



EMERGENCY IN INDONESIA

World Parrot Trust seeks to achieve release of 535 Goffin's Cockatoos

by Michael Reynolds

Some readers may have seen two recent 'Cook Report' TV programmes which investigated the wild bird trade. In the first programme they discovered a large number of Goffin's Cockatoos *Cacatua goffini* in Zimbabwe of all places, where they were alleged to be part of a breeding programme. This led the intrepid Cook Report team to visit Yamdena, one of the Tanimbar group of islands in Maluku province, Indonesia, where the Goffin's Cockatoo lives - but with its numbers gravely reduced.

While on Yamdena they went out with a bird trapper, but saw only one cockatoo. At the premises of a dealer, however, they saw 60 Goffin's Cockatoos. The birds were in good condition, and the camera team paid for the birds to be kept where they were, rather than being shipped out to a bird market elsewhere. The World Parrot Trust was asked to try to help arrange for the birds to be released, and then protected in the wild. We were naturally anxious to help, not least because Goffin's Cockatoo has just been moved up to Appendix 1 of CITES, and is no longer allowed to be traded. We contacted Ian Wickison, a friend who lives in Ambon, Maluku, and arranged for him to visit Yamdena and report back. Here are some excerpts from his report:-

Hello Mike. After a horrendous trip of three days I got to Saumlaki; plane to Kai Islands and then two

boats to Tanimbar on one of which a guy fell overboard and wasn't seen again! The situation here is as follows:-

1. Mr. H. has 535 Goffin's, all in immaculate condition - at least he looks after them well. They've been in captivity for about six months, since the 'catching season' in January to March when the village corn crops are ripening.
2. Mrs. F. has offered us the use of a family farm to construct a large holding cage until proposed release. Farm is on the edge of virgin forest where she has seen Goffin's flying free.
3. Local Ambon conservation chief thinks the whole project is a fantastic idea and feels sure Jakarta will feel the same. Many people here are keen to show the world that Indonesia does care about conservation.
4. Most of the birds now in captivity come from smaller islands south of Yamdena, namely Seira, Latdalam, Nantabun, and are brought to H. in small numbers when the villagers need money. From what I've seen down here it really is a hand to mouth existence for most people.
5. I spoke to H.'s partner, and he is more than willing to work with us as he can see his business going down from around 8,000 birds a year to perhaps only 1,000 (hopefully down to zero when CITES is fully implemented. MR). No animosity from him and if he stops buying the birds the villagers automatically stop catching them. This whole project can be highly successful if we get the powers that be to designate the reserves and allow World Parrot Trust to commence the project. I've got the local people

to trust me and see me as a friend and therefore can see a relatively smooth operation ahead.

6. I will fax the result of my meeting with PHPA conservation chief as soon as possible. Ian.

Hopefully the above will give readers a fair picture of the situation. I think it likely that an

older and wiser conservation organisation would give the whole matter a very wide berth, for fear of ending up with egg on its face. Not so with the World Parrot Trust. Quite possibly we will fail; there is ample scope for things to go wrong. The 535 birds may die, or mysteriously disappear on a passing boat. The authorities may not wish

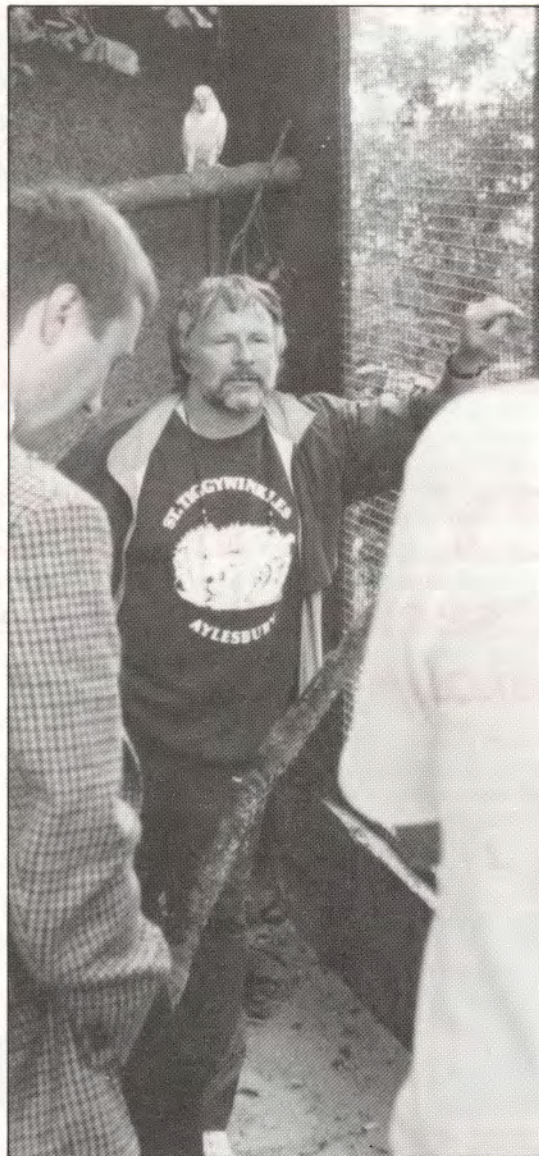


“psittacine
(sit'á sīn) Belonging
or allied to the
parrots; parrot-like”



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Bill Oddie, distinguished ornithologist and conservationist, with Cook Report team and 'rescued' Goffin's Cockatoo
Photo: Nick Reynolds

us to become involved. The birds may be successfully released, then caught again.

For the record, this is what we would like to do. First, encourage the Indonesian authorities to get the word to Tanimbar that Goffin's Cockatoo is now on Appendix 1 of CITES (since June 11 1992) and is no longer to be trapped or traded. Second, with the cooperation of the appropriate authorities, to arrange the earliest possible release of the 535 Cockatoos at Saumlaki, preferably on their offshore islands of origin if this can be managed. Third, to establish a situation where key individuals in the area are appointed and paid to act as 'parrot wardens', taking pride in protecting their native birds.

All of this will cost money, and this is where you, our trust members and other readers, must play your part. We have already sent funds to cover the cost of Ian Wickison's first look at the situation. We must now send more to cover the cost of keeping and feeding this very large group of birds. If

successful in arranging a release, we must find a way to compensate the local people who will have cooperated. Furthermore, it is essential that we find a source of continuous - but hopefully modest - funding to ensure longterm protection for these endangered Goffin's Cockatoos. We have therefore set an initial target of £5,000 to establish our 'Indonesia Parrot Fund'. Please let us have your contributions towards this important project. It could set a pattern for future schemes to rescue Appendix 1 species of parrot before it is too late.

Finally, we must tell you about an excellent proposal we have just, coincidentally, received from ICBP (International Council for Bird Preservation), which asks for The World Parrot Trust to support a 'Status Assessment of Tanimbar Corrella and Blue-streaked Lory and an Inventory of Proposed Protected Areas on Tanimbar and the Kai Islands, Maluku Province, Indonesia.' At a cost of US\$75,000 this will be a thorough piece of work

and an invaluable conservation development for the islands and their wildlife; Maluku Province supports 32 species of parrot.

The trust has been asked to contribute £2,000, but is only able to commit £1,000 at the present time, due partly to impoverishment, and partly to the wide range of projects we already have in hand. We therefore ask our members to make up this additional sum of £1,000. As you reach for your cheque book, bear in mind that Indonesia is a developing country with immense problems, but which is showing serious interest in protecting its wildlife. Organisations like ours must give whatever encouragement we can, and that must include some hard cash.

Please try to help us with this, and we'll keep you informed on how it turns out. At least we will have tried our best to pursue the trust's stated objective: to promote the survival of all parrot species and the welfare of individual birds.

MWR

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.

RESEARCH ON THE GROUND PARROT IN BARREN GROUNDS NATURE RESERVE (N S W – Australia)

by Eva Sempe
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Status: Threatened to endangered

The Ground Parrot *Pezoparus Wallicus* is a truly magnificent bird. It is a medium-sized, slim parrot. Its overall body colour is a rich emerald green, with noticeable black and yellow barring. The abdomen is greenish-yellow and the tail is long and narrow. As an adaptation to a ground-dwelling existence, its claws are very long and only slightly curved. Both male and female have a distinctive red frontal band above the beak. His call is a rising cadence of thin, high-pitched, bell-like notes.

In Barren Grounds Bird Observatory (RAOU - Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union), south of Sydney, regular Census work has been carried out since 1982.

The overall population of Ground Parrots on the 2000 ha area of the Nature Reserve is 70-100 birds. A selected study area of approximately 60 ha of suitable Ground Parrot habitat is used for the twice yearly Ground Parrot Census. The field work is carried out mostly by volunteers, a line of people spread at 10m intervals, who walk the study area to flush all the Ground Parrots is used. Care has to be taken that birds are not "double counted" if they are flushed a second time.

At the last Census on 7th March 1992, 27 birds were counted, an increase of about 15 since the year before.

The parrot shows a marked preference for low, rather sparse heath along ridges. They have disappeared from at least two sections of the Reserve where, as a result of being protected from regular fires, the heath becomes tall and very dense. They are appearing in other areas where heath is regenerating after being burnt by bushfires. The critical factor for the Ground Parrot population seems to be fire frequency. The birds like neither too many nor too few fires. In Barren Grounds the birds disappear from the heath about 12 years after fire, with the biggest population after approx. four to seven years. Why don't they stay longer? Their main food is probably small sedge seeds, and sedges, very abundant after fire, become

progressively less common as they are overgrown by large shrubs such as banksia and tea-tree. It has been calculated that each bird requires something like 10,000 tiny seeds a day. The management of the Nature Reserve intends to ensure that substantial areas are always suitable for occupation by the Ground Parrot, and that no single fire can burn the entire area at once.

