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COMMENTS ON THE AMATEUR CREATION OF PASSERIFORMES AND ITS CONTROL SYSTEM: SISPASS

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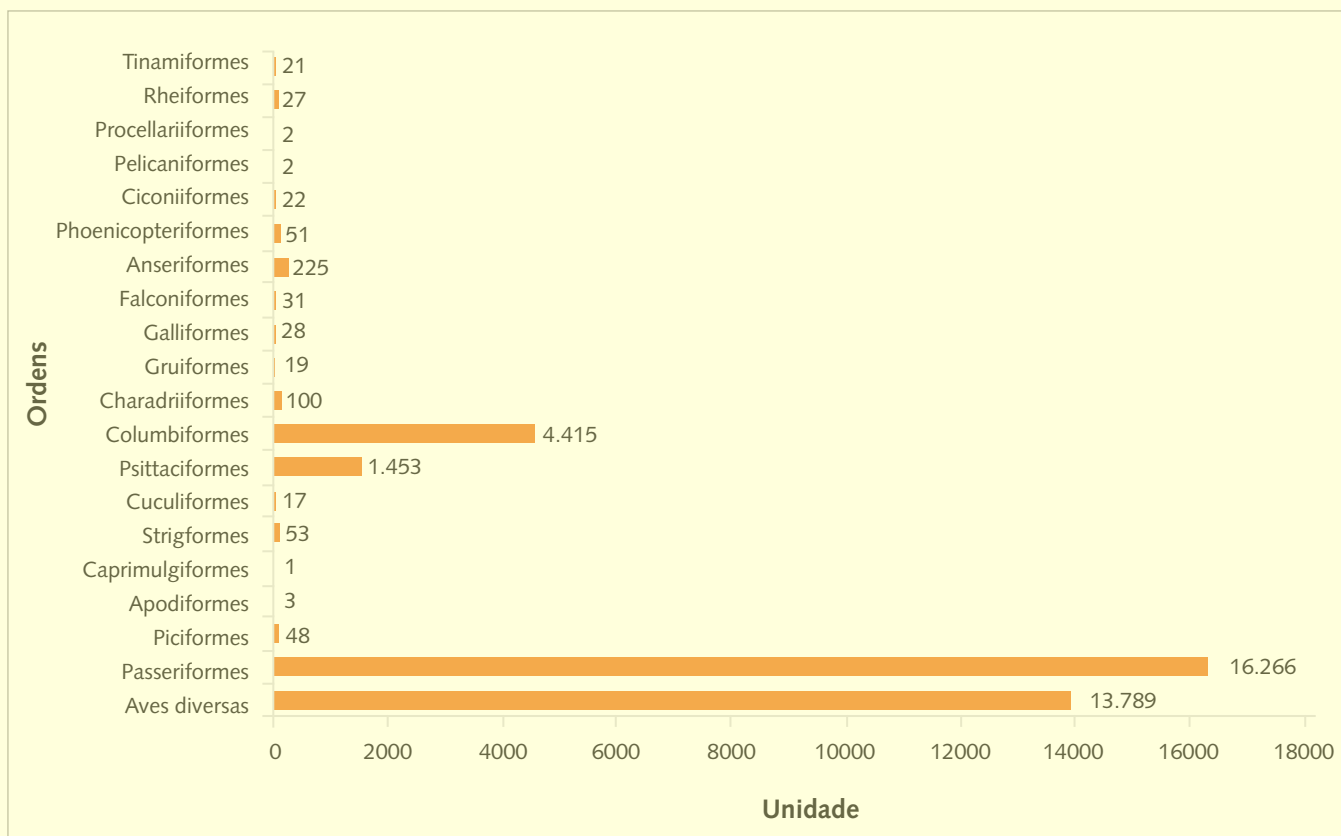
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Introduction: Since the 1960s, to keep wild animals at home, as a pet, it must be of legal origin (VILLE, 2012). The control method of wild animals origin is based on marking devices, which must be linked to the original document, usually represented by purchase bills. However, there is an activity in Brazil that doesn't comply the general rule. It is the amateur creation of wild passerine birds, stated in 1967's Federal Law nº 5.197 (BRASIL, 1967), and currently regulated by the 2010's Ibama Normative Instruction nº 10 (INSTITUTO BRASILEIRO DO MEIO AMBIENTE E DOS RECURSOS NATURAIS RENOVÁVEIS, 2011). For managing this activity, a computerized system had to be created, named the Passeriform Registration System (Sispass). This system consists of a database, created in 2003, which includes all the information from Brazilian amateur breeders (ROSA *et al.*, 2003), who must keep their records up to date,

