

PSITTASCENE

Magazine of the WORLD PARROT TRUST



Summer 2018



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 an international leader in parrot conservation and welfare, the World Parrot Trust works with researchers, in-country organisations, communities and governments to encourage effective solutions that save parrots.

Since 1989 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 67 species of parrot.

CHARITY INFORMATION

United Kingdom: # 800944
United States: EIN 62-1561595
Canada: BN 89004 1171 RR0001

 Printed on post-consumer recycled paper.

Editor: Desi Milpacher
Layout, Design & Production: Michelle Kooistra
Fulfillment: 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 WPT and the author/photographer(s) and must state that it was copied from *PsittaScene*.
All contents © World Parrot Trust

Printed by Complete Business Solutions, Helston
Tel: 01326 563424

CONTENTS



4 **Message from the Editor**
Desi Milpacher

5 **Yellow-crested Cockatoo**
A hopeful trend in a significant population

10 **Arranging Antecedents**
A positive approach to solving behaviour problems

12 **Soaring the Skies Once Again**
Encouraging results in the reintroduction of Scarlet Macaws to Los Tuxtlas Reserve, Mexico

18 **Ecotourism**
Responsible travel supporting conservation

22 **PsittaNews**
*Parrot News and Updates
WPT Contacts*

24 **Parrots in the Wild**
Scarlet Macaws

ON THE COVER

Hyacinth Macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) examine a tree cavity in the Pantanal, Brazil. The pair was seen during a *Wild Parrots Up Close* ecotour expedition. Photo © Corey Raffel

Community-based ecotourism companies have become a more responsible way to travel, by providing income and incentive for local people to conserve their wildlife.

Read more about parrots and ecotourism on **Page 18:**
Ecotourism: Responsible travel supporting conservation.



From...
the Editor's desk

In this issue, we celebrate the successes that a number of in-country organisations have had with the restoration of parrots to their native ranges. We've supported a lot of these projects watching, with great joy, the released birds begin to act like their normal selves again by foraging, flying, socialising and breeding.

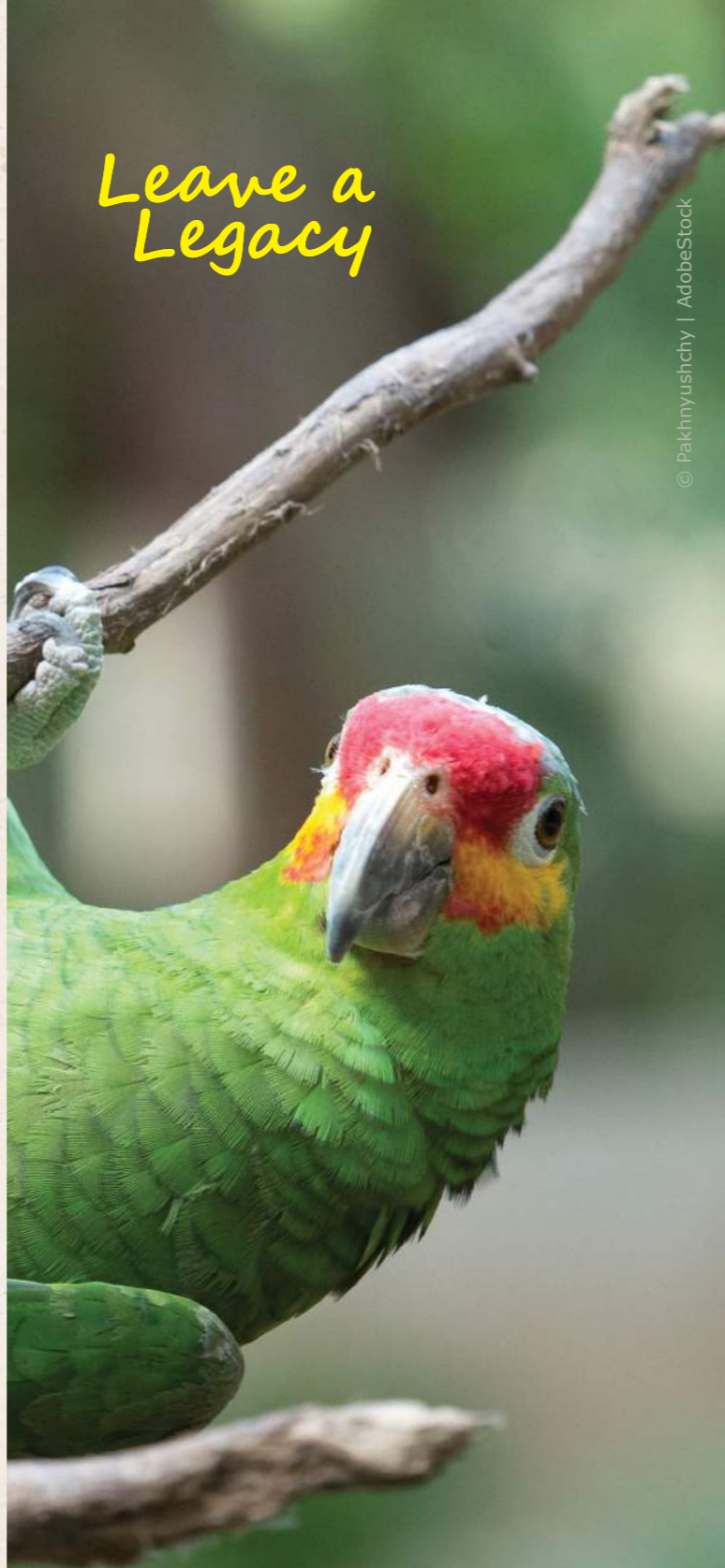
We also see that there are reasons to be encouraged for some of the most endangered wild parrots – Yellow-crested Cockatoos, in this case – and find that there are populations that are reasonably stable, and with proper protection they can remain so. We explore the idea of responsible ecotourism as a sustainable way of encouraging in-country conservation, as seen through the lens of a longtime WPT friend. And we learn that our closest parrot companions can be guided into behaving in less destructive ways through a positive switch in their living environment.

