

PSITTAScene

The Magazine of the WORLD PARROT TRUST



Summer 2016



WORLD PARROT TRUST

Glanmor House, Hayle
Cornwall TR27 4HB UK
info@parrots.org +44 (0)1736 751026
www.parrots.org

ABOUT THE WPT

Capture for the live-bird trade, habitat loss and other factors put wild parrots at risk. One in three parrot species are currently threatened in the wild.

As a leader in parrot conservation and welfare the World Parrot Trust works with researchers, local organisations, communities and governments to encourage effective solutions that save parrots.

For over twenty-five years the WPT has grown to become a global force that moves quickly to address urgent issues and support long-term projects for parrots. WPT has led projects in 42 countries for 66 species of parrot.

CHARITY INFORMATION

United Kingdom: # 800944
United States: EIN 62-1561595
Canada: BN 89004 1171 RR001

Editor: Desi Milpacher
Layout & Design: Michelle Kooistra
Production: Karen Whitley

The World Parrot Trust does not necessarily endorse any views or statements made by contributors to *PsittaScene*. It will consider articles or letters from any contributors on their merits. Visit parrots.org/psittascene for Guidelines. Anyone wishing to reprint *PsittaScene* articles in full or in part needs permission from the author/photographer(s) and must state that it was copied from *PsittaScene*.
All contents © World Parrot Trust

CONTENTS



- 4** From the Editor
Desi Milpacher
- 6** A Volunteer's Report
News from The Ara Project
- 10** Parrot vs Cockatoo - Is there a Difference?
Winning entries of BirdLife Australia's photo competition
- 12** A Chance Encounter:
The remarkable story of ASM Cambaquara
- 16** Climbing High
for Timneh Parrots
- 22** Ending Grey Trade: progress
Petition calling for CITES to end all legal trade
- 24** Volunteer Spotlight
Maria Rogstadius
- 26** PsittaNews
*Parrot News and Events
WPT Contacts*
- 28** Parrots in the Wild
Red-bellied Parrot

ON THE COVER

A pair of Scarlet Macaws (*Ara macao*) photographed at *The Ara Project* in Costa Rica. Photo © Celine Depas.

Over the past 17 years, *The Ara Project* has released over 150 Scarlet Macaws in different locations around Costa Rica, most recently at Punta Islita. There, nearly 40 macaws have been reintroduced through a soft release process, which prepares them for life in the wild. Recently, some of the birds have started a new chapter in their wild lives - they've begun to breed.

Learn more on **Page 7, *The Ara Project - A Volunteer's Report.***





© Georgina Steytler | Wild & Endangered

Your Views

Tell us how we are doing!
We'd love to hear from you.

Drop us a line at
EDITOR@PARROTS.ORG and
we'll feature your feedback
right here on this page in
upcoming issues.

From the Editor

Change is good. The evolution of ideas and purpose is essential in life and in conservation work. Whether it's in one's backyard or across the planet, change is everywhere - including right here in *PsittaScene*, with the most recent redesign of some of our sections.

In coming issues, we'd also like to take a step back in time and revisit "Letters to the Editor". We'd like to know what you think about the things that we do - projects we work with, causes we champion, and changes we've made.

We'd like to hear your thoughts on parrots, both companion and wild. We encourage you to ask questions and start a dialogue - great things can be accomplished when people have a conversation.

And we'd love to feature that dialogue right here in *PsittaScene*! To get started, we invite you to email us (*at the address listed to the left*) with your thoughts, questions and comments. We'll be sure to consider every one of them, and will even feature a few here in our magazine.

In the meantime, please enjoy the latest updates from our partner projects in Brazil, Costa Rica and Africa with macaws and Grey parrots.

Looking forward to starting a conversation with you all -



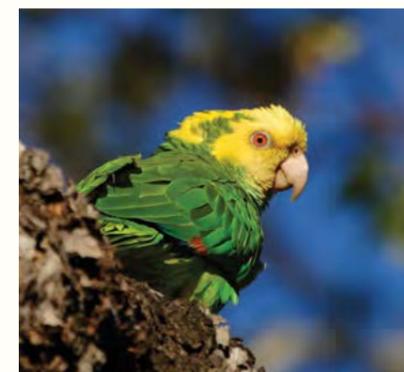
Desi

Desi Milpacher, *PsittaScene* Editor



WORLD PARROT TRUST

2017
PARROT CALENDAR



ON SALE NOW!

Enjoy 12 months of stunning parrot photos!

Sale proceeds support parrot conservation.

parrots.org/calendar

The Ara Project A VOLUNTEER'S REPORT

by Angharad Thomas

Wow, what a whirlwind the last year at Ara Project has been! As I reflect on everything we have achieved here in that time I can certainly say there's a lot more involved in taking care of some parrots than I could ever have imagined.

To start with, when I say a 'few' parrots what I mean is just over a hundred captive macaws at our Punta Islita breeding centre as well as flocks of reintroduced macaws at both Punta Islita on the west coast and Manzanillo on the east coast. For anyone not familiar with The Ara Project, we are a conservation organisation dedicated to the survival and revival of Costa Rica's two native macaw species: the Scarlet (*Ara macao*) and the Great Green (*Ara ambiguus*). Numbers of both species across Central America have declined rapidly in the last 30-60 years due to deforestation and poaching. Our work involves breeding both species in captivity and releasing flocks of young birds into areas where they have become extinct.

Although The Ara Project in one shape or another has been around for over 30 years - and has been successfully releasing Scarlet and Great Green Macaws for many of those - there are always ways it can improve. We have spent the past year reviewing ourselves as an organisation and looking at how we can better what we do. Across the breadth of our work we have been setting goals, planning, building, changing and improving things.

