

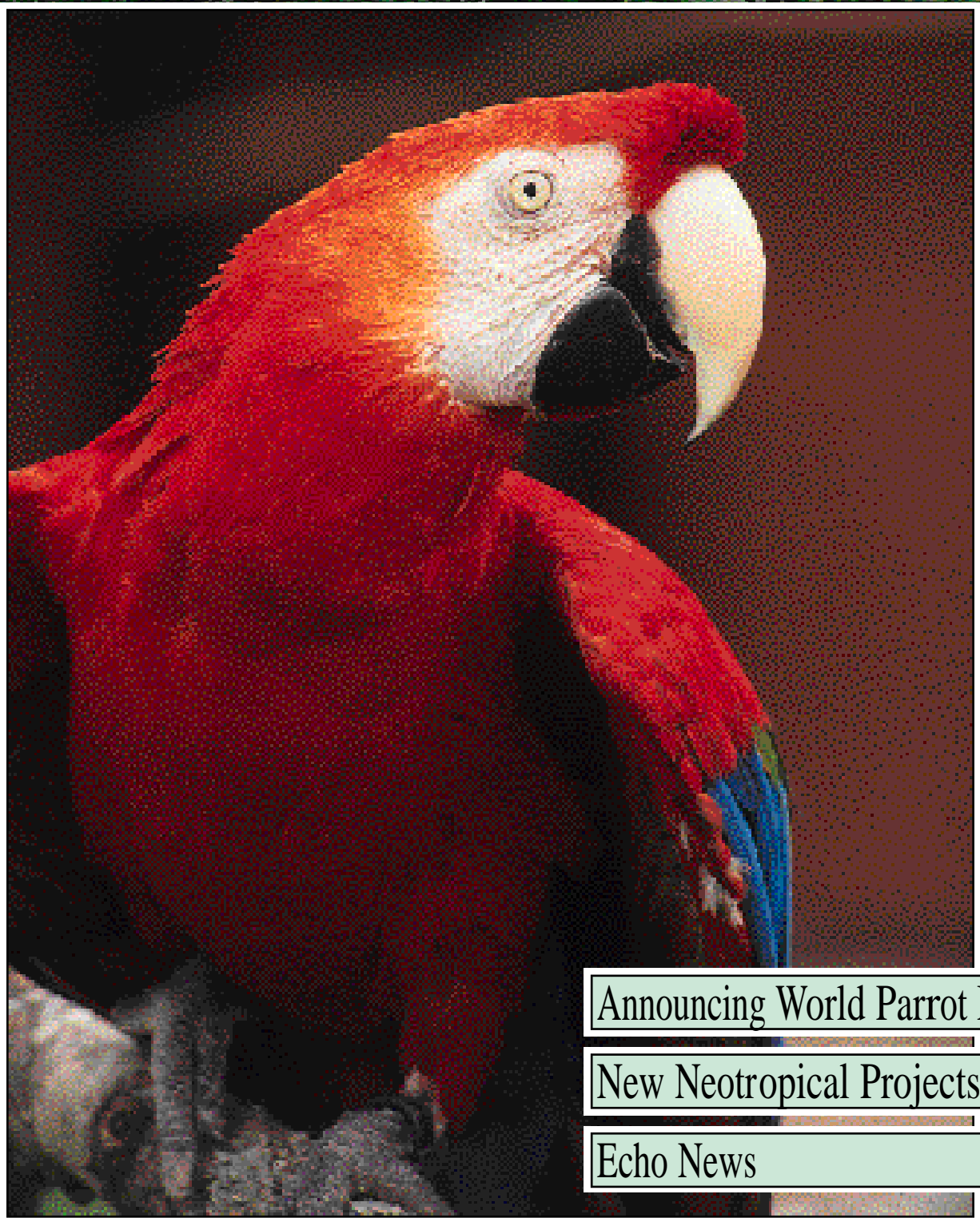
PROMOTING EXCELLENCE
IN PARROT CONSERVATION
AVICULTURE AND WELFARE

World Parrot Trust
in action



Vol. 11 No.1 February 1999

Psitta



Announcing World Parrot Month

New Neotropical Projects

Echo News

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

World Parrot Month - August 1999

by MICHAEL REYNOLDS

Editor

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

CONTENTS

Announcing World Parrot Month.....	2-3
New Neotropical Projects	4-5
Wild Echoes	6-7
Recent Research on Amazon Parrots	8-10
WPT Projects	11
News from Paradise Park	12-13
Steve Martin	14-15
Psitta News	16-18
WPT Info Page	19
Parrots in the Wild.....	20



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

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

In our August 1998 PsittaScene we launched a 'New Global Campaign for the Parrots'. Central to this was the 'Parrots Need Help' logo shown in the centre of this page. We inserted a car sticker of this logo in every copy of that issue of PsittaScene, and promised a revised educational leaflet intended for new pet parrot owners. We reminded readers of the aims of the Trust and listed the 22 species of threatened parrot given financial support from WPT. We said: 'Our intention is to maintain this campaign for the parrots for a period of two years, with the clear objective of making the general public achieve a fresh understanding about parrots.'

Well, a quarter of our two years has gone by, and not much has been done to promote our campaign, apart from distributing that issue of PsittaScene to a wider media audience than usual. We asked for a sponsor to help pay for printing our 'educational leaflet', and - not for the first time - one of our most loyal and generous members in Switzerland answered the call. We have now printed a first run of our new leaflet 'How to have a happy, healthy parrot', and a copy is inserted in this issue. You will see that it is intended simply to give very basic information to somebody who knows virtually nothing about parrots, except that he or she wants to keep one. You obviously don't need it yourself, so may we ask you to take it to one or two local pet stores, ask if they would like a supply for new parrot purchasers, and let us have their addresses with the numbers required? It wouldn't take you much time, and could help give a better quality of life to many parrots.

Conscious of the need for a new initiative to expand our campaign to reach a wider audience, we thought of having a global 'World Parrot Day', where our various national branches could hold parrot events in city centres. All very well, but exactly how do you expand what is essentially a 'special interest' subject into one which will interest almost everybody?

The involvement of a major international celebrity would help, but who is there who would have any connection with parrots? The idea is absurd. Almost as absurd and crazy as the famous 'dead parrot sketch' done by the Monty Python team years ago. At this point we found that John Cleese's stepson, Clinton Eichelberger, was one of our team working with the Echo Parakeet in Mauritius! This happy circumstance gave us the opportunity to speak to John Cleese, and he agreed to make a short video for the World Parrot Trust, to be used to launch our 'World Parrot Day' on August 1st

1999. In response to requests from zoos, however, we decided that a full month of parrot related activities would be more productive for all involved, so 'WORLD PARROT MONTH' it is.

John recently made a fascinating television programme about the release of some lemurs in Madagascar, and is much concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats. He helps a wide range of charities in several areas, and wants to be known simply as just one of the supporters of WPT, not as our one and only champion. So this video is a one-off opportunity, but with considerable potential for expanding the scope of our activities to a wider audience, and educating the general public about why the parrots deserve serious attention.

We don't want to give away too much about our planned video, but as you might expect, it does refer to the dead parrot sketch and the 'Norwegian blue'. John Cleese also mentions the slogan that has been on our letterhead since our start in 1989: 'If we can save the parrots, we may yet save ourselves'. Perhaps it is fortunate that we don't have to come up with a convincing scientific justification for that slogan, but we can draw some parallels between the threats to the survival of the parrots - habitat destruction, trapping for trade, shooting for the cooking pot - and threats to the survival

COVER PICTURE

The Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao* is a new species to receive support from the World Parrot Trust. In pages 4 and 5 you will read that WPT has funded 12 new projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, and three of these are concerned with the Scarlet Macaw in Mexico, Belize and Costa Rica. These locations demonstrate that this macaw has an extended range, and that it is increasingly threatened throughout its range.

PARROTS NEED HELP



*...to survive in the wild
...to thrive in our homes*

A WORLD PARROT TRUST CAMPAIGN

www.worldparrottrust.org

of Homo sapiens - pollution, disease, global warming, nuclear disaster, over-population etc. In both cases we can clearly identify the threats and discuss them in a rational manner, but also in both cases we find it very difficult to take effective action to minimise the threats.

So if we apply our brains and our resources to solving the parrot problem, we are likely to learn lessons that will help us ensure the continued survival of our own species.

Another vital factor is the presence of parrots in our homes. Millions of them, in every country in the world. Wildlife conservationists are very skilful in alerting us to the threats faced by the large charismatic mammals, the so-called 'flagship species': gorillas, tigers, whales, elephants, pandas and so on, but none of these share our homes and our daily lives as the parrots uniquely do. Try telling them they're not flagship species! Common sense suggests that the loud, colourful, dynamic proximity of these semi-domesticated birds puts them in a key position to influence our attitudes to the survival of their conspecifics in the wild. Whenever possible we should use our birds to tell our friends, neighbours and local media that if we save a habitat for the parrots, we also save it for countless other species including our own.

Educating the general public on the threats to parrots is at the top of our list of World Parrot Trust aims, first stated in 1989. Every parrot keeper has feathered associates who

can help in achieving this aim. Perhaps, in August 1999, we can all make a special effort to take our wonderful combined parrot show on the road in a variety of imaginative ways, and educate the public until they can't take any more!

The World Parrot Trust has already had encouraging offers of cooperation from major publications, zoo organisations, and international conservation bodies. The opportunity to tie in marketing activities with an event spearheaded by John Cleese is very attractive to many businesses. We will, however, be looking for great support from our WPT members, and anyone else who wants to help educate folks in general - but especially new parrot owners - and raise funds for parrot conservation and welfare. Let us not lose sight of the main aim of World Parrot Month, which is to find new sources of funding to enable The World Parrot Trust to help the survival of more parrot species in the wild.

