

PsittaScene



FLY FREE... FOREVER!
EU BANS WILD BIRD IMPORTS



IN THIS ISSUE

Bird trade history

The long and winding road to victory

February 2007

Psitta Scene

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

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Editor: Joanna Eckles
Production: Karen Whitley

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fromthechairman

Hello,

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Chairman of the World Parrot Trust, and delighted that this is the issue of *PsittaScene* where we can announce that the European Union has made the decision to stop imports of wild birds for the pet trade.

My Father, Mike Reynolds, had an urgent message in the first ever issue of *PsittaScene* in 1989 - 'stop the parrot holocaust', having written to the UK Department of the Environment, European Commission and IUCN to press them to curb parrot imports. What a joy that he is here now, and to know that the Trust spearheaded this campaign when many organisations considered it unachievable just a few years ago. The EU based its decision on bird flu prevention, but invited and took note of the research which the World Parrot Trust and our partners provided on conservation and welfare issues.

I have been a Trustee for some years, having grown up at Paradise Park (home of the World Parrot Trust) and been responsible for running it for over ten years, along with brother Nick, so I've had half a lifetime of living with parrots and will bring my experience and enthusiasm to my new role.

For parrots 'to survive in the wild and thrive in our homes' remains our aim, and I believe these dual concerns help us to see all sides of a parrot's potential in life. The Trust is still the only organisation which works internationally for both conservation and welfare.

I thank you for your support in the past, and hope we can rely on you to fight further battles for the parrots in the future.

Alism

Alison Hales
Chairman

onourcovers

FRONT This free-flying Blue-fronted Amazon (*Amazona aestiva*) is in sharp contrast to the thousands of individuals trapped in Argentina and other countries for the pet trade. As demand decreases due to the EU trade ban, more amazon parrots of all kinds will Fly Free. © Erickson/Bowles www.amazornia.us

BACK Before the trade ban the Senegal Parrot (*Poicephalus senegalus*) had the distinction, along with the African Grey (*Psittacus erithacus*), of leading the top ten list of most traded species according to CITES records. This bird's stunning orange vest indicates it is the subspecies *P. s. mesotypus* normally found in Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad. © Erickson/Bowles www.amazornia.us

News worth celebrating...



Photo: Bowles/Erickson www.amazonia.us

EU ends wild bird imports

On 11th January, the European Commission announced that the Chief Veterinary Officers from the 27 EU Member States voted unanimously to end the importation of wild birds. The temporary ban was extended until 30 June with the permanent ban to come into effect the following day, 1 July 2007. After six long years of campaigning and with the combined support of thousands of individuals and hundreds of organisations, we at the World Parrot Trust are thrilled that this effort has come to a clear and fantastic conclusion. Whilst the temporary ban spared over five million wild birds, this permanent ban will continue to spare about four million wild birds every year, for ever and ever ...

The long and winding road to victory ...

By JAMIE GILARDI

It is impossible to work with parrots for any length of time without the trade in wild birds raising its ugly head. Whether you are in the deepest forest of the Amazon, the bleakest stretch of Australian outback, or a pet shop in London or Los Angeles, the long and treacherous tentacles of the trade are there in force. It's no surprise then, that upon founding the World Parrot Trust back in 1989, Mike Reynolds was quick to plead in the very first issue of *PsittaScene* that we, "Please stop the parrot holocaust."

He noted that one immediate action which would help the parrot's prospects for survival would be to "place a ban on the mass shipment of wild-caught parrots from one country to another." With trade threatening parrot species around the globe and causing untold suffering for the millions of birds involved, the wild bird trade represented the perfect target for the Trust's aims of parrot conservation and welfare.

Since that time, we have learned a great deal more about the trade, about how destructive these harvests can be to wild populations and how few birds actually survive from trapping to the point of sale. We've also learned about the diseases they bring with them, often picked up along the way, which have led to dangerous and costly outbreaks in the importing countries. On the positive side, we've learned about what kinds of solutions to these problems work and which ones do not.

In the early 1990's, two parallel efforts were afoot on either side of the Atlantic. In Europe, three organisations - the RSPB, RSPCA, and EIA - worked together to urge the end of wild bird imports to Europe. They achieved considerable success with commercial airlines, many of which agreed to stop carrying commercial shipments of live birds. They also inspired an impressive

Resolution by the European Parliament calling for the European Commission to end imports of wild birds. In the end, however, traders largely found a way around the airline bans and the Commission never responded with concrete action.

Campaigners in the USA - perhaps due to sheer good fortune - achieved a more lasting success. Building on a new bird trade law in the state of New York, campaigners urged the federal government to follow suit and prohibit the importation of most wild caught birds - primarily

parrots. In 1992 the Wild Bird Conservation Act was passed by a unanimous vote of both Houses of Congress (everyone loves parrots!), and effectively eliminated the USA as the largest single importer of wild parrots.

In the aftermath of this Act, markets shifted dramatically, aviculture in the USA thrived, and disease incidence in captive birds plummeted. As it turns out, researchers working on conservation projects throughout the New World were also keeping track of how often the nesting pairs



Photo: 2005 World Parrot Trust

Patagonian Conures caged for shipment. Photos and video of scenes like this were commissioned by the Trust, and were instrumental in achieving the permanent EU wild bird import ban.

bird trade history

1959

Australia bans imports and exports of live birds

Leads to a huge decline in bird trade into and out of Australia and provides a model for other countries creating a precedent for many countries to follow for the next 40 years.

1975

CITES goes into effect

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) facilitates protection from the threat of trade with the goal that all trade be sustainable.

1989

The World Parrot Trust founded in Cornwall UK

The Trust begins as Mike Reynolds' vision. In the 1st issue of *PsittaScene* he focuses attention on the wild bird trade, calling for an end to the parrot holocaust.



1990s

Initial attempt at an EU Trade Ban

The RSPB, RSPCA and EIA campaign to end wild bird imports to EU. Key airlines ban bird shipments, Euro Parliament passes Resolution to end imports. Commission takes no action.

1992

USA passes Wild Bird Conservation Act

Bans imports of CITES listed birds, eliminating the world's largest market. Championed by EIA, Defenders of Wildlife, AWI and HSUS, the Act leads to declines in poaching, disease and smuggling and provides a model for others to follow.

they were studying had their eggs or chicks poached. Separately, these data were of little interest, but put together, they turned out to be extraordinarily powerful (see *PsittaScene* Vol 13.3 Aug 2001). Drs. Catherine Toft (UC Davis) and Timothy Wright (then at UC San Diego) successfully urged their colleagues from all over the Western Hemisphere to collaborate on one group study of parrot poaching. Their publication - with 26 authors! - had a number of truly unique consequences. They showed that poaching was having devastating impacts on supposedly protected parrot species, with over half of the nests being poached in many cases. They also showed that poaching levels were cut by more than half after the USA stopped importing birds. Take home message: bans work.

It's rare when a small organisation gets its teeth around an enormous problem, and rarer still that it can bring that challenge to a successful outcome. It is against this backdrop of events, successes, missed opportunities and grave concerns that the World Parrot Trust launched a campaign in late 2000 to halt the imports of wild birds into Europe. We knew it was risky, and we really didn't know if we would ever reach our goal - even up until the last minute - but we also knew that we couldn't in good conscience sit back and do nothing, not if we truly cared about parrot conservation and welfare.

As the EU trade ban campaign has run in and alongside everything we've done at the Trust these last few years, we felt it symbolic that at this milestone, the story should run in and alongside our other work in this issue of *PsittaScene*. Along the following pages we've listed a wide variety of milestones along this path. You'll note that we realised early on that the only way to succeed was to work closely with a great number of individuals and organisations - we're sure glad we did. To our many supporters and collaborators - truly too many to mention - we owe you all a deep debt of gratitude. 



Photo: JDG

The way they should be - Patagonian Conures flying free to their cliff colony to feed their chicks.

eu trade ban milestones

2000 Nov
WPT considers WBCA-like ban in the EU
 WPT trustee Cristiana Senni asks Mike Reynolds to consider working towards an EU Trade Ban. Mike, along with Andrew Greenwood DVM and newly hired director James Gilardi embrace and launch WPT campaign.

