

# Stuffed bird seller arrested

By MARY CONNELLY-SZCZESNY

Federal authorities claim to have seized more than 250 stuffed birds being sold illegally from a Franklin jewelry store.

The charges came after 10 months of undercover work by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which claims protected species were sold for \$90 to \$100 each at the Gold Anvil, 32716 Franklin Road.

Federal agents charge the protected and illegally obtained birds were bought by a variety of customers.

"Women customers were purchasing the mounted birds for use in interior decorating and as gifts and novelties," said a spokesman for the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The majority of birds sold by the wildlife violators were 'raptors,' a name biologists use when referring to birds of prey like hawks and owls."

A May 7 raid at the Gold Anvil resulted in seizure of mounted hawks, owls, eagles, waterfowl, songbirds and "a number of exotic species," agents claim.

MARCUS SPOUTZ, 24, of Southfield, owner of the shop, and Wayne Miller of Waterford Township, a taxidermist, were arrested under federal warrants and face a series of felony charges relating to the illegal sale of birds.

Spoutz could face up to a 49-year prison sentence and \$54,000 in fines. Miller faces a maximum sentence of 31 years in prison and \$36,000 in fines.

A May 29 arraignment has been scheduled before a federal grand jury in Detroit.

Spoutz Monday denied that he knowingly sold protected species.

"I had no idea," he claimed. "I had no knowledge of what was going on. I was stupid in not looking into it better, but I never knew you could get in trouble for birds."

Spoutz maintained that had he known some of the species were protected "it would have been stupid to have them sitting there in full view of people."

"We weren't trying to hide anything," he claimed.

SPOUTZ SAID he has run the jewelry shop for three years and only began selling the birds in the last eight to nine months.

"The mounted birds started out as decoration," he claimed. "At the most, I've sold no more than two dozen birds and a lot of those were pheasants."

Many of the birds were purchased for decoration, Spoutz said.

Federal agents said the jewelry shop raid resulted from a tip from an informant.

Several undercover agents worked in the area for over 10 months and made "numerous purchases" at the shop, authorities claimed.

Wildlife agents claimed the birds were shot or captured by illegal methods from throughout the United States and a few foreign countries.

"A number of birds have been traced to their entry into the United States by smugglers who often hid the dried-skinned birds in their luggage and clothing," a spokesman claimed. "A number of birds have been traced to Africa, their originating continent."

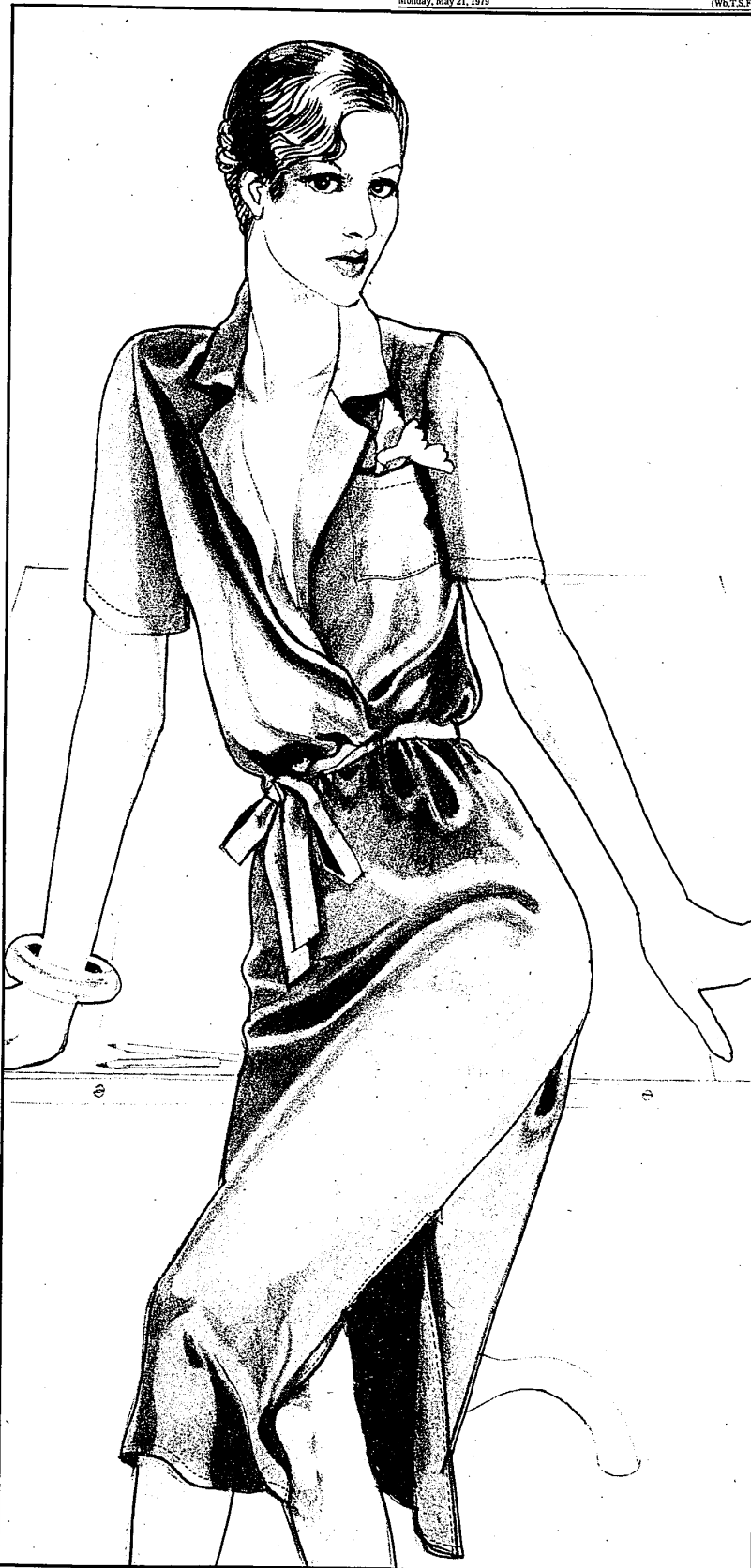
Federal authorities are also charging that one source for the illegal bird market has been traced to the University of Michigan ornithology department where preliminary investigation indicates some 300 birds have been stolen.

