

9561



Alert No. - 7/2014

Illegal trade in Birds

FILE NO.	10-27/WCCB/2013/Part-1 / 219
DATE	21 st February 2014
STATUS	Normal

Description

Regular seizures of prohibited species of birds especially Munias, Parakeets, Bulbuls, Owls, Baya, Hill mynas, teal, ducks, cranes etc. in different States indicate large scale illegal trade of birds in the country. Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ranchi, Rayagada, Mumbai, Bhatinda, Kanpur, Meerut, Patna, Ahmadabad and Vadodara are identified as major illegal bird trade/ transit centers. Some of the cases of illegal bird trade that have come to the notice of the Bureau are as under:

SN	Date of Poaching /Detection	Location	Articles seized	Name of detecting agency
1.	29.11.11 & 04.12.11	Chilka, Orissa	Migratory Birds-10 Nos.	DFO, Chilka, Orissa
2.	05.12.11	Ranchi, Jharkhand	Live Birds - 23 Nos.	Forest Department Ranchi, Jharkhand
3.	27.12.11	Super Mart-I, DLF Phase-IV, Gurgaon	Live Birds, Corals and Shells	Gurgaon Police
4.	05.01.12	FPO Kolkata	Porcupine quills & Bird Feathers (5.830 Kgs.)	WCCB, ER Kolkata
5.	27.01.12	Sehore, Madhya Pradesh	Poaching of wild birds	DFO, Sehore, M P
6.	30.01.12	NSCBI Airport, Kolkata	Peacock tail feathers - 124 Kgs.	AIU, Airport Customs, Kolkata
7.	30.01.12	Ballygunje area of Kolkata	Seizure of Live birds	WCCB/ER with Forest Dept. of West Bengal
8.	17.02.12	Howrah Railway Station, Kolkata	Peacock tail feathers - 190 Kgs.	Customs Preventive Unit of CCP, Kolkata
9.	24.02.12	TNT Express Office at Kolkata-54	Wild Bird Feathers -92 Pcs.	DRI, Kolkata with WCCB/ER
10.	03.05.12	Deoria District of U.P	Red Munias & Sparrow - around 400 Nos.	Forest Dept., U.P.
11.	21.07.12	Meerut, U.P.	Live Birds - 50 Nos. (including spotted Munias)	WCCB with local police.
12.	18.08.12	Faridabad,	Owls - 02 Nos.	Forest Official
13.	24.09.12	Adhchini, New Delhi	Munia- 05 Nos. Parakeets-02Nos	WCCB and WL deptt. of NCT of Delhi
14.	16.10.12	Ghaziabad, U.P.	Birds - 350 Nos. including Rabbits were seized	Govt. Railway police in the Delhi - Kalka Mail
15.	19.12.12	Venkulam Area of Devipatanam of Ramanathapuram district. Tamil Nadu	Live Garganey Bird (Anas Querquedula) -14 Nos.	Tamil Nadu Forest Deptt.
16.	21.12.12	Thayunur villge of Trichy , Tamil Nadu	Pea Fowl	Tamil Nadu Forest Deptt.
17.	13.01.13	Rayagada Range Division, Rayagada, Platform No. 1 Railway station, Orissa	Parrot - 219 Nos. (Live)	DFO, Rayagada, Orissa
18.	26.01.13	Vehicle No. CG04-KJ-8604 (TATA Indica , Seshkhal Range,	Parrot - 305 Nos. (live)	DFO, Rayagada, Orissa