2001 Mar
WPT and IUCN publish Parrot Action Plan
 Plots the conservation of rare parrots; highlights trade as important threat to many endangered parrots.



May
EU adopts 1st quarantine regs for imported birds
 Elevates biosecurity for all EU. Eurogroup supports to ensure strong document. Uneven implementation and enforcement eventually play a role in adding to disease risks of wild bird trade.

CITES attacks airlines' refusal to carry wild birds
 The CITES Secretariat says longer flights would undermine both animal welfare and conservation efforts, "by pushing shipments longer." Statement swiftly condemned by 70+ members of SSN.

Jul
Parrot Poaching research published in Conservation Biology
 Documents widespread poaching for the first time and shows effectiveness of US trade ban in reducing poaching levels. With data compiled by 26 authors, it provided a sound foundation for encouraging an EU trade ban.

P·E·T Pages

PsittaScene's PET Pages help you provide the very best for your bird by focusing on Parrot behaviour, Enrichment and Training.



This issue's contributor, Steve Martin, has been a professional bird trainer for over 30 years. He is President of Natural Encounters, Inc., a company of over 20 professional animal trainers who produce educational, free-flight bird shows at zoological facilities around the world. Steve is a Trustee with the World Parrot Trust.

inthisissue

Does your **Parrot** have a **Trust** account?

By **STEVE MARTIN**, Natural Encounters, Inc.

Why are so many people so unhappy with their companion parrot? How can these beautiful, intelligent and entertaining creatures cause so much anxiety and frustration? After all, we paid a small fortune to have them in our homes and to care for them properly. Why don't they recognise how much we love them and how much time, effort and money we spend on them? They cuddle with us, close their eyes and moan approvingly when we scratch their heads. They seem to look forward to being with us and can't wait for us to come home. But, then they go and scream at the top of their lungs ... loud enough to rattle the windows... at the neighbour's house. If that's not enough, when we finally go to let the bird out of the cage it bites us! How did that cute, cuddly, intelligent little angel turn into a screaming, violent, foreign being?

These questions and more are asked every day in the companion parrot community. There is no panacea, no quick fixes, no solution that works exactly the same for every bird and every owner. Part of the attraction and majesty of parrots is in their individuality. Each and every bird is wonderfully unique. Its behaviour is shaped and influenced by natural tendencies combined with environmental conditions and experiences. As parrot owners, our actions are just part of the many ingredients added to the primordial soup that determines how our parrots will behave. There are countless other influences on behaviour that help to determine how a bird behaves in certain situations and environments. However, our actions are among the most important of these factors because they form the base for our relationships with our birds. That relationship is the focus of this article.

Trust deposits

The best relationships are the ones built on a solid foundation of trust. Most often, this trust is built slowly, over weeks or even months with some birds. Each time we interact with our birds in a positive way we make a deposit into our "Trust Account" at the Bank of Relationships. As our account grows, our birds become more and more confident in us and more willing to be with



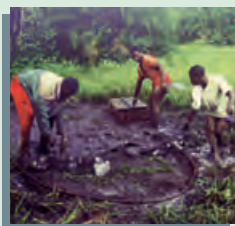
us. Positive reinforcement is perhaps the most valuable experience we can provide our birds because of its effect on strengthening behaviour. By definition, positive reinforcement is a process where something is provided to an animal that increases or maintains a behaviour. The reinforcer can be anything a parrot likes, such as a scratch on the head, verbal praise, companionship, treats, etc. Each occurrence of positive reinforcement is a deposit that

eu trade ban milestones

2001 Aug

WPT Trade Ban Proposal published online & in *PsittaScene*

Formally launched the World Parrot Trust campaign to stop all imports of wild birds to the EU, detailing the problems caused by trade and the value of ending it permanently.



Oct

WPT launches Trade Ban petition

Inspires the participation of the general public, increases awareness of the problem, and helps WPT better understand various sources of support and opposition. Translated into most major languages.

Italy encouraged to end wild bird imports

Cristiana Senni, WPT-Italy proposes ban on imports of wild birds to the Italian Minister of the Environment. This gives the Italian government a clear statement of the problem and a straightforward solution.

RSPCA invited to co-fund campaign

Mike Reynolds request helps start discussions and rekindles RSPCA interest in the campaign which had been idle for eight years.

PsittaScene sent to key IUCN meeting

WPT sends 50 copies of *PsittaScene* with the ban proposal to the IUCN hoping the co-publishers of the Parrot Action Plan might prove to be a powerful ally. Not so, as it turned out.

feeds our trust account and strengthens our relationship portfolio.

Avoiding withdrawals

Conversely, each time we use aversives, or do something the bird dislikes, we make a withdrawal from our trust account. Unfortunately, it is very easy to make withdrawals when working with companion parrots. For example, a common strategy for taking a parrot out of the cage is to chase it around the cage until you finally block its escape and force it to get on your hand. Likewise, to get it back into its cage simply move quickly and block its escape with your body. Because these strategies can work most people don't see the problem with them. They get the bird in and out of the cage. In fact, there are many people who readily encourage this type of training. They say things like "Make sure the bird knows you are the flock leader" and "Don't let him get away with making independent decisions." I have also seen people advocate repeated step-ups, or laddering exercises to encourage compliance with the step-up command. They don't realise that every time you force a bird to comply with commands like this you make a withdrawal from the trust account. If you make too many withdrawals, you will find yourself in the relationship poorhouse. When this happens many people end up blaming the bird instead of accepting responsibility for

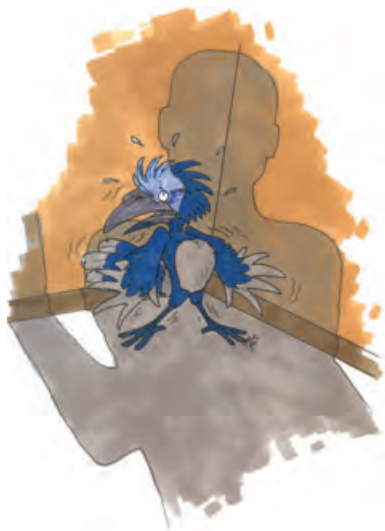


Photo: NEI

If your parrot jumps to the door when you approach, try training a more desirable behaviour instead. Consistently reinforcing your bird for going to the perch to be picked up can effectively eliminate the door clinging behaviour.

bankrupting the account. Some people choose to blame the bird by labelling it as phobic, hormonal, aggressive, jealous, abused, etc. These labels do little more than relieve the owner of responsibility for their bird's poor behaviour and take away the person's motivation to deal with the behavioural issue. Once the parrot takes the blame for the bloodied hands being thrown up in defeat, the bird is likely headed to a new home, sanctuary or rescue organization.

Aggression is not the only problem associated with using aversives with animals. According to Dr. Susan Friedman, a leading authority on the science of parrot behaviour, the scientific community has described certain detrimental side effects associated with forcing animals to perform behaviours. They have shown with hundreds of species from cockroaches to whales that the use of aversives (things an animal dislikes or wants to avoid), might produce one or more of the following side effects: increased aggression, escape/avoidance behaviour, generalised fear of the environment, and apathy or generalized reduction in behaviour. These side effects are standing by - ready to eat up the trust you have worked so hard to build - any time you force a parrot to do anything it does not want to do.

Positive reinforcement

The most enduring and rewarding relationships are built on a solid foundation of positive reinforcement. When a bird does something good, it receives a reward which increases the likelihood the behaviour will occur again. Even a scratch on the head, verbal praise or a bit of attention can be enough to encourage a behaviour to be repeated in the future. Positive reinforcement is a tool that can solve even the most stubborn behavioural problems. Let me give you an example.

Many parrots jump on the door in anticipation of the owner opening the cage. Most people are frustrated with this behaviour and want it to stop. Rather than using punishment to stop the door-clinging behaviour a parrot owner should think of how to teach the bird to do a more desirable behaviour instead, like sitting on the perch when they open the door. If you reinforce the bird's behaviour of sitting on the perch when you approach the cage, the bird will soon learn to go to the perch anytime you come near.

