

A close-up photograph of two songbirds, likely Java Sparrows, perched on blue metal bars of a cage. The birds have brown heads with a distinctive white patch around the eye and a white breast. The background is blurred, showing more of the cage structure.

**TRAFFIC**

# **SONGBIRD TRADE OBSERVATIONS AND SEIZURES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

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Senior Programme Officer  
TRAFFIC International – Southeast Asia

**86,000+ BIRDS FROM MARKET  
SURVEYS IN 14 MAJOR CITIES  
MOSTLY SONGBIRDS**





19,036 birds  
206 species



22,911 birds  
241 species



7,279 birds  
130 species



1,271 birds  
117 species



14,085 birds  
109 species



8,047 birds  
115 species

# BEYOND THE STATS

Identifying trends & issues

Dominant species

Original range

Source

Prices over time

Emerging species of concern

# WHAT ARE BALI'S BIRD MARKETS SELLING?

In October 2017 and 2018, TRAFFIC's snapshot surveys of two of Bali's biggest bird markets in Denpasar found 5,228 and 7,258 birds respectively. Trappers appear to be turning to less accessible mountains and islands. Worrying? We think so.



## MORE BIRDS FROM MONTANE HABITATS :

2017 : 352 BIRDS (25 SPECIES)  
2018 : 574 BIRDS (34 SPECIES)

