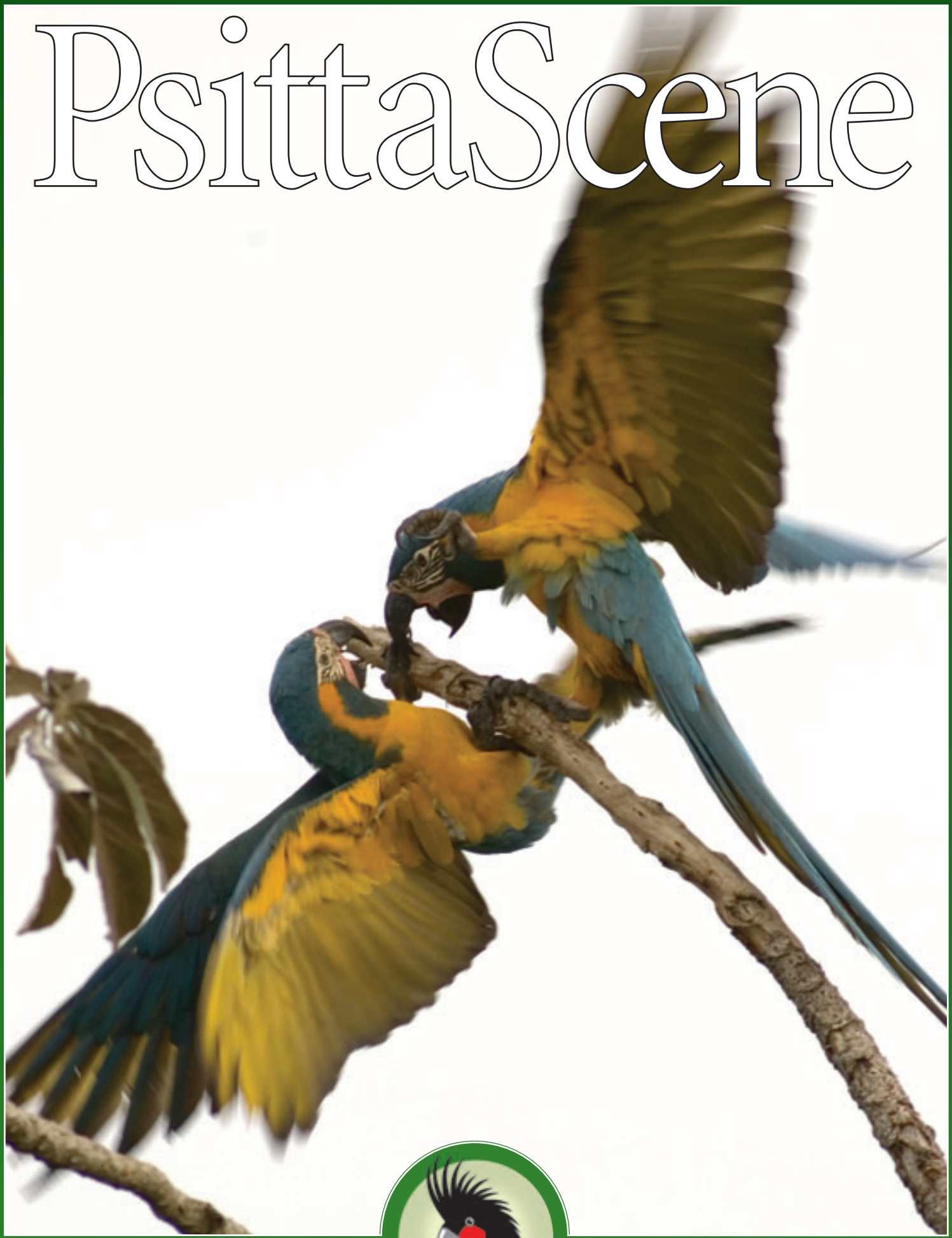
Magazine of the World Parrot Trust

PsittaScene



In this Issue

Fly Free - EU Extends Import Ban

Blue-throated Macaws: the 2005 Breeding Season

February 2006

Volume 18 Number 1

Psitta Scene

Magazine of the World Parrot Trust
Glanmor House, Hayle, Cornwall,
TR27 4HB, UK

CONTENTS

Cover Picture By © LUIZ CLAUDIO MARIGO
www.lcmarigo.com.br

A pair of Blue-throated Macaws at play. Photographed by Brazilian wildlife photographer Luis Claudio Marigo during the 2005 breeding season. Marigo is preparing a book that will feature photos of every macaw species in the wild. Blue-throats were the last species on his list, decent photos of which eluded him on two previous visits to the Beni, Bolivia. We'll keep you posted on the progress of his book which he intends to publish independently.

Fly Free continued

EU extends temporary ban, sparing another million wild birds

By JAMIE GILARDI

We were positively thrilled last October when we heard that the European Union had halted all bird imports for a month. Not only would this decision alone save many thousands of wild birds from trapping and its horrible consequences, but it raised the issue at the very highest levels of whether commercial trapping should continue at all. When that first month's ban was extended to the end of January 2006 - another two months of zero imports - our delight was magnified further. The extension provided an opportunity to expand the discussion to include the conservation and welfare impacts of the trade as well as the disease risks dominating the news.

As a coalition of organizatinos working on this campaign, we suddenly found ourselves in the position to provide various review panels in the UK and EU governments with substantive science and data on the wild bird trade. As *PsittaScene* readers are well aware, we've been carrying on about this issue for quite some time. So we've been thrilled and quite busy attempting to make as forceful and well-documented a case as possible to the appropriate authorities.

In the mean time, the month of January was fast disappearing as the deadline approached. Rumours of re-opening trade with much of the world notwithstanding, we were greatly relieved when EU Commissioner Kyprianou, who heads the Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection, announced their decision to extend the temporary ban for an additional four months – through the end of May!

As many of you will have seen, we've been running a counter to track the number of birds trapped for the European market starting when we submitted the Wild Bird Declaration to the EU in December 2004 (see *http://birdsareforwatching.org*). On the day of the announcement of the ban in October, that counter had climbed to well over three million birds! Following the visionary suggestion from Duncan McNiven at the RSPB, we decided that it would be timely to start that clock over, but this time to have it count the number of wild birds NOT trapped for the EU market since the start of the ban. As of today, that figure now reads 1.3 million birds and counting. By the end of May, it will be well over two million birds spared by this temporary ban alone.

With the outpouring of support from WPT members, parrot lovers, and a growing number of conservation and welfare organizations from the world over, I think we can and should be elated by this truly astounding outcome. Rest assured we will work very hard in the coming months toward the ultimate goal of making this a permanent state of affairs.

Photo: Marc Johnson, Foster Parrots

School children at the Nappi Primary School in Guyana proudly show off their new TradeBands donated by Foster Parrots. The class has an ongoing partnership with Elisabeth Morrow School in Englewood, New Jersey, USA.

Trading parrots revisited

can ex-trappers develop alternatives to harvesting wild birds?

By JAMIE GILARDI

It's always hard to predict all the consequences of any given action, particularly when it involves international trade. When the USA stopped importing virtually all wild birds in the early 1990's, the goal was to stop destructive harvesting of these birds and assosiated population declines throughout the world. There were a number of unintended consequences of that action, one being that illegal trade declined with the end of the legal trade, and another was that the prevalence of common diseases in American aviculture declined as well. Of course, not all of these consequences are good for everyone involved, and that is certainly the case for the individuals who, until last October, were supplying the EU with millions of wild birds. As the EU then had over 90% of the existing trade, their market disappeared overnight and had immediate ramifications not just for the birds, but to the people who trap them and others along the trade chain.

Our concern at the World Parrot Trust is primarily for the birds and we remain enormously enthusiastic about the fact that even this temporary ban is already saving millions of wild birds. But we also care about the people who share the same habitats with these birds, particularly since many of them live very close to the edge of extreme poverty and even starvation. And whilst we are very supportive of ecotourism which effectively supports conservation and local communities, we also recognize that this solution isn't always feasible.

In our last issue of *PsittaScene*, Marc Johnson reported on a program in Guyana which is currently developing a rainforest ecotourism program. The hope is that the financial benefits of the tourism will provide a direct replacement for the economic costs to the local community of ending their harvests of wild parrots. Upon learning that the same communities were also developing some parrot-related crafts, it occurred to us that we might have an opportunity to connect parrot lovers with ex-parrot trappers. Because trappers have to work quite hard to catch wild parrots and they don't even make much money when they succeed, we thought it might be worth trying to replace some of their bird harvesting losses with carved parrot profits.

One of the fun parts of this story has to do with the history and natural history of rubber itself. When the first Europeans arrived in the new world, they found indigenous people making bouncy balls and waterproof shoes out of a strange new material made from the sap of a unique tree. Over the next few centuries, rubber (named in English for its ability to "rub" out pencil marks) became extremely important to western civilization. Indeed wild rubber was gradually replaced by plantation rubber as vast tracts of rubber trees were planted all across the tropics, including European colonies in southeast Asia and later Africa (on a personal note, my grandfather, who originally hailed from Shetland, spent many years in Indonesia as a "rubber planter", consequently my mother was born on the island of Sumatra).

So, what does this have to do with parrots? As it turns out, back in South America, one of the preferred food items of the ubiquitous Blue and Gold Macaw (*Ara ararauna*-featured on our last cover) turns out to be the seeds of the rubber tree. This is the very same species, *Hevea brasiliensis*, which produces the latex sap which is the source of virtually all natural rubber. The large seeds, which are the size of macadamia nuts, are actually loaded with a cyanide producing compound, so they are quite unpleasant for humans to eat, but the macaws apparently love them.

Marc learned that the natives in Guyana are still making little objects out of natural rubber, and in fact, they are carving them into parrots, toucans and other birds. Our hope is that Trust members and supporters might be eager to support these communities which have recently weaned themselves off profits from wild bird harvests, and enjoy owning one or a few of these simple hand-carved parrots made from natural wild-harvested rainforest rubber.

As these are handmade and every carved parrot is original, we hope you'll understand that these are highly variable and the one you receive may look different from what is pictured here. Like most parrots, these appear most comfortable in large groups, so we encourage you to buy a whole flock!