A parrot's biting or screaming behaviours, or just about any other undesirable behaviour, can often be eliminated with positive reinforcement. Instead of thinking

eu trade ban milestones

Nov

UK bird breeder rep says a ban is impossible

This was the first of many statements to this effect; some pro-trade conservation organisations still maintain this viewpoint.

IUCN publishes report on African Greys in Nigeria

Research by Phil McGowan (action plan co-author) reports high levels of mortality in recently captured birds and the fact that export quotas are unsubstantiated.



Dec

WPT initiates in-person EU whistle-stop tour

Meetings in the UK, Netherlands and Belgium with RSPB, Birdlife International, TRAFFIC, Friends of the Earth, Eurogroup for Animal Welfare, RSPCA, WSPA, BirdsFirst and others laid the groundwork for the developing coalition of

WPT supports trade work in Indonesia

Indonesian NGO Profauna works on domestic and international bird trade which leads to the zeroing out of Indonesia's wild bird export quotas.



Through repetition and proper reinforcement a parrot can be trained to calmly return to the cage.

about how you can stop the behaviour, picture the behaviour you want to see in place of the undesirable behaviour and reinforce any small step toward that behaviour. For instance, if your parrot bites you when you put it back into the cage, you can reinforce the bird with a treat as you approach the cage, before he starts to think about biting you. After you give the bird the treat, back up and start again without actually putting the bird in the cage. After a few repetitions of being reinforced for sitting calmly on the hand as you approach the cage, the parrot will usually let you carry him or her into the cage to receive a treat. At this point, it is best to take the bird out of the cage and repeat the behaviour of putting the bird in the cage to earn a treat. Repetition builds confidence. Soon the bird will understand that going in the cage means getting a treat and not being locked inside. After the bird is comfortable going in and out of the cage for treats, you can give it a special treat or a large number of treats to reinforce the behaviour of you shutting the door.

Conclusion

Fighting the urge to use aversives when working with parrots can be challenging. Many people grew up in an environment where negative experiences played a significant role in shaping their behaviour. This cultural tendency to influence behaviour negatively is evident in a myriad of sources in our lives. Parents, teachers, siblings, schoolmates, etc. all use a variety of negative strategies to force people to comply with commands and rules. They also punish people when they do not follow the rules or live up to certain expectations. With this in mind, it is easy to see why some people are inclined to try to dominate and control parrots and other animals with negative strategies.

What most people fail to understand is how their use of force with their parrots may have a negative effect on their relationship with the bird. If the parrot's wings are clipped it is easy to get it to step on the hand by chasing it around. What is less evident is that this chasing may cause one

or more of the detrimental side effects mentioned above. The parrot might turn around and bite when it is being chased or even later, when it is sitting comfortably with the owner. It might try to avoid the person in the future or become nervous or frightened of the person or the environment. Lastly, the parrot might become less active in the person's presence or in general. All of these side effects are likely to be the result of what many people believe, or have been told, is the proper way to handle parrots.

The relationship a person has with their companion parrot is strongly influenced by their day-to-day interactions with the bird. To create the best relationship possible with a companion parrot focus on creating positive experiences and avoid negative experiences whenever possible. The more deposits, small and large, you have in your trust account, the more your account can withstand an occasional or accidental withdrawal. This strategy will build the trust account and create a relationship that is more rewarding and fulfilling than many people thought possible.



Photo: JanLaudis Photography

Even a scratch on the head (if your bird likes it), a kind word or a bit of interaction can be powerful reinforcers for good behaviour.

eu trade ban milestones

2002 Jan

WPT produces "Where the Wild Greys are"

Brings attention to the Grey Parrot's plight with stunning footage of the wild birds living and being trapped in Africa. Raises awareness about trade and support for protection (via antipoaching guards).



Feb

WWF publishes "Traded to Extinction"

Massive legal trade in African Greys overwhelms authors who state that, "it is impossible to believe that this incredible escalation in supply - to meet a substantial level of demand in the EU - can possibly be sustainable."

Jul

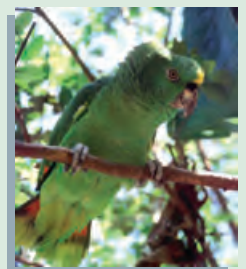
Switzerland proposes CITES parrot exemptions

World Zoo Ass'n (WAZA) and others support removal of many parrots, especially colour morphs, from CITES. IUCN asks WPT for views: WPT joins others in strongly opposing the weakening of CITES regs: proposal does not pass.

Oct

WPT and Defenders support proposals to add 3 parrots to Appx I of CITES

Current data on threats and need for added protection convinces CITES delegates to uplist the Yellow-naped and Yellow-headed Amazon and Blue-headed Macaw, protecting them from legal trade.



Blackpool Zoo supports WPT

It has been another busy year of fundraising for parrot conservation at Blackpool Zoo. Last spring and summer, zoo visitors donated £2,500 to support the World Parrot Trust (WPT) as part of Blackpool Zoo's commitment to the conservation of wild animals in their natural environment.

Much of the fundraising effort has been driven by animal trainer Emma Walpole, who has been hosting the zoo's parrot display over the last six months. Visitors have been encouraged to contribute through buying wristbands or having their photographs taken with the parrots.

Emma's parrot display highlights some of the problems affecting wild parrot populations, as well as encouraging responsible attitudes towards the trade in captive parrots. "It has been a huge pleasure to be able to give something back to wild parrots," says Emma, "I am extremely grateful to all of our visitors who have come along to watch the display and contributed towards this campaign."

Blackpool Zoo has been supporting the WPT for over five years, amongst other fundraising for conservation initiatives. This year, parrots have been getting a double dose of support, as the zoo's flagship campaign for 2006 has raised over £17,000 in aid of South American rainforest conservation.

Our sincere thanks to the Blackpool Zoo and to Emma for their continued support and enthusiasm for the parrots and the Trust.



Parrot trainer Emma Walpole presents Ronaldo the Green-winged Macaw with a cheque for £2,500 to support the World Parrot Trust.

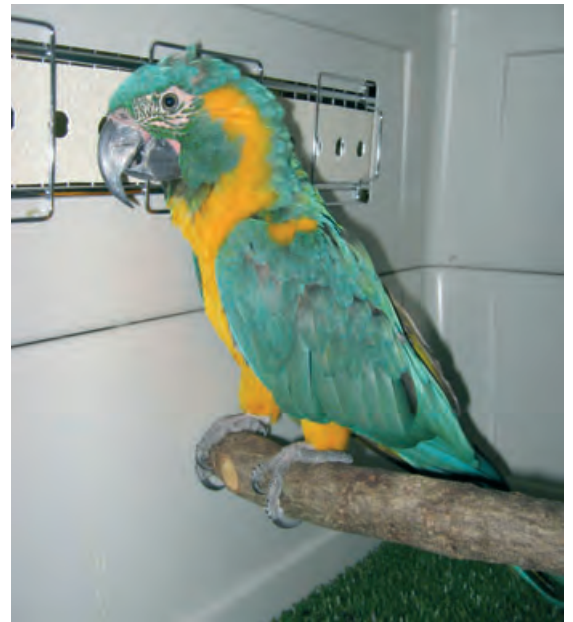
VIP arrives at Minnesota Zoo

Northwest Airlines VIP service was reserved for Very Important Parrot on a recent November morning. A young Blue-throated Macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*) from our flock in Florida flew to Minnesota for a new chapter in life. The flock is being cared for and managed by Natural Encounters in the event that captive-breeding and release is ever part of our Blue-throated Macaw conservation program.

This bird was the first chick hatched in Florida and due to some overzealous preening by its parents was removed for hand-rearing. Shortly thereafter, the Minnesota Zoo inquired about including one of these rare parrots in the Zoo's educational show. In no time, the match was made and the youngster was on a plane to Minnesota to join a fine cast of birds and teach audiences firsthand about his species in the wild.



