

# Some Things In Life Are Meant To Be **FREE!**



While we have enacted laws to protect our native birds—such as blue jays, eagles, cardinals, robins, warblers, and hawks—from commercial exploitation, we fail to recognize the inconsistency in allowing the U.S. pet industry to continue to market the wild birds of other countries—such as parrots and finches—as “cage birds.”

Whether wild-caught or captive-bred, parrots and other exotic birds commonly kept as “pets” are not domesticated animals; they are the offspring of other countries’ native species who were taken from the wild. Their urge to flock and fly, as their wild counterparts do, remains intact. But for the vast majority of parrots kept as “pets,” deprivation of their natural desire to fly miles each day, forage, and live among birds of their own kind is an inescapable part of captivity. Most spend the bulk of their days confined to cages, never knowing the companionship of other birds or the joy of free flight.

You can show your respect and love for birds by enjoying them in their natural habitats, whether in your own backyard or abroad. Never purchase a bird from a pet store or breeder. There are many birds currently in captivity who cannot be returned to the wild and need our care. If you feel you are qualified and prepared to provide lifetime care for a parrot or other exotic bird, adopt one from a rescue group, humane society, or individual who has lost interest or ability to care for their bird.



**National Bird Day**  
[www.nationalbirdday.org](http://www.nationalbirdday.org)  
**Animal Protection Institute (API)**  
[www.api4animals.org](http://www.api4animals.org)  
**Avian Welfare Coalition (AWC)**  
[www.avianwelfare.org](http://www.avianwelfare.org)