The Ground Parrot, a shy, elusive bird, is normally extremely difficult to observe, as it is well camouflaged in the heath, and only flies in the half-light or when flushed. It was therefore decided to use Radio-Telemetry to allow the movements of individual birds to be followed. Birds were captured by mist-netting and tiny (5g) transmitters were attached to back feathers in the area between the wings. The method proved most successful, and has been well-tolerated by the birds. Attachment of up to 62 days have been achieved on a total of twelve birds. A great deal about movements and territoriality was quickly learned by this method. Two of the birds, a male and female, were involved in breeding activities. The nest successfully fledged two young, which provided a mountain of new data, thanks to video and camera equipment.

The observations proved very surprising, especially in the light of what has been published about the Ground Parrot.

- The bird feeds only during the daytime. This is at variance with most published accounts which describe the bird as nocturnal.
- The Ground Parrot flies around for 10-15 minutes at dusk and dawn and that is also the time of peaks of vocalisation. But there is also considerable calling during the daytime, especially in spring and early summer.
- The calling is frequently triggered by aircraft passing overhead, even if out of sight in cloud.
- The vocalisations are varied and fascinating. We know now that a "duet" call is initiated by the male, with a reply by the female. There is also a "frog" call, quite similar to that of the Common Eastern Froglet. This is used by the male when he approaches an incubating female to feed her.
- Ground Parrots fly to roosting places which are often some distance from the daytime

feeding places. Adults rarely went more than 400m, but first year birds went further.

- The female does all the incubating and is fed by the male three times daily.
- The male does all the feeding of the chicks. He feeds them three times a day and forages over a radius of approximately 200m around the nest site.
- Young birds are very mobile in their first summer and make long flights to look for other areas of suitable habitat.
- Adult birds are only territorial when breeding.

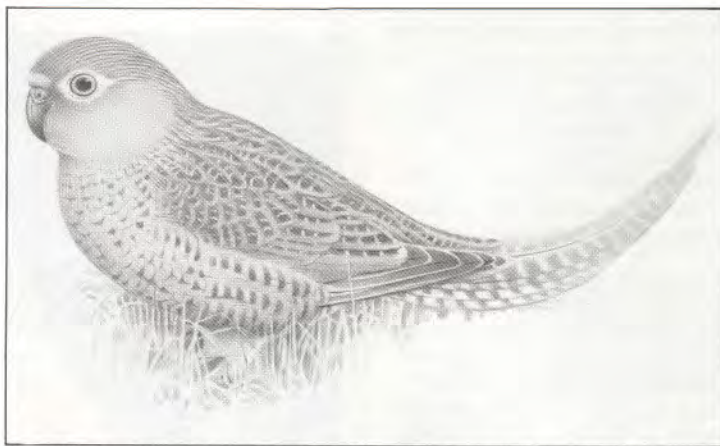
The successful evolution of the Ground Parrot as a totally ground adapted species was disrupted by the European Invasion of Australia. Man-made destruction of its specialised habitat, due to clearing of land is a major reason for the rapid decline of the once common Ground Parrot. The other reasons are changes in fire regimes causing habitats to become unsuitable, and also predation by introduced animals like cats, foxes and dogs. The range of the Ground Parrot has become discontinuous and there is marked fragmentation of the genetic pool. This is the main reason why the Ground Parrot is in such danger.

The species will become extinct without sympathetic management of Reserves like Barren Grounds. A management strategy is necessary to preserve the bird and must include recognition and methods of maintaining suitable habitat and population density, assessment of vegetation for food, plant density and adequacy of cover, including a fire management plan.

Throughout the vastness of Australia, parrots provide a colourful reminder of the continent's unique evolution and the importance of biodiversity. The fate of the Ground Parrot relies on the whim of legislation to provide Reserves and the skill of Wildlife Managers to maintain them.

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This charming illustration of the Ground Parrot was supplied by our member Malcolm Ellis, the renowned bird artist.

He has agreed to do a series of 10 original and exclusive paintings of parrots to be sold for the benefit of the World Parrot Trust. The first four subjects will be: Red-fronted Macaw, Moluccan Cockatoo, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, and Cuban Amazon. For more details, or to commission a specific subject of your own choice, write to our Administrator.

INDONESIAN COCKATOO SURVEY

by Rosemary Low

One of last year's issues of **PsittaScene** contained a survey form regarding aviary breeding of Indonesian Cockatoos. Response to surveys is never as good as one might hope – but I did obtain information on 35 pairs. While this number is much too small to give significant results, I feel that the data collected is of interest to aviculturists. It might also remind breeders of these cockatoos who did not take part, that I would still welcome their results. Those of you who have joined since the survey form was issued, can obtain copies from the WPT office. I will gladly amend my figures to accommodate more results.

I suspect that the relatively high hatch rate in the data collected represents a higher than average figure. Many breeders would not respond if they were not successful, believing that their results are not of interest. However, to obtain a clearer picture, we need data on pairs which laid eggs but failed to hatch them, as well as on the successful pairs.

Only two forms gave details of pairs which produced no eggs. One pair was too young. As this left only one other pair, it was not included in the data, therefore the figures shown refer only to egg-laying pairs. The information submitted came from four zoos and 15 private breeders. Only the name of the breeder was requested and I believe that most results came from the UK, however, two breeders identified themselves as from Sweden, one from the Netherlands and I believe one was from the USA (where, I suspect, more Indonesian Cockatoos are reared than in any other country worldwide).

It should be pointed out that the results are definitely not representative of the proportionate numbers of each species kept. Undoubtedly, Umbrellas are the most numerous species. In the 1989 Psittacine Breeding Survey of birds kept in the USA the Umbrella was the most abundant cockatoo and the fourth most abundant parrot species. Of the 31,008 birds in the census, 798 were Umbrellas and 604 were known to be wild-caught. There were 318 pairs; they hatched 441 chicks of which at least 330 were reared. This is a higher breeding success rate than for any other cockatoo.

The Blue-eyed and Ducorp's Cockatoos are the rarest *Cacatua*

species in aviculture. I know of only three pairs of Blue-eyed in Britain (and this is probably a higher total than in any other country except the USA); they belong to one of the zoos which participated in the survey. One member did write to say the Blue-eyed is not an Indonesian species. This is quite true and the survey could have been more accurately titled "Island Cockatoos". It is a pity this member did not send us his results as the census numbers might have doubled with his contribution! Ducorp's (*Cacatua ducorpsii*) could have been included; if anyone has bred this species – the only island *Cacatua* which is not endangered – I would be pleased to have their results.

The Red-vented (*Cacatua haematuropygia*) should have been included. In fact we desperately need more information on the captive status of this threatened species which was placed on Appendix 1 in March 1992. We also need a stud book – urgently – as it appears that few are being bred and very few parent-reared. This cockatoo would be a suitable subject for an EEP (a breeding programme co-ordinated by European zoos and breeders).

Our breeding survey did provide a little information which is not available from a normal census.

One reason why details of both parents was requested was because I am concerned about the long-term effect of imprinting on birds which have been hand-reared, in some cases making them unsuitable for breeding, or unsuccessful as breeders. Of the 35 pairs in the survey, the origins of four pairs were unknown or unspecified. In 24 pairs, both male and female were wild-caught. One pair consisted of a hand-reared and a wild-caught bird; unfortunately it was not stated which was the male but as it is normal to list the male first, this may have been the hand-reared bird. They are a very successful pair of Goffin's; in the years 1989–1991 the female laid eight, eight and six eggs of which three, two and one respectively were infertile. The number of chicks hatched was five, six and five of which four were parent-reared, two in one nest.

Only three other pairs included one bird which was hand-reared – but one pair was excluded from the survey because, as already mentioned, it was the only pair which had not produced eggs. It consisted of a hand-reared 1982 male and a parent-reared 1988 female Goffin's – which was only just old enough to lay. The other two pairs were both Citron-crested. In one case both birds were hand-reared; the female produce four eggs

in 1991, all of which were infertile. The other pair was made up of the parent-reared male and a hand-reared female. She laid only one egg in each of the three years, none of which was fertile. Obviously the number of birds sampled overall is too small to allow any positive conclusions to be made, but it was noted that the only pairs which were totally infertile included a hand-reared bird. I now hope that some members will write to tell me of the high fertility among their hand-reared birds.

As I mentioned in my previous article on Indonesian Cockatoos (**PsittaScene**, May 1991) one of the reasons why I am concerned about the future of these birds in aviculture is because so many of their eggs are artificially incubated and the resulting young hand-reared from the egg. If we have to rely on parent-reared young to ensure the survival of these island cockatoos in aviculture, I fear that they will be extinct within a few decades – or effectively so in that although plenty of birds are extant, none are breeding.

Another reason was because of the many incidents of males killing females. During the three-year period of the survey, two females were killed, one Lesser and one Triton, and one female Lesser was attacked. One Citron-crest had half



Rosemary Low with a Triton and an Umbrella Cockatoo hand-reared at Palmitos Park.



These two Umbrella Cockatoos, seen here at 4 weeks and hand-reared by the author, do not interact with people. They should prove very suitable for breeding.

her upper mandible ripped off by the male 12 years previously. Other males were described as "very aggressive."

On the survey form I tried to obtain information on the destinies of the young reared. In some cases this information was not completed; where it was, it indicated that 64 were sold (five for breeding, 24 for pets, the rest not specified) and 11 were retained. I fear that this indicates what we already know –

that most breeders are breeding for the pet trade with little thought of the avicultural future of the birds. Unfortunately, in the case of some Indonesian species, this may be the only future they have.

The point is often made that some birds sold as pets, end up in breeding aviaries. This is true – but there is no guarantee that they will breed. Cockatoos isolated from their own kind from an early age often are hopelessly imprinted on people.

