



## NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



Date: February 7, 2023

### **Subject: Wild Bird Conservation Act (WBCA) and Bird Parts**

#### **Background:**

The purpose of the WBCA, 16 U.S.C. §§ 4901-4915, is to promote the conservation of exotic birds both by encouraging management programs in the birds' countries of origin and by limiting the international trade in exotic birds to ensure that wild populations are not exploited.

*Exotic bird* means any live or dead member of the Class Aves that is not indigenous to the 50 States or the District of Columbia, including any egg or offspring thereof, but does not include domestic poultry, dead sport-hunted birds, dead museum specimens, dead scientific specimens, products manufactured from such birds, or birds in any of the following families: Phasianidae, Numididae, Cracidae, Meleagrididae, Megapodiidae, Anatidae, Struthionidae Rheidae, Dromaiinae, and Gruidae ([50 C.F.R. 15.3.](#))

Statutory language under 16 U.S.C. § 4903 defines "exotic bird" as 'any live or dead member of the class Aves' to include parts of birds such as feathers, wings, and skeletons, as well as whole birds (live or dead), is consistent with the purposes of the WBCA.

Bird parts are within the scope and are included under WBCA. Therefore, it is important for importers and exporters to understand that all prohibitions and requirements, described in [50 C.F.R. 15.11](#), apply to parts of, as well as whole *exotic birds*, whether dead or live.

The Director may issue a permit authorizing the importation of exotic birds otherwise prohibited by [section 15.11](#), in accordance with the issuance criteria of this subpart, for the following purposes only: Scientific research; zoological breeding or display programs; cooperative breeding programs designed to promote the conservation and maintenance of the species in the wild; or personally owned pets accompanying persons returning to the United States after being out of the country for more than 1 year ([50 C.F.R. 15.21\(a\).](#))

[50 C.F.R. 15.33\(a\)](#) *Captive-bred species*. The list in this paragraph includes species of captive-bred exotic birds for which importation into the United States is not prohibited by [section 15.11](#). The species are grouped taxonomically by order. If the species is not included in the list, it is prohibited. The list of captive-bred exotic bird species approved for import is subject to change in accordance with [50 CFR 15.31](#).

#### **Action:**

Imports and exports of exotic birds found to be in violation of the WBCA are subject to enforcement action by the Service, including seizure of goods and possible monetary penalties.

Contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Office of Law Enforcement  
703-358-1949; 703-358-2271 (fax)  
[lawenforcement@fws.gov](mailto:lawenforcement@fws.gov) (e-mail)