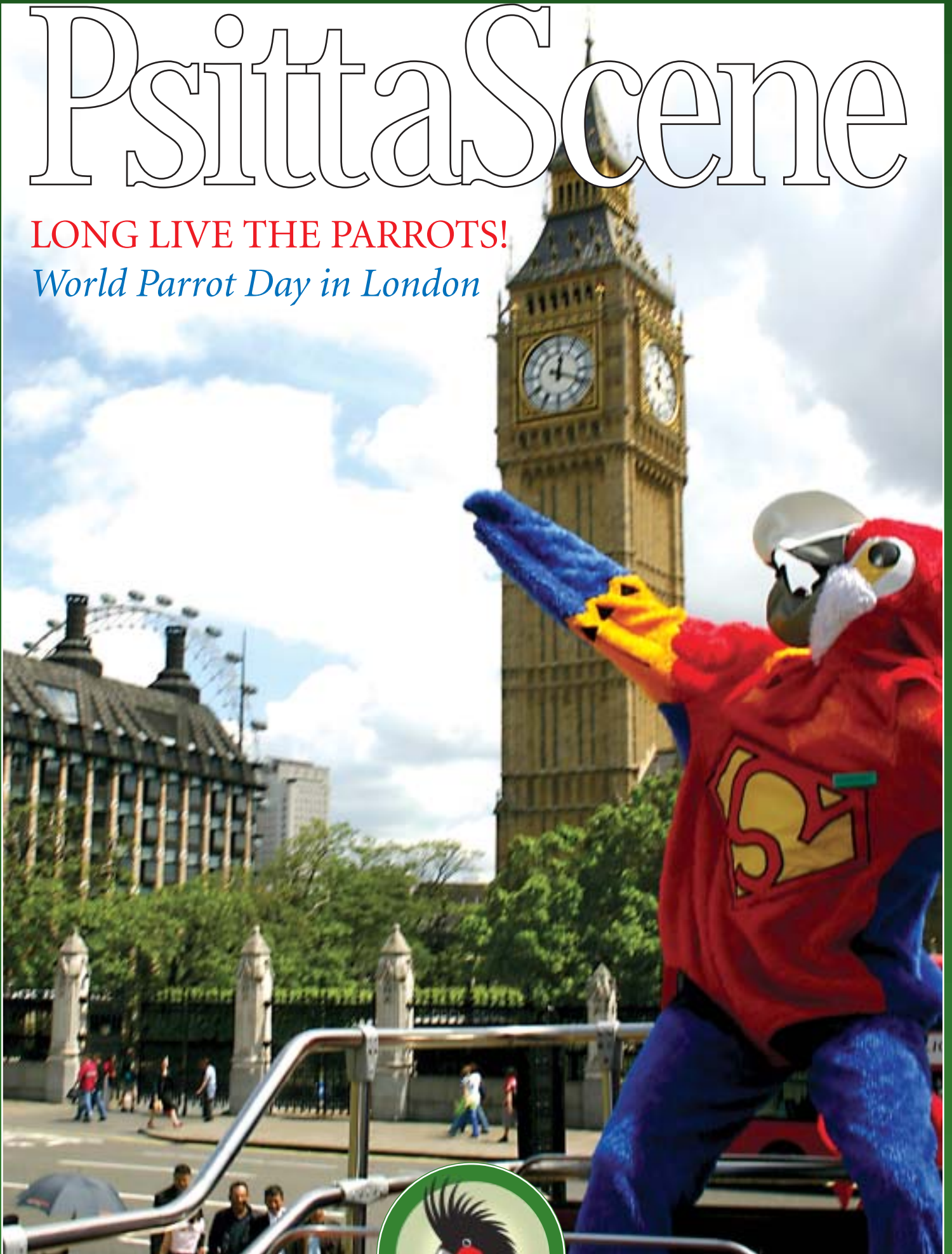


PsitttaScene

LONG LIVE THE PARROTS!
World Parrot Day in London



In this Issue:
Patagonian Conures
Ultramarine Lory



May 2004

Editor

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Cover Picture By SAM WILLIAMS

Superparrot on the open-topped bus which travelled around various London landmarks promoting our rally at Trafalgar Square for World Parrot Day. For further information about the day please go to www.worldparrotday.org

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World Parrot Day

A spectacular success as the parrots take London by storm, and celebrate the day in zoos all over the UK!

By **MIKE REYNOLDS**, photos By **SAM WILLIAMS**

The Spring Bank Holiday, May 31st, was chosen for World Parrot Day. We calculated that this would be a day when parrot enthusiasts would be available to help, zoos would welcome a novel marketing opportunity, and the media might be having a 'slow news day'. We arranged with the Greater London Council to hold a parrot rally in Trafalgar Square.

The only factor impossible to predict was the weather, but all was well as the open-topped Parrot Bus left its Sutton depot with Alan Jones (esteemed avian vet) and a party of friends carrying parrots known to be 'bomb-proof'. At 11am the bus stopped near Trafalgar Square to pick up more parrots and their owners, plus parrot supporters such as Quentin Blake OBE, famous author and illustrator, and Gennaro Contaldo, celebrity chef and inventor of delicious parrot treats like Cockatootiefrooties.

Together with Superparrot - a giant costume parrot resembling a Scarlet Macaw worn by Nick Reynolds from Paradise Park, Cornwall - they then took the bus on a one hour tour of Central London. Startled shoppers in Oxford Street and Piccadilly were entertained by Superparrot and a bunch of cool real parrots doing their thing on the top of the bus, accompanied by high volume parrot sounds and a loudspeaker demanding that the importation of wild caught parrots into the EU should cease. Parliament Square also had the benefit of a visit, as you can see from Sam Williams' shot on our front cover.

By 1pm the Parrot Bus was in its reserved place in Trafalgar Square, with 'World Parrot Day' banners on each side, and lots of supporters wearing the unique t-shirt specially made for the day. Many TV and press crews were there, and interviews took place with Quentin Blake, Gennaro, Candie Bradley and her macaw Gizmo, our WPT director Jamie Gilardi, and others. A parrot picnic organised by Gennaro and Alison Timms was much appreciated by the crowds in the square. I would like to note that there was a very friendly and pleasant atmosphere about everything that happened on our special day - a bit different from some events that take place in the square.

At 1.30pm a Parrot March set off for Downing Street, where we had an appointment to hand in our 33,000 signature petition calling for a complete ban on the importation of wild caught birds into the EU. This march was led by Quentin Blake, with Blue and Gold Macaw Gizmo firmly in place on his shoulder, and Gizmo's deposit on his back. At the entrance to Downing Street a friendly policeman told us to select a group of six to go in to deliver our petition to Number 10.



The petition delivery crowd outside Downing Street.



Gennaro Contaldo with parrot snacks and recipe postcards.



Alan Jones introduces parrots to tourists.



Jess Shortland, Candie Bradley & Gizmo shower in the famous fountains.

Despite having been told previously that animals and humorous costumes would not be allowed in, both Gizmo and Superparrot made it to the Prime Minister's door! We must take this opportunity to thank everyone who signed this important petition, including the many who signed it on the day in Trafalgar Square and at supporting zoos.

This anti wild bird trade campaign is a major ongoing task for the World Parrot Trust. More details can be found on our website www.worldparrottrust.org.



'Tony Blair' meets the parrots.



Quentin Blake meets Greenwing Macaw.

A great amount of media coverage took place, before and after the day. How was this achieved, and who contributed to its organisation? Naturally, the WPT office based at Paradise Park in Cornwall made a major contribution, with Karen Whitley (our full time administrator), Michelle Cook and Ray Hales (part time helpers) supplying special t-shirts, badges, posters and leaflets to 21 zoos, and organising live webcams of parrots. Ali Hales and Nick Reynolds dealt with a great number of media enquiries. Much extra time was needed to handle these tasks, leading to delays in other responsibilities, including getting out this May issue of *PsittaScene* on schedule!

The overall plan for World Parrot Day was conceived and supervised by Vicky Ewart, with superb professional design work from Lynne Boon and Jennifer Smith (contact them on lynneboon@iloveparrots.com), who created the WPD logo, the posters, leaflets, bus banners, 'PollyVision' DVD case covers and much else; all this was donated to the trust. Dan Postgate's charming parrot figures were a great asset throughout, and Jennifer Smith and Ray Hales put together the website.