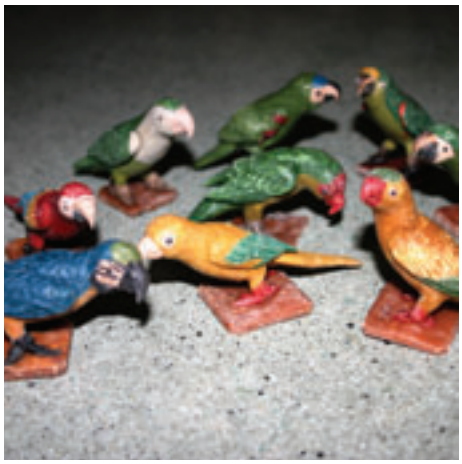


Photo: Jamie Gilardi

The carvings can be purchased via the UK and US offices (listed p19) for the sum of £3 / $5 each or 5 parrots for £12 / $20.

The forests of Nappi are dotted with balata (commonly known as latex or rubber trees) which have been tapped for many generations and some of which are hundreds of years old. The scars of past tapping reaching 30 or 40 feet up the trunks of some of the larger trees. Once the source for all commercial rubber products these trees now serve as a renewable resource for many artisans in the Rupununi region of Guyana. One of them being George Tancredo. George was one of the first balata artists in the village of Nappi. Having started at the age of 21 he has now been working with balata for almost 40 years. Since working with Foster Parrots he is, for the first time in his life, now enjoying continuous employment and his success has encouraged several others (including several younger villagers) to follow in his footsteps. George is also in the process of building a structure that will serve as a new studio and teaching facility for the arts and crafts of the Rupununi.

Photo: Marc Johnson

George Tancredo, master balata (latex) artisan sits at his workbench with many of his beautifully crafted "rubber" parrots.

Saving Bolivia's Blue-throated Macaw

highlights from the 2005 breeding season

By TOA KYLE

When I was in graduate school in the late '90s, there were frequent classroom discussions about the wisdom of most conservation efforts. In short, most of us were critical of the millions of dollars being spent on individual species when the focus should be on preserving the ecosystems in which threatened species live. In theory, by preserving the natural processes that run a system, one can better conserve the species found within them (saving time and money along the way). Almost a decade later and into my third season of nest work with Blue-throated Macaws (*Ara glaucogularis*), I can see that possessing decent tracts of habitat doesn't necessarily guarantee species' recovery. This is especially true for Blue-throats, when, at times, it is natural forces themselves that are hampering the birds' attempts at reproduction.

Each field season I've worked on has been highlighted by the various challenges that confront each breeding pair. My first season in 2003, it was nest competition from larger species, as over half the potential nests we found were taken over by Blue and Gold Macaws as time progressed. The following year most of the nests were lost due to predation. This current season has been overshadowed by the elements, as a severe drought was followed by a month of torrential rainfall. Although it is never clear-cut to 'blame the weather' for foiled nesting attempts, there's no denying that weather patterns played a role in the number of nest failures that were observed this past season. In this article I discuss the advances and setbacks in the 2005 breeding season and why the later emphasizes the need to intensify our efforts to bring wild

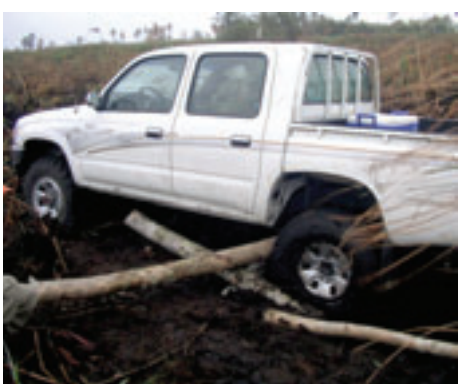


Photo: Toa Kyle

Travel in the Beni is always an adventure. Even in the height of the dry season, we still managed to get the truck stuck.

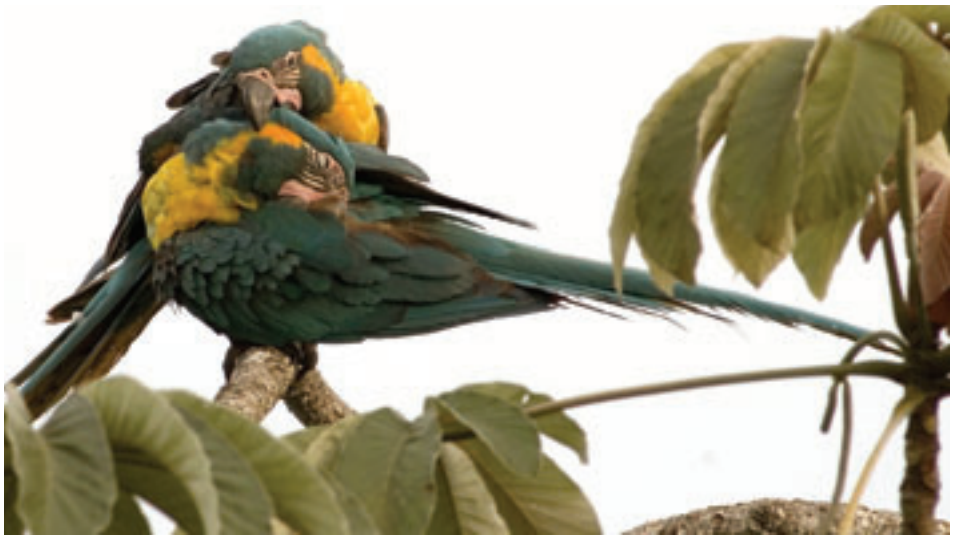


Photo: Luiz Claudio Marigo

Blue-throated Macaws back from the brink of extinction.

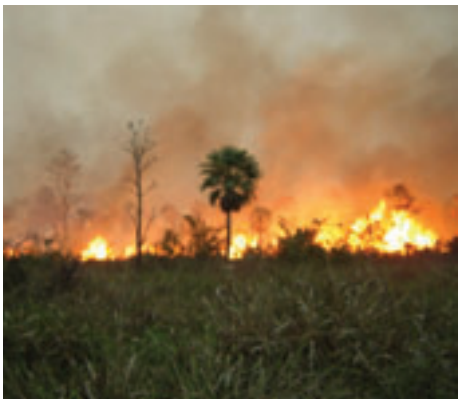
One of the challenges for this past season was getting more people into the field to keep better tabs on Blue-throat nesting attempts. In previous field seasons we found that our team of three people simply wasn't sufficient to adequately monitor widely dispersed Blue-throat nests. We were able to get more participants on the project in 2005 for two main reasons, the first being the purchase of a much-needed 4x4 vehicle to transport people and gear into the field (a special thanks go to the Keith Ewart Charitable Trust and Gerard Johnson, through the WPT-UK office, for securing the funds to make this happen!). The second factor was a web posting for project volunteers. I can appreciate the value of using volunteers because I got my first start with parrot conservation on the Costa Rican Great Green Macaw (*Ara ambigua*) project in 1997. While some volunteers participate to visit different natural settings and cultures, others use the opportunity as a prelude to graduate studies or even to generate similar programs in their home countries.

As it was the first time I'd hired volunteers, I was overwhelmed by the response I received. I posted an ad on two fieldwork job sites that quickly got posted on numerous other sites by people helping to "spread the word". In the end over 60 people applied to the project, the majority of whom were young biologists. We ended up having 11 people on board this season, hailing from nine countries (half of which were from Latin America), a veritable 'UN' of Blue-throated Macaw conservationists. A most welcome addition to this year's team was Benjamin Oliveira, a thesis student from the *Universidad Autónoma del Beni*, the local university in Trinidad (the capital of the Beni department where Blue-throats are found). Benjamin was an interesting case because although a vet student, he wanted to do his thesis research on Blue-throat recovery efforts. I was grateful for his presence as not only did his vet skills come in handy looking after horses, but his physical strength literally got us (and the truck!) out of the muck on numerous occasions. Despite his large stature, he's one of the gentlest, most laid

Photo: Luiz Claudio Marigo

An adult Blue-throat perched at the entrance of the nest cavity. Upon arrival and departure, the adults often remain in this posture scanning the area around the nest, presumably taking note of other parrots and potential sources of danger.

Photo: Toa Kyle



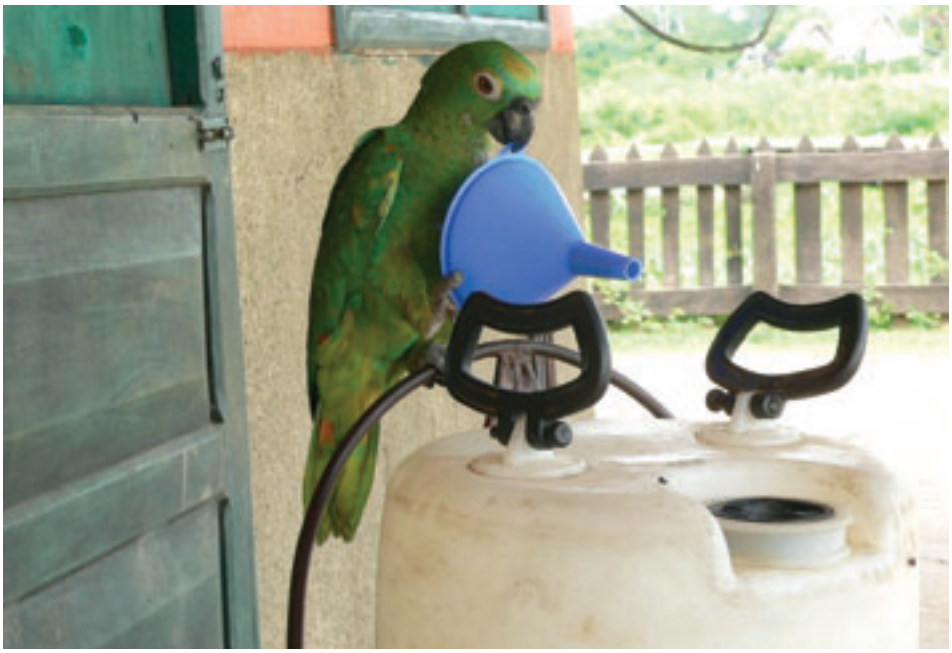
A common sight in the 2005 breeding season. Although lit to stimulate more productive forage for cattle, fires can actually cause more harm than good by killing valuable soil bacteria and encouraging the growth of more competitive weeds that are inedible to livestock.

back Bolivians I've known. He's also the first of what will be an annual presence of Bolivian students on the project.

Our 2005 field season started in early August under white, smoke-filled skies. A major drought hit the region from May to September. Although this period corresponds to the dry season, what separated 2005 from others was its severity. Practically no rain dropped during this five month span, the major consequence being the ensuing fires. The grasslands that dominate the Blue-throats' landscape are routinely burned in the dry season to stimulate richer forage for livestock. The lack of any sort of precipitation this past dry season meant that fires blazed unchecked for five months. The resulting air quality was so poor in Trinidad that small infants needed to be hooked up to oxygen machines at clinics to correct breathing dysfunctions. Most of the field team had nagging coughs by late September. While the knee jerk reaction is to blame the cattle industry for all the smoke, the reality was that conditions were so dry, even a small fire lit in a remote location would have far-reaching consequences elsewhere. Once started, fires became uncontrollable. Some elderly people I talked to in the field told me it was the worst drought they'd seen in their lifetime.

