

Think twice before you buy: Guide to birds in trade in Singapore

Greater Green Leafbird (*Chloropsis sonnerati*)

Native and protected in Singapore, the high demand for trade has caused wild population declines across the region. Buying the species contributes to their continued decline in the wild.



Munia species/ sparrows/ seed-eaters (several species)

Popular for the purpose of merit release, a problematic practice because it introduces diseases into wild bird populations and introduces feral non-native species into the wild. Avoid purchasing birds for the purpose of mercy release for it is no mercy to these birds or ones in the wild at all!



Oriental White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*)

Once found in Singapore, this species has since gone extinct locally due to trade. Neighbouring Indonesia and Malaysia now supplies Singapore's demand for the species, where they are hunted in large numbers. Our surveys found birds from Malaysia being sold in Singaporean markets. Avoid buying to prevent unsustainable trade.



Common Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa*)

This native species is protected in Singapore, making it illegal to catch them locally and sell them. Further, there is no way to ensure that the birds for sale were sourced legally (i.e. from other countries), so avoid buying.



Chinese Hwamei (*Garrulax canorus*)

With no recent records of imports into Singapore, birds of this species for sale have not been imported legally; it is a species that has been recorded in seizures in other countries. You will require a licence for legal import of this species.



White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*)

This native species is protected in Singapore, making it illegal to catch them locally and sell them. There is no way to ensure that the birds for sale were sourced legally (i.e. from other countries), so avoid buying. Also recorded in seizures across the world.



Oriental Magpie-robin (*Copsychus saularis*)

This native species was hunted to near extinction in Singapore for the bird trade. Reintroductions in the 1980s have enabled slow recovery of local populations. Avoid buying, you can observe wild ones easily!



Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*)

Severe population declines in its range of West and Central Africa due to trapping for trade have earned the species the highest level of protection, meaning wild-caught birds are banned from trade worldwide (a CITES Appendix I listed species). While some of these birds are from captive sources, many are still trapped from the wild. Without clear documented evidence a bird was legally captive-bred, avoid buying.



Birds to avoid buying in Singapore



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