We will supply posters, lapel badges and leaflets to those who register with us. There will have to be a small charge to cover the cost of producing and mailing these items. In addition, we will have tee-shirts and caps if requested. We would like to think that on Sunday August 1st there will be thousands of 'parrot parties' breaking out all over the world, where the parrots will first be celebrated for their undoubted contribution to our human society, and then generously supported with donations for the work of The World Parrot Trust.

WORLD PARROT MONTH

Highlighting the charismatic parrot family, in the wild and in our homes.

In the month of August 1999 we will ...

RECOGNISE the urgent need to protect and preserve parrots in the wild, especially the 90 species in danger of extinction.

CELEBRATE the companionship that millions of pet parrots give to people in every country in the world.

MOTIVATE everyone who cares about the conservation of wildlife to see the parrots as logical 'spokespersons for nature.' The character and beauty of these birds can help save rainforests and other habitats for the whole of nature, including ourselves.

RAISE FUNDS for parrot conservation and welfare.

What will the World Parrot Trust be doing?

First, we will invite every organisation and publication interested in parrots to join us in promoting WORLD PARROT MONTH.

Second, we will invite everyone who keeps parrots in captivity, studies or protects them in the wild, or just cares about their wellbeing, to join us in publicising their needs.

Third, we will contact the media and zoos around the world and ask them, during this special month, to inform and educate their audiences about parrots.

Fourth, we will provide a range of materials, which will include:

A VIDEO MADE SPECIALLY FOR US BY JOHN CLEESE. This will follow on from the famous 'dead parrot sketch', and will convey an important conservation message. We expect this to be used by many news and other programs worldwide, and to promote further discussion and interest.

OUR 'PARROTS NEED HELP' LOGO. This comes in several sizes, from a car window sticker to an individual adhesive badge. This logo carries our website address, which provides extensive information on the World Parrot Trust and its conservation aims.

POSTERS AND LEAFLETS. These will come in a range of sizes, intended for display in zoos, pet stores, vets' offices, schools etc.

What can you do?

CONTACT OUR UK OR USA OFFICES.

REGISTER YOUR NAME AND/OR ORGANISATION WITH US.

We can then keep in touch and plan how to make the most of this unique opportunity to help the parrots of the world, and at the same time help many other species, including our own.

UK:

Call Mike Reynolds (founder and Hon. Director of WPT) 01736.753365.

Or call Sarah Graham (UK Administrator) on 01736.753365 or email: uk@worldparrottrust.org

Or write: WPT-UK, Glanmor House, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 4HY, UK.

USA:

Call Sonia O'Donnell (USA Administrator) on 941.766.7262 or email: usa@worldparrottrust.org

Or write: WPT-USA, PO Box 49766, Sarasota FL 34230.

New Neotropical Projects for the World Parrot Trust

by MICHAEL REYNOLDS

In recent months WPT has become involved in an exciting new development with conservation organisations in the United States. This began when we got together with Mike Parr, Director of Program Development for the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) based in Washington DC. Mike is also co-author, with Tony Juniper, of *Parrots - a Guide to the Parrots of the World* which we reviewed in our November 98 PsittaScene.

At the suggestion of Kim Sams of the prestigious Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund we teamed up with ABC to prepare a joint application for parrot conservation funds, and we will be pursuing this with Disney during 1999. In discussion with ABC, however, we learned about their 'Small Grants Program'. This was announced on the Internet, and invited field biologists and others to apply for funding of up to \$5,000 for projects in the neotropics, ie Latin America and the Caribbean. 33 applications were received, of which 17 related to parrots. These applications were carefully and exhaustively reviewed by a team, including four 'parrot experts', under the chairmanship of William Belton of ABC.

Meanwhile a very useful fund was building up. World Parrot Trust USA pledged \$10,000, to come from the legacy received last year from the estate of the late Kyle Brown (see our report in PsittaScene for August 1998). ABC contributed \$12,000 and a grant from the Barbara Delano Foundation, and a proposal to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service brought the total to almost \$60,000.

The team of reviewers gave ratings to each project, debated

the ratings among themselves (entirely by email), revised them as the debate proceeded, and ended up with a list of 14 projects that will receive funding. 12 of these are for parrots, and here is a brief description of them:

1. The Ognorhynchus Project in Colombia. Paul Salaman.
2. Effects of tropical forest alteration on Psittacid community dynamics and on spatial and temporal habitat



Red-tailed Amazon



Imperial Amazon

use by Mealy Parrots in Guatemala. Robin Bjork.

3. Ecology and conservation of the Blue-winged Macaw in a forest fragment in SE Brazil. Maria Flavia Nunes and Mauro Galetti.
4. Distribution and population size of Jamaica's Amazon Parrots in the Cockpit country. Herlitz A. Davis, Univ. West Indies.
5. An environmental education program for the Red-tailed

Amazon at the Superagui National Park, Brazil. Suzana M. Padua.

6. Red Bank Scarlet Macaw Conservation and Avitourism. Edilberto Romero, Program for Belize.
7. Scarlet Macaw conservation ecology and biology in the Lacandona Forest, Chiapas, Mexico. Gerardo C. Arroyo.
8. Parrots in Peril: rapid conservation studies as the foundation for conservation



Yellow-eared Conure (Ognorhynchus Project)



Yellow-headed Amazon



Scarlet Macaw

Above two photos taken by kind permission of R. Low & R.& V. Moat from *Parrots in Aviculture*



Mealy Parrot

action for the threatened Amazon Parrots of Dominica. Emily J. Ross.

- 9. Great Green Macaw honorary warden program in Ecuador. Fundacion Pro-Bosque.
- 10. The Belize Zoo Yellow-headed Parrot Project. Heather Gartner.
- 11. Conservation of the Scarlet Macaw in the Curu National Wildlife Refuge, Costa Rica. Jose Millan Araujo.
- 12. Blue-fronted Amazon Parrot Project, Brazil.

These projects will take place in nine countries, and I would submit to our WPT members, and any other readers of this publication, that the whole scheme represents quite a breakthrough in the conservation of the parrots, for the following reasons:

- 1. The 'Small Grants Program' provides an opportunity for locally based scientists to state their case for financial help from a group of potential funders.



Blue-winged or Illiger's Macaw

- 2. The review system used creates a consensus of expert opinion, leading to a fair and logical distribution of the available funds.
- 3. Results from the projects will be made available on the Internet and elsewhere (for example, in PsittaScene) and will thus help researchers generally.
- 4. A format has been established that may be used on a long term basis to ensure a continuity of increasing funding for neotropical parrot conservation.

This appears to be the first time that a conservation body such as the World Parrot Trust, representing a primarily avicultural community, has linked up with conservation groups primarily committed to representing bird watching interests.

The funds allocated for 1999 will be on their way to recipients by the time this PsittaScene reaches you.



Yellow-billed Amazon

Above four photos taken by kind permission of R. Low & R. & V. Moat from Parrots in Aviculture

The next closing date for making applications for the 'Small Grants Program' is 15th September 1999, contact: Michael Parr, American Bird Conservancy, 1250 24th St., NW, Suite 400, Washington DC 20037, USA or visit ABC's website at www.abcbirds.org. Decisions on projects to be funded will be announced early in December 1999.

An Invitation

Everyone involved in this programme wishes to invite every organisation with an interest in parrots to consider joining in the good work. Speaking just for WPT, I must say how satisfying it is to know that our very limited funds have been combined with others to enable our trust to help the survival of twelve parrot species in nine countries, five of which are 'new' countries for WPT funding.



Red-necked Amazon

Specifically, and because this programme is restricted to the Americas, I would like cordially to invite such important and relevant bodies as the American Federation of Aviculture, the International Aviculturists Society, the American Zoological Association, and any other zoological, conservation, or avicultural organisation to get in touch with either Mike Parr or myself to discuss this golden opportunity to work together to increase the total funding available for the next round. It could be possible to arrive at a fund of over \$100,000 for the Millennium.

I would also invite WPT members who may like to be involved to contact us at WPT-UK or WPT-USA. We could try to match our \$10,000 for the year 2000 with a similar sum from our membership. What a triumph that would be!



Buffon's or Great Green Macaw



Black-billed Amazon



Blue-fronted Amazon

Wild Echoes: Echo Parakeet Field Season 1998/99

by LANCE WOOLAVER

As we near the end of the Echo Parakeet field season here in Mauritius, we can all look back with a sense of satisfying accomplishment in being involved with the most productive season on record! Under the professional leadership of New Zealander Grant Harper, the season has gone exceedingly smoothly. A total of 8 chicks have fledged in the wild to date with three more expected to fledge within the next few weeks. All are doing well. Ten handraised chicks are planned for the release part of the program which begins January 22. This season's production of 21 fledglings is a significant addition to the 1997 minimum wild population of 73.

By far the most exciting news from this season was the first nesting success of a released female, Gabriella. Gabriella was one of the original trio of Parakeets (along with Pablo and Sanchez) released in July of 1997. Pablo is still fulfilling his function as Echo-Human ambassador and makes regular appearances for VIP visitors and film crews, although his hourly rate has increased substantially with his growing fame. Look for him on the Rolf Harris television show 'Rolf's Amazing World of Animals' on the BBC in May of 1999.

The early part of the season (September and November) was very physical. Trails needed to be recut to known nest sites and 3 hour watches were made at known nest cavities to determine what established pairs were up to. This involved days of hiking up and down the gorges in the national park, often in very wet weather with hungry mosquitoes for company. Any discomfort was

very quickly lost when an Echo was sighted or heard or any new information on them was gained. The individuals on the Echo team seemed to thrive on this intense activity which was often followed by time spent watching, learning and contemplating.

A considerable amount of time was spent and a lot of ground was covered looking for new pairs. Although we feel we have

a good idea of all the present breeding pairs (16 including Gabriella) there are still some areas where we hope new pairs may be found. Apart from Gabriella and her male, we didn't find any new pairs this year but a 2 year old wild fledged female was observed examining a new cavity and we are hopeful that she will nest there next season.

