



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	THE STAR		
TARIKH	:	26/4/2021	MUKA SURAT	: 14
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN		
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN		

More than 1,000 songbirds rescued

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JOHOR BARU: More than 1,000 songbirds that were being prepared to be smuggled into a neighbouring country have been rescued by the Johor Wildlife and National Park Department (Perhilitan).

State Perhilitan director Salman Saaban said that a team of enforcement officers found the birds during a check at a house located in Taman Wawasan in Kulai at around 7.30pm on Friday.

"A Toyota Estima was parked at the house and further inspection of the vehicle and the house unveiled 70 White-rumped Shama (murai batu) birds and 1,000 Oriental Magpie-robin birds (murai

kampung)," he said here yesterday.

He added that the department also detained a 36-year-old man at the scene for not having any legal documents to keep such a large number of wildlife species.

"We believe that the suspect intended to smuggle the birds into a neighbouring country," Salman said.

"The seized birds are estimated to be worth RM150,000, and have been brought to the perhilitan office in Bandar Penawar for further action," he added.

He also said that a police report had been lodged over the matter and the case was being investigated under the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 (Act 716).



In safe hands: Some of the songbirds valued at RM150,000 being kept in cages after Perhilitan officers seized them during an operation in Johor.