

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

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ATTACK CAGE TRAFFIC IN NATIVE SONG BIRDS

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The U. S. Biological Survey has instructed its game-management agents throughout the country to be on the look-out for cage traffic in native migratory birds.

Investigations have revealed considerable traffic in live migratory birds, particularly indigo buntings, painted buntings, American goldfinches and possibly mockingbirds. Painted buntings are also known as nonpareils, butterfly finches, or red pops.

Many birds that migrate between this country and Canada have had Federal protection for 20 years under an international treaty with Great Britain. Last March a similar treaty with Mexico extended Federal protection to other birds, including buntings, finches, and mockingbirds.

The Biological Survey, say officials, is not disposed to molest persons holding caged birds added to the Federal list by the Mexican treaty if they obtained the birds before the treaty went into effect last March 15. Such persons, however, may not sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of the birds except by gift to a public museum, a zoological park, or other scientific institution. The wild-life G-men intend to stamp out all traffic in these birds.

Unlawful trapping will result in arrests.

"The Migratory Bird Treaty Act regulations under the conventions with Great Britain and the United Mexican States," says the Bureau, "do not authorize the sale or purchase of live migratory nongame birds by dealers or others (except

holders of scientific permits and public museums, zoological parks, and societies, and public scientific and educational institutions.)"

Recognizing that there are probably a number of dealers in birds in this country who may not be familiar with both treaties protecting migratory birds, the Biological Survey is making every effort to provide detailed information, and lists of protected birds are available at the Bureau.

"But appropriate action," it is pointed out, "will be taken against any dealers or other persons who deliberately fail to comply with the law after being informed of it."

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