Management Techniques

Our main management technique at the moment is one of downsizing nests. Due to forest loss and degradation, the availability of native foods is a limiting factor. Echoes lay from 1 to 3 eggs but have difficulty feeding more than one chick. Echo chicks have starved in the past. We remove extra chicks from a nest when they are old enough for travel (10 days) leaving the parents a single chick to feed. If a set of parents has shown themselves to be competent in past seasons we

will leave them two chicks and monitor their weights daily to ensure they are putting on weight. The extra chicks are either taken to the aviaries at the GDEWS or transferred to wild pairs whose nests have failed through infertility. Daily monitoring of youngsters through the crucial first 10-20 days allows us to act decisively if the parents are unable to care for them. Weighing is done quickly and carefully and the health of each chick is assessed while the female is being fed by the male away from the nest cavity so that the adults are not being hampered in any way. We have had great success this season with record weights in chicks of 198 and 201 grams despite it being a very poor fruiting due to drought. Care and respect for each individual chick allows us to help the Echo at a species level by ensuring that each season's production is high with the greatest number of fledglings in the wild. The results are certainly there with 11 fledglings in the wild this year.

New Nests Found

Five new cavities were found this season, two of which were used by established pairs who had previously used other cavities nearby. We now know of approximately 25 potential nesting cavities. It appears that Echo pairs likely know of several potential cavities within their traditional nesting area and are able to use alternate cavities if their prime cavity is occupied by a competitor. There are still problems with competition for nest sites, primarily from White-tailed Tropicbirds, Mynahs, Ring-necked Parakeets, bees and termites. At the moment we are preparing cavities for next season to discourage use by these competing species. Since Echoes will use a deep cavity with a small entrance, it is fairly easy to exclude most competitors although it still requires a fair amount of work and patience when you are hanging 10 to 40 feet up a rope.

Each season we have more success and more firsts as each team builds on the hard work and efforts of those before them. The help from Dale



Pablo, Sanchez and Gabriella.



Kirsty Jenkin with Echo chick.

Jackson of the World Parrot Trust was invaluable as he proved himself an excellent field worker and his experience with handling young birds was of great help to the team.

Gabriella's Story

Gabriella was born 12/10/96 to captive parents at the Gerald Durrell Endemic Wildlife Sanctuary (GDEWS) in Black River. She was released in July of 1997 at Plaine Lievre near the Conservation Management Area of native forest at Brise Fer. She was released with two juvenile males of the same age, Pablo and Sanchez. Gabriella was always the most dominant of the three, even though she was smaller and lighter than her companions.

Being the first ever release group of Echo Parakeets their daily progress was closely monitored. For the first two months they spent most of their time exploring the area around their release aviaries. As they became more confident with their flying and orientation skills they began to venture further afield but still spent much of their time nearby. It was an immense thrill when I saw their inaugural flight over the forest of Brise Fer in late September. It caught me by surprise and I felt a feeling of

pride in their accomplishment. They soon began spending most of their time exploring their great new forested world, returning to Plaine Lievre for an evening feed and to roost for the night. In late October the three released Echoes were frequently seen spending time with a wild juvenile of their same age, Zip. They were often observed feeding alongside Zip on wild fruits, their favourite being bois de lait, *Tabernaemontana mauritiana*. It took another few months before Zip reciprocated by learning to use the supplementary feeding hoppers we had provided for the release birds. It was Gabriella that he was seen feeding with at the hopper in January of 1998.

Finding a Mate

Nearly a year later, while searching for new nests on the 26th of October, 1998, Echo team member Daryl Birch saw a single Echo fly into a tree near the Brise Fer management plot. He took a closer look and found what looked like a nest cavity but didn't see any more activity that evening. The next day Daryl sat and watched the cavity for three hours. He saw a female Echo leave to be fed for three minutes by an adult male before going back into the cavity. The female was Gabriella. She had paired with a wild male and had



Gabriella at a feeding station.

found a cavity of her own! Later that day, Echo leader Grant Harper climbed up to the nest and found a single egg. As she was not afraid of Grant, there was a tense standoff between the two and Gabriella made it quite clear to Grant with her body language and strong eye flashing that he had better behave himself.

Unfortunately, the egg was found to be infertile. A plastic dummy egg was placed in the cavity while we planned our next move. One of the main goals of the Echo project is to produce as many fledglings in the wild as possible so it was very important to us that Gabriella be given a chance to raise a chick.

Rearing a Chick

We were able to transfer a 6 day old, 29 gram chick named Pippin, from another wild nest which had two hatchlings. Much to our relief, Pippin immediately began putting on weight. All of us were anxious to see whether such a young female would be able to care for a very demanding Echo chick. Pippin was weighed daily. The nesting material was treated with carbaryl to protect Pippin from nestflies and mites. Gabriella handled herself like an experienced Echo and Pippin

grew well. She was tolerant of our daily checks and would wait until we were finished before going into the cavity to feed her chick. At 12 days old, both of Pippin's eyes were open. On day 13, Pippin was fitted with colour rings for identification (black on the left, light green on the right) and already weighed 65 grams. Gabriella continued to use the established supplementary feeding stations in Brise Fer as well as her own personal feeding hopper we had placed in a tree near her cavity. By day 37, Pippin weighed a respectable 159 grams and was ready for a day of fame. On the 16th of December, Pippin was filmed for the BBC television show *Rolf's Amazing World of Animals* while Gabriella sat in a nearby tree keeping a watchful eye on the proceedings.

In the late afternoon of December 29, Pippin was seen perched in a tree adjacent to the nest cavity with Gabriella. He was 56 days old and finally fledged. Fledglings are very quiet and nothing was seen or heard of Pippin although Gabriella was regularly seen on her own in Brise Fer and at Plaine Lievre.

Two days ago, January 20, 1999, I was walking in Brise Fer and saw an adult male Echo feeding on flowers of bois de lait. I then saw a younger bird with him and knew it was Pippin. Pippin was also feeding on the flowers and Gabriella was nearby.

Another Season

This experience has given all of us associated with the field and release parts of the Echo project increased confidence that our efforts will work. Next season we hope that some of the 6 female Echoes released last year, still around Brise Fer and Plaine Lievre and doing well, will follow Gabriella's example.

All of us here in Mauritius involved with the Echo Parakeet Project would like to thank Mike Reynolds and the WPT and its members for their continued support of our work. We would also like to thank Kirsty Jenkin for her help with handraising Echoes again this year and Dale Jackson for being part of the Echo team.

Recent research on Amazon Parrots

by ROSEMARY LOW (photographs by ROSEMARY LOW)

It is just over one year since Volume 4 of Handbook of Birds of the World was published. It contains an authoritative treatise on the current status of parrots. Most of the entries for parrots, except Cockatoos, were made by Nigel Collar of BirdLife International, a highly respected researcher with countless worldwide contacts. Another recent and valuable addition to our sources of information is Parrots: a guide to the parrots of the world by Tony Juniper and Mike Parr. Amazon Parrots (genus *Amazona*) remain one of the most popular groups in aviculture so it might be an appropriate time to review the current status of the genus.

Taxonomy of this group is still contentious, especially regarding the ochrocephala complex, which is here treated as one species. I personally prefer this treatment. Of the 29 species recognised in the Handbook seven are classified as vulnerable, five as endangered and one as critically endangered. In a recent review of neotropical parrots made by Mike Parr of the American Bird Conservancy, this assessment is upheld, with one addition. The 'Yellow-headed' Amazon (*Amazona oratrix*) is listed as endangered. I could not find the definitions of the categories within the book so will suppose that these follow IUCN categories. These are as follows:

Critically Endangered

Faces an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future. The Puerto Rican Amazon (*A.vittata*) is the only species thus classified.

Endangered

Not Critically Endangered but still faces a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future. This applies to the Red-spectacled (*A.pretrei*), Green-cheeked, Red-tailed, Vinaceous and Red-browed (*rhodocorytha*).

Vulnerable

Faces a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future.

I think we should all note these terms because most of the species which we describe as endangered are, if we are technically correct, 'only' VULNERABLE. So which Amazon Parrots fall into this category? They are the Black-billed, Yellow-faced (*xanthops*), Yellow-shouldered (*barbadensis*), St Lucia, St Vincent and, from Dominica, the Red-necked and the Imperial.

A.o.belizensis

Several sub-species of the Double Yellow-headed Amazon (*Amazona ochrocephala oratrix* or *A.oratrix oratrix*, depending on your taxonomic viewpoint), are threatened with extinction. These include *belizensis* from Belize in Central America. It differs from most races in the fact that it nests in pine trees. In Belize the pine forests are being lost at an alarming rate. This is due to clearance by the citrus industry, clearing for farming and for housing projects.

Combined with natural threats,

such as fire during the dry season, the delicate ecosystem of the pine forests is now endangered. Vast areas have been destroyed.

The other threat to this Amazon is trapping by hunters. Its reputation as a good talker has contributed to its status. It is the favourite pet parrot of the people of Belize. The collection of chicks from nests was a big seasonal business but the gradual loss of habitat means of course that the trade is in decline.

The Belize Zoo and Tropical

Education Center (TEC) is making an effort to save *belizensis*, in conjunction with the school and village of La Democracia. The objective is to provide a strategy which will foster an atmosphere of environmental awareness and promote active conservation of the birds and their habitat. The World Parrot Trust and American Bird Conservancy are helping to fund the parrot project for the 1999 academic year (see our report on pages 4 and 5). Great strides have been made in educating the community so far. The Yellow-headed Parrot curriculum is multi-disciplinary in nature, combining aspects of science, language and social studies. This approach provides students with a variety of activities, materials and the necessary tools for developing a well-rounded perspective of parrot conservation and awareness.

Students are invited to come to the zoo - more than 1,000 of them in 1997, for example, plus teachers and parents. They have one-day sessions. In addition, nest-boxes are constructed and positioned - and are being used. The parrot is seen on a regular basis in the area of the zoo but flock sizes are very small, ranging from two to five birds. The project is so important for the parrot's survival. It is the children who take part who will eventually determine whether the biodiversity of today will survive for future generations.

