

## How Does ESA Listing Help Foreign Species

How does the ESA help conserve foreign species? What happened to the role of commercial aviculture? What good does it do to prohibit interstate commerce in these species?

- “We have no information to suggest that interstate commerce activities are associated with threats to the yellow-billed parrot or will negatively affect any efforts aimed at the recovery of wild populations of the species. Therefore, because acts in interstate commerce within the United States have not been found to threaten the yellow-billed parrot, the species is otherwise protected in the course of interstate commercial activities under the incidental take provisions and foreign commerce provisions contained in 50 CFR 17.31, and international trade of this species is regulated under CITES, we find this special rule contains all the prohibitions and authorizations necessary and advisable for the conservation of the yellow-billed parrot.” <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>
- Foreign species of birds that have bred very successfully and kept as pets in the US that have been put on the ESA are disappearing from aviculture. For example, for the endangered Queen of Bavaria (or Golden Conure) [Aratinga guarouba](#) and the Vinaceous Amazon [Amazona vinacea](#), because the restrictions in the Endangered Species Act that eliminates interstate commerce except between permitted conservation breeding programs, local markets have become saturated and breeders have stopped raising them. Exceptions are the threatened species: the Moluccan Cockatoo (Salmon-crested cockatoo, listed in 2011), and the Jamaican Yellow Billed Amazon (listed in March 2013), which were given “Special Rule” status, exempting them from the “no interstate commerce” regulation. NOTE THAT THIS “SPECIAL RULE” STATUS CAN BE CHANGED WITH THE FLICK OF A PEN.
  - NOTE: OPINION: The domestic raising of endangered or threatened foreign bird species for commercial purposes in the US is not injurious to the species in their country of origin, in this country or internationally. In fact, it can help keep a diverse gene pool for these species in this country, and provides the opportunity for the bird-loving public to participate in conservation efforts through breeding or through community education and outreach.
  - If a species is considered endangered on the ESA, there is not a process for exceptions to the ESA such as a “special rule”
- Aviculture in the US supports foreign conservation programs, both through the American Federation of Aviculture, and through private donations and activities. For example, The Bird Endowment is a nonprofit that, through donations, provides nest boxes to the endangered Blue Throated Macaw, which is being out-competed for nesting sites. Through donations, it also funds field biologists to focus on the species, and is engaged in the planning of a re-introduction program for the species.

- The federal government does very little to help conservation programs for foreign species
  - NOTE: OPINION: WHY DOES THE ESA INCLUDE FOREIGN SPECIES AT ALL? HOW DOES IT HELP THOSE SPECIES?