We had an excellent reaction from both TV and press people, with appearances by Jamie Gilardi and Nick Reynolds on BBC Breakfast TV, with other coverage on 'Richard & Judy', Sky TV, BBC7, London Tonight, BBC World Service, BBC Five Live, and many more local and overseas programmes. Our best press achievement was a large front page picture of Candie Bradley's Green-winged



Parrot bus approaching Trafalgar Square.

Macaws in 'The Guardian' with a good story about our campaign for a trade ban, plus coverage in 'The Scotsman', 'Irish Times', 'Derby Evening Telegraph' etc. Quentin Blake sketched a report on the day for the 'Spectator'.

Extra media interest was provoked when we launched our 'PollyVision - strictly for parrots' DVD, which was picked up first by our local Cornish newspaper and then



On the march to Downing Street.

appeared on BBC and Press Association website news pages. We also did radio interviews with stations from Ecuador to Pakistan to Australia. Within a couple of days the unusual idea of providing TV for



Jamie Gilardi being interviewed.

parrots was repeated on no less than 4,500 web news pages worldwide! We have received over 1,000 orders for this DVD - see details of how you can order it on page 6.

I am convinced that World Parrot Day has significantly moved forward public awareness of the parrots and their challenging situations in the wild and in captivity. We will continue to seek political support for our EU trade ban campaign, and to work for a better future for the parrots of the world. As we know, the parrots need all the genuine friends they can get, and that description applies to everyone who gave their time and talents to World Parrot Day.

Mike Reynolds



Superparrot and the Lion.



Parrot Bus at Trafalgar Square.

I support World Parrot Day!



Anneka Svenska
Wildlife Presenter

Please support World Parrot Day and help save our beloved parrots.
www.worldparrotday.org

I support World Parrot Day!



Steve Leonard
Vet & TV Presenter

The parrots are the most endangered bird family in the world - give them your support too.
www.worldparrotday.org

I support World Parrot Day!



Michaela Strachan
Wildlife TV Presenter

Parrots are the most endangered bird family in the world - give them your support too.
www.worldparrotday.org

Some of the day's events around the UK



Paradise Park, home of WPT, Cornwall



Birdworld, Farnham



Tropical World, Leeds



Lotherton Hall, Leeds

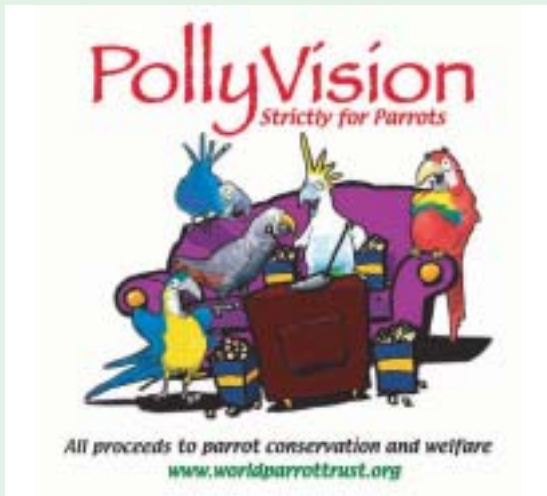


Longleat, Wiltshire



Welsh Mountain Zoo, Colwyn Bay





PollyVision - Flying off Shelves

A DVD produced specially for parrots has been flying off the shelves, with the World Parrot Trust almost selling out of the initial 1,000 original run-off in just three days.

The 80 minute DVD features parrots in the wild, feeding, calling, preening and flying free and is designed to amuse pet parrots and stop them getting bored while their owners are out.

Parrots watching the DVD appear to be particularly attracted to similar looking birds. Nick Reynolds, a Trustee of the World Parrot Trust and owner of Umbrella Cockatoo 'Max', says 'Max was intrigued by the white cockatoos filmed in Australia, he raised his crest and bobbed up and down, and he certainly reacted to their calls'.

The release of PollyVision was timed to promote World Parrot Day on 31st May 2004, and all profits will go to parrot conservation and welfare projects through the World Parrot Trust. Contact details on page 19 - UK office (£9.95 incl p&p)



Photo: Alison Hales

Max the Umbrella Cockatoo from Paradise Park enjoying the new PollyVision DVD. Max also featured on BBC Breakfast TV.



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Direct Communications Unit

4 June 2004

Mr Michael Reynolds
World Parrot Trust
Glanmor House
Hayle
Cornwall
TR27 4HB

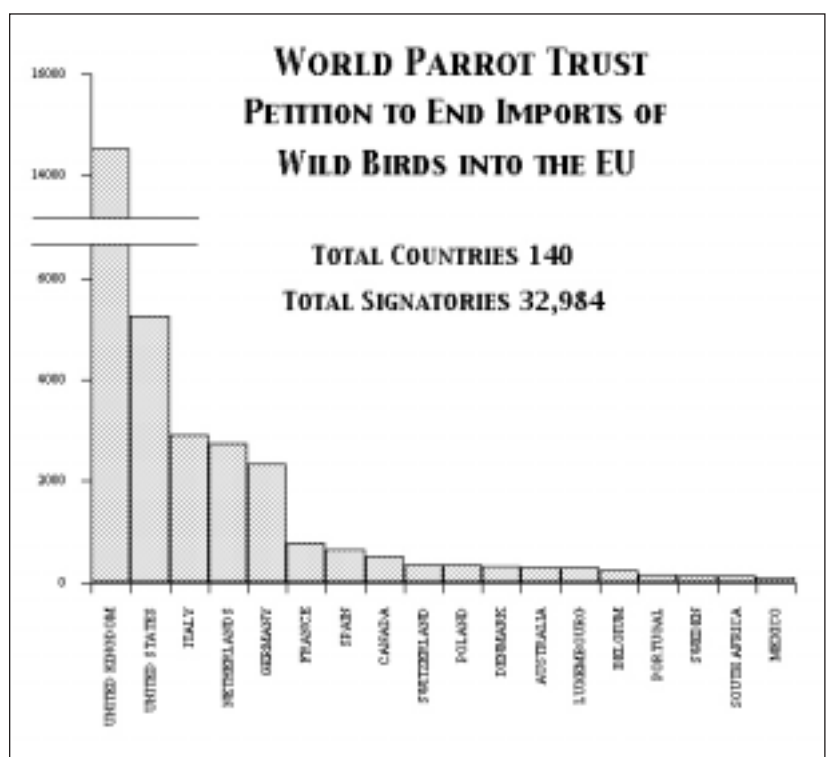
Dear Mr Reynolds

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your recent letter and the enclosed petition.

He hopes you will understand that, as the matter you raise is the responsibility of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, he has asked that your letter and petition be forwarded to that Department so that they may reply to you direct on his behalf.

Yours sincerely

ROBERT GARDIKIOTIS



News from El Cóndor, Patagonia, Argentina

By Dr. JUAN F. MASELLO and Dr. PETRA QUILLFELDT.

Photos by DON PREISLER and JAMIE GILARDI

Since 1998, we have been conducting a study of the breeding biology of Burrowing Parrots (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*) at the largest and most important colony of this species (see *PsittaScene Vol 15 No 4: 12-13*). The colony is located west of the village El Cóndor, 30km southeast from Viedma, in the province of Río Negro, Patagonia, Argentina. Remarkably, after an extensive literature review on parrots breeding biology, this population appears to be the largest known colony of parrots in the world.

In February 2003 we wrote desperately to James Gilardi at the World Parrot Trust about poachers taking, during our absence, about 1,200 nestlings from the Burrowing Parrot colony at El Cóndor. Unfortunately, our study was interrupted at the end of 2002 because of the lack of funding. As a consequence we could not work at the colony during the breeding season 2002-2003 and the poachers took advantage. Until now, our field work was the only protection this colony has against illegal poachers and irrational local management. Neighbours of the close village of El Cóndor who have been helping us during all these years told us about hundreds of

Burrowing Parrot chicks taken from the nests before fledging and put in cages for the pet trade. They also told us about many of them left dead on the beach down the cliff where the parrots breed. Fortunately, and thanks to the unconditional help of James Gilardi and the financial support of Rosemary Low and the World Parrot Trust, we could return to the fieldwork during the breeding season 2003-2004. And it was one of our most fruitful seasons both from a conservation and scientific point of view!

