A List of Birds for Unrestricted Entry into the United States

by Michael Cunningham and Joseph Griffith

(AFA's recommended list of low-risk birds as presented to the Department of the Interior.)

The following is a list of birds by order and family for unrestricted entry into the United States. Where there is a considered need to regulate orders, families, genera or species, they are so noted.

It can be said that there is not sufficient information available on the majority of birds that have not been included in previous lists to justify their entry on an unrestricted basis. The identical argument can be made for the birds that have been included on such lists. There is not enough information on any birds to make a clear judgment. The list below takes note of those birds that present a greater potential risk than others.

In addition to the birds occuring on the list, provision should be made to allow the unrestricted entry of all phenotypic mutations and all hybrids. Mutations are of great value to the breeder and would be subjected to heavy pressure from predators should they escape confinement, not to mention the genetic weaknesses that accompany many mutations. The majority of hybrids would present no threat since they are sterile. Fertile hybrids would have to find others, or members of one of its parent stocks and this is most unlikely.

No provision has been made for Endangered Species. There are a number of these being bred in captivity; captive bred stock out-weighing wild populations in many cases. It is proper that these birds should be sold or traded to those who are interested in them. Further, if the department shows a sufficient spirit of cooperation, breeders in this country would be more than willing to help with a survey that will clearly establish the captive status of Endangered Birds.

The tentative list of birds for unrestricted entry omits all of the nectar feeding birds of the world, as well as all but one of the tanagers. It is difficult to imagine any of the nectar feeding families of birds as being injurious, rather, one would think of them as beneficial; assuming that they would be able to survive in the United States, exclusive of Hawaii.

STRUTHIONIFORMES: Ostriches

Struthionidae	Ostriches

RHEIFORMES: Rheas

Rheidae	Rheas

CASSUARIIFORMES: Cassowaries, Emus

Cassuariidae	Cassowaries
Dromiceidae	Emus

TINAMIFORMES: Tinamous

Tinamidae	Tinamous

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Grebes

Podicipedidae	Grebes

GAVIIFORMES: Loons

Gaviidae	Loons

SPHENISCIFORMES: Penguins

Spheniscidae	Penguins

PROCELLARIIFORMES: Tube-nosed Swimmers

Diomedeidae	Albatrosses
Procellariidae	Shearwaters
Hydrobatidae	Storm Petrels
Pelecanoididae	Diving Petrels

PELECANIFORMES: Pelicans and Allies

Phaethontidae	Tropic-birds
Pelecanidae	Pelicans
Phalacrocoracidae	Cormorants
Anhingidae	Anhingas
Sulidae	Boobies
Fregatidae	Frigate-birds

CICONIIFORMES: Herons and Allies

Ardeidae	Herons
Cochleariidae	Boatbill Herons
Balaenicipitidae	Shoe-billed Stork
Scopidae	Hammerhead
Ciconiidae	Storks
Threskiornithidae	Ibises
Phoenicopoteridae	Flamingos

ANSERIFORMES: Ducks, Geese and Swans

Anhimidae	Screamers
Anatidae	Ducks, Geese and Swans

FALCONIFORMES: Birds of Prey

Because of the extreme delicacy of the niches occupied by most of the birds of prey, and because of their rapid desertion of habitats when encroached upon by man, there is a need to regulate all of the falconiformes. No zoo, organization or person should be allowed to import these birds except for a captive breeding program.

GALLIFORMES: Fowl-like Birds

Entry is already regulated by the USDA. Experimental introduction by any agency or person should be stopped.

GRUIFORMES: Cranes, Rails and Allies

Mesitornithidae	Mesitae
Turnicidae	Hemipodes
Gruidae	Cranes
Armidae	Limpkin
Psophiidae	Trumpeters
Rallidae	Rails, Gallinules and Coots
Heliornithidae	Finfoots
Rhynochetidae	Kagu
Cariamidae	Seriemas
Eurypygidae	Sunbittern
Otidae	Bustards

CHARADRIIFORMES: Shorebirds, Gulls and Auks

Jacanidae	Jacanas
Rostratulidae	Painted Snipes
Haematopodidae	Oystercatchers
Charadriidae	Plovers and Lapwings
Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies
Recurvirostridae	Stilts and Avocets
Phalaropodidae	Phalaropes
Dromadidae	Crab Plover
Burhinidae	Stone Curlews
Glareolidae	Coursers and Pratincoles
Thinocoridae	Seedsnipes
Chionididae	Sheathbills
Stercorariidae	Skuas and Jeagers
Laridae	Gulls and Terns
Rhynchopidae	Skimmers
Alcidae	Auks and Allies

PTEROCLIFORMES: Sandgrouse

Pteroclidae	Sandgrouse

COLUMBIFORMES: Pigeons and Doves

Columbidae	Pigeons and Doves

PSITTACIFORMES: Parrots

These birds fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Welfare.

CUCULIFORMES: Cuckoos and Allies

Musophagidae	Mouracos
Cuculidae	Cuckoos, Anis, Roadrunners and Coucals

All of the parasitic cuckoos of the subfamily Cuculinae, the ground-cuckoos (Neomorphinae) and the Coucals (Centropodinae) should be regulated. The first because they are parasitic and the latter two because they are predatory. The remaining two subfamilies (Phoenicophaeinae and Crotophaginae) should have unlimited entry.