Some members of the *ochrocephala* complex are well represented in aviculture and two or three are bred in substantial numbers. This is not true of *belizensis* which has never been common. In addition, it may be perceived as



A.o.belizensis (less yellow on face) with an *oratrix* which is not fully mature.



Red-necked Amazon from Dominica



Blue-crowned (Mealy) Amazons

less desirable as it has less yellow on the face than the better known oratrix forms. I feel that belizensis should be the subject of a studbook in Europe in order that breeders can stay in contact. I suspect that breeders are few.

Blue-crowned or Guatemalan Mealy Amazon

The Mealy Amazon (*Amazona farinosa*) has a very wide range over northern South America; one of the sub-species which occurs in Central America is *guatemalae*. While *farinosa* is not of immediate conservation interest, it is appropriate to study some species before this is the case. A study of it in Tikal National Park and the adjacent buffer zone of the Maya Biosphere Reserve (Peten), northern Guatemala, has been under way since 1997. A three or four year project is envisaged. Field work commenced in February 1998. Canopy platforms were constructed at nine sites and monthly point counts from them began in June. Habitat preference and seasonal patterns are emerging. Nests in large natural cavities were located and all the nest trees had an average diameter of nearly 1m (3ft).

Of particular interest is the telemetry work. Three adult parrots with active nests were radio-collared. They were fitted with a collar-mounted, brass-encased adjustable transmitter

which weighed about 3% of the bird's body weight. The parrots' local and long-distance movements were tracked. After their young fledged, all three birds moved north about 60km (37 miles) outside the protected zone and into the multiple-use region of the Maya Biosphere Reserve. It appears that the Mealy Amazons moved to this area in response to availability of fruits. One of the birds later flew about 100km (62 miles) south-west to a highly degraded site in the buffer zone. This movement corresponded to point count observations of large numbers of these Amazons flying in a south-westerly direction. In 1999, it is planned to radio-tag a larger sample of the Amazons.

One of the aims of the study is to examine the effects of tropical forest alteration on parrot habitat use and reproductive success. Canopy frugivores, such as the Mealy, have received little ecological research, partly due to their wide-ranging habits and the difficulty of estimating abundance. Some of those species probably use large areas and occur in low densities, thus many protected areas will not be large enough to provide for long-term populations. The Maya Biosphere Reserve is one of the largest protected areas in Central America, yet it may not include the range of habitats and specific localities used by some parrot species throughout their annual cycle. The results of this study could have far-reaching significance to parrot

conservation and reserve design throughout lowland tropical forests.

Cayman Brac Parrot

The Cayman Brac Amazon (*Amazona leucocephala hesterna*) is a vulnerable sub-species of the Cuban Amazon, found only on the tiny island of Cayman Brac. This island is only 38 sq km (10 square miles) in extent. (It is one of the Cayman Islands, situated north-west of Jamaica.) Studies made from 1991 to 1994 indicated that approximately 400 parrots existed there, according to Burton and Wiley (in prep). This statement conflicts with the survey carried out by the National Trust for the Cayman Islands in February 1991, which resulted in an estimate of 93-134 parrots. Certainly 400 seems a surprisingly large number for such a small, human-inhabited area. The population is said to have been stable during the period 1991 to 1997, after a lull from nest-robbing and hunting, habitat destruction and the introduction of exotic predators and competitors.

The population is censused at three year periods. The last census occurred from February 7 to 14 1997; 62 fixed observation stations were occupied and these sampled about 50% of the land area, including all major habitats. Stations were occupied for approximately three hours

during the morning and evening activity periods. Calls and sightings were correlated between adjacent stations to develop maximum and minimum count estimates. The 1997 census showed no significant difference in abundance from the two previous ones., ie 93-134 parrots.

This Amazon is mainly dependent on old-growth dry evergreen woodland which covers much of the Brac's elevated plateau. This habitat is also important for a wide range of flora and fauna, including an abundant neotropical bird influx during the winter. Recent increase in road construction and development are cause for concern. Renewed deforestation pressures on the Brac's woodlands may degrade this diverse and rich habitat and further threaten the Cayman Brac Parrot's precariously small population.

This sub-species is almost unknown in captivity outside its native island. It was bred in a collection in Florida but maintaining a captive population with a genetic base of only two or three birds proved to be impossible so, unlike the Cuban Amazon, for example, there is no captive population to rely on should a catastrophe decimate the wild population.

Dr James Wiley of Grambling University, who has been connected with the research for several years, suggested in 1991: 'A carefully managed



Male Cuban Amazon (left) with female Cayman Brac Amazon

captive propagation programme seems appropriate in view of the small population size and restricted range.' This was not initiated, despite the fact that captive birds on the island could have been used for this purpose. In 1986 Patricia Bradley estimated that there were more than 200 in captivity there. This was surely an over-estimate; many or even most of the captive birds are likely to have been Grand Cayman Parrots (*A.l.caymanensis*). The main differences between the two sub-species are the significantly smaller size of hesterna, smaller area of pink on the head and larger area of vinaceous on the underparts.

The Cayman Brac Parrot has the smallest area of distribution of any Amazon Parrot, not excepting the Imperial (*A.imperialis*) from Dominica. This species was much in the news between one and two decades ago, especially after Hurricane David struck Dominica in 1979. Estimates as low as 50 Imperials for the entire population were made. The Nature Conservancy, on behalf of the Dominica Division of Forestry, recently applied for a grant for research on the Imperial and Dominica's other Amazon, the Red-necked (*A.arausiaca*). In so doing the current estimated populations are described as 80-100 and 500 individuals respectively. Agriculture (especially citrus and sugar) has resulted in severe habitat loss for these two species. Citrus plantations have also created a perceived conflict between foraging parrots and

the farmers who illegally kill and disturb the birds, in the belief that the parrots are damaging their crops. In the grant application the statement is made that efforts are needed to reduce the tension between farmers and parrots, and to relocate nesting habitat for parrots through artificial nest cavity restoration in new watersheds on the island. It is also stated that a total of 30 nests of each species will be located through construction and use of parrot observation towers at key locations. Thirty might seem like an optimistic number where the Imperial is concerned.

Also, in view of the fact that the Imperial has been the subject of heightened conservation interest for 20 years (and 20 years ago the number of parrot conservation projects could be counted on the fingers of one hand) it is surprising that a study of this kind was not undertaken a decade ago. It is true of course that due to the mountainous terrain, fieldwork on Dominica is difficult. But the magnificent Imperial Parrot, a flagship species for the Caribbean region, surely deserves priority.

Ramon Noegel has had a long interest in the Cayman Brac Parrot. In 1975 he rented a cottage on the island, in order to study the parrots. He has returned on a number of occasions since then. Asked to comment on the population estimate of 400 birds, he wrote to the author:

Dear Rosemary

The parrots were scarce and hard to find. The few that were there could be monitored daily as they moved slowly up and down the Bluff to forage on whatever was available. This was usually mangos or papayas growing in what the local people called their plantations. This consisted of limited areas where the red soil had accumulated between the sharp rocks.

The south side of the Bluff is sparsely vegetated. The land that extends from the foot of the Bluff to the sea is very limited. In all the time we spent exploring caves we never saw a parrot there. We believe that this was in part due to the high winds constantly lashing this side of the island. Also, the edge of the top of the Bluff is very arid, supporting only cactus and agaves. It presents little in the way of sheltering shrubs or trees until one goes inland approximately 150 metres, where stunted trees and shrubs begin to gain a hold.

Parrots regularly descend from the Bluff to the wooded areas on the north side of the island where in places the land stretches 350m (1,150ft) from the Bluff to the sea. This is mostly in the region of Stake Bay, about one third of the way from West End. Here the trees are lush and there are ample fruiting trees for the parrots to feed in. The parrots usually return to the safety of the Bluff to roost.

One January we discovered a group of about 50 birds which consisted mainly of pairs with one to three offspring still being fed and in juvenile plumage. The flock also contained single birds and pairs without young. As we daily followed these birds we began to recognise certain individuals by more or less colour. In time we could get very close to them. By ascending the Bluff at 4am by torchlight and carefully picking our way over the treacherous path, we usually intercepted them at the break of day. Sometimes we would settle ourselves before daylight and wait - only to discover the parrots were already there. They began to call to one another - often right above our heads. There were as many as five of us sometimes, deployed around the open area of the plantation. We all counted the birds we saw. The total numbers ranged between 44 to 50 parrots. This was the case during all of January and part of February, or until the group began to break up in preparation for the breeding season.

In six months we covered the entire Bluff, east to west and north to south, wherever there was any semblance of a path. The dangerous terrain of sharp rock and grass covered deep fissures. Records exist of 'Bracers' being seriously injured or killed in such natural traps.

At the east end of the island lies Spott Bay, one of the largest settlements. Here the Bluff rises to about 45m (150ft). It has only the occasional tree, usually mango. This large area is very windy. No parrots go there unless there are mangos in season (April and May).

The West End is well populated with hotels and homes, and the airport. Only rarely are parrots seen there and then in Mr Scott's many mango trees that surround the old family homestead.

In other words, the parrots' habitat on this small island is very limited, with limited food source and very few nesting sites. This would preclude there being a population of 400 birds. In a small area a single bird flying low from tree to tree could easily be counted twice. Unlike the Grand Cayman Parrot, they do not fly above the canopy but make short flights from tree to tree. We found only three nest trees: one in a huge mango at Stake Bay and the others in gumbo limbo trees on top of the Bluff. Trees large enough to form nest cavities are very scarce. The flora is mostly scrub. We found no evidence that the parrots used holes in the cliff for nesting.

During our last visit to Cayman Brac in 1991 we saw captive birds at only three places - no more than ten. We believe that this was the total of Cayman Brac Parrots in captivity. Everyone knows what everyone else has along a nine mile road.