At the very beginning of our fieldwork we participated, thanks to a generous invitation of Aves Argentinas (who has backed the project since last year), in the 4th

Workshop on identification of 'Important Bird Areas' (IBA) for conservation in Patagonia. This workshop was organised at the end of November 2003 by Aves Argentinas and *BirdLife International* in Puerto Madryn, Patagonia. As a result of that and with the complete help and agreement of all the scientists at the workshop the Burrowing Parrot colony at El Cóndor was declared a priority 'Important Bird Area' (IBA) for Patagonia under the programme organised all over the world by *BirdLife International*. Great news! This adds to the good news brought recently to us by Claudio Chehébar and his team at the National Park Administration

Photo: Jamie Gilardi

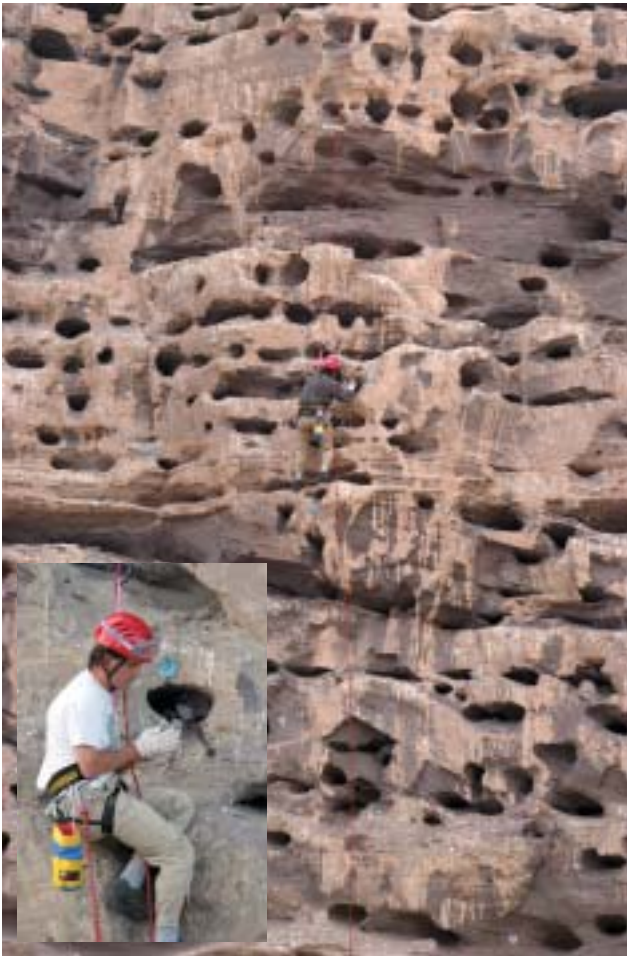


Photo: Don Preisler



Juan Masello (second from left) presides over the workshop.

Photo: Don Preisler



Climb cliff face to each nest and check nestling.

Photo: Don Preisler



Record various measurements and details.

(APN) of Argentina. The parrot colony area is now also considered a candidate for the new National Park in the Arid Patagonian Steppes of Argentina.

Another very important event from our recent season was the meeting we had in El Cóndor with local and international NGOs in order to co-ordinate a joint conservation programme for this, the largest known parrot colony in the world. Graham Harris from Fundación Patagonia Natural (FPN), Bill Conway from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and James Gilardi from the World Parrot Trust participated in this meeting. Lots of ideas arose for the concrete protection of the colony, an educational campaign between the local people, especially the young people, and the impulse of ecotourism in the region. This year 2004 will find all of us working in all these aspects of parrot conservation. Rosemary Low and Krystyna Szulecka, both members of the WPT, also joined us at El Cóndor bringing help and a lot of enthusiasm. Rosemary and Krystyna together with one of our students, María Luján Pagnossin, are now working on the organisation of 'Friends of the Burrowing Parrot' which will raise funds for the protection of the colony at El Cóndor and for educational campaigns.



Photo: Jamie Gilardi

Photo: Jamie Gilardi



Photo: Don Preisler

Each stage of a chick's development is recorded. Inset, chick waiting to be fed.

Indigenous Mapuche people of the Patagonian Andes, in the Argentinean province of Neuquén, celebrate the fledging of Burrowing Parrot chicks every year with a festival. The idea of Rosemary, Luján and Krystyna is initiating this tradition in El Cóndor in order to promote pride about the wonders of this magnificent parrot colony in the local people. The local Fundación Uñopatun has been working in the same direction during 2003, through a photographic competition (<http://www.avesdelcondor.s5.com>) and an educational campaign they organised. We were very surprised when, as a result of this educational campaign, a taxi driver in the nearby city of Viedma told us very proudly 'Do you know? We have here the biggest parrot colony in the world!' We think that the tragedy of the poaching in December 2002 made some of the locals realise the necessity of protection of their natural heritage, the parrot colony at El Cóndor.



Photo: Don Preisler

Photo: Don Preisler



See how close the visitors at the beach are to the nests!

From a scientific point of view, the season was also a complete success. We finished counting the nests in the colony. We are now working on a detailed description of the colony and we hope to publish it soon. This year, for the first time, we caught breeding parrots which we ringed as chicks 4 years ago. And they were breeding only a few metres from the nests where they grew up! During this season we monitored the development of 145 chicks and studied the immunocompetence of some of them, we caught, measured and ringed 52 breeding adults, carried out a census of non-breeders, studied the load of ectoparasites, investigated the presence of hemoparasites and took feather samples for the study of parrot coloration using spectrometry in the lab. A lot of work with data and in the lab is waiting for us now!

We hope to meet some of you in El Cóndor during the next breeding season!



Photo: Don Preisler



Paintings for Patagonians

By ROSEMARY LOW

Visiting the colony of Burrowing Parrots (*Patagonian Conures*) at El C6ndor was an inspirational experience. I had the pleasure of spending a few days with the parrots, and with Juan Masello and Petra Quillfeldt. I watched them working at the colony and was impressed by their thoroughness and dedication.

It felt strange to be watching parrots in a beach environment on an Atlantic coast, to see them swooping around in small flocks. My first impression was how superbly aerodynamic they are, and how wonderful is the yellow plumage of flanks and rump when highlighted by the sun. I was mesmerised by the grace of their flight.

Sitting in the brush on the cliff-top, the only sounds I could hear were those of the sea and the wind and the strident calls of the *Loros Barranqueros*, as they are known locally. They were seldom silent in flight when there were humans around. Every couple of minutes a group of perhaps ten parrots would rise above the cliff top, then sink down again to where the multitude of nest entrances decorated the cliff face. The flight of these parrots is exquisitely graceful; they move through the air like gulls, hanging on the wind and letting it carry them backwards, as they stay motionless.

It saddened me to think of how they suffer at the hands of local people but, at the same time, I was inspired to try to start a conservation education campaign. Juan's field assistant Luj6n, and her brother Adri6n, are enthusiastic and dedicated about the project. Juan and Adri6n suggested organising a series of lectures in the local primary schools; Adri6n would give these talks. Simple illustrated brochures would be given to every child, asking them to take them home and show

them to their parents. It might also be possible to organise activities with teachers. Adri6n's best idea is to hire coaches to take children to see the colony.



The framed African Grey print up for sale for the Patagonians. (£75)

Juan estimated that in this way most of the public in Viedma and Carmen de Patagones (the relevant area) could be reached in about three months. Interviews with local newspapers, radio stations and television would raise the profile of the parrot even further.

Juan has estimated that Euros 1,000 (about £710) would cover the subsistence costs for Adri6n for three months and another £710



One of the five pictures donated to the fund by Dagmar Simkova. (£60)



Hyacinth Macaws painted by Malcolm Ellis donated by Rosemary Low. (£950)



Photo: Don Preisler

would meet the expenses of designing and printing the brochures. How could we raise this money? It occurred to me that some members might have a parrot painting, drawing or print that they would like to donate to the Trust. These are hung in the gift shop at Paradise Park and are also shown on the WPT website for members to observe.