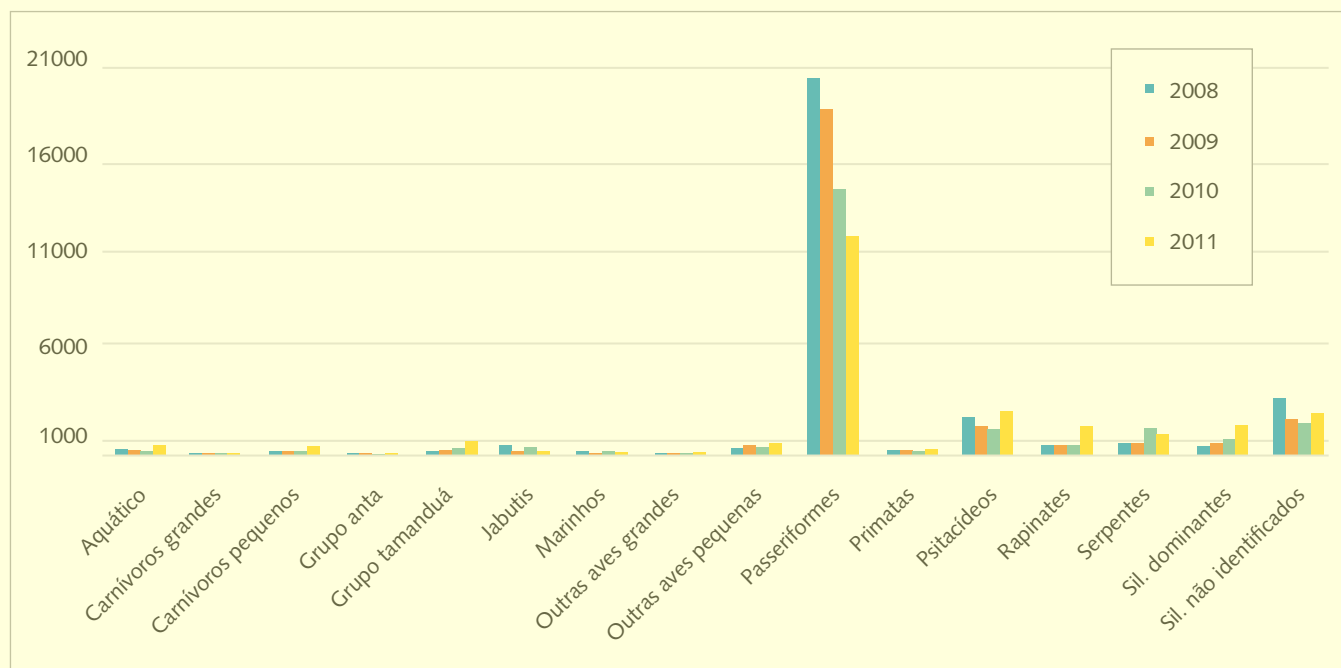
routinely stating the situation of their respective breed. This system operates on-line and was created to manage and supervise passerine breeders. These peculiarities wouldn't be justified by the established general rules for the maintenance of wild animals in captivity; however, it is observed that the purpose of this activity, called an amateur creation of passerines, isn't merely keeping the animals in captivity. It aims to maintain a culture of passerine breeding, making it a legal activity (ROSA *et al.*, 2003). **Materials and Methods:** This article aims to relate the main national norms that give legal support to the amateur creation of passerines, data on the impact on wildlife preservation, especially in the State of São Paulo, comparing data on the trafficking of wild animals at national and regional levels, mainly of those that affect the Passeriform System (Sispass). **Results:** The *ex situ* creation of native birds is the only category of fauna breeding that has a consolidated amateur category, where the citizen can breed a male and a female of passeriform and to tag their offspring. It is estimated that there are approximately 340 thousand registered breeders in Sispass, with a population of more than three million of wild animals. Breeders needn't be technicians or have training in biology, zootechnics or veterinary medicine to maintain the breed's sanity and integrity, as other categories of *ex situ* fauna require. Data compiled by Rede Nacional de Combate ao Tráfico de Animais Silvestres (Renctas) and show the species involved in the wild animals traffic, with information provided by Ibama, between 1999 and 2000 on most trafficked classes of animals, 82% of which are represented by birds with passeriforms as the bird order most illegally marketed in Brazil (Graph 1). Analyzing data provided by the Environmental Military Police of the State of São Paulo, which contains all the seizures of native wild animals carried out in police operations, from 2006 to 2011, it can be said that the illegal bird trade reached alarming numbers. Approximately 33,000 animals were seized just in 2008, and 27,000 of them were native birds. When analyzing the data of apprehensions of passeriforms (Graph 2) in the same year, it is concluded that 27,000 birds were seized, 20,000 were passeriform birds, representing 74% of all birds trafficked in the state of São Paulo. In 2011, despite the absence of arrest data for the full year, there was an accounted data of 80% of all seized animals.