During daily training sessions while still in quarantine "Elton" mastered most of the essential daily management behaviours like stepping on and off a scale and basic flight training. He is now working towards a part in the Minnesota Zoo's free flight show.



eu trade ban milestones

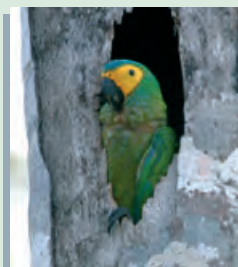
WPT supports African Grey anti-poaching guards

Direct protection of wild African Grey Parrots in protected areas in Cameroon, West Africa reduces poaching.

2003 Jan

Biological Conservation publishes parrot harvest research from Peru

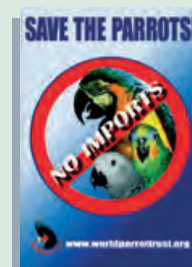
First scientific publication to detail harvest methods for wild parrots. Reports destruction of trees and high chick mortality due to tree felling.



Apr

WPT prints "NO IMPORTS" sticker

Educates public and raises funds for campaign to stop the EU wild bird imports. 1,500 stickers sold.



Liberal Democrats publicly oppose wild bird trade

Norman Baker MP states "We would make it illegal to import wild-caught exotic birds and would press for the ban to be extended on a worldwide basis."

Positive Reinforcement for all

By THEA BENNETT

Last summer I signed up for the World Parrot Trust's "Parrot Behaviour, Training and Enrichment Workshop." On the pre-workshop form I noted that I would like to help my Goffin's Cockatoo Ben stop plucking his feathers - a very important goal for me. Then as a bit of an afterthought I added: "if only they could be quieter at dinner parties and not so clingy with the guests".

My partner Robert and I share a small cottage with two Goffin's Cockatoos (*Cacatua goffini*). Our female, Spot, is passionately sociable and adores people. Try to prevent her from making new friends and reuniting with old ones and she will scream with fury. Ben, the male, is shy and nervous. Introduce a lot of strange humans to "his" environment and he will out scream Spot. If we want to have a dinner party, we have to be sure that only the most ardent animal lovers are invited.

I didn't really believe that anything could be done about this behaviour. It was just a flippant comment - I simply reckoned on going to Paradise Park where the Workshop was being held, spending time with some parrots and parrot people, having a lot of fun and maybe picking up a few tips.

But I hadn't reckoned on David Woolcock. As Curator of Paradise Park, David led the Workshop. He and his staff train the Paradise Park birds with positive reinforcement and they really know how to get results.

David wasted no time on getting to the basics. We were introduced to some of the birds who perform the Free Flying Show and within minutes they were flying from hand to hand, all around the group. It was a magical experience. The youngest participant, Aaron, was enthralled as a huge Green-winged Macaw (*Ara chloroptera*) flew over to land on his outstretched hand.

Analysing behaviour

While we did not bring our own birds on the course we did bring videos or DVDs of problem behaviours. I was embarrassed by my film of Spot and Ben. They spent the entire time screaming at the scary video camera. It was deafening, and I felt inadequate, as I had been doing some training with Spot and I wanted everyone to see what she could do. David was quick to point out that distractions, like the video camera, can quickly put a stop to effective training sessions.

Watching our own birds on film (and perhaps more importantly ourselves!) was a revelation. From my video I could see that I was adding to Spot's stress by touching her on her back. This was something I wasn't aware that I was doing. David also showed me that there were moments when Spot calmed down and gave me an opportunity to interact with her more successfully, but I missed these.

Watching other film clips of parrot behaviour I made an interesting discovery.



Thea with Cedric (Citron-crested Cockatoo) practicing hand placement and reward.

I had labelled Ben as a nervous bird. He spends a lot of time sitting on one foot rubbing his own head. I had seen this as a sign that he was shy and withdrawn. In fact these are indications that a cockatoo is relaxed and at ease. From that one observation, I felt my attitude towards Ben changing, and felt relief that he was in fact showing signs of contentment.

Getting down to training

As the Workshop progressed there were more treats in store. Not only were there treats for us from the Paradise Park Café but every learning activity was great fun. We spent some time "clicker training" each other. This gave us the opportunity to understand and refine our training techniques. It also allowed us to experience some of the frustration our birds feel when they don't understand what we are asking them to do. An experienced horse trainer in the group found it very enlightening to be in the position of trainee. "Now I know why my horses get so cross!" she said, as she struggled to achieve a task with only the clicker to prompt her.

Enjoying enrichment

Then Louise, domestic goddess of the parrot kitchen at Paradise Park, appeared. "Do your parrots like warm food?" she asked, brandishing a tray of deliciously steaming goodies. Parrots have a good sense of taste and really appreciate different flavours and textures in their food.

After that Louise turned our classroom into the parrot equivalent of Santa's grotto with

Photo: WPT



Weighing your pet regularly helps you keep an eye on its health.

eu trade ban milestones

2003 Apr

Andrew George MP visits Paradise Park

Leads to additional discussion with Liberal Democrat MP's about the bird trade. We will place Parliamentary Questions on the Order Paper of the House of Commons, and would be happy to work closely with you to take forward a campaign on which we both share a similar view.



May

Blue-fronted Amazon report to EU Scientific Group

WPT submits Enrique Bucher's views on this harvest to the EU, showing the unsustainable numbers of *Amazona aestiva* harvested legally in Argentina: receives no response.



Aug

WPT meets with World Wildlife Fund

Head of Species Program at WWF and key player in WBCA - discusses WWF involvement: concludes there is no possibility of getting birds on species program agenda.

WPT raises bird trade CITES Animals Committee meeting

Cristiana Senni of WPT delivers paper highlighting unsustainable parrot harvest levels and destructive methods to the CITES Secretariat and to members of the EU Scientific Review Group in Geneva.

endless ideas for creating parrot toys on a shoestring budget. You'll be happy to know WPT is publishing a booklet about Parrot Enrichment.

Back at home

Back home with Spot and Ben, I got to work. Spot had been getting bored with training and the performance of some of her tricks was deteriorating. I started using the technique for holding a bird that we had learned at Paradise Park. With the bird sitting on the flat of your hand, you can bring them close to your face and make good eye contact. Spot loved this and was more attentive to training. She soon realised I had a pocket full of treats and started working really hard for them.

We are now working on a comedy routine. Rather than flying off to her perch when I pointed at it, Spot was copying me. She sat on my hand, raised one wing, and shouted "Go, go!" This made me laugh. Spot then laughed too. Now I shout "Go!" and gesture at the perch. Spot copies me. I say "Spot?" she says "Yup?" I say "What do you think you are doing?" and she responds with "Ha, ha, ha." This never fails to get a laugh.

Ben responded differently to my new approach. While we are still working on getting him to accept my hand, the great news is that he has stopped plucking. I think this is largely due to Louise's very inventive approach to parrot toys. Ben gets hours of pleasure from digging nuts out of cardboard tubes, and hunting for seeds in rolled-up paper bags much like birds in the wild forage for their food.

When I talked to David about Ben, he told me that some birds, like Spot, learn quickly, and others learn at their own pace.



Photos: Louise Pellow

A class of students from Duchy College with an assortment of enrichment items designed by Louise.

So I took the pressure off Ben for a while. After a couple of weeks, I looked at him on his perch, and thought "He looks as if he wants to fly over here." I held out my arm, and Ben flew across. Luckily I had one of his favourite treats, a piece of almond, in my pocket and I gave it to him straight away. Ben landed on my arm, rather than on my hand, but he flies to me every time I ask him now, and we are working so that he is gradually moving towards my hand. Now he will sit on my upturned wrist, and I am sure we are almost there.

Ben is also learning to do tricks on his perch. He will turn to the left and I am teaching him to twirl to the right as well. He gets very upset when I ask him to do this and screams at me. I remember that moment when I was "training the horsetrainer" at the workshop with the clicker and she got so frustrated! I'm sure that's exactly how Ben feels.

Last week, our friends came up for Sunday lunch. I was nervous, as they have never met the birds before. Spot and Ben behaved beautifully - no screaming! Spot introduced herself to everyone politely. She didn't cling or bite or throw anyone's dinner on the

floor. When I asked her she was happy to come back and sit with me. Ben came out too, which he has never done before when strangers have been in the house. He flew round the room to check everybody out, and then went to sit on his perch calmly, where he watched us and scratched his head with his foot. It was a lovely evening, and I later had an email complimenting us on our "well-behaved pets".