I started the ball rolling by donating a painting of a pair of Hyacinthine Macaws in flight that was presented to the Trust by the artist Malcolm Ellis about 15 years ago. I bought it and would now like to use it to raise some funds for the Burrowing Parrots. Krystyna Szulecka, a photographer who was with me when I visited El C6ndor, has presented a magnificent large head study of a Great Green Macaw and artist Paul Stavely has contributed a very attractive print of his painting of three Grey Parrots. We have also been fortunate to receive five of the highly original works of the Czech artist Dagmar Simkova. I was very impressed with her work when I met her in Prague last year. I would like to thank all these people for their generosity.

In addition, if anyone would like to make a donation to the project it will be warmly received, as there will be much follow-up work after the initial part of the programme. So let's see how much we can raise for this wonderful, gentle and beautiful parrot!



Buffon's Macaw unframed photographic print donated by Krystyna Szulecka. (£60)

Conservation of the Ultramarine Lory in the Marquesas Islands

BY MARC ZIEMBICKI, Uni. of Adelaide, and PHILIPPE RAUST, Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie

Scattered across the South Pacific seas on palm tree covered islands surrounded by tropical, turquoise blue waters are a group of lorikeets fittingly as spectacular as their surroundings. Described by numerous adventurers and naturalists to this part of the world as amongst the most beautiful of all birds, the *Vini* genus consists of five charismatic, colourful species.

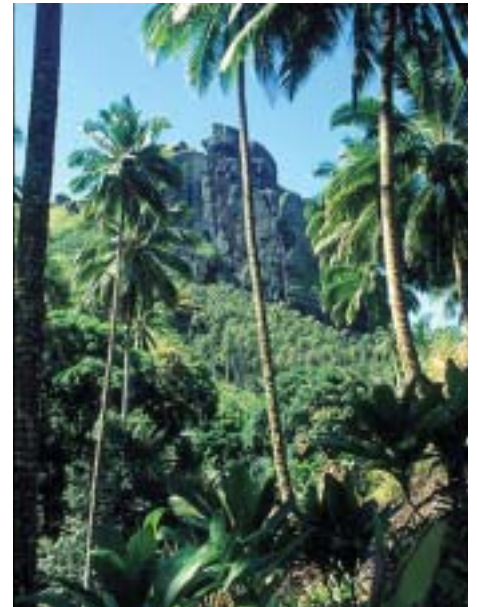
Beneath the veneer of their tropical island paradise, however, lies an environmental crisis. In historic times the Pacific islands claim the highest rate of bird extinction as a proportion of total species of any region on the planet. So pronounced is this loss that since the arrival of humans to the islands of eastern Polynesia, more landbirds have become extinct than currently exist (Steadman 1989).

Island birds are particularly susceptible to human-induced changes because of their naturally small population sizes, their vulnerability to small environmental changes and their ecological naivety with respect to introduced species. The plight of the South Pacific's birds is highlighted by its parrot species, particularly the *Vini* genus of lorikeets. Four of the five *Vini* species are considered endangered or vulnerable to extinction (IUCN 2000) while two species, *V. sinotoi* and *V. vidivici* have become extinct since human occupation of the region began (Steadman 1989).

Threatening processes

The threats the lorikeets face are familiar: habitat loss and degradation due to overgrazing, logging, agriculture and weed infestation, hunting for food, feathers and the pet trade and the introduction of alien species that compete with or prey on the native fauna.

Of all introduced species the main threat to *Vini* populations is from rats, particularly as nest predators. Black rats (*Rattus rattus*) in particular, owing to their agility and arboreal nature, have decimated populations of various birds on many islands throughout the Pacific and beyond (Atkinson 1985; Martin *et al.* 2000). The decline of many *Vini* lorikeet populations in the recent past has closely paralleled the progressive establishment of black rats on islands within their range. Lorikeets are particularly susceptible to nest predation because they nest in tree hollows which black rats also readily use as nesting and



Coconut and mango plantation in Hanavave valley, Fatu Iva

Photo: Mark Ziembicki.

roosting sites. The effects of rats are especially pervasive in areas where nesting hollows are limited, where rat numbers are high and where habitat fragmentation amplifies the effects of predation and competition in remaining favourable habitats.

A spectacular bird

Endemic to the Marquesas Islands of French Polynesia, where it is known locally as the pihiti, the Ultramarine Lorikeet (*Vini ultramarina*), is arguably amongst the most spectacular of birds. Few species so vibrantly reflect their tropical island settings as this little gem with hues of blue so vivid and dazzling, to borrow the words of Michael Parfit, they "bring the essence of the sea right into the treetops". However, like all gems the pihiti is rare, so much so that it is considered one of the most endangered of lorikeets.

In the mid 1970s the species occurred on three Marquesan Islands, Ua Pou, Nuku Hiva and Ua Huka. Coinciding with the establishment of black rats, populations on Ua Pou and Nuku Hiva underwent a catastrophic decline such that by the late 1990s only a few individuals survived on the two islands, with only one relatively healthy population on the small rat-free island of Ua Huka remaining. To stay ahead of the threat posed by rats, between 1992 and 1994 a translocation of 29 birds was conducted from Ua Huka to Fatu Iva, the southern most island in the Marquesas (Kuehler *et al.* 1997). Although by 1997 numbers had increased (Liebermann *et al.*



Ultramarine lorikeet feeding on the fruits of *Pometia pinnata*.

Photo: Tim Laman

1997), black rats became established in the mid-late 1990s and the population has subsequently declined and is now on the brink of local extinction (Ziembicki et al. 2003).

There have been no detailed studies of the biology or conservation requirements of the Ultramarine lorikeet. The species has been reported predominantly in montane forests, though is also common in banana, coconut and mango plantations in coastal areas (Holyoak and Thibault 1984). Like most lorikeets its diet consists predominantly of pollen, fruit and nectar, though there is no information on the relative importance of food types or seasonal preferences. Nesting is reported between June and August though they quite likely breed all year round, with young being sighted in January and February (R.Sulpice, pers. comm.). They use tree hollows or holes in old coconuts for nests and usually lay two eggs.

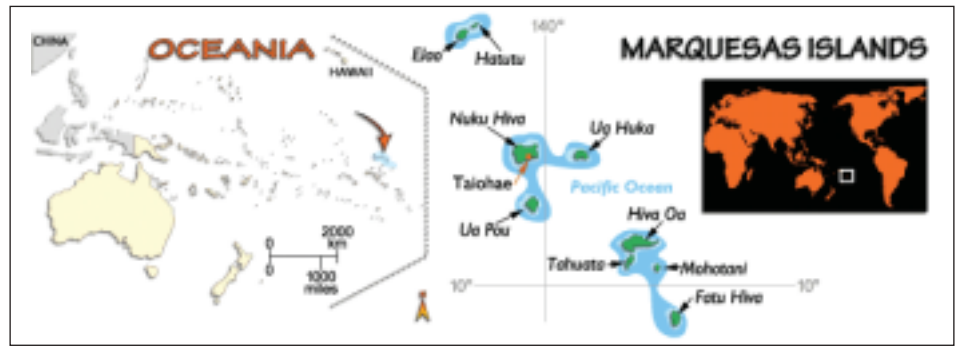
Research and conservation efforts

In an effort to establish the current status of Ultramarine Lorikeet populations and to address the threat posed by introduced rats in the Marquesas Islands we initiated the first stage in a research and conservation program designed to increase our understanding of the species' biology and conservation requirements and to reverse or at least stabilise the species' population decline.

Accordingly, our project's main aims were to:

- determine the current status and distribution of the species' populations on each island within its range;
- gather basic information on habitat use and ecology of lorikeets with particular emphasis on feeding and nesting requirements;
- confirm the rat-free status of Ua Huka and introduce measures to prevent the introduction of rats to the island;
- determine the distribution and density of rats on Fatu Iva and evaluate the feasibility of a rat eradication program on the island;
- introduce measures to counter the threat posed by nest predation by black rats on Fatu Iva and assess the feasibility of such measures on Ua Pou and Nuku Hiva;
- raise awareness amongst the community of the status, plight and threats to the Ultramarine Lorikeet and other birds of the Marquesas Islands.