19.	10.02.13	Rayagada Division, Orissa Ramanthapuram, Tamil Nadu	Birds -10 Nos.(Teal Live Birds)	TN Forest Deptt.Officials
20.	03.04.13	Ward No.-9, Opp. Railway Station, PS Maur Mandi, Bhatinda, Punjab	Chicks of Parakeets - 150 Nos.	WCCB RDD/NR
21.	24/25.04.13	Bikaner, Rajasthan	Parakeets-30 Nos.	RPF, Bikaner, Rajasthan
22.	17.06.13	Vill.- Jeal Gaon, Rajasthan	Seizure of 5 Male & 12 Female Carcass of Peacock	Forest Dept., Rajasthan
23.	04.07.13	Pet Shop, Fish World, Adarsh Nagar, Andheri-West, Mumbai	Illegal sales of Wild Animals & Birds	RDD/WR/Mumbai
24.	10.07.13	A.J.C. Bose Road, (in front of E.S.I Hospital), Kolkata	Parakeet-09 Nos., Munia-100 Nos., Hill Myna-4 Nos. Brahmini Myna -20 Nos.	WL (HQ), Forest Deptt. West Bengal
25.	30.07.13	Kolkata	Grey jungle fowl neck feathers - 92 Pcs.	RDD (ER), Kolkata
26.	02.08.13	Pithoragarh, Uttrakhand	Owl - 02 Nos.	DFO, Pithoragarh, UK
27.	01.09.13	Galiff Street Bird's Market Area, Kolkata	Parakeet - 08 Nos.	WL (HQ), Forest Deptt. West Bengal
28.	04.09.13	Madhyamgram area, 24- Parganas (North), West Bengal	Hill Myna-1 No., Munia- 04 Nos., Parakeet- 06 Nos.,	WL (HQ), Forest Deptt. West Bengal
29.	15.09.13	Canal East Road, Near Galiff Street Birds Market area, Kolkata	Parakeet- 21 Nos., Munia- 151 Nos.,	WL (HQ), Forest Deptt. West Bengal
30.	1.12.13	Illegal bird market in Galiff Street	100 birds of protected species eg parakeet, munia, basantabauri and mynah	WL (HQ), Forest Deptt. West Bengal
31.	25.12.13	Near Mehboob Studio in Bandra, Mumbai.	barn owl, a kite and a falcon	Bandra Police, Mumbai
32.	22.1.14	Kolkata	100 prohibited birds including exotic	Customs (Preventive) Unit, Kolkata.
33.	8.2.14	Malabar Pet Centre, Stadium Building, Rajaji Road, Puthiyara , Kozhikode	Two dozen fledging Indian ring - necked parakeets	Forest Flying Squad, Kozhikode

Conservation status of most commonly traded birds

Wild Life (Protection)
Act, 1972.

Schedule-I-Part-III:-

Bazas, Hawks, Eagle, Great Indian Bustard, Hill myna, Mountain Quail, Swiftlets.

Schedule-II-Part-II:-

Grey jungle fowl (Gallus sonnerati)

Schedule-IV:-

Bulbuls, Cranes, Ducks, Falcons, Geese, Kingfisher, Quails, Pigeons except Blue Rock Pigeon, Parakeets, Partridges, Doves, Owls, Munias, Mynas.

Modus Operandi

Bird hunting season:

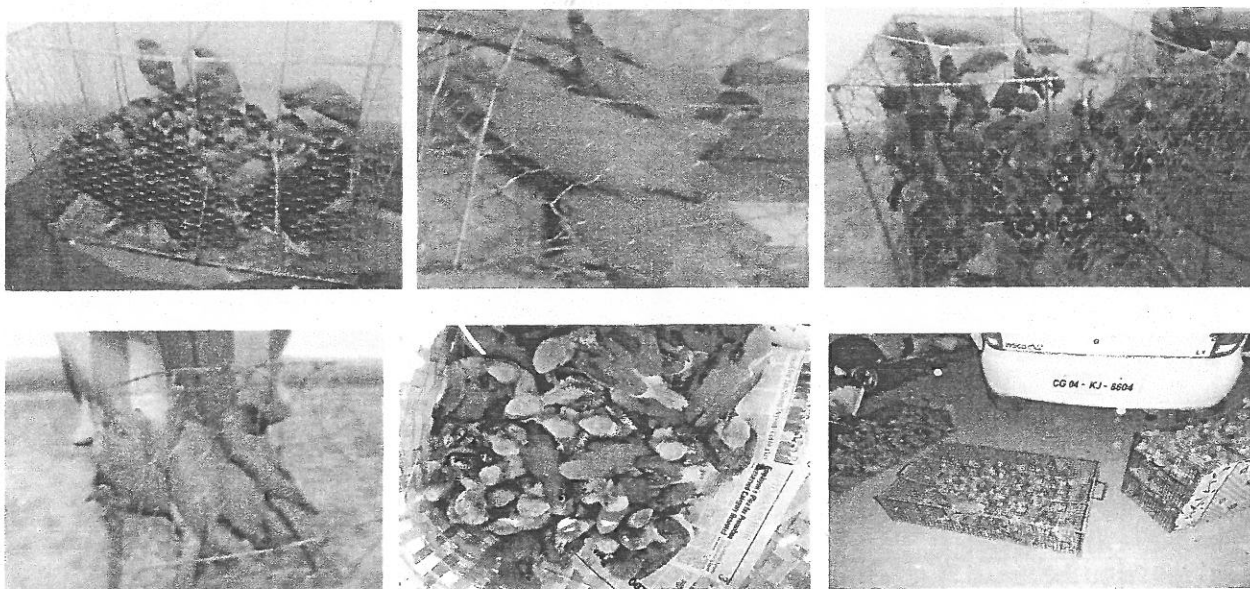
Fledglings of Parakeets, Munias, Baya and Bulbul and such other passerine birds are generally collected from their nests in the rural hinterland, by city/town based organized networks through their field men/boys. In such areas public awareness for conservation and protection of endangered birds is low. Field boys of networks are highly skilled collectors and well versed with the life cycle especially the egg laying season of different species of birds and topography of the area. They also

