



FIRST AUSTRALIAN PROJECT FOR WORLD PARROT TRUST

by Michael Reynolds
Hon. Director, World Parrot Trust

If you start a charity with the global objective of promoting the survival of all parrot species, you cannot ignore Australia. With its total of 52 species it is home to one sixth of all the World's parrots, and the variety and beauty of those birds add up to a splendour unsurpassed even by the parrots of the New World.

So when I found myself in conversation with Joe Forshaw (renowned author of 'Parrots of the World') at the Tenerife Parrot Conference, I tentatively suggested that he might let us know of any Australian parrot project that might be supported by the World Parrot Trust. Anyone who knows Joe Forshaw will tell you that you don't fly a kite like that and not get a response. Correspondence and expensive telephone calls ensued, and Joe found us a very practical and valuable conservation project concerned with the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. To be precise, an endangered sub-species, *Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*, found in south-west Victoria.

Joe wrote to us as follows:-

"Further to our earlier correspondence about a parrot conservation project in Australia that could be assisted with funding support from the Trust, I am now able to make a recommendation for consideration by you and your colleagues.

The Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus magnificus* is widespread and common in much of northern Australia, but in the south there are two isolated, distinct populations which certainly are not common. Of particular concern is the subspecies *C. m. graptogyne*, which is restricted to south-western Victoria and neighbouring south-

eastern South Australia. This subspecies is seriously threatened, and the Victorian National Parks and Wildlife Service is embarking on a long term management-oriented program to ensure its survival.

Surveys undertaken throughout the range in south-western Victoria have located only three flocks, with a total population of less than 500

birds, and only ten nests are known. The cockatoos are dependent on brown stringybark *Eucalyptus baxteri* for food, and extensive clearing of woodland poses a major threat. Another threat comes from an apparent lack of suitable nesting trees; all known nests are in old, dead trees on private property, so their long term future is not secure.



“psittacine
(sit' à sîn) Belonging
or allied to the
parrots; parrot-like”



EDITOR:

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The Victorian Service would welcome annual funding of A\$5000 from the Parrot Trust for at least three years for a project that they plan to commence in July 1991, that is the beginning of the next financial year. The aim of this program is to increase awareness among local landholders of the plight of the cockatoos and to promote landuse practices which will safeguard the needs of the birds. I would have a role in drawing up the program, and would be able to represent the Trust in dealings with Victorian authorities if that is agreed to by the Trust. Indeed, consideration is being given to setting up a Steering Committee to oversee the program, and if this is done I would be invited to join the Steering Committee as the representative of the Trust.

I believe that this would be an excellent project for participation by the Trust in Australia. The Red-tailed Black Cockatoo is a spectacular, high-profile species, and so would be an ideal species for the Trust to be associated with in its initial operation in this country. Also, it would be a good species around which to build a fund-raising campaign, especially if we could get William Cooper to prepare a painting of a pair of cockatoos in their natural habitat and then produce limited edition prints of this painting."

On 10th July this year Joe Forshaw very kindly acted as the Trust's Australian representative and handed over the first cheque to Dr. Allan Griffin, Acting Director-General of Victoria's Department of Conservation and Environment. Considerable general and



Portland Department of Conservation & Environment Assistant Regional Manager Andy Arnold, and Joe Forshaw tempt a threatened Red-tailed Black Cockatoo with an almond at Healesville Sanctuary, where a pair of the rare species live in a walk-through aviary.

specialised press coverage resulted from this ceremony, and Joe was particularly pleased that it was on the front page of the 'Bird Observer', the official newsletter of the Bird Observers Club of Australia. This publication has a very large readership throughout

Australia, so the name and good works of the World Parrot Trust have been put in front of a knowledgeable and sympathetic audience.

As this project develops we will keep members informed through reports in 'PsittaScene'.



Department of Conservation & Environment Acting Director-General Dr. Allan Griffin accepts the World Parrot Trust's cheque from Mr. Joe Forshaw.

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 contributor on their merits.

PROPOSAL TO THE WORLD PARROT TRUST

1. Organisation:

Wildlife Management Branch,
Flora and Fauna Division,
Department of Conservation and
Environment (DCE), 123 Brown
St., Heidelberg, Victoria 3084.

2. Title of project:

Food and breeding studies of the
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
(*Calyptorhynchus banksii
graptogyne*) in southwestern
Victoria.

3. Expected duration of project:

2½ months per year, over a
period of four years.

4. Money requested:

\$5,000 per year (\$20,000 total).

5. Personnel:

William B. Emison, Principal
Research Scientist, Wildlife
Management Branch.
An exempt officer (SCI-1) to be
hired for 2½ months per year.

6. Issue statement:

The subspecies of Red-tailed
Black Cockatoo which occurs in
Victoria is endangered: its
geographical range is small and
isolated and the birds breed in
only about 3500 square
kilometres of it, longevity is most
likely high and the intrinsic rate
of increase low, the population is
estimated at between 500 and
1000 individuals, the diet is
specialised, nest requirements
are relatively specific and
habitats are threatened. A major
aim of the on-going study by DCE
is to gain sufficient knowledge of
the biology of the cockatoo to
enable management practices to
be designed that will minimise
the impact of any damaging
on-ground activities within the
remaining blocks of feeding
habitat (mainly on Crown Land)
and around the nest sites (on
private land).

7. Aims:

- To gather breeding information
from known nest sites.
- To search for other nesting
locations.
- To liaise with landholders to
protect nest trees and potential
nest trees.
- To erect a few nest boxes in one
of the nesting areas to ascertain
if they will be used by the
cockatoos.
- To devise a method to assess the
amount of fruit present on
Brown Stringybark (*Eucalyptus
baxteri*) trees in areas with and
without Red-tailed Black
Cockatoos present.
- To compare the fire histories (as
determined from DCE records)

of Brown Stringybark areas
supporting Red-tailed Black
Cockatoos with those of Brown
Stringybark areas not supporting
Red-tailed Black Cockatoos.

8. Background:

A field study of the Red-tailed
Black Cockatoo has been
conducted by DCE in
southwestern Victoria since
January of 1989. Initially, the
main emphasis was on the bird's
nesting behaviour and
requirements. During the 1988-89
and 1989-1990 nesting seasons,
25 nests associated with four
main flocks were found in the
Edenhope area. Twenty-one of
the nests were in hollows in
dead trees and four were in live
trees; all were on private
property. Four nests were in the
same trees during both nesting
seasons. Active nests were
present October to March. Two
groups of nests, one of seven
and one of four, were in loose
groups spread over 10 km² and 1
km², respectively. Two nests in
the latter group were only 42 m
apart.

Subsequently, studies were
conducted to determine the
numbers of birds present, their
food and movements. A
minimum of 304 birds was
counted during the 1988-89
nesting season, although it is
likely the total population size of
this subspecies is only between
500 and 1000 with no more than
200 breeding. Seed of the Brown
Stringybark is the population's
staple food and is obtained
mainly from the forests which
remain on Crown Land. Seasonal
movements are as yet unclear.
Most of the population appears
to be in the Edenhope area
during the breeding season,
although there are reports of
small numbers in the Rennick
and Casterton areas. During the
winter of 1989-90, substantial
numbers remained in the
Edenhope area but a flock of
about 100 was also present just
south of Casterton.
A network of regional staff and
of local naturalists to provide
information on the distribution
and abundance of Red-tailed
Black Cockatoos has been
established. Contact is being
made with these individuals
each month and, when possible,
their sightings are followed up in
the field.

9. Description of study to be conducted by exempt SCI-1:

Information on breeding will be
gathered during each nesting
season from the known nest

sites and searches for other
nesting localities (particularly in
the southern part of their range)
will be conducted. Regional staff
should be involved with the
study so that they can continue
on with the monitoring of nest
sites after this study is complete.
Nest boxes will be constructed
and placed on dead trees in a
nesting area which appears to
have a limited number of
hollows available. Liaison and
cooperation between the
landowners and the exempt
officer will be essential to stop
the felling of dead trees (which
are preferred for nesting) for
firewood.

Fire histories of those Brown
Stringybark forests where the
cockatoos are found feeding
should be compared with those
forests which previously
supported Red-tailed Black
Cockatoos but presently do not.
A method to assess the fruit
crops of Brown Stringybarks in
the different areas will be
devised and this, coupled with
the fire history data, may give
insight to the distribution

patterns and movements of the
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo.
Counts of fruits, flowers and
buds on marked limbs of Brown
Stringybarks will also be done to
determine the phenology of this
important food source.

10. Reporting:

Interim reports will be provided
to the Board of the Trust by 1
June of each year for the first
three years of the study and a
final report will be provided on 1
June 1995. The format and
content of the reports will be
agreed upon by a representative
of the World Parrot Trust and by
the principal research scientist.

11. Budget:

One exempt Research Officer
(SCI-1) for 10 weeks (yearly
salary = \$24,187 + 10% payroll
tax). \$5000
Travelling expenses, vehicle
running costs and miscellaneous
costs will be met by the
Department of Conservation and
Environment.

Total \$5000



Keith Ewart with his Citron-crested Cockatoo 'Rodolfo'.

The major part of this year's financial contribution to this Australian project (Aus \$5000 or approx \$2380) was kindly provided by the Keith Ewart Charitable Trust. This trust was established in memory of the late Keith Ewart, a man of many remarkable achievements in the field of photography and television, and the most creatively kind and generous person I have ever met. In recent years he fell under the spell of the parrots, and his birds were the most meticulously kept and privileged of all time: for example, not many parrots are flown in a private plane to Cornwall for their holidays.

We are most grateful to the trustees (Mrs. Heather Ewart and family) for the help they have given to the parrots of Australia, and for previous donations towards the Echo Parakeet, our 'Jacquot Express' conservation bus for St. Lucia, and the development of our computer programmes.

Michael Reynolds.

THE SAGA OF THE ST. VINCENT PARROT

by Michael Reynolds

Our adventure with the superb endemic parrot of St. Vincent began in 1973. We were having dinner with a friend who ran a hotel in St. Ives in Cornwall, UK, but who spent his winters in Grenada in the Caribbean. He was explaining that after the first week or two on the island he'd caught up with old friends and the latest news, and started looking for a project to keep himself occupied. This prompted me to ask him to visit St. Vincent and see if there might be any prospect of Paradise Park being allowed a pair of *Amazona guildingii*. Readers will no doubt appreciate what an absurd idea this was: our bird park had just been opened, our collection of birds was modest, our experience was limited. I had never seen a St. Vincent Parrot, or any other Caribbean parrot. All we had going for us was a firm commitment to specialising in species of birds listed as in danger of extinction. I know this is a platitude today, but in 1973 it was unusual.