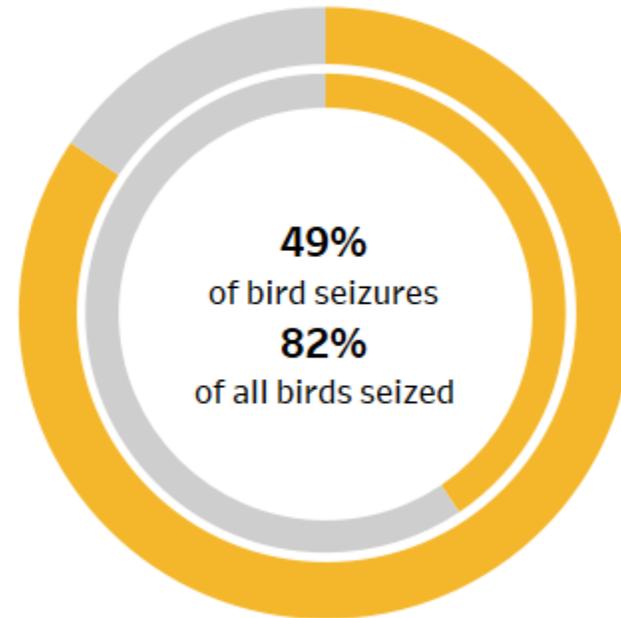


**SEIZURES** ARE AN INDICATION OF ILLEGAL  
TRADE AND ENFORCEMENT EFFORT

# SONGBIRDS

**49% OF BIRD SEIZURES IN SEA  
- 1126 SONGBIRD SEIZURES**

**82% OF CONFISCATED BIRDS IN  
SEA - 527,820 SEIZED  
SONGBIRDS**



# TOP FAMILIES BY VOLUME

## Top confiscated bird species families across Southeast Asia

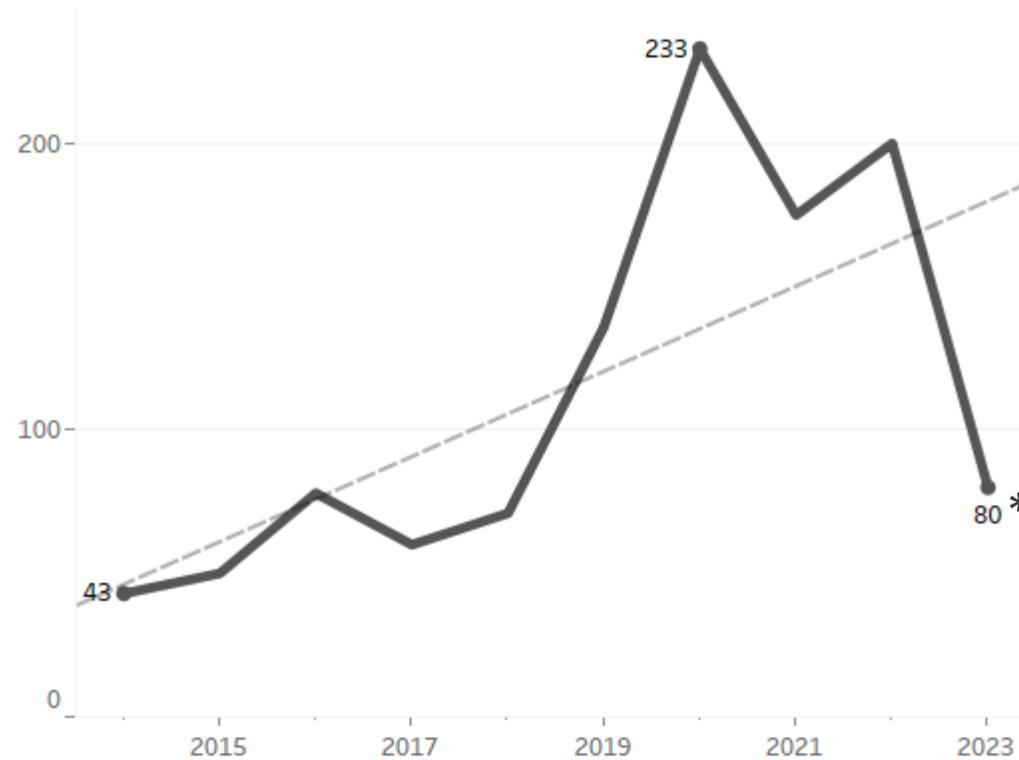
Number of birds of taxa >2999 | 2014-2023 | source: TRAFFIC

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Total	
Passeriformes	Cisticolidae				16.1K	14.5K	22.8K	22.9K	16.8K	9.9K	104.0K	
	Muscicapidae		2.6K	6.2K	9.8K		6.9K	23.6K	14.8K	12.4K	1.3K	79.5K
	Zosteropidae			1.0K	1.1K	11.1K	7.1K	8.7K	12.3K	11.2K	2.5K	55.9K
	Sturnidae		2.0K	1.7K	1.1K	4.2K	3.6K	8.9K	10.1K	13.3K	2.1K	47.5K
	Pycnonotidae				1.6K	7.6K	3.6K	8.3K	6.4K	15.7K	3.1K	47.1K
	Nectariniidae					5.3K	7.9K	10.2K	5.9K	4.4K	1.2K	35.4K
	Paridae					6.8K	2.6K	10.8K	5.5K	3.3K	1.4K	31.0K
	Chloropseidae		2.5K			3.8K	2.0K	4.6K	5.8K	8.7K	1.6K	30.9K
	Estrildidae						1.4K	1.7K	7.2K	3.7K	3.4K	19.3K
	Ploceidae			1.5K		1.6K	2.0K	1.7K		1.6K		9.6K
	Turdidae								3.1K	3.6K	1.3K	8.8K
	Alaudidae								5.1K		1.2K	7.6K
	Laniidae								4.7K		1.2K	7.1K
	Platylophidae					3.0K				2.8K		6.4K
	Meliphagidae								3.3K		2.4K	6.3K
	Dicruridae					3.0K					1.5K	5.2K
	Oriolidae							1.3K			1.7K	4.2K
	Leiotrichidae							1.0K				4.1K
	Corvidae							1.1K	1.4K			3.8K
	Sittidae					3.0K						3.4K
Psittaciformes	Psittacidae		1.2K	2.1K		1.4K	2.3K	4.9K	5.3K	5.6K	1.0K	24.8K
	Cacatuidae											3.5K
Columbiformes	Columbidae		1.1K			6.7K	1.8K	1.5K	1.6K	1.2K		16.0K
Strigiformes	Strigiformes					3.0K						3.3K

\* 2023 data is not complete and consolidated yet

**5X  
SEIZURES  
2014-2020**

Songbird seizures trend in Southeast Asia  
Number of incidents | source: TRAFFIC