We have all worked incredibly hard, staff and volunteers alike, to bring about what we felt were important changes. And, recently, some wonderful events have rewarded us for our hard work. But first, a look at what has kept us busy over the last year...



© Celine Depas



© The Ara Project



© Sam Williams

(Left) One of the released Great Green Macaws eyes the camera warily
(Right) Scarlet Macaw chick is weighed and health checked

First and foremost comes the health and wellbeing of our macaws. Vets and biologists working or volunteering for the project have reviewed what we feed our captive birds, researched what they eat in the wild and compared that to what is available to us here in Costa Rica. Specialised diets have been designed for each species, as well as the convalescent, breeding and pre-release birds. In captivity the birds' habits and diets are different, which means they don't always have access to natural disease preventatives. As a result, we've adopted husbandry measures to safeguard against parasite and bacteria transfer to our captive birds. Among other things, these special precautions involve regular feces checks – my favourite time of the month!

Of course we want our macaws to be mentally healthy too! For this, we look at their physical and social environments. In Punta Islita we've spent months constructing new aviaries, improving and changing existing aviaries and putting up screens between them (the Greens in particular like privacy when breeding!) We've planted trees, vines and ground cover, installed misters so everyone can have a regular shower, and provided more shade. Both our breeding birds and our released flocks have received new nesting boxes. For our released macaws this is particularly

challenging as it involves climbing into trees, pulling the box up on a rope and a pulley and then attaching it to the tree while hanging from a rope yourself! This was a real adventure for the staff and volunteers at our Manzanillo Great Green release site as the trees there can be 50 or 60m tall and home to plenty of other wildlife, including vipers! For the birds' mental stimulation we regularly change perches, provide fresh foraging and chewing materials and are looking into other enrichment opportunities.

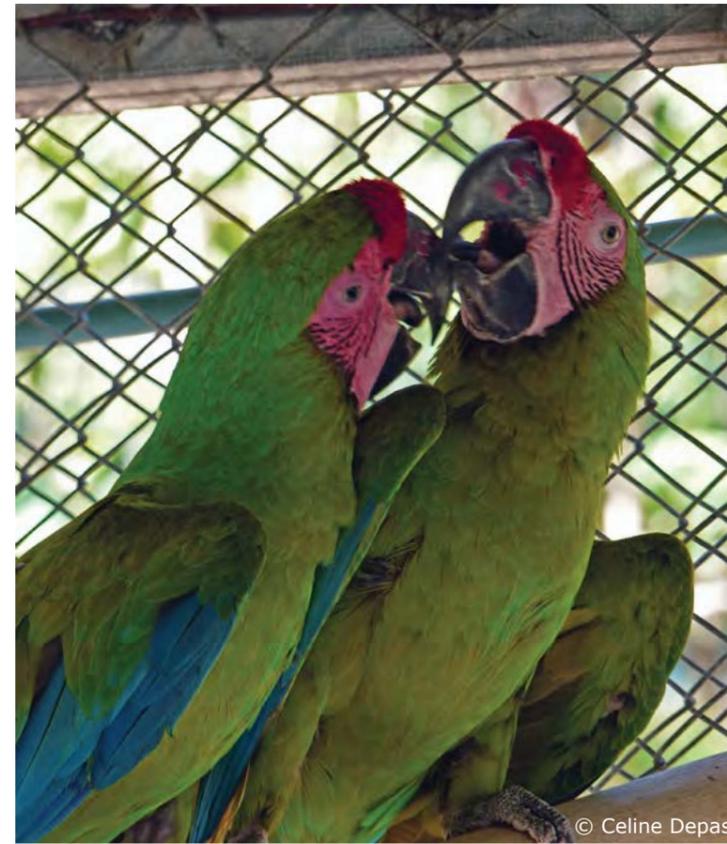
Finally, macaws are incredibly clever, social animals and often mate for life. Therefore, the company they're in is very important. From January to April we ran a macaw 'dating agency' as we took any of our captive macaws not in a confirmed couple and mixed them together to see if anyone would find someone they liked! Living in the jungle, things can get a little quiet, so this was like reality TV for us as we watched with fascination the flirting and friendships and complexity of macaw society! New couples (easy to spot by their in-love behaviour, there was kissing (beaking), snuggling, love talk and even foot-holding) were then moved to their private breeding aviaries.

All of this is just the tip of the iceberg and of course; our work is ongoing as we watch and learn from

our birds and continue to strive to provide them with the best we can. But already we are seeing the positive outcomes of our work as the birds appear contented, relaxed and healthy. And in Manzanillo, just a few months ago, two of our released Great Greens became parents! This was a very special moment for The Ara Project and the species as we are the first organisation in the world to breed and release the Great Green Macaw into the wild and have the released birds in turn begin to breed. I am happy to say the chick is thriving. Meanwhile, in Punta Islita in a breeding aviary, there is a tiny Scarlet Macaw chick, its eyes not even open yet, that is being ferociously protected and cared for by its mum and dad. And many more couples are looking very, er... clucky.

These wonderful developments tell us that we are on track to continue to help both species recover in the wild and produce many healthy young macaws ready for release on a regular basis – meaning more of these colourful, charismatic birds will be where they belong – in the jungles of Costa Rica! ☑

.....
Angharad Thomas is an educator, communicator and bird lover from Western Australia who works as site manager for The Ara Project's breeding and release centre in Punta Islita, Costa Rica.



© Celine Depas



© The Ara Project



© The Ara Project



© Angharad Thomas

(Top left) Great Green Macaws interact (Top right) Six-week old Great Green Macaw chick being weighed (Bottom left) Veterinarian Celine Depas checks a sample (Bottom right) Breeding aviaries and nest boxes at the Manzanillo site



About the Ara Project

The Ara Project is a Costa Rican licensed, government-supervised conservation organization operated by the non-profit organization Asociación El Proyecto Ara. Its primary purpose is focused on reintroducing macaws to their former ranges throughout Costa Rica. To learn more about volunteer opportunities and ways to support their work, visit their website at thearaproject.org.

