

# WE ARE ILLEGAL!



Military Macaw - *Ara militaris*

Thick-Billed Parrot -  
*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*

G. Harrison/Bruce Coleman Inc.



Scarlet Macaw - *Ara macao*

Copyright 2001, Photohome.com

## Thinking of buying a PET PARROT while visiting another country? THINK AGAIN!

The parrots you see on this poster are in decline. If you purchase them or any other parrot during your travels outside of the United States, then you are likely contributing to their endangerment. You will also be breaking the law if you bring these wild caught parrots into the U.S. Illegally imported parrots are subject to seizure and forfeiture and could land you in jail. Save these parrots and save yourself legal problems by not purchasing them, or their feathers, outside the U.S.

Parrots, macaws, cockatoos, and other birds comprise an order of birds known as psittacines, commonly referred to as "parrots." With a quarter of the existing 350 species dangerously close to extinction, and a further 40 species just short of being threatened, parrots are the most endangered bird family on earth. If the world's threatened parrots are to survive, the human threats to their survival must be addressed.



Frank Cara/Bruce Coleman Inc.

One of the most serious threats to parrots is capture for the pet trade.

Lilac-Crowned Parrot - *Amazona finschi*

Each year, thousands of parrots are taken from the wild in Mexico, Central and South America, and other areas to be sold as pets. Some birds remain in their native countries, but many others are exported for the pet trade around the world. To capture these parrots, bird collectors often cut down trees or open nests with machetes, killing baby birds in the process and afflicting permanent habitat destruction that threatens remaining birds. Many of the captured birds die from insufficient food, water and ventilation before reaching the markets where they are offered for sale to locals, tourists and bird smugglers. Furthermore, once brought into the United States these parrots may spread infectious diseases to native U.S. bird populations.

Despite advances in international and national protection for wild birds, illegal trade continues in many countries because of the high profits associated with parrot smuggling, and because many countries where wild parrots live have not yet passed adequate legislation to protect them. In addition, demand for these birds means that trappers in parrot range countries will continue to capture these birds from the wild to meet demand for pet parrots.

Parrots are legally protected under U.S. laws such as the Wild Bird Conservation Act (WBCA) and the Endangered Species Act. The WBCA explicitly prohibits the import of many exotic birds, including all parrots, macaws, lorries, cockatoos and parakeets, and some finches and canaries caught in the wild. It is a federal offense to import any of these birds into the United States. For further information on the laws governing the importation of exotic birds please contact the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Don't contribute to the further decline of these beautiful but endangered birds. Don't buy parrots or their feathers during your visits to foreign countries. For more information on how you can help save the world's remaining parrots, contact :



Defenders of Wildlife  
1101 14th Street, NW,  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
202-682-9400  
[www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)

Produced with the support of:



World Parrot Trust - USA  
P.O. Box 353  
Stillwater, MN 55082  
651-275-1877  
[www.worldparrottrust.org](http://www.worldparrottrust.org)



American Bird Conservancy  
P.O. Box 249,  
The Plains, VA 20198  
540-253-5780  
[www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org)