Obviously the drought and fires have both short and long term consequences for Blue-throated Macaw's. In early September I visited a site where we'd observed nesting activity in 2004. To my delight I watched a Blue-throat pair fly into the area of a 2004 nest at dawn. After copulating with the male, the female flew into the nest for several minutes, sitting in the entrance, looking the part of the expecting mother. I decided to check on some other sites in the following weeks, later returning to the area expecting to find the female in the nest

Photo: Charles Hesse



José, a pet Blue-fronted Amazon (Amazona aestiva), which are known locally as 'habladores' (talkers), helps get some drinking water. During the dry season, clean water is a scarce resource at sites not possessing wells.

again, this time on eggs. Instead, I discovered that a huge fire had swept through the region only three days prior to my visit. Although the nest tree was still standing, the surrounding forest was a shadow of its former self. The fires also heavily damaged the forest islands of motacú palms (*Attalea phalerata*) where we'd regularly seen two Blue-throat pairs foraging in the past three seasons. Motacú palms are the key resource for Blue-throats where we work. During this visit, and subsequent ones throughout the field season, no Blue-throats were seen around the nest, nor the motacú islands. It is highly likely that the two pairs of macaws abandoned the area due to fire damage. While the immediate effects of fire are visible in terms of burnt motacú fruits or collapsed nesting trees, long term effects remain to be seen. Motacú palms damaged by fire must invest time and energy in generating new fronds. This in turn diminishes the amount of fruit that can be produced, thus reducing the amount of food resources available to prospective nesting pairs. Fires also destroy motacú saplings, retarding forest regeneration. Blue-throats may continue to experience the effects of the 2005 fires for years to come.

My aim for this past season was to work with six nests. This was a reasonable goal considering our team of three worked with two nests in 2004. Now that we'd tripled the number of people conducting nest searches, six nests seemed possible. On some level, the goal was achieved. Of the 14 potential nests we found (I define a potential nest as any tree cavity Blue-throats guard or enter), six became active. Tragically, five of these nests failed in the late incubation stage. Reasons for these failures were likely multifaceted, though the primary factor was probably heavy rainfall. When the rains finally came to the Beni in late September, they came with a fury not seen in years. Over 15,000 ha of soya and corn crops were lost in northern Santa Cruz (just south of the Blue-throats' range) due to these rains. A co-worker told

Photo: Charles Hesse

Instead of calling the area by its proper name the 'Llanos de Moxos' (Moxos Plains), our team resorted to calling it the 'Desierto de Moxos' (Moxos Desert). In my three field seasons in the Beni I'd never seen conditions so dry and dusty.

Photo: Toa Kyle

This active Blue-throats' nest actually collapsed after heavy rains. We found pieces of eggshell below it, a day after it had been abandoned. Presumably a chick had just hatched around the time of the storm.

me of an occasion when he'd been caught in one of these severe thunderstorms while riding on horseback to camp. The force of the wind and water coming at him was so powerful, his horse had to walk sideways to move forward, during which time lightening continually struck within 50 m of his position. In my colleague's words: "I thought I was a goner".

These torrential storms had dire consequences for most of our active nests, of which two-thirds were motacú snags. All of these motacú nests failed. With one snag, the upper crown actually caved in following a storm. The attending pair subsequently abandoned the nest. To our dismay, we found a cracked eggshell below the tree, suggesting a chick had just hatched around the time of the collapse. At another motacú nest, over 70 mm (3 inches) of rain fell overnight. The next morning, the male of the pair was seen flying to the crown of the snag, peering inside and continually calling back to the female, almost as if coaxing her into incubating again. The males' efforts were to no avail as the nest was abandoned. A subsequent inspection of the cavity found it to be flooded with two eggs present. The remaining three nest failures showed a similar pattern - heavy rains followed by abandonment. Curiously, when these cavities were later checked no eggs were present. We knew that two of these nests had possessed three eggs each, so it is uncertain if the nests were first flooded, abandoned and then predated, or predated while the female was off the nest.

Photo: Alejando Solano

Future cowboys practice calf roping on volunteer Charley Hesse.

Ideally we would have liked to have drilled drain holes in all potential nest cavities. We avoided doing this on the failed nests for several reasons. All of these nests were found after incubation had already started, so we were concerned about causing abandonment by climbing the nests to make drain holes. We know from the 2004 season that abandonment by Blue-throats is unlikely when they have chicks. During incubation however, the threat is likely higher as the nesting pair have invested relatively less time and energy in the nest compared to a nest containing a chick. If they feel their own safety is in jeopardy due to the presence of humans, they are more likely to leave a nest with eggs behind. Thus we decided to be more 'hands off'

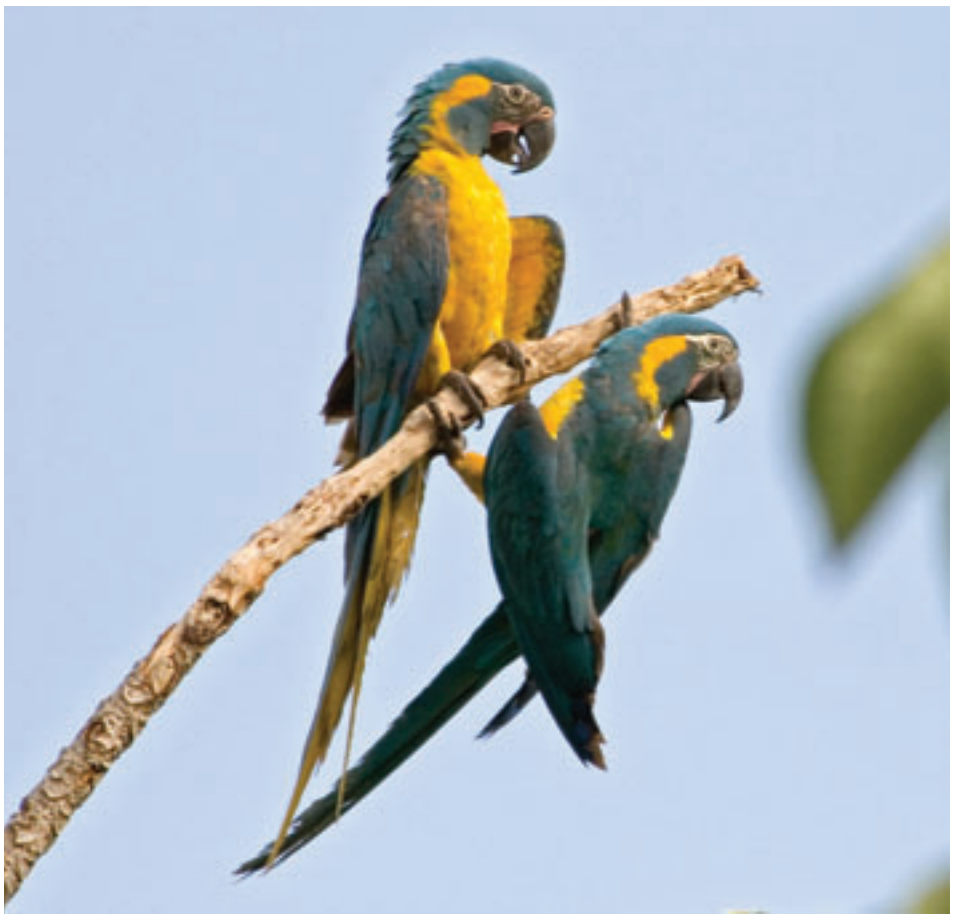


Photo: Luiz Claudio Marigo

This pair of first-year chicks frequented the trees behind one of our field camps. Both birds were molting their wing feathers. We saw more first year chicks during 2005 than any other field season, suggesting that the 2004 breeding season was a good year for Blue-throats. Superficially we know that rainfall was higher in 2004 compared to other seasons, possibly translating into more food resources and hence more chicks fledging.

Photo: Toa Kyle

A two-day old Blue-throat chick. The second egg never hatched. This nest was predated in 2004 (by an unknown predator when the chick was around 8 weeks old), so it was rewarding to have it fledge successfully for the 2005 season.

when it came to incubating nests. Another factor to consider with respect to drain holes in motacú snags is the physical structure of the snags themselves. Lacking strong fronds above, one can not safely secure a rope over the crown for climbing purposes. Given the flimsy nature of most snags, the nest tree may actually fall over when climbing it. We devised a system of securing a bamboo ladder with ropes so that the weight of the ladder was never in direct contact with the nest. Unfortunately, some nest snags were over 10 m (30 ft) high, taller than the longest bamboo shafts we could obtain in the area. Aluminum-fiberglass ladders are on the shopping list for the next breeding season.

If motacú snags are so prone to flooding and collapse, why do Blue-throats select them as their nests? It may be that motacú snags are easier to excavate compared to other tree species, especially after the 2005 drought. The inner pith of dead motacú palms contains dry, loose fibers, easily removed by Blue-throats' claws and beak. I'm told a pair can dig a nest in less than a week. It is also possible that higher quality nests found in live hardwood species are dominated by larger birds such as Blue and Gold Macaws, thus regulating Blue-throats to the lower quality motacú nests. Finally, previous logging activity in forest islands may have removed hardwood nest cavities, again leaving mainly motacú snags as the sole possibilities for Blue-throat nesting pairs.