exploit the gregarious nature of some of the bird species such as Munia, Baya etc. Just before the onset of spring season (usually around holi), city-based traders send their men/carriers comprising of 3 - 5 individuals to different areas to recruit local boys to collect and nurse the nestlings. They are usually paid daily wages. Field boys identify a large area dotted with nestlings for collection. Such area could be a revenue land, forest or canal-sides. The nestlings collection usually lasts for about 20 - 25 days in an area. Collection of parakeet fledglings starts earlier in eastern States of Bihar, UP, MP, Chattisgarh and Odisha, whereas, the collection is late in western States i.e. Punjab, Jammu, foothills of H.P., plains of Uttarakhand and Western UP. Collections usually stop about 15 - 20 days before the onset of Monsoon as by that time all chicks grow and leave their nests.

MODE OF TRANSPORT:

While collection of chicks continues in rural areas, the grown up chicks are transported to nearby cities/towns by overnight trains/buses placing 30 - 35 nestlings in a perforated carton or covered basket. Carriers travel in the general compartment of trains and the cartons/ baskets are usually kept under seats. Express trains leaving late nights and reaching the destinations in the early hours are preferred. Chicks are often transported in small cages under the passenger seats or near toilets. The cartons/cages/baskets are usually covered with old clothes to avoid detection. Immediately on reaching at the destination, birds are moved to secure places for feeding and then supplied to petty traders/pet shop owners on demand basis. Birds are also sent to far off destinations by air by concealing them with legally permitted birds such as Budrigars. Consignments/ cages have been detected by enforcement agencies when prohibited birds were placed in the centre and Budrigars were kept in the periphery to avoid detection.

During the season between holi and onset of monsoon almost all major cities in the country receive regular supplies of prohibited birds from collection areas. Therefore, concerned authorities need to maintain increased vigil during this season. General lack of awareness on illegal bird trade issues among the field staff of enforcement agencies including Forest Departments needs attention. In cities/ towns the sale of birds is mostly through petty traders/ pet shop owners dealing in aquariums, pet animals and exotic birds not covered in the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972. Though the prohibited species are not show cased but are made available on demand. The prohibited animals/ birds are usually kept at undisclosed godowns or even at residences of such traders. Trade though internet is growing in the cities as a number of petshop owners publicize their business through social media. Following are some photographs of birds seized by agencies:



PHOTOGRAPHS OF MOST COMMON BIRDS IN ILLEGAL TRADE



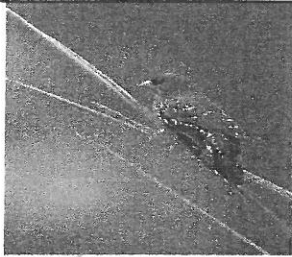
Munias (black headed),Sch.IV (44)



Munias(silver bill),Sch.IV(44)



Munias(green),Sch.IV(44)



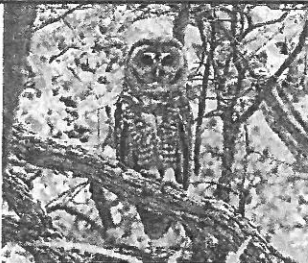
Munias(red), Sch.IV(44)



