

Update Study of Traded Birds at the Bird Shops in Jakarta

Septiana Anggraini Pratiwi¹, Fachruddin Majeri Mangunjaya¹, Tatang Mitra Setia¹

¹Graduate Program in Biology, Graduate School, Universitas Nasional, Jakarta

Correspondence author: tatangmitra52@gmail.com

Abstract

The wild birds in nature can be threatened due to the increasing demand for birds for pets by some people. On the other hand, the bird trade can be an opportunity for gaining economic benefits. One of the highest demands of birds comes from Java, especially Jakarta. This study aims to determine the types of birds traded in bird shops in Jakarta along with their IUCN conservation status, the protection status according to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. 106 of 2018, and the CITES trading status. The research was conducted in April-May 2021. Data collection methods included direct observation (recording and recording) and interviews. The data were taken by purposively listing the bird shops. The data obtained were analyzed using qualitative descriptive analysis. The results show from the sample area in Jakarta, we approached 57 bird traders (13 stores in Central Jakarta, 12 stores in North Jakarta, 12 stores in West Jakarta, 10 stores in East Jakarta, and 10 stores in South Jakarta). The birds found are coming from 42 bird families consisting of 117 species. 100 species are the least concern status, seven species are near threatened, one species is vulnerable, five species are endangered, and four species are critically endangered. Based on KLHK Ministerial Regulation No. 106 of 2018, there are 16 protected and 101 unprotected bird species. 113 bird species are not included in the CITES category, one species belongs to the appendix I category, three species belong to the appendix II category. Although in general, the IUCN status of the traded birds is LC, a large number (73%) of the wild bird species were caught from nature. The survey shows the trend of the bird trade together with the increasing market demand may lead to the population decline that caused rareness of the species and perhaps extinction.

Keywords: bird shop, CITES, Jakarta, trade, wild-bird,

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country located in the tropics so that it has a high abundance of biodiversity in terms of flora and fauna, one of which is birds. At least 1,672 bird species consisting of 427 endemic species are registered in Indonesia (Iskandar, 2017). However, bird management has not been carried out optimally because more and more bird populations are threatened with extinction due to human activities, one of which is the bird trade.

According to Sihotang (2013), these activities can cause extinctions that exceed the rate of return. The existence of wild birds in nature can be threatened due to the increasing demand for birds by some people. Therefore, it can be a great opportunity for traders to gain economic benefits. Various efforts have been made to obtain the availability of birds so that traders and bird catchers often do not pay attention to threats to the preservation of birds in nature (Haryoko, 2010).

The highest demand for birds by the community comes from the island of Java, especially Jakarta. The bird trade in Java is very much related to the Javanese culture found in Javanese society. Javanese society has a philosophy called "Hasta Brata" which means that a person's life is not considered perfect if it does not meet the 7 conditions. One of the conditions is *kukilo* which means birds (Rakhman, 2012). Jakarta is also the largest bird trade center in Southeast Asia located in Barito Market, Jatinegara, and Pramuka (Chng, 2015).

The high demand for birds from consumers causes traders and bird catchers to make various efforts to obtain a supply of birds that often does not pay attention to conservation principles (Iskandar, 2014). Not infrequently are there still many traders selling birds with protected status. This causes the risk of bird extinction to continue to increase every year and usually starts locally in their natural habitat. Therefore, there is still a need for attention from various parties to maintain and preserve traded wild birds. Based on this background, this study aims to determine the biodiversity of birds traded in Jakarta and these birds' conservation status.

METHOD

This research was conducted in April - May 2021 in Jakarta by visiting bird shops in Jakarta. The location of the bird shops found included 13 stores in Central Jakarta, 12 in North Jakarta, 12 in West Jakarta, 10 in East Jakarta, and 10 in South Jakarta, bringing a total of 57 bird shops. The location of the bird shop found can be seen in Figure 1. The tools and materials used for data collection consisted of recording equipment, cameras, stationery, and bird species identification field guide books, namely the Indonesian Bird Atlas (2020) and the Bird Field Guide Series in Sumatra, Java, Bali, and Kalimantan, MacKinnon et. al. (2010).