Parrot vs. Cockatoo - Is there a Difference?

By Georgina Steytler

Have you ever asked that question? And if so, how many of you (*who are not ornithologists or science buffs*) know the answer?

It is something I had to ask myself while organising BirdLife Photography's "Cockatoos" Competition, which ran 21 March to 18 April, 2016, and the answer surprised me. Turns out, there is more of a distinction than just "a bigger bird demanding bigger crackers." In fact, not all cockatoos are bigger than parrots; the delicate little cockatiel is a cockatoo, too!

Cockatoos are fantastic birds: mainly large, loud and packed with personality - you don't see many other birds hanging from power lines by one foot and twirling in the air or repeatedly sliding down a corrugated tin roof just for the fun of it! And, according to the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (Vol 4; p246, Lynx Edicions & BirdLife International) cockatoos are distinguished from other parrots by:

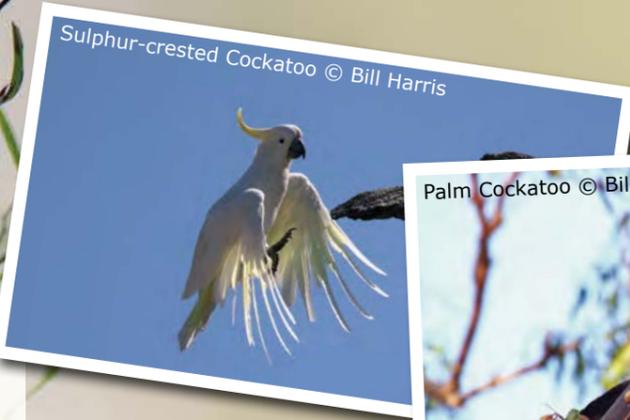
- the presence of a gall bladder
- the position of their carotid arteries
- the absence of blue or green feathers (*a light-bulb moment for me!*)
- the shape of the skull
- the presence of a crest, and
- downy hatchlings.

The differences between parrots and cockatoos make this order of birds even more fascinating. As we learn more about their lives and history we may discover additional distinct qualities to add to our knowledge. 📷

About the Author

Georgina Steytler is the Photo competition Co-ordinator for BirdLife Photography, Bird Photographer (*Wild & Endangered* | www.wildandendangered.com.au) and Community Education Committee member for BirdLife Western Australia (a branch of BirdLife Australia) She has worked extensively on the Western Ground Parrot project. Currently lives in Toodyay, Western Australia.

BirdLife Photography is a Special Interest Group of BirdLife Australia and provides both a forum and resources for photographers, bird observers and the general public to enhance their knowledge and appreciation of birds through the medium of photography. It also maintains a large image library of Australian birds, most of which are available for use for conservation purposes by request. Photo Competitions for members are held bi-monthly. Learn more at: birdlifephotography.org.au



Little Corella © Adam Higgins



A CHANCE ENCOUNTER:

The remarkable story of ASM Cambaquara

Article by Isabel Almeida
Photos © ASM Cambaquara

A change is as good as a rest and in this case, good for parrots, too: Seeking to escape their busy lives in the city, Pablo Melero and Silvana Davino acquired a property, the Rodamonte on Ilhabela, off the coast of Brazil in 1999. Their increasingly frequent weekend visits finally led them to move there.

And as so often happens, it was one lucky event that led to the development of a special place to return injured and abused native parrots to the wild.

Life doesn't always go as planned. Sometimes, it goes even better.

In May of 2008, a female Plain Parakeet (*Brotogeris tirica*) was found near the property's entrance gate. Pepa, as she was called, was diagnosed with a dislocated wing and received veterinary care. Unable to fly, she was nursed by Silvana, who had no experience with parrots prior to receiving this little one.

As Pepa recovered, Pablo and Silvana realised she could not be released. So everyday thereafter she was put on a tree branch during the day and inside an aviary at night. A year later, a wild male – later named Kiwi – started paying Pepa visits during the day. At night, when Pepa was put indoors, Kiwi tried to get inside. After a few months of insistence, Kiwi was finally allowed into the aviary. Soon after they bred and raised three young ones, which fledged successfully and were later released.

Keeping Kiwi with Pepa in the aviary did not feel right to Silvana, as Kiwi was perfectly capable of flying. So she came up with an ingenious solution: to place a large PVC pipe across a cut in the screen at the top of an aviary built for this pair, so that Kiwi could come and go while Pepa stayed safely inside. In order to prevent Pepa from reaching the pipe, a glass sheet was placed over the screen around it.

Over the past seven years the pair has bred 14 times. Kiwi comes and goes every day; together they prepare the nest and raise the young. When the young are ready to fly they go out through the PVC pipe with Kiwi, stay close and find plenty of food in nearby external feeders. After a while they join the wild groups of parakeets on the island.

In 2012 a Maroon-bellied Conure (*Pyrrhura frontalis*) and four Southern Mealy Amazons (*Amazona farinosa*) reached the Rodamonte. The first Amazon, named Tónico, was found on the property. He had fled from an illegal aviary after being captured from the nest, and was very weak. Tónico had a injured beak, but was tame and hungry so was placed in an aviary. With veterinary care and appropriate nutrition his beak regenerated and he recovered.

The second bird was Morgan, an Amazon with a broken wing which made him permanently unable to fly. The third was Sumô, who arrived from Dr. Denis Amorosino, a local veterinarian. Sumô had been in captivity and probably did not realize he could but after watching Tónico in the aviary, he started flying! During that year the first release took place, but Tónico remained near the aviary and was recaptured, for his own safety.