Our friend Jim Roberts is a man of great tenacity and charm, and he did speak to officials on St. Vincent, who recommended that we should write to the appropriate Minister and state our case. We did this, then forgot about it. Six months later, however, a letter arrived from the St. Vincent Government to tell us that three St. Vincent Parrots were being held in a pet shop in Kingstown, and were available to us. I rang the phone number provided and spoke to the proprietor, who confirmed that the birds were there, and we could have them for fifty dollars each. 'US dollars?' I asked. 'No way, man' he said, 'I've got to have Beewees.' He meant British West Indian dollars, which were then five to a US dollar. So the most precious and important birds ever to come to Paradise Park cost about £5 each.

Two months and much paperwork later the birds arrived at Heathrow. Sadly, one of them was very ill, and it died after two or three days. The postmortem revealed pericarditis, and it was thought that an inadequate diet may

have contributed to this condition. The other two birds thrived in the Cornish climate, and three or four years went by. We concluded they were two males, and visited St. Vincent to see if there was any prospect of obtaining more birds. We were firmly told to produce conclusive evidence that the birds were two of the same sex. This was 1978, and it was not until 1980 that sexing birds by laparoscopy was pioneered in the UK by Andrew Greenwood NRCVS. I still recall our alarm at the procedure, and our horror as our 'pair' of Hyacinth Macaws turned out to be two males. The St. Vincent Parrots, however, were indeed a pair, and a month later three eggs were laid. I still wonder if the laparoscopy could have provided some kind of stimulus for this first breeding activity.

One egg was fertile, and after much debate we decided to leave it with the parents. It has to be remembered that eleven years ago very few of us had the confidence we now enjoy in hand rearing parrots. This attempt ended when we found a newly hatched dead chick on the ground below the nestbox. In my experience it is very unusual for a parrot to eject a chick in this way; in all probability we had contributed to this by our checking of the nest.

Two years followed with infertile clutches of three eggs. Then the female was found dead, and the postmortem showed no cause. This low point was salvaged by our friends at Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, who supplied another female on breeding loan. At this point I should mention that the St. Vincent Parrot Consortium was established in 1978 at the Parrot Working Group meeting on St. Lucia. The Consortium brought together 19 St. Vincent Parrots held by zoos and individuals worldwide, in order to make the most effective use of the very limited breeding stock outside St. Vincent. Members of the Consortium recognise that the birds they hold remain the property of the St. Vincent Government.

In their first two breeding seasons together the new pairing seemed to get along well, but only infertile eggs were laid. Then in 1987 the male attacked the female and severely damaged her beak, splitting the lower mandible from back to front. She eventually recovered, but not surprisingly remained very wary of the male. From 1988 to 1990 we went to elaborate lengths to reintroduce the pair each Spring, but the male remained too

aggressive to be trusted with the female without supervision.

In 1991, taking note of the information supplied by Ramon Noegel in his article published in 'PsittaScene' Vol.2 No.3, we delayed introducing the male to the female until June, by which time the female had laid a clutch of three infertile eggs. After the usual initial displays of aggression the male seemed to be acting more reasonably, and the female was less afraid of him. By the end of June I was amazed and thrilled one evening to see the female preening the male's head. A few days later I heard a noise similar to that of macaws mating, and crept up quietly to see the St. Vincent Parrots mating: the male had one foot on the female's back, and one on the perch. Two eggs were laid, and incubated solely by the female, with the male on guard at the entrance to the nestbox. This, incidentally, is approximately 48" by 12" and slopes downwards at 45 degrees to end up in the nesting chamber which is a 12" cube with an inspection door.

After 14 days incubation we removed the eggs and found one to be fertile. Its incubation was completed in a Curfew by a friend of ours, John Heath, who went on to rear the chick successfully - his report follows. See the weight chart for this bird - we believe this may be the first published record giving such detail of the growth of this species. The young St. Vincent Parrot is a magnificent specimen, and is a 'bronze', 'orange', 'gold', or 'yellow-brown' morph. He will be raised this winter with other young amazon parrots, and all being well, will spend next summer in the 150 ft. flight at Paradise Park. This will make him a very fit and fully developed young bird, and also reduce his interest in humans. Hopefully he will eventually be paired with another young bird from within the Consortium.

Readers will have seen in the previous issue of 'PsittaScene' (Vol.3 No.3) that St. Vincent Parrots of dubious legality have been shipped into Switzerland, and that more may soon arrive there. The article by Thomas Arndt (reproduced from 'Papageien' Magazine) was very forthright, and I would like to comment on this unfortunate situation. It seems likely that St. Vincent Parrots are being taken illegally from wild nests on that island and smuggled to Barbados, where one or two alleged breeding pairs of this species exist. These young birds are, in effect, 'laundered', and made available for



The St. Vincent Parrot bred at Paradise Park, UK. Aged 11 weeks.

export to individuals who are blessed with substantial funds and government officials who no doubt wish to be thought merely incompetent. We all know that money talks more effectively in Switzerland than in any other country in the world, but if this

cynical loophole is not closed very quickly indeed, the consequences for endangered parrots in the wild could become rapidly worse. It is to be hoped that DNA fingerprinting will provide a counter to the illegal misrepresentation of birds taken from the wild as being aviary-bred.

HATCHING AND REARING OF THE ST. VINCENT AMAZON (*Amazone Guildingii*) by John Heath

Probably everyone that has any involvement with breeding parrots has a particular favourite which gives them a great deal of pleasure when a youngster is produced. This is especially the case when babies are hand-reared, since many hours are spent feeding and caring for each bird before it becomes independent. Over the years I have hand reared hundreds of parrots and parrakeets which have included Cockatiels, Ringnecks, Rosellas, Caiques, Meyers, Senegals, various Cockatoos, African Grays, Eclectus, various Amazons and Macaws. My particular favorite was probably the Blue and Gold Macaw, that is, until 1991. To hatch and rear an endangered species is not only pleasurable, but very satisfying. To be asked to hatch and rear one as rare as the St. Vincent Amazon is, in addition, almost frightening.

Because of the problem with the cock attacking the hen and splitting her lower mandible at Paradise Park a few years ago, when their pair at long last produced two eggs, owner Mike Reynolds and curator David Woolcock had to make the difficult decision as to whether or not the pair should be given the chance to hatch and rear any progeny. Especially since the hen's beak is still not perfect, they decided to take the eggs and, because of my experience, I was asked to take charge of them. Upon candling it was found that one (probably the second one laid) was infertile. The other which was 14 days into incubation was fertile and the embryo appeared to be very strong. For those interested in technical details, I will give some growth etc. information. The egg weighed 23.03 grams and had a density reading (I use egg density monitoring of eggs) of 1.03 which I thought was a little high. However, it was placed in a Curfew Incubators RX 200 at 37.2°C. and a relative humidity of 45%.

All progressed well until it pipped internally on day 22 when the density was 0.983, much higher than I would normally like at that stage. Instead of moving the egg to the hatcher with a higher humidity, it was left in the incubator, but the automatic turning was stopped. It pipped externally on day 23 when, with a density reading of 0.968 it was moved to a Curfew fan assisted hatcher with a relative humidity of

68% - 70% and a temperature of 36.7°C. It could be heard calling on day 24 and had a density reading of 0.94 at 8.30 p.m. on day 25. It hatched quite normally at 10.00 p.m. on that day weighing exactly 18 grams and appeared to be very strong. It was moved to a home made brooder at a temperature of 36°C. and bottom heat, containing not only the tub with the chick, but two other tubs of water as well.

It received its first feed at 5 a.m. the next day which was, incidentally, 20th July 1991, this consisted 50% of the veterinary product "Vetrumex" (a dry powder rumen extract containing amongst other things Lactobacillus) and 50% of my usual starter hand-rearing mix. This is made by mixing together and grinding in a coffee grinder to produce a fine powder - 250 grams of John E. Haith Ltd. Nectarblend rearing food; 250 grams of their PTX Budgie soft food; 150 grams of Milupa Ltd. Infant Dessert - Mixed Fruit variety; 120 grams of their Infant Dinner - Spring Vegetable dinner and 1 gram of Vetark Products Ltd. ACE-HIGH vitamin supplement. This is fed in a very watery state at a temperature of approx. 41°C. (using boiled water) and was fed again at 7 a.m. After this the bird was fed every 2 hours on just the mix, as it has been found with other parrots that they make good progress after Vetrumex is used in only the first two feeds which is presumably enough to start the gut flora. The bird was strong enough to lift its head later that day and was given its last feed at 11 p.m.

Before being given the 5 a.m. feed the next day, it weighed 20 grams and all the weights mentioned hereafter were taken immediately before the first feed of the day. It was covered in short white down and was a strong feeder. On day 2 it had a strong pumping action when feeding and a strong call. On day 3 it was throwing itself about quite violently when placed back in its container after feeding. On day 6 it weighed 37 grams and was moved from its container lined with kitchen towel (paper) to one containing untreated wood shavings and placed with two Hahns Macaws which were 48 grams and 28 grams, being 12 days and 9 days old respectively, when it became much more settled. At 8 days of age it



John Heath with immaculate young St. Vincent Parrot.

weighed 55 grams, I then fed it every 3 hours from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., by this time the food was thicker to cream soup consistency. At 12 days it weighed 118 grams and the eyes were just beginning to slit open. It still had a very strong pumping action when feeding. At 15 days weighing 170 grams it was fed every 4 hours commencing at 7 a.m. and finishing at 11 p.m. I changed its diet slightly by adding 125 grams of hulled sunflower seed; 125 grams of sesame seed and 62 1/2 grams hulled pumpkin seed to the above mixture quantities before grinding to a powder. It was also fitted with its stainless steel 75 PP 91 V leg ring - a famous number now, since this is the first St. Vincent Amazon hatched and reared outside of the U.S.A. and the Caribbean so far as I am aware.

At 18 days the developing feather bases gave its body a darker colour except at the front of the head and 2 days later its eyes were fully open. At 22 days it weighed 340 grams and the brown colour was showing at the ends of the short quills on top of the wing. Tufts of grey down were growing on the body and the local B.B.C. Radio station did a short piece about the hatching. At 26 days of age it weighed 430 grams and was taking 9 spoonfuls of food (I use a curved teaspoon to feed). At 35 days weighing 584 grams, it was filmed by the local B.B.C. T.V. unit for a news item. At 40 days old it was growing well with a lot of feathers some still partially in their quills, it weighed 640 grams and the following day was filmed by the B.B.C. Natural History Unit for use in a film about St. Vincent to be shown in the Autumn of 1992. It is one of a series titled 'Survivors' and this particular one is

called 'Parrots and Turtles'. At 52 days it weighed 714 grams and feeding was reduced to every 5 hours (or 4 times a day). It began climbing onto the side of its container and at 58 days old weighing 728 grams it was moved into a cage. One day later it was climbing onto a perch and at 60 days of age feeding was reduced to 3 times daily. From this time it lost weight preparatory to flying. At 66 days it weighed 684 grams and started to pick at some mixed fresh fruit (apple, orange, grapes and banana). The spoon fed mix was now fed at a temperature a few degrees below the 41°C. Feeding was reduced to twice daily (morning and evening) two day later and a few days after this it was seen trying some sunflower seed.