Though 2005 had its share of disappointments, many positive things happened that are worth mentioning. Given that all the Blue-throats we currently know about are found exclusively on private lands, namely cattle ranches, cooperation with landowners is key to Blue-throat recovery. With this in mind, this past season was a resounding success. The level of commitment from ranchers at key sites went above and beyond simply granting permission to work on their land. On two ranches, land owners actually provided us with our own rooms in their houses to work out of, as well as loaning us horses to get around on. The latter gift was no small item, since due to the heavy rains, our study area flooded much earlier than in previous seasons. Without the use of the truck and motorcycles, horses became

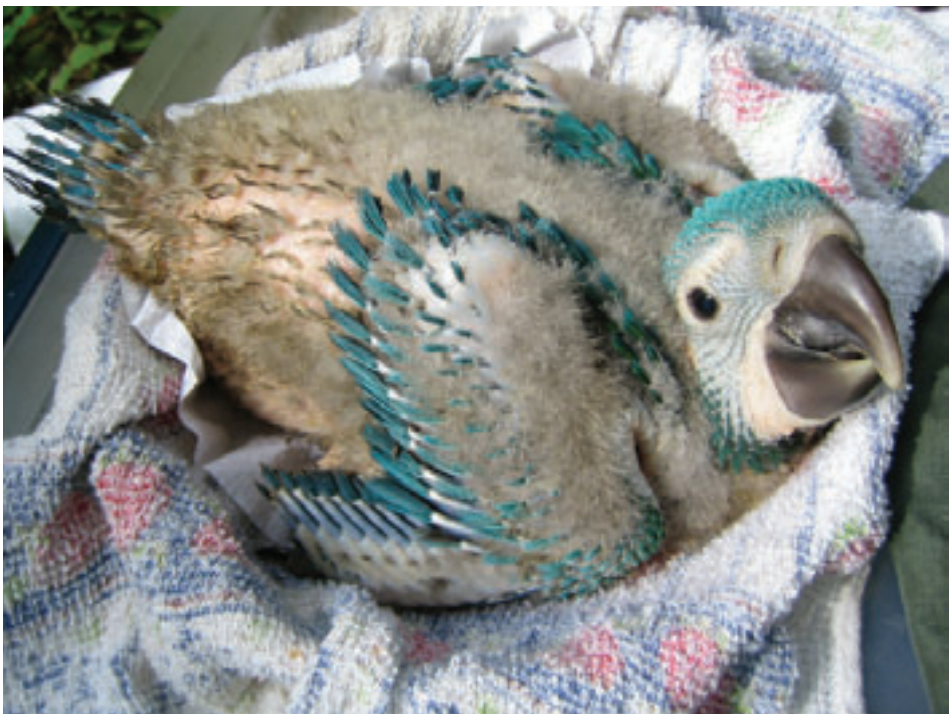
Photo: Toa Kyle

Despite the drought some motacú palms still produced large clusters of fruit, only to have them destroyed by fire. This palm had two racimes of fruit burned just as they ripened. The pulp of motacú fruits is the preferred food of Blue-throated Macaws.

essential in maintaining our field efforts. Another rancher who didn't even have Blue-throats on his property offered us the use of his small plane, free of charge, to arrive at an important site. This site was inaccessible by land due to flooding and its remote location. That there are concerned, conservation-minded cattle ranchers in the Beni area such as these bodes well for the future of Blue-throated Macaws.

By having more people in the field this season, the level of information we collected increased dramatically. For example, we now know that the 2004 breeding season was a good year for Blue-throat chicks. In previous seasons we'd rarely observe more than 3 or 4 first-year chicks throughout the entire study area. However, this past year we saw a total of eight chicks north of Trinidad (including the two chicks we worked with in 2004) and are aware of at least two chicks entering the smaller population south of Trinidad. Although at first glance these numbers seem low, to see this many wild Blue-throat chicks represents a 'bumper crop' when one considers that we're aware of only about 100 birds at present. In 2004, the total rainfall for the year was almost 1,000 mm (36 inches) greater than for 2005. Whether this higher level of rain translates into more chicks entering the wild remains to be seen. We've also begun to learn that Blue-throated Macaw are not as sedentary as previously thought. In past seasons I could show up at a given forest island and reliably find a pair of macaws there. Not so in 2005, as it appeared that some birds were shifting territories in

Photo: Pete Haverson



'Soledad' at four weeks of age. Soledad is an appropriate name for her, as it means, 'alone or solitary'. Soledad was the only chick our team worked with during what was a difficult field season weather wise. She fledged successfully January 31st 2006. A special thanks to volunteers Pedro Costa and Ulla Kail for monitoring Soledad's progress until fledging.

response to drought and fires. This interplay between habitat quality and the distribution of birds is an important parameter that needs to be examined in the future, possibly with the use of radio telemetry to determine where macaws are moving to once traditional areas are abandoned.

Finally, by having more observers this year, we were able to get a better sense of the extent to which nests fail. In past seasons there existed many question marks with respect to the fates of nests. For example, we'd see a pair guarding a nest, come back in a month to find no further activity at the nest and not know what had happened. This season we started to fill in the blanks, so to speak, including the nests that never made it to the incubation stage. One nest was blown over by strong winds while being excavated (if you guessed this tree was a motacú, you guessed right), another three were taken over by larger bird species, two of which by Toco Toucans (*Ramphastos toco*). While we knew toucans were nest predators of Blue-throats, we didn't know they were nest competitors as well.

The more complete information we have from this season paints a rather bleak picture of Blue-throated Macaw nesting success. Of the 14 potential nests we located, only one fledged a single chick.

Photo: Charles Hesse

This nest cavity was carved by WPT workers in 2002. It has been guarded annually by a Blue-throat pair since 2003. The pair has significantly expanded the nest entrance so that both can perch in the entrance. I'm shown here installing a noose for climbing purposes. Unfortunately no chicks have been known to fledge from this nest, possibly due to annual nest failure, or worse, the pair are old and beyond breeding condition (yet still follow their instincts to guard and occupy a nest site each year).

Photos: Charles Hesse

Digital cameras with decent optical zooms and image stabilizers now permit us to quickly and reliably ID Blue-throats in the field by examining feather line patterns, unique for each individual. We'll continue to keep track of the movements and survival of known individuals (18 identified thus far and counting).

This high rate of nest failure helps explain the rarity of the species and highlights the difficulties it faces in recovery. It may be in part due to the effects of the main trapping episodes of the ´70s and ´80s, when hundreds, possibly thousands, of Blue-throats were removed from the Beni. The ex-trapper I worked with for two seasons used to tell me of seeing groups of 16 Blue-throats together during his trapping days. Today, we're ecstatic to see a flock of half that number. A larger population of Blue-throats is in a better position to compete with other macaw species for choice nesting sites and resources. I've seen examples of this in the field as a Blue-throat pair tries in vain to ward off flocks of 6-8 Blue and Gold Macaws interested in the same nest tree. Presumably these larger groups of Blue and Golds are related birds that aid one another in nesting disputes. Lacking the strength in numbers that Blue and Golds possess, lone Blue-throat pairs are left with the remaining, marginally useful nesting sites.

With the concept of poor quality nests in mind, we need to either improve existing nest cavities or provide more artificial cavities that Blue-throats will select over natural ones. I had the pleasure of working with Pete Haverson this season in the Beni. Pete has worked on the Echo Parakeet (*Psittacula eques*) project in Mauritius for three field seasons and was a wealth of information for what methods have contributed to that species' remarkable recovery. The subject of artificial nests is a daunting one though. Pete mentioned that over 100 different models were tested before the Echos finally accepted one. At this stage I'm more inclined to carve cavities into existing trees, rather than put up nest boxes. The trick is making the carving process less labour intensive, possibly by getting solar-charged power tools into the field.

Talking to Pete about the Echo project also gave me a better perspective on where we are with Blue-throats at present, and where we need to go. The situation in Mauritius wasn't turned around in a couple of years. It was the product of building on experiences gained year after year. We've seen that crossing our fingers and hoping the weather cooperates in future nesting seasons isn't an option. The 2005 season has shown us that nest failure among Blue-throats is much higher than previously thought. Clearly, even more active management of nests is required, including structurally enhancing incubating nests. It's a 'Catch 22' with respect to abandonment fears but we've seen that by being overly cautious, nests can and will fail. We aim to learn from the lessons learned in 2005, with the goal of tackling the challenges in 2006 head on.

Advancing the knowledge of New Zealand's Red-crowned Kakariki

By LUIS ORTIZ CATEDRAL and DÌANNE BRUNTON

Photo: Weihong Ji

Luis Ortiz Catedral and Dìanne Brunton.

New Zealand is home to a bizarre collection of parrots. Perhaps the most renowned species are the flightless Kakapo (*Strigops habroptilus*) and the inquisitive Kea (*Nestor notabilis*). Apart from these species, New Zealand holds the most diverse array of Kakariki found anywhere in the world (five species according to molecular studies). Kakariki belong to the genus *Cyanoramphus*; a group of green, small, long tailed parakeets. Most Kakariki species present a coloured pattern in the face, which is possibly associated with mate choice. The only exception is the Antipodes Islands Kakariki (*C. unicolor*), which is uniformly green (as its scientific name indicates). Being isolated from other land-masses for millions of years and lacking predatory terrestrial mammals, the New Zealand environment favoured strange adaptations in Kakariki, such as, the habit of foraging and nesting on the ground. What originally helped these species to make use of their habitat became a fatal vulnerability when exotic animals like rats, cats and stoats were introduced by humans. Of all the parrot genera present on islands of the south Pacific, *Cyanoramphus* has experienced the most extinctions in recent times.

Despite a remarkable reduction in their former habitat, some species such as the Yellow-crowned Kakariki (*C. auriceps*) and the rare Orange-fronted Kakariki (*C. malherbi*) still persist in mainland forests of New Zealand. Offshore islands free of mammalian predators have become the last stronghold of the Red-crowned Kakariki (*C. novaezelandiae*), with mainland sightings being an infrequent event. The Red-crowned Kakariki has recently been included as 'vulnerable' in the IUCN classification system. Efforts have been made to help the species recovery. These include eradication of predators and translocation of founding populations to predator-free islands. Sadly, little is known about the biology of this species. In order to better understand the puzzling reproductive biology of Red-crowned Kakariki and to obtain valuable information to improve conservation practices we started a research project in 2004.

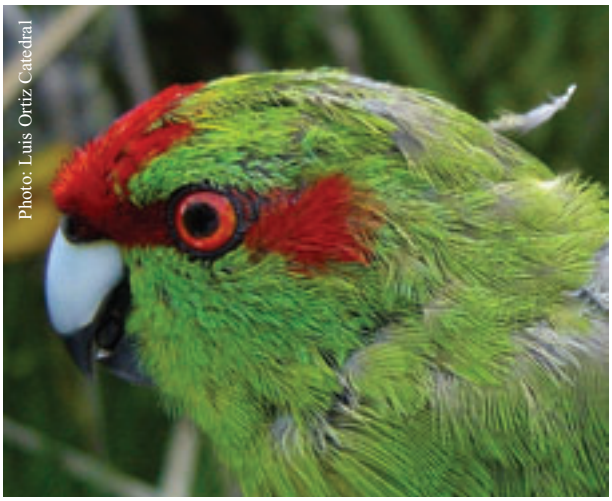


Photo: Luis Ortiz Catedral

Adult female Red-crowned Kakariki.

Photo: Luis Ortiz Catedral

Red-crowned Kakariki are commonly seen foraging in Cabbage trees (Cordyline australis).