(Far left) Tónico the Southern Mealy Amazon (Above left) Pepa being hand-fed (Above right) *Brotogeris* parakeets in an enclosure

Sumô flew away into the wilds and was never seen again. After this, other people voluntarily handed in injured or abused Southern Mealy Amazons, as they knew the birds would be well cared for.

The rescues prompted the couple to take permanent action. In 2013 Pablo and Silvana, with the support of biologist Patrick Inácio Pina and Dr. Amorosino, started the process to register the area with the appropriate official entities. Their intention was to fill a gap of providing environmental services for wild animals, compliant with the local legislation, for the rehabilitation of the island's trafficked and abused wild birds. In addition, Silvana enrolled at University of Taubaté where she is working on her Degree in Biological Sciences.

Pablo and Silvana have established partnerships with biologists, veterinarians, local elected and appointed officials, environmental institutions and volunteers. All of this effort has helped them achieve their goals: on June 2, 2014 official credentials were granted to the Release and Monitoring area, and it was named Área de Soltura Monitorada de Fauna Silvestre - ASM Cambaquara. It is approved to receive, rehabilitate,

release and monitor five species of native wild birds of the Ilhabela – Southern Mealy Amazon, Maroon-bellied Conure, Scaly-headed Parrot (*Pionus maximiliani*), Green-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos dicolorus*) and Plain Parakeet. ASM Cambaquara runs on sporadic donations and is voluntarily managed by Pablo and Silvana, using their own funding. Other volunteers working at the sanctuary include biologists and veterinarians. Thanks to these hard working individuals, to date sixty birds have been received and rehabilitated, and six releases have taken place.

Aside from the direct work with the birds, Silvana is very active in the community, building relationships with local public officials and families to encourage them to help protect the released birds. With the support of the city environmental body, educational fliers are produced and distributed, especially after a release is conducted - an essential part of keeping the parrots safe on Ilhabela. In October 2015, a local contest was held to decide what species should be the official bird of Ilhabela and the public voted for the Amazons! Another achievement for ASM Cambaquara in the ongoing educational efforts to protect this species on the island. This recognition changed the attitude of many people on Ilhabela forever.

November 2015 saw the first release of 13 Southern Mealy Amazons that were flight trained in the recently built World Parrot Trust (WPT) pre-release aviary. The funds for this 40 x 13 x 13 foot (12 x 4 x 4 metre) enclosure were a personal donation from WPT member Evet Loewen, who was introduced to Pablo and Silvana by volunteer veterinarian André Saldenberg, WPT's Brazil Programme Manager.

The birds are acclimated to the surrounding terrain within the flight aviary. Along with flight training, food is made available until the birds are self-sufficient in foraging. Fortunately the area is full of various fruits that can support a growing number of Southern Mealy Amazons on Ilhabela. Learning wild behaviours such as flying, predator identification, foraging skills, and a fear of humans are vital to ensuring the released birds have a successful outcome. Present at this first release were local environmental authorities, the WPT and volunteers. Of the 13 released birds, one was recaptured after returning to the aviaries. Several were seen and registered in the area during the subsequent months' monitoring activities. And soon after the release, photographs showed that one

pair of *Amazona farinosa* consisted of a wild bird and one banded from ASM Cambaquara! In March 2016, two Amazons named Eva (after Evet Loewen) and Isaac, both banded and set free on that first release day, hatched a youngster in the wild. Soon after the release, the couple defended the aviary inside and out as their territory, and even attacked people that ventured too close. They found a tree cavity and bred, only 4 months after having been released. A special moment came when they returned to the Rodamonte to feed from the guava trees and proudly show their offspring!

That first encounter with one little female parakeet has led, over a period of 8 years, to the ongoing success of ASM Cambaquara in rescuing and releasing injured and confiscated birds to be free on the Ilhabela. They live there under the caring and watchful eyes of Silvana and Pablo, who are the champions of this wonderful success story showing how everyone can make a difference for the wild parrots and other creatures around them. ☐

.....
 Author **Isabel Almeida** is a Brazilian economist who enjoys storytelling, birdwatching and supporting initiatives related to the release of birds back into the wild.



Mealy Amazons feed on fruits in WPT pre-release aviary



(Top left) Tiriba, a Maroon-bellied Conure, feeds on bromeliad flowers
 (Bottom left) Maroon-bellied Conure at feeder (Bottom right) Isaac, feeding on local fruit



