

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE  
IN PARROT CONSERVATION  
AVICULTURE AND WELFARE

World Parrot  
Trust in action



Vol. 12 No. 2 May 2000

# Psitta SCENE

Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan 2000–2004

## Parrots

Edited by Noel Snyder, Philip McGowan,  
James Gilardi, and Alejandro Grajal



Parrot Action Plan 2000-2004

ABC/WPT Small Grants Programme

St. Vincent Parrot

Tambopata Research Centre

**IUCN**  
The World Conservation Union

**psittacine** (sit' à sin) belonging or allied to the parrots; parrot-like

## Editor

Rosemary Low,  
P.O. Box 100,  
Mansfield, Notts.,  
United Kingdom  
NG20 9NZ

## CONTENTS

Here at last! Parrot Action Plan 2000-2004 .....	2-3
Foreword (extract) .....	4
Executive Summary (extract) .....	5
Introduction & Species Account (extract) .....	6-7
Our Hopes for the PAP .....	8
WPT seeks Director .....	9
ABC / WPT small grants programme .....	10-11
Operation 'Palate' .....	12
St. Vincent Parrot .....	13
Reports from WPT branches .....	14-16
Psitta News .....	17
Tambopata Research Centre .....	18
WPT Info Page .....	19
Parrots in the Wild .....	20



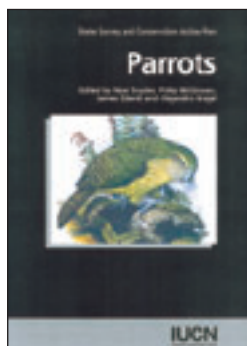
### Cover Picture

Parrot Action Plan 2000-2004 Kakapo picture from 'Parrots of the World' by Forshaw and Cooper. Many thanks.

The World Parrot Trust does not necessarily endorse any views or statements made by contributors to *PsittaScene*.

It will of course consider articles or letters from any contributors on their merits.

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# STOP PRESS - Parrot Action Plan

# Here at last!

## IUCN/SSC Action Plan for the Conservation of the Parrots

by MICHAEL REYNOLDS

This issue of *PsittaScene* has been slightly delayed while we waited for printing and delivery of the Action Plan for Parrots 2000-2004. After almost five years of work we did not want to delay the introduction of this very important document to our members, especially bearing in mind that the plan has been funded almost entirely by The World Parrot Trust. We have spent over £20,000 (\$30,000) of trust funds to cover

the cost of the initial meeting, subsequent writing and travel expenses etc., but virtually everyone involved has committed themselves to supplying information and photographs at no cost to the project. Additional funds of \$4,000 were donated by the

German organisation I.P.F., and \$1,000 from our WPT Benelux branch. The World Parrot Trust was given

responsibility for acting as 'progress chaser' for the project, and we are most grateful for the dedication of the four authors / editors, Noel Snyder, Phil McGowan, Jamie Gilardi and Alejandro Grajal.

So finally on May 15th we received our first ten copies of the Parrot Action Plan, hot off the press. In these pages of *PsittaScene* we hope to give a flavour of the publication, as most readers will not end



# Plan - STOP PRESS - Parrot Action Plan - STOP PRESS

up owning a copy. But if you do want a copy, see details for ordering at the end of this article or contact Karen Whitley at our UK office.

We should explain that this action plan for the parrots is just one of a series published by the Species Survival Commission, an arm of IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, also known as the Global Conservation Union). This is the world's senior conservation body, and the World Parrot Trust is an international NGO member of it. Fifty two action plans have been published so far, including many of the most threatened animals such as elephant, tiger, panda, whale etc., and many orders or families as diverse as galliformes, carnivora, and lepidoptera. The printing and distribution costs are met by SSC, using long-term support from a variety of funders, suitably acknowledged in the Parrot Action Plan (PAP). Readers should note that a central aim of IUCN is to create and support the 'sustainable use' of natural resources, and the application of this principle to parrots is

carefully discussed within the action plan. In a nutshell, you could say that the PAP accepts the principle of sustainable use so far as it relates to eco-tourism involving parrots, but does not accept any concept of harvesting wild parrots for commerce.

The World Parrot Trust has existed since 1989 and has helped the survival of 37 species of parrot in 22 countries. This is all valuable work, but there can be no doubt that the promotion, funding, and final delivery of the Action Plan for Parrots 2000-2004 is our crowning achievement so far. Every member of the trust can take pride in it, and we look forward to even more help for the parrots being created by the general conservation advice in the action plan, and in particular the individual recommendations for the 95 species listed. See our comments and proposals on page 8, where we discuss the implementation of this action plan. There is little point in having a plan if it is not carried out.

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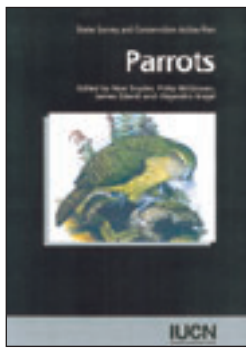
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## Foreword

*Extract from PAP 2000-2004*

Parrots have, for centuries, been taken into our homes because of their beauty, charm, hardiness, and supposed ability to "talk". This has created a domestic demand, involving hundreds of thousands of birds annually on a global basis, resulting in many parrot taxa having a high monetary value. The large charismatic mammals: whales, tigers, elephants, rhinoceroses, gorillas, and pandas have to contend with a host of threats directly related to their rarity and monetary value, but none of these are subject to capture for live domestic use. No other group of birds has been subjected to more exploitation, numerically and financially, than parrots.

Parrots are also exposed to hunting pressures but above all to habitat loss, alteration and fragmentation. As ecosystems around the world are destroyed or degraded, so the survival prospects of the parrots decline. And yet parrots have the potential to act as charismatic 'flagship species' to highlight the urgent need to preserve habitats. In doing so habitat protection can be afforded to a multitude of species.

There is an urgent need to change the attitudes of two special interest groups. Firstly the many millions of owners that keep parrots as pet or companion animals, or for breeding for the pet trade, should be urged to accept more responsibility for the survival of parrots in the wild and the welfare of existing captive parrots. The second category pertains to the many businesses that are unquestionably built upon the "parrot phenomenon": the tens of millions of parrots being kept in captivity. These companies that trade parrots, their food, cages and other goods, should be encouraged to donate a proportion of their global annual income to parrot conservation. But with only one or two commendable exceptions, few of these companies donate anything to

the birds that support their wealth. If parrots are to survive, these attitudes must change.

Governments of the parrot range countries also need to address the unsustainable nature of parrot markets operating within their borders. And whilst it is difficult to propose a species for which a convincing scientific case for sustainable use can be

made, current harvesting levels are threatening a number of species and should be addressed. The few countries still allowing "quotas" of parrots for export should be required to provide appropriate scientific justification for this.

Most governments, however, seek, in principle, to protect and preserve their wildlife, and have

considerable expertise at their disposal. This was clearly demonstrated when the joint compilers of this Action Plan sent out requests for updated information on threatened parrot species. The response from all quarters was swift and positive, and the result is an effective document that will guide conservation efforts for several years.

Special thanks are due to the editors, Noel Snyder, Phil McGowan, Jamie Gilardi and Alejandro Grajal, for their extended commitment to the project and their determination to achieve the highest standards. Needless to say, the



Parrot Action Plan meeting 1995. With the help of BAAC, parrot experts and enthusiasts gathered together to talk through the Plan. Those present: from left to right (standing) - Noel Snyder, USA; James D. Gilardi, USA; Alejandro Grajal, Venezuela; Nigel Collar, UK; Joseph M. Forshaw, Australia; Rod Hall MBE, UK; Frank Lambert, UK; Mariano Gimenez-Dixon, Mexico; David Waugh, UK; Roland Wirth, Germany, Mike Reynolds, UK. From left to right (seated) - Phil McGowan, UK; Mike Perrin, South Africa. Not present: Colin Bibby, UK; Charles A. Munn, USA.

## Executive Summary

Extract from PAP 2000-2004

contributions of the many experts around the world were invaluable. Thanks are also due to Rod Hall MBE of British Airways Assisting Conservation (BAAC), now part of British Airways Environment Branch. It was Rod's idea to bring together the world's leading parrot people to start this Parrot Action Plan process, and British Airways (BA) provided flights to bring ten key participants to the conference organised by the World Parrot Trust in London in 1995. BA also provided flights to Africa, and to the final review meeting in New York.

There is no shortage of field biologists interested in working with the parrots, and people prepared to commit themselves to the fascinating and often urgent tasks at hand. Priorities for many of these projects emerge clearly from this Action Plan. Given that the interest and expertise exist, we must ensure that the next steps, which are the provision of the necessary funds, and the support of the relevant authorities, are taken.

The sheer enthusiasm that has carried this Action Plan to completion must be sustained. Readers may well be able to help support the many ongoing activities discussed in this Plan, or initiate action where no work is currently under way. The authors and the World Parrot Trust are available to advise on and co-ordinate these efforts.

Michael Reynolds  
Hon. Director,  
World Parrot Trust

Of the approximately 330 known parrot species, 95 are listed in this Action Plan. Half of these occur in the Western Hemisphere and half in the Eastern Hemisphere. The majority are found in tropical regions. The proportion of extant parrot species that are threatened (28%) is one of the highest for any major family of birds. Yet the number of parrot species that have been given careful field study to determine the best means of conservation remains low. Comprehensive conservation strategies are not yet possible for many species because not enough information is available to allow rigorous identification of causes of endangerment with confidence. Because of this relative dearth of information, Chapters 1 and 2 of this Action Plan place substantial emphasis on conservation research methods and strategies applicable to parrots in general.

Parrots face a great variety of threats, ranging from the impacts of introduced predators and competitors to habitat destruction and shooting for food. For nearly 78 species of this Action Plan, habitat destruction and fragmentation are the principal causes of endangerment. Perhaps more than any other bird group, parrots also face the considerable extra pressures of the bird trade. In this Action Plan, 36 species are threatened primarily by insufficiently controlled and unsustainable harvest from the wild. Much of this harvest is fuelled by local demand, although international trade (both legal and illegal) plays a significant role for some species. Between 1990 and 1994

nearly two million parrots were traded on the world market (TRAFFIC 1999). International trade also poses additional threats of establishment of feral parrot populations in non-native countries and the global spread of exotic avian diseases. Dealing with the problems posed by the bird trade involves addressing complex internal and external regulation dilemmas within the affected countries.