Some hand-reared males will not accept a female and I know of one case of a hand-reared male which killed two females and will never be given another opportunity to live with a female.

However, hand-reared birds can be used for breeding if they always have had contact with their own species. Last year I hand-reared from the egg two Umbrellas from a pair which previously had hatched only a single chick which had to be

reared without the companionship of other cockatoos. They were very imprinted. I tried to give minimal attention to the two reared together but they never showed the desire to interact with me or other humans which is seen in most species of cockatoos, including Umbrellas, which are reared alone. They are now eight months old, much more mature in their behaviour than cockatoos reared singly and have no interest in humans. They will, I am sure, prove most suitable for breeding purposes.

PsittaScene would welcome for publication letters from members detailing their experiences in breeding from captive-bred cockatoos, whether hand-reared or parent-reared.

Editors are welcome to reproduce this article in their magazines provided that the following acknowledgement is used:

This article first appeared in the magazine of the World Parrot Trust, **PsittaScene** in 1992. Information on the work of the Trust can be obtained from The World Parrot Trust, Glanmor House, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 4HY, England.

The Editor will gladly forward photographs (black and white or colour transparencies) on request, to use with this article.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION RECEIVED

SPECIES	No of pairs	Eggs laid	Known to be Hatched infertile	chicks			
				Parent-reared	Hand-reared	Died	
Lesser Sulphur	7	49	3	29	none	27	2
Citron-crest	5	22	5	11	4	5	2
Triton	2	29	none	12	none	5	7
Blue-eyed	3	18	4	2	1	none	1
Moluccan	6	28	9	16	none	9	7
Umbrella	5	50	10	24	2	16	6
Goffin's	7	58	15	36	8	17	11
TOTAL:	35	254	46	130	15	79	36

51% of eggs laid hatched.

Over 3 years 45 pairs produced 95 young which survived.

This is an annual productivity of 0.68 per pair.

Mortality of young before independence was 28%

NB: The sample number was considered too low to make any firm conclusion.

STUDIES ON A THREATENED POPULATION OF RED-TAILED BLACK COCKATOOS IN SOUTHEASTERN AUSTRALIA

by William B. Emison and Wayne D. Caldwell

Introduction

The Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*) is a well known and sometimes common bird across much of northern, western and eastern Australia. There is also a small and isolated population of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos (*C. b. graptogyne*) which occurs in southwestern Victoria and adjacent parts of the southeast of South Australia (i.e. southeastern Australia). A recent preliminary study in southwestern Victoria indicated that the Red-tailed Black population should be considered endangered, for the following reasons: its numbers are low, probably less than 1000 individuals remain; the geographical range is small and isolated; breeding, which seems to involve only a small proportion of the population (ca 10% or less), has only been recorded within the northern half of the birds' range; the diet is specialised; nest requirements seem relatively specific; and habitats are fragmented and threatened.

Background

Research conducted by the Department of Conservation and Environment (DCE) during 1988-91, found that the loss of Brown Stringybark forests and suitable nesting hollows are the main threats to the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo in SE Australia. Past clearing of Brown Stringybark forests has reduced this essential habitat and has caused the remaining areas to be broken up and fragmented. Frequent burning, particularly by fires which damage the canopies, may have also had an adverse effect on the food resources of these cockatoos.

The old, dead, standing River Red Gums on farmland that provide nesting hollows for the cockatoos, are now under serious threat throughout the bird's range. Often these trees are used as a source of firewood. Many others are just pushed over and burnt. This slow decline in, and lack of, available nest hollows may already be limiting the cockatoo's ability to produce young.

To ensure the long-term survival of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo in SE Australia, the cooperation and involvement of both the rural community and government

departments are required. Scientists working with the project recommended that a local resident be employed to liaise with the rural community both for enlisting its cooperation in conserving the species and for obtaining more information on the cockatoo.

The World Parrot Trust (WPT), through the Keith Ewart Charitable Trust, provided funds to DCE to employ a person to assist with the project on the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo in SE Australia. This position was to be part-time and, in the first instance, was to be filled during the 1991-92 breeding season. The grant from the WPT was for salary; operating costs were provided by DCE. In January 1992, interviews were held for the position. The interviewers (three from DCE and Mr. J. Forshaw, representing the WPT) were impressed with the quality of the candidates and finally offered the job to Mr. Wayne Caldwell, a farmer in the area where the cockatoo presently nests. Mr. Caldwell was employed part-time (three days per week) from early February until early June 1992.

Aims

The main objectives of Mr. Caldwell's work were:-

- To establish a network of observers in the rural community which will feed back information on distribution, abundance, feeding and nesting of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo.
- To gather breeding information from known nest sites.
- To search for other nesting locations and to obtain historical and current information on breeding sites from members of the rural community.
- To liaise with landowners to protect nest trees and potential nest trees and to encourage the planting of River Red Gums and Bulokes.
- To erect a few nest boxes in one of the nesting areas to ascertain if they will be used by the cockatoos.
- To determine how fire histories of the blocks of Brown Stringybark influence the distribution of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo in SE Australia.

Results and methods

Network of observers

The main task undertaken by Mr. Caldwell was to establish a network of observers in the rural community which would provide records (e.g. distribution, nesting, feeding) of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo to DCE. These records were entered on computer cards and were subsequently entered into the computerised atlas data base at Arthur Rylah Institute in Heidelberg, Victoria.

The establishment of such a network was very successful and Mr. Caldwell, starting with an existing rudimentary network, quickly built up a large group of enthusiastic observers living within the range of the cockatoo. These observers included farmers, government field workers, naturalists from local towns and school children. By the end of his employment, Mr. Caldwell was receiving information from 56 sources within the study area, most of these were individuals but three were groups such as field naturalists clubs and schools. Many of the results presented below were obtained from this network of rural observers. However, for completeness, all data gathered during the 1991/92 breeding season are included.

Breeding biology

Only three nests were located during the 1991-92 breeding season. Two of the three nests each fledged one young; the third nest appeared to have failed. Both successful nests were under observation when the young fledged. In one case, the young bird first left the nest while the parents were exchanging food (male to female) in a nearby tree. In the second case, the parents flew about the nest tree calling loudly prior to the young bird leaving the nest. The dates on which the chicks fledged were 13 February and 5 March 1992.

On the evening before one of the chicks fledged, two pairs of adults were seen near the nest hollow and both adult females (from each of the two pairs) entered the hollow (at different times) and appeared to feed the chick. Just before dark, both females attempted to enter the hollow but one was ejected by the

other. At dark when we left, one female was in the hollow with the chick and the other female was perched on a nearby tree. We cannot explain the significance of this behaviour.

Nesting sites and locations

During the 1991-92 breeding season, most of the 23 trees in which Red-tailed Black Cockatoos have nested at least once since 1988 were visited. Two of the nest trees had fallen, one through natural causes and the other through accidentally catching on fire during the burning of the paddock in which the tree grew. Only two active nests were found in hollows which had been used in previous years and another active nest was found in an area where no nests had previously been documented during the study. The last-mentioned nest was well to the south of the nesting areas found during the 1988-91 study but was not too far from a historical nest site; it was in a dead ring-barked River Red Gum in a pasture.

Information on other historical nesting sites was also received from the rural community. Included in these sites were a dead tree in a paddock across the border in South Australia and a live River Red Gum in a swamp on private land on the eastern periphery of the cockatoo's present range.

Nest site security

The nest sites found since 1988 have been located on only eight properties; four of these properties only had one nest each, while the most nest sites on a single property was nine (not all active in the same year). Most landowners with nest sites on their properties were contacted during the 1991-92 breeding season. Without exception, they were pleased to have the birds nesting on their properties and all indicated that they would not remove known nest trees. In most cases, they also indicated that few or no other dead standing trees (i.e., potential nest trees) would be removed. The landowners were also informed about the possibility of eggs or nestlings being illegally taken from the nests. They were asked not to widely publicise the presence of nests on their

properties and to report any suspicious activities to the authorities.

Regeneration of Red Gums and Bulokes

Landowners within the range of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo were contacted and encouraged to fence off areas from stock grazing so that regeneration of River Red Gums (potential nest trees) and Bulokes (summer food) could occur. In some instances, DCE provided incentives (e.g. fencing material) to assist the landowners with regeneration work on their properties.

Supplementary nest hollows

Despite the DCE campaign against the clearing of dead trees, a large number of dead, standing trees were legally knocked down during clearing operations on private land south of Casterton. DCE bought about 100 hollows which were cut from the fallen trees and stock-piled them near Casterton. Late in the season (May) four of the hollows were taken to a nesting area which has relatively few hollows. The supplementary hollows were hoisted into dead solid trees

(without hollows) and attached. Next year, more supplementary hollows will be put into those other nesting areas which contain relatively few nesting hollows.

Food

The staple food of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo in SE Australia is seeds of Brown Stringybark trees. However, during the summer of 1991-92, the cockatoos moved out of the stringybark areas and into the remnants of Bulokes remaining on farmland where they fed on Buloke seeds from late December until early April. Many of these sightings were reported to Mr. Caldow via the "network of observers" and comments were made that the cockatoos always come into the Bulokes in summer. However, the movement into the Bulokes this season seemed exceptionally large and prolonged. We do not know if this was because there was a good crop of Buloke seeds or because of a shortage on Brown Stringybark seeds. However, the poor year for nesting suggests that something may have been amiss with their staple food (Brown Stringybark seeds).

Public awareness and education

During the past year, DCE has conducted an awareness campaign focusing on the plight on the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo in SE Australia. The campaign is designed to inform local landowners and public land managers about what they can do to assist with the conservation of this species. In particular, we emphasise the importance of retaining dead and live hollow-bearing trees, regenerating areas of River Red Gums and Bulokes, retaining areas of Brown Stringybark forest, reducing the frequency of canopy fires in Brown Stringybark forests, and reporting sightings and breeding records of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos.

