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NEW AMENDMENT TO LACEY ACT AIDS IN IDENTIFICATION
OF SPECIES PROHIBITED FOR IMPORT

As an added safeguard against the introduction into the United States of certain unwanted species of wild animals and birds, a new amendment to the Lacey Act has been adopted which clarifies the identification of these species, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today.

Among the provisions of the Lacey Act, passed on May 25, 1900, was one that prohibited the introduction into this country of certain species of wild animals and birds which might be detrimental to agriculture or horticulture.

In this provision of the act, some of the species were actually named. Since then, however, difficulty has been experienced in making definite identification of these species because of the acceptance of revisionary work involving generic names.

The new amendment, which specifies by scientific name those species that are to be excluded (except for certain specified uses and under rigidly controlled conditions embodied in permits issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service), will not only aid persons planning to import certain birds and animals, but will ease the work of port-of-entry authorities.

As stated in the original act, prohibited species include: the mongoose (Herpestes auro-punctatus); the so-called "flying-foxes" or fruit bats (all species of the Genus Pteropus); the English Sparrow (Passer domesticus); the starling (Sturnus vulgaris); "and such other birds and animals as the Secretary of the Interior may declare to be injurious to the interests of agriculture or horticulture."

In addition to those previously named in the statutes, the following animals and wild birds and their eggs are now subject to the prohibitions against importation: Bird species of the genus Acridotheres classified as

- (1) tristis (commonly known as Common Myna, Indian Myna, or Common Ceylon Myna);
- (2) crisatellus (sometimes referred to as Acridotheres grandis or Acridotheres fuscus and commonly known as Chinese crested Myna, Siamese Yellow-billed Jungle Myna, Assam Yellow-billed Myna, Indian Jungle Myna, Jungle Myna, Malay Jungle Myna, and Buffalo Myna);
- (3) gingianus (commonly known as Bank Myna);
- (4) albocinctus (commonly known as Collared Myna).

These species of Myna that are prohibited entry, except for exhibition in public zoos or for scientific purposes, do not interfere with the importation of the talking Myna that is so popular today and other exotic cage birds which are handled by cage-bird dealers.

Also prohibited entry, except for fur farming and other agricultural or scientific purposes, (and only if kept in confinement) are the European rabbit (Lepus cuniculus) and European hare (Lepus europaeus).

The importation of parrots and other psittacine birds is regulated by the U. S. Public Health Service, as are certain birds defined as "poultry" which are regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

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