At the time of writing, it is 11 weeks old, weighs 632 grams, has just started to fly horizontally (it has been flying down to the floor for more than a week). The morning feed is now only 3 spoonfuls, but the 11 p.m. is still 9 spoonfuls. It will probably be independent within the next two weeks. It is an orange morph bird with a brown back and yellow, orange, blue, and brown wings. Its head is the usual cream and orange on top with blue, green and orange around its face and upper neck. A really beautiful big specimen of a St. Vincent Amazon which wants to try everything with its beak (quite firmly at times!). Shall we see more next year? Who knows, but if we do, the experience will not be quite the same as this one.

If anyone wishes further information or to contact me, a letter to the editor will be passed on.

FIELD WORK ON THE ECHO PARAKEET (*Psittacula eques*)

Carl G. Jones and Kevin Duffy

The Echo Parakeet from Mauritius is often regarded as the rarest and most threatened of all the parrots, regrettably there are today several other contenders for this title. Efforts to try and save this species date back to the early 1970's but it is only in the last few years that we have had the resources to make a reasonable attempt at saving it.

In the last article (*Psittascene*) we described a little about our work and how field workers live year around in the forest habitat of the parakeet. Here we give further details of our work and provide some details on the ecology and life history of this, one of the world's rarest and most endangered birds.

Mauritius is 1,865 sq. km. and has a population of over a million people. The island is well developed and little remains of the native

forest which once covered the entire island. The only sizeable remnant left is to be found in and around the Black River Gorges where the parakeets are to be found. The parakeets have a range of about 60 sq. km. but most of their time is spent in an area less than half this size centred on the Macchabe Forest.

Population biology

In the early 1970's there were about 50 parakeets but they declined rapidly as a result of forest destruction in the mid 1970's. In the early 1980's the population was critically endangered with little or no breeding. The population at this time was thought to be less than 15 and for several years we knew of less than ten birds. During the second half of the 1980's the

population has shown a slight recovery with some breeding. A total of 16 young have been produced in the last 4 seasons since 1987/88, and 7 of these were reared in captivity from harvested eggs and young.

There were four known pairs during the 1990/91 season. One pair prospected a cavity but progressed no further, another pair laid a clutch of two eggs which were taken by rats and the remaining two birds produced five fledglings, two of which were brought into captivity. At the end of the 1990/91 season there were between 15-20 birds in the wild but with a highly skewed sex ratio in favour of males of about 3 or 4:1. This imbalance has been observed since at least 1974 and it's cause is unknown. Curiously the sex ratio of young harvested for captive breeding has been the other way and out of 11 birds the ratio was 3:8.

Nesting Biology

Pairs of Echo Parakeets can be seen together throughout the year often in association with spare males. Established pairs frequent the same areas of forest year around although these areas are apparently not vigorously defended. The four pairs of parakeets have however widely spaced themselves in the Macchabe Forest.

The parakeet nests in hollows in the large, often dying, emergent trees. The position of the next hollow does not seem to be very important and the six hollows we have studied were 4.6 – 15.2 metres above the forest floor. It has often been said that nest cavity openings face north-west, to face away from the south-easterly trade winds but the directions these cavities faced were apparently random.

The cavity is often modified by the female who chews at the rotten wood on the inside to make it the correct size and shuffles around to make a nest scrape towards the rear. While modifying the cavity she may throw out wood dust and chippings. Six cavities have been measured. Two of these were horizontal and the others were vertical. The length/depth of these cavities varied between 45 and 80 cm and the internal diameter varied from 17.5 – 35 cm average about 24 – 25 cm. The entrance hole was 6.5 – 12 cm wide.

Eggs have been laid between October and December. The eggs are white and rounded, and of the 14 that have been measured the sizes were 29.4 – 33.8 x 23.0 – 26.8mm.

The fresh weights for three typical eggs were 10.6, 11.8 and 11.9g. Clutch size has been recorded in five cases and was 2, 2, 2, 3, and 3 eggs. Out of 12 eggs (5 clutches) 10 are known to have been fertile. The incubation period has been calculated from field observations and from harvested wild eggs to be 21 – 24 days. Brood size in the nest or at fledging has been recorded on 7 occasions and was 1, 2, 2, 2, 3 and 3. Fledging periods have been calculated from seven young that have been reared in captivity and it ranges from 48 - 59 days (average 55 days). A baby reared in the wild fledged at about 51 days.

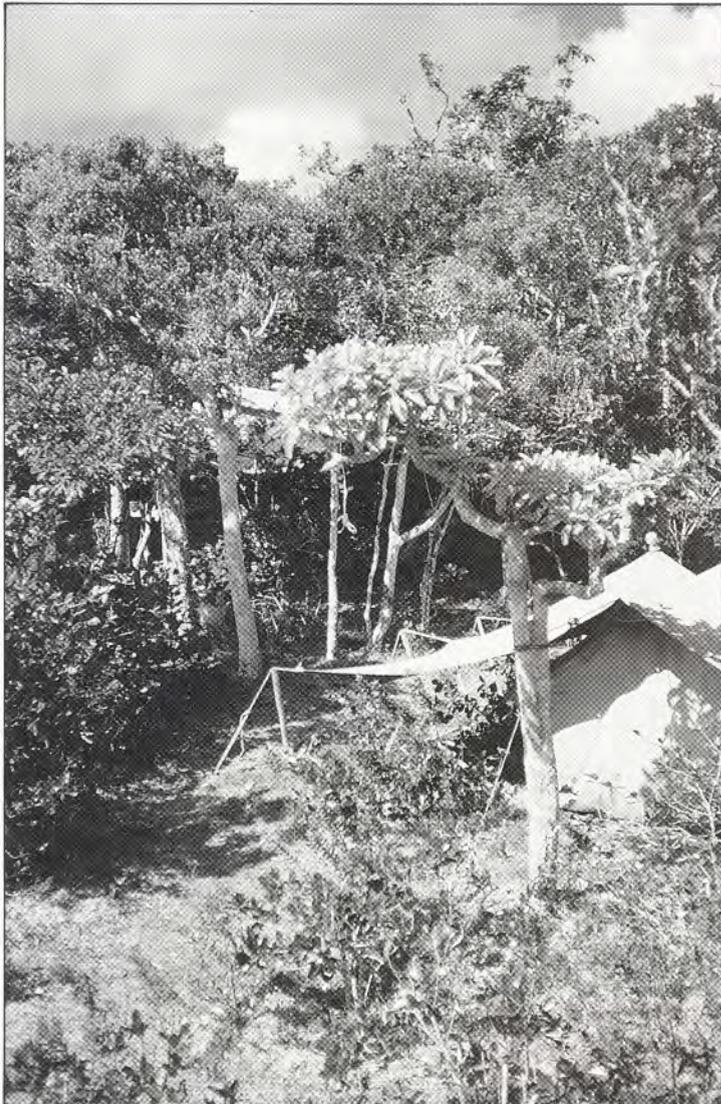
We do not want to damage the wild population by harvesting eggs and young for our captive breeding project. However on at least two occasions when eggs or young have been harvested, there is good circumstantial evidence that the adult birds recycled. In future we intend to take eggs from pairs that have laid early in the season to encourage them to lay replacement clutches. Captive Echo Parakeets have not done as well in captivity as we had hoped, and until we have their management well worked out we will refrain from taking young when we feel there is little likelihood of the parents recycling.

Nesting Echo Parakeets differ from Ring-necked Parakeets in that they develop a thick dark grey-green down over their body when they are about two weeks old. In Ring-necked parakeets this down is not as dense, is shorter and a mid-grey. At fledging Echo Parakeets have an orange bill which changes to black between their third and fourth month. Females retain the dark bill but in males the upper mandible changes to red when they are a year or older.

Conservation Management

The conservation of the parakeet in the wild has included the provision of nest boxes, supplemental feeding, and the control of predators around nest-sites. Further to this we have been lobbying for the protection of its habitat, all of which will probably be included within the boundaries of Mauritius' first national park.

Without management the extinction of the parakeet in the wild is probably inevitable because the native forest is being degraded by exotic weeds. These exotics are greatly simplifying the forest and rendering it unsuitable for the parakeet and most of the other native birds. To counter this we



Forest scene on Mauritius.

have experimental plots of forest that are kept free of weeds. Not surprisingly these areas are favoured by the parakeets as feeding and roost sites and once a pair nested just outside the plot. It is hoped that in the national park large areas of forest will be weeded.

Due to the small number of birds and their general inaccessibility in the dense forest and deep gorges it has been difficult to implement some of the management we would desire.

In some cases it has taken years to get our first modest results.

We have placed many nest-boxes in the forest but to date have never had one used by an Echo Parakeet. With the benefit of hindsight the boxes were too deep and sometimes placed in inappropriate areas. In 1989 we decided to use hollow logs instead of boxes and nine hollow logs were placed in areas where the adult pairs were prospecting. It now seems that these were also too deep and perhaps too narrow as well. We are using hollowed logs within the size range of the cavities we have seen the wild parakeets using.

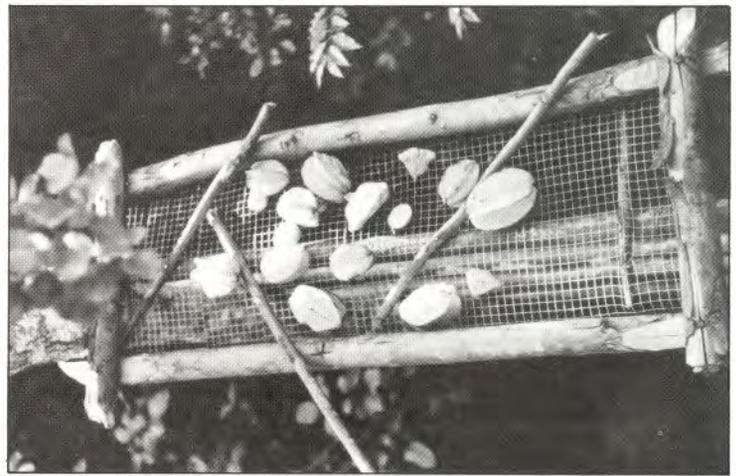
It might appear to be a very straight forward operation to place a few nest boxes or logs up in trees but we can assure readers that it is far from easy. Often the suitable trees are on the sides of ravines, a long hike from any track. The logs we use weigh about 20 kg, and to haul them up into trees takes much brute force and skill. It often takes a whole day to put one box or log in a tree. To cut down on expenses we build ladders out of guava poles and fix these to the trunks of trees. These sometimes reach up into the canopy 15 or 20 metres. The ladders can be very dangerous because they rot during the hot wet summer months. Field-workers have fallen out of trees but it is lucky we have not had a serious accident. With the increased level of funding that we now have, life is easier, and safer,

with a four wheel drive vehicle to get around in and we borrow aluminium extension ladders to get to most of our nest-logs to service them.