Chapters 3 through 7 concern the threatened parrots of the world. For convenience the world is split into four regions:

- Australia, New Zealand and the South-west Pacific.
- Asia, including continental Asia, Indonesia, and the Philippines.
- Africa, and
- The Neotropics (Americas).

Each regional account outlines broad issues that affect the parrots of the region and then discusses potential conservation solutions. In the first three regions, there are also outlines of specific projects that address the most threatened species and some other regional priorities. For the Neotropical region, the majority of priority projects are included in the "actions" section of each species account. The regional accounts are followed by individual species accounts for all threatened species. They include information on current status, distribution, threats and actions necessary to ensure continued survival.

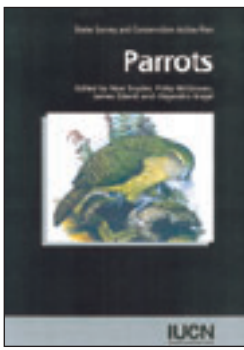
General recommendations and conclusions include:

- An urgent need to obtain

reliable information on causes of endangerment for many species that have not yet been carefully studied. Effective conservation strategies should be solidly based on reliable science.

- All solutions to the conservation problems of parrots present tradeoffs and each particular solution must be tailored to the species' individual requirements and limitations.
- Parrots often offer special potential to serve as flagship species for the protection of crucial ecosystems.
- The detrimental effects of bird trade pose major threats to parrots. Developing effective solutions to these threats represents an especially high priority.
- Substantial biological, social, political and economic difficulties pose major hurdles for achieving sustainable harvest of wild parrot populations. No demonstrable successful harvesting projects with free-flying parrots have been established to date.

This plan is designed to aid managers and researchers entrusted with the conservation of parrot species to understand both how best to evaluate the threats faced by individual species and how best to design appropriate conservation strategies to counter the threats involved. It is intended as much to be an evaluation of conservation techniques as to be a set of specific recommendations for individual species.



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## Introduction to Action Plan

### Extract from PAP 2000-2004

Parrots (Psittaciformes) are one of the most endangered groups of birds in the world, due in part to their popularity in the bird trade. Yet the bird trade is not the only threat currently facing this group, and conservation efforts on behalf of parrots must address stress factors that are as complex as those found with any other wildlife group. Unfortunately, many of the most threatened parrot species have not yet received the comprehensive field study that would allow identification of the most appropriate strategies for their conservation. Nevertheless, it is valuable to review the status of knowledge concerning the threatened parrots of the world to:

- 1 Provide a summary of existing knowledge.
- 2 Identify the most pressing gaps in information.
- 3 Offer some general recommendations on conservation techniques.
- 4 Recommend conservation actions where appropriate.

The major goal of this Action Plan is to ensure the conservation of the world's parrot species. This is to be achieved by providing researchers, managers and local groups with practical recommendations for conducting conservation programs for the threatened parrot species and populations endemic to their regions of the world.

The Parrot Action Plan is by definition action-oriented. It is built upon the most up-to-date assessments of distribution, status, and threats for endangered parrot species, and relates these data to the considerable experience that conservation biologists have gained in attempting to prevent threatened populations from becoming extinct. The plan is not intended to be a treatise on parrot biology. For enhanced understanding, it should be read in conjunction with general treatments of parrot biology and conservation available elsewhere (e.g., Collar and Stuart 1985, Forshaw 1989, Beissinger and Snyder 1992, Joseph 1992, Garnett 1992, Collar et al. 1992, and Juniper and Parr 1998).

### Parrots and humans

Parrots are among the most familiar of bird species to the general public, and are generally

held in esteem and affection even by people uninterested in natural history or conservation. Ironically, people's fascination with parrots is a significant cause of the conservation challenges faced by conservationists today. Because of their attractive colours and abilities to imitate human speech, parrots have been kept in captivity by many different cultures worldwide, ranging from the ancient Greeks and Romans to native tribes of the Caribbean. Captive rearing of parrots to obtain feathers for ceremonial purposes was a widespread activity many centuries ago among the native peoples of Mexico. Parrots have also been valued historically as objects of trade between cultures, leading to their distribution far beyond the boundaries of their natural ranges and the establishment of numerous feral exotic populations. Today, 90 of the approximately 330 extant species of parrots worldwide are considered at some risk of extinction (Collar et al. 1994). This proportion is higher than for almost all other major groups of birds.

Despite their familiarity as cage birds, most parrot species have not been the subject of detailed ecological and conservation studies. In part, this situation of relative neglect has resulted from an association of many species with remote habitats far from centres of learning. In part it is due to the difficulties in conducting studies on species that have large home ranges, are often difficult to capture for individual marking purposes, and

are often canopy dwellers in tropical forests, nesting in elevated tree cavities that are challenging to reach.

Despite the difficulties involved in their study, parrots often present major conservation opportunities. As conspicuous and attractive birds, they can often serve as flagship species for the preservation of threatened ecosystems, and because their range needs are often large, they often can provide important justifications for the saving of quantitatively significant amounts of habitat. Their spectacular congregations at clay licks, waterholes, and mass roosts often present important potentials for ecotourism benefits for local communities, and for the development of conservation education efforts.

### Threats

The plight of parrots is due to many factors. Two threats stand out as especially important; habitat destruction and fragmentation, and trapping for the bird trade. Of the 95 species considered in this Plan, habitat destruction and fragmentation endanger 78 species while trade endangers 36 species. Diminished international trade has been dwarfed by significant growth in internal trade. For many species, the threats of habitat loss and trade act concurrently, so that it is difficult to determine which threat might be most the most severe. For example, 29 species are currently threatened by a combination of habitat destruction and intense trade, and 8 species are threatened by combined habitat destruction and introduced predators or competitors. However, these factors are clearly not the only cause of declining parrot populations. In other cases, large-scale reductions in parrot populations have occurred in spite of the persistence of natural habitats and an absence of trade. Introduced predators or competitors have apparently threatened 16 species, while

others have suffered significantly from hunting for food or feathers, or to protect crops (nine species). Though not well documented, it is also reasonably likely that introduced diseases have been a major factor in the woes of some species, for example the extinct Carolina Parakeet (see Snyder et al. 1987). It is thought that introduced diseases possibly endanger two species, and three are possibly hybridising with related taxa.

The principle threats vary geographically, temporally, and with the specific characteristics of the species involved; introduced predators and competitors have been a major threat primarily for parrot populations on oceanic islands; hunting for food is a principle threat for relatively large species; and trade has been extremely damaging for many highly charismatic or colourful species, especially for those that are extraordinarily talented in imitating human speech. While legal international trade has been declining in magnitude for the past decade (due to CITES regulations, passage of various national regulations, and increased law enforcement activities), internal trade still remains a major problem in many countries. Illegal internal and international trade places grave threats on certain parrot species.

### Structure of the Action Plan

The second Chapter of the Action Plan considers general aspects of parrot conservation, while the remaining chapters provide detailed species by species status accounts and conservation recommendations. Particular emphasis is placed on the need for sound knowledge of the problems faced by individual species and the potential conservation actions required. Such information should normally be gathered and evaluated before specific prescriptions are advanced. Premature judgements based on incorrect information can waste valuable time and

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resources and greatly diminish the prospects for effective conservation. This is not meant to sanction a lack of action on behalf of species that are critically threatened simply because all research answers are not yet in. For such species provisional recommendations should be developed and followed, but not as a continuing substitute for obtaining the scientifically rigorous data that will allow development of comprehensive conservation strategies.

Because resources for conservation are limited, it is extremely important to maximise the efficiency of each programme. Conservation approaches will necessarily vary among individual species. It is essential that every programme be continuously evaluated for effectiveness and that conservation actions be adaptively modified whenever success remains elusive.

Chapter 2 of the Action Plan also discusses principles that should apply to the conservation of all parrot species. Subsections include determinations of population sizes, ranges, and trends; determinations of causes of decline; and general evaluations of conservation alternatives. The principles involved are for the most part not specific to parrots, and some examples to illustrate principles are drawn from other groups. Nevertheless, emphasis is placed on the unique characteristics of parrots that pose special problems and opportunities in the application of conservation techniques.

Chapters 3 to 7 provide the most up-to-date information available on the status, distribution, and threats to 103 species of parrots threatened worldwide. The species are organised into four main regions: Australia, New Zealand, and the Southwest Pacific; Asia, (including continental Asia, Indonesia, and the Philippines); Africa; and the Neotropics (Americas). A general overview, including threats and conservation solutions, and detailed species accounts for all threatened taxa are provided for each region. Priority conservation projects are discussed as text boxes for Australia, Asia and Africa. The majority of the

priority projects within the Neotropical section are included in the 'actions' section of each species account.

Initially, the species considered were those listed in *Birds to Watch 2: the world list of threatened birds* (Collar et al. 1994), which is also the official IUCN list of threatened birds (see IUCN 1996). Species included in *Birds to Watch 2* are drawn from the list of species proposed by Sibley and Monroe (1990, 1993). This list remains controversial but has been adopted by both BirdLife International and CITES. It is followed more in the interests of standardisation than out of complete agreement with the species limits and sequence proposed.

The updated information in this Action Plan, itself a first edition, produced several changes to the original *Birds to Watch 2*. These changes fall into five categories: i) changes in the threat category for species which remain threatened; ii) removals from the list which have been agreed with BirdLife International (7 species); iii) taxonomic reappraisals that suggest a threatened taxon might be most appropriately treated as a species, and hence should be added to the list (3 species); iv) species previously considered non-threatened, which are proposed here for inclusion on the Red List (4 species plus one group of populations).

Classifying species as to the degree of threat is a controversial endeavour, as it is commonly extremely difficult to predict how likely extinction may be, especially in cases where detailed studies of individual species have been lacking. Various efforts have been made to base classifications on numerical criteria for population sizes and trends and on range sizes. Although no numerical scheme has yet achieved consensus support of the conservation community, this Action Plan follows the IUCN Categories of Threat (IUCN, 1994). The categories utilised are Extinct in the Wild, Critically Endangered, Endangered, and Vulnerable (see Appendix 2).