Our study site is Tiritiri Matangi Island, a world renowned bird sanctuary close to Auckland, the largest New Zealand city. Red-crowned Kakariki were translocated to Tiritiri Matangi in the 70's and are now very common throughout the island. This is a unique site to study Red-crowned Kakariki, not only because of their abundance but also because we can advance our understanding of the dynamics of translocated populations. The aims of our research can be divided into two categories: theory and conservation. From a theoretical perspective we are interested in determining the effects of egg size, clutch size, sex and hatching asynchrony in the survival of chicks. Our conservation objectives include describing the nesting behaviour of Red-crowned Kakariki, the characteristics of suitable nesting places and factors affecting reproductive output. Tiritiri Matangi is also an excellent place for educational campaigns and increasing public awareness of environmental issues. Thousands of school children visit the island each year and come in close contact with the Red-crowned Kakariki and other remarkable species. Our research has received generous support from different organizations worldwide and to all these, we would like to extend our gratitude to T*iritiri Matangi Inc., Fullers Ferries, Kawau Kat Cruises* (New Zealand), *The Parrot Society* (UK), *Stiftung Avifauna Protecta* (Germany) and *Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnologia* (Mexico). We also thank the World Parrot Trust for the opportunity to present this information in *Psittacene*. Through this, we would like to attract new donations that will make it possible to extend our research and advance our main goal: the long term preservation of Red-crowned Kakariki. If you want to know more about our project, don't hesitate to contact us at: The Ecology and Conservation Group, Institute of Natural Resources, Massey University, Building 5, Oteha Rohe, Albany Campus, Private Bag 102-904, North Shore Mail Centre, Auckland, New Zealand, Email luiscatedral@gmail.com

Photo: Dianne Brunton

A healthy Red-crowned Kakariki chick, two weeks old.

Recent observations of the critically endangered *Sulphurea* subspecies of Yellow-crested Cockatoo

Rawa Aopa Watumohai National Park SE Sulawesi, Indonesia

By DUDI NANDIKA, S. Si, Department of Biology, As-Syafi'iyah Islamic University, Jakarta, Indonesia

The Lesser Sulphur-crested (or Yellow-crested) Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea)* is an endangered Indonesian species and one of only five cockatoo species represented on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The species is comprised of four generally accepted races (subspecies): *parvula*, *abbotti*, *citronocristata* and *sulphurea* .The latter is endemic only to the Indonesian island of Sulawesi (formerly Celebes). Extant studies suggest that although some small populations may exist elsewhere, the remaining cockatoos are mostly confined to two locations in SE Sulawesi: Rawa Aopa Watumohai National Park (RAWNP) and Buton Island, and a single location in central Sulawesi (Pasoso Island). Of these, RAWNP is clearly the most significant. RAWNP is unique in having 7 ecosystem types, that is: tidal mudflats, mangrove forest, wooded savannas, hill forest, swamp forest, peat swamp and cultivation. In 2000, a team from the Indonesian Forestry Service (PHKA), BirdLife Indonesia, and the NGO YASCITA (Yayasan Cinta Alam-Kendari) team undertook a survey of *C. sulphurea sulphurea* in selected areas of RAWNP and estimated a total population of perhaps 100 individuals or less. The current study, nearly five years later, represents a follow-up to that study, and was designed to gain new information into the status and habits of this highly endangered subspecies of cockatoo.

Photo: WPT

The Lesser Sulphur-crested cockatoo is one of the species threatened by deforestation and trapping on Buton.

Population and nests

The study was conducted starting twice a day, at 5.30 am and 5.00 pm. A total of 37 cockatoos were observed in 7 surveyed locations (28 in forested areas; 9 in cultivated areas), yielding a extraordinarily low average density of 1.3 individual per thousand sq. km., which is much less than even another highly endangered subspecies of *C. sulphurea*, the Citron-crested cockatoo *C.s. citronocristata*. Six apparent cockatoo nest holes were sighted, with at least two seeming to be active. At one, the mated pair could be seen to interact energetically with crests raised at the nesthole entrance (see photo). The apparent nest holes were located in *Alstonia scholaris* or *Parinarium corimborum* trees and were at heights of approx. 10, 12, 13, 15, 15, and 20 m., respectively.

Photo: Dudi Nandika

Two Lesser Sulphur-crested cockatoos outside their nesthole with crests raised.

Daily activities

In the morning, activities consisted of perching in trees (43% of time observed), eating (12%), playing (22%) and other activities such as moving about (22%), 'sun- bathing' in the tree top, preening and vocalizing. In the afternoon, eating increased to 30%, whereas perching declined to 27%. Playing decreased, but socializing increased from 1 to 9% of time. The cockatoo preferred the middle spatial canopy (mean=61%) followed by using the top spatial canopy (30%) for performing daily activities. These percentages for middle canopy position broke down as follows: socialization, 100%; eating, 51%; moving about, 79%. When eating fruit and young leaves, the cockatoos were situated in the middle and top spatial strata or end of branches. Perching at top strata on dry branches predominated during mornings. The middle strata in the canopy seemed to be a 'pleasurable' place where there is protection from predators, sun's rays and hostile climate. They used the bottom strata only for perching and limited movements. The dominant plant species used at the Laea location are Tompira and Bitti (*Vitex coffasus* and *vitex galabra*), Kuiya (*Alstonia scholaris*), Bamboo (*Bamboosa spinosa*), Behi spp, and Soasoarate.

Data on the food preferences of Indonesian cockatoos in the wild are limited. Ten species of tree, bush or plant were observed to provide food for the cockatoo (Table).

Cockatoos also consume the fruit of tall timber trees such as "kayu besi" (*Intsia bijuga)* the source of "ironwood" for building and tangkalase, a deciduous hardwood tree. Thus logging might have adverse effects on cockatoo survival by eliminating food sources and destroying nesting sites, at least in drought years. In fact, non-structured interviews suggested

No	Local Name	Scientific Name	Part eaten
1	Tompira	*Vitex coffasus*	Fruit
2	Bitti	*Vitex galabra*	Fruit
3	Tahulo	*Mallotus floribundus*	Young bud leaf
4	Tangkalase	*Gmelina asiatica*	Fruit
5	Bambu	*Bamboosa spinosa*	Flower
6	Kayu besi	*Intsia bijuga*	Fruit
7	Tampate	*Lagerstoemia foetida*	Seed
8	Soasoarate	-	Fruit
9	Onangki/Kayu raja	-	Fruit
10	Kuiya	*Alstonia scholaris*	Young leaf

that it was easier to see these rare birds in the dry season when cockatoo food was more limited and they were likely to frequent cultivated areas.

Other foods likely eaten, as observed by others and summarized, include: fruits/seeds of maize (*Zea mays)*; banana (*Musa)*; mango (*Mangifera indica*); papaya (*Carica papaya)*; fig (*Ficus)*; guava (*Psidium guajava)*; jambu bol (*Eugenia malaccensis)*; "kedondong batu"; "marang taipa" ; prickly pear (*Opuntia elation)*; srikaya (*Annona squamosa)*; flowers of coconut (*Cocos nucifer)*; tamarind (*Tamarindus indica)*; flowers and fruit of the mangrove (*Avicennia)*; fruit of marangtaipa (*Dehaasia)* and young leaves of Sonneratia; and "ninifo", thought to be a *Canarium*.

Cockatoo were seen to interact with several non-psittacine species: *Coracias temminckii,* (a purple-winged roller, which invaded a cockatoo nest hole, leading to competitive fighting); *Aplonis panayensis* (a Philippine glossy starling, which was seen to chase a cockatoo); and *Spilornis rufipectus* (a Sulawesi serpent-eagle, which also was observed chasing a cockatoo).

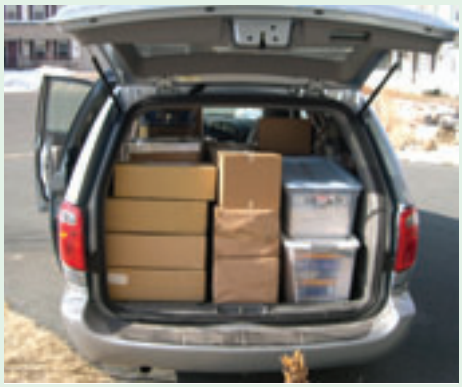
Concluding remarks

It is likely that at most only a few hundred individuals of the nominate race of *C. sulphurea* survive in the wild on Sulawesi; the breeding population might be only one-third to one-half as large. Once common enough to be considered an agricultural pest, it was one of most available of the world's cockatoos in the marketplace. Although no attempt was made to reproduce the 2001 study for the sake of making precise analyses of population trends, it is clear that the number of birds at this, its most populous remaining site, is very low and possibly declining. Continued trapping, plus habitat limitation, now threaten it with extinction and the race is described as "potentially beyond recovery" in the Parrot Action Plan. It would be a tremendous shame if the world gave up on this beautiful cockatoo referred to in Indonesia as "*kakatua kecil jambul-kuning*"-- the little cockatoo with the yellow crest.

Acknowledgements

Stewart A. Metz, M.D, Director of The Indonesian Parrot Project and Project Bird Watch, funded the research. Thanks for their help in planning and executing the surveys to Biology Department of As-Syafi'iyah Islamic University, Profauna Indonesia, BirdLife Indonesia and Asia, Yascita, Yari, PHPA and BKSDA of Southeast Sulawesi, local people in Hukaea-Laea, all friends in Jakarta Birdwatcher Community and Mahacala Halualeo University. Special thanks to Dwi Agustina.

WPT-USA moves to Florida!



As all our USA members are well aware, Joanna Eckles has been ably managing this large portion of the Trust for going on seven years now! Having now thoroughly rebuilt and developed this branch - which frequently trades places with the UK as the Trust's largest - Joanna decided it was time to hand the baton over to someone new.

As luck would have it, our own Glenn Reynolds - long time Trust supporter, founder and manager of the Golden Conure Fund and until recently a World Parrot Trust Trustee has decided that he'd like to take on the many and varied responsibilities for the WPT-USA. Glenn just returned from a fast and furious few days of training in (frigid!) Minnesota to get up to speed as the new WPT administrator.

Joanna will be wearing a new set of hats for us at the Trust, working on a variety of communications tasks including writing and editing work on *PsittaScene*, communicating with members, donors, and branches, and giving presentations on the Trust at various parrot gatherings. She will also continue to work with our partners in the Zoo and Veterinary communities. I know we're always asking for your patience, but at least for the next month, if you can please bear with us while this transition is taking place, things should be back to normal - or hopefully better than normal with both Glenn and Joanna up and running - quite soon.