Graph 1 - Representativeness of the orders of birds seized in Brazil in 1999 and 2000.



Source: REDE NACIONAL DE COMBATE AO TRÁFICO DE ANIMAIS SILVESTRES, [2012?].

Graph 2 - Representation of birds of the passeriform order seized in the State of São Paulo from 2006-31/08/2011.



Source: Environmental Military Police of the State of São Paulo.

Comparing the data on wild animals trafficked provided by Renctas (REDE NACIONAL DE COMBATE AO TRÁFICO DE ANIMAIS SILVESTRES, [2012?]), at the national level, focusing on the passeriform order, and analyzing the data provided by the Environmental Military Police of São Paulo, State, Brazil (2011), at the state level, one concludes that the pressure for native birds in captivity still represents a large percentage of the total number wild animals trafficked in São Paulo. It is possible to infer that the high demand for native passeriforms in captivity originates from the amateur breeding activity as it should be a way to reduce the collecting effort on these animals directly from natural habitat, which, according to the data analyzed, indicates the possibility of having the opposite effect, an increase in the capture of wild animals *in situ*, which is finally covered with the legality of breeding, such as fake tags and unidentified purchase bills, among others, in order to regularize the illegally captured animals to incorporated into the breeding. On the other hand, not following the rules defined in the environmental legislation for the amateur creation of passerines, may be classified as an environmental crime. To try to discourage the specific conducts of wildlife traffick were regulated in the environmental crimes, 1998's Federal Law nº 9.605. In the State of São Paulo, administrative fines with a high pecuniary value were also imposed on environmental offenders by 2014's Resolution SMA nº 48 (SÃO PAULO, 2014). However, Silva (2014) reports that the collection of the fines values presented low efficiency, from the punitive and sanctioning point of view, generating no greater annoyance than payment of "basic essential goods". **Discussion:** The amateur breeding of passerines in captivity is a category consolidated throughout the state of São Paulo and, also nationwide. From a legal point of view, having a captive wild animal, especially passerines, is not a violation of national law, since the activity is regulated in 1967's Federal Law nº 5.197 (BRASIL, 1967). The culture of collecting, with the withdrawal of wild animals from nature, is still rooted in society, and it is not common sense by the Brazilian population that the capture of a wild animal directly from nature causes irreversible impacts to the environment. As a consequence, Sispass is often used as a tool to control trafficked wild animals. This study didn't analyze the amateur breeding impact on the expansion of wildlife trade, or whether how this category contributes to species conservation, but the data on the passerine trade on a national and state level was

presented over a period of 11 years (2000 to 2011), and it can be inferred that the trafficking of native birds may have some relation with the amateur creation of passerines. **Conclusion:** The amateur breeding of passerines in Brazil is a regular activity, keeping millions of wild animals in captivity in the breeding. The data presented indicates that the amateur breeding activity of passerines may be encouraging the trafficking of wild animals. From the data presented, 65% of the animals seized in the state of São Paulo by the Environmental Military Police, in the period of four years, are passerines, the most interesting species for breeding. This proportion indicates the need of rethinking current norms for the category, to improve the control of all systems and to re-educate the society in relation to national wildlife heritage. In addition, greater investment on information, support and inspection can contribute to the amateur creation of passerines and reduce the impact on native species *in situ*.

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