Black Rats are a big problem; they compete with parakeets for native fruits and for the food we put out for them, they take over cavities and nest-boxes and they are predators of parakeet eggs. To try and minimise the impact of rats we poison them in nesting and feeding areas.

For several years it has been realised that there are seasonal food shortages. To try and help the birds over these lean periods we have set up feeding stations in the forest. Supplemental feeding was first attempted in 1979 when a platform was built in the forest and seeds and fruits were put out on it. The only species we succeeded in feeding were the ubiquitous Mynahs, Red-whiskered Bulbuls and Black Rats. The parakeets flew past and ignored all these alien foods that they did not recognise. Later we tried other ways of feeding the birds but with little success.

In 1984 Don Merton got the parakeets to sample chillies threaded onto cotton and strewn over the bushes in which they were feeding so they looked like native fruits. One of the big problems in getting the birds to accept supplemental food is to find areas where they are feeding so they can find the food we are providing them with. During January 1987 we discovered that most, if not all of the parakeets were feeding on star fruit which was growing wild in the Black River Gorge. Kirsty Swinnerton was able to get the parakeets to take grapes, chillies and other foods that were hung out for them in the star fruit trees. This work went well but we were unable to develop it because to do the job adequately and to keep the monkeys from getting the food before the parakeets, Kirsty has to camp near



Overhead view of supplementary feeding tray.

the food trees on a small plateau several hundred feet up the side of the gorge. This was totally impractical for more than a few days at a time.

The real breakthrough has come this year. Wire feeding baskets have been placed up in trees within an area frequented by a group of birds. After much perseverance three birds have been encouraged to feed daily upon the food we provide them with. They have sampled apples, green beans and acorn squash but they are very choosy and feed preferentially upon star fruit. Fortunately star fruit is grown commercially on Mauritius and we are able to provide it for at least six months of the year, but are now looking into the possibility of importing star fruit so that it can be available for the parakeets all year around.

There has been a conservation project on the endangered birds of Mauritius since 1973. There have been some tremendous successes with the captive breeding and restoration of the Pink Pigeon and Mauritius Kestrel populations. The sceptics of captive breeding often point out that working with one or a few species does nothing to save

the habitat in which those species are found. One of the very positive results from our work on Mauritius is that the Government has increasingly realised that it must look after the habitat so that the birds can be looked after in their proper environment and there will always be somewhere to release captive produced birds back into.

The area in and around the Black River Gorges is being designated as Mauritius' first national park. The park, which is to be funded by international organisations, is to be set up with the primary aim of conservation. However to secure the future of the Echo Parakeet and the other rare birds of Mauritius we are also going to need to continue "hands on" conservation for many years.

Acknowledgements

This project could not exist without the continued support of its sponsors and partners. On Mauritius we work closely with the Conservation Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and are sponsored by the Mauritius Wildlife Appeal Fund, the Hong Kong Bank, Wildlife Preservation Trusts, the World Parrot Trust and the Parrot Society.

THICKBILLED PARROTS Homecoming For Native US Parrot

Susan L. Clubb, DVM
Avicultural Breeding and Research Center

A raucous flash of green, brilliantly accented by red and yellow hurls itself across an azure sky or perches quietly, dismantling a pine cone for deeply hidden sweet nuggets. Such sightings of wild Thickbilled parrots, re-established in their ancestral home in the desert Southwest, would bring joy to many an avian enthusiast.

For several years conservationists and zoo groups have worked to

accomplish just this, with limited success. For the most part, aviculturists have sat by guarding these gems of the Mexican pine forests in quiet seclusion. The time has come for aviculturists to take a stand and do their part for a return of our native parrot to the skies of Arizona.

Through the initiative and persistence of Mr. Richard M. Schubot, Avicultural Breeding &

Research Center was able to negotiate an agreement with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to allow ABRC to acquire and work with donated Thickbills from people desirous of seeing them returned to their natural home after some fifty years of absence.

Under a new cooperative agreement between the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service Region #2 office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the Florida-based Avicultural Breeding and Research Center, a program has been established which will allow captive Thickbilled parrots of questionable legal origin to be utilized for breeding and future release. Any birds currently held by aviculturists or pet owners can be donated to this project without fear of legal prosecution.

History and Natural History

Thickbilled parrots (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*) represent a truly unique opportunity as well as a dilemma for American aviculture. They are the only living psittacine species native to the continental United States. As in the Carolina parakeet, Thickbilled parrots were virtually eradicated in the early 1900's. Only a small flock was reported in the Chiricahua mountains of Arizona in 1938. Early accounts from the Chiricahuas detail annual sightings and reports of breeding activity in the area. Most published reports on Thickbilled parrots refer to shooting by hungry miners and woodsmen deriving their sustenance from the arid land. Other game species such as wild turkey, sheep, elk and pronghorn antelope, disappeared from the region at the same time. Timbering associated with mining activities placed additional stresses on the population.

Unlike the Carolina parakeet, Thickbilled parrots have survived in the highland pine forests of Mexico's Sierra Madre. Now they are facing new threats in their historic stronghold in Mexico. Despite international protection, these birds are being harvested for illegal trade.

The Re-Introduction Project

Conservationists for many years have discussed the possibilities of reintroducing our only living native parrot into its historical range. In 1985 and 1986, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents and many aviculturists, observed an enormous increase in the flow of illegal

Thickbilled parrots into the U.S. Many of these birds were confiscated and formed the nucleus of initial reintroduction efforts.

A cooperative release program between the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was initiated in 1986. Since then a number of other organizations have become involved in the project, supplying birds or financial support or both. The program receives major financial support from the Wildlife Preservation Trust, the granting arm of the Jersey Wildlife Trust in the Channel Islands.

Many zoos and individuals have taken an active and vital interest in the project. Susan Healey of the Sacramento Zoo currently holds the North American Regional Studbook for Thickbilled parrots. The Tyson Research Center has initiated a captive breeding project utilizing confiscated birds not suitable for release. Nonetheless, the project suffers from a lack of releasable birds.

The Chiricahua mountains of southeastern Arizona represent an ideal area for re-establishment of the parrots. The area is a famous mixing ground for northern and southern wildlife species. The forests of southern Arizona and New Mexico have regrown and are now mature. The terrain of the Chiricahuas is rugged and inaccessible to ecologically-sound logging. The area is managed by the U.S. Forest Service primarily for recreational use. The forests of pine, fir, spruce and aspen represent abundant food and water supplies

for Thickbilled parrots which feed primarily on cones.

Many of the initially confiscated birds could not be released due to poor physical condition. Some had damaged follicles from having feathers plucked by trappers to prevent flight. These birds were utilized for captive breeding projects. Most of the remaining adults were experienced in survival techniques and pine cone feeding. The potential for their return to their home south of the border was soon born out. In the fall of 1986, 29 birds, some wearing radio collars, were released. Of these, seven birds were quickly lost due to hawk predation and eight headed for the border. Fourteen remained in Arizona, establishing a migratory route between the Chiricahuas and various sites in Central Arizona.

The birds choose the more northern areas of Arizona for their nesting sites possibly due to an ancestral migratory tendency. In the fall of 1988, two fledged chicks were seen travelling with the flock.

Early experiences in the release of captive bred birds were problematic. Handraised birds, although caged with wild birds for months prior to release, failed to learn essential flocking, feeding and raptor avoidance techniques which are essential to survival. These birds were subsequently recaptured. A parent raised chick, however, showed better chances of adaptability despite being taken by a raptor. In addition, droughts during late 1989 and 1990 resulted in poor food availability. Currently, the flock is known only from limited sightings.

Despite some initial successes, many more birds are needed in order to establish strong flocks of birds that can adapt to life in the Chiricahuas. A total of 43 birds have been released to date. Unfortunately depredation, migration and a severe drought have taken their toll on these birds. Sixteen birds, eight confiscated wild caught and eight captive bred, parent raised birds, are now waiting for improved food supplies before they will be released.

As in other release programs, large numbers of individuals will probably be necessary for successful re-establishment. Thickbilled parrots appear to be highly dependent on flocking for protection from raptors and breeding behaviour. Genetic diversity of the population is also dependent on release of large numbers of birds. This is where American aviculturists can assist.

Are Your Thickbills Legal?

How do aviculturists know if their birds are legal? Thickbilled parrots were listed as an endangered species on June 2, 1970. From that date on birds could not legally enter the U.S. without first obtaining a permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In order to provide protection from international trade, these birds were listed on Appendix 1 of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) on July 1, 1975. Again, legal international movement would require both a U.S. import permit and an export permit from Mexico.

Although Thickbilled parrots are migratory they are not covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. As a native species, they cannot be registered under current systems for captive bred wildlife (CBW). This makes any commercial sales across state lines illegal unless a permit is first obtained by both the buyer and the seller from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Legally obtained Thickbilled parrots can move across state lines if they are loaned or donated, or they can be sold within a state without a permit. Offspring of illegally obtained Thickbilled parrots are not legal by virtue of their birth in captivity.

The bottom line is that unless you can document that your Thickbilled parrots are pre-Act, (obtained prior to June, 1970), or you can document that they are the offspring of pre-Act birds and have not been sold across state lines, or you can document legal import, it is almost assured that they are smuggled birds or their illegitimate offspring. Currently the only way that these birds can obtain legal status is for them to be abandoned to the U.S. government.

While prosecution for possession of these birds would require proving them illegal by



Thickbilled parrots in the large natural aviary at ABRC.

tracing them to their origin, any transactions involving Thickbilled parrots are looked upon with great suspicion. In the mid 1980s many Thickbilled parrots entered the U.S. illegally, ending up in swap meets and pet shops. Many aviculturists bought these birds hoping to give them a good home naive of their illegal origin. Ensuing confiscations and prosecutions sent many aviculturists underground, fearing repercussion of ownership. A general amnesty program proposed by the American Federation of Aviculture in 1987 was rejected by the Fish and Wildlife Service, as they had no legal basis for establishment of such a program.

