

USA AMAZON TRADE PROPOSAL QUESTIONED

(Taken from PsittaScene Nov 2003)

Thanks to parrot enthusiasts and concerned citizens from the world over -- including many WPT members -- the US Fish and Wildlife received an enormous amount of input on their pending decision to reopen the importation of Blue-fronted Amazons from Argentina. Although they haven't yet released the comments, based on our discussions with many interested parties, it appears that the vast majority of the input was on the side of the wild parrots.



Blue-fronted amazon fledglings.
Photo: Environmental Investigation Agency

At the Trust we worked on two related initiatives, the first was a detailed scientific review of the proposal which was eventually signed by over 90 parrot researchers, and the second was a shorter letter submitted by over 30 non-governmental organizations, including some big names like the National Audubon Society, Conservation International, and Defenders of Wildlife.

Click to view:

[Researcher's Letter in PDF format](#)
[NGO Letter in PDF format](#)

We also inspired two original stories in the newspapers, the first was USA Today which ran one on the trade and one on homeless parrots in the USA. The second ran on the cover of the Washington Post and linked this parrot trade with a broader initiative of the Bush Administration to increase trade and hunting of Endangered Species as an effort to save them. Naturally this story was reprinted in some 20 newspapers across the country and inspired several editorials, some satirical, but all strongly condemning these initiatives.

The original stories are available at:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10660-2003Oct10.html>
http://www.usatoday.com/life/2003-09-23-exotic-pets_x.htm

While we can't yet say how they will decide, we hope this overwhelming input will help the Service do the right thing and work toward supporting conservation by means other than ill-considered harvesting of wild birds. Thank you all for your letters and support with this process.