Joanna (with helper Torianna) and Glenn got unexpectected assistance from Rollx President Mike Harris in the move to Florida. Rollx is a Minnesota company that converts vans for the handicapped. They carried all of our (WPT USA) equipment and supplies free of charge in a van being transported to Florida. Their contribution saved the Trust considerable money and time which we'd much rather spend on Parrots than on FedEx!

Thank you Rollx Vans

A new hybrid population of *Agapornis personatus* x *A. fischeri* near Arusha, Tanzania

By WERNER LANTERMANN

Photo: Werner Lantermann

Pure Masked (right) and hybrid (left) Lovebird at a campside near Meserani Snakepark.

Masked Lovebirds (*Agapornis personatus*) and Fischer's Lovebirds (*Agapornis fischeri*) are endemic to Tanzania. There have been a few sightings at the northern tanzanian border to Kenya. The release of cagebirds near big citys,(e.g. Nairobi, Mombasa) and a population at Lake Naivasha, Kenya. The natural distribution of both species comprises huge areas in northern Tanzania. Until the middle of the 20th century they were strictly separated by ecological barriers. There are a few feral populations of Lovebirds beyond the former distribution area, some of them in sympatry with the other species mentioned. There are sightings in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga, Morogoro, Dodoma and Arusha. At least the last two are hybrid populations. Most of them are due to the intended or unintended release of cagebirds, but the origins of the Dodoma and Arusha populations is questionable.

For Dodoma the few sightings might suggest that the Fischer's Lovebirds within the area of the Masked Lovebird are either wanderers outside their southernmost distribution or that this species has extended its natural range to the south in the last decades. But hybdrids with Masked Lovebirds are not known from this region up to now.

The populations in Arusha need more study, because they are the only hybrid populations located within the overlapping area of both species. So the question is whether these populations are also originated by the release of cage birds or by natural hybridisation. This is not easy to determine, because Arusha is situated at the very northeastern border of the overlapping hybrid zone.

Photo: Werner Lantermann

Pure Masked Lovebird near its shelter at a tourist hut.

During the last trip to Tanzania in August 2004 the author found a new hybrid population on a campsite near Meserani Snakepark, some 25 km west of Arusha town. Nearly 20 birds were seen there, most of them obviously pure Masked Lovebirds, but some showed signs of hybridisation with Fischer's Lovebird such as washed breast colours and obscure head colours. The birds didn't show any shyness and lived in the trees and shrubs between the tourist camp. Some of them found shelter under the roofs of tourist huts. Again there is the question about the origin of this population. Is there a natural extension of Fischer's Lovebird distribution to the west? Are there a few wanderers that hybridise with the resident Masked Lovebirds? Or is the establishment of this recent hybrid population caused by released cagebirds?

At the moment we can only speculate about the answers to these questions. But there is no doubt that there are no more ecological or ethological barriers to prevent hybridisation of both parrot species in Tanzania in the near future.

Email: w.lantermann@arcor.de

The dove, the shearwater, the mockingbird and the parakeet

why Socorro Island is a global conservation priority

By JUAN ESTEBAN MARTINEZ GÓMEZ

Socorro Island is one of the four volcanic islands that form the Revillagigedo Archipelago in the Mexican Pacific. This island lies 460 km SSW off the tip of Baja California; it has the highest mountain in the Archipelago, Mount Evermann (1100m) and thus hosts the most diverse flora and fauna as well. About 30% of its plants are endemic to the island or the archipelago and all native vertebrates are endemic to the species or subspecies level. Consequently, this island has been considered a global biodiversity hot spot by *Conservation International*, a priority endemic bird area of the world by *Bird Life International* and a site of potential imminent extinctions by the *American Bird Conservancy* and the global *Alliance for Zero Extinction*. If timely conservation actions are not taken, four endemic bird species on Socorro will experience a rapid decline and subsequent extinction in the coming decade. These species include the Socorro Dove (extinct in the wild already), Townsend's Shearwater (approx. 1000 pairs and long maturation), the Socorro Mockingbird and the Socorro Parakeet (*Aratinga brevipes*)(approx. 500 individuals in both cases).

All Photos: Juan Cornejo

The *Island Endemics Foundation* and *Endémicos Insulares A.C.* are spearheading conservation efforts for the regions by promoting the reintroduction of the Socorro Dove to its ancestral habitat. These efforts involved an international partnership including 10 European countries, the United States and México. The *Frankfurt zoo* oversees the European Breeding Program, in Mexico, the Navy has provided invaluable support to build state-of-the-art breeding facilities to create a founder population of Socorro Doves in the wild.

To be successful, conservation efforts must be supported by comprehensive management. The *Instituto de Biología* at Mexico's National University is implementing a reforestation and habitat restoration program to halt erosion and to restore the southern part of Socorro, now degraded by sheep overgrazing, to a stage that closely resembles its pristine conditions. Germplasm and plants will be drawn from the Northern part of the island where sheep have never entered. The *University of Colima* and the *Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas* will remove the sheep on the island. The *National Commission of Natural Protected Areas* and the *Directorship of Wildlife*, both at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, will provide their support to accomplish these goals.

The Socorro Dove Project has triggered this international cooperation with an increasing number of participating institutions and should provide a solid foundation for the restoration of Socorro Island's unique flora and fauna. This year, the *American Bird Conservancy* and *Conservation International* granted funds to *Endémicos Insulares, A. C.* to conduct basic monitoring of the Townsend's Shearwater, the Socorro Mockingbird, the Socorro Parakeet and the Socorro Wren (as an indicator of habitat quality) to obtain demographic benchmarks before restoration efforts are launched. Additional support is required to guarantee long-term (5-10 years) monitoring of these species to evaluate the success of this ambitious conservation campaign.

Military Macaw nesting cliff in Otachique, Chihuahua, Mexico

By JAVIE CRUZ-NIETO, GABRIELA ORTIZ-MACIEL, MIGUEL CRUZ-NIETO, MANUEL BUJANDA-RICO and ERNESTO ENKERLIN, Photos by JAVIER CRUZ

In the middle the Sierra Madre Occidental mountains in north-central Mexico lies a unique and sacred place: Otachique. This region harbors ancient culture mummies, cave painting, pottery artifacts, and represents one of the remaining places in Chihuahua, Mexico where Military Macaws still nest.

Military Macaws (*Ara militaris*) are endangered according to Mexican government and vulnerable according to IUCN. The main threats faced by the macaws are the same for nearly all parrots: poaching and habitat destruction.

In 2003, we located a 25 metre (82 ft) high cliff frequented by these macaws, and since that year, we have been able to survey the cliff occasionally to determine how many macaws nest each season. In 2004 we registered 12 active nests, and in 2005 this number doubled to 25 active nests.

This nest cliff is located in a canyon approximately 700 metres (0.5 miles) wide by 14km (8.6 miles) in length. The forest is composed of mature pines and firs with oaks, some gallery temperate forest remains. A few Thick-billed parrot (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*) nests are located in the area as well. The place has a great potential for ecotourism. Local people have built cabins and implemented tours for fishing, riding, hiking and camping. Despite its sacredness, we have been told that macaws are still shot on occassion, since they eat peaches grown nearby during their nesting season.

Due to these specific problems faced by Military Macaws in Otachique, our main goal in the coming year will be to evaluate the macaw's productivity and fruit destruction, with the hope of implementing alternatives to preserve the macaws as well as locals' peach orchards.

This study represents the first Military Macaw conservation work to be carried out in the State of Chihuahua and a great opportunity to reconcile conservation needs of the macaws with the agricultural needs of the local people.

What to do about the flu

part three

By JAMIE GILARDI

Unfortunately after several months of what seemed to be slowing down, H5N1 avian influenza appears to have gained a second wind. In recent weeks, outbreaks of the disease have been reported in poultry in Nigeria and more recently in wild swans in central Europe. Given that the news has been progressing rapidly by the day, a quarterly magazine is an ineffective tool to keep members informed of the diseases movements. We encourage you to pay close attention to local news and we'll endeavour to update our website with flu news as it breaks. (*http://worldparrottrust.org/flu*)

As much of Europe is now (finally) encouraging poultry producers and owners to bring their birds indoors, we highlight the importance of all bird owners to also take this high-priority step at this time. If for some reason it is impossible to bring your birds indoors, we suggest that you take three steps to minimize potential exposure to all wild birds.

- Feed and water your birds in a place which wild birds can not access.
- Cover your enclosures or aviaries so that the birds' living areas are not exposed to birds flying overhead.
- Take whatever steps you can to deter wild birds from the vicinity of your enclosures. This last step may involve pruning or covering vegetation which attracts wild birds, using bird netting to cover your aviaries so that wild birds can not enter, moving wild bird feeders away from captive bird areas.

Tragically there have been human cases and fatalities in Turkey, and it would be foolhardy to expect human cases of H5N1 influenza to stop anytime soon. Consequently, we encourage all people on the continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe to exercise extreme caution around wild birds and areas frequented by wild birds.

Ten easy steps to avoid bird flu for you and your birds

As many predicted last summer, H5N1 avian influenza or "bird flu" has now arrived in eastern, southern, and central Europe. The virus is not yet known to be contagious between humans, and therefore the threat to Europeans remains minimal and avoidable. Direct contact with infected birds appears to be the primary means of contracting the virus, but once a human is infected it remains extremely dangerous. If some contact with wild birds or poultry is unavoidable, take basic precautions such as immediately showering and washing exposed clothes. If you must come in close contact with birds, bird feathers or faeces, wear a paper mask (rated N95 or better) and latex gloves during exposure, and dispose of them properly.

To help guide responsible and preventative action, we are currently advising the following steps to minimize the risk of you or your birds contracting avian flu. These guidelines are meant to be useful in the context of basic prevention: anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms - fever, cough, sore throat, aching muscles, etc. - should seek medical assistance immediately.

Captive birds in and around the home

1. If you have captive birds, bring them inside or otherwise completely isolate them from all wild birds and other captive birds. Practice sound biosecurity: do not bring in new birds or allow your birds to have contact with any outside birds, captive or wild. If possible, have your captive birds tested for avian flu by your local veterinarian. Keep detailed records of testing also a specific list of biosecurity measures you have in place for you and your birds.

Precautions around wild birds- if you have pet or aviary birds then

2. Avoid feeding all wild birds; including the use of bird feeders and feeding ducks or pigeons in city parks or town squares. If you do choose to take this risk, exercise extreme caution (gloves, masks, aprons, etc.) when handling the bird feeders and waterers. Keep all wild bird food, equipment, and clothing well away from your captive bird areas and equipment.