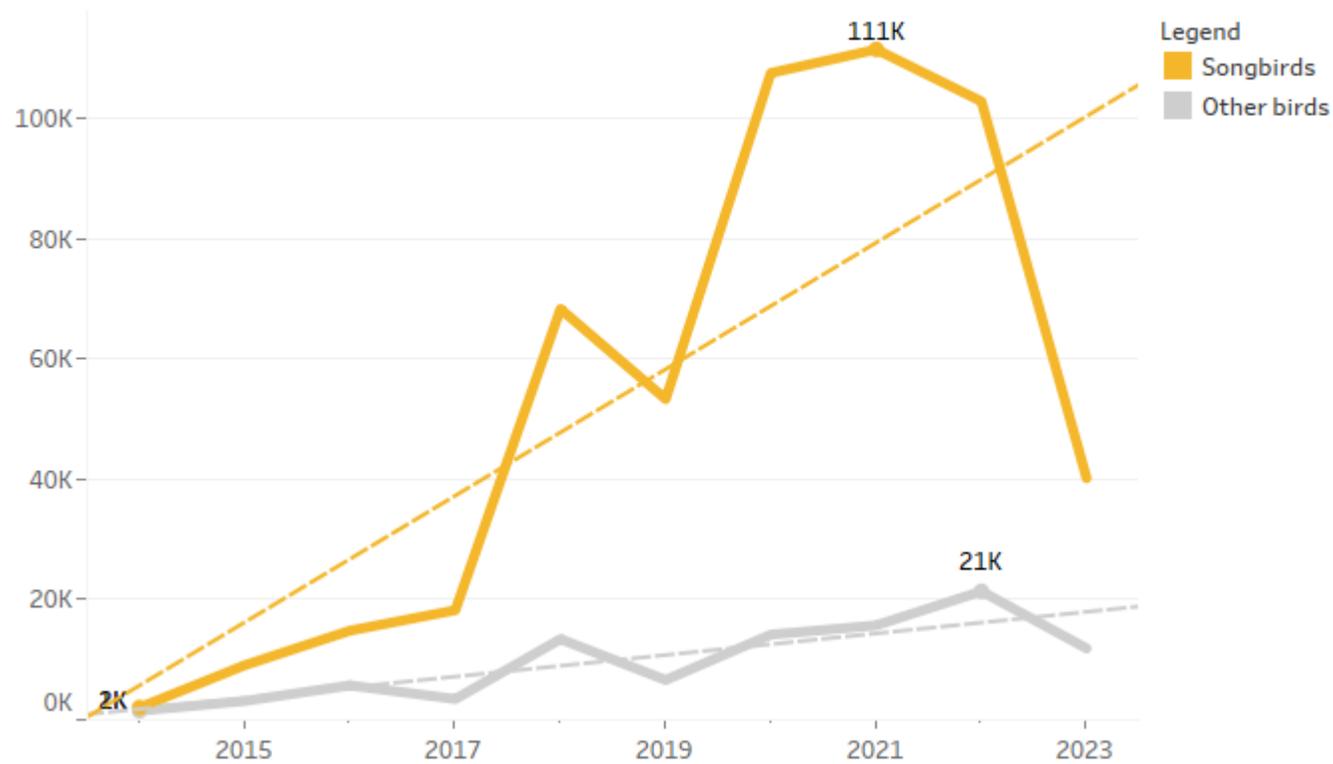


\* 2023 data is not complete and consolidated yet

# 55X VOLUME 2014-2021

## Confiscated birds Volume trend across Southeast Asia

Number of birds | source: TRAFFIC



\* 2023 data is not complete and consolidated yet

# NUMBER OF CONFISCATION INCIDENTS

ID: Lampung,  
Surabaya, Riau  
Islands

TH: Bangkok

TH-MY border

## Songbird trafficking hotspots across Southeast Asia

Number of incidents | 2014-2023 | source: TRAFFIC



# SEIZURES TIMELAPSE

Increase over time

Songbird trafficking hotspots across Southeast Asia  
Number of incidents | 2014 | source: TRAFFIC



# VOLUME OF CONFISCATED BIRDS

ID: Lampung,  
Surabaya

## Bird trafficking hotspots across Southeast Asia

Number of bird individuals | 2014-2023 | source: TRAFFIC



# VOLUMES TIMELAPSE

Increase over time

Songbird trafficking hotspots across Southeast Asia  
Number of bird individuals | 2014 | source: TRAFFIC