In addition to providing conservation information to the individuals and groups involved in the 'network of observers', stories and articles have been carried in at least ten local newspapers and newsletters in both Victoria and South Australia, on television (Mt Gambier, SA) and on ABC radio. Two poster displays have been made up for use at shows and exhibitions, 10,000 brochures have been printed and over 5,000 have already been distributed, and talks have been given to primary schools, land care groups, wildlife art exhibitions, shire councils and field naturalist clubs.

Seasonal changes to Brown Stringybark fruits

DCE staff were involved in assessing the seasonal changes to fruits by continuing the long-term monitoring of fruits on permanently marked branches. Such information is particularly important in assessing the effects of fire on the long-term well-being of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo.

Fire histories

Only anecdotal information, mainly from bee keepers, was obtained on this subject. However, DCE has ceased block burning the Brown Stringybark forests for fire protection in the Horsham and Portland Regions. Now only perimeter burns are conducted. Future studies should include work on how the fire histories of Brown Stringybark forests influence the distribution, abundance and movements of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo.

South Australian representation

Representatives of the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service (S.A. NPWS) were invited to a recent steering committee meeting which was held at Rennick Victoria. Mr. T. Collins (S.A. NPWS - Mt Gambier) attended the meeting and participated in the discussions. Our decision to liaise more closely with the S.A. NPWS was based on data collected in 1991-

92 which showed that there is a large movement of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos into South Australia to feed on Buloke seeds in late summer and that the birds have nested there in the past.

Future direction

Next breeding season (1992-93), the work will concentrate on the nesting and nesting success of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. Only two birds were known to have fledged in 1991-92 and efforts have to be expanded on searching for new nesting areas and gathering data on productivity. The supplementary nest hollows will be closely monitored and more such hollows will be placed in suitable areas.

Studies need to continue on the movements of the cockatoo in relation to habitat/food availability. Fire histories of the Brown Stringybark blocks may be important in helping to understand past and present movements of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. In relation to this, a better understanding of the effect of fire on the food (Brown Stringybark and Buloke seeds) of this species is required. More information is also needed on the seeding (e.g., number of seeds per fruit) of Brown Stringybarks, as this could be an important factor influencing movements of the cockatoo.

The awareness and education campaign will be continued and the "network of observers" will be expanded. The increasing amount of data being collected should eventually allow us to compare monthly or seasonal distributions of this cockatoo. Overlaying such distributional maps over vegetation maps could shed further light on the movements of the species and allow us to delineate critical areas of habitat.

Consideration should be given to extending this study into that part of the southeast of South Australia where the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo occurs. This would have to be done in cooperation with the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Further reading

- Joseph, L (1982), 'The Red-tailed Black Cockatoo in south-eastern Australia'. *Emu* 82, 42-45.
Joseph, L, Emison, W. B. and Bren W. M. (1991), 'Critical assessment of the conservation status of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos in south-eastern Australia with special reference to nesting requirements'. *Emu* 91, 46-50.
Schodde, R (1988), 'New subspecies of Australian birds'. *Canberra Bird Notes* 13, 119-122.



Young Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, bred at Palmitos Park

THE BLUE MACAWS – CAN THEY BE SAVED?

by Michael Reynolds

Those of us fortunate enough to spend much time with the parrots tend to become immune to the impact of their appearance. I was reminded of this just recently when I saw a young couple turn a corner in our walled garden at Paradise Park and come face to face with a pair of Hyacinth Macaws. They fell back as if struck a physical blow; he exclaimed 'My God, did you ever see a colour like that? I can hardly believe it.' She agreed, and they stayed to watch while the Hyacinth male gave them the full benefit of his personality.

Say what you will, the blue macaws have a 'presence' which makes them unforgettable. I used to visit the old parrot house at London Zoo in the fifties, and the Hyacinth Macaws are the only birds I can recall from that time. Sadly, it has to be admitted that it is this unique and fascinating appearance and personality that has brought the blue macaws to the edge of extinction in the wild.

The World Parrot Trust participated in the preparation of the ICBP/IUCN/SSC Captive Breeding Specialist Group *Parrot Action Plan* which has just been published in draft form. This reports as follows:-

HYACINTH MACAW

Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus

Mace-Lande Status: Endangered

Project Title: Conservation of the Hyacinth Macaw.

Justification: During the last two decades, numbers of the Hyacinth Macaw have been seriously reduced by massive illegal trade, from an estimated 100,000 to no more than 3,000 at present. *Project Description:* About half of the remaining population survives in the Pantanal, mainly on private ranch land. In recent years the Hyacinth Macaw has become a symbol for the Pantanal's fragile ecosystem among the Brazilian public. Many ranch owners no longer allow trapping on their properties and do not cut down food-trees of the species. However, nest-trees are still often cleared for the sake of cattle and illegal trapping remains a problem in some areas. Strict enforcement of legal bans on trade, and various related action, is needed to save the species in each of its three known main areas.

A continuing effort is therefore needed (1) to increase the already existing sensitivity to the needs of the Hyacinth Macaw (and other

native wildlife), among ranch owners and the general public in the Pantanal, (2) to assist ranchers in improving protection from illegal trappers and (3) to find solutions to the problem of nest-trees. Munn *et al.* (1987) also suggests that management and replanting of the species's food-trees should be undertaken, and that nest-boxes should be erected as an experiment. Surveys are also needed to ascertain the status of the species outside the Pantanal, especially in certain areas of Para. southern Piaui, north-western Minas Gerais and the extensive region of south-eastern Mato Grosso.

Budget: Category B

Literature: Munn *et al.* 1987, Collar *et al.* in press.

Notes: Hyacinth Macaw is protected under Brazilian law, has been listed on Appendix I of CITES since 1987, and is banned from export in all countries of origin.

So let us return to the question: can the blue macaws be saved? To be more specific, can the Hyacinth Macaw, the biggest, best known, and still most numerous, be maintained in the wild without further decline in its numbers?

To answer this question, we can perhaps say that if – and it's a very big 'if' – ALL the measures recommended in the Parrot Action Plan are pursued without significant delay, the Hyacinth Macaw could be expected to be found in relatively similar numbers in the wild in twenty years time.

Positive factors include: the increasingly protective attitude of many ranch owners; the seasonal flooding of the Pantanal which precludes some forms of development; the refusal of almost all airlines to transport wild-caught birds; the fact that aviculture is now beginning to produce aviary-bred



Carlos Yamashita checks a nestling.
Photo: Charles Munn



Hyacinth Macaw *Anodorhynchus Hyacinthinus* Photo: Tim Guthrie

birds to satisfy the demand for these birds as pets.

Negative factors include: the low numbers of Hyacinth Macaws remaining, and their wide dispersal; the desperately low replacement rate of this species; the fact that they are still being trapped and traded. We have just been told by an impeccable source in Paraguay of a group of eight Hyacinth Macaws that were recently confiscated by authorities there. We are trying to find out what happened to them.

As reported elsewhere in this issue, we are giving further support to the work of Charles Munn and his team as they continue to investigate the breeding biology of the species. Here is an excerpt from a recent fax received from Charlie:

'For the Hyacinth research at Estancia Caiman, I see the main work as checking the success of the 11 nest boxes that Carlos Yamashita hung at the ranch and at an adjacent ranch in late Jan and early Feb this year. Simultaneously, the biologist would check the growth rate of the young for the first, critical weeks up to the age of about a couple of months, at which point they are likely to survive anyway. This work would require the participation of just one biologist, either Carlos or Vicente, whom Carlos thoroughly trained on site in the 91-92 season.

Ideally, it would be good to try to do an independent check of the density of natural cavities in a representative subset of the pantanal habitat there at the Caiman Ranch, but if the birds take to the nestboxes well, that fact alone would suggest that there is a scarcity of good natural cavities. By letting the behavior of the birds tell us of this scarcity, we can save the considerable hassle of buying or renting a used motorbike to get around the huge sample areas to look for all natural cavities.'

Such are the realities of field

research, and we are fortunate that our HYACINTH FUND resources are being put to such practical use by a leading expert. The more we can discover, the better the chances of saving this remarkable parrot.

Let us turn now from a blue macaw which is listed as 'endangered' to one listed as 'critical': Lear's Macaw. Here is the relevant extract from the Parrot Action Plan:-

LEAR'S MACAW

Anodorhynchus leari

Mace-Lande Status: Critical

Project Title: Recovery of Lear's Macaw.

Project Aim: To promote a population increase to a minimum of 1,000 individuals in the wild.

Justification: The Lear's Macaw has been one of the world's rarest parrots for a long time. Its present known population is 65 birds in the wild and less than ten in captivity. The recruitment rate is extremely low, and inbreeding depression may be occurring.

Project Description: Continued research into the general biology of the species is of paramount



Aged male Lear's Macaw, held by Harry Sissen. Photo: Rosemary Low

importance for management, and must be undertaken. Enlargement of the Ecological Stations to include more of the species range should be implemented and it is important that roosting and nesting sites remain completely inaccessible to people. Meanwhile, a permanent food supply for the birds needs to be assured by fencing off key areas that hold *licuri* palms, and by planting seedlings chiefly of *licuri* palm but also of other native and introduced food plants.

In the longer term the creation of new feeding areas (identified in accordance with the results of the continuing programme of biological research) will be needed. Education programmes will be necessary to achieve the support and sympathy of local communities for the conservation of the species and its habitats; in tandem with this should go a programme of wardening and liaison that extends current arrangements. An investigation of the Cachoeira do Rio Preto region may be worthwhile in view of local claims of a second type of blue macaw there.