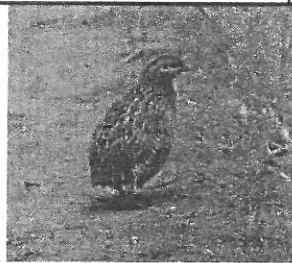
Munias:(spotted),Sch.IV(44)



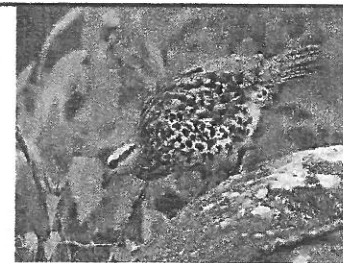
Bayas or Weaver birds(all types) : Sch.IV(77)



Owls : Sch.IV(48)



Quails:(except mountain quail), Sch.IV(57)



Mountain Quail:Sch.I,Part III(8)



Hill Myna: Sch.I,Part III(8)



Myna(Common):Sch.IV(45)



Bulbuls(All): Sch IV(8)



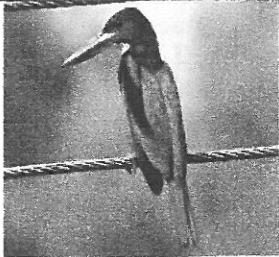
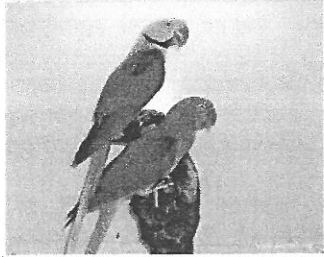
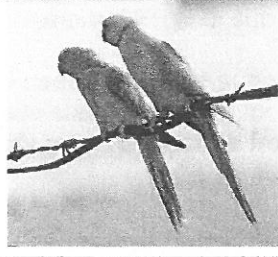
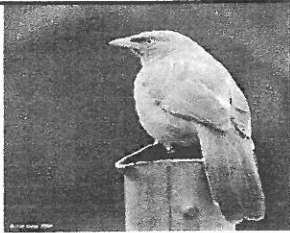
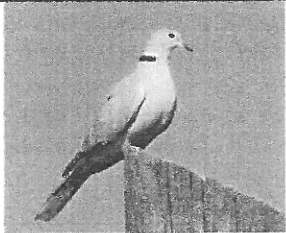
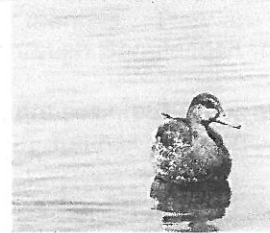

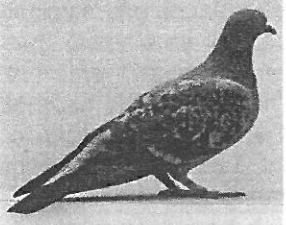
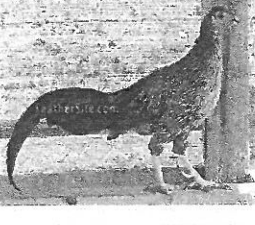
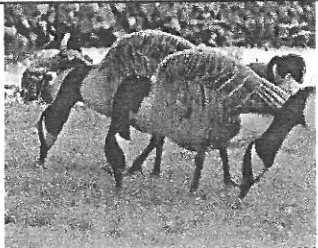



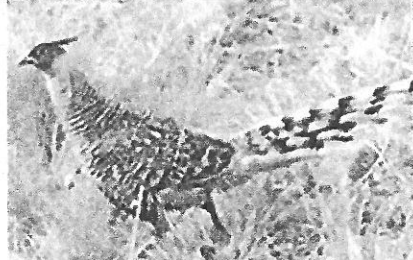

Falcons[Except Shaeen,Peregrine,Saker & Lager, red headed merlin] : Sch.IV(24)



Swiftlets: Sch.I,Part III(19)



Bazas: Sch I, Part III(1B)

		
Kingfisher:(White throated), Sch.IV(37)	Parakeet(Alexdrian):Sch.IV(50)	Parakeet(Rose ringed):Sch.IV(50)
		
Babblers: SchIV(3)	Doves(All types): Sch.IV(19)	Ducks: Sch.IV(21)
		
Partridge(Alltypes):Sch.IV(51)	Pigeons(except blue rock), Sch.IV(54)	Grey Jungle Fowl,Sch.II,Part II(17)
		