# TOP TAXA SEIZED

## Top confiscated passeriformes species across Southeast Asia

Number of birds of taxa >3999 | 2014-2023 | source: TRAFFIC

		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Total
Cisticolidae	Cisticolidae					6.0K		8.4K	1.6K	2.6K	6.1K	25.2K
	Orthotomus					4.2K						4.9K
	Orthotomus ruficeps							3.0K	1.8K	3.5K		8.9K
	Prinia					5.6K	8.9K	4.3K	8.2K	2.0K	2.2K	31.4K
	Prinia familiaris						2.3K	6.7K	8.7K	8.5K		27.3K
Muscicapidae	Copsychus malabaricus		2.3K	3.2K	2.5K		2.6K	4.7K	2.4K	5.3K		24.9K
	Copsychus saularis			1.4K	7.2K		2.7K	18.1K	8.6K	2.8K		41.4K
Zosteropidae	Zosteropidae					6.2K	2.1K					9.9K
	Zosterops					4.7K	4.6K	6.7K	4.4K	5.9K	2.0K	29.9K
	Zosterops japonicus								2.8K	4.3K		7.3K
Sturnidae	Acridotheres javanicus					3.6K	2.5K	5.9K	7.8K	9.1K		30.7K
	Gracula religiosa									2.9K		5.0K
Pycnonotidae	Pycnonotus goiavier					4.3K	2.0K	5.4K	2.0K	6.1K	1.3K	21.1K
	Pycnonotus jocosus									3.0K		5.7K
	Pycnonotus plumosus					3.0K				3.1K		6.7K
Nectariniidae	Leptocoma brasiliana						1.9K	4.4K	1.1K			9.0K
	Nectariniidae					4.3K	5.9K	5.2K	3.3K	1.0K		19.8K
Paridae	Parus cinereus					6.8K	2.6K	10.0K	5.0K	3.3K		28.2K
Chloropseidae	Chloropsis sonnerati		2.0K			3.5K		2.7K	3.2K	4.7K		19.3K
Estrildidae	Lonchura oryzivora							1.6K	1.0K	1.9K		6.3K
	Taeniopygia guttata								3.2K		1.2K	4.4K
Alaudidae	Mirafra javanica								5.1K		1.2K	7.6K
Laniidae	Lanius schach								4.7K		1.2K	6.9K
Ploceidae	Ploceus manyar					1.6K	2.0K	1.3K		1.6K		6.6K
Platylophidae	Platylophus galericulatus					3.0K				2.8K		6.4K
Dicruridae	Dicrurus					3.0K					1.5K	4.6K
Turdidae	Geokichla interpres									2.7K	1.2K	4.4K
Oriolidae	Oriolus chinensis							1.2K			1.6K	4.0K

