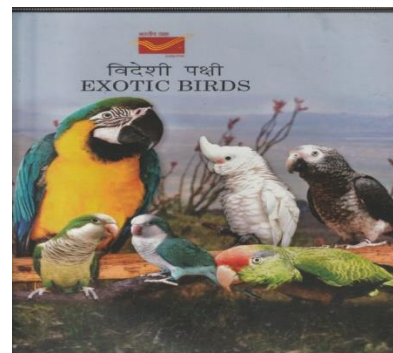


EXOTIC BIRD PETS OF INDIA

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Introduction :People are increasingly growing pets in India.This can be attributed to loneliness,stress. Exotic pets are intelligent,charismatic,colourful and musical.Some birds are said to imitate many non avian sounds including human speech. **ANY BIRD THAT IS NOT OF INDIAN ORIGIN IS AN EXOTIC BIRD**

Pet Parrots: One of the most popular birds ,parrots are loved and adored by the young and old alike. The parrots are a broad order of more than 350 birds. Macaws,Amazons,Lorikeets,Love birds,Cockatoos are all considered as parrots.All parrots have curved beaks and zygodactyls meaning they have four toes on each foot two pointing forward and two projecting backward.



First day cover with stamps of Cape Parrot,Hyacinth Macaw Lesser sulphur –crested Cockatoo,Blue throated Macaw, Sun Conure and Yellow headed Amazon(Clockwise direction)

Stamp Album released with the stamps(includes Maxim cards, Brochure,Miniature sheets)

The Department of Posts of India issued 6 commemorative stamps of Exotic birds on Dec. 5 th 2016.

Cape parrot: Native to South Africa,have strong beak and fond of nuts and fruit kernels.

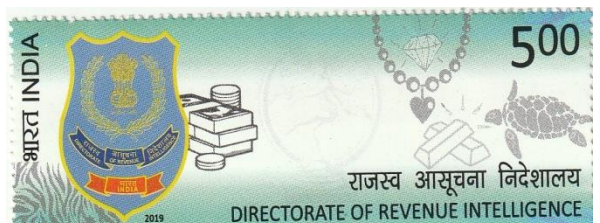
Hyacinth Macaw:Native to central and eastern south America.It is the largest Macaw and largest flying parrot species.Also known as **Gentle Giants**,vulnerable status by IUCN. (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural resources)

Lesser sulphur –crested Cockatoo:Native to East Timor and Indonesia’s islands of Sulawesi and the Lesser Sundas.Critically Endangered birds. yellow patch in ear is a distinct character from others.

Blue throated Macaw:Native of Bolivia,rarest of parrots,Critically Endangered status in IUCN.

Sun conure:also known as Sun parakeet,native to north eastern South America,bill is black.They are popular bird pets because of their right colouration and curious nature.Endangered status by IUCN.

Yellow headed Amazon:Native of Mexico and Northern central America. The species is famed for its ability to mimic,both in speech and even ‘song’making it an excellent talker.Endangered status by IUCN .



Maxim cards showing Blue throated macaw and Sun conure .

Conclusion:Most Indian bird species are illegal as pets in India.The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (prevents smuggling) and The Ministry of Environment,Forest and Climate change keeps a vigilance.