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Below find a reprint of the 2 relevant pages of the article "" in "Weekly Reader":

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Reagan Trims the Nation's Budget

WILDLIFE FEATURE

IT'S A PLANE . . . IT'S A BIRD . . . IT'S A PARROT!

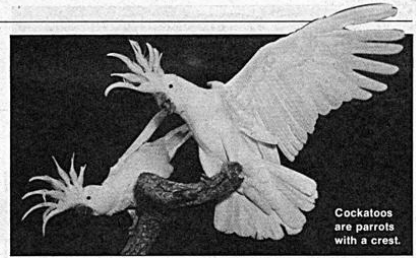
A bird-watcher saw a white cockatoo—a kind of parrot—flying amid a flock of crows near Hartford, Conn., recently. About the same time a few miles away another bird-watcher spotted a green parrot high in a tree near his backyard.

What's going on? Is Connecticut getting jungle-like and attracting parrots from Mexico? No, not really.

The Connecticut parrots were pets that had escaped or had been released by their owners, according to bird experts.

In the U.S. today parrots are very popular either as live pets or as decorative symbols. As symbols, the hook-beaked birds are no problem. They add color to posters, fancy shirts, and disco costumes. As live pets, parrots are less successful.

"Some species can be noisy, messy, and destructive," says one bird expert.



Cockatoos are parrots with a crest.

"People buy them for high prices—sometimes thousands of dollars. Then the people can't stand them and turn them loose," she explains.

Released birds often survive in northern states until freezing weather comes. In warm-weather states, like Florida and California, parrots live much longer and even raise young.

A student observing released parrot populations near Los Angeles, Calif., found at least three species and more than 100 birds.

Parrots are so popular through-

out the world that importing birds and raising them in captivity is big business. So is parrot smuggling—unlawful trade in the birds.

At a recent meeting in India, representatives of 67 nations agreed that parrots—like whales—need special protection.

At the meeting it was reported that one million or more parrots a year are caught in the wild, including those sold to smugglers.

Because of the heavy demand for these birds, some conservationists fear that parrot popularity will force the rarer parrots to die out.

EYE SPORTS ON COMPUTERS HELP ATHLETES

Do you remember drawing stick figures when you were younger? You took a pencil and paper and drew a circle for the head and lines for the body, arms, and legs. You drew stick figures for fun.

Computer scientist Dr. Gideon Ariel uses a computer to draw stick figures that can help athletes perform better.

Dr. Ariel believes that most athletic movements are too quick for the eye to see clearly. Many things are happening fast when an athlete performs, he says. This makes it hard for



Dr. Ariel shows computer work.

a coach to see exactly what an athlete may be doing wrong, Dr. Ariel explains. So Dr. Ariel takes high-speed pictures of an athlete in motion. He feeds the pictures into a computer that translates the athlete's movements into a series of stick figures.

Dr. Ariel studies the stick figures on the computer screen. He sees the positions of the athlete's arms, legs, and other body parts. He sees what

an athlete is doing wrong, and he watches for movements that might cause injuries. Then Dr. Ariel tells the athlete how to change an arm or a leg position to improve performance. He tells an athlete which muscles need developing.

Dr. Ariel and his stick figures have helped many basketball, hockey, and tennis players, discus throwers, shotputters, and track stars. He is using his computer-stick-figure system to help the U.S. Olympic Committee improve U.S. athletes' performances. Professional athletes, such as players for the Dallas Cowboys and the Kansas City Royals, are also helped by Dr. Ariel's computer system.

Dr. Ariel warns that his computer study can't help every athlete become a superstar. But, he says, he can show athletes how their performance could be improved from training.