CLIMBING HIGH

for Timneh Parrots

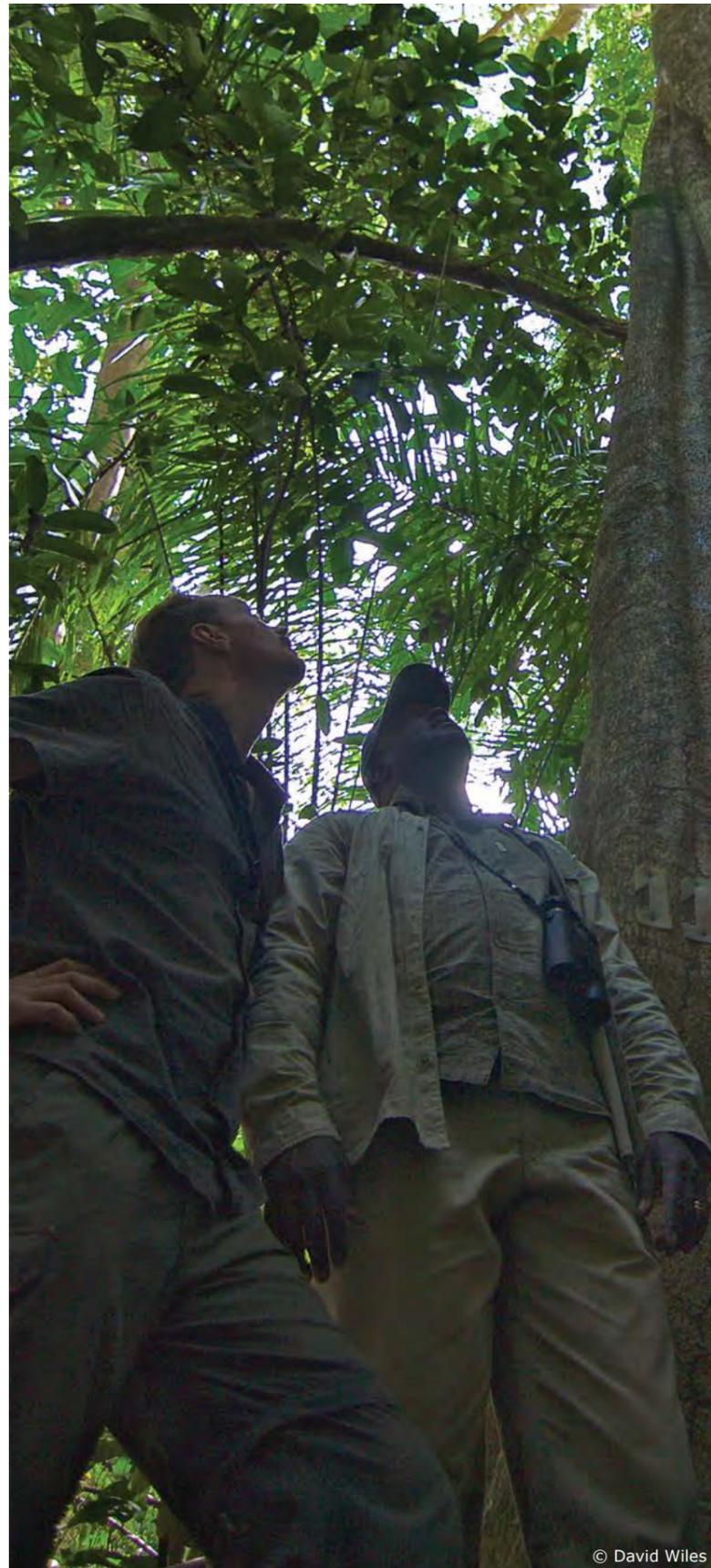
Dr. Rowan Martin, Director of the World Parrot Trust's Africa Programme reports on recent conservation efforts to protect a vital breeding site for threatened Timneh Parrots (*Psittacus timneh*), formerly considered a subspecies of the African Grey, *Psittacus erithacus*).

.....

CHECKING MY CLIMBING GEAR FOR THE UMPTEENTH time I paused a moment to take stock. Beneath me, more than twenty metres below, I could glimpse the forest floor through tiny gaps in the foliage. As I descended I would have to manage the ropes carefully to avoid getting tangled among the dense branches. All around was an impressive collection of *Alstonia* trees, each stayed by perfectly sculpted buttress roots creating a maze in the dark understory.

To the east, less than a hundred metres away, I could hear the waves of the tropical Atlantic gently sweeping the beach.

© Hamilton Monteiro



THE WHISTLES AND SQUAWKS OF TIMNEH parrots pierced the air. A pair had come to land nearby in the forest canopy. They screamed loudly. These parrots were not unused to seeing people climbing high in the trees. Every year people from nearby islands would visit and take chicks from nests to be sold for a few dollars in Bissau. I had been inspecting a cavity regularly used as a nest site. At this nest two years ago, a poacher had hacked into the entrance with a machete to make a hole large enough to reach the chicks inside. Fortunately this event did not go undetected and the swift actions of the team, which was monitoring the nests in the area, led to the recovery of the poached chick (see *'Bananas the Survivor,' PsittaScene Autumn 2014*).

The following year, to the delight of all involved, the nest was used again - probably by the same pair. Hopes were high that this nest would be used again in 2016 and the whistles and squawks that were coming from the trees were certainly a good sign. I had completed checks for signs of breeding and collected feathers and samples of the cavity contents for later analysis. There were several more nests to check and the day was heating up. It was time to carefully head down.

© David Wiles



© Madalena Boto



© Rowan Martin



© Rowan Martin



© Hamilton Monteiro

(Opposite page) Rowan Martin and Hamilton Monteiro size up a native *Alstonia* tree
 (Top left) Rowan Martin peers into the forest canopy with project collaborator Amigo
 (Top right) Walking the nest boxes to the breeding area
 (Bottom left) The 2016 nest box installation team, from left: Hamilton Monteiro, Quintino Tchanchalam, David Wiles, Seco Bacar Cardoso, Martin Spooner, Domingoes da Cunha Soda, Rowan Martin
 (Bottom right) Former poacher Domingoes, now working for the Project

WPT has been working with local partners to assist Timneh Parrot conservation in Guinea-Bissau since 2013. This year a team was visiting the island of João Vieira, one of the largest known concentrations of breeding Timneh Parrots, to complete several tasks. In addition to monitoring existing cavities and collecting samples, we were also installing nest boxes and assisting a documentary film maker tell the story of wild Timneh Parrots. We were joined by National Park manager Quintino Tchanchalam,

local ornithologist Hamilton Monteiro, former parrot poachers Seco and Domingoes and canopy-access experts David Wiles and Martin Spooner. David and Martin had taken time off from their day jobs as professional arborists to volunteer in Guinea-Bissau. A few years ago Wiles had established the organisation Explore Trees to assist teams conducting conservation and research in the world's tallest trees. Explore Trees realised how they could contribute to parrot

conservation while working with Cape parrots in South Africa and their skills and experience proved invaluable in Guinea-Bissau.