3. Exercise caution in public places frequented by city pigeons and sparrows, avoiding concentrations of birds and areas where they feed and sleep. Take careful note of places where bird faeces accumulates on streets, sidewalks, cars, etc. as an indicator of roosting locations (the main entry sidewalk at London's Heathrow, for instance, often has a prominent accumulation of pigeon faeces awaiting those stepping out of their cars).

4. As summer approaches, avoid bathing and swimming in lakes, rivers, and coastal areas with high concentrations of waterbirds: ducks, swans, geese and gulls in particular.

5. Avoid visiting farms or households with poultry, particularly if the birds are housed outside. If you must visit, take the preventative measures described above when in direct contact with birds or holding areas.

6. Avoid all direct contact with wild birds such as hunting, handling and eating. This is especially true of waterfowl which are more likely to be eaten and may be among the more common carriers of this disease.

7. If you find a dead bird or one that appears to be sick, do not approach it or touch it. If you have one or more outdoor cats which may consume wild birds, note that this strain of avian flu has infected cats in Asia and Europe, although there is no evidence that the cats have passed the virus on to humans.

Poultry and other birds as food

8. If you choose to eat turkey, duck, or chicken meat, be sure that it is well cooked prior to eating. Commercially produced eggs should already be disinfected prior to shipment, but take extra precautions after handling and cook thoroughly before eating. If you acquire eggs directly from chickens, from a neighbour, or from free-range sources, take the same precautions you would if handling the birds themselves.

9. If you choose to slaughter birds for food, wear protective rubber gloves and glasses, a waterproof apron, and a disposable mask, which fits closely over your nose and mouth (ideally rated N95 or better).

10. If preparing raw poultry or other bird meat for the table, wear gloves and a mask during preparation, and after preparation thoroughly wash and disinfect all knifes, containers, cutting surfaces which may have had contact with any uncooked bird meat.

Flu Education Brochure

As flu has now moved from southeast Asia and China through Russia to Turkey and eastern Europe, and now Nigeria and Algeria, the number of cultures, languages, and alphabets (!) it has encountered along the way is quite astounding. As the virus will also impact many who are unable to read, the graphical messages are especially important as illustrated in this Algerian pamphlet.

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

وزارة الصحة والسكان وإصلاح المستشفيات

إذا كنتم على سفر في آسيا أو تركيا

حذار من أنفلونزا الطيور

أنفلونزا الطيور مرض معدي ينتقل عبر الفيروس الذي يمس الدواجن (دجاج، الديك الرومي...) الطيور الأليفة (الببغاء، الكناري، الدرة)، الطيور المتوحشة...

ينتشر هذا الداء حاليا في آسيا و ينتقل تدريجيا إلى بلدان أخرى مثل تركيا

ينتقل إلى الإنسان نادرا ، بعد اتصال وثيق ومتكرر ومستديم مع الفضلات والإفرازات للحيوان المصاب حيا أو ميتا.

République Algérienne Démocratique et Populaire

Ministère de la Santé, de la Population et de la Réforme Hospitalière

Si vous êtes en voyage en Asie ou en Turquie

Attention à la Grippe Aviaire

La grippe aviaire ou grippe du poulet, est une maladie infectieuse virale qui touche la volaille (poulet, dinde…), les oiseaux de compagnie (perroquet, perruche, canari…) et les oiseaux sauvages.

Elle sévit actuellement en Asie et progresse vers d'autres pays comme la Turquie.

Elle se transmet à l'homme très rarement, après un contact étroit, répété et prolongé avec les déjections et les sécrétions respiratoires d'animaux infectés vivants ou morts.

Si vous êtes en voyage, voici quelques précautions à prendre

- Evitez tout contact avec des volailles ou volatiles, vivants ou morts et notamment leurs déjections.
- Evitez les endroits où se concentrent volailles et volatiles : marchés, lieux d'élevage...
- Evitez la consommation de produits alimentaires dérivés de la volaille, crus ou peu cuits.

A votre retour en Algérie

- Evitez d'introduire, dans notre pays, tout type d'oiseaux de compagnie : perroquet, canari, perruche…, et tout type de produits dérivés : préparations culinaires à base de volaille…

Se laver les mains régulièrement !

بعض النصائح التي يجب إتباعها إذا كنتم على سفر:

– تجنبوا أي اتصال مع الدواجن أو الطيور الداجنة الحية أو الميتة لا سيما فضلاتهم،

– تجنبوا الأماكن التي تتجمع فيها الطيور أو الدواجن: الأسواق، أماكن التربية...،

– تجنبوا استهلاك المواد الغذائية المشتقة من الدواجن ، طازجة أو قليلة الطهي،

عند رجوعكم إلى أرض الوطن

– تجنبوا إدخال أي نوع من أنواع الطيور الأليفة إلى البلاد: الببغاء، الكناري، الدرة... وكل أنواع المواد المشتقة منها : كالتحضيرات المطبوخة التي أساسها الدواجن.

يجب غسل الأيدي بانتظام

Psitta News

Rediscovery of Australia's illusive Night Parrot

An enigmatic species of parrot - last seen mummified on a Queensland roadside in 1990 - has surfaced at the centre of a dispute in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

Ecologists working for Andrew Forrest claim a "very convincing" sighting of three critically endangered Night Parrots (*Geopsittacus occidentalis*) in marshes at Mulga Downs, the pastoral station owned by Australia's richest woman - and Mr Forrest's mining competitor - Gina Rinehart.

Ms Rinehart had been negotiating for the land on Mulga Downs to be protected for conservation when the pastoral lease is renewed in 2015. But Mr Forrest's Fortescue Metals Group has a mining tenement on the same piece of land and is determined to press ahead with a multi-million dollar development. The company has written a management plan to ensure the protection of the bird.

http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,16996493%255E30417,00.html, The Weekend Australian, Paige Taylor, Oct 22, 2005

$1.3m funding to protect rare birds

Protection for some of Australia's most beautiful native birds, including the endangered Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*), is to be boosted with $1.3 million in federal funding.

The initiative was aimed at preserving the declining habitat of Australian bird species.

Other birds to benefit from the funding were the Diamond Tire Tail, Victoria's threatened Bush Stone Curlew, the Masked Owl and the Black Chinned Honeyeater.

Environment Minister Ian Campbell announced the funding from the regional competitive component of the Natural Heritage Trust.

Senator Campbell said the move allowed government, community groups and private landholders to work together to implement strategies to preserve and improve the

habitat for many threatened and endangered native birds.

"Many bird species require tree hollows for nesting and suitable feeding habitat," he said in a statement.

Much of this is protected within state forests and we also need to preserve these habitats on private land.

Senator Campbell said the initiative worked with landholders to protect and rehabilitate habitat and assisted with management of remnant vegetation.

It also included the fencing of remnants from grazing stock, the revegetation of adjacent areas and roadside ecological tree thinning to encourage mature tree seed production, he said.

http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2005/10/19/1129401291105.html, Australian Associated Papers Ltd, October 19, 2005

Lory meeting in June

Following the success of the meeting held last year, Rosemary Low is organising another meeting for Lory enthusiasts. It will take place on Sunday June 4 at the same venue. This is Shirebrook Village Hall, Park Road, Shirebrook, near Mansfield, NG20 8JR, commencing at 1.30pm. Rosemary Low will give a slide show on feeding lories and Allan Manning will talk on breeding them. The meeting is important for lory breeders to maintain contact and exchange stock. The local council has decreed that no birds will be allowed inside the hall but For Sale and Wanted lists will be compiled at the meeting and sent to all those attending. Entrance will cost £4 per person. Any profit will be donated to parrot conservation. Further information from Rosemary Low, telephone 01623 846430.

Photo: Rosemary Low

Yellow-bibbed Lory.

Famous parrots face eviction in California - Telegraph Hill

By JUSTIN M. NORTON
Associated Press Writer

A flock of wild parrots that took up residence on a hill overlooking the bay, becoming the subject of a documentary and best-selling book, are searching for a new home after one of their perches was cut down and two others faced a similar fate.

Mark Bittner, who brought attention to the birds that have delighted tourists and residents for years, halted a crew this week before they cut down three cypresses whose owner wants them removed because they pose a hazard.

"I would be a horrible human being if I wasn't helping my friends out, and they are my friends," Bittner, 53, said as he stood outside his cabin near the lone cypress stump and the surviving pair of trees.

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2005/11/02/entertainment/e163537S90.DTL&hw=parrot&sn=002&sc=574

Raids crack wildlife syndicate

Exotic birds and eggs worth up to $600,000 have been seized in a joint operation by wildlife and customs officers to smash an importation racket in Victoria.

Some of the birds seized by state and federal authorities in a series of raids on a syndicate in regional Victoria have never been seen in Australia before. As part of a continuing investigation, which involved officers from the Australian Customs, the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH), nine search warrants were issued on eight properties.

DSE senior wildlife officer Denis Moy said officers seized illegally imported birds, eggs and other material, but would not divulge locations of the raids.

"As a result of that we have managed to secure a significant amount of evidence that will now need to be analysed and, as a result, we will then be in a position to take the investigation further," Mr Moy said.

"It's a lucrative operation, it's been ongoing now for quite a number of years, and as a result of this ongoing investigation we're now moving into the stage where people will be charged with offences."

Mr Moy said the offences carried a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail and/or a $110,000 fine.

"I think that the wildlife trade is very widespread and I think yes we are making inroads into it, but I think there's still a little way to go yet," he said.

DEH senior wildlife officer Ben Parker said some of the eggs seized came from bird species found in South-East Asia, South America and South Africa.

"We're looking at this stage at specimens worth up to $600,000 ... exotic birds, some of them have never been seen in this country before."

Officials say investigations have also centred on the illegal interstate movement of wildlife, and the collection of both eggs and birds from the wild, such as black cockatoos and the endangered Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo.

http://www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,17465774-1243,00.html?from=rss December 05, 2005

Smuggled birds taste freedom again

The Namibian (Windhoek)

Sixty six of the Ruppell's Parrots (*Poicephalus rueppelli*) confiscated by Namibian border police from a smuggler near Onhelewa at the Namibia-Angolan border in September have been released back into the wild.

Hobatere, on the western border of the Etosha National Park and a site west of Swartbooisdrift on the Kunene River were selected as release sites.

All the birds have been ringed for possible identification later.

The smuggler, who evaded arrest and fled back into Angola, had crammed the parrots into a small wire cage (just 25x60x40 cm) and the birds were in a poor condition when the Police confiscated them.

Erwin Tjikuua of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) at Ondangwa alerted Dr Pauline Lindeque, MET's Director of Scientific Services, about the confiscation.