Illegal importation of Thickbilled parrots, or sale of same across state lines without a permit is a felony under the Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act if the value is more than \$350.00. Each bird so moved could be charged as a separate count. The penalty could be up to five years imprisonment or up to a \$250,000 fine.

The Thickbilled Project at ABRC
In December 1990, the Avicultural Breeding and Research Center in Loxahatchee, Florida, finalized a cooperative agreement with the

Arizona Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to produce captive bred Thickbilled parrots for release. ABRC has donated its collection of over 30 Thickbilled parrots to the State of Arizona. Many of these were hatched at the Center and some were donated to ABRC by other aviculturists for this program. ABRC felt that this move was in the best interest of the program to eliminate any potential or alleged conflict of interest. Most of these birds will remain at ABRC as breeding stock.

As many Thickbilled parrots are in the possession of U.S. aviculturists, a one year agreement was negotiated to allow such birds to be abandoned to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by a "paper trail" and subsequently transferred to ABRC for the project. The donor must certify that they were not directly involved with or responsible for the unlawful importation of the birds. Such abandonment will absolve the donor and the Center of any act of unlawful possession or transport for those individual birds. The birds can then be shipped directly to ABRC. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will not take possession of the birds but will process the

abandonment only on paper. They will not visit a donor's premises in regard to these donations.

Upon arrival at ABRC the birds will undergo extensive quarantine and testing to assure that no diseases are introduced into the wild population. Birds will either be utilized for captive breeding or if suitable, sent to Arizona for the release program. A large "L" shaped flight cage, approximately 17 feet tall, 25 feet wide and 150 feet long, allows birds to develop flight, strength and learn flocking and feeding behaviours. This cage has been equipped with a simulated cliff where birds learn how to find water as if in the wild. It has also been landscaped to simulate terrain where the birds will be released. Birds are provided with pine cones in order to learn feeding techniques since cone feeding is a learned rather than instinctive behaviour. An isolated aviary is currently under construction to house donations.

Once the birds are ready and the conditions are right in Arizona, the birds are shipped to the release site where they are again housed in a large flight cage for acclimation and preparation for release. All releases are under the supervision

of the Wildlife Preservation Trust International and the State of Arizona.

If you or a friend are currently in possession of Thickbilled parrots and you are unable to document their legal origin, take advantage of this opportunity to assist in this project. Donations are confidential, or if you wish you can join the ranks of people who have openly donated to this project. Please contact ABRC for more information.

You can make a difference. Your birds may one day join into a wild protected flock, a resource which we can all treasure for generations to come.

FOR DONATIONS OF BIRDS OR SUPPORT CONTACT:

Avicultural Breeding and Research Center
1471 Folsom Road
Loxahatchee, FL 33470
407-793-5135

or

Thickbilled Parrot Program
Arizona Game and Fish Department
222 West Greenway Road
Phoenix, AZ 85023-4399

US RESEARCH INTO PARROT INTELLIGENCE

In a project that has attracted wide attention, Dr. Irene Pepperberg, an ethologist at the University of Arizona, has been probing the limits of parrot mental ability. "Basically," she said, "we've shown that the parrot is working at the level of the chimpanzee and the dolphin."

Her star subject is a 15-year-old African gray parrot named Alex. In a paper published last year by The Journal of Comparative Psychology, she described a study in which Alex was trained to recognize and label objects, colors and shapes, and when questioned, to say their names in English.

Alex was able to identify the shape, color or name of an object correctly about 80 percent of the time. In the pièce de résistance, he was shown a variety of objects – for instance, a purple model truck, a yellow key, a green piece of wood, a blue piece of rawhide, an orange piece of paper, a gray peg and a red box. "What object is green?" he was asked, "Wood," he responded.

In another test, Alex was shown a football-shaped piece of wood, a key with a circular head, a triangular piece of felt, a square piece of rawhide, a five-sided piece of paper, a six-sided piece of modeling compound, and a toy truck.

"What object is five-corner?" the experimenter asked.

"Paper," Alex replied.

Asked 48 such questions, he was right 76 percent of the time – 100 percent of the time for questions involving shape. Dr. Pepperberg interprets this as statistically significant evidence that Alex understands the questions as well as the abstract concept of category, and that he thinks about the information to come up with an answer.

In other tests, Dr. Pepperberg said, the parrot has distinguished between the concepts of bigger and smaller, and among the concepts of biggest, smallest and "middlest" – "actually, a difficult concept for children." "This is not just stimulus-response," she said, pointing out that to answer the questions correctly, Alex must understand them and think about the information. She does not go so far as to say that Alex is using language, but she does describe what is going on as communication between bird and human.

Other scientists urge caution about the Alex experiments, pointing out that they are based on a close, long-term relationship between experimenter and subject

and that the experiment is not easily amenable to normal controls and replication.

Experts note the difficulty of inferring the thought processes of any animal, whether ape, dolphin or parrot, from its behavior. But, one bird expert who counsels caution, Dr. Fernando Nottebohm of

Rockefeller University said: "That bird is doing some things that look awfully clever and thought-provoking. It does understand questions and gives what seem to be answers."

(This excerpt is from an article in the New York Times).



No doubt about this African Grey's intelligence.

No. 4 IN OUR SERIES

"If I could keep only one pair of parrots ..."

by Stan Sindel Sydney, Australia

When posed with the question "If only one pair of parrots could be kept what species would I choose?" my response is spontaneous; the Gang Gang Cockatoo, *Callocephalon fimbriatum*.

I cannot claim a moralistic or ethical reason, nor is it related to conservation, but purely selfishness – I am obsessed with this wonderful cockatoo.

My passion for Gang Gangs originated over thirty years ago following a phone call from a Sydney bird dealer who told of a beautiful hand reared pair of young Gang Gangs in his possession.

At that time my bird collection consisted of various small

psittacines, and I felt my housing was unsuitable for cockatoos, so I told him I was not interested. He was a perceptive businessman and well aware of my weaknesses, so cunningly suggested I view the birds before saying no.

Arrangements were made to inspect them at the dealer's home. I remember it as if it were yesterday. I knocked on the front door and the dealer's wife, who was expecting me, answered the door with a Gang Gang perched on each wrist. They were immaculate.

Involuntarily my hands moved toward the birds who immediately stepped onto my wrists. Without hesitation I transferred both birds onto my left arm, took out my wallet, paid the price, took them home, and have kept Gang Gangs ever since.

Several years later my most memorable avicultural achievement occurred when I bred my first parent reared Gang Gangs from one of these birds, which were both hens. At the time of purchase I did not know young Gang Gangs can be easily sexed as fledglings. I am still breeding from this hen thirty years and three husbands later.

They are appealing, friendly, intelligent birds with a charm and character all of their own which, for me, sets them apart from all other



Pair of Gang-gang Cockatoos. Male on left.

parrot species. Their clanging, grating voice even I could only describe as unusual.

Although I had seen Gang Gangs in the wild years before I kept them in aviaries, I never really appreciated the wild sightings until after I fell in love with these strange little grey cockatoos whose drabness is relieved by orange barring on the front of the female, and a red head on the male.

Now my mind can conjure up every one of at least a hundred wild sightings – a male in adult splendour displaying to his hen at the entrance spout of their nest site in a large eucalypt – youngsters feeding on the red berries of the introduced Hawthorn, so quiet and innocent one can almost touch them – a group of adults feeding on bloodwood seed pods, gazing down quizzically at the observer below – a lone pair flying lazily across a vast mountain valley, dwarfed by the enormity of their surroundings.

Whenever I travel in the mountain country west of Sydney I am deeply disappointed if I don't see my Gang Gangs, and when I do I

still tingle with pleasure and excitement just as I did with my early sightings.

On a more serious note they are still trapped illegally for the local bird trade as well as for the illicit overseas market. Unfortunately in recent years they have discovered commercially grown foods such as apples, plums, walnuts, chestnuts etc. which will lead to the species decline in the mountain areas where these crops are grown. Although protected by law, undoubtedly many will die because of their new found taste for these cultivated crops.

The good news is that Gang Gangs are still in reasonable numbers throughout most of their extensive range, much of which is remote and relatively untouched mountainous and heavily timbered country partly protected by National Parks. This species can still be seen in some of the less developed suburbs of Sydney.

I feel the Gang Gang is at present a relatively safe species, and providing suitable protection and management programs continue the situation should remain stable.



Stan Sindel.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Members write . . .

2nd August 1991

Staines
Middlesex

Dear Mr. Reynolds,

Please find enclosed a whole assortment of documents. Following the last edition of Psittascene I wrote to Mr. Mellon at IPC Magazines, in response I received 5 pages of propaganda from Mr. Byles.

I work in the cargo terminal at London Heathrow Airport and have been concerned about the large shipments of birds being imported for several years. Last Thursday I heard about a shipment from Georgetown, Guyana (where most of the shipments I see come from) which was carried into LHR on

British West Indian Airlines. 85 birds were found to be dead upon their transfer to a new flight at Port of Spain. Upon arrival at LHR I managed to get copies of the import documents and notified both the RSPB and the EIA. I understand that both organisations are going to follow the matter up. I was told that by the time the importer had arranged customs clearance and they had been collected from the Animal Quarantine Station another 3 birds had died making a total of at least 88.

I have enclosed copy documents of the shipment in question which may be of interest to you. In the past week I have heard that both KLM and British Airways

have banned the carriage of live birds, however I understand that BWIA intend to fill the gap left by British Airways and carry all the shipments of birds they can from Georgetown. They have been making requests for information on UK import regulations.

I had the pleasure to visit Paradise Park in May. I spent a very enjoyable day looking around and just felt happy and at ease to be at the home of the World Parrot Trust. The large aviary you have constructed is superb, what a joy to see a Goffin's Cockatoo flying backwards and forwards nonstop. I could have spent many happy hours standing there watching the birds enjoying themselves. What a facility.

It would appear that you must have a difficult time within the bird trade regarding your stand to protect birds in the wild, I think that you are winning, please keep up the good work, the parrots of the world need the World Parrot Trust.

Please find enclosed a donation toward any current project that you see fit. Please don't feel the need to reply to me nor do I need a receipt, your workload must be high enough as it is. Congratulations on the first 18 months of the World Parrot Trust, long may it continue.

Yours sincerely,
Name supplied

October 1st 1991

Wildlife Conservation International

Dear Ms. Venning,

On behalf of Charles Munn and our macaw conservation project, I would like to thank you for your generous contribution of \$2,000 to Wildlife Conservation International. We are understandably proud of the achievements made by Charlie and his staff in their continuing study of the nesting and feeding habits of the Hyacinth Macaws in Brazil's Amazonia.