Nest boxes were being installed in sites beyond the reach of poachers in an attempt to boost the breeding population and create safe nesting cavities. The design of the artificial cavities was based on the findings of research led by Daniel da Costa Lopes, a Portuguese post-graduate student at the University of Lisbon.

Lopes and colleagues identified the kinds of cavities that parrots typically use as well as where they were located. The positioning of the boxes was also guided by Seco and Domingoes, who advised on which places would be safest from the attention of poachers. Seco and Domingoes agreed to give up poaching parrots a few years ago and are now employed to guard nests and other activities to assist conservation. It was humbling to learn there were few places poachers wouldn't consider climbing, even in trees forty metres high. Working for the National Park not only provided a reliable income, it was a much safer occupation.

Hauling 15 kilograms of nest box safely into the highest and most inaccessible places is no meagre undertaking, especially in tropical heat. However, armed with the latest canopy-access equipment and a good dose of tenacity, the team installed nineteen boxes high in the trees. Now it is up to the parrots to do their job.

Over the last few years the commitment of several organisations, not least IBAP (Instituto da Biodiversidade das Áreas Protegidas which manages the National Park), has seen a number of conservation successes. Rates of nest poaching have reduced and important nesting trees have been spared clearance for rice cultivation. There remains however much to be done and the future of Timneh parrots in Guinea-Bissau still rests on a knife-edge. Success will only be achieved through working alongside the communities that live with wildlife in the islands, ensuring that they have a stake in saving these very special parrots. 



© Rowan Martin



© Hamilton Monteiro

(Top) Timneh Parrot at nest cavity
(Far top right) Rowan Martin directs a nest box into position
(Far bottom left and right) Installing nest-boxes

.....
The World Parrot Trust is deeply grateful for the efforts of all organisations and individuals involved in this project including IBAP, the Coastal Planning Cabinet of Guinea-Bissau, ISPA (ISPA - Instituto Universitário de Ciências Psicológicas, Sociais e da Vida) and Explore Trees. This work has been funded by Save Our Species (a joint initiative of IUCN, the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank), MAVA, Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust, ZooMarine, Bridging Peace Foundation, Folke H Peterson Foundation and numerous individual donors.



© Hamilton Monteiro



© Hamilton Monteiro

Ending Grey Trade: progress

An end to the trade in wild-caught African Grey Parrots has come one step closer. Gabon, together with five other African countries, the European Union and the USA, has submitted a proposal to transfer Grey and Timneh parrots to CITES Appendix 1. If passed this will prohibit all international trade in wild Greys, saving tens of thousands of wild birds each year.

It may surprise many to learn that a legal trade in wild caught Grey Parrots is still permitted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora known as CITES. In 2012, both Grey and Timneh parrots were added to the IUCN's Red List of Threatened species and collapses of wild populations are increasingly well documented. Recent estimates indicate that populations in Ghana have declined by 90-99% over the last two decades. WPT's partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo have documented a rapid increase in levels of trapping in the centre of the country following collapses elsewhere in the DRC.

Although supposedly managed under a quota system which should restrict trade to sustainable levels, the permitting system is open to large-scale abuse and no monitoring of exploited populations takes place. Despite a national quota of 5,000 parrots, 13,980 were recorded passing through just two provincial airports between May 2015 and February 2016 – **a clear example of how the current system is failing this species.**

In January this year CITES recommended that all countries cease imports from DRC; however investigations indicated that trapping continued. In April, the Environmental Ministry of Maniema province in central DRC undertook a major campaign on the radio to publicize the illegality of parrot captures. It also sent delegations to major trapping areas. Captured birds were confiscated. This campaign was made possible through the support of WPT and the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund. WPT's FlyFree programme is further supporting the care of the confiscated parrots and it is hoped they can be released back into the wild soon.

While these actions are essential for stemming the flow of parrots from this latest frontier in the parrot trade, as long as it remains easy to export wild parrots through the quota system, traders will simply look elsewhere in their range to source parrots.

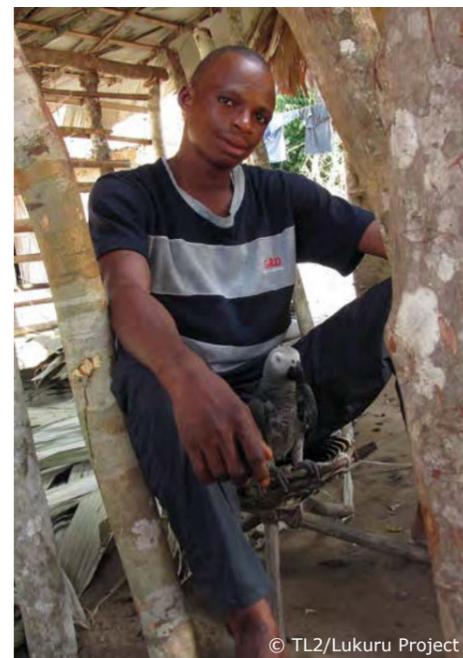
The proposal to end international trade in wild Grey parrots will be voted on at the CITES Conference of Parties to be held in Johannesburg South Africa later this year. In amongst the discussions on elephant ivory, rhino horn, and lion hunting it is essential that the international community doesn't forget this quintessential African parrot. WPT will be in Johannesburg to be sure the voices of Grey parrots are heard loud and clear. 



© A Bernard
Collaborating authorities in Bikenge village



© A Bernard
Provincial ministry official talks to villagers about parrot regulations



© TL2/Lukuru Project

Trapper with decoy bird



© TL2/Lukuru Project
Grey parrots caught by "glue stick" placed by trappers in palm trees of known roost areas



© TL2/Lukuru Project

Grey parrot chicks taken from the Banaguma communal nesting site

SAVE THE GREYS: Say NO! to Trade

Thousands of wild Grey Parrots are trapped in the wild and traded internationally each year.

