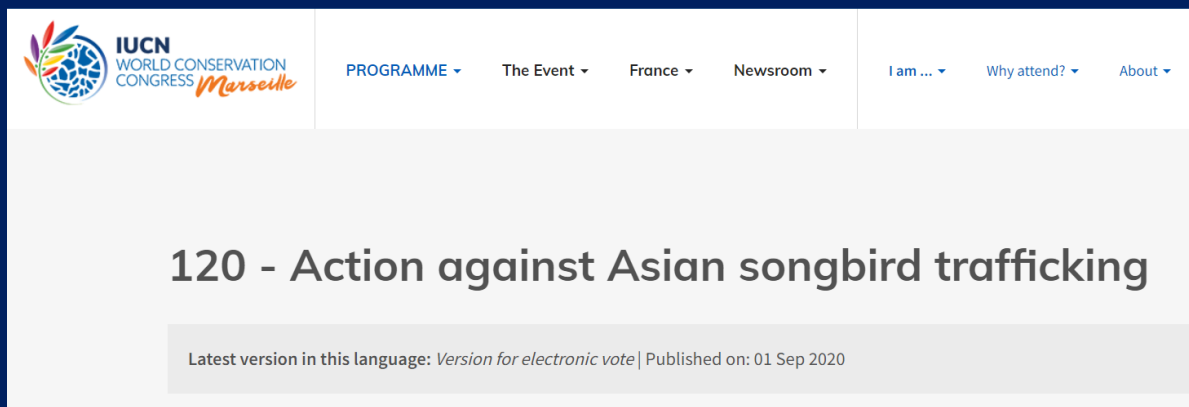




# Studies on Songbirds supported by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA)

Simon Bruslund,  
Head of Conservation, Copenhagen Zoo  
Co-chair EAZA Songbird Taxon Advisory Group  
sb@zoo.dk







- Silent Forest was an organization wide conservation campaign 2017-2019
- Based on a decade of work on the Asian Songbird Crisis
- Helped put songbird conservation issues on “the map”
- Fundraised and developed in-region projects
- Still active as “conservation action alliance”

**SILENT  
FOREST**

### EAZA Position Statement on songbird trafficking

Approved by EAZA Council  
19 April 2018

This statement presents the position of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) on songbird trafficking<sup>1</sup>, and is supported by our partners in the 'Silent Forest Campaign': IUCN Species Survival Commission Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group, Birdlife International, and TRAFFIC.

EAZA and its partners recognise the multiple severe threats posed by the global trade in songbirds. The recent International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List update moved many Asian songbird species into increasing endangered status categories (IUCN, 2016), largely as a result of excessive trapping for trade. These up-listings serve as evidence of the negative impacts of trafficking on Asian songbird species survival; sadly, this trend is likely to be replicated for songbirds in other regions of the world.

EAZA and its partners recognise that, despite European Union (EU) 319/2013 legislation<sup>2</sup> banning the importation of wild caught songbirds, the numbers and species of birds being offered for sale in the EU indicate that Europe is still a consumer destination. This could indicate that Member States effectively implementing the legislation. Derogation to the legislation, such as the exemption for facilities with a zoo licence to import birds or for private people to import a limited number of birds as pets, could be misused and may provide opportunities for exploitation via onward sale into trade.

In addition, current EU legislation<sup>3</sup> does not recognise the status of country-of-origin report regulations. This provides further potential loopholes for trade that threatens species. Lastly, many traded songbird species, including threatened species, are not listed in the appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Until these listings are updated, trade will continue to have a detrimental impact on species survival.

EAZA and its partners welcome the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking (COM (2016) 87) as a means to address these challenges. The current EAZA Species Survival Commission Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group, Birdlife International and TRAFFIC, commits to undertaking activities that help reduce trafficking of wild caught songbirds and is closely aligned to the following three priority areas outlined in the EU Action Plan:

1. Preventing wildlife trafficking and addressing its root causes
2. Implementing and enforcing existing rules and combating organised wildlife crime more effectively
3. Strengthening the global partnership of source, consumer and transit countries against wildlife trafficking

<sup>1</sup> Defined in the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking as "international and non-international illegal trade in wild animals and plants and derived products, and closely interlinked offences such as poaching."  
<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1313/2013 of 7 January 2013 laying down animal health conditions for imports of certain birds into the Union and the quarantine conditions thereof



[www.silentforest.eu](http://www.silentforest.eu)