WCI's strategy of "conservation through knowledge" involves three distinct priorities: getting the facts about endangered species and habitats, using those facts to design and implement conservation strategies, and training people in developing nations in the skills they need to manage long-term

conservation measures.

With the support of the World Parrot Trust, we can continue our work in the conservation of these magnificent birds.

Yours sincerely,
John Robinson, Ph.D
Director

10th July 1991

Mr. J.P. Gosselin,
JERSEY Channel Islands

Dear Mr. Mellon,
I am writing to inform you of my indignation on learning that *The World Parrot Trust* was recently refused permission to advertise its excellent work in 'Cage & Aviary Birds', an I.P.C. magazine, apparently because it is a 'Protectionist'

organisation.

I own a wild-caught parrot myself (which I inherited) so occasionally I buy 'Birdkeeper' to read the articles by Jim Hayward; I will not be doing this any more, however, because I think that people who make money out of the cruel and insidious trade in wild-caught birds are the scum of the Earth.

Eight months ago, the Government of the Island of Jersey finally bowed to pressure and banned further imports of wild-caught parrots, after complaints about the conditions of such birds in a local pet shop, and the length of time it took to sell them. It is only a matter of time before the U.K. follows suit; even *Mr. John Gummer M.P., the Agriculture Minister*, is on record as saying the following: "I am very distressed at the concept of a trade based on the principle that

very large numbers will die. I am not happy about the principle of caging an exotic species without clear reason and I am not keen on the trade in these creatures as status symbols".

How many more people have to speak out before I.P.C. Magazine Ltd finally realises that Mr. Byles and his cronies do not hold the moral highground on this matter? Being a successful businessman, I reckon you know this already, but as long as 'Cage & Aviary Birds' and 'Birdkeeper' continue to be profitable, you couldn't care less. Am I right? If you disagree, then you could start by immediately allowing The World Parrot Trust to place uncensored advertisements in your two publications.

Yours sincerely,
J.P. Gosselin

EXOTIC BIRD CONSERVATION ACT

In our May '91 issue we published information on a proposed 'Wild Bird Protection Act' just introduced for consideration by the US House of Representatives.

Susan L. Clubb DVM has sent us the following material on the 'Exotic Bird Conservation Act' which has been put together by the Co-operative Working Group on Bird Trade.

Each year, commercial importers import into the United States more than half a million birds, the majority of which are sold as pets. In addition, an unknown but significant number of birds are smuggled across the border to supply the black market, bypassing quarantine controls and potentially introducing VVND. Many birds experience inhumane conditions and high mortality during transport and quarantine. Trade can have a profound effect on wild populations in exporting countries, where all too often nothing is known about their status in the wild.

The commercial, international trade in wild-caught birds is controversial. Ecological, humane, ethical, legal, and economic considerations color the debates, pitting animal welfare groups against so-called user groups, the pet industry and aviculturists. Historically these debates have taken place in state court rooms, in hearings on bills to stop the sale of wild-caught birds on a state level.

In August 1988, World Wildlife Fund convened the Cooperative Working Group on Bird Trade (CWGBT), in an effort to move the bird trade debate in a more constructive direction. This effort in *dispute resolution* successfully brought together representatives of many constituencies' with a vested interest in conservation and use of

wild birds. At the outset, this unusual coalition agreed that the controversial issues surrounding the bird trade merited objective analysis and informed discussion, and that these issues should be addressed at the federal rather than state level.

1 Organizations participating as members of the Cooperative Working Group on Bird Trade are: American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA), American Federation of Aviculture (AFA), American Pheasant and Waterfowl Society (APWS), Animal Protection Institute of America (API), Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV), Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP), National Audubon Society, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC), TRAFFIC USA, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

During the first six meetings (18 months) of the CWGBT, members participated in a comprehensive analysis of United States federal wildlife regulations as well as bird import and mortality data. It became clear during initial discussions that a number of federal procedures, although well intended, were not adequately protecting the species and individual birds in trade nor the needs of the pet bird industry. Group members unfamiliar with the complex procedures required of importers and exporters grew to appreciate the difficulties they faced. At the same time individuals who had not previously appreciated the detrimental effects that unsustainable exploitation is having on wild bird populations increased their understanding of this aspect of exotic bird importation. CWGBT prepared a

INTERNATIONAL NEWS ROUND-UP



series of joint recommendations (Findings and Recommendations of the Cooperative Working Group of Bird Trade). In March 1990, these recommendations, with the necessary institutional endorsements, were formally presented to the Departments of Agriculture, Interior and State.

On April 2, 1991 the draft bill entitled "Exotic Bird Conservation Act of 1991" was submitted. This bill would create a comprehensive federal program to regulate imports and transfers of exotic wild birds. Under this program, imports of such birds for the pet trade would be phased out over the next five years, and captive breeding efforts would be encouraged. The bill would curtail the detrimental aspects of the trade while preserving a supply of imported birds for aviculture and captive bred birds for the domestic pet market. The bill represents a consensus among nine groups, including World Wildlife Fund, American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, AAV, American Federation of Aviculture, American Pheasant and Waterfowl Society, International Council for Bird Preservation, National Audubon Society, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council and TRAFFIC USA.

Outline Of The Exotic Bird Conservation Act Of 1991

Section 1 - Title - Exotic Bird Conservation Act of 1991.

Section 2 - Statement of Purpose -

"The purpose of the act is to enhance the conservation of exotic birds in the wild by reducing and ultimately ending the import of such birds for the pet trade, by reforming the avian import process so as to decrease mortality and improve humane treatment and enforcement capabilities, by facilitating captive breeding of such birds in the United States and other countries, and by encouraging the public to purchase captive-bred birds in lieu of wild-caught birds."

Section 3 - Findings

Congress finds that;

- (1) in addition to habitat loss and local use, the international trade of exotic birds for use as pets is contributing to the decline of wild populations;
- (2) while many nations have partially or totally restricted their exports of live indigenous avifauna, others continue to supply large numbers of wild-caught birds for the international pet trade;
- (3) many exporting nations lack sufficient resources to adequately assess the effects of trade on their wild avian populations, and are therefore

unable to demonstrate that their exports are not detrimental to the species in the wild;

- (4) the United States remains one of the principal consumers of exotic wild-caught birds for the pet trade;
- (5) ... CITES ... in 1976 urged exporting countries to restrict gradually the collection of wild animals for the pet trade and recommended that all parties...encourage the breeding of animals for this purpose, eventually limiting the keeping of pets to those species which can be bred in captivity;
- (6) avian conservation will be promoted by encouraging the purchase of captive bred birds in lieu of wild-caught birds and facilitating domestic and foreign captive breeding ... reducing the demand for wild-caught birds;
- (7) current domestic and foreign captive breeding programs are capable of increasing the availability of captive bred birds ...;
- (8) although some efforts have been successful in reducing mortality in birds during transport to and quarantine in the United States, import-associated mortality remains an area of serious concern; and the effectiveness of current federal regulations and procedures ... and the division of agency responsibilities created thereby, needs to be improved.

THE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

The debates will now continue in Congress. Disagreement regarding certain aspects of the trade in wild-caught birds remains. A coalition of humane and animal rights organizations, lead by Defenders of Wildlife, submitted an alternative bill entitled "Wild Bird Protection Act" on April 4, 1991. Three members of this coalition, the Animal Welfare Institute, Humane Society of the US and Society for Animal Protective Legislation were members of the Cooperative Working Group and supported the recommendations as published in March 1990. This bill would immediately end imports for the pet trade. It would require marking of all birds in trade, including captive bred, and limit imports for purposes other than the pet trade.

Staff of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee were unable to negotiate a compromise bill and both bills were introduced concurrently to the House of Representatives and the Senate on June 4 1991. Congressmen Studds and Bellson introduced both

bills to the House of Representatives. On the same day Senator Baucus and Senator Chafee introduced companion bills in the senate. Hearings before the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee should be scheduled during the summer at which time the committee will again try to reach a consensus.

The Exotic Bird Conservation Act (H.R. 2541 and S. 1218) differs from The Wild Bird Protection Act (H.R. 2540 and S. 1219) in the following aspects;

The Exotic Bird Conservation Act (EBCA) calls for a five year phase out of wild bird imports for the pet trade. The phaseout would give aviculturists time to expand their breeding collections in order to fill the demands of the pet market.

The Wild Bird Protection Act (WBPA) calls for an immediate ban upon enactment. An immediate ban would likely result in increased smuggling to fill the demand.

EBCA - permits continued imports of wild-caught birds for use as breeding stock by aviculturists, after the phase out of imports for pets.

WBPA - would allow imports for captive breeding only if the aviculturists can demonstrate that such imports are needed and that they will be non-detrimental. This proof would be so restrictive that very few birds would be imported for captive breeding.

EBCA - contains reasonable enforcement provisions that would ensure compliance with the act, including reasonable marking, licensing, registration and reporting requirements. Aviculturists who do not wish to obtain regulated birds will be unaffected.

WBPA - would require marking of any bird in trade. It would further require proof of legal acquisition of pre-act birds before they could be marked, so any person owning a bird who could not document legal acquisition (bill of sale, etc.) could never sell the bird. These marking requirements would be virtually impossible to implement, and enforce, would be very costly, and serve no useful purpose.

EBCA - would promote conservation of birds and their habitats by allowing importation of birds produced in approved ranching operations. Such carefully managed operations can provide opportunities for sustainable utilization of bird populations providing incentives for conservation of habitat. The EBCA also establishes the Exotic Bird Conservation Fund to support the conservation, management and protection of birds in exporting countries.

WBPA - does not provide for imports of ranched birds.

EBCA - would permit individuals and organizations to file suit against

the government to enforce the act. **WBPA** - would authorize any citizen or group to file suit against private individuals such as aviculturists, pet owners, or researchers, who are alleged to be in violation of the act.

The Wild Bird Protection Act is supported by three organizations which pulled out of the CWGBT after almost three years of compromise. (Humane Society of the United States, Animal Welfare Institute and Society for Animal Protective Legislation) These groups joined by Defenders of Wildlife and the Environmental Investigation Agency, streamlined the Exotic Birds Conservation Act and added many prohibitively restrictive provisions.

At the time of writing the debate continues as congressional staff attempt to reach a consensus bill. On June 14, members of the CWGBT met with congressional staff. Hearings could be scheduled in August. The latest developments will be presented at the conference. Unfortunately, submission of the Wild Bird Protection Act could have the effect of postponing consideration of either bill by Congress in this session.