Much of the trade is legal and is driving the species to extinction.

In the past four decades, more than **1.3 million Grey Parrots have been legally exported**. Many die along the way, directly and indirectly devastating more than 3 million wild birds.

Thankfully, many African countries are working together to cease exports, with several proposing that Grey Parrots be transferred to Appendix I of CITES at the October 2016 Conference of Parties.

This one action would end all legal trade in wild Grey Parrots.

Please, **sign the petition to show your support!**

Your signature can make a difference.

PARROTS.ORG/SAVEGREYS



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

➔ Maria Rogstadius



© Olof Borgh

Maria Rogstadius began her involvement with WPT Sweden in 2014, translating the Swedish version of *PsittaScene* and administrating the WPT Sweden Facebook page.

Through an interest in falconry she became acquainted with parrots and now shares her home with a Meyer's Parrot named Luna, Pandora the African Grey, a Timneh called Jasper, and Io the Ducorp's Cockatoo.

Living with parrots has made her aware of the difficulties of keeping parrots in captivity and her hope is that through proper education, behaviour problems will decline and the number of unwanted parrots will be reduced.

When did you first become interested in parrots?

I moved from Sweden to the UK in 2008, and was fascinated by falconry. When I did a five day falconry course I also met several parrots; I immediately fell in love with a Green-cheeked Conure, decided I wanted a parrot, and so there it was. Felix the conure taught us a lot about parrots, but sadly passed away at a young age. Our lives were empty without a parrot, so a few months later we met Luna, a Meyer's Parrot - she turns 6 this year and thanks to everything Felix taught us, we were able to give her a much better beginning than he had. A parrot shouldn't be kept on its own, so we brought home an African Grey, Pandora. Our flock now also includes Io the Ducorp's Cockatoo and Jasper the Timneh, both of whom were rescues. I've become much more

aware of how captive parrots are kept since getting Pandora, so we support the adoption of rescued adult parrots, rather than buying a baby from a breeder. And getting to know an older parrot is just as amazing and interesting as getting a baby - even more so, if you ask me!

What spurred you on to help conserve parrots?

The more I read about parrots, the more I realised how much is wrong in the parrot world, both with wild parrots being trapped or killed, habitats destroyed, but also with captive parrot keeping: wing clipping still being viewed as acceptable, cages too small, babies taken from their parents and imprinting on humans. I fell in love with Cape Parrots and reading up on their situation was eye opening. I am more directly



© Anna Marmönd



© Rebecka Svensson

(Top) WPT stand at a Swedish Parrot Society event
(Bottom) Bebis, the painting Red-shouldered Amazon



Clockwise from top left: Io the Ducorp's Cockatoo, Pandora the African Grey, Pandora and Jasper (Timneh) enjoying some porridge, and Luna the Meyer's Parrot
Photos © Maria Rogstadius

involved with improving captive care than conservation in the wild, but both are equally important.

What does your role with WPT Sweden entail?

WPT Sweden was formed in 2002 as a joint initiative by Dan Paulsen and Bo Gerre, in collaboration with Mike Reynolds. In 2009 Lars Persson took over as the representative, and when his fellow translator left in 2014, he posted a request for help and I jumped at the chance - partly because I enjoy translation, and partly because it seemed like a fantastic opportunity to get involved! In 2015 Lars asked if I wanted to take over as a branch representative.

Together with Lars I translate *PsittaScene* Magazine into Swedish, administrate some of the Swedish memberships and Lars, myself, and a few others manage

WPT Sweden's Facebook page. My main responsibility when it comes to events is making sure there are enough Swedish leaflets and brochures to distribute. We work closely with The Swedish Parrot Society (SPF), and thanks to their generosity we are becoming more visible to the Swedish public. We've worked with other organisations and companies such as Göteborgs Fågelförening and Parrotmusic to promote the WPT and distribute Swedish materials.

What are the most creative ways of raising funds/awareness you've seen in your role?

Training parrots to paint and then selling the paintings with the proceeds going to the WPT. Rebecka Svensson from Parrotmusic with her Amazon Bebis have done so much to help raise both awareness and funds for the WPT in Sweden, including an auction of one

of the paintings which was broadcast on Swedish television. We've also got another painting parrot in Sweden, Echo the Timneh Grey Parrot.

What are your future goals?

My current aims are to further increase awareness of World Parrot Trust in Sweden, to promote and facilitate a better parrot keeping and breeding culture, to gain more Swedish members, and to hopefully raise a bit more money for the WPT. Sweden is relatively far ahead when it comes to legislation protecting parrot welfare, and minimum cage size, wing clipping, and hand rearing among other issues are all regulated by law. I would like to see this in more countries, and perhaps by increasing awareness globally, more people will realise how much a parrot actually needs. ☐

Rare Night Parrot protected with new Queensland laws

A parrot that was once thought extinct has been given space in which to begin its recovery: an exclusion zone in Pullen Pullen Nature Reserve in W Queensland. The Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*) was rediscovered in 2013 after 75 years of not being seen by anyone. It was found at a secret location in the reserve, which officials had hoped would remain hidden. Unfortunately the state government is concerned that the birds' location has now been put into jeopardy. As of June of this year anyone found trespassing into the reserve without authorisation will risk a \$353,400 fine or two years imprisonment. To aid enforcement, Bush Heritage Australia has installed solar-operated satellite cameras to protect the critical habitat.

Environment Minister Steven Miles said, 'It's the first time the nature conservation laws have ever been used in this way but such is the level of concern amongst our parks rangers [and] amongst the scientists that are working on this project, that we've taken this step.'