Several individual birds and a few pairs exist in captivity in

various places around the world. Efforts to maximize their reproductive and genetic potential through the establishment of a consortium under the impartial aegis of the IUCN CBSG, with the full support and involvement of the Brazilian authorities, should be made. A PHVA workshop should be convened as soon as possible.

Budget: Category C.

Literature: Machado & Brandt 1990, Collar *et al.* in press.

A desperate situation, and there is no time to spare. The World Parrot Trust is making one of its largest donations this year to support Charles Munn's forthcoming research into the breeding biology of Lear's Macaw. Briefly, what he proposes is an exploratory expedition to the Lear's nesting site, with the intention of climbing down the cliffs to study the Lear's nests over a period of weeks. The intention will be to try to discover whether the Lear's is similar to the Hyacinth in laying two eggs but normally only fledging one nestling. This expedition will also survey the *licuri* palms and design a plan for palm regeneration to commence in 1993.



Bleak landscape with sparse *licuri* palms. Photo: Charles Munn

With so few birds in the wild and only a handful of mostly ancient specimens in captivity, the future of Lear's macaw is indeed bleak. If no serious initiatives are taken in the next year or so, it cannot be expected to survive in the wild for much more than twenty years. So far as the captive birds are concerned, The World Parrot Trust strongly supports the proposal made in the Parrot Action Plan that a consortium should be formed under the impartial aegis of the IUCN Captive Breeding Specialist Group, with the full support and involvement of the Brazilian authorities. We would go further,

and state that all the captive birds should be brought together at one location, to be decided by CBSG and the Brazilian government.

A word about the Glaucous Macaw, *Anodorhynchus glaucus*. Having not seen the bird held by Harry Sissen (Yorkshire, UK), I would not want to venture an opinion on whether it is a Glaucous Macaw. I would only say that it seems unlikely. Having said that, I would point out that bird species entirely new to science are still being discovered, and the possibility of a relict population of this macaw still existing in Paraguay or Brazil can not be entirely dismissed.

No. 7 IN OUR SERIES

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

by Tony Silva
Curator
Loro Parque
Puerto de la Cruz
Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain

To the question: If I were only to maintain one pair of parrots, what species would I keep, my reply would be the Vinaceous Amazon. *A. vinacea*. The reason for this choice



is a field encounter in 1989 in the department of Alto Paraná in western Paraguay. Here, where only 10 years before 8,000 or more parrots were sighted by our guide, the last few hundred parrots held on to a tenacious perch. They were being mercilessly persecuted by trappers and, to a lesser extent, subsistence hunters. Seeing birds in small cages without water and only some corn kernels as food, left a void which was not soon to be forgotten. Their habitat was being felled at an incredible pace in order to plant agricultural crops or to graze cattle, this in order to provide cheap beef for export overseas. This is an unusually nervous and shy species and this makes any habitat alterations that much more damaging. Its survival in the wild is far more doubtful than that of the Red-spectacled *A.p. pretrei* and probably even the Red-tailed Amazon. *A. brasiliensis*. Here was the species reported stronghold and yet its numbers were so low and were being so affected that there would be no way they would be able to survive for any length of time.



Vinaceous Amazon

Its extinction has already taken place in much of the remaining Paraguayan territory and in parts of Brazil. Only small numbers survive in Misiones, Argentina, where a group of conservationists are striving to captive breed the species. In Brazil no one is precisely sure as to what its status is but it is clearly extinct in many areas where it was seen years ago.

Captive breeding offers a last chance to save this species but for this to occur, studbooks will have to be established and many more birds will have to be reared. I do not think that at present the species is being properly managed and suspect that if the current trend continues it will eventually die out in aviculture. Breeders must establish new pairs, ensure that in-breeding does not occur and allow the parrots to rear at least some of their young. We are learning little by little that parrots

which are hand-reared lose many of the qualities of their wild counterparts. When released into the wild, for example, they have no idea of flock cohesion or even foraging behaviour. If aviculture is to be true to its word – that we breed birds to save them from extinction and to eventually repopulate the wild – then we must keep this in mind and steer away from hand-rearing every chick produced because such birds eventually may be so captive conditioned that only in appearance will they resemble their species.

Aviculturists have proven their worth in recent years by rearing large numbers of many species which were formerly considered difficult or impossible. Now our successes are showing that we do have in our hands a valuable tool. Let us use that tool effectively and save the Vinaceous Amazon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Members write . . .

From:-
Roger F. Pasquier,
President
Friends of The Peruvian Rainforest

July 1992

Dear Friend,
In Peru today, our highest priority is to assist CEDIA, the Center for the Development of the Amazon Indian, for its work to secure land title for native communities to very large tracts of pristine rainforest. Thanks to your support, CEDIA can expand the scope of its activities. The next level of CEDIA's program seeks to title and protect 7,000,000 acres. The total cost is \$292,900 - which may sound like a lot until you consider it is just over 4 cents per acre!

The work includes providing title to native communities and long-time colonists, and erecting guard posts at key points of access to the large reserves. These will be staffed by the native communities themselves, assuring effective vigilance.

We want to support CEDIA's three major projects to protect 7,000,000 acres. They will be undertaken over three years, beginning in the next few months. The sooner we can contribute substantially to CEDIA's goal, the more they can accomplish in the field.

This is an extraordinary opportunity to protect some of the last very large undisturbed areas of rainforest on Earth. Some 6.25 million acres of it surround the 4.5 million acre Manu Biosphere Reserve. These titled areas will serve as a buffer zone, altogether protecting an area approximately equal in size to Vermont and New Hampshire combined.

Through the generosity of Mary Hellsaple and Neal Williams, film makers in Colorado, we are offering you the English version of the 27-minute video about the Manu Biosphere Reserve that has been shown on Peruvian television. It has extraordinary footage of giant otters, monkeys, macaws, and other wildlife. We will send a copy of the film to anyone contributing \$100 or more who requests it. Remember that \$100 can help secure 2,500 acres!

(This video contains wonderful shots of macaws in flight, and I strongly recommend it. Michael Reynolds)

All the directors of the Friends join me in thanking you for your generous support.

Sincerely,
Roger F. Pasquier, President

Editor's Note: We have been introduced to this excellent conservation organisation by Charles Munn, whose work on the Hyacinth and Lear's Macaw is supported by The World Parrot Trust. Charlie is Vice President and Treasurer of 'Friends of the Peruvian Rainforest'.

Obviously, to protect these vast areas of rainforest for native people is to protect them also for parrots. We would urge our members to consider becoming 'Friends of the Peruvian Rainforest'. Write for more information to:

668, Public Ledger Building,
Philadelphia,
Pa 19106.

July 6, 1992

Division of
Rolf C. Hagen Inc.
P.O. Box / C.P. 490
Rigaud,
QC, Canada J0P 1P0

Dear World Parrot Trust:

Please find enclosed an International Money Order for 50.00 Pounds Sterling to cover HARI's membership with you, plus a donation. Thank you for your continued efforts in Parrot Conservation especially with the Caribbean Amazons.

We fully support the aims of the World Parrot Trust and it appears that efforts to reduce the wild bird trade are working. However airlines, national CITES administrators and others are confusing the trade in captive bred birds with the wild caught trade. HARI has had CITES exports papers for captive bred App.II macaws refused by France plus American airlines are refusing to ship commercial lots of captive bred birds. Unfortunately the reality of the bird trade is that if captive bred birds do not reach the market, the demand could be met by illegally traded birds. I believe that groups such as the Animal Welfare Institute, Defenders of Wildlife, HSUS, Zoocheck UK and other so called 'Protectionist' groups are glad to see the trade in captive bred birds also restricted.

This must stop before shipping captive bred birds around the world becomes impossible! HARI must be able to trade with other breeders in the UK, USA etc. in order to maximize the gene pools and prevent inbreeding. I hope the

World Parrot Trust will closely examine the criteria required to trade captive bred endangered birds (App.I) as passed at the latest CITES and would support their implementation.

May I suggest that you now reduce your efforts in sensationalizing and condemning the wild bird trade, on bill boards and brochures as a way to solicit funds, but rather mention your excellent contributions to conservation. Groups such as WWF and TRAFFIC are doing a good job in respecting national governments' desires to export their wildlife in sustainable, humane and practical ways. I believe this respect will result in more effective conservation efforts.

With Best Regards,

Mark Hagen

Mette Bohn Christiansen
Richmond
Surrey TW9 4JF

Michael Reynolds
The World Parrot Trust
Glanmor House, Hayle
Cornwall TR27 4HY

Dear Michael Reynolds,

We have just returned from six months of fieldwork in Bolivia. We did a study of the Red-fronted Macaw in two areas in Torotoro, where also a French team has worked (previously reported in 'PsittaScene. Ed). and in the area of Rio Chico (a tributary to Rio Grande). The aim was to assess the habitat requirements of the macaw and the threats to its survival. Besides carrying out studies of foraging ecology and general behaviour, we questioned the locals on the extent of crop damage (the macaws are very fond of corn), the threats to the macaw, recent changes in the bird's status etc. In the study areas the populations seemed to be healthy and stable and the birds apparently weren't being persecuted systematically by the locals. In another area though we were told that the birds were still being caught, undoubtedly mainly for export.

Before we left Bolivia, we had 5000 posters made ("protect the macaw and its habitat") and they have been distributed by the Bolivian Association for the protection of birds to the locals in parts of the macaw's range. The posters were very well received by

the locals. We hope we will be able to launch an educational campaign in the area run by Bolivians (the aforementioned Asociacion members are dedicated and talented young people, many holding degrees in biology, forestry and sociology). The campaign will focus on environmental conservation and alternative agricultural and pastoral practices. The area has suffered from deforestation and overgrazing, which has resulted in large scale erosion. The local farmers showed much interest in further information on alternative practices.

At the moment we are writing up the results of the study, and we will send you a copy of this and also one of the Hyacinth Macaw study, we made in the Pantanal.

