C1 Advanced - Use of English

PARROT RUSTLING

Parrots and macaws have become so 1) that special varieties of these birds are			
2) up to £9,000 each on the black market in Britain. Macaws from			
Brazil cost from £1,000 and parrots from Australia can cost £7,500 a pair. The			
demand for parro	ts, cockatoos and macaws has led	l to a 3)	increase in
thefts from zoos, wildlife parks and pet shops. London and Whipsnade zoos are			
among the many places from which parrots have been stolen. Some thefts have			
not been 4)	in an effort to prevent furt	her 5)	Parrot
rustling, as it is known among bird fanciers, has increased rapidly in Britain since			
1976 when imports and exports of 6) birds became 7)			
controlled. Quarantine controls, 8) with the scarcity of many types of			
parrots in the wild in Africa, Australia, Indonesia, and South America, have caused			
a shortage of bird	s which can be sold legally under	9)	This has sent
prices to 10) levels. Working at night and equipped with wire-cutters,			
nets and substances to dope the birds, the rustlers are prepared to 11)			
serious risks to capture the parrots they want. At Birdworld, a specialist zoo,			
thieves 12)	two parrots after picking the	eir 13)	through an
enclosure containing cassowaries, The cassowary is a large flightless bird, related			
to the emu, which can be extremely 14), and has been			
15) to kill humans with blows from its powerful legs. (15) below			
21°C. The area has a particularly low annual rainfall.			