For information on typical coverage, below we publish a species account:

## Species Account:

**Hyacinth macaw,**  
*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*

**Contributors:** Jaqueline Goerck, Neiva Guedes, Charles Munn, Carlos Yamashita

**Conservation status:**  
IUCN: Vulnerable (A1c,d; A2c,d).  
CITES: Appendix I.  
National protection status:  
Protected under Brazilian law.

**Distribution and status:** The Pantanal population may number a maximum of 5,000 birds (N. Guedes in litt. 1997). Recent work in the Chapada das Mangabeiras by BioBrasil has confirmed that a population of between 1,000 and 2,500 hyacinths still exists. This population exists in the cliff and dry forest regions of south-western Piauí State, south-western Maranhão State, north-western Bahia State, and extreme eastern Tocantins State, Brazil.

**Threats:** Nest-trees are still often cleared to provide areas for cattle. Illegal trapping remains a problem in some areas. The hyacinth macaw is protected under Brazilian law and has been listed on Appendix I of CITES since 1987, and is thus banned from international trade. There were

54 specimens recorded in international trade between 1991 and 1995, with an annual maximum of 17 in 1993 (mostly zoo animals and pets: CITES Annual Report database). In the Pantanal, deforestation and forest burning are a serious threat to the supply of nesting trees. Conservation of stands of the palms *Schellea phalerata* and *Acrocomia aculeata* is considered a keystone for their survival.

**Actions:** Accurate studies of the species' current range and population numbers in all parts of its range are needed. Investigations of the possible illegal trading of the species throughout its range are also required. Experimental ecotourism should be developed at one or two key sites. To support this work, a broad political constituency must be built to attract donors (both from Brazil and the public abroad) to broaden funding and to protect this species in the wild.

Assessing the effectiveness of experimentally erected nest boxes should also continue. Of 11 boxes hung in 1992, all but two were visited or used. The colonisation of artificial nests by aggressive Africanised bees is a problem.



Hyacinth Macaw by David Johnston

# Our Hopes for the Parrot Action Plan

By Michael Reynolds

As described on pages 2 and 3 of this issue, we are very pleased to now have the IUCN/SSC Parrot Action Plan available. It will be widely distributed by IUCN itself, going automatically to a list of several hundred appropriate bodies concerned with conservation, including universities, government departments, and NGOs (non-government organisations, like WPT). WPT (which shares copyright of the action plan with IUCN) has been able to add its own list for free distribution to try to ensure that specialist parrot organisations and publications receive a copy. If after the end of June 2000 any group has not received a copy and feels it should have, please write to our UK administrator Karen Whitley (address on page 19).

## Implementation

There would be little point in producing an action plan, if no significant action resulted from it. We must therefore seek to encourage good responses from all interested in parrot conservation, especially those organisations and individuals who currently make useful contributions in this area.

These include organisations such as ZGAP (Germany), IPF (Germany), Kaytee Avian Foundation (USA), Loro Parque Foundation (Spain), Wildlife Conservation Society (USA), BirdLife International (UK), WWF (UK), and others. WPT will ensure they receive copies of the action plan, and will aim to keep in touch.

## Funding

Implementation can only occur when funds are made available. What is needed here is the development of NEW SOURCES OF FUNDING. WPT will communicate with foundations and others interested in funding wildlife conservation, and no doubt other bodies will do the same. The Parrot Action Plan provides a great new opportunity to bring in funds for parrot conservation. The beauty of it is that ANYONE CAN JOIN IN and use the action plan to raise funds.

Individual World Parrot Trust members can also make the most of the action plan, either raising funds on a general basis to help WPT projects across the

board, or picking a species listed in the action plan, and raising money to go exclusively to the bird of their choice. This approach may well appeal to bird clubs.

## Monitoring & Reporting

It will be a major task to record the current work on the 95 species listed in the action plan, and then add the expected new activity. World Parrot Trust will undertake to do this, but of course there are other organisations that may wish to do this independently.

When WPT appoints its new director, he or she will become primarily responsible for pursuing all aspects of the

action plan and its considerable potential to create new initiatives for the parrots.

## Updating

At the present time WPT intends to issue an annual report on the Parrot Action Plan and its implementation. It will also improve the current presentation of the action plan on its website at [www.worldparrottrust.org](http://www.worldparrottrust.org), and update it as necessary.

## Input Welcome

Having been much involved with all stages of this action plan project, the World Parrot Trust now invites all readers to let us have any comments or suggestions on how to make the most of this unique opportunity to advance the cause of parrot conservation.

Please send information regarding any work carried out that is cited in the Plan, or any fundraising that you have done so that we may include this information. Please write to the UK address listed on page 19.

Our main hope is that the recommendations of the action plan will be funded adequately, and put into effective action as demonstrated by these pictures from the Echo Parakeet project in Mauritius.



One of the team inspecting an Echo nest.



Kirsty Jenkin from Paradise Park, at work hand-rearing a young Echo.



A hand-reared and released Echo ('Reef') uses a feed hopper.



# WPT Seeks Director

## Introduction

The World Parrot Trust (WPT) is a non-profit non-governmental organisation formed in the United Kingdom in 1989 as Registered Charity No. 800944. It now has 13 international branches. The objectives of the trust are the survival of parrot species in the wild, and the welfare of individual birds. Funds raised to pursue those aims now total \$1.5m, and have helped 37 species of parrot in 22 countries.

The World Parrot Trust operates on a volunteer basis, with generous support from its 2,500 members and in particular the small committees and groups who organise the national branches. WPT-UK has a full-time administrator responsible for co-ordinating international activities, a central membership list, finances, and the publication of the trust's quarterly 'PSITTASCENE' magazine. WPT-USA has a part time administrator, responsible for servicing the valuable and enthusiastic US membership.

From its inception in 1989 the

trust has been under the day-to-day direction (unpaid) of Mike Reynolds, founder of Paradise Park in Cornwall, UK. Much funding and logistical support has been provided to the trust by Paradise Park. Mike intends to hand over the task of directing WPT to a suitably qualified person by the end of 2000.

## The requirements

To understand the particular threats relating to the 330 species of parrot.

To be able to work effectively with individuals and organisations in parrot range countries.

To design, implement, supervise and report scientifically sound conservation programmes.

To work co-operatively with other organisations with similar aims.

To initiate and bring to fruition a range of fund-raising activities.

To publicise the work of WPT and its achievements.

To prepare and distribute educational material, for general public consumption, and for

owners of captive parrots.

To represent WPT at all levels and on all occasions.

To deal promptly and creatively with the extensive communications received by the trust.

To provide expertise in response to all media and other enquiries.

To communicate with WPT's membership, primarily through 'PSITTASCENE'.

## The individual chosen for this job is likely to have the following characteristics

An appropriate scientific qualification.

Extensive experience in the field, primarily in parrot range countries.

Experience in devising and implementing substantial conservation proposals.

Experience in submitting conservation proposals to potential donors and government authorities.

The ability to motivate and supervise the work of associates and employees.

Close contacts with organisations in the conservation community.

Full command of spoken and written English. Some Spanish and Portuguese would be an asset.

## Key tasks would be

To play a major role in implementing the new IUCN/SSC Parrot Action Plan 2000-2004.

To develop the membership support for WPT.

To achieve substantial new sources of funds for the expansion of WPT projects, and the improvement of WPT structure.

To publicise the urgent needs of the parrots, and WPT's ability to meet these needs.

## Application and terms of employment

Letters of application supported by curriculum vitae with salary history and details of two referees should be sent by email, fax or mail to Mike Reynolds, for consideration by the trustees, directors and committees of WPT. The priority will be to find the right person as soon as possible during 2000. The person chosen must be able to spend substantial time at WPT's base in the UK, with additional time in the USA, and in the field to monitor WPT projects.



Taken from *Cage & Aviary Birds*, May 20, 2000

# Search for new parrot champion

THE driving force behind one of the world's most influential world parrot conservation groups is to stand down at the end of this year.

Mike Reynolds, founder of the World Parrot Trust and its honorary director, will be 70 in early February next year and wants to make way for a new leader after more than a decade in charge.

Also founder of Paradise Park bird gardens in Cornwall, now run by his son and daughter Nick and Alison, Mike will still have an influence on both concerns but with a reduced workload.

## International charity

MIKE formed the World Parrot Trust in 1989 in response to a need for conservation, trade restrictions and habitat preservation in countries with threatened parrot populations. Operating through volunteers, it gained registered charity status and now has 2,500 members and 13 international branches. It has helped 37 species of parrot in 22 different countries.

Although a non-profit making organisation, it has raised funds totalling \$1.5 million with which to work for the welfare of parrots. Mike's work as honorary director is a job for which he draws no pay.



Mike Reynolds hopes to reduce his workload by next year.



"I think as Mike is 70 next year, he deserves a bit of time off," said his daughter, Alison.

"The WPT has been going for ten years and after a while it takes over your life. Before that he spent a long time setting up Paradise Park and it was while doing this that he realised he wanted to do more for the birds in the wild.

The Park, at Hayle, was created in 1973, before conservation among exotic bird species became

a priority.

As awareness grew of the harm being done by an unlimited trade in birds and rapid habitat destruction, the need for a conservation group for wild parrots became evident.

"It was only really 15 years ago that people started realising that controls were needed on imports, trapping birds and loss of habitats, and they came to understand that wild birds do not make good pets," said Alison.

"Mike realised early on that you can't just go on importing thousands of birds without it having a damaging effect, and there has been a huge change in attitude over that time.

"With the World Parrot Trust he has done what he is best at, which is inspiring people and setting out the ground for the future.

"He's not going to step away completely, but he does think it's time for someone else to take on a lot of the work."

## MIKE'S FINEST HOURS

**MIKE is most proud of his contribution towards the success of the Parrot Action Plan, which brought together scientists in different countries to carry research work to find out which species are able to benefit from conservation.**

"This has laid the basis for a lot of work in the future, and Mike helped bring everyone together when it looked like they had drifted apart," said Alison.