Yours
Ramon Noegel

World Parrot Trust Projects

Past, present and future by MICHAEL REYNOLDS

When the World Parrot Trust was founded in 1989 - by Andrew Greenwood, David Woolcock, my wife Audrey and myself - we realised that, to have any credibility, we would have to find ways of supporting the conservation of parrots in the wild. Today, this seems an almost absurd statement of the obvious, but it wasn't so obvious ten years ago. Some of the major bird protection organisations funded studies of ecosystems and habitats that were helpful to some parrot species, but direct, focussed investment in the parrots was a considerable rarity.

Our friends and mentors at the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust (JWPT) brought to our attention the desperate plight of the Echo Parakeet in Mauritius. Only 12 or 15 birds were left, but Carl Jones and his team were then beginning a programme that has now raised numbers to almost 100. Together with the Parrot Society we helped buy a vitally needed four wheel drive vehicle, and both specialist parrot organisations have helped the Echo ever since.

The way it seems to work for WPT is that first, we provide some funds for a parrot project, then we tell people what we are doing and ask them to help build up our funds. When funds come in we adopt a new parrot project, tell the world about it, and ask for more financial help. In this way we stack one brick on top of another, and try to build a thriving, expanding commitment on behalf of the whole 'parrot community' to put some of their money where it ought to be, out there in the wild helping the parrots to survive despite the many deprivations of man.

In our PsittaScene for August 1998 we listed 22 species of CITES Appendix 1 parrots that had been helped by funds from WPT. These were:

Spix's Macaw
Lear's Macaw
Hyacinth Macaw
Blue-throated Macaw
Buffon's Macaw

St. Vincent Amazon
Imperial Amazon
Red-necked Amazon
St. Lucia Amazon
Red-tailed Amazon
Cuban Amazon
Red-spectacled Amazon
Green-cheeked Amazon
Moluccan Cockatoo
Red-vented Cockatoo
Goffin's Cockatoo
Red-tailed Cockatoo
Palm Cockatoo
Kakapo
Cape Parrot
Black-cheeked Lovebird
Echo Parakeet

To the above list of 22 we can now add a further eight species from the group of Neotropical parrots described on pages 4 and 5 of this issue of PsittaScene as being 'new to WPT'. We should also add some we had temporarily forgotten; these are Golden-plumed Parakeet, White-necked Parakeet, and Red-faced Parrot (all studied by field biologist Jeremy Flanagan in Ecuador, with funding from WPT), and the African Grey Parrot. Also to be added is the Cuban Conure *Aratinga euops*, funded for three years by Canadian WPT.

So let us now add:

Scarlet Macaw
Blue-winged Macaw
Yellow-eared Parrot
Mealy Amazon
Black-billed Amazon
Yellow-billed Amazon
Yellow-headed Amazon
Blue-fronted Amazon
Golden-plumed Parakeet
White-necked Parakeet
Red-faced Parrot
African Grey Parrot
Cuban Conure

This brings us to 35 species helped during the first ten years of the World Parrot Trust. So if anyone asks you what WPT is doing, you could tell them about that, and suggest they join us so they can add to our ability to save the parrots from extinction.

To close this report I would like to let you know about two additional 'new' projects for WPT. The first is:

Golden Conure
Guaruba guarouba



We have long been concerned about this Brazilian species, which has suffered from tremendous loss of its rainforest habitat, and being a highly sought after bird for trade. While at the Tenerife convention last September I met up with Glenn Reynolds (no relation) of Springfield, Virginia, USA, and found we had a mutual interest in this species. We decided to set up a WPT 'Golden Conure Fund', and members can consider this launched right here and now.

We have contacted Dr. Carlos Yamashita, Brazil's leading parrot biologist who has conducted previous research into the Golden Conure and its needs, and is anxious to do more to help its preservation. Funds from WPT would be very welcome, and the sooner fresh studies can begin, the better. We will publish a detailed proposal from Dr. Yamashita in the May 1999 PsittaScene.

The Golden Conure Fund will be based in our WPT-USA office (see new address on page 19), and Glenn Reynolds (8338 Terra Grande Ave., Springfield VA 22153, USA, fax: 703.644.6415, email: goldenconurefund@breedersblend.com) will be pleased to hear from anyone who has a special interest in this species, or wishes to contribute in any way. We suggest that everyone who holds this species should consider sending \$20 or £15 for each bird to our new fund. (We have five at Paradise Park, UK, and have already sent \$100 to get the fund started.) WPT-USA will match the first single donation of \$1000 to this fund. The outstanding wildlife artist David Johnston has agreed to provide a painting of the Golden Conure, and tee-shirts will be available by May 1999.

The second species is:

Citron-crested Cockatoo
Cacatua sulphurea citrinocristata



This project is already partly funded by a generous donation from a member in Switzerland, but more is needed during 1999. We received a proposal from Drs. Margaret Kinnaird and Tim O'Brien, already working in Ceram for the Wildlife Conservation Society. A group of 12 cockatoos is being held by the Indonesian conservation authority PHPA, and these provide an opportunity to fit them with radio collars and study their movements and behaviour on release. We expect to include a full report on this project in the May 1999 PsittaScene. The latest information on all the white cockatoos is extremely worrying, and the Citron-crested in particular appears to be moving close to a 'critical' position.

A NEW TOTAL

These two projects bring us to a grand total of 37 species helped by funding from WPT. You can take it that the trustees and committee members of all WPT branches are pleased to have achieved so much with the invaluable support of the membership. The steady flow of membership fees is vital, but in the last couple of years we have been greatly helped by an increasing number of unexpected DONATIONS. For example, we have today received a cheque for £1000 from members who have just sold their apartment in London and wish to 'share their windfall with WPT'. This is so generous and heartwarming, and helps us to 'keep up the good work' as requested by many who write to us.

In addition to making donations when possible, our membership could also consider leaving a legacy to the WPT in their wills.

News from Paradise Park

by MICHAEL REYNOLDS



Chough, Cornwall's national bird.

Carlton TV programme condemned: Paradise Park vindicated

Readers may recall that in our February 1998 issue of PsittaScene I wrote a rather ill-tempered article entitled 'Enough is enough'. In this I mentioned a television programme 'The Big Story' that had libelled both Paradise Park and the World Parrot Trust. We decided not to pursue libel action against Carlton Television (why make lawyers rich?), but instead made a complaint to the Broadcasting Standards Commission. This was successful, and there follows a press release we issued in January 1999.

CARLTON TV PROGRAMME UNFAIR TO PARADISE PARK

The independent television watchdog, the Broadcasting Standards Commission has determined that Carlton Television broadcast a programme which was unfair to Paradise Park in Cornwall, and infringed the privacy of its owner Michael Reynolds.

The 'Big Story', transmitted on 30th October 1997, alleged that Paradise Park sold an Illiger's Macaw without due care, but the Commissioners found major errors by the programme makers.

Paradise Park, established by the Reynolds family in 1973, is a respected conservation centre with an outstanding record for breeding rare birds. As well as giving a home to the World Parrot Trust, it is one of Cornwall's major tourist attractions, and Michael Reynolds believes the programme has caused lasting harm to the Park and to the charity. 'The programme was deeply flawed, especially in the use of hidden cameras and by the biased editing. My family and the Paradise Park staff were extremely distressed by what was shown - and what was left out - and I would like to thank the BSC for helping us through the investigation of our complaints. I am particularly angry that as a consequence of the programme memberships and donations to the World Parrot Trust may be reduced.'

In the nine page adjudication and summary, the Commissioners found 'Paradise Park's track record suggest that they were acting in good faith on the information they had been given in relation to the sale of the parrot.' and that 'the use of Wildlife Direct as a bogus company to investigate Paradise Park resulted in unfairness.'

'The Commission does not consider that Paradise Park was given an adequate opportunity to respond to the criticisms in the programme. This was unfair.' 'Secret filming and recording of telephone conversations, in these circumstances, amounted to infringement of privacy.'

Paradise Park is satisfied that the integrity of the programme has been thoroughly undermined, but is still trying to get the Illiger's Macaw featured in the programme returned as he has not been paired with a female as promised. A letter has been written to Carlton Television to give them an opportunity to offset the damage done by making a donation to the World Parrot Trust, but their Chairman, Mr Michael Green, refused our request.

An Afterthought

Perhaps he is short of funds after paying a £2M fine for transmitting a programme about drugs that contained faked scenes. If you feel that Mr Green should re-consider our request for a donation, you could write to him at: Carlton Television, 35-38 Portman Square, London W1H 0NU, UK.

At the same time you could ask him to arrange for our Illiger's Macaw to be returned to us. It is currently being held by an alleged 'wildlife consultant' in Ireland, and is incorrectly paired up with a Hahn's Macaw, not a mate of his own species as promised to us.

The Summary of the BSC's adjudication was transmitted at peak time on Channel 3 TV and also published in The Times, at the expense of Carlton Television. The Summary, or the full adjudication, is available to all from: Broadcasting Standards Commission, 7, The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JS. The Summary can also be found on the BSC website at www.bsc.org.uk.

Although we have been fully vindicated by this adjudication, the fact remains that many people had their confidence in us undermined, we received a few poison pen letters, and our critics (as we all know, if you ever create anything worthwhile in life, you will also create critics) had a field day. We also had to spend an unbelievable amount of time and energy to pursue our determination to be found 'not guilty' of the charges made against us in this pathetic tenth-rate programme. Time that could have been better spent working for the parrots.

While on this subject, you may like to know that one of our national representatives has been subjected to a barrage of emailed complaints about WPT. This was mostly trying to keep going with the complaint that we dispose of birds from Paradise Park carelessly (now disproved, see above), but also saying that we were not too efficient in dealing with membership applications on the Internet. I don't think this is true, as we routinely receive new members via our website at www.worldparrottrust.org but even if we are less than perfectly efficient, this is because we put every possible penny, or cent, towards parrot conservation, rather than salaries for staff.

One of our members, Mr. W. MacIntosh, has asked us to make more of the fact that we run the World Parrot Trust with only two part time staff, one in the UK and one in the USA. Everyone else works for free, or more than free, because we all, both in the UK and in our national branches, meet much of our costs personally. I would suggest that anyone who feels our efficiency needs improvement should send us a donation to be used exclusively for administrative purposes.