We had a small number of t-shirts made in Bolivia, one is for you.

Elin made the design.

All the best,

Elin Pitter and Mette Bohn
Christiansen

Mr Michael Reynolds,
Hon. Director,
World Parrot Trust.

Dear Mr Reynolds,

Enclosed is my renewal form for further subscription to the World Parrot Trust. It is with interest I read what is happening around the world through PsittaScene.

I was concerned at the original report about the smuggling in New Zealand as it was only part of the story and gave a very misleading view.

I have sent under separate cover a video (very amateurish and accept my apologies for the quality) which was recorded from our television on the coverage of some of the smuggling going on in New Zealand. Several people are awaiting court hearings and still further birds are being confiscated. Others have avoided being caught in the net so far and are as equally guilty. However, I must say that those who have had eggs and incubated and hand raised the parrots, have a very high degree of skill in this area and the losses have been very few indeed.

It is thought that August will be the time when all this comes to court after which the birds will be returned to their "owners". No statement has been given by Dept of Conservation/Customs yet as to the above, only verbal statements from breeders from whom some of the

birds have been taken. It is said that Mr. 'X' is being brought back from America to testify in court on all the eggs and birds he brought in and to whom these were sold. By giving Queens evidence he believes he will be exonerated from his misdeeds. Time will tell.

I personally am not involved with all of the above as I do not have the funds with which to purchase any of the 'immigrants'. I do hope though that they will be allowed to stay in New Zealand and that breeding populations develop from their nucleus. It is doubtful if we will ever again have access to some of the species. Already established are African Greys, Scarlet Macaws, Senegal Parrots, many of the Lory/lorikeet species, Cardinal, Red, Goldies, Varied, Duyvenbodes, (whose port of entry has not yet been discovered), Conures, Amazons, Meyers, Red Tailed Blacks, Goffins, Citron Crested and mutations of species we already had here e.g. Lutino Red Rumps, Blue Scarlets, Albino and grey Ringnecks - none of which were bred here but now established in small numbers.

Yours sincerely

Elaine S. Ashton (Miss)
New Zealand

More on environmental enrichment ...

The Editor,
'Psittascene'

Dear Rosemary,

Thank you for the article by Catherine King on the subject of aviary enrichment, published in the May issue of 'Psittascene'. At last this neglected aspect of Macaw management has been highlighted in an informed way!

I would like to draw attention to the fact that in all the advice proffered on the subject of parrot and macaw well-being, no mention has been made, as far as I can see, of the desirability of providing SHADE. The bird's natural habitat is the forest, so one might imagine that the provision of some shade in an aviary flight - of whatever size - would be a priority. It is so easily accomplished, simply by positioning a perch, (preferably not facing due South) across the farthest corner of the flight as HIGH as possible, and over this to fix a board or cover of some sort, to shelter and shade the perch and to do duty as a ROOF.

In our view, the immediate success of the shaded perch is because the bird instinctively equates the ROOF over its perch



An aviary full of potential for activity.

with the canopy of a TREE, thereby fulfilling its natural instinct to fly upwards out of harm's way, and then to rest, shaded and sheltered from ABOVE.

The addition of one or two ropes, (as described by Catherine King in her comprehensive article) which can be hung either horizontally, U-shaped for use as a swing, or simply left hanging straight down, provide for both exercise and entertainment. A path or strip of small flat limestones, or even peagravel, in which the birds can rootle about is another beneficial occupation, much enjoyed by Hyacinthines - as are coconuts, broken into pieces but with the hard shell left ON which is used for scraping and grinding.

We have bred macaws in a small way since 1962 and found that these



Environmentally enriched Pesquet's Parrot at Rotterdam Zoo.

Photos: R. Belterman

simple ideas formed a good working base for a flight, on which then could be added as much environmental enrichment as time and energy allowed. None of these suggestions make extra work once installed, and all foster the natural instincts of birds otherwise deprived of almost everything for which they were originally intended.

Natural-fibre ropes are hard to come by these days in some areas, but can be obtained by ringing THE ROPERY on 0634 827 812.

With best wishes
Daphne Grunbaum
Northleach, Glos.

AUSTRALIA

REPORT ON THE ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAM 1991/92

SUMMARY

The breeding program has continued with more breeding success in 1991/92 when 30 juveniles were reared to independence. A highlight of the season was that 4 females reared 2 rounds of young. 11 young were reared in the 4 nests. Although 2 ranges of aviaries are maintained as in the past all the success have come from one of the aviary groups. 11 aviary-bred birds were released into the wild at Melaleuca S.W. Tasmania in October 1991. Stock is now 52 birds and it is recommended that at least 15 be released in 1992/93 and that a second captive population be established.

GENERAL

By rearing 30 juveniles to independence, 1991/92 breeding season was the most successful yet in the 6 year breeding program. The progeny reared over the years are:

1986/87	4
1987/88	8
1988/89	22
1989/90	3
1990/91	14
1991/92	30
Total to date	81

A total of 18 birds have been removed from the wild for this program and 11 have been released. The present captive stock is 52 and over the 6 years 36 have died. The aviary situation has remained static in 1991/92, there having been no major additions or alterations made. Of the 7 aviaries in the complex, 6 were occupied by orange-bellied parrot and one by rock parrots.

The rock parrots will be removed from the complex by the 1992/93 breeding season.

The weather during the 1991/92 summer was particularly suitable for the program in that during January and February there were no days when the temperature in the aviaries exceeded 30° and only 11 when it exceeded 25°. Similarly in October and November when eggs are subject to drying, the weather was not particularly hot. Overall it was the coolest summer since this program has been operating. With the cool weather in December and January, there was above average rainfall which is also beneficial for breeding birds in that humidity was maintained in nest boxes.

Peter Brown
Dept. of Parks, Wildlife &
Heritage, Tasmania

INTERNATIONAL NEWS ROUND-UP



REPORT ON THE RELEASE PROGRAM FOR ORANGE-BELLIED PARROTS 1991/92

Following approval by the Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Team in March 1991, the Tasmanian Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage established plans to undertake a first release of aviary bred birds into the wild in October 1991.

Choice of Release Site

Melaleuca in Southwest Tasmania was the chosen release site for the following reasons.

1. The original stock from which the breeding program developed were all caught from the wild at Melaleuca.
2. It was decided to release the birds at the beginning of summer, during which time the mobility of the population is least and hence any released birds would have a good chance of becoming established in the wild without the added stress of an urge to move.
3. There was already an established population in the area to give released birds the opportunity to mix with the wild birds.
4. The establishment of the hide and Warden infrastructure would give an excellent opportunity to follow the fortunes of released birds.

Site for Release Aviary

In order to satisfactorily release captive bred birds back into the wild, it was necessary for them to go through a transition phase. This involved building a release aviary to give the birds the chance to establish themselves in their release habitat before being exposed to the rigours of living in the wild.

The site for the release aviary was largely determined by the proximity of the observation hide. The aviary had to be within view of the hide and it was also necessary that it was not too exposed to the elements.

The materials were cut to size and shipped down to the site on a fishing boat in August. Later that month the aviary was built on site,

but in a sectional form so that it could easily be removed after the release. The measurements of the aviary were 6 metres x 4 metres x 2.5 metres high. The southern end of the aviary was encased in exterior plywood and one third of the top of the aviary was similarly covered with plywood to protect the birds from the worst of the weather. The base of the aviary was clad with tin sheet to prevent small mammals from climbing up the wire. The food trays were located both under cover and in the open. The aviary was built on an area of buttongrass plains where the natural vegetation was left intact.

Birds for Release

Eleven captive bred Orange-bellied Parrots were selected for release, these being 5 adult birds (4 females and one male) and 6 juveniles bred in 1990/91. (5 males and 1 female). The adult females were aged 4 years (1), 3 years (2), and 2 years (2).

The birds were placed in the release aviary on 16 September and spent the next month settling in. They were given a proprietary food and at the same time were given seeding buttongrass and other sedges to encourage them to eat a natural diet. They were observed eating sedges but remained heavily reliant on the proprietary seed.

The first wild birds were recorded at Melaleuca on 1 October with 4 birds observed near the aviaries. Numbers of wild birds built up during the following two weeks to a maximum of 23 on the release day and wild birds were regularly observed on the aviary itself. They also ate the seed which had been scattered on a tray outside the aviary.

On 18 October the then Minister for Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, Mr. Harry Holgate performed the release operation, removing a portion of the wire from a top corner of the aviary: Orange-bellied Parrots moved in and out of the aviary and at one stage there were

21 birds inside. By evening there were only 5 birds left and the following day the aviary was empty by the middle of the morning. Subsequently although birds did go in and out of the aviary, few stayed in for more than a few minutes. Two weeks later, after the release, the aviary was dismantled and removed from the site.

Summer Sightings

Two notable exceptions, most of the birds were regularly observed at Melaleuca right through the summer until February when they started to move away with the other birds.

Immediately after release, two of the females left the area and were not observed again. We have no idea if they died or left the area altogether. The remaining 4 females were recorded each week until late November when they started to disappear. Three of the females were not recorded at all during a five week period during December and early January and during 2 weeks, no females were recorded. One female appeared very sporadically, once per week or so, during this period.

By the week of 20 January, all 4 females were recorded back at the feeding table and all remained until week ending 24 February when some started to move away. All the males remained in the area right through the summer before starting to move away in early February.

The last male was recorded 20 April and the last female was seen on 21 April. At the same time all the wild juveniles also left. During the last 3 weeks, 5 captive birds were present whilst only 1 wild adult was recorded.

Breeding

The records clearly indicate that at least 3 and possibly 4 of the aviary bred females went to nest in the wild. Most were missing during the important incubating months of late November and all December and in the first part of January.