# Exploring the Global Trade Impact of CITES Listing Changes amidst the EU Import Ban on Wild Birds

Simon Bruslund, Head of Conservation  
Jacqueline Juergens, Research Assistant

Copenhagen Zoo & University of Southern Denmark



Erasmus+



*Crithagra mozambica*

# Species delisted by Ghana in 2007



Delisting of 114 bird species by Ghana in 2007



2 Passeriformes families:  
*Fringillidae* & *Ploceidae*

Order	Number of bird species in CITES	
	Appendix III delisted in 2007 by Ghana	Listed in Appendixes I, II, & III in 2021
Passeriformes	71	85
Columbiformes	17	7
Anseriformes	12	18
Pelecaniformes	7	7
Musophagiformes	3	14
Ciconiiformes	2	4
Galliformes	1	49
Psittaciformes	1	353

# EU Import Ban on Wild Birds



October 2005



All wild birds for  
commercial purposes



EU biggest importer  
of wild birds

Published: 08 December 2004

## Europe faces call to ban imports of wild birds

[Rex Dalton](#)

[Nature](#) **432**, 661 (2004) | [Cite this article](#)

205 Accesses | [Metrics](#)

### World news

**James Sturcke, Mat Smith  
and agencies**

Tue 25 Oct 2005 21:39 BST

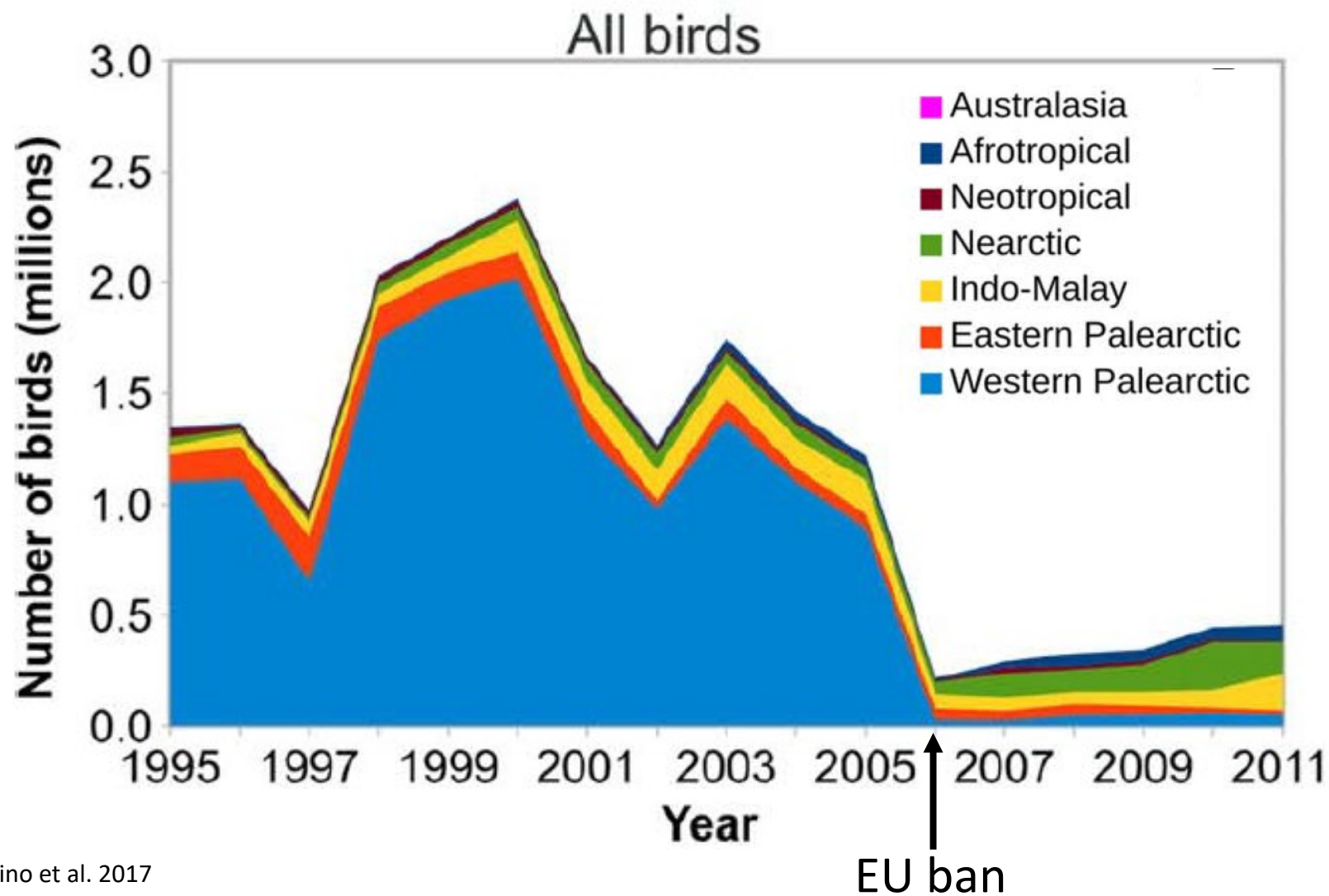


## EU to ban wild bird imports



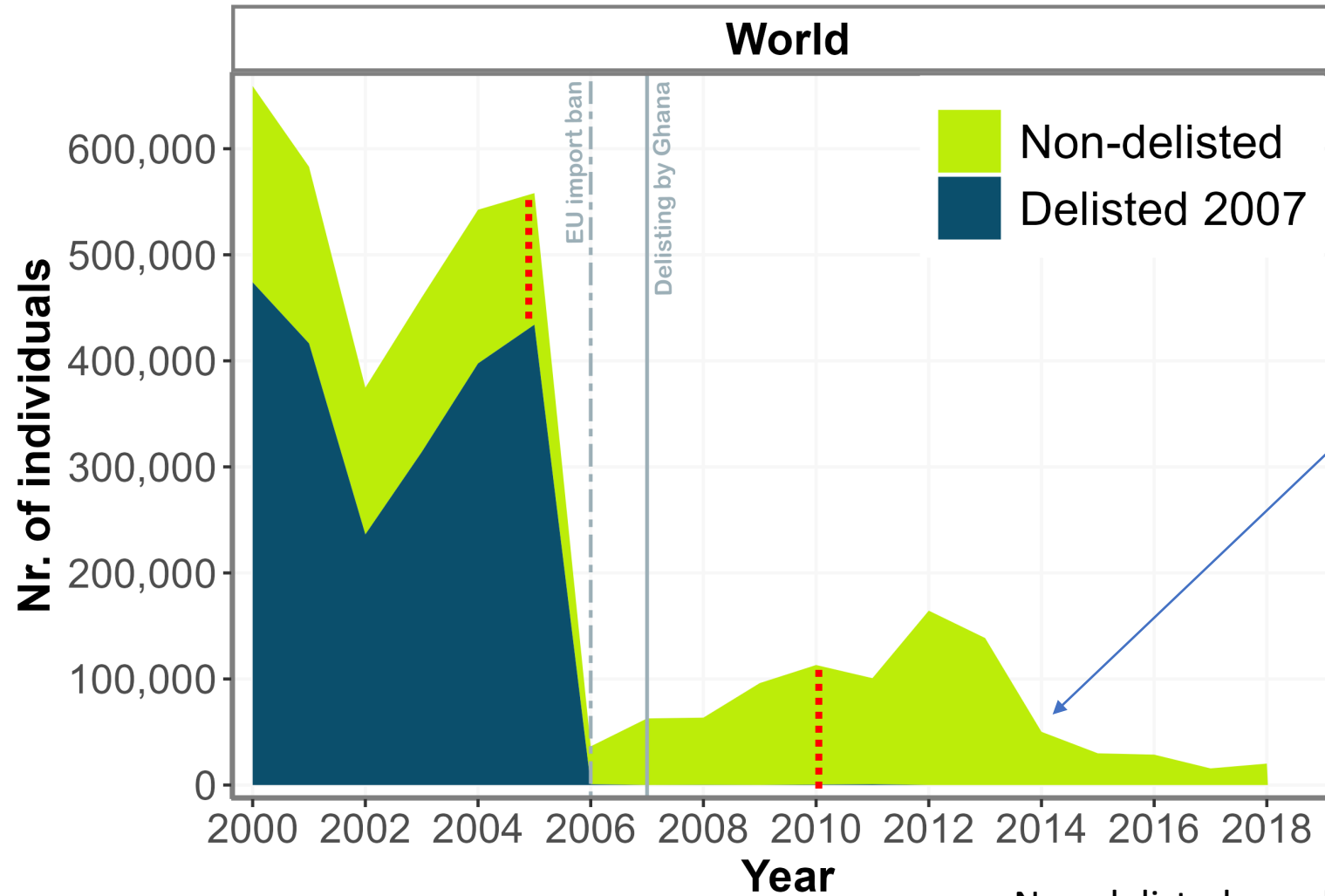
Parrots are displayed at a bird market in Jakarta. Photograph: Ed Wray/AP