I have lived with Spot and Ben for nearly 20 years. I've read lots of books about parrot training, and watched lots of videos but there is no substitute for practical experience. The Workshop has given me a much more effective way of relating to my birds. Since the breakthroughs with Ben, I believe that I now have the knowledge and skill to solve any problems that come up in the future.

Spot and Ben are more relaxed and confident. The bond between us has strengthened. And Robert and I are overjoyed that dinner parties with the birds are now a delight and not an ordeal.

Positive reinforcement for all of us!



Next Parrot Workshop 5th & 6th May 2007 Paradise Park, Cornwall

Call Karen 01736 751026
or visit parrottraining.org.uk

eu trade ban milestones

Oct

Post covers parrot trade
Washington post runs cover story on trade in endangered species highlights advocacy work lead by WPT on the resumption of parrot imports to the USA. Brought needed attention to the USA's plan to start importing wild Amazon parrots from Argentina.

Nov

Wild Bird Trade discussed in Parliament
Andrew George MP tables several parliamentary questions on the wild bird trade which raises awareness at the political and public level in the United Kingdom.



Dec

Parrot researchers' views on amazon harvest submitted to EU
Backed by over 90 parrot scientists, WPT requests that the EU review *Amazona aestiva* imports from Argentina: receives no response.

2004

Feb

Quarantine disease outbreak
WPT reveals that Newcastle disease was found in an Italian quarantine, neither vets nor international authorities notified ... as legally required.

Apr

Baroness Miller tables Parliamentary Questions on bird trade and bird flu
First mention of the wild bird trade in the House of Lords, leads to close working relationship between Baroness Miller and WPT.



Blue-fronted Amazons are legally harvested in Argentina. Trapping adult birds can have serious repercussions for the population.

Harvesting wild parrots: sustainability and ethics... By JAMIE GILARDI

Our article "Amazon Country" in the last issue of *PsittaScene* led to a number of provocative questions and discussions regarding the notion of "sustainable" harvesting of parrots from both an ethical and biological perspective.

We are supporting much needed research on the Blue-fronted Amazon (*Amazona aestiva*) in Argentina, where Igor Berkunsky and his team are gathering basic information. Their research is not designed

to support trade, rather to understand basic questions about the Blue front's reproductive ecology. That said, it remains legal to harvest these birds in much of Argentina, so this research will help us better understand the impact of existing harvests, and quite possibly provide a biological basis for encouraging a change in harvesting policy.

For the record, although the harvesting has been on hold for a year or so, we do not feel that the existing harvest quotas of *Amazona aestiva* set by the Argentine government are biologically sustainable. I urge you to please read the following document closely if you want to really understand this issue, our positions and our actions (<http://worldparrottrust.org/news/fwspost.doc>). In addition, the conservation science journal *Oryx* also recently published a series of detailed discussions about the wild bird trade and the harvest of Blue-fronted Amazons (*Vols. 40(1) and 40(3)*) - both papers are available upon request.

To put this issue in perspective, there are about 15 countries left in the world which

choose to commercially export significant numbers of wild birds. These countries represent less than 10% of over 160 CITES signatory countries. Some countries have never exploited their wild birds, others stopped at some point along the line. None of those actually made the decision based on sound biological research, because the vast majority of harvested species have never been studied. Regardless, if we feel that exploitation of wild birds should stop for any number of reasons, we can approach the issue at three different levels.

First, we can look at who is buying/importing the birds and see if there are ways to discourage them from creating such markets in the first place. That is what we've done in the EU since they had, until last year, been buying over 90% of the birds on the global market. Thus they were the biggest target and the focus of our work on trade over the past six years.

Second, we can approach the exporting government(s) to see if there are opportunities for a change in policy. Specifically, we can look at the justification for their policies (poverty alleviation,



Research indicates that at the age of harvesting, most chicks would likely have survived to fledge.

eu trade ban milestones

2004 Apr

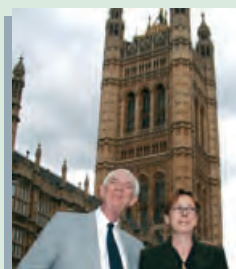
WPT drafts Wild Bird Declaration

Working in collaboration with the Defenders of Wildlife, WPT initiates formal process of asking the EU to take action on imports of wild birds.

May

World Parrot Day

WPT delivers 30,000 signatures supporting an EU ban of wild bird imports to Prime Minister Tony Blair at 10 Downing St. TV, radio, and news paper coverage extensive.



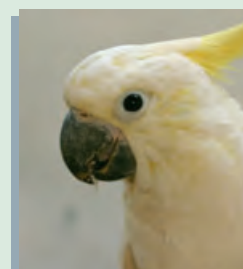
WPT invited to House of Lords

Baroness Miller invites Mike Reynolds, Cristiana Senni, and James Gilardi to discuss wild bird trade options over tea at the House of Lords.

Aug

WPT & Defenders seek to uplist 2 more parrot species, protect a third

Lilac-crowned Amazon, Yellow-crested Cockatoo, added to Appendix I. Peach-faced Lovebird dropped from CITES altogether.



conservation, etc.), and find ways of convincing them that there might be better ways of achieving their stated goals. We've supported such work in the past in Indonesia and elsewhere and we'll continue to pursue these opportunities as often as is feasible.

Third, we can work with communities which are trapping wild birds and take a sort of parallel approach, sorting out what opportunities might be available to them which are genuinely sustainable (bearing in mind, of course, that our own way of life is highly unsustainable in general). By buying the crafts made by former trapping communities in Guyana, we are attempting to create such alternatives.

The ethical question

If one feels that harvesting birds from the wild is unethical, that line of reasoning can be used with the importers, the exporters, and/or the harvesters. It is important to realise that the ethical question of whether birds should or should not be taken from the wild is a separate question from whether that action is or is not having an impact on wild populations. In our experience, the ethical argument generally carries weight with the importers. Of course, we have used it heavily in Europe, but generally it carries no weight elsewhere.

Whether we like it or not, we live in a world where the use of animals is broadly accepted and legal in many different contexts, from keeping wild animals as pets, to shooting for sport, to eating for food. As just one example, Argentina currently allows the sport shooting of phenomenal numbers of birds. For the government agencies which manage these hunts and harvests, photographs of thousands of dead birds are used as powerful advertising tools to attract more hunters. To try to convince these same people that harvesting parrots for the pet trade in unethical would be completely pointless; they know exactly what's happening, they have for years, and they're quite comfortable with their choices.

Alternatives to harvesting

We're all aware of great examples of ecotourism leading to successful conservation, and the Trust is strongly supportive of this conservation strategy. However, even the greatest supporters and practitioners of this solution recognise that it has very real limitations. In fact, when Charlie Munn agreed to join us in a meeting with the US Government in person on this specific issue (Argentine harvests of *Amazona aestiva*), he was quick to acknowledge that ecotourism was not

harvest, or help develop more equitable distribution of the funds from the harvests so the poverty alleviation aims were more likely to be met. At this point we have chosen to focus on eliminating wild bird imports into the EU, because we feel we'd be better off working toward seeing the system eliminated altogether.

In the end, it may turn out that there are cases where human populations are living in environments which can not support their numbers or lifestyles, and of course, this raises a much broader and thornier set of issues. (Perhaps it's best if we



Photo: Joanna Eckles

In some locations, ecotour ventures involving local people can be very effective in helping native communities thrive while protecting wildlife and habitat.

a viable strategy for this part of Argentina. Other solutions, like the production and sale of local crafts may more effectively replace the income once generated from parrot harvests. As we have done in collaboration with Foster Parrots in Guyana, we're hoping to pursue a solution like this for parts of Argentina as well.

Some might suggest other approaches. We might work closely with the harvesters to improve the welfare of the recently-captured birds, use our knowledge of parrot biology to minimise the impact of the

contemplate these over a glass of water which was bottled half way 'round the planet'). On a positive note, because the local people who harvest these birds make very little profit, it's not that hard to come up with viable solutions which more than replace the profits from the parrot harvests. That won't solve all their problems, or all the world's problems for that matter, but it does make a pretty good stab at solving this particular one.



eu trade ban milestones

NY Times runs WPT letter
WPT writes letter to the editor on the linkage between avian flu and the wild bird trade, encouraging USA to follow EU lead on stopping imports.