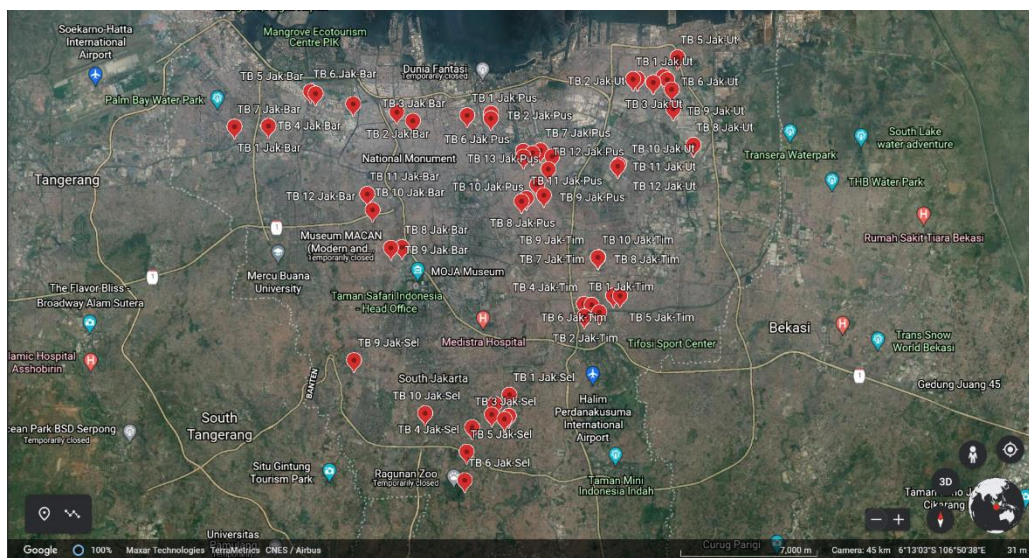


Figure 1. The location of the bird shops found in Jakarta (red marked)

Data collection methods included direct observation with observation and interviews. Field observations were used to obtain primary data in the form of bird species traded in bird shops in Jakarta. Birds found in bird shops were identified by looking at their morphological characteristics in the form of shape, body-color, beak,

legs, feathers, and the distinctive characteristics found in birds. Furthermore, the birds found were identified using a bird identification guide book. Interviews were used to obtain additional data from the bird traders. Data were taken by collecting data on bird shops by Purposive Sampling. The data obtained were then analyzed using qualitative descriptive analysis.

The birds that had been identified were grouped based on protection status which consisted of the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources), CITES (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), and the Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. 106 of 2018 concerning the list of protected plant and animal species.

RESULT

A. Type, origin, and number of birds traded

The results of research conducted in 57 bird shops found in the Jakarta area found that there were 3,154 individuals, consisting of 117 species from 40 families. The number of bird species in each family can be seen in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Chart of the number of bird species traded in each family (n=3,154)

Birds from the *Pycnonotidae* family are the most common birds found in bird shops in Jakarta. The most common species found were yellowvented bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiavier*) as many as 42 individuals, sooty-headed bulbul (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*) as many as 20 individuals, and brown-cheeked bulbul (*Alophoixus bres*) as many as 21 individuals. In addition, there are also many bird species from the *Psittaculida* family, such as the lovebird (*Agapornis sp.*) as many as 49 individuals, budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) as many as 18 individuals, and the *Sturnidae* family such as the Javan myna (*Acridotheres javanicus*) as many as 34 individuals and the Asian pied starling (*Gracupica contra*) as many as 31 individuals.

B. IUCN Conservation Status

There are 117 species of birds found in bird shops in the Jakarta area that have conservation status based on the IUCN conservation status, including 100 species with Least Concern (LC) status, 7 Near Threatened (NT) species, 1 Vulnerable (VU) species, 5 Endangered (EN) species, and 4 Critically Endangered (CR) species. The percentage of the status of birds traded in Jakarta bird shops can be seen in Figure 3. Although 86% of the birds in 57 birdshops in Jakarta have the least concern status, this status perhaps could be increased if illegal trade continues.

