

# News Release

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February 25, 2019

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## **Scarlet Macaw Receives Endangered Species Act Protections**

*Northern Subspecies Listed as Endangered – Certain Southern Subspecies and Subspecies Crosses Listed as Threatened*

Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finalized Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing determinations for scarlet macaw. The Service will list the northern subspecies of the parrot (*Ara macao cyanoptera*) as endangered and the northern distinct population segment (DPS) of the southern subspecies (*A. m. macao*) as threatened. The southern DPS of the southern subspecies (*A. m. macao*) and subspecies crosses of the northern and southern subspecies will also be listed as threatened based on similarity of appearance.

The Service is also adding the southern subspecies and subspecies crosses of the scarlet macaw to an existing special rule for parrots under section 4(d) of the ESA. This will continue to provide needed protections while allowing for interstate commerce and the import and export of certain captive-bred birds provided the requirements of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Wild Bird Conservation Act are met.

Scarlet macaws are brilliantly colored parrots native to Mexico and Central and South America. They have the broadest range of all the macaw species. However, the scarlet macaw's range in Mesoamerica (Mexico and Central America) has been reduced over the past several decades primarily due to habitat destruction and harvesting the species for the pet trade.

The ESA provides numerous benefits to foreign species, primarily by prohibiting activities such as import, export, take, interstate commerce and foreign commerce. By regulating these activities, the United States helps conserve imperiled species across the world.

For more information about scarlet macaws, please visit: <https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/parrots.html>.

To learn more about the Endangered Species Program's Branch of Foreign Species, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/foreign-species.html>.

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).*

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