"He's also proud of Paradise Park (recently voted Cornwall's family attraction of the year) and how it has survived all these years, as a bird garden and as a breeding centre of rare species."

The new director, who will receive a salary but will also be involved in fund-raising projects, will be based in England and the USA with monitoring work at project sites abroad.

Applicants should have scientific qualifications, extensive experience in parrot countries and in conservation work, and be able to work closely with other organisations and individuals involved in projects. They should also be capable of generating publicity and communicating through the WPT's magazine.



# ABC / WPT



# small grants programme

by MIKE PARR

American Bird Conservancy and World Parrot Trust Partnership for Neotropical Parrot Conservation - Two Years of Collaboration in Review.

In 1998, World Parrot Trust (WPT) teamed up with American Bird Conservancy (ABC) in announcing a competitive grants programme with the goal of stimulating and supporting a range of parrot conservation projects in the neotropics focused around priority species identified in the Parrot Action Plan. In the first year, more than seventy proposals were received and thanks to a generous grant from the San Francisco-based Barbara Delano Foundation and funds contributed by ABC and WPT, a total of \$62,000 was allocated to thirteen projects in ten countries/ Additional support in the form of a matching grant was made available from the Washington DC based National Fish & Wildlife Foundation for the Great Green Macaw Honorary Warden Project, Ecuador and thanks to support from the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, two of the project: the Red-tailed Amazon Conservation Project in Brazil and Proyecto Ognorhynchus in Colombia, were expanded considerably, resulting in some exciting additional conservation action on the ground. Thanks to the success of the programme, WPT and ABC continued the partnership in 1999, and are currently supporting four new projects along with renewing support for the Great Green Macaw project in Ecuador.

Here, Mike Parr, Vice President of Program Development for ABC, and co-author with Tony Juniper of the award-winning guide to parrots of the world takes a look at some of the programmes highlights including the species, conservation issues and project



Scarlet Macaw

successes. More information, including links to the project's web sites can be found on the ABC website at [www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org). We are still actively fundraising for the programme and donation are welcome. For information on how to help please contact WPT UK.

The Red Bank Scarlet Macaw Conservation and Avitourism Project is run by Program for Belize (PFB), one of the leading conservation organisations in the country. PFB has built a solid reputation through its programmes of land purchase, ecotourism development and conservation management and recently began the development of a bird conservation

programme. The Red Bank project is aiming to protect the last significant population of the threatened Central American subspecies of Scarlet Macaw in Belize through a habitat protection, conservation education and ecotourism development programme. The project has developed a community outreach campaign including a national television commercial promoting ecotourism at the site; engaged the local community in the construction of fire breaks and fire patrols; successfully opposed a quarry development; raised funds from the Global Environment Facility to construct a visitor lodge; and trained tour guides. The macaw

population in the area peaks during March and currently 150 individuals are using the area, roughly 60% of the Belize population of the species.

Another species of conservation concern in Belize is the Yellow-headed Amazon. Although the species has a wide range, also extending through suitable habitat in Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala, the population has been severely depleted by habitat loss and trade. It is one of the most popular pet birds in Mexico, and other parrots are sometimes painted to look like Yellow-headed Amazons there so that they fetch a higher price. Because of these threats, the remaining healthy local populations in Belize are of particular significance. The Belize Zoo Yellow-headed Parrot Project is an education programme which is directly involving more than 1,000 students in the conservation of the Yellow-headed Amazon through awareness building and a nest box project. Using the Amazon as a conservation symbol, the project, conducted by one of the most effective environmental education groups in Central America has developed a national conservation outreach project which includes curriculum materials, exercise books, calendars, field trips and a nest box monitoring programme. The programme is developing national pride in the species and encouraging the next generation to view the Amazon as a symbol of wild habitats, rather than as a pet to be captured and sold.

The Great Green Macaw is a thinly distributed species which is in serious trouble throughout its range. It occurs mainly in humid lowland forest from Honduras, through parts of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Ecuador. Although habitat loss is the species' main problem,

trapping for trade and probably hunting for food area also contributing to its decline. The fact that this macaw is nomadic makes it especially difficult to set up conservation programmes and the subspecies which occurs in western Ecuador is now on the verge of extinction. With this in mind, we selected the Great Green Macaw Honorary Warden Project conducted by Fundacion Pro-Bosque for support. The project is involving local people as honorary reserve wardens in an area where macaws have traditionally been hunted and trapped. It is especially important that farmers in areas surrounding the Cerro Blanco protected forest are sympathetic to the presence of macaws on their property, as the birds often choose to nest on the periphery of the reserve, or on surrounding private lands. The project has carried out a survey of local attitudes toward parrot conservation and recruited five honorary wardens from the surrounding area as guardians of the macaws. Field visits to local communities have been supported by a substantial outreach campaign with a poster, colouring books for children, a mobile puppet theatre and an environmental play which has been performed in local villages as well as in central Gyaquil, the largest city in Ecuador.

Proyecto Ognorhynchus run in conjunction with Sociedad Antioqueña de Ornitología (SAO), Colombia, is an emergency conservation programme for the Yellow-eared Parrot in the central cordillera of the Colombian Andes. The project team discovered a healthy population of the species, the only one currently known, and has developed a conservation programme aimed at conserving the birds and expanding the available habitat by propagating and re-planting their favourite food and nesting tree, the Wax Palm. The Palm itself - Colombia's national tree - is also an endangered species and is the world's tallest palm reaching more than 150 feet in height. In addition to discovering a critical - and possibly the only - breeding population of the species, the project has carried out the first thorough ecological assessment of the Yellow-eared Parrot which not only uncovered its almost complete reliance on the Wax Palm, but also discovered that the

species employs a cooperative breeding strategy in which non-pair helpers assist in raising the young - the only neotropical parrot known to exhibit this behaviour. Thanks to additional funding from the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund and the Loro Parque Foundation, the project has also: begun to work with landowners to fence areas to prevent grazing which hampers palm regeneration; established a local education programme with posters and T shirts; incorporated the parrot into the town flag and encouraged local residents to paint a mural featuring the parrot to enhance local pride in the species. The project was given a further boost with the involvement of the Institute of Systematic Botany at the New York Botanical Gardens which supplied a painting of the Wax Palm by Michael Rothman (who added several Yellow-eared Parrots to the design to help local outreach activities). The Garden also advised on the development of a sub-project to study the ecology of the palm itself to help habitat restoration efforts.

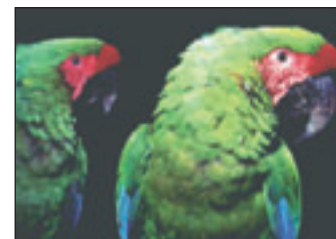
The remaining lowland coastal forest and forested wetlands of southeast Brazil provide the last refuge for the endangered Red-tailed Amazon. Rapid habitat loss through coastal development has caused a steep decline in the species' population and further threats from housing developments on Ilha Comprida add to the severity of the situation. The illegal trade is also a serious problem for the species and some birds are still hunted for food. The environmental education programme for the Red-tailed Amazon being conducted at Superagüo National Park, by Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (IPE) provides hope that at least one significant population of the species can be conserved. The project aims to develop local pride to help combat illegal trapping, hunting and habitat clearance. IPE has launched an environmental awareness campaign among villagers within the park in one of Brazil's poorest areas. The programme aims to develop alternative economic strategies such as local crafts and the promotion of new recipes among women's groups to cater better to tourists. The project is also developing local pride in the parrots through local community tours to the roosting site and

through the engagement of local guides. The project has been given an additional boost thanks to funds from the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund and the Loro Parque Foundation.

In addition to these exciting project successes, WPT and ABC look forward to another productive field season for our four new jointly supported projects:

Sonia Gabriela Ortiz Maciel will be working with Ernesto C. Enkerlin to investigate habitat preferences of the endangered Maroon-fronted Parrot in the Sierra Madre Oriental of northeast Mexico. Although the species' key cliff nesting site at El Taray is well protected, the birds rove to surrounding pine forests to feed. Following a spectacular breeding season in 1998, the number of breeding pairs crashed in 1999, possibly due to the extensive fires in surrounding forest caused by the El Niño. The project will help provide a baseline data to determine conservation actions and management priorities for the species.

The Yellow-shouldered Amazon is endemic to Northern Venezuela and some offshore islands (inc. Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles). It occurs in dry scrub and associated woodland and despite its rarity is not well protected in parks or reserves. There is a lack of enforcement to block illegal (mainly local) trade and although the species is locally common in parts of Falcón and Anzoátegui, the population on Isla Margarita is now probably the most easily protected. PROVITA has developed a comprehensive conservation plan for the species on the island and is also focusing efforts on the endemic Margarita island



Great Green Macaw

subspecies of Blue-crowned Conure, the species featured in the movie 'Paulie'.

Lear's Macaw is one of the world's rarest parrots, surviving in just a few isolated colonies in Bahia State, Brazil. The species is a cliff nester and specialises in feeding on licuri palms, which have been cleared for agriculture throughout most of its range. Despite protection efforts, the macaw is still vulnerable to poaching and the BioBrasil Foundation project supported by WPT and ABC is providing wardens for the nesting cliffs and is monitoring nest sites and fledging success.

The Lilac-crowned Amazon is endemic to the tropical dry deciduous forests of southern Mexico and large scale habitat clearance within its range and capture for the pet trade have induced a population decline, culminating in the species being assigned "Near-Threatened" status by BirdLife International. Katherine Renton will be conducting an assessment of the species' habitat preferences to provide a baseline for conservation recommendations.

We hope that WPT members will be as excited to learn of the results of our joint grant programme with ABC as we are and we welcome contributions to continue and expand on this work.



Yellow-eared Parrot

# Harry Sissen Jailed for 2 1/2 Years

Judge describes him as '... a liar and a hypocrite.'

Once again, a leading figure in the parrot world has been sent to jail for offences against CITES, the international convention designed to protect endangered species from illegal trade.

Readers may recall that Tony Silva was convicted in the USA in 1997 on charges of smuggling and causing the deaths of up to 185 Hyacinth Macaws and other birds, and was sent to jail for nearly seven years. His release is due in 2004/2005.