# Global trade drop & EU ban





# Delisted species in the global wild bird trade

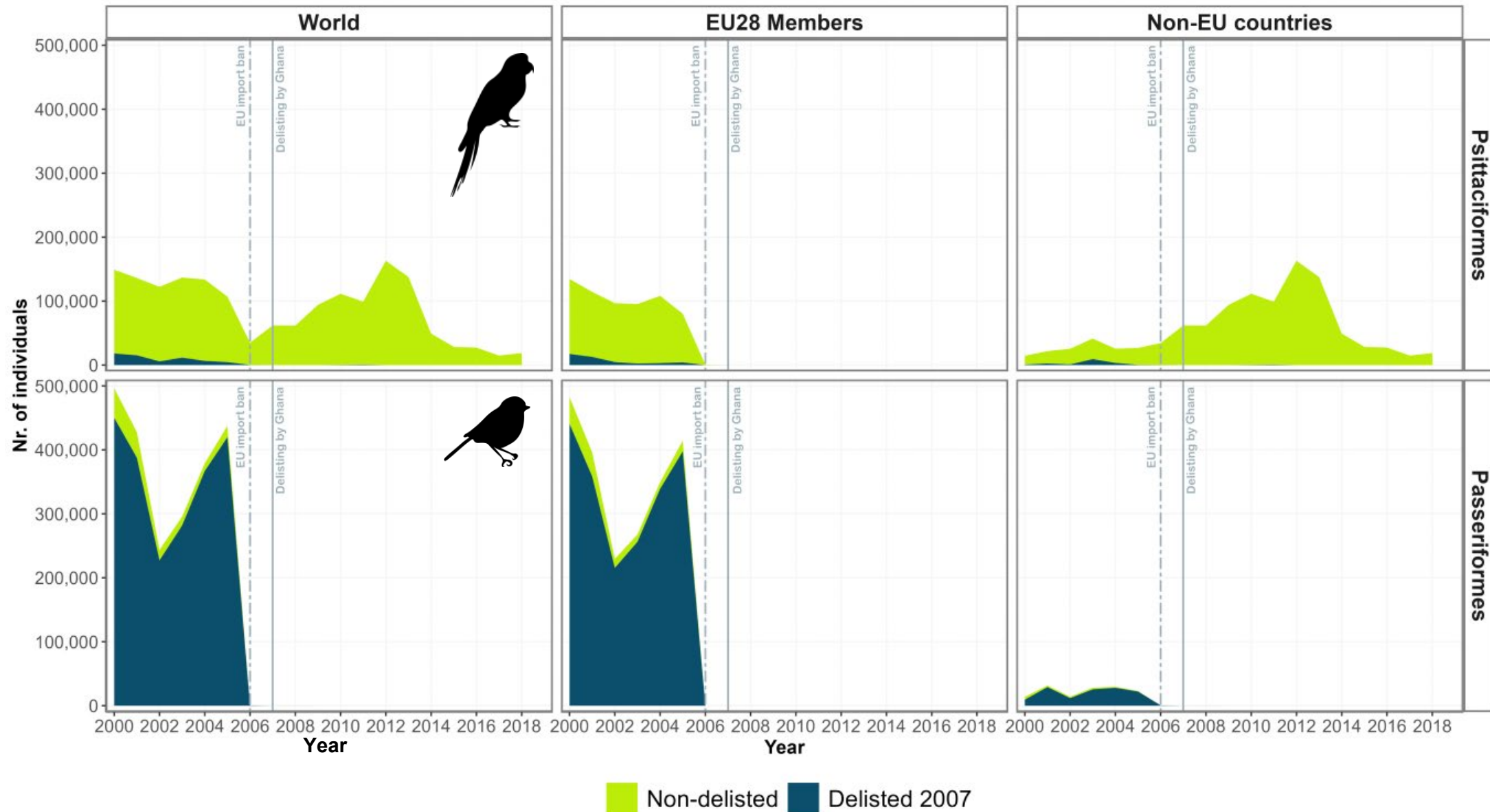


70%

2,273,100 individuals