WPT requests that UK Govt take action on wild bird imports
Mike Reynolds writes Minister Ben Bradshaw raising the profile of the wild bird trade for the minister in charge of health and animal welfare in the UK.

Dec
Key publication shows dramatic declines in traded parrots in Nicaragua
With the support of CITES-NI, Martin Lezama and colleague publish third parrot survey and show 80% drop in some highly traded species in 10 years. First results of their kind, showing unsustainable impacts of trade on parrots.

WPT submits Wild Bird Declaration to EU Member States & the European Commission
The Declaration endorsed by over 230 NGO's, details the health, conservation, and welfare basis for banning imports of wild birds, and formally requested that the EU take decisive action.

2005 Feb
Wild Bird Declaration partners meet in London
Key Declaration partners meet for the first time to clarify roles for each organisation and identify key steps forward for the campaign.

Mar
WPT and Eurogroup expose lax quarantine
Meetings raise concerns with Commission about poor implementation of EU quarantine rules amid strong denials. EFSA report commissioned less than two months later confirms concerns.

Vera Dennison TRIBUTE

From WILLIAM HORSFIELD,
Amazona Endangered Parrot Breeding Facility



Anyone who knew Vera Dennison knew that in the world of aviculture, you couldn't have wished for a more polite and patient person. Never did a nasty word about anyone cross her lips. She just wasn't wired that way.

Vera was the epitome of understated efficiency and went quietly about her day without fanfare and without the need for excess praise and recognition. She was no extrovert. She simply got on with the job and what a fantastic job she did. First and foremost Vera was a loving, supporting wife to David and a doting mother to Lindsay, Erin, Rolf, Linda and Peter as well as being a very proud Granny.

Then there was Vera the astute career woman. She possessed determination and inner strength, juggling bringing up her family while running a successful business - she was simply tireless. Shady Streams Bird Farm, Avi-Products and the magazine Avizandum were the products of David and Vera's hard work.

Avizandum is South Africa's only monthly magazine for bird keepers, and because of Vera's unparalleled perseverance and steely resolution, what started some seventeen years ago as a few photocopied pages is a now a glossy internationally respected publication

with subscribers around the world. Vera contributed much more than just an editor's share each and every issue.

She didn't stop there. Vera was expert in hand raising all types of parrots, and was a sought after speaker - lecturing around the country to audiences both large and small. Vera also found time to be the voluntary representative of the World Parrot Trust in Africa, which she did with her usual enthusiasm and efficiency.

In typical Vera fashion, she kept her illness quiet and many people didn't know the brave battle she was desperately fighting. During her last weeks, Vera was frustrated that her memory was not as sharp as usual, and now we know why. After what appeared to have been successful treatment for a brain tumour, Vera passed away suddenly on December 8th 2006, after collapsing at her office.

Her sudden death leaves a very sad void for aviculture as a whole and I extend my sincere condolences on behalf of all bird keepers who knew the lovely Vera, to her grieving family and loved ones.

Vera, it was my absolute privilege to have known and worked with you. Your legacy will live on in every issue of your magazine.

Grants and Awards



Special thanks to the **Folke H. Peterson Foundation** for generous support of the EU Trade Ban Campaign.

By supporting our attendance at key meetings in Brussels, their grant is already paying great dividends for wild birds. It also allows us to expand our pilot projects marketing crafts from former trapping communities. The Balata (rubber) parrots made in Guyana are so popular we keep running out! The native artisans receive as much or more for each rubber parrot as for the living, breathing variety. We are investigating new products from a variety of other countries.

We also appreciate the support and recognition of the **International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators**. IAATE honoured the World Parrot Trust with their annual conservation award for the second straight year for our work to end the wild bird trade. This year we were fortunate to join the group in Tacoma, WA for their annual conference where Jamie Gilardi shared the very recent news of the permanent ban. The IAATE Conservation Committee donated \$500 to the EU trade ban and continued their support of the Blue-throated Macaw project with a \$1,500 grant.



Jamie Gilardi and Joanna Eckles accept the IAATE Conservation Award from Karen Povey of the Point Defiance Zoo.

eu trade ban milestones

2005 May
Production of wrist bands to promote campaign
WPT and Defenders of Wildlife produce thousands of "TradeBands" raising awareness and funds for campaign.



The Ecologist runs cover story on wild bird trade
Tony Juniper (director Friends of the Earth) contributes powerful piece on trade to a broad audience, explaining the history of the problem, and the risks to conservation, welfare and biosecurity.



Sep
H5N1 avian flu arrives in British quarantine
Leads UK to request emergency action at EU level. Inspires temporary ban on all wild bird imports into the EU. Prompts thorough review by "Dimmock Panel" of the UK's procedure for quarantine and testing of imported exotic birds.

Oct
House of Lords debate on the wild bird trade: WPT attends
Baroness Miller's questions force the UK government to address real issues of disease risk coming from the wild bird trade in a public and on-the-record setting.

Our projects on the Yellow-shouldered Amazon *Amazona barbadensis* on the island of Bonaire were covered in detail in a recent issue of *PsittaScene* (Vol 18.3 Aug 2006). The 2006 field season went well and it appears we have been looking at the right things. We are now adjusting to working in an office in northern England after working outdoors in the Caribbean - a slow and painful process! One of the biggest jobs after the field season has been transferring the observations from our notebooks onto spreadsheets where they become meaningful data. The time this takes is incredible! The next step is the statistical analysis and from that we can identify the most important areas to focus on for the coming year. And lastly, we have been busy putting together a website which we invite you to visit at www.parrot.group.shef.ac.uk

Numbers and news

By SAM WILLIAMS

It seems that 2006 was a great year for the Lora. From 17 nests that Rowan and I found there were 24 fledglings. That's nearly 60% of all the (known) eggs laid, which is pretty good going. I am interested in sources of eggs and chick mortality but this proved tricky to ascertain. Likely culprits include rats, cats and owls. The good news is that there was little sign of poaching or Pearly-eyed Thrasher disturbance.

I also did some habitat assessment work, which involved monitoring structural characteristics of the habitat including vegetation density, height and species abundances as well as factors such as distance from known roosts or human disturbance. These characteristics are likely to be important in determining the parrot's distribution on the island. In addition, I made observations on food availability. I will expand on this work in the future, as it may be important in analysing and predicting the parrot's movements.

The exciting news for me is that I will make a short visit to Bonaire in January to assist with the annual parrot count.

A good estimate of population size is really important for assessing the success of conservation efforts and to predict how the birds might respond to management strategies. My involvement this year will hopefully involve training some volunteers and helping develop the count protocol so that the estimate is as accurate as possible.

It's still too early to say exactly what I'll be doing in 2007. I want to get a better idea of nest predators and that might involve putting movement-sensing cameras outside nests. Investigating the parrot's habitat requirements further is also likely to be on my "to do" list.



Photo: Sam Williams

Monogamy's the best policy

By ROWAN MARTIN

The Yellow-shouldered Amazon, like other Amazon parrots, forms strong monogamous pair bonds, which are maintained for many years. This mating system is unusual, not just among birds but among all animals. The aim of my research is to answer questions about why parrots evolved this system and what affect it has on the resilience of small populations. Understanding this will enable us to predict how changes to the environment will affect populations and how we can best act to conserve them.

In 2006 I made detailed observations of the reproductive behaviour of eight pairs of Loras. The areas they chose to nest fell broadly into two categories, which could be described as 'busy' or 'quiet'. Pairs breeding at 'quiet' areas fledged fewer chicks. Their behaviour was characterised by less frequent nest visits, less time spent around the nest and more intense aggressive interactions with other pairs. Pairs at the 'busy' areas were more successful and succeeded in raising an average of 2.7 chicks to the age of fledging. They were involved in aggressive interactions more frequently but the intensity of these was lower and rarely seemed

to affect their normal parental activities, such as egg incubation or feeding. The nesting decisions of pairs are probably driven by certain habitat characteristics in combination with competition with other pairs. 'Aggregated' sites tended to have a greater concentration of food plants, and cliffs with cavities suitable as nest sites. In 2007 I hope to expand and continue this work in an attempt to unravel how the environment interacts with parrot behaviour to affect the reproductive success of the Loras of Bonaire.



eu trade ban milestones

Nov

EU bans live bird imports

In response to Essex quarantine snafu, bans imports of live birds and bird products. Ban stops 2 million live birds from being imported annually, eliminates associated mortality of 50% or higher, sparing a further 2 million.