\* 2023 data is not complete and consolidated yet

# 10% OF INCIDENTS INCLUDED INFORMATION ON **INTERNATIONAL ROUTES**

**11 EXPORTING / TRANSIT COUNTRIES**

**17 DESTINATION COUNTRIES**

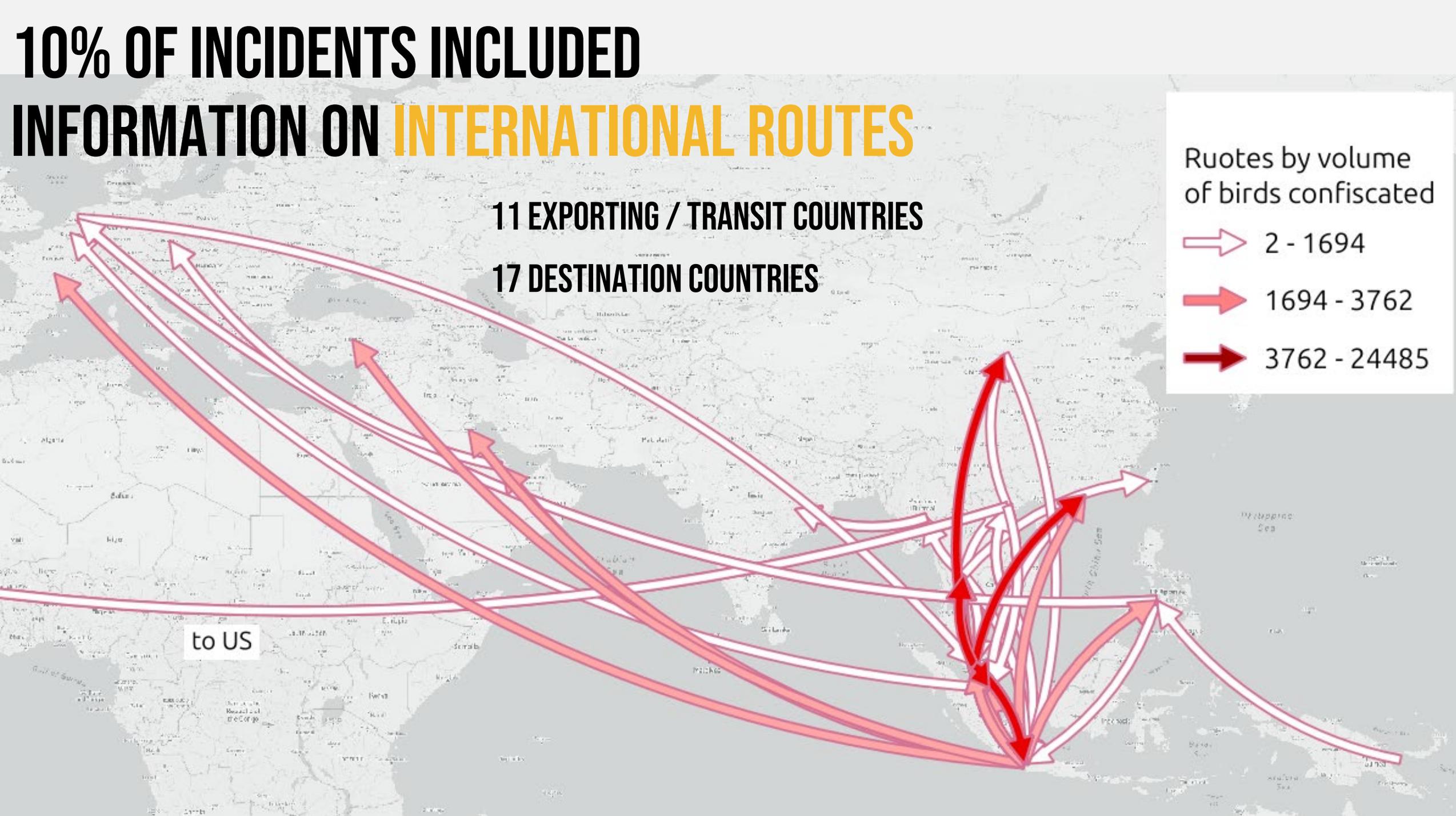
Routes by volume  
of birds confiscated

→ 2 - 1694

→ 1694 - 3762

→ 3762 - 24485

to US



**SONGBIRDS ARE  
CROSSING BORDERS  
FROM SOURCE TO  
MARKET**



# TOP TAXA SEIZED

## Top confiscated passeriformes species across Southeast Asia

Number of birds of taxa >3999 | 2014-2023 | source: TRAFFIC

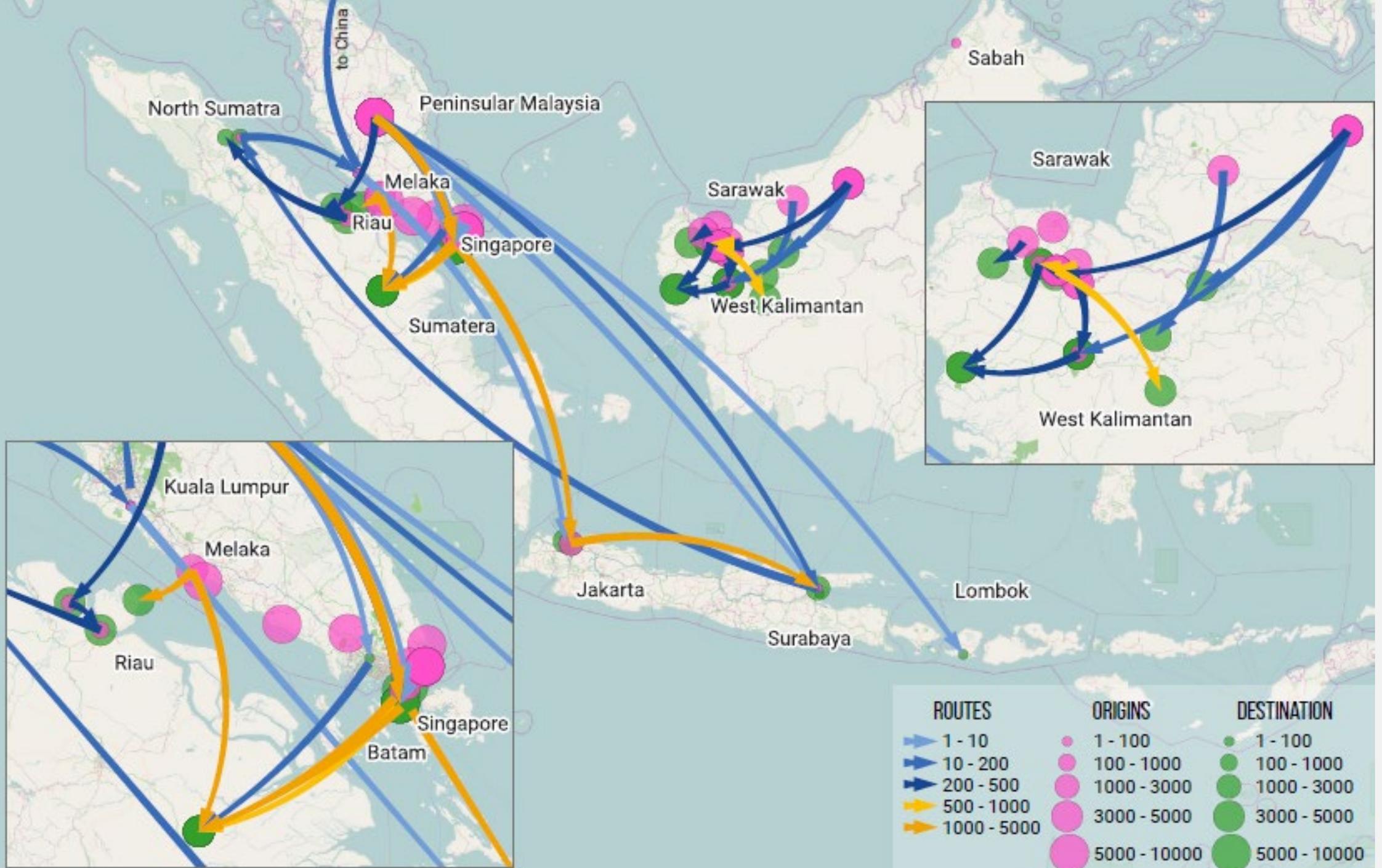
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Total
Cisticolidae	Cisticolidae					6.0K		8.4K	1.6K	2.6K	6.1K	25.2K
	Orthotomus					4.2K						4.9K
	Orthotomus ruficeps							3.0K	1.8K	3.5K		8.9K
	Prinia					5.6K	8.9K	4.3K	8.2K	2.0K	2.2K	31.4K
	Prinia familiaris						2.3K	6.7K	8.7K	8.5K		27.3K
Muscicapidae	Copsychus malabaricus		2.3K	3.2K	2.5K		2.6K	4.7K	2.4K	5.3K		24.9K
	Copsychus saularis			1.4K	7.2K		2.7K	18.1K	8.6K	2.8K		41.4K
Zosteropidae	Zosteropidae					6.2K	2.1K					9.9K
	Zosterops					4.7K	4.6K	6.7K	4.4K	5.9K	2.0K	29.9K
	Zosterops japonicus								2.8K	4.3K		7.3K
Sturnidae	Acridotheres javanicus					3.6K	2.5K	5.9K	7.8K	9.1K		30.7K
	Gracula religiosa									2.9K		5.0K