Susan L. Clubb, DVM
Avicultural Breeding and Research Center
1471 Folsom Road
Loxahatchee FL

Submission from Wildlife Conservation International

Data in favor of the Defenders of Wildlife Wild Bird Bill by Charles A. Munn, III, Ph.D., Associate Research Zoologist, Wildlife Conservation International, New York Zoological Society, Bronx, NY 10460, phone 212 220 5155, fax 212 220 7114, and Treasurer of The Conservation Association for the Southern Rainforest of Peru (Asociacion de Conservacion para la Selva Sur), Avenida del Sol 627-B, oficina 305, Cusco, Peru, phone 011 51 84 236200, fax 011 51 84 234793.

1. In eight years of year-round study of large parrots in the Amazon rainforests of Peru, Brazil, and Bolivia, the Wildlife Conservation International research team that I lead has shown that large parrots of the Amazon rainforest naturally have very low population densities (2-6 birds per square mile of virgin rainforest) and glacially slow reproductive rates and therefore cannot withstand any capture for the unregulated pet trade.

2. Only 10-20% of the mated pairs of large macaws in remote areas of the Amazon attempt to reproduce in a given year.

3. A population of 100 mated pairs (i.e. 200 adult birds) of large macaws in the Amazon produces only a total of 7-25 young per year.

4. Many mated pairs of large macaws in the wild reproduce only every second or third year. In contrast, captive breeding operations such as those that the Defenders of Wildlife Bird Bill will encourage often can obtain from 2-20 fertile eggs per year from a mated pair, a rate that is 5-30 times greater than the reproduction in the wild.

5. For most commercial species of parrots, there are more than adequate stocks already in captive breeding operations in the U.S. to supply all the retail demand in these species. Passing the Defenders bill will stimulate these breeders, who currently find it hard to compete with the unjustifiably low prices for imported wild birds (whose prices do not reflect the "externality" that they are being driven to extinction by the trade).

6. The large tree cavities in which macaws and other large parrots nest are naturally scarce even in intact, unlogged rainforest. In many Latin American countries a small number of wealthy bird wholesalers contract a small number of local bird catchers at very low wages secretly to collect baby parrots from wild nests on other people's land or on government land. These poorly-paid bird catchers often cut a much larger percentage of the final retail price of the birds.

12. If local people were to ranch wild parrots sustainably in the future, they would then have a greater direct interest in protecting wild parrots and the rainforest on which the birds depend. Protecting rainforest is in the best interests of North Americans, for rainforests are critical in regulating global climate and are the genetic storehouse for many of the world's existing and future sources of medicine-, food-, latex-, and fiber-producing plants.

13. The Sierra Club/African Wildlife Foundation/Defenders of Wildlife bill to ban the sale of most wild-caught exotic birds will help eliminate the current, extremely destructive system of international parrot smuggling and permit wild parrot populations to recover to levels that may in the near future allow a genuine sustainable harvest managed by local rainforest land-holders. This bill would allow such a sustained harvest to provide wild stock for legitimate captive breeders and zoos in the U.S.

Manu National Park
Conservation Association for the
Southern Rainforest of Peru
Avenida del Sol 627-B, oficina 305
Cusco, PERU

5 July 1991

The Honorable Gerry Studds
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman,

I would like to express my appreciation for introducing legislation to address the serious problems concerning the international trade in live birds as pets.

I am a research zoologist for NY-based Wildlife Conservation International, which funds 140 field projects on endangered ecosystems in 40 countries around the world, mostly in the tropics. Since 1983 I have worked for seven months per year in the Amazon rainforests of Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia researching the ecology and reproduction of macaws and other large tropical parrots. In 1987 I was the director of the five-nation research team that included scientists from Brazil (Carlos Yamashita), Bolivia (Dante Gonzalez), Paraguay (Celeste Acevedo), and Denmark/U.S. (Jorgen Thomsen) in the only field survey of the critically-endangered Hyacinth macaw. Our field research and investigation of the illegal capture and smuggling of Hyacinth Macaws showed that the international bird trade was taking an enormous toll on this species, the world's largest parrot.

In my research on the reproduction and demography of other species of large parrots in the Amazon, my colleagues and I have shown that these birds naturally have such low reproductive rates and low population levels in the wild that they cannot withstand any harvest whatsoever for the pet trade without declining to local and then global extinction. Also, in many regions of the Amazon, small numbers of professional bird smugglers eliminate all large parrots from vast expanses of virgin rainforest many years before the forest itself is in danger of being cut. Finally, some rainforest people who occasionally catch and sell large parrots usually only receive 0.5-1% of the final retail sale price of the birds that they catch on contract for a few rich middlemen in cities in South and North America and Europe.

Despite claims to the contrary, there exist absolutely no documented examples of sustainable harvest of parrots from the wild. It might be possible in the future, however, to apply modern wildlife management to populations of wild parrots and then to permit a sustained, controlled harvest to provide breeders in the U.S. and elsewhere with ethically and humanely obtained wild stock (a possibility that is allowed for in the Sierra Club/African Wildlife Foundation/Defenders of Wildlife bill). But because of the increasingly grave situation of large parrots in the wild, and the incredible speed

with which major wholesalers can wipe out large parrots in intact rainforest, the burden of proof of sustainable harvest should lie with those who propose to commercialize the birds. Until such sustainable harvests are developed and demonstrated, however, for the above reasons I encourage you most strongly to support the Sierra Club/African Wildlife Foundation/Defenders of Wildlife bill to ban the sale of most wild-caught exotic birds. The Conservation Association for the Southern Rainforest of Peru, from whose offices I am writing today, also joins the more than 160 conservation organizations nationwide and worldwide in supporting passage of this important bill.

Any bills that avoid doing the right thing, which clearly is a total and immediate ban, and instead propose a multi-year phaseout of the trade in tropical birds simply would permit and encourage the ruthless and efficient bird wholesalers to place gigantic buy orders with the poorly-paid peasants, who would proceed to remove all large parrots from intact forests. The effect of such a gradual phaseout would be to stimulate major wholesalers to accelerate and intensify their destruction of wild parrot populations, which surely would result in the local and global extinction of more parrot species before trade finally ceases.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Charles A. Munn, Ph.D.
Associate Research Zoologist
Wildlife Conservation International
New York Zoological Society
Bronx, NY 10460

"Euro Parrot 1992",

May 14th/16th, 1992
Marienlyst Centre, Windelsvej 138,
5000 Odense C, Denmark

*SPEAKERS - confirmed:-
- Tony Silva, Loro Parque, Tenerife
- Richard Schubot, Avicultural Breeding & Research Center, US
- Joseph M. Forshaw, Bildera Enterprises, Australia
- Kees Schouten, EEC CITES-adviser, Holland
- George A. Smith, Avian Diagnostics, UK
- Joanne Abramson, Raintree Macaws, US
- Peter Knights, EIA, UK
- Jorgen Bent Thomsen, WWF-Traffic International & Chairman ICBP Parrot Group, U.K.
- Jan Muchmore, Chairman CITES Transport Group, U.K.
- J.M. Westergaard, Veterinary and Animal Husbandry, Commission of the European Communities, Belgium.

*TOPICS: will among others include:

- EEC regulations for trade and keeping live exotic birds
- EEC CITES procedures for trade in live exotic birds
- EEC Transport conditions of live exotic birds
- EEC Trade patterns in live exotic birds
- EEC sanitary regulations at import and quarantines
- EEC veterinary controls
- Captive Breeding and Conservation
- Incubation and handrearing
- The ornithology view on exotic birds in captivity
- Pet Trade and Aviculture
- Customers duty regulations.

* English will be the official language, but the papers will be translated into Danish and German.
- Proceedings will be available.

* INSCRIPTION FEE: The cost of this event will be about DKR 850 per person, and this includes all lectures and workshops/display. Welcome reception Thursday evening at Odense Town Hall, buffet lunch on Friday & Saturday, and coffee/tea throughout Friday and Saturday. Dinner-dance on Saturday evening will be about dkr. 200,-.

* HOTEL: Participation fees do not include hotel accommodation, which should be reserve by ODENSE CONVENTION BUREAU.

* AIRLINES: SAS - Scandinavian Airlines has been appointed official carrier for this event.

* RENTAL CARS: AVIS is the official surface carrier.

* IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are interested to participate "Euro Parrot 1992", please inform the office as soon as possible, and you will receive information on "Euro Parrot 1992", including registration form.

* OFFICE ADDRESS: Odense Convention Bureau, attention "Euro Parrot 1992", Odense Tourist Association, Town Hall, 5000 Odense 6, DK - Denmark

Phone: +45 66 12 75 30
Fax: +45 66 12 75 86

* PRINCIPAL ORGANISERS: Mr. Hjeresen, Frydenlund Bird Park, Skovvej 50, DK-5690 Tommerup
Mr. Peter H. Them, Parrot Data, Emmerich Alle 4, DK-2791 Dragor.

PARROT SMUGGLERS CAUGHT!

Customs & Excise in London have recently sent us the following details of two parrot smugglers successfully apprehended.

On 21st September 1991 a

Belgian, Johan Steven Goessens was caught at Ramsgate with eight live and one dead Rosella located as follows:

FOUR found wrapped in dark coloured stockings found behind the dashboard and centre console of his car.

FIVE found wrapped in dark coloured stockings in the lining and inside pocket of Goessens jacket. The birds had been sedated, and a syringe and vial of Valium were found on Goessens.

He was found guilty of the following:-

1. Transit of Animals Order (method of transport) - £200 + £35 costs.
2. Importation of Birds, Poultry and Hatching Eggs Order 1979 (landing without MAFF licence) - £400 + £40 costs.
3. Section 170(2) of Customs & Excise Management Act evading VAT - £400 + £200 costs.

At Birmingham airport on the 28th September 1991 Paul Maurice Harkins was apprehended with EIGHTEEN cockatoo eggs concealed in a specially made vest with pouches on the front. The eggs had been smuggled from Australia. So far six eggs have hatched and have been identified as Galahs. On 30th September 1991 he was fined £1,200 for an offence of evading the endangered species controls under section 170(2) of the Customs & Excise Management Act 1979.

The World Parrot Trust supports HM Customs & Excise in their fight to stop the illegal trade in parrots.

In the interests of legitimate and decent aviculturists who wish to have nothing to do with those who perpetrate such crimes, we will continue to publish in PsittaScene any details available regarding offences of this nature.

INDONESIA

We have the following fresh report from Roland Wirth:-
News from Indonesia continues to be bad. Several of my friends visited Seram for 10 days in August, but although they travelled through excellent forest, they did not see a single Moluccan Cockatoo or Purple-naped Lory.

However, they met a local dealer who claimed he exported 1000 cockatoos to Ambon last year, from where they went to other destinations in Asia, but were also smuggled into the USA. My colleagues also found 41 Moluccan Cockatoos at the Ambon market during one visit in August, and a whole group of new cockatoos (recognised by their clean feathers) during another visit.