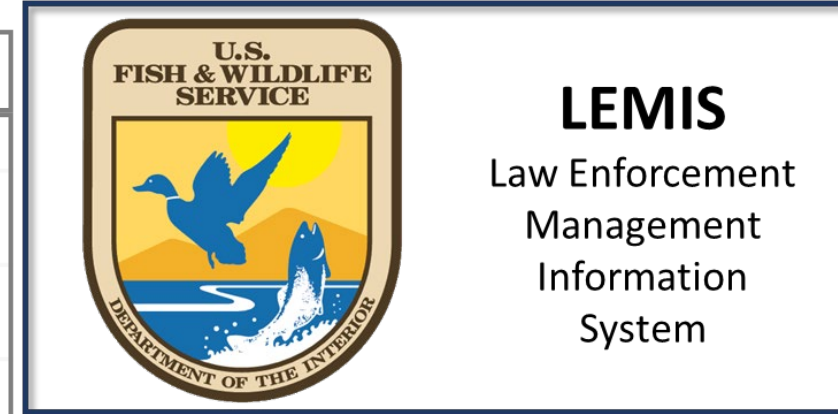
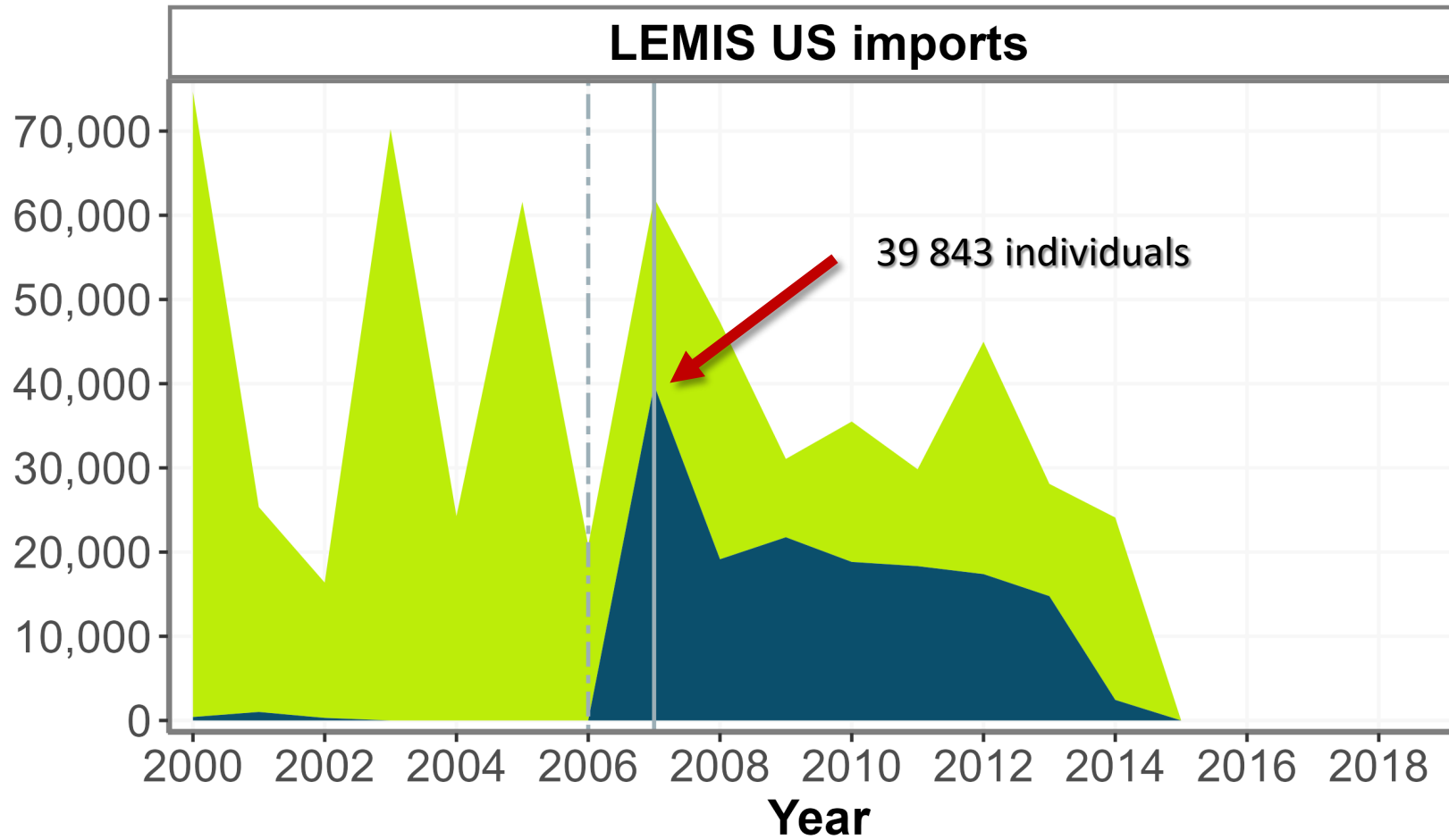
Non-delisted songbird numbers exceeded pre-ban levels by 2010