We publish below the official press release from HM Customs & Excise, describing the activities that brought Harry Sissen to his present plight. We understand he is likely to appeal against the sentence, but is unable to appeal against the conviction itself.

The future of the three Lear's Macaws is still to be decided, but the Brazilian government has asked for the birds to be returned to Brazil. This is clearly the correct action, but if it is accurately reported that the birds are intended to be released into the wild, this needs much more consideration. The World Parrot Trust understands that the three Lear's have a disease that might represent a threat to conspecifics and other birds in the wild, and that their future would be better spent as part of a carefully supervised breeding programme.

WPT would like to remind its members and other readers of *PsittaScene* that it deplors any illegality in the parrot world, especially where it involves the smuggling of endangered species. Smuggling over the past thirty years or so was bad enough, but today, when we all know of the dire consequences of such activity, it is unforgivable.

## Operation Palate - HM Customs and Excise, Press Release:

Mr. Sissen of Cornhill Farm, East Cowton, Northallerton was charged with 4 Customs offences concerning the smuggling of rare parrots, including 3 Lear's Macaws, under the Convention against the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

In April 1998 the premises of Mr. Sissen, a well known bird breeder were raided by Customs with support from local Police. A large number of Cites Appendix 1 birds (the most critically endangered category and the category where international trade is banned) were seized. Included within this seizure were 3 Lear's Macaws; evidence heard during the trial indicated that only 150 remain in the wild in Brazil. Also included in this seizure are 6 Blue-headed Macaws; these birds are the first seen / imported into the E.C. The value placed on these birds is difficult, as the only trade seen is on the black market. However, a pair of Lear's Macaws alone, are worth in excess of £50,000

The 3 Lear's Macaws involved in this case, code named Operation Palate, were located in Yugoslavia with a dealer who we believe illegally obtained them from the wild in Brazil. These birds were offered to Mr. Sissen as long ago as 1996 and were eventually illegally imported into the UK in 1997 and 1998. Mr. Sissen travelled by car from the UK to Yugoslavia in February 1997 where he obtained 2 of the 3 Lear's Macaws. He then proceeded to enter Slovakia and purchase the 6 Blue-headed Macaws from another dealer. These birds were then smuggled across the Austrian border into the E.C. From there they were taken via Germany and Belgium to Calais where they were smuggled through Dover. In the following March the third Lear's Macaw was smuggled into the UK by a similar route and method. At no time did

Mr. Sissen apply or receive CITES certificates for these birds and in cross examination Mr. Sissen admitted all other importation paperwork obtained was bogus and in effect an additional 'insurance policy' should he be intercepted by Customs.

Additionally uplifted as a result of the raid on Mr. Sissen's premises were 2 stuffed Lear's Macaws.

During the trial evidence was heard from five witnesses that Mr. Sissen had admitted illegally importing these birds from Yugoslavia and Slovakia. One of these witnesses was the Right Honourable William Hague, the Leader of the Opposition, who was approached by his constituent Mr. Sissen to complain about the raid. H.M. Customs and Excise take their responsibility very seriously in seeking to enforce the E.U. wide import / export controls on Endangered Species. We fully recognise that the UK as a signatory of CITES has an obligation to seek to prevent the illegal exploitation of rare species worldwide.

Whatever the motive involved, it is the actions of individuals like Mr. Sissen who create a demand (and high prices) for endangered species and directly leads to their illegal removal from their native habitats.

In 1997, the E.U. sought to tighten the import / export controls on Endangered Species. This was, in part, intended to reflect growing concern that numbers of endangered species were still entering the Community illegally. The new law made it a requirement that Member States must be able to impose effective penalties on those who sought to deal in or move controlled species illegally. We believe the penalties available under C.E.M.A. of up to seven years imprisonment provide an effective deterrent to wildlife smugglers.

This Department wishes to express its gratitude for the assistance given during this case by the Zoo Federation; Parrot



Harry Sissen with Hyacinth Macaws.

Society, Corporation of London; Animal Reception Centre; Mr. Andrew Greenwood, vet and other wildlife organisations.

With regards to the future of the seized birds in this case, I can confirm that the Brazilian Government have formally requested the repatriation of the 3 Lear's Macaws. The primary objective after confiscation of the Lear's Macaws and other birds seized must be to ensure that they can form part of a breeding programme aimed at preserving these very rare species in the wild.

Our investigation officers (with expert assistance) identified a number of other endangered parrot species at Mr. Sissen's premises. The birds were removed and he was subsequently asked to prove their legal origin. Mr. Sissen has exercised his right in law to contest our actions and a form of civil (condemnation) proceedings will be held to review the legality of our actions. At all times Customs have sought to provide the seized birds with the best available accommodation and expert veterinary care.

- 1 Sissen was convicted on 4 counts of illegally importing 3 Lear's Macaws and 6 Blue-headed Macaws by a majority verdict of 10-2.
- 2 Sissen was sentenced to 2 1/2 years on each count to run concurrently. He was also ordered to pay £5,000 costs.
- 3 Confiscation proceedings were adjourned for a later date.
- 4 Sissen was described by HHJ Guy Whitburn as being: 'A devious and scheming man who as a result of the verdicts is both a liar and hypocrite'.
- 5 Highest sentence ever given in a British court for CITES offences.

by HM Customs and Excise National Investigation Service  
4th Floor Eastgate House  
10 Eastgate, Leeds, LS2 7JL  
Telephone: 0113 245 2937  
Fax: 0113 246 5911

# Saint Vincent Parrot Consortium Meeting Report

by DAVID WOOLCOCK

The International Captive Breeding Consortium for the Saint Vincent Parrot, *Amazona guildingii*, was established in the early 1980's to assist the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in managing the worldwide captive population of these birds. The breeding programme is intended to maintain a managed captive reservoir of *Amazona guildingii* that could supply birds for reintroduction if needed in the future.

The Consortium provides support and assistance for the management of both the captive and wild populations of the species and its habitat on the island of Saint Vincent. The Consortium also recognises that all Saint Vincent Parrots, regardless of where they reside are, and should be, the property of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

A meeting of the Saint Vincent Parrot Consortium was held at the Villa Lodge Hotel Saint Vincent. I attended this meeting representing both the World Parrot Trust and Paradise Park.

After a welcome by Nigel Weekes, Chief of Forestry in Saint Vincent, the current status of both the wild and captive populations of *Amazona guildingii* was discussed in detail. The biennial census of the wild population, which is carried out by Forestry staff, has shown an increase in the number of birds between 1988 and 1994. However since 1994 no census had been undertaken due to problems with funding and staffing levels. There are no known nest sites of the Saint Vincent Amazon Parrot. Although the birds are apparently doing well, field research in the form of an up to date census and identification and monitoring of nest trees is required as a matter of some urgency.

The problem of birds being illegally taken from the island was discussed in some detail and will probably need to be addressed again once a census has been undertaken. In order to make it more difficult to launder illegal birds it was agreed to write to all known holders of *Amazona guildingii* outside of the island to request DNA samples from the birds they hold. This DNA work will also have a secondary role as it can be used to determine relatedness within the whole captive population. Recent research carried out by the New York Zoological Society on confiscated birds entering the US has revealed previously unknown genetic lines within the species.

Another pressure on the wild population is the illegal farming

of marijuana deep in the forest which is encroaching upon the birds habitat. The Forestry Department and the Police are doing their best to combat this problem.

On the positive side there have recently been new sightings of the parrot on Soufriere, the island's volcano, following regeneration after the last eruption.

There are currently sixty six captive birds on the island with twenty nine of these being in aviaries at the Botanical Gardens as part of Forestry's in-situ breeding and education programme, and the remaining thirty seven birds being in the hands of "custodians" - Vincentians who had had pet birds prior to the amnesty and who have registered their birds with the Forestry Department.

The ex-situ breeding programme was also discussed at length with reports from all consortium members and holders present. It was agreed to take all available action to try to encourage holders of *Amazona guildingii* who were not consortium members to at least register their birds with the

studbook but to, in preference, participate fully within the consortium framework.

Nigel Weekes, Chief of Forestry, expressed a desire for further veterinary assistance with the captive population on the island. Five years ago consultant avian veterinarian, Andrew Greenwood visited the island on behalf of The World Parrot Trust and with the generous assistance of British Airways Assisting Conservation. Nigel would like this type of visit repeated on a regular basis as no equivalent veterinary expertise exists on the island. Nigel also commented upon the need to train the staff at the Botanical Gardens in best practices of captive bird care. Several collections offered facilities to train Forestry staff ex-situ but Nigel would prefer to have someone come to the aviaries for two to three weeks in order to train all the staff at the Botanical Gardens at the same time.

The importance of the parrot and its habitat as a valuable source of tourist revenue was discussed and parallels were drawn with the successful Forest Trails



St. Vincent Parrots

programme in Saint Lucia. The Saint Lucia trails provide a good source of revenue for the Forestry Department there and a large percentage of the funds raised go directly back into the field conservation work.

The last part of the meeting dealt with the functioning of the consortium and the roles and responsibilities of individuals. Donald F. Bruning was re-appointed as Chairman and I have been appointed both as Consortium Secretary and International Studbook keeper for *Amazona guildingii*.

The following day we visited the aviaries at the Botanical Gardens to see at first hand the work currently going on in the construction of a large educational exhibit aviary which had been funded by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. In addition we had an extremely fruitful meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and Labour, the Hon. Jeremiah Scott. Mr Scott reaffirmed his Government's commitment to the consortium and is even initiating moves to enshrine the consortium within the legislation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thus giving it, and I quote "more teeth" to act for the benefit of the National Bird of the island.

On the final morning of my visit I was fortunate enough to travel to Buccament Valley to observe a group of fourteen or so *Amazona guildingii* in the field. A truly breathtaking sight.

My sincerest thanks to British Airways Assisting Conservation for providing the flights to Barbados. Thanks also to the staff at Forestry Saint Vincent for their time and assistance with field observations.