The study was conducted on the four islands within the pihiti's contemporary range; Nuku Hiva, Ua Pou, Ua Huka and



Fatu Iva in the Marquesas archipelago of French Polynesia. The Marquesas Islands are amongst the most geographically isolated groups of oceanic islands, situated in the south-east Pacific Ocean about 4,850km from Mexico, the nearest continental region, and 1,400 km from the French Polynesian capital of Papeete. There are twelve islands in the group stretching 350 km from north-west to south-east, of which six are inhabited with a total population of 7,500 people. The islands are small, volcanic outcrops characterised by rugged, irregular relief, and variable climate that has resulted in diverse microhabitats on the islands with vegetation varying from low altitude dry shrubland, grasslands and forest to rainforest and cloud forest on the upper windward slopes and summits. Many of the islands are intensively grazed by introduced herbivores (goats, cattle, sheep and horses) and are subject to sporadic fires and cyclones resulting in large areas of grassland and weed infestation. Villages have extensive cultivated gardens that include many introduced fruiting and flowering plants and most village families have additional small plots nearby that consist predominantly of coconut palms, banana, papaya, breadfruit and mango plantations.

Distribution and population estimates

To estimate the population size of lorikeet on the island of Ua Huka lorikeets were surveyed by establishing fixed line transects in each of six broad habitat associations on the island and then relating density estimates in each habitat to the availability of that habitat type as determined by vegetation mapping and aerial photography. We estimate that the island currently supports a population of approximately 2,375 individuals with a minimum of 1,763 and maximum of 2,987. Highest densities occurred in the botanic gardens and in coconut and fruit tree plantations. Although the population on Ua Huka is still relatively robust it is nonetheless highly vulnerable should rats ever reach the island with similar populations on islands in the past crashing within 20 years of a rat introduction.

The low numbers of lorikeets on the islands of Nuku Hiva, Ua Pou and Fatu Iva precluded the employment of line transects as used on Ua Huka. Instead, extensive searches were conducted through most likely habitats on these islands. Interviews with locals were conducted and proved an effective means of gathering information on likely sighting locations and patterns of decline in pihiti numbers over time. Despite intensive efforts no lorikeets were observed on Nuku Hiva while in a week of searching only one individual was located in the upper reaches of a valley on Ua Pou. In a three week period on Fatu Iva only eight observations of lorikeets were made of either single individuals or pairs. All observations were in the same general vicinity on the island, therefore, it is quite likely that the same birds were repeatedly sighted. According to our observations we estimate that less than ten and possibly as few as three individuals remain on Fatu Iva.

Aspects of the feeding and nesting ecology

To understand more about the biology of the pihiti we also studied aspects of its feeding and nesting preferences. Foraging observations were made during transect surveys and opportunistically whenever possible. Consumption of a total of 29 food items was observed with four food resources accounting for more than half of all feeding observations including mango fruit and pollen and nectar from coconut



The Tahiti Blue Lory has disappeared from 15 of the 23 islands from which it was known.

Photo: Rosemary Low

palm, banana and native *Hibiscus tileaceus* flowers.

Potential nest sites of lorikeets on Ua Huka were located by searches, opportunistic sightings and consultation with local landowners. Since the main aim was to determine the lorikeet's potential preferences for tree types so that artificial nests could be strategically deployed in favoured nesting trees we defined nest use broadly as an observation of one or two individuals actively exploring or using a tree hollow even though actual nesting may not have occurred. Lorikeets were observed on eight occasions using or exploring nest cavities in four species of trees, namely, *Artocarpus altilis*, *Pometia pinnata*, *Pandanus tectorius*, and *Hibiscus tileaceus*.

Rat surveys

On Ua Huka rat surveys were conducted to confirm the rat free status of the island and focussed on the island's main villages on the premise that should rats occur on the island they would most likely first be established in a populated centre. Only Pacific rats (*Rattus exulans*) and domestic house mice (*Mus musculus*) were trapped.

In the Punahitahi valley on Fatu Iva we trapped rats as part of a collaborative program with the Fatu Iva Monarch Conservation Project, a project also run by the *Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie* to help conserve this critically endangered Fatu Iva endemic (Blanvillain and Ziembicki 2002). In total four rats were trapped on Fatu Iva; two Pacific rats and two Black rats. The date of the arrival and establishment of the black rat population on the island believed to have occurred in the mid-late 1990s. Although the extent of their distribution over the island is not known it is likely that it by now extends over the entire island. The size and rugged topography of Fatu Iva prohibit a rat eradication program for the island. However, concerted and strategically deployed rat control programs maybe an effective means of controlling rat numbers in specific areas. The greatest potential and need for such programs are in areas favoured by pihiti and the Fatu Iva monarch and those areas where it is in the interests of locals to control rat populations (e.g. coconut plantations). It is in such an area that our control efforts in the Punahitahi valley were made.

Conservation efforts

Conservation actions were concentrated on the islands of Fatu Iva and Ua Huka. The highest conservation priority for the pihiti is preventing the introduction of black rats to Ua Huka owing to the island's robust pihiti population and current rat-free status.



Photo: Tim Lamun

Installing an artificial nest box in the botanic gardens, Ua Huka.

The greatest chance of accidental introduction of rats to Ua Huka is through stowaways in cargo that arrive by ship to the island. To minimise this possibility we provided the local council with live rat traps that are deployed around the wharf area.

Our efforts on the island of Fatu Iva focussed on eradicating rats from the Punahitahi valley - site of repeated pihiti observations and favourable nesting trees, by deploying bait stations at regular lengths along the upper reaches of the valley. We also aimed to provide safe nesting areas by deploying artificial rat proof nest boxes and rendering potential nest trees inaccessible to rats. Nests consisted of PVC pipe and were placed at heights ranging from 8-20 metres in trees identified as preferred for nesting by the pihiti. Searches were made for nesting trees on the island of Fatu Iva within the region where lorikeets were most commonly observed. Although no active nest trees were found, potential trees with nest hollows that might be favoured by lorikeets and that were relatively isolated from other trees were protected using tree guards consisting of a 50cm wide strip of thin metal sheeting placed at least 2 metres above the base of the tree. Where trees were within close proximity to other vegetation, branches were removed to ensure rats could not climb or jump across to them.

Unfortunately, because of time constraints and the difficulties and expense associated with regularly returning to the Marquesas Islands, we have not had a chance to adequately assess the progress of our conservation actions to date. Of particular interest is whether lorikeets have come to use the artificial nest boxes that were provided on Ua Huka and Fatu Iva and whether rat densities have decreased

significantly and pihiti breeding success increased in Punahitahi valley on Fatu Iva following rat control efforts.

Community involvement and education

We profited greatly through consultation and collaboration with locals and collected valuable information regarding the distribution, historical status and feeding and nesting biology of the species through conversations and interviews with a range of local inhabitants. Several individuals were more closely involved with the project by acting as guides and sharing their knowledge of the natural history of the islands and one was employed to conduct rat control on Fatu Iva. Involvement of locals also allowed for raising awareness among the islanders of the plight of the pihiti and other Marquesan birds on their islands as well as the health, agricultural and environmental problems posed by rats. Distribution of posters of the pihiti and other local birds to schools and community centres, and discussions in the course of our work with community leaders, including teachers, police, government employees and landowners, also contributed to the community education campaign.

Future research and conservation

Our efforts represent the first stage in a research and conservation program required for the pihiti. Future research priorities will require examining the habitat requirements, nesting biology and foraging ecology of the Ultramarine Lorikeet over broader time periods. Similarly, a more thorough understanding of the distribution

and biology of black rats and their effects on *Vini* lorikeets and other birds in the Marquesas is required.

The simplest, most cost-effective and urgent conservation priority for the Ultramarine Lorikeet is preventing the introduction of black rats to the island of Ua Huka. The apparent failure of the Fatu Iva translocation and the vulnerability of the Ua Huka population suggests serious consideration should be given to initiating a translocation of pihiti to another island, most suitably Mohotani. This island is uninhabited, is believed to be rat-free and has apparently suitable habitat. However, before any such undertaking more research into the species' biology, habitat requirements and the suitability of Mohotani is required. Conservation efforts for the remaining lorikeet populations on Ua Pou, Fatu Iva and Nuku Hiva will require long term, labour intensive and expensive action if these populations are to be saved from the threat of rats. Such efforts will rely on sustained funding and involvement and training of locals. There is some scope and interest for such programs on Ua Pou and Fatu Iva. Significantly, there are currently very few opportunities for involving and training of locals in wildlife management and conservation issues in the Marquesas Islands and the Pacific islands more generally. Local capacity building is vital for the long term conservation and management of the fragile paradise of the tropical Pacific islands and its birds.