It was not possible to determine breeding success as no reports of adults feeding juveniles were reported, but there have been very few clear observations of this over the years.

There was an observation of one of the captive-bred males feeding a wild female by regurgitation on the feeding tray during the early summer.

Discussion

There is clear evidence to suggest that the captive-bred Orange-bellied Parrots fared well during the first summer of their release. The early disappearance of two adult females was not a great surprise. It would have been more of a surprise if all the birds had remained around Melaleuca all summer. Other than these two departures, we know that all the other released birds survived

for at least the next three months and the females for at least four months. The drop-off in numbers later on coincided with the moving away of the adults and there is no reason to believe that birds were behaving other than in a normal manner.

Towards the end of summer there was some concern when 5 of the released birds were still present in the first week of April after all but one wild adult had gone. However, all was well as all birds eventually headed off in mid April. The chances of any of these birds being located on the mainland are small, so the next big test will be next spring when the birds return. The captive birds almost certainly went to nest. Records suggest that both males and females bred.

*Peter Brown & Mark Holdsworth
Dept. of Parks, Wildlife & Heritage
Tasmania*

CARIBBEAN

CARIBBEAN BUSES UP-DATE

A fax has been received from Paul Butler of RARE who has just returned from fund raising in the U.S.A. and will shortly visit the U.K. to gain further support for the Caribbean projects.

Paul reports that both buses Jacquot and Sisserou are up and running. Their usage continues to excite people although the number of days spent out around the island are presently constrained by a shortage of personnel in the education units in both St. Lucia and Dominica. In St. Lucia the firm Windjammer have confirmed their pledge to assist with exhibits.

Approval has been given by the board at RARE to set up a fund of US\$2,500 for the purchase of spare parts.

The 3rd Conservation bus, the 'Vincie Express' being prepared for St. Vincent, has now been fully and spectacularly painted and is on view currently at Paradise Park, Cornwall, UK. The models and other exhibits are in final stages of preparation, and the bus should arrive on St. Vincent in early December.

INDONESIA

Studbook for Purple-capped Lory

The Purple-capped Lory (*Lorius domicellus*) now survives only on the Indonesian island of Ceram – and probably in small numbers. Captive breeding for this species is therefore of great importance – but



This illustration was taken from the official conservation leaflet.

it is held in few collections. An international studbook is now being maintained for this species by Armin Brockner, 13 Sântisstrasse, 7996 Meckenbeuren, Germany. Everyone who keeps the Purple-capped Lory is urged to contact Mr. Brockner as the first studbook is due to be published at the end of 1992.

MAURITIUS

Brief extract from recent letter received from Carl Jones:-

The Echo Parakeets are OK. The good news is we have two birds in excellent condition and they have been courting! They are only 8 months old and I do not know their sexes for certain but assume that I have a pair.

UNITED KINGDOM

PARROTS IN THE POST

Martin Barber & Christopher Turner, both from Cannock in Staffordshire, conspired to illegally import and export parrots, to and from Australia, by using the postal service.

Barber was arrested in Australia following the detection in the post of a parcel containing three live parrots sent to his home address. Australian Customs enquiries revealed that an earlier parcel had already been sent to the UK. The first parcel reached Barbers UK address *four days* later. Not surprisingly its contents, eleven cockatoos, were all dead on arrival due to suffocation. In their panic the birds had attacked each other causing terrible injuries as can be seen from the photograph.

Customs officials in the UK also discovered that the two men had attempted to illegally export three African Grey Parrots to Australia by the same method - these also died.

In Australia, Barber was sentenced to three six month terms of imprisonment to run concurrently. In the UK, Turner (his partner who had provided the funds for the venture) was sentenced to a £1,000 fine and six months imprisonment, suspended for two years.

Editor's Note: Nothing could better illustrate the incorrect attitude of British courts to wildlife related crimes than this case. The lesser criminal in Australia saw the inside of a jail. The ringleader in the UK received a slapped wrist and a relatively small fine.

UNITED STATES

From: AFA in brief

Federal Legislative Update - HR5013

Some of the confusion has cleared away concerning the numerous bills before the US House of Representatives. The only bill now active is HR5013, the "Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992". On June 16th the Wildlife and the Environment Subcommittee of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee held hearings on HR5013. Offering testimony on behalf of aviculture was AFA Legal Counsel Vice-president Gary Lilienthal, in addition testimony was heard from animal rights interests, the zoological community (AAZPA), conservation interests (World Wildlife Fund) and the pet trade (PIJAC). AFA's views were reflected particularly in testimony from World Wildlife Fund and PIJAC, both of whom participated with AFA in the Cooperative Working Group on the Bird Trade. AFA's testimony was instrumental in convincing Chairman Gerry Studds and the rest of the subcommittee that HR5013 was unworkable as presented. In its original form the bill was extremely onerous to aviculture and effectively would have ended all avian importation.

On June 25th the Wildlife and Environment Subcommittee voted unanimously to forward the revised HR5013 to the full House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. While the rewritten HR5013 was an improvement, it still was a trade and avicultural restriction bill rather than a conservation measure.

At the Committee level AFA and its membership was instrumental in causing further adjustments to HR5013. On July 1st, the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee voted to pass an amended HR5013 out of the Committee without comment.

AFA will be making every effort to advise Congress if changes are necessary for this bill to accomplish conservation in the wild as well as the conservation goals of AFA members working with avian populations in the US. *AFA supports sensible federal regulation of importation on exotic birds to enhance and promote breeding by legitimate aviculturists and sensible federal legislation properly controlling importation of wild-caught exotic birds.*

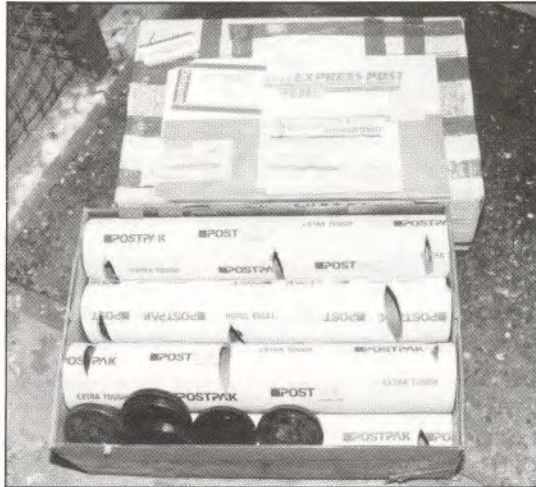
AFA continues to monitor this bill closely to determine if it meets the goals of AFA and its membership. Members will be kept informed through their Club Delegates and State Coordinators.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY RSPCA.

◀ *We can't think of a caption for this picture*

Almost beyond belief that anyone could be so evil as to send parrots around the world packed in this way.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This interesting encounter occurred at Paradise Park, Cornwall in July. Paul Butler (Caribbean Program Director for RARE) was visiting to help with the third conservation bus being prepared to go to St. Vincent in December.

He and Mike Reynolds were given a big welcome by 'Victoria', the St. Vincent Parrot bred by the park last year. As you can see, this hand-reared bird is unimpressed by humans, but likes their gadgets.



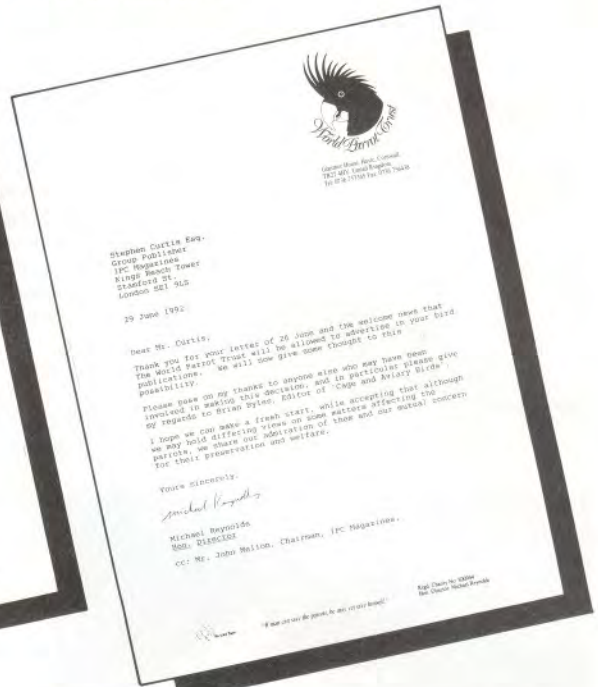
PROBLEM WITH IPC MAGAZINES RESOLVED

Long term members of the trust will recall that in 1990 we reported that 'Cage and Aviary Birds', the UK's leading bird-keeping publication, had refused to accept advertisements for the World Parrot Trust.

We made strenuous representations to the Chairman of IPC Magazines Ltd, owners of the paper concerned, and asked members to do the same. Many did so, and we have little doubt that our combined efforts had

a significant effect in bringing about a change in policy.

The following exchange of letters may be of interest:-



I would not like to leave this story without reporting to you that the Press Complaints Commission is a completely useless and irrelevant body. We asked them to act on some gross mis-reporting that had occurred, giving the impression that a World Parrot Trust project had been carried out by another charity. They chickened out on an absurd technicality, and I have to say that if they can't handle a comparatively trivial matter, what hope is there of them coping with serious issues such as the invasion of individual privacy? A free press is essential to democracy, but it needs a genuinely

independent regulatory body which is not packed with superannuated Fleet Street deadbeats, and which has the power to insist on prominent, adequate and speedy front page corrections and apologies. The offended party could subsequently pursue claims for compensation through the Courts, bringing in as evidence the actions of the regulatory body.