Tjikuua then personally transported the birds to Windhoek.

The parrots were kept in quarantine at the Namibia Animal Rehabilitation Research and Education Centre (Narrec) in Windhoek for a month during which time they were treated for injuries, external and internal parasites and malnutrition that they had suffered.

Food for the parrots during the captive month at Narrec was donated by A and R Pet Supplies.

http://allafrica.com/stories/200511070692.html, November 7, 2005

A new accomplishment

By AIMEE MORGANA

ED - we received this as a personal communication from Aimee. Her observations were not presented nor published as scientific findings, just an update on her work with her African Grey Parrot N'kisi.

I wanted to share some bird news: N'kisi has just broken his own record for the longest grammatical sentence created by an animal. Yesterday he said: "Remember, we had the sick, but then we had to go to the doctor, my body." (I'd just gotten some medical test results back.)

This is 16 words, comparable with the longest word string ever recorded for an animal, by the chimp Nim (but his lacks any grammatical structure): "Give orange me give eat orange me eat orange give me eat orange give me you."

N'kisi's sentence shows some of his unique mistakes: for example, he tends to include himself in traumatic events I've experienced, ("we had the sick") – Showing the depth of our emotional link.

Also, his vocabulary has just reached 1150 words.

http://www.sheldrake.org/nkisi/

On a lighter note -

Woman arrested for stuffing bird into bra

By Associated Press

A Florida woman has been arrested for padding her bra – with a stolen parrot.

Jill Knispel, 35, is facing felony charges after hiding a rare Green-wing parrot (*Ara chloroptera*) in her bra and stealing it from her employer, Baby Exotic Birds, police said.

Knispel allegedly stole the bird so she could trade it for a vintage 1964 Volkswagen Karmann Ghia automobile. She couldn't resist telling the car's owner how she got the animal, according to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Turns out the car's owner is friends with the man who owns the $2,000 bird.

DNA tests confirmed the bird's identity and Knispel was charged Saturday with grand theft.

"The circumstances of the case are the most bizarre I've ever encountered," said veteran wildlife investigator Lenny Barshinger.

http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/world/wire/sns-ap-bird-in-bra,0,5097276.story?coll=sns-ap-world-, November 10, 2005, 7:42 AM EST

Parrot squawks on woman's affair

A parrot owner was alerted to his girlfriend's infidelity when his talkative pet let the cat out of the bag by squawking "I love you Gary".

Suzy Collins had been meeting ex-work colleague "Gary" for four months in the Leeds flat she shared with her partner Chris Taylor, according to reports.

Mr Taylor apparently became suspicious after Ziggy croaked "Hiya Gary" when Ms Collins answered her mobile phone.

The parrot also made smooching sounds whenever the name Gary was said on TV.

New home

Mr Taylor, 30, a computer programmer, confronted the woman he had lived with for a year who admitted the affair and moved out, several newspapers reported.

Photo: World Parrot Trust

He also gave up his eight-year-old African Grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) after the bird continued to call out Gary's name and refused to stop squawking the phrases in his ex-girlfriend's voice.

"I wasn't sorry to see the back of Suzy after what she did, but it really broke my heart to let Ziggy go," he said.

"I love him to bits and I really miss having him around, but it was torture hearing him repeat that name over and over again."

Ms Collins, 25, said: "I'm not proud of what I did but I'm sure Chris would be the first to admit we were having problems."

Ziggy - named after David Bowie's former alter ego Ziggy Stardust - has now found a new home through the offices of a local parrot dealer.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4619764.stm, 17 January 2006

Karate experts hired to control parrots

Organizers of a vintage car rally have hired karate experts to protect vehicles from marauding native parrots, a media report said Friday.

Around 40 members of a local karate club have been enlisted to protect around 140 classic cars due to visit an alpine village near Mt. Cook on New Zealand's South Island on Sunday, the New Zealand Press Association reported.

The karate experts will protect the cars from Keas (*Nestor notabilis*), sharp-beaked native parrots which have been known to damage vehicles in their search for shiny items, NZPA said.

Denis Callesen, manager of the nearby Hermitage Hotel, said bird lovers needn't be concerned that the karate experts would use martial arts moves on the parrots, which are a protected species. Their job would simply be to scare the birds away, he said.

Local wildlife ranger Ray Bellringer said the karate masters were unlikely to deter the Keas.

"They will fly around and laugh," he said.

The best method to prevent Keas from damaging vehicles was to squirt them with water pistols, he added.

Associated Press.
http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=1574389

WPT wins 2006 IAATE Conservation Award

The International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE) recently presented the World Parrot Trust with a Conservation Award for the work we've done to end the trade in wild birds into the European Union. It recognizes years of work leading up to the current temporary import ban. The Award is presented annually along with a number of Conservation Grants by IAATE's active Conservation Committee. We were fortunate, and very grateful, also to have received a $1,000 grant wholly dedicated to our continued work on Blue-throated Macaws in Bolivia.

Joanna Eckles (WPT-USA) accepts the 2006 Conservation Award from IAATE Conservation Committee Chair Jeffrey Meshach (World Bird Sanctuary, St. Louis, Missouri, USA)

IAATE is a professional group of educators working throughout the world to educate the public about animals and conservation. They work at a variety of venues including zoos and aquariums, nature centers, parks and schools. They use trained birds in their programs and many include a variety of other animals as well. The group meets annually to share knowledge and advancements in positive reinforcement training methods, show presentation skills, animal management techniques and conservation. Many of the individuals and organizations active in IAATE have also partnered with WPT in extending their education programs to connect with field conservation. We have written about their contributions often in *PsittaScene* and have had many wonderful opportunities to share our work at their conferences. IAATE has a strong committment to the conservation of birds and it's members reach tens of thousands of people a year with this important message.

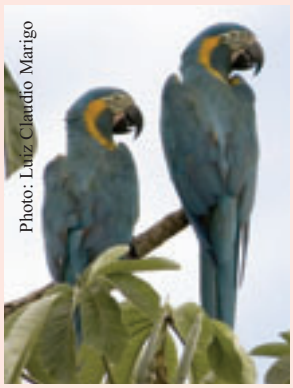


Photo: Luiz Claudio Marigo

Thank You IAATE!

WPT International Contacts

WPT Web Sites:

Main: http://www.worldparrottrust.org
USA: http://www.parrottrustusa.org
Italy: http://www.worldparrottrust.org/italia
Germany: http://www.germanparrottrust.org
Japan: http://www.worldparrottrustjapan.org

United Kingdom
Michelle Cook, (Admin), Glanmor House, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 4HB UK.
Tel: (44) 01736 751026 Fax: (44) 01736 751028,
Email: admin@worldparrottrust.org

USA
New Rep: Glenn Reynolds, PO Box 935, Lake Alfred, FL 33850, USA.
Tel/Fax: (1) 863-956-4347
Email: usa@worldparrottrust.org

Africa
Vera Dennison, PO Box 32, Link Hills, Natal 3652, South Africa.
Tel: (27) 31 763 4054 Fax: (27) 31 763 3811,
Email: africa@worldparrottrust.org

Australia
Linda Adam, Sydney, NSW Australia. Tel: (61) 2 8901 4207,
Email: australia@worldparrottrust.org
Mike Owen, 7 Monteray St., Mooloolaba, Queensland 4557, Australia.
Tel: (61) 7 5478 0454

Benelux
Jacques Gardien (Mem), Laan van Tolkien 51, 5663 RW Geldrop, The Netherlands.
Tel: (31) 40 2850844, Email:benelux@worldparrottrust.org
Netherlands enquiries: Ruud Vonk (31) 168472715
Belgium enquiries: Ronald Coen (32) 3 314 44 83
Email: coens@worldparrottrust.org

Canada
Michelle Kooistra, Canadian World Parrot Trust, Suite 425, #9-3151,
Lakeshore Rd., Kelowna, BC, V1W 3S9, Canada.
Tel: (1) 250-863-3200 Fax: (1) 250-860-0848 (include suite number)
Email: canada@worldparrottrust.org

Italy
Cristiana Senni, C.P.15021, 00143 Roma, Italy.
Email: italy@worldparrottrust.org

Japan
Tomoko Imanishi
Email: japan@worldparrottrust.org

Spain
Gemma Cruz Benitez, C / Enrique Granados, 5 ch. 4, 28290 - Las Matas,
Madrid, Spain. Tel: (34) 619 847 414 Email: spain@worldparrottrust.org

Sweden
Dan Paulsen, Tjelvarvagen 28, S-621 42 Visby, Sweden.
Email: sweden@worldparrottrust.org

Switzerland
Lars Lepperhoff, Lutschenstrasse 15, 3063 Ittigen, Switzerland.
Tel: (41) 31 922 3902 Email: switzerland@worldparrottrust.org

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (please tick)

- ☐ **Student** (Annual) £10 / US$15 / €15
- ☐ **Single** (Annual) £20 / US$30 / €30
- ☐ **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
- ☐ Additional **donation** of .....

(or equivalent exchange currency, credit card payments by Visa / Mastercard only)

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

..... Zip/Postcode .....

Telephone .....

Fax .....

Email .....

We heard about the World Parrot Trust from .....

.....

Please charge my Visa / Mastercard No.

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Expiry date ...../.....

Name on Card.....

Total Amount £ / US$ / € .....

Signature.....

OR:

Enclosed cheque made payable to World Parrot Trust ☐

Please send me some information on:

- ☐ UK Bankers Orders / US Direct Deposit
- ☐ Legacies

JOIN US NOW on our website or view our online sales items at: **www.worldparrottrust.org**

Parrots in the Wild

Socorro Parakeet
Aratinga brevipes

Photo by JUAN CORNEJO / Africam Safari

The Socorro Parakeet is endemic to Socorro, one of the four islands in the Revillagigedo Archipelago located 450km southwest of the tip of Baja California. Only 132 km2 in size, about half of the island has been badly overgrazed by introduced sheep causing large-scale habitat degradation and loss of forest needed by the parakeets for nesting. Roughly half the island is in near pristine condition and a quarter is forested. The population is estimated at 500 individuals and the species is listed as Endangered, but it is uncertain exactly how many remain today. This pair were photographed in November 2004 by Juan Cornejo, one of the participants of an international delegation during a three day visit to the island, sponsored by the Island Endemics Foundation (US), Endemicos Insulares A.C. and the Mexican Navy. The pair were very confiding and were observed for about 30 minutes by delegates hiking to Mt Evermann, the highest peak at 1130m.

Printed by Brewers Business Solutions Ltd. Tel: 01326 558000