Acknowledgements

Our sincere thanks are extended to the people of French Polynesia and especially of the Marquesas Islands for their generous help and support of this project. This project was made possible through the World Parrot Trust Action Grant scheme and a small grant from the Birds Australia Parrot Association. Logistical support was provided by the Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie, Service du Développement Rural and the University of Adelaide.

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Photo: Rosemary Low

The feathers of Kuhl's Lorikeet (*Vini kuhlii*) were once prized by islanders for costume adornments.

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Photo: Katherine Renton

Lilac-crowned Parrot.

Two more parrot species proposed for inclusion in CITES Appendix I

In preparation to the forthcoming Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CITES) two endangered parrot species and their subspecies have been proposed for the inclusion in Appendix I:

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*) and the Lilac-crowned Amazon (*Amazona finschi*) whose wild populations have been greatly reduced from extensive

trapping and loss of habitat.

We would like to thank the governments of Indonesia and Mexico for recognizing the need for the highest level of international protection for these species, and a special thank you goes to

BirdLife-Indonesia, ProFauna Indonesia and Defenders of Wildlife for providing a strong scientific support to these proposals.



Reviews:

Caiques by Rosemary Low

By Sonny Stollenmaier

Over the years I have collected a vast variety of parrot books dedicated to a particular species. However I found that many of these books devote themselves to this one particular species only in part. Often the majority of the content of these books applies to any parrot you care to think of.

Rosemary Low is a very dedicated author of parrot books and it is this dedication that guarantees her books not to drift from the species of bird she discusses. "Caiques" is no exception. Every page in this book, with the exception of the chapter on Health Care, is specifically and exclusively about Caiques.

The book is divided into ten chapters, including a very useful chapter "Your questions answered" as well as a chapter on the species' captive history.

"Caiques" boasts an array of colour photographs, including photographs of all subspecies and chicks at various ages.

This book is an absolute must-read for any aviculturist hoping to breed this amazing little parrot. The author gives a very detailed description of what types of nest boxes to use, how these birds are best kept, preferences in housing, i.e. what type of flight to use and where to place it, and how to enrich its environment.

Appropriate types of diet are also discussed extensively.

Caiques, unsurprisingly, are gaining more and more in popularity as pets. Rosemary Low has devoted many pages of her book to this very subject.

The book explains how to find a well-bred, hand reared youngster and what to look out for when buying a Caique and what problems may occur in the future such as biting and excessive shrieking.

One of the true strong points of this book are the many suggestions it offers in order to help avoid problems arising when breeding or keeping Caiques. Further suggestions are given explaining how to deal with any problem behaviour should it arise.

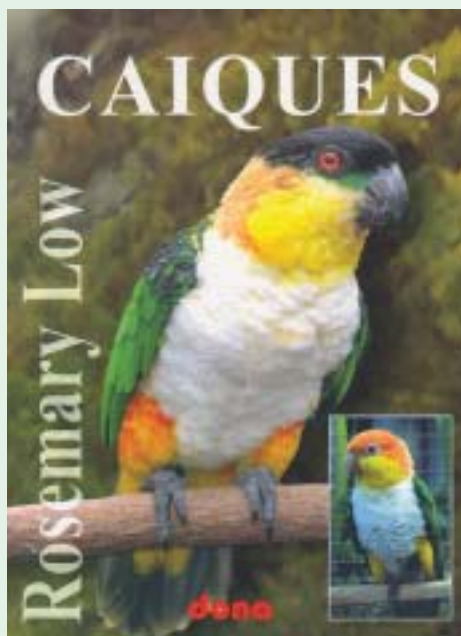
Other subjects discussed regarding Caiques as pets include talking ability, out of cage behaviour, whether or not to consider a second Caique and playstands to mention but a few.

Whether you are interested in Caiques "In the wild", another very informative chapter, their suitability and behaviour as pets, or whether you are an aviculturist interested in keeping and breeding these birds in your aviaries this book is without doubt for you.

A very useful all-rounder "Caiques" answers pretty much any Caique related question you care to think of.

Please note, a misprint on page 66 states the British ring size for Caiques to be 'M' when in fact the correct ring size is 'T' (8.5mm), as correctly printed on page 52.

"Caiques" by Rosemary Low (ISBN 80-7322-044-X) is a soft cover edition containing 86 pages and 25 colour photographs. Available from all leading avicultural booksellers.



The Companion Bird Lover's Guide to Careers

Pamphlet review

A useful pamphlet produced in the USA is designed to help people who want to work with parrots. It is an optimistic one since, if we are realistic, there are very few jobs in this category or, if not with living parrots, related to them in some way. In her pamphlet *The Companion Bird Lover's Guide to Careers* Paula Fitzsimmons suggests some possible occupations.

However, she narrows the field by confining it to "companion birds" (ie, pet parrots: there is no mention of any other types

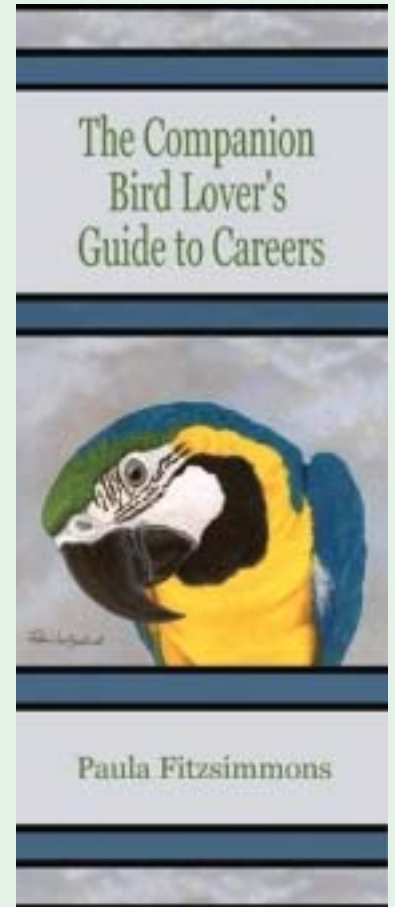
of birds.) This is an American publication and the information under "resources" applies to the United States.

The format is promising, since with each "career" there are notes under the headings of qualifications, salary expectations, the market, pros, cons and then a profile of a person who illustrates the particular career, tips for getting started and resources (publications to read and/or organisations to contact).

The first possible career is that of "avian rescue founder and director". This might be a curious choice to start with, as it is hardly a career. Under Qualifications is the statement: "knowledge of companion birds is essential if you want to do the birds a service". Surely more than knowledge is necessary? Perhaps it should have stated at least one decade of experience - plus the patience of a saint (to deal with the owners).

The other careers covered are avian veterinarian, veterinary technician, freelance writer, marketing manager (perhaps with a bird food company), bird boarding entrepreneur and selling wares to the companion bird market. Omissions are working in a pet store and working in the bird section of a zoo or in a children's zoo. A decade ago breeding parrots for the pet market would surely have been included.

The back cover states: "This guide will introduce you to the many possibilities." In truth the possibilities are limited. This pamphlet costs \$6.95 post paid in the USA and can be obtained from PJ Publications, P.O.Box 45468, Madison, WI 53744-5468 or on-line at www.pjpublications.com



Psitta News

News from Dominica

PAUL REILLO

As far as breeding activities are concerned, some interesting patterns have emerged over the past two seasons. Rains have proven rather constant from January to May, and some birds are delaying nesting, to take advantage of the abundance of forest fruits, and to avoid swamped cavities. Both species are fledging well into the autumn months, suggesting that some pairs do not commence nesting until perhaps late June or July. With the unusual, aseasonal rainfall patterns, both the Imperial Parrot (*A. imperialis*) also called Sisserou, and the Red-necked Parrot (*A. arausiaca*) appear to have the potential to become more-or-less continuous breeders, with the onset of nesting coinciding with key environmental parameters rather than calendar or season, *per se*. In April, we saw many Red-neck pairs still foraging (e.g., over 40 birds in a single Chagnier tree) while a few pairs were either defending nest trees or females had just laid.