## Footnote:

Since returning from the meeting funding has been provided by the World Parrot Trust, New York Zoological Society and Houston Zoo to enable the census to be undertaken. It is currently underway



From R to L: Yves de Soye, Loro Parque; David Woolcock, Paradise Park; Don Bruning, NYZA; Luanne Porter; Hon Jeremiah Scott, Minister; Paul Reillo, R.S.C.F.; Mrs White, Minister's P.S; Nigel Weekes, Chief of Forestry; Fitzgerald Providence, Forestry

# Reports from WPT branches

## Canada

by MIKE PEARSON

The Canadian World Parrot Trust has expanded its funding through 1999 - 2000 with continued support for the Cuban Parakeet and Cuban Parrot project headed by Dr. James Wiley of Grambling State University, Louisiana, USA. The goals of this study are to determine the Cuban Parakeet and Cuban Parrot's status and distribution in Cuba and the Isla de la Juventud.

In addition we have commenced a program to raise funds for research in the Morne Diablotin National Park, Dominica, West Indies. This project is being run by Dr. Paul Reillo, Rare Species Conservatory Foundation (RSCF), and is centred around the Sisserou (*Amazona imperialis*), Dominica's national bird and symbol. We were fortunate to receive a large donation from the Highbury Foundation, British Columbia, which helped in the funding of this project. World Parrot Trust, UK is also providing financial support to this program. Program details can be found in *PsittaScene* Vol. 12 No.1 February 2000 and on the CWPT web site.

We have also started funding for the RARE Center for Tropical Conservation's new Conservation Education Campaign (CEC) follow-up program, focusing on target

Amazon parrot species in The Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, Dominica, The Bay Islands and Bonaire. Over the past decade, RARE Center-supported Conservation Education Campaigns (CECs) have been successfully implemented in over 20 countries around the world, focusing on several significant parrot species and leading to expanded environmental awareness and education, the establishment of protected areas, the passage of wildlife protection legislation, and other conservation benefits.

We operated booths at the Western Canadian Parrot Symposium in May in Victoria, British Columbia and the Eastern Canadian Parrot Symposium in Toronto, Ontario in November 1999. In addition we participated in customer appreciation days at various Ontario Super Pet stores and look forward to continuing this through 2000.

We will be attending the Western Canadian Parrot Symposium in May 2000 where we hope to raise further funds for the RSCF and RARE projects. Look for a Symposium update in the August issue of *PsittaScene*.

The Canadian World Parrot Trust web site is currently undergoing a facelift and has been relocated at: <http://www.canadianparrottrust.org>



Canadian WPT Booth

## France

by JACQUELINE and GABRIEL PRIN

Protection via breeding .. Dream or reality?

in some countries, the law hinders captive breeding. In France, for instance, to keep species of CITES I or listed in what is called 'Arreté de Guyane', we must have an 'ability certificate' and a permit of 'establishment opening'. All the birds must be declared and registered (that means adult pairs, young, and even death). Moreover, we can only sell young of such birds as those possessing this certificate.

But we are not allowed to exchange adult birds, even if they are incompatible. This certificate takes a long time to obtain, so that means very few breeders have it. This ends up causing a hold up in trying to breed endangered species. This certificate could be a good thing, but it concerns the laws, rather than the breeding itself. All the forms that have to be completed and controls that are required do not encourage those who do that on a small scale, as a hobby. Where is the pleasure when there are so many restraints? And on the other side, some 'breeders' or dealers are 'protected' and will never be controlled.

In short, conservation of species thanks to captive breeding is far from being admitted in France.

So what does become of parrots reared in captivity? Many are 'smuggled' into neighbouring countries (rings are cut, so the birds lose their identification and also their genetic inheritance). Others are sold to an individual who does not know the laws and the bird becomes a pet. In both cases, it is a loss for the species. Only a small part of young reared in captivity are registered and kept for breeding purposes.

Present laws and large controls, with seizures and fines, are not enough.

CITES has been upheld by many countries, including France. But its application is very different between each country, even between countries in the European Union. When will this law be the same for everyone?

## Italy

by CRISTIANA SENNI

Pet parrots have become increasingly popular in Italy, and although the majority of birds for sale are still wild-caught, more captive bred birds are beginning to be available. The main drawback for pet owners and breeders is that there is virtually no reliable and current information in Italian about the keeping and breeding of parrots, and very few people know other languages well enough to access foreign specialised publications.

Many shop keepers take advantage of the general lack of information to sell wild-caught birds as captive bred. Through our Italian WPT web site we invite people to write to us for advice and information, and from the many messages received we got a clear picture of how some pet stores and breeders can take advantage of inexperienced buyers by selling sick or behaviourally troubled birds, lying about their origins, and giving terrible information regarding their care.

However, one of the most serious situations is the very difficult relationship between breeders and aviculturists with the managing authorities particularly where Appendix I species are concerned. With the exception of a few very dedicated officers, the general attitude towards breeders and bird owners is one of strong suspicion.

Although we urge everyone to act in full respect of the laws, it is a fact that the laws which were created to protect and secure the welfare of wildlife and endangered species are too often applied in an intimidatory and sometimes threatening way, generating a strong and justified feeling of distrust among aviculturists. This results in breeders not making birth reports or requesting the necessary permits or even ceasing altogether to breed and trade Appendix I species.

Obtaining any sort of authorization can be a nightmare:

- Permits are issued with unacceptable and unjustifiable delays: the wait can reach well over one year in spite of a law which sets a maximum limit of 90 days for the issuing of any public certificate.
- Breeders can be subjected to repeated requests for DNA tests on the same birds to prove the parentage.

- Some were forced to act through lawyers just to obtain what was their right.
- Most of the Forestry officers who inspect and judge if premises and management will be suitable for Appendix I species, are untrained and unqualified to express an opinion.

So far our government and managing authorities seem to have been far more interested in political issues rather than finding solutions for the dramatic situation of confiscated animals (not just parrots) some belonging to endangered species. There are over 2,000 parrots which for different reasons have been confiscated. Since there isn't a single facility to house them, the majority are left to their owner's custody.

We hope for a future in which aviculturists and the managing authorities will be able to efficiently work together with the bird's welfare as priority over any other issue. In which breeders will be encouraged and helped, and not penalized for their activities, so that they can contribute to reduce the very high number of imported wild-caught parrots.

### The continued importation of wild-caught Citron-crested Cockatoos

In the May 1999 issue of *PsittaScene* Dr. Margaret Kinnaird wrote about the Citron-crested Cockatoos (*Cacatua sulphurea citrinocristata*) which are found only on Sumba, a small Indonesian island. This subspecies is critically endangered, and although still included in CITES Appendix II, it is protected by the Indonesian law which forbids its capture and trade.

It was recently reported to us that a number of wild-caught Citron-crested Cockatoos were sold in 1997 and 1998 by a large importing company of wild-caught parrots in northern Italy. After some research it turned out that 22 birds were imported in Italy in 1997 and 24 in 1998. They were exported from Singapore with a regular export permit, however they did not have the required Indonesian export permit. Singapore also reported the export of 15 Citron-crested Cockatoos to the Netherlands in 1997. The 1999 import data for the European Community is not yet available and we don't know if more birds have been imported.

It is not clear why official permits have been issued to birds who have been illegally exported from

Indonesia, but we have reported it to the CITES Secretariat Enforcement Unit, to CITES-Indonesia and CITES-Singapore.

## Benelux

By RUUD VONK

Towards the end of last year I gave 7 lectures with slides to bird clubs, 4 in Holland and 3 in Belgium. The new WPT promotion stand was present at 8 exhibitions, and was successful in selling goods and bringing in new members. We printed a new WPT-Benelux leaflet, which was distributed with the help of bird societies.

Last Sunday 4 June we organised a kind of mini-symposium at Assen in the North of Holland. It was a combined effort with two other local bird clubs. The general goal was to promote WPT, and there were three speakers. Opening with a general lecture about WPT (organisation, projects, education) by me, then from Dr. Jan Hooimeijer about health and training of parrots at home, finally from Eric v. Kooten, WPT member and studbook holder for Poicephalus parrots, about interaction between parrot breeders and buyers. Everyone received a newly written information pack including the new WPT Benelux leaflet, and we look forward to signing up some new members!

On Saturday 4th November 2000 we hold our 12th Parrot Symposium in Braaschaat in Belgium. We hope to have a celebrity speaker from WPT. Once again we will have a superb printed syllabus. More information later in the year, but please don't hesitate to contact me or Romain Bejstrup - see our numbers on page 19.

## USA

by JOANNA ECKLES

In the year that I have been working as the USA Administrator for the World Parrot Trust most of my efforts seem to have focused on the mundane. That is, answering the mail and messages, and sending out information, materials and correspondence. I have grown to love opening the mail because of the generosity of our supporters. Though we make our share of mistakes there are rarely any complaints. Most of the notes we receive are full of praise for our efforts on behalf of parrot conservation worldwide. I am continually amazed at the

generosity of people who donate funds, speak on our behalf at clubs and events, and pass out materials to spread the word about our programs.

In the US we have had a particularly strong showing from various bird clubs. In all we have received over \$10,000 in donations from almost 20 different clubs (See *PsittaScene* Volume 12, No 1 page 7) since June 1999. Almost 50% of those funds were dedicated to the Golden Conure Fund spearheaded by WPT member Glenn Reynolds. Glenn has done an extraordinary job generating interest in this striking Brazilian species. Because of his and others efforts, we were recently able to send \$10,000 directly to Brazil for work on the Golden Conure Survey. In addition, we purchased 200 leg bands for the team as they begin to mark birds in the field. After the great success of this fund we are excited that Glenn has agreed to work on a new dedicated fund for the Great Green Macaw (*Ara ambigua*). We look forward to reporting the results of this new initiative.

In addition to the Golden Conure grant, I had the pleasure of writing another cheque for \$10,000 to the American Bird Conservancy toward the joint World Parrot Trust/American Bird Conservancy parrot conservation grant program. This marks the second year that we have joined ABC in making these funds available for parrot conservation. Check online at [www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org) for more information about this fine organization.

These two large grants are testimony that your support really makes a difference directly in the field. However, we still have a huge untapped potential in the United States. Our current US membership of approximately 600 people and organizations represents only a fraction of the parrot owners, breeders, and fanciers in this country. We'd love to see greater representation among all these facets within our membership.

