

Existing Legal Protection for Parrots

International trade is already regulated in foreign endangered and threatened species through CITES (US is a signatory) and the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992. Are these not sufficiently effective?

- CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)
 - CITES is an international agreement between governments to ensure that the international trade of CITES-listed plant and animal species does not threaten species' survival in the wild. There are currently 175 CITES Parties (member countries or signatories to the Convention). Under this treaty, CITES Parties regulate the import, export, and re-export of specimens, parts, and products of CITES-listed plant and animal species. Trade must be authorized through a system of permits and certificates that are provided by the designated CITES Scientific and Management Authorities of each CITES Party.
<http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/what.php>
 - NOTE THAT ALL PARROT SPECIES ARE LISTED ON EITHER APPENDIX I OR APPENDIX II OF CITES.
 - Appendix 2 - For species listed in Appendix II of CITES, commercial trade is allowed. However, CITES requires that before an export of Appendix-II specimens can occur, a determination must be made that the specimens were legally obtained (in accordance with national laws) and that the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild, and a CITES export document must be issued by the designated CITES Management Authority of the country of export and must accompany the export of the specimens. Furthermore, because the species is listed in Appendix II of CITES, the Management Authority of the Country of Export is required to ensure that the specimens were legally obtained, the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild, and issue a CITES export document. These documents are difficult to obtain and it is generally believed that this program effectively limits international trade.
 - Appendix 1 – Appendix I lists species that are the most endangered among CITES-listed animals and plants. They are threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species except when the purpose of the import is not commercial, for instance for scientific research. Listing on Appendix I effectively bans all international trade.
 - Note that the CITES website, under resources, has database query tools that you can use to see how many individuals were permitted to be exported or imported in a given year.
- <http://www.traffic.org/> is the website of the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network that reports on international trade of animals, and is also a good resource for trade information.
- The importation of parrots into the United States is also regulated by the Wild Bird Conservation Act (WBCA) (16 U.S.C. 4901 et seq.), which was enacted on October 23, 1992.

- The purpose of the WBCA is to promote the conservation of exotic birds by ensuring that imports to the United States of exotic birds are biologically sustainable and not detrimental to the species. The WBCA generally restricts the importation of most CITES-listed live and dead exotic birds except for certain limited purposes such as zoological display or cooperative breeding programs. Import of dead specimens is allowed for scientific specimens and museum specimens. The Fish and Wildlife Service may approve cooperative breeding programs and subsequently issue import permits under such programs. Wild-caught birds may be imported into the United States if certain standards are met and they are subject to a management plan that provides for sustainable use. NOTE THAT THIS ACT WAS INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE CAPTIVE AVICULTURE IN THE US.
- NOTE: Smuggling statistics should be available from US Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement.
 - “However, we do note that if a captive breeding program is highly successful such that it meets all of the commercial demand, it could preclude the need for wild-caught birds.”
<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/03/12/2013-05504/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-listing-the-yellow-billed-parrot-with-special-rule-and>
 - NOTE: OPINION: While I cannot at this time locate specific data, I believe that since the enactment of the Wild Bird Conservation Act the incidence of smuggling into the US has declined. Poaching of different species continues to a greater or lesser extent depending on the species and the country and their willingness to enforce their laws.