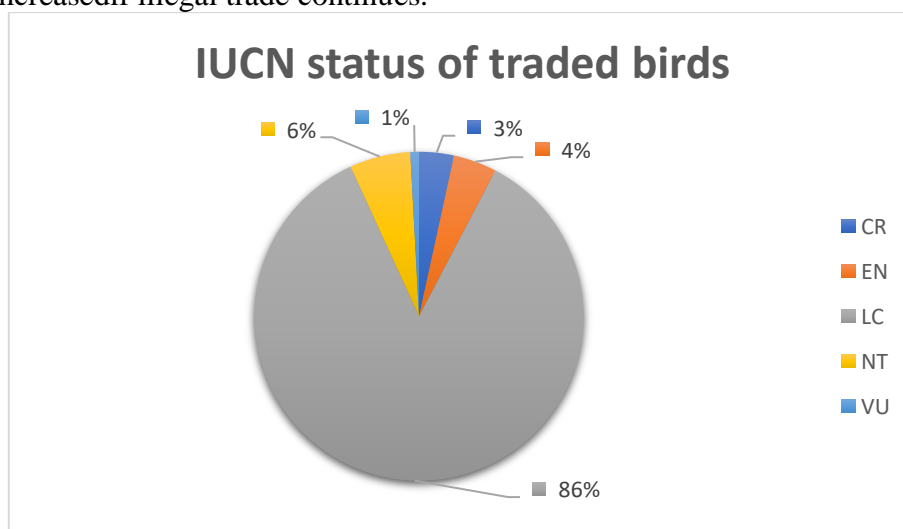


Figure 3. Observed traded birds by IUCN conservation status chart (n=117)

C. Protection Status of KLHK Ministerial Regulation No. 106/2018

Based on the regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry No. 106 of 2018 concerning protected plant and animal species, 16 bird species were found included in protected species and 101 included in unprotected species at the Jakarta bird shops.

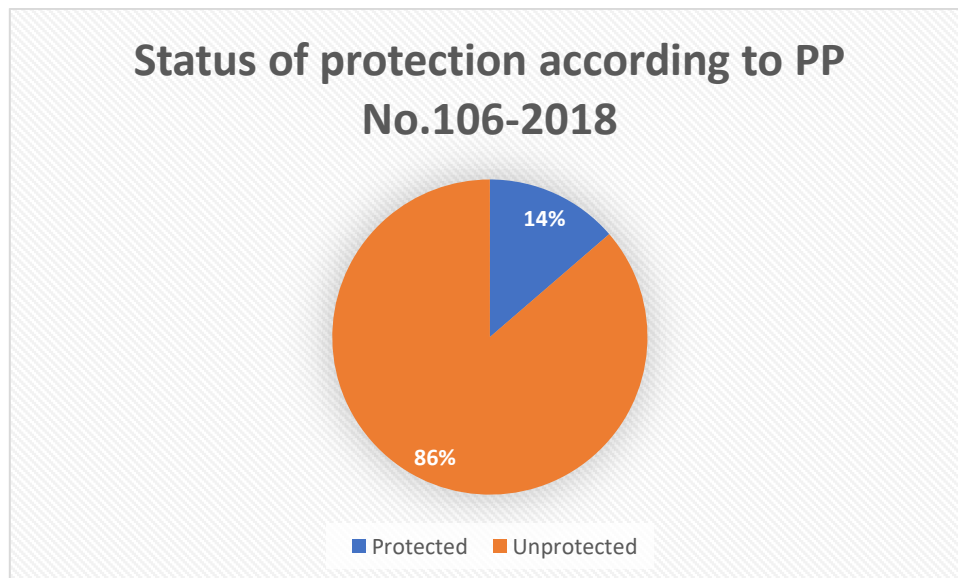


Figure 4. Traded bird protection status chart

Bird species with protected status found were black-winged myna (*Acridotheres melanopterus*), javan leafbird (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*), greater green leafbird (*Chloropsis sonnerati*), lesser green leafbird (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*), blue-crowned hanging parrot (*Loriculus galgulus*), racquet tailed treepie (*Crypsirina temia*), crimson sunbird (*Aethopyga siparaja*), coconut lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*), sumatran treepie (*Dendrocitta occipitalis*), Rufous-fronted laughingthrush (*Garrulax rufifrons*), common green magpie (*Cissa chinensis*), sunda pied fantail (*Rhipidura javanica*), ecletus parrot (*Eclectus roratus*), spotted kestrel (*Falco moluccensis*), white-crested laughingthrush (*Garrulax leucolopus*), and bali myna (*Leucopsar rothschildi*). The percentage of protection status according to KLHK Ministerial Regulation can be seen in Figure 4.

DISCUSSION

Several studies on traded bird species have been reported, including research by Marwanti et.al., (2015) and Haryoko (2010), which reported that the most trafficked birds were the *Pycnonotidae* family. The *Pycnonotidae*, *Psittaculidae*, and *Sturnidae* families include songbirds. 72.13% of the people prefer songbirds which can be contested and if they win, they will get large enough prize money, and only are 22.95% of the people interested in bird species based on the beauty of their feathers (Widodo, 2007). The sound of birds is the most reason for people to buy and maintain birds (Iskandar, 2014).