## Switzerland

by LARS LEPPERHOFF

WPT Switzerland was founded in 1995 in the Swiss German part of this very small country with only 7,000,000 inhabitants. We have a few different avicultural organisations but the most



Inside view of an indoor macaw aviary at Voliere Hyacinthinus  
Photo: Lars Lepperhoff

important and serious one is EXOTIS. The aims of EXOTIS are also to forbid the import of wild caught birds and to enhance the conditions of bird keeping. In the magazine of EXOTIS they regularly write news about WPT and try to get new members. We try to translate *PsittaScene* into German and add photocopies to all German speaking members because most Swiss or German aviculturists do not speak English. The tremendous work of translating is done mainly by Mrs Franziska Vogel. This voluntary work is very much appreciated. More and more aviculturists, but also people who are keeping just one parrot, or who generally care about nature, become members. In October 2001 there will be a National Bird Exhibition from EXOTIS where we would like to enlist more members. Parrot keeping in Switzerland is not as popular as in other north European countries. Luckily Switzerland does not import large numbers of parrots. There are very few pet shops which still sell parrots. Most people who want to buy parrots can buy them from breeders. Today there are many species which cannot be sold because there are too many birds bred. There does not exist a real illegal parrot trade. Only 10 to 20 birds have to be confiscated from the Federal Veterinary Office every year. Our Zoos do not keep many parrot species. Unfortunately we do not have a bird park in Switzerland. Most breeders are keeping their parrots in normal indoor and outdoor aviaries. There are quite a lot of reasonable and successful breeders around.

# Tambopata Research Center

(TRC), Madre de Dios, Peru

by LARS LEPPERHOFF

It is still dark. I try to get in my humid clothes still tired. The calls of Bamboo-rats shout into the concert of insects. Soon we are sitting on a boat which goes up the Tambopata river into the mists of the early morning to a river bank. Expectantly we are sitting on a fallen tree trunk and are looking into the beautiful rise of the sun behind the rain forest in the east. First small Macaws appear. A flock of Chestnut-fronted Macaws and Red-bellied Macaws fly over the river bank where we are sitting. Red-bellied Macaws are easy to identify in flight because they are yellow under their wings; Chestnut-fronted Macaws are brown. Also the calls are different. More and more small Macaws fly from the Eastern Andes to the famous clay lick or collpa at Tambopata. Suddenly the sun is shining on the clay lick which is now a shiny red. Soon there are large Macaws coming. Blue and Yellow, Scarlet and Green-winged Macaws are flying into the *Cecropia* trees on the upper river bank. They prefer the branches on the top of the trees without leaves. I am really in a paradise, in a Macaw-land!

When I decided to travel the long way from Bern in Switzerland to Tambopata in Peru I did not expect that I would be so fortunate to observe so many different bird species in such a beautiful tropical rainforest. It was only possible because I had such a good and friendly guide. Edwin Salazar Zapata is a Peruvian biologist and ornithologist who is extremely knowledgeable about the wild life and particularly about the birds of Peru. Everything was well organised. Someone came to pick me up at Lima-airport. I spent one night at Lima. The next day I flew from Lima to Puerto Maldonado which is the capital town of the department of Madre de Dios. At Puerto Maldonado Edwin came and picked me up. Afterwards we were sitting in a boat which was driving for about 2 hours up the river to Posada Amazonas lodge. During the three days we spent there I observed many interesting bird species. Of course I was especially interested in parrots.

As human beings we were confined to the grounds in the shade of the wonderful neotropical rainforest. It was very exciting to hear parrot cries



Part of the famous clay lick at Tambopata.

but we could not see the parrot because life in a tropical rainforest goes on mainly in the canopy. Therefore it was a good opportunity to climb up a tower which was built into the rainforest about 30 minutes away from the lodge. On the top of this tower, which was next to a Brasil nut tree, we could overlook the whole rainforest which was like an ocean. In the far west I could see the Andes. From this tower (where we spent many hours) we could observe so many birds.

Quite close there was a nest of Yellow-thighed Caiques. These beautiful parrots were always my favourites and now I

observed a family of three of these amusing birds climbing in a tree and whistling. After some minutes they flew to their nest which was formed by a rotten branch which had fallen down. All of the birds disappeared into this nest.

I will never forget the early morning on this tower where the mists over the trees vanished and the sun sent its first rays of light. Feeding flocks of multicoloured tanagers roamed the tree tops. Macaws shouted on the other side of the brown river which was full of sediments. In the tree tops grew epiphytic plants like Bromelias, Orchids and Tillandsias. We

continued for eight hours up the river. We stopped on a lake with giant otters, caimans, hoatzins and whole flocks of *Ara ararauna*. The boat trip up the river was most fascinating. After some hours there were no signs of human civilisation, only remote neotropical rainforest with its wild life. In the evening we got to Tambopata Research Centre.

During the following two weeks Edwin and I walked many kilometres on the trails of the rainforest around TRC. We observed the sloths, different monkey species like red howler monkey (*Alouatta seniculus*), common squirrel monkey (*Saimiri sciureus sciureus*) and brown capuchin (*Cebus apella*), a lot of different insects like ants, spiders, tarantulas and butterflies and reptiles like snakes, turtles and lizards. Daily we saw tapir and jaguar foot prints on the muddy ground, different fish species in the clear water of lovely little rivers and, of course parrots and other birds.

I was very impressed with the plants. There were different forest types: typical lowland forests with *Monstera* and *Philodendron* climbing up the trees (often in symbiosis with termite nests), palm swamps with *Mauritia flexuosa* palms, drier forests on soft hills, bamboo forests and *Cecropia* forests on river banks which took over new places as pioneer trees. Around TRC and, especially every morning on the clay lick, we could observe:

- White-eyed Conure (*Aratinga leucophthalma*)
- Dusky-headed Conure (*Aratinga weddellii*)
- Black-capped Conure or Rock Conure (*Pyrrhura rupicola*)
- Barrabands Parrot (*Pionopsitta barrabandi*)
- Blue headed Parrot (*Pinous menstruus menstruus*)
- Yellow-thighed Caique (*Pionites leucogaster xanthomeria*)
- Natterer's Amazon (*Amazona ochrocephala nattereri*)
- Chapman's Mealy Amazon (*Amazona farinosa chapmani*)
- Cobalt-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris cyanoptera*)





A group of parrots waiting to descend onto the clay lick.

- Blue and Yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*)
- Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*)
- Green-winged Macaw (*Ara chloroptera*)
- Chestnut-fronted Macaw (*Ara severa*) and,
- Red-bellied Macaw (*Ara manilata*)
- Blue-headed Macaw (*Ara couloni*), are sometimes in the area but we could not observe them.

One day after several hours of waiting quietly we even observed a flock of the recently discovered Amazonian Parrotlets (*Nannopsittaca dachileae*)

The best opportunity to observe the parrots was in the early mornings from 5.30 to 7am when most species came to the collpa (Quechua name of clay lick). Afterwards it was always possible to observe some species in the rainforest but it was much more difficult. Several nesting sites of Scarlet and Green-winged Macaws could be found around the lodge. From a blind above the collpa it was possible to observe several species quite close. I was particularly impressed with the large numbers of Blue-headed Parrots in this tree. In a *Mauritia flexuosa* palm swamp Blue and Yellow Macaws were nesting. We just came at the right time when a chick flew out. It was a very special environment. The Macaws were feeding on the fruits of the *Mauritia* palms. I observed that they mostly drank the liquid from the nuts. Always at 5.30pm a flock of Cobalt-winged Parakeets disappeared into a large termite nest which was on a trunk of a palm in the swamp.



A trio of Mealy Amazons.

The clay lick of Tambopata is in the Tambopata-Candamo Zona Reservada. This place is the heart of the largest uninhabited jungle in the world. It is without hunters and about 1 million hectares in extent and reaches up to the department of Puno at the foot of the Andes 200 kilometres away from lake Titicaca. In the area of Tambopata there are about 600 bird species living, as many as in the USA. It is known that Tambopata-Candamo is a place with a tremendously high biodiversity, much higher than the Brazilian lowland forest, for example. It comes from the rivers which carry the minerals and nutrients from the Andes down to Tambopata-Candamo.

Already before the Zona Reservada was founded this place was owned by the Mobil, Exxon, Elf oil company together with a large area in the west of the department Madre de Dios. According to this company there is a 12% chance that they will find petroleum in this area. A Zona Reservada does not have the status of a national park. Therefore if they find petroleum there, they will turn this place into an industrial place with all the inevitable pollution. The company will replace the land they take for the petroleum industry with a similar area in the Bahuaja Sonene National Park. It is very important to protect the Tambopata-Candamo Zone because there are so many endemic animal species living there.

Rainforest Expeditions, which own the Tambopata Research Centre (TRC) is a very good and effective Peruvian company which runs a beautiful tourist lodge and cares for nature and

does important research on the wildlife. Most guides are biologists who also work in projects for TRC and do research on butterflies, termites, birds of the bamboo forest, clay lick, macaws and other items. It is important to support the research there so that more and more people get to know about this unique area. The government and the petroleum company might be impressed and might hesitate to start the petroleum project. As an example, the Macaw research project at Tambopata helps to spread information about macaws (whose life in nature was not well known before TRC started with its work). The knowledge of the intact Macaw populations of Tambopata will help other populations which are in danger.

For people who are interested in parrots Tambopata is just a paradise. It is not only the home of the three spectacular and beautifully coloured large Macaws but also for a lot of other parrot species of which some are not kept in Europe.

Most of us know parrots from aviaries and cages. It is so interesting and it would impress anybody to see how they live in the wild and how they fly. It makes us think a lot and, I am quite sure, every parrot keeper would return home and try to improve their aviaries. To other parrot enthusiasts I very highly recommend a visit to Tambopata. The best time to travel there seems to be from April to October. Of course you have to be prepared for hot weather and for very high humidity. There is always the possibility of heavy rains. In our summer it can be very cold (about 8 °C for some days!).