Meanwhile, most of the Sisserous (seven pairs sighted) were still foraging, and only one pair had begun to defend a cavity. Two months later, most of the Red-neck nest trees are active, and parents are feeding chicks, but the elusive Sisserou are still fooling us. Their cryptic behaviour continually frustrates time-lapse video monitoring, but thankfully we get good estimates of local recruitment from sightings of parents foraging with their fledgling (always just one!). Last year, these sightings commenced in late August, and we anticipate a similar pattern this year.

Other encouraging news includes sightings of more Sisserous in the Morne Watt/Morne John valley in the south, strongly suggesting that the small population there is, in fact, reproducing.

The Forestry parrot team has moved into the apartments at the new Visitors' Centre at Morne Diablotin National Park-- and I can tell you from first-hand experience that this affords a wonderful opportunity for the team to stay near the parrot action regardless of weather. The storms can be quite wild on Morne Diablotin, but the

rooms are comfortable and dry, giving us a jump on the day's activities, whatever they might be.

With the Forestry Department I will be summarizing field activities over the past two seasons in a comprehensive report later this year.



Photo: Paul Reillo

Digital camera supplied by member for Costa Rica

Many thanks must go to WPT member Ake Strandberg who has sent us a digital camera, with all attachments required and all costs incurred, as requested by Guisselle Monge Arias and Olivier Chassot for the Great Green Macaw Project in our February issue. This is fabulous news for the Costa Rican project and is greatly appreciated.

Deadly Newcastle disease discovered in parrots and other birds imported from Pakistan to Italy:

4,000 birds destroyed 20th February, International Authorities not yet notified.

Press Release, 29 February 2004

According to the OIE, the World Organization for Animal Health, Italy's Health Ministry has not reported that a deadly avian virus, Exotic Newcastle Disease (END), entered Italy earlier this month in a shipment of wild and captive parrots, and other caged birds. In addition, the World Parrot Trust, an international parrot conservation organization, discovered that several regional Italian Veterinary districts were not yet informed of the presence of the virus on Italian soil.

END is among the most infectious and deadly of all avian viruses and can have significant economic impacts on the poultry

industry, as have recent outbreaks of avian flu in Asia and the USA. The virus is spread by direct contact with infected birds or inhalation of infectious particles. Attempts to contain END outbreaks often involve halting regional and international trade in birds and bird products as well as the destruction of millions of captive birds. In 2003, an END outbreak starting in southern California spread as far east as Texas before being contained nearly a year later at a cost of over 160 million dollars to US taxpayers. Although the disease causes flu-like symptoms in humans, outbreaks of the disease in birds are rarely considered a significant human health risk.

The shipment of parrots, lovebirds, and finches imported from Pakistan to Italy tested positive on 16 February 2004 for Exotic Newcastle Disease. After learning of the presence of END in an EU country, the World Parrot Trust immediately investigated the report and confirmed with the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie laboratory in Legnaro, Italy that the samples tested positive for END. The laboratory confirmed that they faxed the results to the Italian Health Ministry as required by law, and multiple independent sources now confirm that some 4000 birds from the shipment were destroyed in Naples on 20 February.

A full week after the birds were destroyed, the World Parrot Trust discovered that federal veterinarians in at least three importing regions of Italy as well as the OIE centered in Paris, had not yet been notified. Newcastle disease is one of only fifteen diseases categorized as an "A List" reportable animal disease by the OIE: notification within 24 hours of detection is a requirement of Italy, Pakistan, and all 165 OIE member countries.

Pakistan is a major exporter of wild birds to the EU, sending tens of thousands of parrots and other birds destined for European pet markets each year, particularly to Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Greece. For CITES listed species alone, between 1997-2001 the EU imported a total of 617,591 parrots and 2,480,186 non-parrots, primarily for the pet trade.

It appears that the infected consignment in Naples was not alone; additional birds from this shipment were destined for another facility in Emilia Romagna, Italy. As of 27 February, the local veterinary authority confirmed by telephone that they had not yet heard of the Newcastle disease in Naples. It remains unknown whether a single EU veterinary authority has yet been alerted of the presence of END in Italy.

"We're deeply concerned about the serious disease risks caused by importing hundreds of thousands of wild birds into the EU each year," stated the World Parrot Trust's

director, Dr. James Gilardi. "It is alarming to see the 80 year old early warning system of the OIE so blatantly breached. Secrecy is the greatest ally of these dreaded diseases and threatens millions of birds in Europe, and especially the multi-billion Euro poultry industry. With the planned EU expansion in May, such flawed protections will surely go from bad to worse."

"To protect the EU from these ever-present disease risks, we join a growing number of concerned organizations in calling for a permanent halt to the importation of all wild birds into the European Union," continued Gilardi, "why take these unnecessary risks?"

The director of the International Zoo Veterinary Group in the UK, Dr. Andrew Greenwood, commented that, "the fact that it has been nearly two weeks since the disease was detected and the proper reporting procedures have not been followed is a very serious issue. It is likely that birds from the same source have been sent to other EU countries, yet the veterinary officers at those ports of entry remain unaware that they may be handling this deadly disease."

Big fines for parrot traffickers

The Mercury, South Africa, 12 May 2004, Tony Carnie

Five people, including the master of the Safmarine charter vessel Meroula, have been sentenced to fines totalling R78 000 after KZN Wildlife inspectors seized six African Grey parrots in Durban harbour.

Durban magistrate Anand Maharaj ordered that the fines be used for the benefit of the permit section of KZN Wildlife, which polices the illegal trafficking of endangered species.

African Grey parrots are a protected species under international law and may not be imported or sold in KwaZulu-Natal without permits. The young parrots are thought to have been captured in the Democratic Republic of Congo and are now being treated by vets under quarantine.

The raid on the Meroula happened at Maydon Wharf of Saturday after a tip-off.

On Monday, five people pleaded guilty in the Durban Magistrate's Court to various charges under the Customs and Excise Act, the Animal Disease Act and the Natal Conservation Ordinance.

The master of the vessel, Ukrainian national Valeriy Verkhoshansky, 42, was fined R18 000 and was given a suspended sentence of two years in jail.

Sentences

The same sentences were imposed on twin brothers, Harry and Alex Panas, 40. Harry Panas was described as a ship clearing clerk from Durban and Alex as a businessman from Peitermaritzburg.

Two crewmen, Philippine nationals Marikit Romea, 33 and Morcenario Ladeo, 26, were each fined R12 000 and were given two year suspended sentences.

Prosecutor Rob Mortasagne said that apart from contravening nature protection laws, the importation of unquarantined wild birds created major risks, including the potentially catastrophic spread of airborne diseased in tamed and wild birds.

TRAFFIC, the wildlife monitoring agency, expressed concern in a special report published in 1995 that SA was contributing to the demise of wild populations of African Grey parrots.

African Grey parrots are one of the most popular 'talking' birds in the global cage-bird trade and KZN and Gauteng had become major entry and export points for illegal trade.

Researcher Teresa Mulliken found that tens of thousands of these birds were trapped every year in central Africa to supply the pet trade in Europe, North America and the East. Asked whether the master and crewmen of the Meroula would face internal disciplinary action, a spokesman for the Safmarine said this was a matter for the Greek owners of the charter vessel, which also employed the crew.

Woman arrested carrying 266 dead parrots

Reuters, 20 May 2004, Tansa Musa

YAOUNDE (Reuters) - Cameroon has arrested a Nigerian woman who was found carrying more than 200 dead parrots and rare Bannerman Turaco feathers, a customs official said on Tuesday.

The central African country has recently stepped up its fight against the poaching and killing of endangered species.

Officers stopped Meimuna Ahmed while she was on a bus with 266 embalmed Grey Parrots and 597 red Bannerman Turaco feathers in the northwestern town Bamenda.

"The red feathers must have been extracted from some 60 to 70 Bannerman Turacos, given that each of the birds has about 10 red feathers," Edwin Nuvaga Fongod, chief of customs in the North West province, told Reuters by phone from Bamenda.

The 41-year-old woman planned to sell the birds and the highly prized feathers, used in black magic rites and to decorate

community leaders, in Nigeria, he said.