Pycnonotidae	Pycnonotus goiavier					4.3K	2.0K	5.4K	2.0K	6.1K	1.3K	21.1K
	Pycnonotus jocosus									3.0K		5.7K
	Pycnonotus plumosus					3.0K				3.1K		6.7K
Nectariniidae	Leptocoma brasiliana						1.9K	4.4K	1.1K			9.0K
	Nectariniidae					4.3K	5.9K	5.2K	3.3K	1.0K		19.8K
Paridae	Parus cinereus					6.8K	2.6K	10.0K	5.0K	3.3K		28.2K
Chloropseidae	Chloropsis sonnerati		2.0K			3.5K		2.7K	3.2K	4.7K		19.3K
Estrildidae	Lonchura oryzivora							1.6K	1.0K	1.9K		6.3K
	Taeniopygia guttata								3.2K		1.2K	4.4K
Alaudidae	Mirafra javanica								5.1K		1.2K	7.6K
Laniidae	Lanius schach								4.7K		1.2K	6.9K
Ploceidae	Ploceus manyar					1.6K	2.0K	1.3K		1.6K		6.6K
Platylophidae	Platylophus galericulatus					3.0K				2.8K		6.4K
Dicruridae	Dicrurus					3.0K					1.5K	4.6K
Turdidae	Geokichla interpres									2.7K	1.2K	4.4K
Oriolidae	Oriolus chinensis							1.2K			1.6K	4.0K

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# MALAYSIA'S ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBINS

2015 - 2020: **26,950** birds in **44** seizures involving MY  
64% smuggled from Malaysia to Indonesia  
66% seized in 2020 alone





# THANK YOU

Mandai Nature and an anonymous donor for generously supporting our bird trade work

Fellow researchers, report authors and collaborators



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