Read more online:
tinyurl.com/nightparrotlaw



© Luiz Claudio Marigo

Possible Spix's Macaw spotted in the wild: first in fifteen years

A local farmer may have spotted a lone Spix's Macaw (*Cyanopsitta spixii*) in the wilds of Bahia, Brazil for the first time in fifteen years. The species was declared Critically Endangered, Possibly Extinct in the Wild (CR-PEW) when the last male disappeared in 2000.

The farmer's daughter was able to capture the flying bird on video phone, and his wife contacted biologists from the Society for the Conservation of Birds in Brazil (SAVE Brasil, BirdLife Partner), one of the organisations that runs the Projeto Ararinha na Natureza (Spix's Macaw in the Wild Project). Scientists there believe it to be a Spix's. Locals encouraged by the sighting have since been protecting the area, and Instituto Chico Mendes para a Conservação da Biodiversidade biologists are planning an expedition to look for the macaw. It is hoped that the bird's presence will spur the local government to have the 44,000 hectare Caatinga and riparian forest protected.

Read more online:
tinyurl.com/spixbrazil

Book: A Natural History of Australian Parrots

A Natural History of Australian Parrots: A Tribute to William T Cooper, will be released in Australia in October by Nokomis Publishing. The book is a testimonial to the well-known avian artist, featuring numerous unpublished field sketches, drawings and paintings.

Updated text by Cooper's longtime collaborator, Joseph Forshaw, completes this special printing. The print run is limited to 1200 copies.

Get your copy:
tinyurl.com/nhcooper

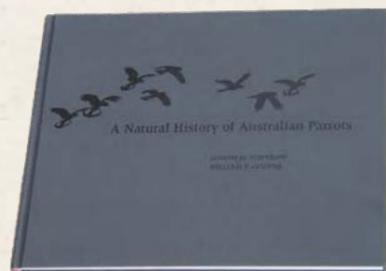


Illustration of Night Parrot © Martin Thompson CC 3.0

2016 Avian Discovery Tours



Mulga Parrot © Keith & Judy Humphreys

2016's birding destinations include Alice Springs in the Northern Territory, Bowra Reserve & O'Reilly's Retreat in rural Queensland, Cairns, and the wet tropics including the Great Barrier Reef. Adding on Adelaide and surrounds, Gluepot and Grampian Mountains makes this an extraordinary parrot trip.

Parrots regularly seen on this trip include Budgerigars and Double-eyed Fig Parrots, Major Mitchell's and Gang-gang Cockatoos, and several species of lorikeets - up to 30 parrot species in all. Guests will be provided with comfortable means of transportation, great accommodation, and expert guides. Trips are comprised of varied durations making it affordable and exciting for everyone. As always, a portion of the proceeds from each trip goes towards the World Parrot Trust's conservation programmes.

Find out more and book your spot:
AvianDiscoveryTours.com

ACCESS PAST ISSUES AT:
PSITTASCENE.ORG

English, Dutch, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish

Parrot Lover's Cruise 2016

Southern Caribbean November 6-13, 2016

Experience some of the bluest waters and best sightseeing in the world! Educate yourself with onboard parrot seminars and get a chance to see wild parrots on exclusive excursions on a spectacular cruise for all parrot enthusiasts! Ports of call include: St. Thomas, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and St. Maarten.

Book your spot today!
parrotloverscruise.com

OPPORTUNITIES

Belize Bird Rescue

Looking for a chance to work with parrots in Belize? **Belize Bird Rescue** is looking for interns and volunteers who are passionate about wildlife and want to use their skills to help return wild birds back where they belong. The Belize Bird Rescue is a non-profit rescue, rehabilitation and release centre for indigenous birds of Belize. Contact them to learn more and find out what you can do to keep birds flying free:

belizebirdrescue@gmail.com
belizebirdrescue.com

Echo and Ara - call for volunteers

WPT partners **Echo and Ara Project** are carrying out important work for parrots, in Bonaire and Costa Rica respectively, and they always need volunteers to help! If you have time to spare, take a look at their ongoing opportunities by following the links below, and see if you fit the bill.

Volunteer at Echo:
echobonaire.org/volunteer

Volunteer at The Ara Project:
thearaproject.org

ON THE WEB

parrots.org
psittascene.org
facebook.com/WorldParrotTrust
twitter.com/parrottrust

MAIN BRANCHES

UNITED KINGDOM (Main Office)

Karen Whitley, Administrator
Glanmor House, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 4HB
Tel: (44) 01736 751026
Fax: (44) 01736 751028
uk@parrots.org

UNITED STATES

Glenn Reynolds, Administrator
P.O. Box 935, Lake Alfred, FL 33850
Tel/Fax: (1) 863 956 4347
usa@parrots.org

CANADA

Michelle Kooistra, Administrator
4377 Gordon Dr., Kelowna, BC, V1W1S7
Tel/Fax: (1) 250 766 9363
canada@parrots.org

ADDITIONAL BRANCHES

Africa	Rowan Martin africa@parrots.org
Australia	Nicholas Bishop australia@parrots.org
Benelux	Ruud Vonk benelux@parrots.org
Belgium	Ronald Coens belgium@parrots.org
Brazil	André Saidenberg brazil@parrots.org
India	Avin Deen india@parrots.org
Italy	Cristiana Senni csenni@parrots.org
Japan	TSUBASA japan@parrots.org
Netherlands	Ria Vonk netherlands@parrots.org
Peru/Spain/Central America	Rosa Elena Zegarra centralamerica@parrots.org
Sweden	Maria Rogstadius sweden@parrots.org



Parrots in the Wild:
Red-bellied Parrot (*Poicephalus rufiventris*)

“I was so happy to make this shot, because this parrot is on the cover page of my safari bird bible “*Helm Field Guides - Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania*”.

You can imagine that after using this book quite intensively and seeing this bird’s image every day, it becomes something like a quest to find one ... and on our last safari day in Tanzania, I did.”

© Mikel Hendriks, Photographer