To close this story that began with an Illiger's Macaw, let me hark back to the Pet Bird Report Convention last October in Oakland California. There I was shown this charming picture of an Illiger's with her newly hatched chick. Howard and Jane McKee of San Diego, California very kindly sent us a copy of the picture, and report that Gracie hatched and reared a clutch of five.

When people criticise aviculture I try to explain to them the nature of the challenges involved, and the thrill of succeeding in providing all the conditions necessary to achieve a good breeding result. Down the ages, sound animal husbandry has always been its own reward. This picture seems to express the fulfillment of both the birds and the breeders.

Something to crow about?

Paradise Park is at Hayle, near the picturesque fishing town of St. Ives in Cornwall. For millennia the coast of Cornwall

was inhabited by the Chough, a most attractive red-legged and red-billed member of the crow family. Although the Duchy of Cornwall's 'national bird', the Chough dwindled in numbers and finally became extinct in Cornwall in the early 1970s. We maintained a small group of Choughs at Paradise Park, with the aim of eventually re-introducing them to the cliffs where they belong. We funded Dr. Richard Meyer's PhD thesis aimed at identifying the requirements for a successful reintroduction. Now we have enough knowledge, and have bred enough of these birds to attempt a release programme during 1999.

A new release aviary has been built, 100ft long by 22ft wide by 12 ft. high, and three pairs of Chough are making the most of the airspace and the prevailing Southwest winds to build up their flying strength. In early summer we expect to organise a 'soft release' based on the techniques employed in Mauritius for the Echo Parakeet, and with all the birds carrying radio transmitters. It will be rewarding to attempt to give back to Cornwall its emblematic bird, with its distinctive wild cry.

New Australasian Exhibit

It has taken quite a while, but we are close to finishing the building of a range of new aviaries for Australian and New Zealand birds. These replace a large 'walk-through' aviary that was first built in 1974, and had



Kea

ceased to be good enough for our discerning visitors. The birds to live there will include Red-tailed Black, Leadbeater's and Roseate Cockatoos, various Australian Parakeets, Gouldian Finches, Kookaburras, and a group of young Keas. Our flock of Green-naped Lorikeets will be on hand to give visitors the thrill of feeding them from small cups of nectar, and the planting will all be based on Australasian forms. Whether or not our staff will be wearing hats with dangling corks is still under discussion.

News about people

It came as quite a shock to learn that my wife, Audrey, had to have cardiac bypass surgery in February. Fortunately this has gone very well, and she is now recovering at home. Our thanks to the many friends who have sent us their good wishes. Audrey is a founder trustee of the World Parrot Trust, has worked tirelessly for it for ten

years, and has always supported every aspect of its work.

Our daughter Alison, who looks after the 'inside' responsibilities of Paradise Park while our son Nick looks after the 'outside', surprised us just before Christmas by sneaking off and getting married to her long time companion Ray Hales. We were delighted by this happy development, and since none of us care for formal events, the lack of a flashy wedding was no loss at all.

Bird News

We have long enjoyed a close working relationship with Jersey Zoo and the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust (JWPT). This began in 1973 when the late Gerald Durrell generously agreed to let us have a pair of White-eared Pheasant, then just bred for the first time at Jersey. We went on to work with JWPT on Thick-billed Parrots and the St. Vincent Parrot, and our current breeding female is on loan from them.

Jersey are the only people to have St. Lucia Parrots outside of the island itself, sent to them by the government as a result of the work they have done to help the species there. Their Curator of Birds David Jeggo and his team have been successful in breeding this stunning Caribbean parrot, and recently sent us two males that are not needed for their programme. By early summer these birds will be on view in a prime position in our beautiful Victorian walled garden.



Illiger's Macaw and Chicks



St. Lucia Parrot

How Steve Martin and Texas helped WPT help 13 Parrots

by MICHAEL REYNOLDS

There must be people out there who are greatly entertained by parrot shows featuring Moluccan Cockatoos riding bicycles along steel wires. All I can say is that such a sight makes me very sad. I know it's clever of the trainer to achieve such a spectacle, but to me it is an affront to the dignity of such a magnificent creature.

At Paradise Park in Cornwall UK, where WPT is based, we have never attempted anything of this kind, although we have for years presented shows with a variety of birds doing things that come naturally to them. By this I mean flying birds of prey to the lure, having barn owls demonstrate that they hunt by using their phenomenal hearing, and having parrots fly over the audience to collect a twig or a coin.

So when I first saw one of Steve Martin's presentations at San Diego Wild Animal Park, I was pleased to discover that there was an alternative to having parrots riding bikes, firing cannons, hauling up flags and all that rather out-dated 'business'. Steve's company is accurately named Natural Encounters Inc., and he puts on presentations at a considerable number of zoos in the United States, for example, at Los Angeles Zoo and Sea World, San Diego. For the new Disney Wild Animal Kingdom in Florida he has provided a team of 19 trainers.

Every year he arranges a special show for the Texas State Fair that occurs in Dallas each September for 20 days. I've seen a tape of the show, and apart from being original, fascinating and funny, it demonstrates the commitment of Steve and his

fellow trainers to the aim of educating the general public about conservation in all its forms. Since this show is seen by around 400,000 people every year, it must be one of the most effective initiatives anywhere to advance knowledge of the many and varied threats to our planet, and every life form it supports including parrots and people.

Throughout his work he makes it clear that he and his team are working with wild animals that can be encouraged to demonstrate and perhaps expand their natural skills through 'positive reinforcement'. At no time does he give any support to misguided 'anthropomorphism', where animals are regarded as 'little people'.

Steve is especially proud to be behaviour consultant to the California Condor Recovery Project, and to the Hawaiian

Crow and Hawaiian Hawk programmes.

An extract from Steve Martin's 'Employee Welcome Letter' will give you an idea of his philosophy:

"I have always felt very fortunate to be able to work in this field. In fact, it is difficult for me to remember ever having a 'real' job. It was a childhood dream for me to be able to work with animals when I grew up. I loved animals and everything about them. It was my fascination for animals and my respect for the natural world that got me into this business, and those things still inspire me today.

Training animals is certainly better than working for a living, but there is more to our company, much more. The natural world is disappearing before our very eyes. Most children lack the opportunity to

experience wildlife like I did when I was young. Even though I grew up in the city, there was wildlife all around me. I could see 20 or more species of bird in my back yard alone. Today, development has squeezed nature out of so called 'civilised' areas. For many children, their distorted perception of animals comes from television or zoos and does not promote true appreciation or a valid understanding of their shared kinship with the living earth.

We have the power to bring nature to the people. Very few people have the unique opportunity to be in a position to teach others about nature. No matter what kids learn in school, read in books, or see on TV, it cannot compare with the close encounter with a living animal that we can provide. We have the power to open people's minds and touch their sense of wonder. We can introduce humans to the intricacies of life and help people understand their role in the balance of nature. We have an opportunity to reach millions of people each year and make a significant contribution towards saving the natural world. With this opportunity comes responsibility. Nature has given



Steve Martin with his amazing singing Amazon 'Groucho'.



An African Pied Crow collects a dollar bill.



At the Texas State Fair the audience ducks as an Andean Condor sweeps over.

me so much in my lifetime; I feel it is my responsibility to give something back. I hope you feel the same.

The coming years will bring much growth and challenge to Natural Encounters Inc. We will continue to develop all areas of our company and branch out into some new endeavours. Our bird shows will continue to expand and evolve in quality and quantity. We will add new road shows and school programmes as the staffing and bird collection allow.

On the near horizon, I see branching out into some new areas of conservation education. With our expertise in animal training and show production we have the ability to engage, inspire and empower audiences of all ages and all walks of life at most any venue imaginable. I want to see us take our conservation message outside our comfort zone and send it loud and clear to all who will listen.

Conservation is an area of our company that I plan to develop further. We will continue to raise money for our conservation efforts (each year we donate several thousand dollars to conservation projects), but I would like to see us do more. In our company are the best animal trainers and educators in the world. I would like to find a way for us to tap into our company resources and make better use of our staff expertise to make a more significant contribution to saving species and educating people. We need to exploit our incredible power of influence for the good of all species."

We were fortunate that Steve selected World Parrot Trust USA to be featured at the 1998 Texas State Fair, as this resulted in some important publicity for our trust, quite a few new members, a lot of our tee-shirts sold, and a magnificent donation of \$10000.

This arrived at the exact time we were looking for funds to help



Conservation Booth

with the purchase of a four wheel drive vehicle for Biobrasil, an NGO based in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. You can read a report on their efforts to save Lear's Macaw in the November 1998 issue of PsittaScene.

The donation from Natural Encounters Inc. enabled us to send \$8000 for this, and together with other funds a good used vehicle has been bought. It will be used to search for more new populations of the macaw, and to help protect the very vulnerable known populations.

You may be interested but horrified to know that we have received reliable information that 52 Lear's Macaws were stolen from the wild in the last two years. That may leave only about 100 in the wild, so it is timely that a meeting is to take place in Sao Paulo on March 12th at which IBAMA, the Brazilian government conservation agency, a number of Brazilian NGOs and parrot

biologists, the World Parrot Trust, and the Committee for the Preservation of Lear's Macaw will set out to co-ordinate their efforts to beat the trappers. More news on this in the May 1999 PsittaScene.

The remaining \$2000 of Steve's donation went towards the \$10000 total WPT-USA is giving to the new group of parrot projects described in the article in this issue headed 'New Neotropical Parrot Projects for WPT'. So this very welcome and generous donation is already at work in countries helping the survival of twelve parrot species.

Steve Martin is undoubtedly a great supporter of the conservation of parrots, as well as being an expert in their behaviour and training. His expertise is available in a range of training videos. For details, please write to: Natural Encounters Inc., 9014 Thompson Nursery Road, Lake Wales FL 33853, USA.

Who won the Lory Book Competition?

