of *Salmonella*. All turtles collected were Red-eared Turtles (*Terrapins*) *Pseudemys scripta-elegans* and all eighteen lots were infected by *Salmonella* serotypes. Sixteen of them, eighty-nine per cent, were found to be infected with *Salmonella pomona*. It is believed the animals were contaminated before being exported from the USA.

Red-eared Turtles have been associated with *salmonellosis* since 1962. Whilst other reptiles, including lizards and snakes have been implicated as sources of human *salmonellosis*, the Red-eared Turtle is a particularly efficient vehicle because it is easily raised, shipped and distributed worldwide.

*Source: Tauxe, R.V., Rigau-Pérez, J.G., Wells, J.G. and Blake, P.A. (1985). Turtle Associated salmonellosis in Puerto Rico; hazards of the global turtle trade. Journal of the American Medical Association. 254(2):237-239.*

## Parrot Importer Convicted

A thirty-five year prison sentence and US\$1 million fine face New York bird dealer Harvey Edelman, after being convicted in October 1985 of smuggling birds into the USA.

Edelman had been under investigation by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and was observed receiving shipments of smuggled birds in New York. In March 1985, he was arrested near the El Paso/Mexican border in possession of forty-four Mexican parrots that he had smuggled into the USA.

Among the birds in his possession were Yellow-headed Amazons *Amazona ochrocephala*, Red-crowned (Green-cheeked) Amazons *Amazona viridigenalis*, Red-lored Amazons *Amazona autumnalis* and conures *Aratinga* spp. Their total wholesale value was estimated to be about US\$10 000. His offences involved not only evading endangered species legislation but also evading quarantine regulations.

*Source: Bird Talk (USA), February 1986*

## Hawk Smugglers Sentenced ... to make film

Two men have been sentenced to make a documentary film on the importance of birds of prey, after being convicted for smuggling rare Australian bird eggs into the USA.

William Robinson and Jonathan Wood were arrested at Los Angeles International Airport on 12 September 1984 when a customs inspector found twenty-seven eggs of rare birds in their clothing. The eggs were forfeited, and two hawks which hatched from the eggs were given to the Los Angeles Zoo. The men, both from New York, were also placed on probation for five years.

*Source: Daily Telegraph (Australia), 31.10.85*

## World Fish Catch Sets Record

According to preliminary figures from the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation, the world fish catch reached its highest ever in 1984, at more than 80 million tonnes (Mt).

Japan, with a catch of more than 11.8 Mt remained the biggest catcher, followed by the USSR at 10.5 Mt, China 5.2 Mt and the USA 4.7 Mt. Norway's catch apparently dropped by fourteen per cent to 2.4 Mt, behind India's 2.8 Mt and South Korea's 2.5 Mt.

Later figures published by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries indicate that Japan's 1984 catch rose by seven per cent over 1983 to a record 12.8 Mt. This is believed to be the largest annual catch ever recorded by a single country. The Ministry's figures show that Japan's total figure comprises: offshore 6.9 Mt; coastal 2.28 Mt; deepsea 2.26 Mt and marine farming 1.1 Mt. The largest single species landing was for pilchards at 4.18 Mt, an increase of twelve per cent.

Of all the major fish exporting nations (Canada, USA, Norway, Japan and Denmark), only Japan's overseas sales increased, rising to a value of \$A1200 M (US\$900 M). This was as a result of bigger sales of frozen and canned tuna to the UK, USA and Thailand.

*Source: Australian Fisheries, 44(10) October 1985*

## Peregrine Smugglers Caught

Two American falcon breeders, Steve Baptiste and David Jamieson, have pleaded guilty, in the USA, to smuggling twenty-one rare North American Peregrine Falcons Falco peregrinus (CITES Appendix I) into Saudi Arabia, assisted by a British breeder and three Canadians.

"Operation Falcon", a US Government crackdown on the smuggling of protected birds of prey, begun in 1981, names Briton, Peter Whitehead, once a breeder of birds of prey, and members of a Canadian company - Birds of Prey International, of Ontario - as the accomplices.

The Americans made two deliveries to Saudi Arabia, in August and October 1982. For the first, Whitehead flew to Reno, Nevada, where he met up with Jamieson who had with him four hybrid falcons that he had bred in captivity. They drove to Niagara Falls, New York where they met two Canadians, John Slaytor of Birds of Prey International, and his girlfriend Margaret Hamilton. Jamieson returned to Nevada, whilst the others continued their trip across the border to Slaytor's house in Cambridge, Ontario, bringing with them the sedated birds. On 28 or 29 August, Slaytor and Whitehead smuggled the four falcons and another five into the UK. From here, Whitehead flew to Saudi Arabia with the birds, where he sold them for US\$200 000. The buyers have not been named. On his return to the UK, Whitehead

gave Slaytor \$100 000 and the car they had used for the smuggling, and Jamieson was paid \$70 000. Another employee of Birds of Prey International, Glen Luckman was paid \$95 000. Whitehead kept \$5000.