Geese(all types)): Sch.IV(29)	Great Indian Bustard,Sch.I,Part III(3)	Hawks: Sch I, Part III(4A)
		
Cranes (Sarus),Sch.IV(16)	Cheer Pheasant ,Sch I Part III(2)	White bellied sea eagle: Sch-I Part III(16)

Major criminals involved in illegal bird trade

- 1) Md. Farid @ Haji Farid: He is most notorious name in illegal bird trade. He hails from Unnao, U.P. He has network for collection and supply of birds across Delhi, Kanpur, Allahabad, Lucknow, Patna and Varanasi. Inputs suggest that he deals in falcons, Cranes and Owls as well. His preferred areas of bird collection are Bihar, East UP, Uttarakhand.
- 2) Md. Ehsan @ Mulla S/o Usman R/o Banger Moh, Ganga Ghat Road, Nanmot Road, Unnao: He used to be a trusted lieutenant of Hazi Farid who has now split from him and operates

independently. He collects nestlings from Punjab, Jammu and Western UP and supplies it mainly to Delhi based traders.

- 3) Saahid: He is Jama Masjid based pet/ exotic bird trader. Earlier he used to receive supply from Ahsan but now operates independently. Some of the Ehsan men have started working for him.
- 4) Ajay & Mukesh: They are shop owners at Jama Masjid and regularly receive supplies from Haji Farid group.
- 5) Santosh:(Address-NA): He is Rampur/UP based trader who supplies birds to Jaipur, Ahmadabad, Baroda in small tranches and through rail and video buses.
- 6) Bira, Bechu Subharatri and Shakil R/O village Aludanga near Bardhaman railway Station Bardhaman, West Bengal: They are based in Bardhaman and collect birds from Bihar, Jharkhand, Eastern UP and Nepal and supply it to Kolkata and other markets. They are locally called Mahajan (rich traders) and also supply exotic birds received through Bangladesh to other parts of the country.
- 7) Md Siraj R/O Gomo, Jharkhand and Nuru Miyan of Bokaro: They are main suppliers of birds procured from Gomo, Gaya, Ranchi, Allahabad, Patna, Bhagalpur, Katihar and Indo-Nepal border.

Major illegal trade centers

Birds are the most traded (illegal) species in the country. Jama Masjid area in Delhi, Galiff Street in Kolkata, Civil Lines area in Allahabad, Cantt area in Meerut, Behelia Tola in Varanasi, Nakkas market in Lucknow, Mir Shikar Toli in Patna, Crawford market in Mumbai, Adarsh Nagar Andheri - West, Mumbai, Murgi Chowk in Hyderabad, Rajaji Road in Puthiyara Kozhikode are major pet/bird markets where prohibited species of birds are routinely traded. Besides, all major cities in the country have pet shops selling aquariums, pet animals & exotic birds; and they often sell prohibited birds in the guise of exotic birds or arrange the supply on order.

Illegal trade routes and destinations

Interrogation of the arrested accused revealed that prohibited birds are being supplied mainly from Kolkata and Delhi to other parts of the country through express trains. Besides the collection of birds from wild within the country, birds in illegal trade are also sourced from Bangladesh & Nepal. It has also been revealed that apart from Kolkata and Delhi; Mumbai, Chennai, Varanasi, Allahabad, Lucknow, Patna, Ahmadabad, Vadodara, Bhatinda and Hyderabad have also developed as major transit hubs for illegal birds trade in the country.

In view of the above, it is requested that all the field formations under your control may be suitably advised to exercise increased vigil and take preventive action. WCCB may also be kept informed of any significant development in this regard for further action.

(S.B. Negi)

Additional Director/IGP
Wildlife Crime Control Bureau(WCCB)

Copy for information and necessary action:

- i. Director Generals of Police – AP, Bihar, J&K, H.P., Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, MP, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Odisha, West Bengal, UP, Kerala, T.N., Karnataka and Maharashtra
- ii. Chief Wildlife Wardens - AP, Bihar, J&K, H.P., Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, MP, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Odisha, West Bengal, UP, Kerala, T.N., Karnataka and Maharashtra
- iii. Director General – BSF, CISF, RPF and SSB
- iv. WCCB Regional Deputy Directors – NR/WR/CR/SR/ER
- v. PS to the Additional Director General (WL), Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.