Effects of temporary ban quickly apparent

Harvesting in most countries stops rapidly, no further outbreaks to date of H5N1 in exotic birds imported to EU. Smuggling generally declines as predicted by WPT and campaigners.

UK commissions Dimmock report on UK/EU quarantine

Reviews quarantine procedures for wild birds imported to the UK and EU. First official recognition that large numbers of imported birds die in the trade chain. Highlights need for actions and solutions at EU level.

2006

Jan

Study lead by RSPB reviews 'nest take' in Old World parrots

19 researchers review parrot nesting success in relation to trade. This influential paper inspires RSPB support for permanent ban and helps EU accept earlier science drawing similar conclusions.

Oryx publishes pro-trade argument and WPT rebuttal

Pro-trade arguments (Why ban won't work) articulated in public forum for the first time, WPT responds, defends Declaration, and makes the case for an outright ban as the most feasible and effective solution.

RSPB supports permanent ban in their Birds Magazine

This clear position from the leading authority on bird conservation in Europe spurred the UK Government's changing position and that of the European partners of Birdlife International.

Psitta News

Parrotevents

Parrot Behaviour, Training and Enrichment Workshop, Cornwall

The next Workshop run by World Parrot Trust and Paradise Park is to be held at Paradise Park, Cornwall on 5th and 6th May 2007. Anyone interested in receiving information or joining the Workshop please contact Karen on 01736 751026 or visit parrottraining.org.uk.

The Parrot in Art

By Louise Prowse

"The Parrot In Art" at The Barber Institute of Fine Arts in Birmingham is an extraordinary exhibition. The collection of works was astounding. It encompasses all genres and periods by artists including Durer, Steen, Tiepolo and Goya. There are also some excellent natural history illustrations with examples from Ferdinand Bauer, Edward Lear and Elizabeth Butterworth among others. I was amazed to see engravings and wood-cuts from as early as 1450-75, all depicting parrots.

It is doubtful if ever again during our lifetime, will there be amassed such a fabulous collection of works of art portraying the story of parrots and I would like to thank the Director Richard Verdi for enabling the public and especially parrot lovers worldwide to see this under one roof and all for FREE.

On March 17th there will be a "Parrots Galore day" for the whole family. Live parrots can be seen, and painting and craft workshops will be available for the children to create their own works of art depicting parrots.

If you cannot get to Birmingham by the end of the exhibition on 29th April, there is an excellent catalogue for sale detailing all the exhibits with pictures, descriptions and an interesting and entertaining history of parrots from ancient times onwards.

For further details on either the exhibition, catalogue or the Parrots Galore day please contact Louise on 07733334422 or The Barber Institute directly on 0121 414 7333.

Catalogue number: ISBN-13:978-1-85759-476-8

www.barber.org.uk

Parrotnews

Suffolk bird flu outbreak

On 5 February the culling operation at the Suffolk farm where the avian flu outbreak occurred was completed.

The State Veterinary Service was contacted by a private vet who suspected an avian notifiable disease. Poultry found dead on the farm was found to contain the highly pathogenic Asian strain of the H5N1 avian flu virus.

Environment Secretary David Miliband reported on the legal restrictions in place in the area around the farm, and on the humane slaughter of the remaining birds on the farm. He referred to Defra's contingency plans, which are updated regularly and available on Defra's website.

"Thus far they have proven their worth," he said. "Our goals are clear: to stamp out the disease, to protect public health, to protect animal health and welfare, and to regain disease free status in the UK."

A Protection Zone of 3km radius and a Surveillance Zone of 10km have been established around the premises: movement restrictions are imposed and poultry must be isolated from wild birds. A wider Restricted Zone has also been imposed, an area of approximately 2090 sq km. It requires the isolation of poultry from wild birds, and requires movements to be licensed. As further information becomes available the restrictions in place may be adjusted.

Bans have also been imposed on shooting and similar activities in the Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone.



All bird gatherings - including shows, markets and fairs, and pigeon races - have been banned nationwide (throughout England, Scotland and Wales) until further notice (this will be kept under review as the disease situation develops).

There is no reason for public health concern. Avian influenza is a disease of birds and whilst it can pass very rarely and with difficulty to humans, this requires extremely close contact with infected birds, particularly faeces. Advice from the Food Standards Agency remains that properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

Keepers of birds are urged to be vigilant and to exercise good biosecurity. Any owners that suspect disease should act quickly and consult their vet. Avian influenza is a notifiable disease and must be reported to the local Divisional Veterinary Manager in the State Veterinary Service.

Source: www.defra.gov.uk

Rare parrots stolen in raid

Almost 50 Amazon parrots, reputedly worth up to £1,000 each, were snatched during a break-in at a Suffolk breeding centre. Experts say this is one of the biggest such incidents to hit aviary owners across the UK over the past few years.

eu trade ban milestones

2006

Mar

Belgian Government commissions economic analysis of trade

WPT and partners provide cost-benefit analysis of trade, considering exporting and importing parties and EU legal issues. Analysis clearly shows that ending the bird trade would benefit exporting countries and the EU.

Apr

Bird Trade workshop in Brussels

WPT and collaborators host workshop to share concerns and data with key decision makers about disease, conservation and welfare.

May

Birdlife EU member orgs formally back import ban

Representing the largest bird conservation orgs in the EU, their formal position in favour of a permanent import ban was highly influential to governments, the EU, and others involved in wildlife trade.

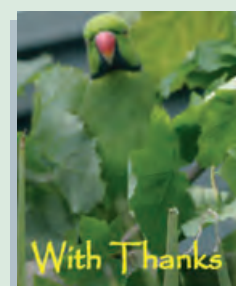
Commissioner flooded with thank you cards

WPT encourages bird cards to be sent to Commissioner Kyrianiou to thank him for his role in the temporary ban. Overwhelming response highlights the public's concern over the EU role in the fate of millions of wild birds.

Jul

British vets back ban

British Veterinary Association (BVA) backs permanent ban, followed quickly by the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE). Widespread and public veterinary support helps lobby both UK and EU at key moments in last 6 months of campaign.



Police have also warned other Suffolk breeders and collectors to be on their guard against further thefts.

John Hayward, the Parrot Society's national theft register co-ordinator, said the raiders knew what they were doing and insisted the burglary would endanger the birds. "These birds are endangered species and it is not their individual value which is of concern. It is the welfare of the birds which is of primary concern and the loss to the breeding programme," he said. "For someone to break into a large aviary like this and take so many birds is extremely traumatic for the birds. I am in no doubt many of the birds would not survive the experience of being bundled into sacks and carted away."

Witnesses or anyone with information should call Pc Stuart Dolan at Ixworth Police on 01284 774100 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

No regrets over wind farm call: Campbell

Environment Minister Ian Campbell says he has no regrets about his backflip over a controversial Victorian wind farm project, but concedes the process could have been handled better.

Senator Campbell has announced the Bald Hills Wind Farm project in Gippsland can go ahead, eight months after blocking the Victorian government's approval for the \$220 million project because of concerns for the rare Orange-bellied Parrot.

The minister gave the go-ahead, subject to new conditions designed to lessen the potential impact of the 52-turbine wind farm at Bald Hills on the parrot and another rare species, the White-breasted Sea-eagle.

The company behind the project, Wind Power Pty Ltd, described Senator Campbell's decision as a victory both for the company and for the Australian people, in reinforcing the importance of renewable energy.

The company had agreed to changes such as removing any planned turbines from within a two-kilometre coastal strip and to create an 800m buffer between turbines and a wetland.

