



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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65 NEW SPECIES ON LIST OF FEDERALLY-PROTECTED BIRDS

Sixty-five additional birds--including the Pink-footed Shearwater, the Paraque Goatsucker, and the Fork-tailed Flycatcher--appear on the newly-revised list of 522 migratory birds protected by Federal law, the U. S. Department of the Interior announced today.

The list appears in a Fish and Wildlife Service leaflet, "Birds Protected by Federal Law," written by Frederick C. Lincoln, ornithologist.

The new list includes many revisions in the common names of birds, and drops a few--including the Labrador duck, the great auk, and the passenger pigeon--which are now extinct. The important changes, however, are the additions of birds which recent investigations have proved to be migratory under the terms of the Convention with Great Britain, or which have been declared migratory according to the terminology of the Mexican Convention.

Conventions with Great Britain and Mexico protect numerous species of birds of certain families. The terminology of the conventions clearly indicates that all birds which are members of the families listed--and occur in the United States and either Mexico or Canada--are under the protection of Federal law.

Thus the Fish and Wildlife Service now lists the roadrunner of the Southwest as a protected bird--since the roadrunner is found in both the United States and Mexico, and its scientific family name, Cuculidae, is listed in the Convention signed with Mexico in 1936. A similar example is the clapper rail--of the Family Rallidae--which a Federal court recently held to be a protected bird. In the light of these findings, a complete re-analysis of the protected list was necessary.

Another well-known bird appearing on the list for the first is the cardinal. While this attractive bird has been protected in many states, other states have permitted its caging as a house pet. Large numbers of cardinals are now kept as pets, but the capture or sale of cardinals is forbidden by Federal law as a result of the new listing. The Service asserted, however, that no action would be taken against individuals who obtained their pets prior to issuance of the revised list.

Practically every song-bird, shore bird and species of waterfowl is included in the new listing. Migratory game birds, such as woodcock, waterfowl and doves, may be hunted in accordance with regulations administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service also issues permits for the taking of scientific specimens of protected birds.

Some of the commonly-known birds not appearing on the list of Federally-protected birds are the non-migratory upland game birds (such as quail, pheasant, grouse, etc., protected by state laws), the bluejay, crow, starling, common sparrow and the hawks and owls. The Service emphasized, however, that most hawks and owls are beneficial to mankind because of their rodent-killing activities and pointed out that states have laws protecting some owls and hawks.

Other birds on the list are certain Alaskan birds protected by the Alaska Game Law, and the bald eagle--which is protected in the United States by the Bald Eagle Act of 1940.

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