We received over 50 entries for this competition, a high number that reflects the great interest in this outstanding book by Rosemary Low. The winners of the two copies were drawn from 20 correct answers, and they were:

The Wild Family, Leamington Spa, Warks. UK
And: Bo Gere, Angered, Sweden.

The long-awaited Encyclopedia of the Lories by Rosemary Low was published last year. It is a mine of information - the largest study of one

group of parrots ever made by a single person. An exciting and colourful book, it contains 175 colour photographs in its 432 pages. There are maps, diagrams and dozens of tables showing the weight development of chicks.

Encyclopedia of the Lories is available in the UK from Insignis Publications, P.O.Box 100, Mansfield, Notts NG20 9NZ, UK. Fax: +44 (0)1623 846430. The price is £46.50 post free in the UK and £51 post paid in Europe. Airmail postage outside Europe is extra.



Bird A: Duivenbode's Lory



Bird B: Red or Moluccan Lory



News about WPT Branches

I use the word 'branches' rather loosely, because our support groups take a number of different forms. Some are fully registered charities in their own right, such as WPT-USA and Canadian WPT, while others are registered with their national supervisory bodies, and others again are more simple financial entities.

WPT-USA

Some substantial change has taken place here, with Dr. Richard Porter resigning as Treasurer and Secretary, and the office being moved from Memphis Tennessee to Sarasota Florida. The principal reasons for these changes are firstly, that a difference of view emerged about the method of development of the Trust in the USA, and secondly, that it seemed logical to base the administrative support of WPT-USA in Sarasota where I spend almost half of each year.

This leaves Charles Munn, Andrew Greenwood and myself as Directors of WPT-USA, and we have appointed Sonia O'Donnell as Administrator, and also Deputy Director to help her make the most of her extensive marketing experience. The new address is: WPT-USA, PO Box 49766, Sarasota FL 34230. Phone: 941.766.7262. Fax: 941.766.9581.

Email: usa@worldparrottrust.org.

We are all immensely appreciative of the help given by Richard over the past four years, not only personally to WPT but also, with Luanne and its other directors, from the International Aviculturists Society. We hope to continue to work effectively with IAS for the benefit of the parrots, and wish them well in their future initiatives.

A special thank you is due to Cynthia Webb, who has worked so hard as USA Administrator for four years. She has attended many conventions and shows for us, and we hope she will continue to do this for us as may be convenient. Richard and Cynthia have organised a smooth handover of equipment, stores, computer information and responsibilities, and WPT-USA is extremely grateful to them both.

WPT Italy

We would like to thank the European AAV organising committee for granting a free booth to the World Parrot Trust in the next European AAV conference which will be held in Pisa, Italy, 17-22 May 1999.

We are particularly grateful to Dr Lorenzo Crosta who has been instrumental in this decision.

Freddie Virili
Cristiana Senni
WPT-Italia

WPT Australia

Undoubtedly our most far-flung World Parrot Trust board is this one at Currumbin Sanctuary, Queensland, Australia. Standing by the board is Liz Romer, conservation officer at the Sanctuary. An important conservation project at Currumbin is a breeding programme for fig parrots, which are closely related to the endangered Coxen's Fig Parrot and can provide valuable data to help in its recovery. We will hope to bring more information on this in a later issue of PsittaScene.

In the meantime, all funds raised by our board at Currumbin are shared equally between the Coxen's Fig Parrot project and our own WPT project for the Palm Cockatoo in the Cape York area of

Queensland.

We will shortly be writing to zoos around the world inviting them to join in WORLD PARROT MONTH, and asking them to display one of our boards on a similar 'sharing' basis. We believe 'WORLD PARROT MONTH' is an excellent opportunity for zoos to add a new element to their marketing activities in a peak holiday month.

WPT Benelux

Some changes to report here also. Two long term members of our board resigned, Juim Fiege and Stella Roomans. Both these ladies have done great work for the trust, and the parrots, and we are most grateful to them.

A new member, Jacques Gardien, has joined the board, which is now as follows:

Ruud Vonk - President,
Chairman of Education Committee
Romain Bejstup - Vice President,
Treasurer
Gerben Althuis - Secretary
Peter de Vries - Administrator
of Members

Han Assink - Board Member
Jacques Gardien - Board Member
Jan Hooimeijer - Board Member
Roelant Jonker - Board Member

Ruud Vonk reports:

'Sad to say that our 31 years old Opel Blitz promotion bus didn't pass the MOT, repairs are far too much for us and we try to sell him. At short notice I had to create a new design for our promotion booth. The wife of Jacques Gardien, Janny Gardien, has donated a fabulous showscreen. Another WPT member Wim de Schampelaere did the sophisticated printing of the 12 large info-boards. We can erect a black column 3m high with the WPT logo on top in floodlighting. This can be seen from all over the exhibition hall. We are attending shows and trade fairs in six locations. At

Rotterdam WPT Benelux will give three workshops about the aims of WPT. Up till now we have a very positive score in selling goods and making new members for WPT. But it takes a lot of us, Ruud, Romain, Jacques and our families in time and preparation. We are looking into 1999 with a positive and promising view, and look forward to World Parrot Month in August. Our best wishes to all in WPT. Ruud.'

New Zealand

Keas

According to Josh Kemp, a zoology graduate based at the Otago University Zoology Department, some Keas are doing well in the wild. These are pairs whose breeding success is related to the availability of unnatural food sources (presumably camps and dumps) close to human habitation. The pairs in his study area tend to nest in forested sites. Through hours of study he has observed that fledglings make their way from the forested sites to higher areas of forest and alpine terrain. In some cases young birds spend up to two days walking to the intersection where they spend the next three or four weeks learning to fly, and return to the intersection to be fed by their parents.

Kakas

As at June 30 1998 there were 53 North Island Kaka in captivity (including the three in Stuttgart Zoo in Germany). They consisted of 31 males, 19 females and five young birds. The good news is that during the 1997/1998 season some Kakas were permitted to breed, thus five were reared this year. [The former DOC policy was to smash eggs - Editor.] Twelve of the 13 Kaka released at Mount Bruce in 1996 and 1997 are still in the reserve. The captive population of South Island Kaka remains at eight birds. There are no viable



WPT Board at Currumbin, Queensland, Australia



The new WPT Benelux exhibit.

breeding pairs.

Antipodes Island Parakeet (*Cyanoramphus unicolor*) There are 49 captive birds (33 males and 16 females). The ban on breeding from them has now been removed. The genetic value of these birds has been compromised by the breeding ban. (Some of them may now be too old to breed.)

All the above information was published in the 1998 Annual Report of the NZ Conservation Management Group (CMAg).

Letters to the Editor

Importation of Grey Parrots
Dear Rosemary,

I work for the Italian branch of WPT and I read your article about the importation of wild-caught Greys into the EC. In the June 1998 issue of the Magazine of the Parrot Society, the Editor announced that it was no longer permitted to import Grey Parrots into the EC. I believe that he was referring to EC regulation 2551/97 which limits importation of wild-caught birds, allowing them from a reduced number of countries. I have a copy of the regulation and although imports of Greys are no longer allowed from most of the countries of origin, it does not state 'from all countries of origin' as it does for some other species. I have tried without success to find out what the situation is.

Cristiana Senni, Italy.

Dear Cristiana,

The October 1998 issue of the CITES BULLETIN gives the (annual) export quotas for 1998 for species listed in CITES Appendices. Those relating to Grey Parrots are as follows:

Botswana	12,000
Ivory Coast	2,000 (Timneh)
Guinea	450 (Timneh)
Sierra Leone	1,000 (Timneh)

I contacted the World Conservation Monitoring Unit and they told me that they believed there are no regulations to prevent the importation of Greys into Europe from these countries.

Editor

Free Flying Parrots

Dear Editor

In the August issue of PsittaScene, a letter by Kristin Shay of London remarked:

"virtually all modern advice on pet parrot behaviour and upbringing is based on the premise that no responsible owner will allow full flight..." and "This is the general view in the U.S.A. and first-rate publications promote it with an almost religious fervour".

For more than fifteen years as an aviculturist, speaker, writer and trainer of psittacines throughout the US, I have focused upon the necessity of flight training in captive birds, its health aspects, mental and behavioural effects. I can assure you that the keeping of fully and partially flighted pet parrots is alive and doing well in our country. There are literally thousands of psittacines being allowed their wingspans to do what comes naturally!

I even know of conures, amazons, macaws, cockatoos, cockatiels, lorries, quakers and ringnecks, just to name a few, who are allowed outside to fly beneath sky and trees with owner supervision. I know of cockatoos breeding in the treetops each spring, conures who come to owners' arms on command, lorries let out daily to prance around in the gardens, even a pet hyacinthine macaw who goes to the beach with his owner, then flies the quarter mile home when he wishes!

Of course, pet owners must realise that flight outdoors is fraught with danger and for experts only, but limited flight indoors can be a joy for both you and your pets, and an important cardiovascular health benefit besides.

What is more important, breeders and pet stores are beginning to get the point that it is ESSENTIAL that hand-raised captive-bred parrots be taught to fly and land in control BEFORE any initial wing trimming is initiated. To this effect, our progressive wingclip method specifies that one or two flight feathers on each wing be trimmed at a time. Then when the parrot has learned to flap harder to perform manoeuvres and landings, another is trimmed (about 7 days later). Such technique makes the bird stronger and does not curtail wingflapping exercise, even when final clip is achieved and the parrot is limited in range.

Chick fledging cages and rooms are becoming the norm in many

breeding facilities across the US. Not only does this allow young birds to learn to use their wings skilfully, but it allows them to socialise with other parrots and those of their own kinds, and encourages the weaning process by naturally burning off calories at a rapid rate.

As for publications touting such modern methods, the best ones have had many articles and opinions mentioning flight - Watchbird Magazine, The Pet Bird Report, World of Birds, and UK's own Parrots Magazine, to name a few.