ACTION PACKAGE

REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 1992

When The World Parrot Trust was launched over two years ago, the trustees decided to set the basic membership charge at £10. This sum was intended to cover the cost of administration and producing the newsletter, and leave something over to be spent on parrot conservation and welfare projects.

As things have developed, much of the administrative cost has been borne by Paradise Park (office space, telephones, computers, mailing etc.), but the 'PsittaScene' newsletter has cost about 75% of membership fees received. This has left a rather meagre amount to be spent on the well-being of the parrots which are the point of the whole exercise.

As a recent meeting of the Trustees it was decided that all Subscription and Membership costs should be increased *as from 1st January 1992*. From that date the following will apply:-

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP (Europe)	£15
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (Europe)	£20
OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIP (Surface Mail)	£18*
OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIP (Airmail)	£25*
FELLOW (Life Member)	£250*

* Overseas Members are requested to pay in Sterling by Credit Card. Payments by cheque result in heavy bank charges.

Payment by Covenant or Bankers Order helps the trust considerably. Please ask our office for Covenant or Bankers Order forms.

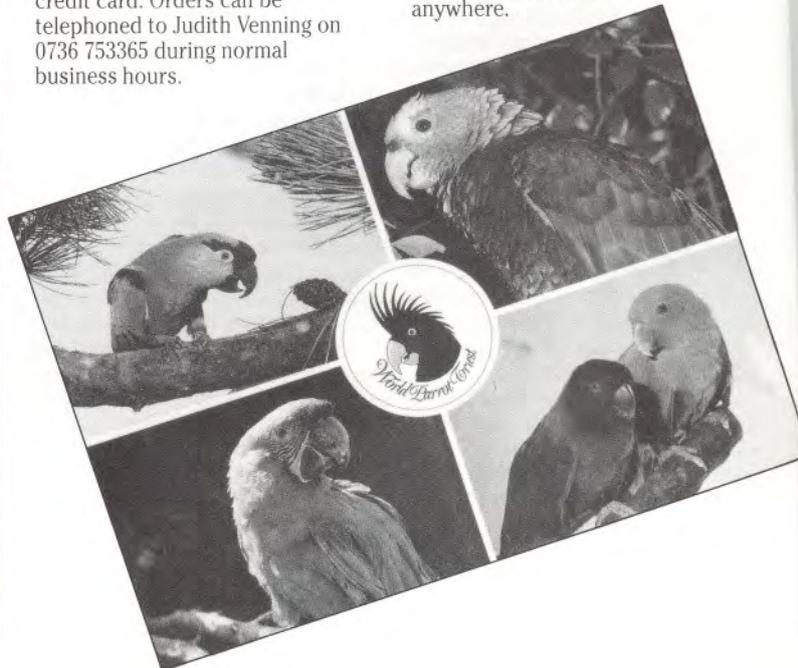
For the remainder of 1991 subscriptions will be accepted at the previous rates of £10 or \$25, so budget-conscious parrot people could join right away and make a modest saving in their first year with the Trust.

NOW'S THE TIME TO ORDER CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FROM THE TRUST

We have a growing list of items for sale, all of which make excellent Christmas Presents for parrot people. A speedy response is advised so that, ideally, your order reaches us before the end of November. From outside the UK please try to pay in Sterling by credit card. Orders can be telephoned to Judith Venning on 0736 753365 during normal business hours.

GREETINGS CARDS

New World Parrot Trust card featuring St. Vincent, Thick-billed, and Eclectus Parrots and Buffons Macaw, all on the same card. 8" x 6" with envelopes, in packs of five at £4.50 including postage anywhere.





The noblest of them all
by NICHOLAS
The Hyacinth Macaw *Anodorhynchus leucorhynchos*

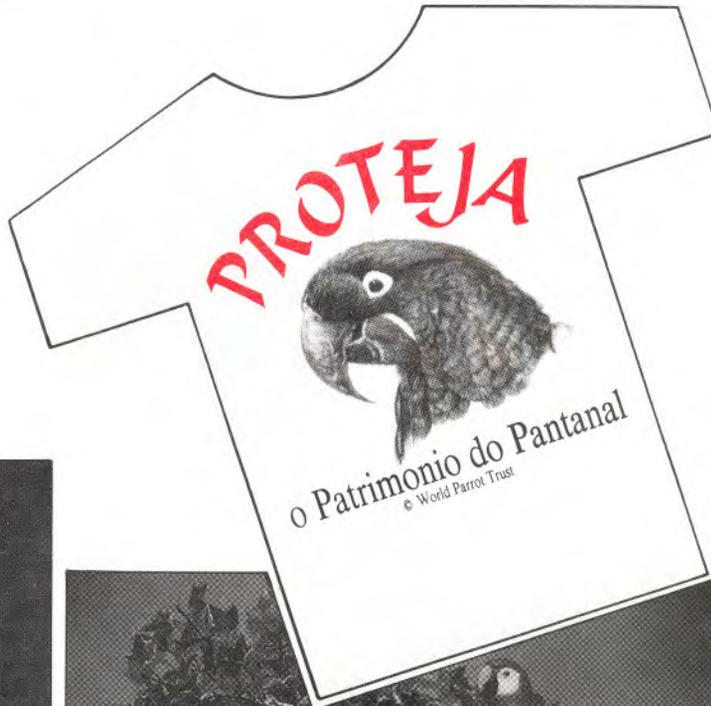
'THE NOBLEST OF THEM ALL'

Our beautiful limited edition print of the Hyacinth Macaw. The *mounted* prints cost £110 plus £8 for post and packing, or in the US \$175 plus \$10 post and packing. Alternatively we can supply *unmounted* prints for \$75 or \$120 including post and packing.

We can also supply back numbers of 'PsittaScene' for £2 per copy, and World Parrot Trust Button Badges for £2 each, including post and packing.

T-SHIRTS

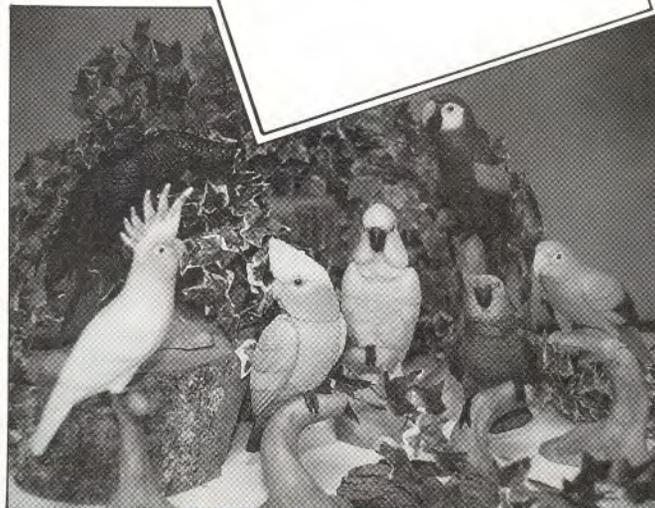
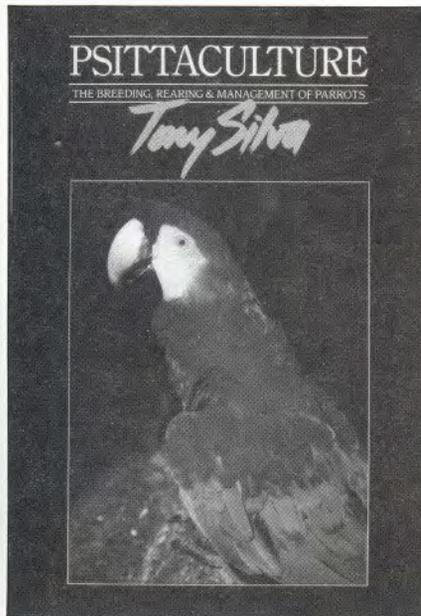
We have new supplies of our WORLD PARROT TRUST and HYACINTH T-shirts, both on the same top quality 100% Cotton shirt. Sizes: S,M,L,XL. Price: £10 each, plus post and packing £2 in UK or Europe, or £4 airmail to USA or elsewhere.



LATEST!

Order 'PSITTACULTURE' by Tony Silva and win a \$3 donation for the World Parrot Trust. Simply send \$29.95 (inc. post and packing) to:-

Owls Nest Bookshop, Birdworld, Holt Pound, Farnham, Surrey GU10 4LD, and make sure you mark your order 'World Parrot Trust'. This important new book will be reviewed in the next (January 1992) issue of 'PsittaScene'.



Parrot Studbook Keepers

Once again we publish a list of Studbook Keepers. All readers holding these species would do well to register their birds with the relevant studbook keeper. **The development of these vital studbooks is being seriously damaged by the non-participation of leading aviculturists. If they are as conservation-minded as they pretend, they will register their birds right away.**

BLUE-EYED COCKATOO *R*
PALM COCKATOO *R*

Dr. Roger Wilkinson, North of England Zoological Society, Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton-by-Chester, CH2 1LH.

GREEN-CHEEKED AMAZON *R*
LILACINE AMAZON

Mark Pilgrim, North of England Zoological Society, Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton-by-Chester, CH2 1LH.

MOLUCCAN COCKATOO *R*

Rob Colley, Pencyrnor Wildlife Park, Cilfrew, Neath, Glam., S. Wales.

GOFFIN'S COCKATOO *R*

SCARLET MACAW *R*

BUFFON'S MACAW *R*

RED FRONTED MACAW *R*

David Woolcock, Paradise Park, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 4HY.

THICK BILLED PARROT *R*

David Jeggo, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, Les Augres Manor, Trinity, Jersey, Channel Islands.

HYACINTH MACAW *R*

Colin Bath, Paignton Zoological & Botanical Gardens, Totnes Road, Paignton, Devon.

GOLDEN CONURE *I*

Alan Lieberman, San Diego Zoo, PO Box 551, San Diego, California, 92112-0551 USA.

GOLDEN CONURE *R*

RED-VENTED COCKATOO *R*

BLUE-STREAKED LORY *R*

c/o The Parrot Society, 108b, Fenlake Road, Bedford MK42 0EU.

R = UK REGIONAL STUDBOOK

I = INTERNATIONAL STUDBOOK

PARROT FIGURINES

These are detailed and colourful 9" models of Galah, Leadbeater or Moluccan Cockatoo, African Grey Parrot or Golden Conure, all at £39 each. Also 13" models of Scarlet and Blue and Gold Macaw at £52 each. Please add £3 per figurine for post and packing within the UK, £6 within Europe, £10 elsewhere.