"Based on the science I've read, that brings the risk down to a very, very low level," Senator Campbell said. "I don't expect it to be painted

as anything other than a change. The media may call it a backdown (but) these are the sort of processes we go through regularly."

Source: Dec 21 2006, www.theage.com.au

Rare native parrot seen on New Zealand

A Red-crowned Kakariki has been spotted in bush on Maungatautari, south of Cambridge, sparking a flurry of interest from conservationists in the area.

Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust chief executive Jim Mylchreest said he had received reports of possibly several of the birds on the mountain.

"We've got an excellent photo of one of the birds and we had another report that three of the birds were seen up there recently," he said.

The birds were once thought to be extinct outside of aviaries on the mainland.

The Maungatautari ecological island is the biggest of its kind in the country and recently the mountain's 3400ha of bush area was completely circled by a pest-proof fence.

Steps are now being taken to eradicate all pest mammals inside the fence, while at the same time native bird and plant species are being encouraged, and new species introduced.

Source: *Waikato Times*, 13 January 2007, www.stuff.co.nz

Kazakhstan arrests smuggler

Kazakh border guards have arrested a man trying to smuggle 500 parrots in his car from neighbouring Uzbekistan.

"Border guards discovered a live cargo of 500 parrots in his car," Kazakhstan Today news agency quoted a KNB security service official as saying.

It was unclear how the parrots fit into the Kazakh man's Audi.

Source: *Reuters*, January 23 2007



Online

Main: worldparrottrust.org

USA: parrottrustusa.org

Germany: germanparrottrust.org

Japan: worldparrottrustjapan.org

Main - UK & World

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

USA

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

Africa

Contact UK Headoffice

Australia

Linda Adam,
Sydney, NSW Australia.
Tel: (61) 2 8901 4207,
australia@worldparrottrust.org

Benelux

Jacques Gardien, (Mem)
Laan van Tolken 51,
5663 RW Geldrop, The Netherlands.
Tel: (31) 40 2850844,
benelux@worldparrottrust.org

Netherlands

Ruud Vonk (31) 16 847 2715

Belgium

Ronald Coen (32) 3 314 44 83
coens@worldparrottrust.org

Canada

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

Italy

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

Spain

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

Sweden

Dan Paulsen,
Talluddskviar 22 D, S-621 41 Visby, Sweden.
sweden@worldparrottrust.org

wpt contacts

eu trade ban milestones

Nov

EU commissioned EFSA report & opinion published

Independent scientific panel concludes that disease and welfare risks associated with wild bird imports are high and of serious concern. Strong findings made lifting the temporary ban impossible without serious political risk.

Meeting with both EU Health & Environment

WPT and partners meet with DG SANCO (Health) and DG Envi (Environment) to discuss permanent ban and EFSA findings. Highest level meeting yet on these key issues.

Dec

British PM Tony Blair calls for permanent import ban

Tony Blair announces UK Government will call for permanent ban on imports of wild birds. First EU Member State to declare a positive position; motivates DEFRA to stronger position, supports imminent EU decision.



2007

Jan

EU Commission announces permanent ban on wild bird imports to Europe!

Wild birds not permitted entry with few exceptions. Allows captive bred birds from select countries and tightens quarantines. Immediate consequences in trapping countries. Overwhelmingly positive reaction from groups from all around the world. Negative reaction from CITES.

www.parrots.org prepares to launch

By STEVE and DESI MILPACHER

For nearly twenty years the World Parrot Trust has been an internationally recognized parrot conservation and welfare group creating effective solutions for the myriad of problems facing parrots in the wild and in captivity. Along the way there have been great ideas, some old and some new, which have shaped our work. One of those ideas, the WPT website, is about to be relaunched.

The exciting work on the new website began just over a year ago when we sent out a survey to which over 800 of you replied and shared your thoughts. Your enthusiasm and creativity gave us a clear picture of what was required - a place to gain knowledge of parrots and to contribute. Through your responses you indicated a strong desire to discover more about parrots and were excited about the concept of a parrot encyclopedia and access to online experts. In tandem with this thirst for knowledge, you indicated that you support the work of the Trust and are seeking ways with which you can help further our efforts. With your help and a small and dedicated group of volunteers in many countries we are proud to give you a short preview of www.parrots.org - due to launch this spring.

OUR WORK

Visit this section to learn about our work at World Parrot Trust. Read success stories with some of the many species we've helped, such as the Echo Parakeet (*Psittacula eques*), the Golden Conure (*Guaruba guarouba*) and the Hyacinth Macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) among others. These inspiring accounts of past and current projects sum up what the World Parrot Trust is about.

ALL ABOUT PARROTS

The creation of an online parrot encyclopedia and reference library was one of the main priorities in building the new site. Read about the natural history of wild parrots- how they live, socialise, eat and propagate, and how to care for parrots in captivity. Get advice on nutrition, socialisation, safety in the home and much more. Accompanying the 370 or so species profiles in the encyclopedia are dozens of articles on behaviour, enrichment, conservation, ethics and more. Tie all of this information in with over 1,000 beautiful photographs in our Parrot Gallery and hundreds of pertinent website links, all sorted by species, and you have a resource that will keep you busy for hours.

GET INVOLVED

Learn about fund-raising efforts, campaigns and projects. Filled with ideas from hosting an awareness event, to donating funds to a specific project, to volunteering at your local zoo to raise local consciousness on the plight of parrots, this section helps you get involved with the fight to save parrots, from wherever you are. More ideas always welcome.

With 50 million parrots in captivity...
And over 100 species threatened in the wild...



HOME
ALL ABOUT PARROTS
GET INVOLVED
FORUMS & EXPERTS
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PARROT NEWS
WORLD PARROT TRUST INFORMATION
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WHY SAVE PARROTS?

One third of all parrot species are threatened in the wild.
Find out how you can help ▶

ALL ABOUT PARROTS

Find out everything there is know about parrots with our online encyclopedia and reference library.
all about parrots >

GET INVOLVED

Help play a role in the global effort to save parrots.
get involved >

PNN - PARROT NEWS NETWORK

Stay informed with the latest parrot related news

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Published by the World Parrot Trust since 1989.
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Illegal Parrot Trade
Information about the illegal trade of parrots as
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Parrot Conservation
Conservation efforts made by groups around the
[Read more on Google News >](#)



Look for a comprehensive introduction to the website in the next issue of *PsittaScene*.



SEARCH:

WPT MEMBERS LOGIN

Email Address:

Password:

- [Forgot your password?](#)
- [Not a member, sign up here.](#)

FORUMS AND EXPERTS

For WPT members only, this area provides a forum for discussions and online access to experts. Meet others from around the world who share your passion for parrots. Experience "A day in the life of " field researchers, parrot behaviourists and zoologists via our new 'Parrot Bloggers' section. Through regular "blogs" (online diary entries) you will learn about their vital work on behalf of parrots.

MEMBERSHIP EXTRAS

Your membership in the World Parrot Trust entitles you to extra privileges on the website. Access is granted to our published content from *PsittaScene*, research from the *Parrot Action Plan*, and downloadable content including video clips, eCards and more.

SHOP TO SAVE

Shop with ease and gain peace of mind in our new online eStores. To complement our new website we found the best solutions to create a secure and simple online shopping experience. You will be able to shop at the eStore closest to you with the innovative stores we've created for the USA, Canada, and the UK/WORLD. The eStores are overflowing with the very best Trust merchandise we could find to help you show your support. When you purchase an item through the Trust, we will direct the profits towards saving parrots. With new stores and great new products when you Shop to Save you will treat yourself with the gift that keeps on giving.

PNN - THE PARROT NEWS NETWORK

Find out the latest parrot-related news at the Parrot News Network. Stay informed with what's new on the website, keep track of current events, review back issues of *PsittaScene* and read parrot-related news stories from around the world.

We have a lot of work to do.

FORUMS & EXPERTS
Join parrot specialists and enthusiasts in our special online communities and learn from our bloggers, experts and forums.
[experts and forums >>](#)

SHOP TO SAVE
Support parrot conservation and welfare by purchasing our great products.
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Events
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the plight of endangered parrots.

it happens.

the globe.

Parrots in the Wild