**For further information or tour organisation please contact directly:**

Rainforest Expeditions,  
Arumburu 166 - 4B, Lima 18,  
Peru. Tel: 0051 14 21 83 47, Fax:  
0051 21 81 83, E-mail:  
postmast@rainforest.com.pe,  
www.perunature.com

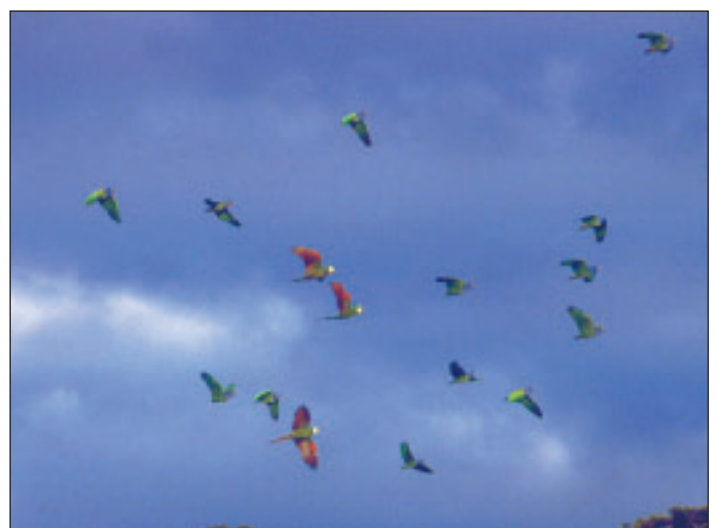
Miss Maria Esther Stagnaro is the trip co-ordinator and she speaks English very well.

The best field guide is:

- Hilty, Steven L. / Brown, William L. (1986): *A guide to the birds of Colombia*, Princeton University Press, ISBN 0-691-08372-X (pbk.)

A book which should be of great interest for bird watchers in Peru (the first one to be published) will be:

Clements, James F. / Barnes, Eustace: *A Guide to the birds of Peru*, Pica Press, c. 400 pages. (Not yet published)



Red-bellied Macaws and Blue-headed Parrots in flight.

# Rainbow Lorikeet - Letters

To Mike Reynolds from Tony Jupp, Perth, Australia

Dear Mike

I have always felt extremely comfortable contributing to your great organisation. I believe it is unique in providing a sensible and balanced approach to parrot conservation and working together with aviculturists (of which I myself am not) to achieve this aim. I have even considered Willing my estate to your organisation (though that's a long way off - I hope).

I have just read however, Rosemary Low's article in the February Edition of *'PsittaScene'* and I am completely dismayed. I have never met Rosemary though I have read her books and always felt that she seems a reasonable person. This article however makes me think otherwise. I thought that this association that I support personally and professionally might have learnt some of the innumerable examples of the devastation caused by introduced species often when the particular problems that they cause cannot be predicted at the time. This article could be a reprint from any number of justifications from early Australian settlers 200 years ago who supported the introduction of rabbits, foxes, camels, doves, squirrels etc..

Were this article the thoughts of a contributing writer then this may have been easier to swallow but when it comes from the Editor of the Trust's magazine it concerns me greatly and causes me to rethink my support. I could find this kind of 'animal-welfare-at-the-expense-of-conservation-common-sense' nonsense in any number of Animal Rights publications which is exactly why I joined WPT and not them. It speaks very clearly to me like 'lets leave the pretty birds alone. They're not hurting anyone.'

The photo of an Asian man feeding Rainbow Lorikeets (probably at Currumbin Sanctuary) with the caption 'In Australia Rainbow Lorikeets are an excellent tourist attraction' is both erroneous and counter productive to the educational aims of the trust. Whilst they are a great tourist attraction in Queensland, is Rosemary suggesting that this justifies feral populations in New Zealand? Hopefully not!

I rarely winge and this is the first time I have ready anything but great articles in *PsittaScene* but felt it was so out of place that I should let my feelings be known.

I hope not to see articles of this nature in my trust's magazine again and preferably an organisational distancing of Rosemary's views in the next issue.

Yours sincerely  
Tony Jupp

Dear Mr Jupp

Thank you for your letter. I regret that my article has offended you to the degree that it has negatively influenced your opinion of the World Parrot Trust. I should have made clear that I was expressing my own opinion and not an official view held by directors of the Trust.

You mentioned 'the devastation caused by introduced species', a point which I made at the beginning of the article, mentioning the extinctions caused by rats, cats and stoats and introduced food competitors. I think I made my opinion on that very clear. Nowhere do I condone

the introduction of exotic species.

The point of my article was to ask why New Zealand's Dept of Conservation (DOC) are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to eradicate the Rainbow Lorikeet yet have made no attempt to trap or kill the other introduced Australian parrots in the area, namely the Rosella and the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. And how can they justify such enormous expenditure when equivalent sums could help to safeguard the future of an endangered and rapidly declining species like the Kaka? The fact that different departments of DOC are involved is irrelevant. Surely it is a matter of priorities?

I completely agree with your comment regarding the photograph used with my article describing Rainbow Lorikeets as an excellent tourist attraction. The photograph was used as a last minute filler. I abhor the feeding of lorikeets as a tourist attraction or for any other reason. In my book *Encyclopedia of the Lories* (1998), I wrote: 'The harmful effects of backyard feeding of lorikeets are apparently unknown by most Australians. They offer sugared water, with or without bread, and also provide some sunflower seed. In so doing they are causing the deaths of large numbers of lorikeets'. I went on to describe how veterinarians are being brought increasing numbers of lorikeets which are unable to fly, many suffering from paralysis of the legs, and from malnutrition, and stated: 'One purpose of this book is to educate people to the harm they are doing to the rainbow and, to a lesser extent, scaly-breasted lorikeets, which regularly consume artificial food at backyard feeders'.

Lorikeets should be attracted to gardens by planting shrubs which bear nectar and pollen. It never ceases to amaze me that in Australia, many parks and car parks, planted with flowering shrubs, attract dozens of Rainbow Lorikeets to which passers by never give as much as a glance. I would much rather see people enjoying these birds in a natural situation than as a tourist attraction where they are fed harmful foods.

I am totally against what Mr Jupp describes as 'animal-welfare-at-the-expense-of-conservation-common-sense'. As I stated in my article: 'If the Rainbow Lorikeets had infiltrated island reserves and could thrive there, my reaction would be that they must be eradicated at all costs, as a danger to the unique and threatened endemic bird species. Or if, even in the suburbs, the lorikeets could have a serious impact on native birds by taking over their nest sites, this could be a cause for concern.' Are these the words of someone who believes that animal welfare is more important than conserving endemic species? I think not! Please read my article again. I stated: 'I deplore the liberation of non-native species as their influence is rarely beneficial so I believe it was an irresponsible act to liberate the lorikeets...'

Finally, I thank you for replying. I believe that our opinions do not differ so much. I hope that you will continue to be a member of the Trust for many more years.

Yours sincerely  
Rosemary Low



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## Seram, Indonesia

Somewhere in Seram, Indonesia, a trapper pounds iron stakes into a tree and hoists himself step by step into the canopy. Clambering along a skinny limb 165 dizzying feet above the rainforest floor, he lays out fishing line traps. Later, he will collect a half dozen screaming cockatoos. From his isolated village, this trapper doesn't know the fate of the endangered Seram cockatoos he collects. He knows only that traders offer nearly US\$10 a head for these and other parrots - an alluring bounty in a cash-poor economy. Much of this trapper's catch probably will die in Indonesian markets or in suitcases as the birds are smuggled overseas.

PBW is a U.S. based nonprofit organisation that helps trappers find alternative, sustainable forms of income that eliminate dependence on the wild bird trade. With the help of PBW, Masihulan and Swai villages built a canopy platform in Manusela National Park, near Seram's north coast. Here, ex-bird trappers put their knowledge to work as birding guides. Admission fees go to a local community development fund. Based on the early success of this venture, Masihulan scrapped a developing contract with a logging company.

The fledgling PBW depends on donations and on increased visitation to this far-flung corner of Indonesia. A documentary is being created by Stephanie Georgia to provide further awareness. **For more info., visit:** [www.tpp.org/pbw](http://www.tpp.org/pbw) or write to PBW, c/o Jeannie White, 345 Culver Blvd., Playa del Rey, CA 90293, USA.

## Nothing to do with Parrots

Having just returned from a brief holiday I wanted to recommend a superb cottage for rent at Loze in the Tarn & Garonne area of SW France. The cottage sleeps 4, is very well equipped, and is located in a medieval village in a most beautiful unspoilt area. Ancient stone villages and great restaurants, and virtually empty roads. No parrots, but we saw hoopoes. For details contact the owners, Jackie and Allan Cowley, Tarn et Garonne, 82160 LOZE, France. Tel/Fax: (33)5 63 24 03 94.

## New Lory Park, South Africa

A brand new zoo, dedicated to parrots and other birds, located in Mirand, north of Johannesburg, South Africa, and is the largest bird zoo in Africa.

It has been granted Zoo status by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment, South Africa.

The aviaries have all been designed to fulfil two major objectives:

- The one purpose is to let the public view the birds from close proximity.
- And the other, is to give the birds the opportunity to breed successfully without feeling threatened by constant observation.

**If you want to learn more about the Lory Park, South Africa, please do not hesitate to contact:**

Eddy van Eck, Tel: 083 679 0584  
International Tel: +27 83 679 0584  
E-mail: [loryparkzoo@skybiz.com](mailto:loryparkzoo@skybiz.com)

## Parrots Magazine



'Parrots' is a bimonthly magazine which covers all aspects of the Parrot world, including breeding, conservation, veterinary advice and general care, with a particular emphasis on promoting responsible ownership. Their articles, especially with reference to pet bird keeping, are extremely helpful, varied, interesting and informative.

We would like to thank them for promoting the Golden Conure WPT USA appeal in their latest issue.



# *Parrots in the Wild*

# Psitta scene

## *White-cheeked Amazon* *Amazona kawalli*



This photograph was sent to us by Carlos Yamashita, Brazil's leading parrot expert and conservationist.

Together with an Orange-winged Amazon (centre) these young parrots are only just 'in the wild'.

They were taken as fledglings by Indians.