# Comparing orders: Songbirds & Parrots





# Where did all those birds go?



74 %

# Which species are traded?



*Crithagra mozambica*



396 364 individuals

82 914 individuals



243 017 individuals

68 358 individuals



*Uraeginthus bengalus*



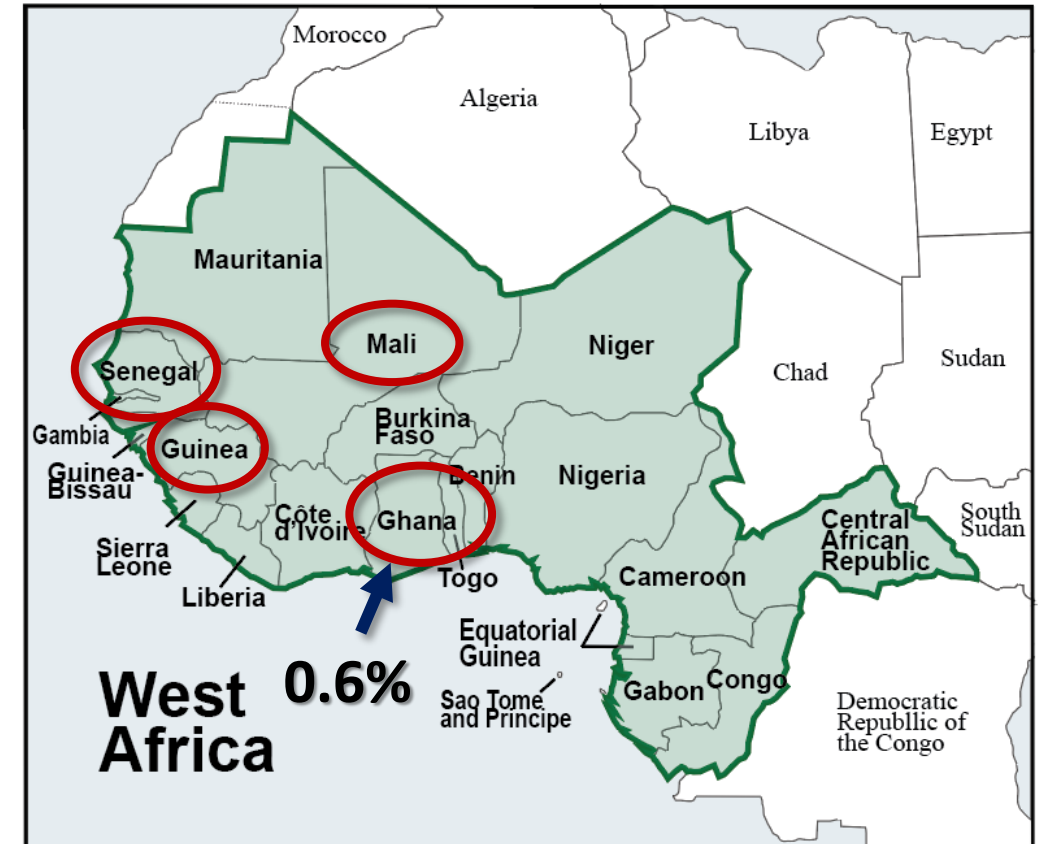
*Estrilda troglodytes*



189 421 individuals

No records

# Where did the birds come from?





# What does this mean?



Delisting amplified  
drop in global bird  
trade



Continued trade of  
West African birds



App III effective for  
trade regulation &  
monitoring



Need to use  
complimentary  
databases

# An investigation of the illegal trade of wild songbirds in the EU

**Simon Bruslund**, Head of Conservation  
**Jacqueline Juergens**, *Research Assistant*

*Copenhagen Zoo &  
University of Southern Denmark*



**Erasmus+**



*Garrulax bicolor* © Simon Bruslund

# EU Import Ban on Wild Birds



Implemented in 2005  
Permanent since 2007



All wild birds for  
commercial purposes



## WHEN COLLECTORS TRADE BECOMES AN ADDITIONAL THREAT: THE CASE OF THE COLLARED LAUGHINGTHRUSH

Written by Simon Bruslund<sup>1,2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Marlow Birdpark

<sup>2</sup> Member, Scientific Link\*

<sup>3</sup> Member of Trade and Legislation sub-group, ASTSG

The Collared Laughingthrush (*Trochalopteron yersini*), a restricted range species, endemic to the Da Lat Plateau in central Viet Nam is primarily threatened by habitat degradation leading to fragmentation. The declining population is estimated between 2,500 - 10,000 individuals and the species is currently listed as Endangered in the [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#). [Foden et al.](#) assessed the species vulnerability to climate change as overall high.

The majority of its range is within the national parks Chu Yang Sin and Bi Doup Nui Ba and the species is legally protected in Viet Nam under Decree of Government No. 32/2006/ND-CP, and Decree 06/2019/ND-CP on management endangered, precious and rare species of forest fauna and flora demanding licencing for any trade and trapping.

Unfortunately, these measures do not seem to offer sufficient protection, and although the

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IUCN S



© Huysmans-Boonen BV  
FB @vogelhandelhuysmans 2020



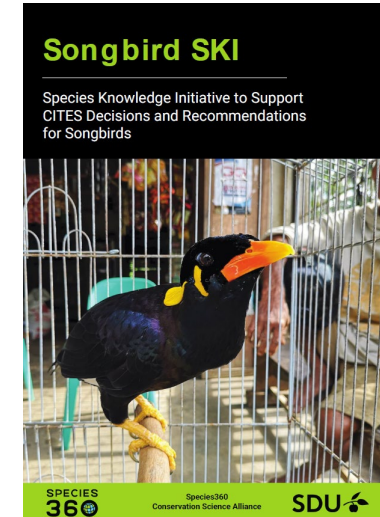
# Songbirds & Illegal bird trade in the EU