If convicted, she faces one year in prison and a fine of up to 10 million CFA francs (\$18,230) under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species, to which Cameroon is a signatory, Fongod said.

Conservationists estimate there are 2,500 to 10,000 Bannerman Turacos left in the rapidly disappearing mountainous rain forest around Cameroon's Lake Oku.

California man sentenced for attacking parrot

Associated Press, 12 June 2004

NEWPORT BEACH, California: A man who attacked his pet macaw, breaking its beak and leg, must complete 120 days of community service and take anger management classes, a judge ruled.


Anthony James Ellis, 53, had been sentenced to 120 days in jail but Orange County Superior Court Judge Susanne Shaw said Friday she would allow him to complete the sentence as community service.

Witnesses testified that Ellis punched the bird - named "Johnny" - and slammed its head against the deck of his boat outside the Newport Harbor Elks Lodge, where the parrot was the mascot.

The judge also ruled that Ellis must pay US\$3,577.26 in restitution for surgery and care of the bird and cannot have pets or consume alcohol during three years of probation.

Ellis was convicted April 27 of felony animal cruelty and abuse of an animal.

Ellis testified that the bird, which he had owned for 11 years, was injured after it bit him on the arm and he fell down, and that witnesses outside the lodge misunderstood what they saw.

The parrot survived the March 2003 attack and was adopted by an animal care agency. 

Interested in rehoming a parrot?

If any members in the UK are interested in rehoming one or more parrots please contact Karen on 01736 751026 to receive a placement form for consideration.

WPT Benelux's visit to Paradise Park

At the end of April 2004 the committee of WPT Benelux visited the Trust's offices at Paradise Park in Cornwall UK. The main purpose of their visit was to present two significant amounts of funding to WPT; first, a cheque for Euros 5,000 (£3,340) to go directly to our work to protect the Lear's Macaw; second, Euros 10,000 for the general purposes of the Trust. This amount came from membership fees and donations.

During their weekend visit the committee members enjoyed the birds, flying shows and other facilities of Paradise Park, and also held an important meeting with WPT staff, discussing questions of building membership, funding, and projects for education and conservation.

On May 22nd Ruud and the Benelux team visited the opening of the New Year round Tropic Hall called "TropiJoy" of the Parrot Sanctuary N.O.P. in Veldhoven Holland. The Sanctuary built a large hall with a nice tropical garden with free flying birds and a children's playgarden on the groundfloor interior. WPT Benelux were offered some space to create a permanent display for the Trust. They provided some great material and went along to see how well it was received by the visitors. The Benelux team have once again done an excellent job for the Trust.



Photo: Alison Hales

Ruud Vonk (Chairman WPT Benelux and WPT Trustee), Ria Vonk, Jacques and Janni Gardien, Audrey and Mike Reynolds, Karen Whitley, Nick Reynolds, Michelle Cook and Romain Bejstrup.



Member Email List

- Asking and answering questions about parrots, parrot care, and parrot conservation.
- Providing information on upcoming meetings and events that might be of interest to members.
- Updating members on the latest news from the field, faster and with greater depth than in *PsittaScene*.

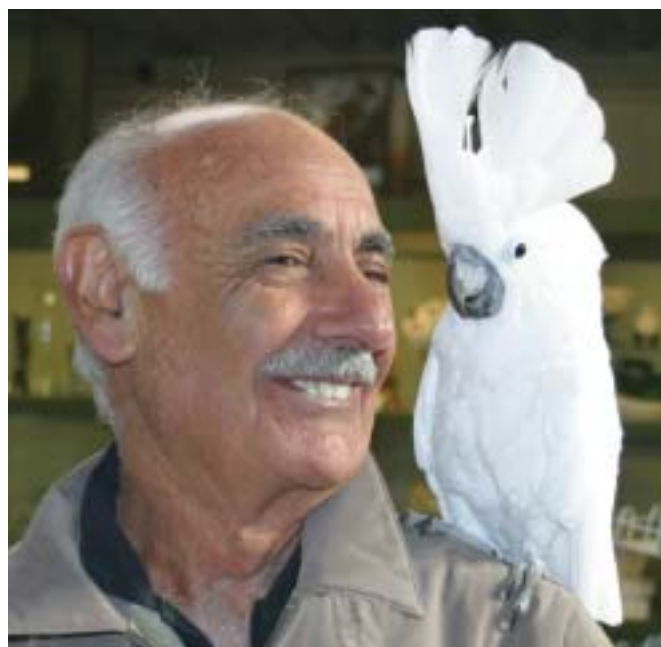
Signing up is easy. Just send a message to wptmembers@worldparrottrust.org along with your name and member number (that's on your mailing label) and we'll send you a welcome letter with the details on how the whole thing works. Please give it a whirl, and we'll look forward to seeing you there!

Many WPT members visit

As you probably know, membership of WPT includes an annual visit to Paradise Park in Cornwall UK, where the Trust's offices are based. The people of Paradise Park are always delighted to see WPT members, as they are very proud of having created such a cost-effective and pioneering charity. Every year the Park raises substantial sums for WPT, and our coin-collecting cockatoos have now beaked over £30,000 from our generous visitors.

We have a dedicated World Parrot Trust area in our large parrot and wildlife themed shop, and have just opened a gallery to exhibit paintings and prints of parrots, with all proceeds going to the Trust. Prices range from around £35 for prints of Lear's and Hyacinth Macaws, to £295 for a beautifully framed cockatoo picture from Forshaw and Coopers limited edition portfolio, to £950 for a fantastic original painting of Hyacinth Macaws in flight by Malcolm Ellis. All funds received will go to the project to protect Patagonian Conures in Argentina as detailed on page 10.

These are all excellent reasons to try to arrange a visit to Paradise Park this summer. The picture shows David Holzman, a US Life Member of the Trust, who visited us recently. He is getting along just fine with Max, one of our more friendly Umbrella cockatoos. David is a very committed supporter of WPT, and went to a lot of trouble to get to see us. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting with him and hearing about his experiences and involvement with parrots.



Aims of the Trust

With thousands of members in over 50 countries, our branches work to achieve the stated aims of the World Parrot Trust, which are:

- **The survival of parrot species in the wild**
- **The welfare of captive birds everywhere**

To Achieve these Aims, we:

- Restore and protect populations of wild parrots and their native habitats
- Promote awareness of the threats to all parrots, captive and wild
- Oppose the trade in wild-caught birds
- Educate the public on high standards for the care and breeding of parrots
- Encourage links between conservation and aviculture

Member, Donation or Legacy

If you become a member of our Registered Charity you will receive a new member package, four of these *PsittaScene* magazines and one free entry to Paradise Park in Cornwall, UK per year with your membership card. You can also join our members only group email list and gain access to many other members for parrot information and support.

Each renewal year you will receive the quarterly magazines and one free entry into Paradise Park (Winner of Good Britain Guide, Family Attraction of the Year, for 2 years).

100% of money donated to designated funds is spent directly on parrot conservation.

Please consider a donation or legacy to the Trust.



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WPT Web Sites:

Main: <http://www.worldparrottrust.org>,
Italy: <http://www.worldparrottrust.org/italia>
German: <http://www.papageien.org/WPT/>

YES, I WANT TO HELP SAVE THE PARROTS OF THE WORLD

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (please tick)

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- Joint** (Annual) £27 / US\$40 / €40
- Club** (Annual) £100 / US\$150 / €150
- Fellow** (Life) £300 / US\$500 / €500
- Conservation** (Life) £1,000 / US\$1,500 / €1,500
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Parrots in the Wild



Puerto Rican Amazon *Amazona vittata*

By MARIE STAFFORD ©2004 Marie Stafford, ParrotsInternational.org

The Puerto Rican Amazon is the rarest parrot in the wild. Only 30 exist in the wilds of the El Yunque Rainforest, Puerto Rico. It is the only parrot found within the United States and its territories and is one of the ten most endangered birds in the world. Parrots International, a conservation partner of WPT, is working to help create awareness of the Puerto Rican Amazon, its endangered status, and to attract donors and support for a new breeding aviary facility within the El Yunque Rainforest to support releases into the wild of captive raised Puerto Rican Amazons. Stay tuned for more photos and an update from the field in the next *PsittaScene*.