Having sorted out the British press, back to the parrots. Will the trust now advertise in 'Cage and Aviary Birds'? Probably, and we will ask parrot keepers to extend their concern for their own birds to

embrace *all* the parrots of the world: the birds under threat in the wild, those that suffer and die while being trapped, traded and transported, and those many millions of pet parrots worldwide which are being kept in miserable and inadequate conditions. At the same time, we would emphasise the Trust's support of responsible aviculture, and its determination to protect our hobby from unwarranted and unnecessary bureaucratic interference.

Michael Reynolds

Fund Raising Successes

We are very grateful to those members who have used their initiative and worked hard to raise funds for us. The following groups have done particularly well on behalf of the Trust, raising funds and enjoying themselves at the same time:-

- Brentwood Lodge Animal Park:-** Balloon flight - raised \$200.00
- Pamela Coombes:-** Auction at Birdworld of her beautiful Hyacinth Macaw painting - raised \$310.00
- Mark Cox:-** Sponsored Bicycle ride - \$30.00
- Stapeley Water Gardens:-** Collections and conservation day - \$870.00

Association of Illustrators -

The Big Squawk exhibition and auction of parrot pictures, organised over several weeks by Keir Wickenham - \$213.00

Grant Rodwell:-

Sponsored Bicycle ride - \$15.00

Our thanks to all those involved for these excellent results.



L-R: Judith Venning of the World Parrot Trust; Rob Harvey, head curator at Birdworld; artist Pam Coombes and auctioneer David Cook.

FUNDING REPORT

The trustees met in early August to make decisions about projects to be funded. The following allocations were made:-

1. Australia

The next instalment in our four year commitment to support a study of an endangered race of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. This research is being carried out jointly with the Victoria Dept. of Conservation and the Environment, and Joe Forshaw is kindly acting as the trust's representative on the supervising committee. This second instalment is Aus \$5,000, and the eventual total cost will be Aus \$20,000.

2. Brazil

The trust will maintain its support of the work of Dr. Charles A. Munn and Carlos Yamashita and their team. They are continuing their studies of the breeding ecology of the Hyacinth Macaw, and will shortly start a programme of work on Lear's Macaw. It should be noted that Wildlife Conservation International, an arm of New York Zoological Society, are the principal supporters of this distinguished

team's work, but the contributions made by the World Parrot Trust help to extend and broaden the programme. A further US \$10,000 has been sent. You can help us recoup this amount by supporting our 'Palm for a Parrot' appeal.

3. Mauritius

We have helped Dr Lesley Smart Smart prepare for her appointment as aviary manager at Carl Jones's Echo Parakeet facility on Mauritius. We provided £250 to cover the cost of travel and accommodation when Dr. Smart spent a week studying parrot keeping methods at Paradise Park, Cornwall. We were also able to provide an old but serviceable IBM Computer and printer. Total cost £1,000, of which £500 was contributed by the Keith Ewart Charitable Trust. Our sincere thanks to them.

4. Indonesia

You will see from our leading article in this issue of 'PsittaScene' that we are getting quite involved in Indonesia. We have spent £500 to facilitate Ian Wickison's visit to

Yamdena to report on the Goffin's Cockatoos there. Further funds will be needed to pursue this matter, and as we have stated, we are contributing £1,000 towards the ICBP's survey of the Tanimbar group of islands, and hope that our members will contribute the other £1,000 requested by ICBP.

5. Caribbean

Following the success of the 'Jacquot Express' and 'Sisserou Express', conservation buses sent to St. Lucia and Dominica, we are now hard at work on the 'Vincie Express' due to go to St. Vincent in December. These buses cost about £25,000 complete and represent fantastic value for money. Much of the funding for the 'Vincie Express' has come from our friends and partners in this bus enterprise, RARE, based in Philadelphia. Nevertheless, the World Parrot Trust has already put approximately £5,000 into the latest bus, and a further \$5,000 is needed. Please consider helping this outstandingly successful project.

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, Pencynor 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

A PALM FOR A PARROT

For Christmas this year, we are launching a novel idea for a "stocking filler".



For just £10.00 or \$20.00 you can buy **A Palm for a Parrot** and your donation will help to save the endangered Lear's Macaw of Brazil. You will receive an attractive certificate, A5 size, which will confirm the purchase of a "palm" for yourself or in the name of a friend or relative. On the reverse of this certificate is the story of the Lear's Macaw and its struggle to survive.

If you want to help keep the parrots safe in their natural environment, then buy Palms for Parrots this Christmas. Please use the Priority Order form enclosed with this issue.

T-shirts

We have a new supply of Proteja T-shirts, sold in support of the Hyacinth Fund, and supplies of the World Parrot Trust T-shirt. Available in sizes M, L and XL at £10.00 inclusive of post etc. (US \$25.00)

To order these T-shirts please write to Judith Venning at our UK address shown on the back page. Payment using a Credit Card is much preferred.

CORRECTION

In our May 1992 issue photos of Blue-fronted Amazon nest trees were incorrectly attributed to Enrique H. Bucher, author of that article. These pictures belong to EIA - Environmental Investigation Agency. Our apologies.

AIMS OF THE WORLD PARROT TRUST

The objective of the trust is to promote the survival of all parrot species and the welfare of individual birds.

- 1 By educating the general public worldwide about the threat to parrot survival, and seeking their interest, concern and support.
- 2 By action to protect and preserve the natural habitats of parrots worldwide.
- 3 By gathering and disseminating information on the status of parrot populations in the wild and in captivity.
- 4 By advocating effective controls on the international trade in wild-caught parrots, and its replacement by captive-bred birds.
- 5 By encouraging co-operation in the breeding of parrots by aviculturists and zoological institutions, and better liaison between the captive breeding community and conservation bodies, with the aim of creating self-sustaining populations of endangered species.
- 6 By promoting high standards in the keeping of parrots as pets.
- 7 By encouraging research projects, i.e.: the veterinary care of parrots, and the preservation of genetic diversity.
- 8 By any other means that may be appropriate.

YES

I WANT TO BE A PARROT CONSERVATIONIST

Helping the **SURVIVAL** of all parrot species, and the **WELFARE** of every individual parrot.

Name Mr/Mrs/Ms _____
 Address _____
 Postcode _____

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (please tick)

- UK and Europe Single £15 UK and Europe Family £20 Fellow £250 (\$500) Overseas Airmail £25 (\$50) Surface Mail £18 (\$36)

Additional donation £ _____

If you can afford to give more than the basic subscription rate your money will help us fight harder to save the parrots.

I enclose cheque/P.O. for £ _____ payable to The World Parrot Trust
 OR Please charge my Access/Visa Ac/No.

Card expiry date _____ Amount £ _____ Date _____

Signature _____
 OR better still, please sign this Banker's Order

BANKERS ORDER (UK only)

To: The Manager _____ Bank
 Address _____

Postcode _____ Sortcode _____

Please pay The World Parrot Trust, the sum of £ _____
 every month/year, starting on _____ (date), and
 debit my account no. _____

Signed _____

Pay to The World Parrot Trust, A/C No. 91144022
 Midland Bank plc, Exmouth, Devon EX8 1HF.
 Please send to The World Parrot Trust, **NOT** to your bank.
 The World Parrot Trust, Glanmor House, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 4HY, U.K.

WORLD PARROT TRUST A Brief Progress Report

This charity was launched in October 1989 to work for the survival and welfare of the world's 320 species of parrot, of which 100 species are endangered. It is the only international organisation devoted exclusively to the parrot family. In its first 24 months it has raised over £120,000, and supported the following important parrot-related projects around the world.:

Australia: Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. Research to assist the survival of an endangered population of this spectacular Cockatoo in Victoria. A four year programme to which we contribute \$8,000.

Brazil: Spix's Macaw. Helping with the cost of an expedition to investigate the population status of this most endangered of all macaws. Only one remains in the wild. Our contribution: £2,000.



Brazil: Hyacinth Macaw. Field research into the breeding biology of this species, carried out by Dr. Charles Munn. A contribution of \$6,000. Also a donation of \$600 towards work carried out by a team of Danish biologists. Further contributions in hand.

Caribbean: St. Lucia and Dominica. Providing posters and badges for an educational campaign on St. Lucia: \$2,500. Followed by our largest project so far, the purchase and conversion of 'conservation buses', the Jacquot Express, and the 'Sisseron Express'. These are very successful in promoting the preservation of the remaining forest where the endangered parrots live. Cost to the World Parrot Trust: approx £30,000.

Central America: Endangered Macaws. We supported the 1991 Honduras Workshop on Macaw Conservation and Management with a donation of \$600.

The World Parrot Trust
 Glanmor House, Hayle
 Cornwall TR27 4HY, U.K.
 Regd. UK Charity No. 800944
 Tel: (0736) 753365
 Fax: (0736) 756438

Indonesia: Endangered Cockatoos. We made a small contribution towards a British expedition to study and report on the Moluccan Cockatoo and other species, declining rapidly due to deforestation and trapping for the pet trade. £500.

Mauritius: Echo Parakeet. Undoubtedly the world's rarest parrot. Only about 12 or 15 birds left in the wild. Captive breeding and other conservation measures being pursued by Carl Jones, known for his success with the Mauritius Kestrel and Pink Pigeon. The trust has provided general financial support, plus the cost of a four-wheel-drive vehicle (approx. \$12,000, of which £2,500 was kindly donated by The Parrot Society). Total contributed to date: £20,000.

Mexico: Maroon-fronted Parrot. This is Mexico's most endangered parrot: perhaps no more than 600 still exist in a small part of the Sierra Madre. The Trust recently visited this area to assess the situation, and conservation measures are planned.

We hope you will agree that the above summary indicates a charity that is active and full of initiative and concern for its objectives. We urgently need the support of everybody who keeps parrots as pets or in aviaries, or who simply cares about their survival and well-being.

Michael Reynolds

Michael Reynolds



Psitta
scene