STRIGIFORMES: Owls

The remarks about Diurnal Birds of Prey should apply to this order. No zoo, institution or individual should be allowed to import owls, except for captive breeding purposes.

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Goatsuckers

Steatornithidae	Oilbird
Podargidae	Frogmouths
Nyctibiidae	Potoos
Aegothelidae	Owlet-frogmouths
Caprimulgidae	Nightjars

APODIFORMES: Swifts and Hunningbirds

Apodidae	Swifts
Hemiprocnidae	Crested Swifts
Trochilidae	Hummingbirds

TROGONIFORMES: Trogons

Trogonidae	Trogons

COLIIFORMES: Mousebirds

Coliidae	Colies

CORACIIFORMES: Kingfishers and Allies

Coraciiformes	Kingfishers

These birds are very predatory and may well cause problems if accidentally introduced.

Todidae	Todies
Momotidae	Motmots
Meropidae	Bee-eaters
Coraciidae	Rollers

This family is also aggressive and should be regulated.

Upupidae	Hoopoes and Woodhooes
Bucerotidae	Hornbills

PICIFORMES: Woodpeckers and Allies

Capitonidae	Barbets
Indicatoridae	Honeyguides
Galbulidae	Jacamars
Bucconidae	Puffbirds
Ramphastidae	Toucans
Picidae	Woodpeckers, Wrynecks, Piculets

The genus Dendroscopus should be regulated. One may assume that their ecological niches are already filled in this country, but the danger lies in the very real possibility that they could hybridize with native birds of the same genus.

PASSERIFORMES: Perching Birds

Eurylaimidae	Broadbills
Dendrocolaptidae	Woodcreepers
Furnariidae	Ovenbirds
Formicariidae	Antbirds
Conopophagidae	Antpipits
Rhinocryptidae	Tapaculos
Cotingidae	Cotingas
Pipridae	Manakins
Tyrannidae	Tyrant Flycatchers
Phytotomidae	Plantcutters
Oxyruncidae	Sharpbills
Pittidae	Pittas
Acanthisittidae	New Zealand Wrens
Philepittidae	Asities, False Sunbirds
Menuridae	Lyrebirds
Atrichornithidae	Scrub-birds
Alaudidae	Larks
Hirundinidae	Swallows and Martins
Campephagidae	Cuckoo-Shrikes and Minivets

Regulate the genera Pterodocys and Coracina. These are the most shrike-like of this family.

Dicruridae	Drongos

This entire family of large aggressive birds should be regulated.

Oriolidae	Old World Orioles
Corvidae	Crows, Jays, and Magpies

All of these birds should be regulated.

Callaeidae	Wattlebirds
Grallinidae	Mudnest-builders
Cracticidae	Butcherbirds and Bellmagpies

Although already controlled by the Australian government, these birds should be regulated.

Ptilonorhynchidae	Bowerbirds
Paradisaeidae	Birds of Paradise
Paridae	Titmice

The genus Parus should be regulated because of the possibility of hybridization with native Parids.

Certhiidae	Creepers
Sittidae	Nuthatches and Allies
Timaliidae	Babblers and Allies

The genus Garrulax should be regulated.

Pycnonotidae	Bulbuls
Chloropseidae	Leafbirds and Allies
Cinclidae	Dippers
Troglodytidae	Wrens
Mimidae	Thrashers and Mockingbirds
Turdidae	Thrushes

The genus Turdus should be regulated because of the possibility of hybridization.

Sylviidae	Old World Warblers
Muscicapidae	Old World Flycatchers
Prunellidae	Accentors
Motacillidae	Pipits and Wagtails
Bombycillidae	Waxwings and Allies
Artamidae	Wood-Swallows
Vangidae	Vanga-Shrikes

This family should be regulated because there is no point in introducing (even accidentally) additional predators to the environment.

Laniidae	Shrikes

As with the preceding family, there is no point in introducing predators to the environment.

Sturnidae	Starlings

The genera Sturnus and Acridotheres should be regulated.

Meliphagidae	Honeyeaters
Nectariniidae	Sunbirds
Dicaeidae	Flowerpeckers
Zosteropidae	White-Eyes

There has been some discussion to the effect that Zosterops might compete with native Vireos. Where these birds have managed to invade islands, they have entered habitats with niches vacant. There is little likelihood that they would be able to compete with a continental population.

Vireonidae	Vireos
Drepanididae	Hawaiian Honeycreepers
Parulidae	Wood Warblers
Icteridae	Troupials and Allies

The parasitic genera Molothus and Scaphidura should be regulated.

Thraupidae	Tanagers

It is noteworthy that the Department of the Interior considers only one species of this entire family non-injurious. Surely this is an error.

Fringillidae (includes Emberizinae)	New World Seedeaters
Ploceidae (includes Estrildinae)	Old World Seedeaters

Of these, the genera Quelea and Padda should be regulated, because of the crop damage they do in their native ranges. The species Erythrura parasina falls into the same category. The species Carpodacus erythrinus should be regulated. This bird is rapidly extending its range into western Europe and it would seem to be as adaptable as C. mexicanus ■