The university is reportedly investigating to determine the exact number and species stolen. Federal agents have recovered some of the birds.

AGENTS CHARGE that some of the hawks, owls, eagles and other birds seized were mounted at the Franklin store while others were prepared when brought there.

The jewelry shop raid has led to other alleged violators, agents claim.

An investigation is continuing in the Detroit area and other parts of the country. Authorities claim that a search warrant obtained in Colorado led to the seizure of 400 birds and resulted from the Franklin raid.



## Old-fashioned ethics uncommon anymore, says U-M psychiatrist

The doctor who has an old-fashioned "bedside manner" is rare today.

Equally hard to find are lawyers who deal with the emotional well-being of their clients, in addition to the cold, objective facts of a case.

So says a University of Michigan psychiatrist who points to deficiencies in education and professional group attitudes which fail to emphasize the humane, ethical and interpersonal aspects of the law and medical professions.

"Both doctors and lawyers have great conflict about looking at information relating to emotions," says Dr. Andrew Watson, a practicing psychiatrist who holds professorships at both the U-M medical and law schools.

And, he says, it has been difficult to initiate programs at law and medical schools in which serious consideration is given to psychological aspects of professional ethics.

Dr. Watson discussed these questions in delivering the 1979 Isaac Ray Lectures at the University of California, Berkeley. He is recipient of the American Psychiatric Association's Isaac Ray Award given for "outstanding contributions to better understanding between psychiatry and law."

He is involved in a program at Michigan Law School in which mental health professionals teach law students, helping them focus on ethical and other professional problems which they are likely to face.

Noting the absence of peer "feedback" within the law and medical professions, Dr. Watson said that perform-

ance standards and ethical values need to be constantly reinforced during a professional career.

"Failure to do so risks the possibility of a person falling back to the less complex more instantly satisfying activities of self-interest and pleasure," he warns.

Dr. Watson says that in both professions, there are major loopholes in grievance procedures, because colleagues are reluctant to report unprofessional behavior.

"The working assumption of ethics or grievance committees is that complaints will be filed by either the aggrieved or by fellow professionals," he says. It is his impression that most of the complaints are filed by dissatisfied consumers. Unprofessional behavior must reach a very high level before it will be reported by colleagues.

"Both these sources of reporting are psychologically demanding upon the person who would file, and probably many people also begin with a presumption that the grievance committee will be defensively resistant toward them."

Dr. Watson suggests that a challenge for the professions is "to find a way to positively reinforce the reporting behavior. . . Such persons must know the group not only approves of their behavior but actively solicits it."

Within professional schools, professors are reluctant to tackle questions of professional ethics, and courses on the subject are often not given serious attention by faculty, says Dr. Watson.

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