Most sincerely,

E.B. Cravens

Projeto Arara Azul

São Paulo, 21 January 1999

To the Editor

We were surprised by some comments by Harold Armitage about Neiva Guedes's blue macaw project published in PsittaScene vol. 10 No 4, 1998 pages (14-15). As our laboratory at the Department of Biology, University of São Paulo, Brasil has several collaborative studies with Neiva, we feel it is necessary to clarify some misleading information presented in this article. First of all, it is very hard for us to understand why someone tries to defame the image of a field biologist who, for the last ten years, has been studying the biology of the blue macaw and has been doing such a hard work nearly alone in the field in order to preserve this threatened species.

Her work has already resulted in the reduction of poaching, and in the involvement of the local population in habitat conservation and information on poaching activities. Local schools are involved, using her project as an example for environmental education. Her work has provided information on the limiting factors involved in the reproduction and survival of this threatened species and the measures necessary for its recovery are being implemented.

We are sure that it is impossible for a single person to monitor all the nests that exist in Pantanal and it is possible that any tourist guide can show some nests that are not being monitored by Neiva. However, we want to state that we have

been receiving blood samples from around 100 chicks from nests that are being monitored by Neiva. Those samples, once the DNAs are extracted, are being used to estimate the genetic variability, sex ratio and reproductive behavior of this population. This data, together with Neiva's field work can be used for conservation purposes.

On several occasions, our biology students have stayed in the Pantanal, during their vacations, helping Neiva and learning how to monitor wild bird populations. Thus, we can assure that the field laboratory (or school house as stated by Harold Armitage) that was being built in Fazenda Alegria had to be transferred to Caiman, because some problems with the owners of Fazenda Alegria made the previous project unviable. One of our graduate students is currently based in this house in Caiman, monitoring chicks.

Preliminary results of the DNA studies on the wild population of the Hyacinth Macaw from Pantanal have been presented at National (Brazilian) Genetics, Ornithology and Zoo Congresses as well at the 22nd International Ornithological Congress, Durban 16-22 August, 1998 and the abstract was published in Ostrich 69: 441, August 1998. The final results are being prepared for publication.

As your journal aims to promote excellence in parrot conservation and has certainly no reason for discrediting a conservationist researcher, it is our suggestion and desire, and especially in consideration for your respectable readers and the serious work developed by Neiva Maria R. Guedes, that some meritable member of your society should make the effort to get more information on the Projeto Arara Azul from the Pantanal and write an article about the real situation of Neiva's project.

Sincerely yours,
Anita Wajntal, PhD and Cristina Yumi Miyaki, PhD

Associate Professors,
Department of Biology
Bioscience Institute,
University of São Paulo, Brazil

We hope to publish such an article in due course. Editor

Happy Parrot' Leaflet



In this issue of 'PsittaScene' you will find a copy of our new parrot welfare leaflet 'How to have a Happy Healthy Parrot'. This is intended to give very basic information for new parrot owners, in most cases, those buying a single pet bird from a pet shop or store. We will do our best to place these leaflets in the large multiple stores, but our members are invited to offer them to their local stores, vet's offices, and any other location where they may help parrots. These leaflets cost us £3 or \$5 per hundred, or 3p (5c) each, plus the cost of mailing. So if WPT members wish to distribute them, we would appreciate reimbursement of the cost at £4 or \$6 per hundred leaflets.

Donation Label



This new 'Donation Label' is intended to offer an opportunity for manufacturers or retailers of parrot-related products to demonstrate their commitment to supporting parrot conservation through the World Parrot Trust.

We sell a pack of 50 labels for £50, or US\$100, or CAN\$150. (£1, \$2 or \$3 each), direct to the manufacturer or retailer, who then attaches a label to his parrot cage, toy, incubator, food pack etc. This label shows the customer that the vendor - whose name is stamped on the label - is supporting the aims and work of WPT. This will surely encourage the customer to buy the product.

On the reverse of the label, which the customer will take away, is an offer to enrol them as a new member of WPT at a special discounted price. So the label is working in two separate ways to raise funds and increase membership for WPT.

Will it work? Who can tell at this stage. We will mail samples to advertisers in parrot publications, and invite them to try our labels and see if they increase business. Readers may like to bring our new label to the notice of their suppliers. Please refer any enquiries to our UK office.



Working for Parrot Conservation and Welfare Worldwide

The World Parrot Trust was founded in 1989 as UK Registered Charity No. 800944. International expansion has been rapid and the Trust now has linked charities and support groups in Africa, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Scandinavia, Spain, Switzerland and the USA.

Funds raised for the parrots have now reached £800,000 (\$1.3M) and have been used to initiate and support conservation and welfare projects in 20 countries for 37 species of parrot. Despite this wide-ranging activity, the Trust is run on a volunteer basis, with only two part time administrators worldwide. This uniquely cost-effective approach is made possible by substantial financial and logistical support donated by Paradise Park, the UK home base of the World Parrot Trust.

The objective of the Trust is to promote the survival of all parrot species and the welfare of individual birds. It pursues these aims by funding field conservation work, research projects and educational programmes. The Trust seeks to promote the concept of 'responsible aviculture' where the interests of the parrots themselves are given priority over commercial, political, career or other human concerns. The World Parrot Trust and its members wish to be recognised as the 'True Friends of the

Parrots', and to win over the majority of aviculturists and scientists to its point of view. The task is huge – our resources are limited. We need the commitment of everyone in the 'parrot community': those who keep, breed, study and protect the parrots. Beyond those special interests, we look for support from everyone who understands the crisis facing the world through the loss of biodiversity. We aim to continue using the special charm of the parrots to win the hearts and minds of thoughtful people everywhere.

Michael Reynolds
 Founder and Hon. Director
 World Parrot Trust



Mike Reynolds meets 'Pablo', a hand-reared Echo Parakeet released to join critically endangered wild Echoes in Mauritius.

Join us

If not already a member, please join. Receive our PsittaScene newsletter, know that you are actively contributing towards our aims and projects.

Help fund our Projects

We are currently supporting parrot conservation, education and welfare projects in 20 countries. Your generosity towards the parrots could help us expand current schemes and start new ones.

Aims of the Trust

The survival of parrot species in the wild, and the welfare of captive birds.

- These aims are pursued by:
- Educating the public on the threats to parrots.
 - Opposing trade in wild-caught parrots.
 - Preserving and restoring parrot habitat.
 - Studying the status of parrot populations.
 - Encouraging the production of aviary-bred birds.
 - Creating links between aviculture and conservation.
 - Promoting high standards in the keeping of parrots.
 - Supporting research into veterinary care of parrots.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (please tick)

- UK and Europe (Single) £15
- UK and Europe (Family) £20
- Fellow (Life Member) £250/US\$400
 Corporate (Annual)
- All overseas Airmail £17/US\$25
 (or equivalent currency, payment by Visa/Mastercard preferred)
- Plus donation of £/US\$

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

..... Zip/Postcode

Please charge my Mastercard/Visa No.

Exp. date Amount £/US\$.....

Signature

OR:
 I enclose a cheque made payable to the WPT

WPT NATIONAL CONTACTS

- United Kingdom**
 Sarah Graham, Administrator
 Glanmor House, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 4HY
 Tel: (44) 01736 753365 Fax: (44) 01736 756438
 email: uk@worldparrottrust.org
 Mike Reynolds email: worldparrottrust@compuserve.com
- USA**
 Sonia O'Donnell, PO Box 49766, Sarasota FL 34230
 Tel: 941 766 7262 Fax: 941 766 9581
 Email: usa@worldparrottrust.org
- Benelux**
 Peter de Vries (Membership Sec.), Jagershof 91,
 7064 DG Silvolde, Netherlands
 Tel: (31) 315327418 email: heiko.pjevries@tref.nl
 Belgium enquiries: Romain Bejstrup (32) 32526773
 Netherlands enquiries: Ruud Vonk (31) 168472715
- Canada**
 Mike Pearson, PO Box 29, Mount Hope,
 Ontario L0R 1W0
 Tel: (1) 905 385 9500 Fax: (1) 905 385 7374
 email: cwparrot@worldchat.com
- Denmark (Scandinavia)**
 Michael Iversen, Hyldevang 4 – Buresoe,
 3550 Slangerup
 email: wpt@image.dk
- France**
 J. & G. Prin, 35 Rue de la Fossierie, 45140, Ingre.
 Tel: (33) 2 38 43 62 87 Fax: (33) 2 38 65 90 60

- Switzerland**
 Lars Lepperhoff, Lutschenstrasse 15, 3063 Ittigen
 Tel: (41) 31 922 3902
- Germany**
 Jürgen Oetel, Einsiedel, Pappelweg 6,
 D-09123 Chemnitz
- Italy**
 Freddie Virili, via Mataro 10, 33045 Nimis, Udine.
 Cristiana Senni, email: wpt.italia@flashnet.it
- Australia**
 Mike Owen, 7 Monterey St., Mooloolaba,
 Queensland 4557.
 Tel: (61) 7 54780454 email: mowen@peg.apc.org
- Africa**
 V. Dennison, PO Box 1758, Link Hills,
 Natal 3652, S. Africa
 Tel: (27) 31 763 4054 Fax: (27) 31 763 3811
- Spain**
 Andrés Marin and Ana Matesanz,
 C/La Majadita no 16 Guinate, Maquez,
 35541 Las Palmas, Spain
 Tel: (34) 928 835745 email: a.marin@lpa.servicom.es
- WPT Web Sites:**
 Central: <http://www.worldparrottrust.org>
 USA: <http://www.funnyfarmexotics.com/WPT>
 Canada: <http://www.worldchat.com/parrot/cwparrot.htm>
 Italy: <http://www.mediavillage.it/wpt>
 Denmark: <http://www.image.dk/fpewpt>

Or join us on our website: www.worldparrottrust.org

Parrots in the Wild

Psitta Scene

Brown-headed Parrot *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*



Brown-headed Parrot (*Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*) feeding on the figs of *Ficus sycomorus*. This photograph was taken by Lars Lepperhof in the Kruger National Park in the north-east of South Africa. In this 20,000 square kilometre reserve more than 500 species of bird are found. Established in 1926, it is one of the oldest national parks