



FISH & WILDLIFE

# Facts

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR • FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Arlington, Virginia

## WILD BIRD CONSERVATION ACT OF 1992

### Traveling Abroad With Your Pet Bird

The Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992, which became effective on October 23, 1992, is a significant new step in international conservation efforts to protect exotic wild birds subject to trade. The Act focuses on bird species listed in the Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Since most exotic pet birds, including all parrots, cockatoos, and macaws, are species listed under CITES, most are affected by the Act.

The Service recently issued regulations implementing the Act that provide for permits to allow foreign travel with your pet bird (domestic travel and sales are not affected). If you plan to take your pet bird with you on foreign travel, or your residence has been outside the United States for a year and you plan to travel to the United States with a pet bird, you will need to have a permit *before* you travel.

These new regulations are *in addition* to any other existing requirements of CITES, the Endangered Species Act, and other applicable statutes. If you are unsure whether these regulations apply to you, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, at the address provided.

### Leaving the United States With Your Pet Bird

To ensure that you will be allowed to bring your pet bird back into the United States from travel abroad, you will need to take the following steps *before* you leave:

1. Obtain a valid permit from the Office of Management Authority. Applications for permits must be received in that office *at least 60 days in advance* of anticipated travel.

2. Have your permit validated by a Fish and Wildlife Service inspector *before* you leave the United States. (Instructions will be provided on the permit.)

3. Take a copy of your validated permit with you. This copy must be presented when you re-enter the United States with your pet.

4. Find out whether the country(ies) you plan to visit have additional import and export requirements and restrictions. At a minimum, for CITES listed birds, a re-export certificate from the country(ies) visited will be required. The address of the CITES permit issuing authority in the country(ies) you will be visiting is available from the Office of Management Authority.

There are no restrictions on the length of time you may travel abroad or on the number of birds you may take with you.

### Traveling to the United States With Your Pet Bird

Individuals who have resided out-

side the United States *continuously* for *at least one year* may import a maximum of two pet birds per person, per year, if all applicable requirements have been met *prior* to their arrival in the United States. Following are the steps you need to take *before* you leave for the United States:

1. Obtain a valid permit from the Office of Management Authority. Applications for permits must be received in that office *at least 60 days in advance* of anticipated travel.

2. Obtain documented evidence that you have resided outside the United States *continuously* for a minimum of one year.


3. Obtain documented evidence that each bird was acquired legally.

4. Obtain all necessary permits from the country(ies) of export.

**Note:** The Act restricts the number of pet birds individuals may import into the United States annually to fewer than are otherwise allowable under CITES. However, under certain conditions, this restriction does not apply to certain captive-bred birds. For information on whether the restriction applies to your pet bird(s),

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contact the Office of Management Authority.

### Applications and Additional Information

Permit applications (Form 3-200) and any other information you may need are available from the Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 420, Arlington, VA 22203, phone 1-800-358-2104 or (703) 358-2093, and Fax (703) 358-2281.

**WARNING: The Department of Agriculture has disease quarantine requirements for birds entering the United States. You can obtain information about the quarantine requirements by contacting the Department of Agriculture at (301) 436-5097. ●**

### Summary of Effects

The Wild Bird Conservation Act (Act), a significant new step in international conservation efforts to protect exotic birds subject to trade, became effective on October 23, 1992. The Act focuses on bird species listed on the Appendices to the Convention on

International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). If you import birds, you must now meet requirements imposed by this new law *in addition* to existing requirements imposed by CITES, the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, or other regulations that may apply.

It is important to note that the Act does not cover exotic bird products or all birds. The following birds are exempt from the provisions of the Act:

- birds native to the 50 States and the District of Columbia;
- domestic poultry, sport-hunted birds, museum specimens, and dead scientific specimens; and
- birds in the families Phasianidae (pheasants and quail), Numididae (guineafowl), Cracidae (guans and curassows), Meleagrididae (turkeys), Megapodidae (megapodes), Anatidae (ducks, swans and geese), Struthionidae (ostrich), Rheidae (rheas), Dromaiinae (emus), and Gruidae (cranes).

### Importations Allowed Under the Act

#### Permit Required

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(Service) may issue permits to allow importation of otherwise prohibited species if the Service determines the importation does not undermine the species' survival. *A permit must be issued by the Service prior to importation.* Permits may be issued only for the following purposes:

- scientific research;
- zoological breeding or display;
- pet importation when owners are returning to the United States after at least a year's absence; and
- cooperative breeding programs, if the programs have been approved by the Service.

In addition, the Service allows birds listed under CITES that were exported from the United States by their owners to return to the United States. These importations are allowed provided the birds were exported legally with a CITES permit and a copy of that permit is presented when the birds are to be returned to the United States. Also, owners must accompany these birds when they are returned to the United States.

#### Permit Not Required

The Act provides for certain otherwise prohibited importations without a permit provided the Service has approved the species, the captive breeding facility, or a scientifically based management plan for the species. The Service has not approved any species, breeding facilities, or management plans to allow for imports without a permit. In the future, the Service will publish an approved list for each of the following categories:

- certain approved captive-bred species,
- certain species from approved foreign captive breeding facilities, and
- certain wild-caught species from countries with approved management plans.

*Until the Service has issued approved lists for these species, their import will not be allowed.*

### Applying for a Permit to Import Birds

Permit applications and any other information you may need are available from the Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 420, Arlington, VA 22203, phone 1-800-358-2104 or (703) 358-2093, and Fax (703) 358-2281. ●

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