In the second transaction, Luckman and Baptiste drove to Canada with four hybrid falcons and one Gyrfalcon Falco rusticolus; here they picked up seven more birds and flew to Saudi Arabia where the birds fetched \$160 000.

Baptiste and Jamieson have agreed to plead guilty and pay fines of \$30 000 each, half to be suspended. Jamieson also admitted marking a wild-collected Peregrine as captive-bred. No action was taken against Whitehead.

In 1984, Luckman was convicted of smuggling falcons, and Slaytor was released on bail. On 4 November 1985, Slaytor was to have entered a plea but just days before this date, he disappeared.

Since "Operation Falcon" began, the US Department of Justice has convicted about fifty people for breaking the laws on exporting or trading in falcons.

*Source: New Scientist (UK), 19/26.12.85*

## The Japanese Psittacine Trade (1981-1982)

by Emily Roet and Tom Milliken

A report on Japan's trade in psittacines, the results of an investigation by TRAFFIC (Japan), funded by TRAFFIC (USA), has just been published. The aim of the study was to assist the Japanese Government, the CITES Secretariat and others concerned with parrot conservation, to ensure that the international trade in these birds proceeds in accordance with CITES regulations. The present article summarises the methodology and results of the investigation, and includes, substantially, the full conclusions of the report. The report is published by TRAFFIC (USA) at US\$12.50.

The present investigation was based on three sources of data. First, unpublished 1981 CITES annual report data were obtained from Japan's CITES Management Authority, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). The MITI data included details of species, quantity and countries of export for all imports to Japan of CITES-listed species. These data were compiled by the Government from import and export documents collected by the Customs authorities. Secondly, data were obtained from the eight importers estimated by Japan's Environmental Agency to account for eighty-five per cent of all psittacines imported in 1981, through questionnaires, interviews and examination of company records. Thirdly, between June and October 1982 data were obtained through a market survey of fifty-six pet shops and department stores with pet departments, two wholesalers' warehouses and seven major importers' warehouses. In each instance, species and numbers were recorded and some information on turnover rates and mortality was obtained. The objective of the market survey was to provide a check to compare species and numbers of parrots found in the market place with those listed in the MITI data and the importers' data.

The data from each source regarding each species are given in Table 3, and the data by region of export are summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

In order to evaluate the effect of the trade on the survival of species in the wild, it was important to distinguish wild-caught parrots from captive-bred parrots in trade. Few of the data obtained made such a distinction. Therefore the authors used general guidelines to make the distinction, based on the source countries and species involved. In general, birds imported directly from their countries of origin were regarded as wild-caught. Where discrepancies between the stated origin and known distribution of a species were found, in most cases lovebirds Agapornis spp. and Psittacidae species from the Australia-New Zealand region, Taiwan, Europe and the USA, were considered to have been captive-bred. All other birds were regarded as wild-caught.

Nonetheless, there was a surprisingly high degree of correlation. Of the top twenty species identified in the MITI data, only one, the Green-rumped Parrotlet Forpus passerinus, was not reported in the market survey data; this discrepancy is not surprising since that species was probably misidentified anyway. In the importers' data, only two of the twenty most-mentioned species, the Ornate Lorikeet Trichoglossus ornatus and the Slaty-headed Parakeet Psittacula himalayana were absent from the market survey data. Two other Psittacula species, the Moustached Parakeet P. alexandri and the Blossom-headed Parakeet P. roseata, which had the first and fourth highest volumes, respectively, in the importers' data, appeared only to a small extent in the market survey data. This suggests that importers possibly overstated their trade in these species. According to some importers, India implemented a ban on bird exports throughout much of 1982; this could account for the discrepancies with the Psittacula species.

The authors estimated that 5860 (45%) of the birds imported, reported by MITI and 49 875 (45%) of those reported in the importers' data were captive-bred. Trade involving the two non-CITES psittacines, Budgerigar Melopsittacus undulatus and Cockatiel Nymphicus hollandicus, and the Appendix III Ring-necked Parakeet Psittacula krameri, although noted where reported, was excluded from the data summarised above and discussed in the report. ▶