Pycnonotus goiavieris a type of song bird with the lowest price, and usually the sales target is children for their pets (Suba et.al., 2011). *Pycnonotus aurigaster*, *Alophoixus bres*, *Acridotheres javanicus*, and *Gracupica contra* are also commonly used for masters and contests. Master bird is a type of bird for the main bird filler that will be contested (Iskandar, 2014).

Based on the results of interviews, the types of birds traded in bird shops in the Jakarta area are wild birds caught by nature, which is 73%, while the types of birds obtained from livestock are 27%. The percentage of bird origin found in Jakarta can be

seen in Figure 3. The most common domesticated birds were lovebirds, *Serinus canaria*, *Geopelia striata*, and *Melopsittacus undulatus*. Wild birds obtained from wild catches will have a bad impact on the ecosystem and are threatened with extinction. Ario (2011) states that the higher the market demands, the more birds are caught from their habitat so that many wild bird species in Indonesia are threatened with extinction.

There are seven species of birds with Near Threatened (NT) status, namely *Garrulax palliatus*, *Garrulax mitratus*, *Prinia familiaris*, *Pycnonotus bimaculatus*, *Chloropsis cyanopogon*, *Ploceus hypoxanthus*, and *Ixos malaccensis*. One species of bird is with Vulnerable (VU) status, namely *Acridotheres javanicus*. The most common species of birds with Near Threatened status found in bird shops in Jakarta were *Prinia familiaris* with 71 individuals. Based on the Indonesian Bird Atlas report (2020), the *Prinia familiaris* recorded 353 encounters, including 11 encounters outside its natural distribution in Kalimantan and Lombok, which were probably the result of introductions. *Prinia familiaris* or commonly known as “ciblek” is still a bird that is in demand by consumers because it is one of the types of birds that is included in the types of birds contested in the song bird competition (Iskandar, 2014).

There are five species of Endangered (EN), namely *Alophoixus bres*, *Chloropsis sonnerati*, *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*, *Aratinga solstitialis*, and *Geokichla interpres*. The most common types of birds with Endangered status found in bird shops were *Alophoixus bres* and *Chloropsis cochinchinensis* with 36 individuals. According to the Indonesian Bird Atlas report (2020), the number of *Chloropsis cochinchinensis* in nature is only found 2 individuals, while in cages found 2,054 individuals. *Alophoixus bres* recorded 87 encounters, and its presence is mostly found in the city center. *Alophoixus bres* is also one of the most popular types of song bird, both for competitions and as “master” in order, the song birds could copy their voice or song for song bird contest.

Four types of Critically Endangered (CR) namely *Acridotheres melanopterus*, *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*, *Garrulax rufifrons*, and *Leucopsar rothschildi*. The most common type of bird with Critically Endangered status was *Acridotheres melanopterus* as many as 8 individuals.

Protected birds that are often found in bird shops in Jakarta are birds from the *Chloropsidae* family, namely *Chloropsis cochinchinensis* and *Chloropsis sonnerati*. Birds that are included in this protected category are based on several reasons, namely having a small population, a sharp decline in the number of individuals in nature, and having a limited distribution area (Husodo, 2017).

CITES (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) categorizes species into 3 Appendixes, namely Appendix I (all species that are threatened with extinction and have an impact if traded), Appendix II (species whose status is not yet threatened but will be threatened or extinct if over-exploited), and Appendix III (all species included in regulations in trade, and other countries seek to control the trade to avoid unsustainable exploitation). There are 3 types of birds included in Appendix II, namely *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*, *Garrulax canorus*, and *Leiothrix argentauris*, while 1 bird species is included in Appendix I, namely *Leucopsar rothschildi*.

CONCLUSION

Bird shops surveyed in the Jakarta area found 57 bird traders (13 stores in Central Jakarta, 12 stores in North Jakarta, 12 stores in West Jakarta, 10 stores in East Jakarta,

and 10 stores in South Jakarta) with 3,154 birds being traded from 40 families, spread over 117 species. 100 types of Least Concern status, 7 types of Near Threatened, 1 type of Vulnerable, 5 types of Endangered, and 4 types of Critically Endangered. Based on the Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. 106 of 2018, there are 16 protected bird species and 101 that are unprotected. 116 bird species are not included in the CITES category, 1 species belongs to the Appendix I category, 3 species belong to the Appendix II category.

Further research is needed every year to monitor wild birds traded in Jakarta by paying more attention to the activities of bird shops in each area of Jakarta so that data and information on bird shops in Jakarta and the types of birds traded can be known about the diversity of species and trend of bird trade in Jakarta.

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