**93\* species CITES listed**



**127 species  
EU Wildlife Trade Regulations**



**1041 species  
Internationally traded**



**Knowledge gap on EU trade**



## Data Sources

Social Media

Literature

Market  
surveys

Databases



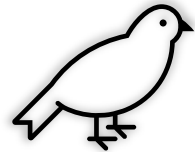
**SiTDB**

SONGBIRDS IN TRADE DATABASE

## Data Used

Wild  
sales EU  
after  
2006

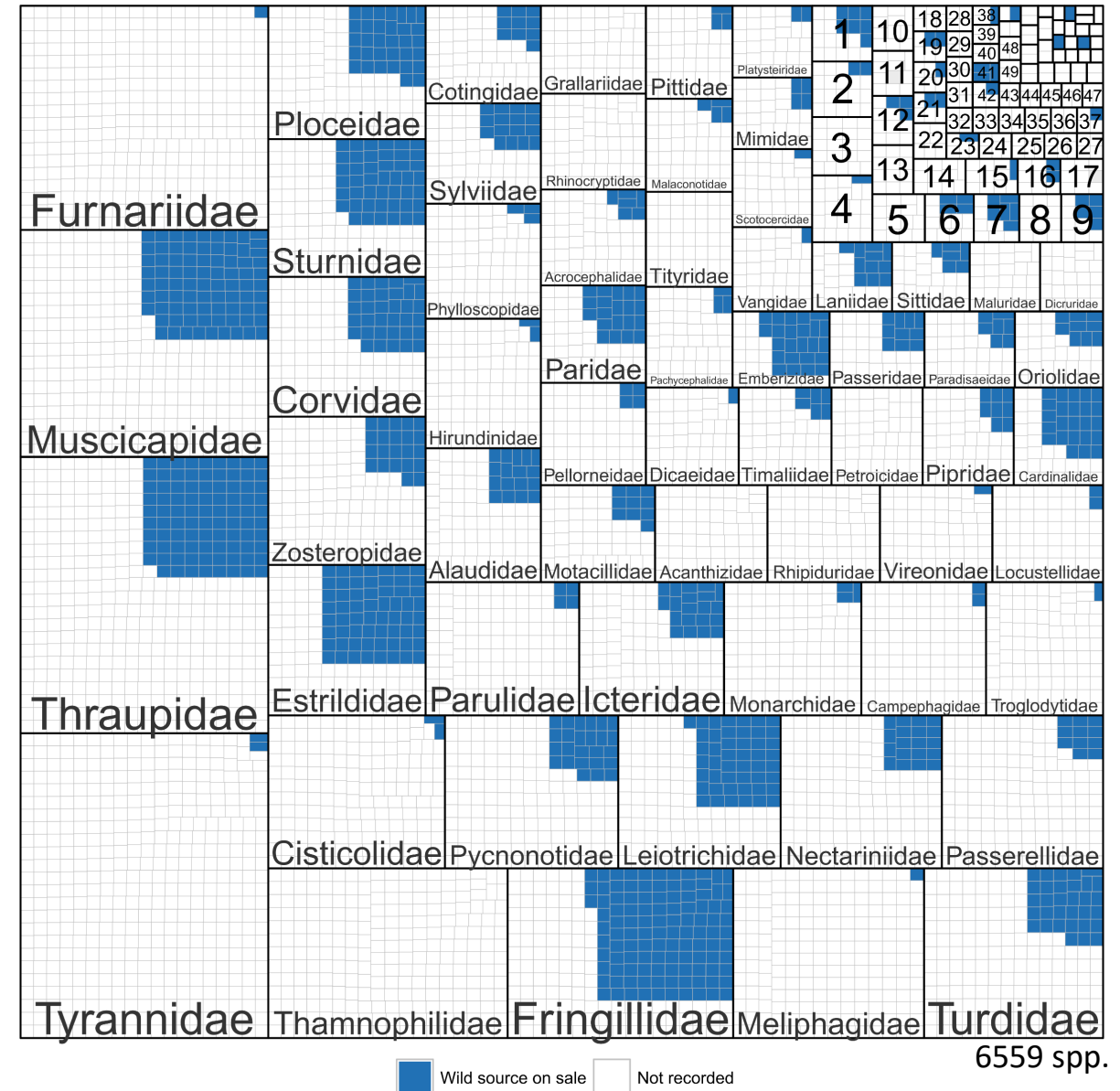
EU  
captive  
breeding



**911 species  
with wild-caught  
sales**



**67 songbird  
families (48.6 %)**



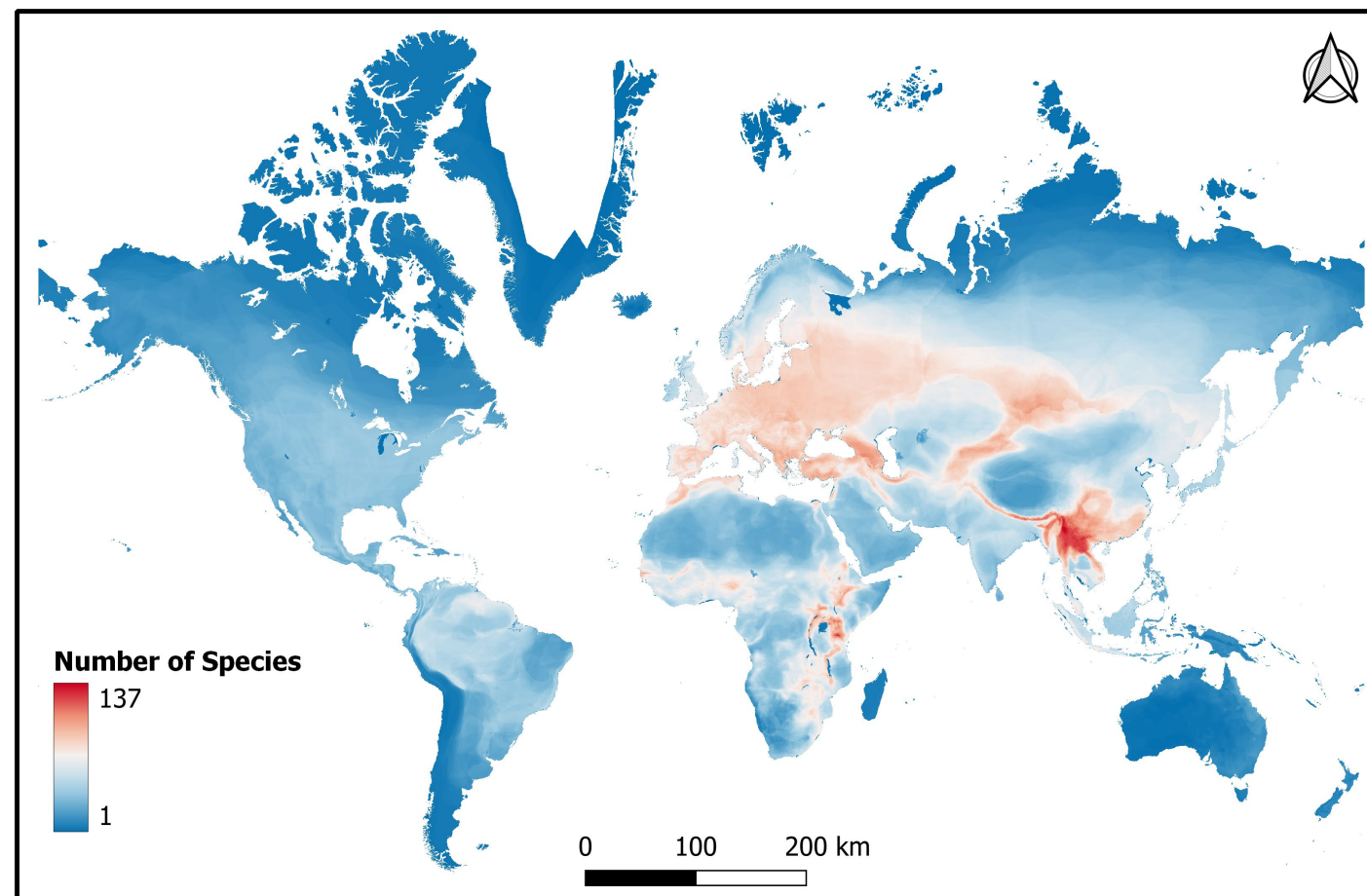




**38 spp. in EU WTR**



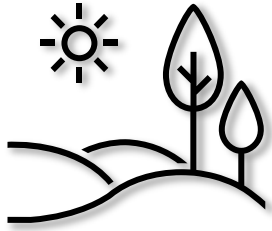
**22 spp. in CITES**



**Origin of 911 species with suspected wild source in the EU**

# Results

## Captive breeding of songbirds in the EU



**Of 907 spp.  
with wild-caught  
origin suspected**



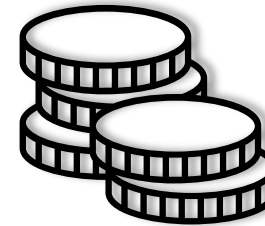
**552 spp. Also  
have evidence of  
captive breeding**



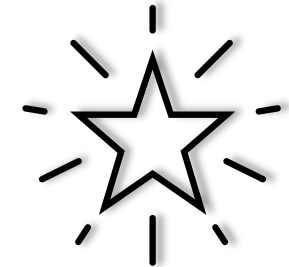
**Only 72 spp.  
exclusively  
captive-bred**



**Higher demand**



**Cheaper**



**Attractiveness**



Undocumented trade in songbirds



Demand in EU may contribute to species declines



Better enforcement needed



Filling loopholes in legislation



Demand reduction education & awareness raising

## LIMITATIONS

In-depth analyses needed  
Opportunistic data  
collection