With you, our steadfast supporters, the WPT has been able to assist with these projects and see the promising results in many of them. Read on, and see the tremendous good your contributions have done.



Desi

Desi Milpacher,
WPT Publications Editor



Leave a Legacy

© Pakhnyushchy | AdobeStock

What will be your legacy?

Let your dedication to parrots live on! Leaving a legacy gift to the parrots through your estate may be one of the most fulfilling contributions you will ever make.

Visit our website at parrots.org/legacy or contact an office near you (see page 23.)

Yellow-crested Cockatoo:

A hopeful trend in a significant population

The critically endangered Yellow-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*) is one of the world's rarest parrots. Their global population, having been decimated by heavy trapping in the 1970s and 1980s, is fewer than 2000 individuals.

International trade records show that over 190,000 Yellow-crested Cockatoos were reported taken from Indonesia between 1981 and 1992, with many more dying before reaching intended markets.

Today, they are extinct on many of the islands where they once occurred and are uncommon on others. In addition to chronic trapping pressure, these cockatoos are affected by ongoing habitat loss. Nearly three-quarters of the country's original forest has been lost to large-scale logging and agriculture.

The news is not all gloomy: Although the species as a whole has suffered tremendous loss, there are signs of small increases on a number of islands.



ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY:

Oka Dwi Prihatmoko, DVM, WPT Indonesia Program Coordinator
Mehd Halaouate, WPT Indonesia Program Manager



WE HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING surveys and doing fieldwork for the Yellow-crested Cockatoo for many years now. Assessing the remaining population of these birds has been a challenge, as some of the subspecies still survive on remote islands off the beaten track, which are a bit tricky and dangerous to get to.

From field reports we knew that there should be more populations of this species somewhere that we hadn't found yet. We also knew that the largest numbers, 695 birds, are of the *parvula* subspecies on Komodo and Rinca islands. This group has benefitted a great deal from the government protection that the Komodo Dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) has been granted, as well as from a national ban on trapping the cockatoos themselves.

In 2016 we received news that there were still a few Yellow-crested Cockatoos surviving on Moyo,

a tiny islet just north of Sumbawa in West Nusa Tenggara province. We usually don't get our hopes up until we assess the populations ourselves, but it was potentially good news as we thought that trapping had all but wiped out the species on this island.

The presence of other parrots like Forsten's Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus forsteni*) from Sumbawa in the birdmarkets in Bali and Java suggested that trapping was still commonplace. These lorikeets have been offered for sale for as little as \$19 USD. Cockatoos fetch a higher price, between \$120-\$230 USD, so trappers will not miss a chance to catch a few and make more money.

The plan for our 2017 trip was to re-survey Moyo Island to compare with the count carried out by Indonesia's Nature Conservation Agency (BKSDA). In 2016 they found 115 birds on Moyo Island and 30 birds on Sumbawa Island, for a minimum total population of

145 in the province of West Nusa Tenggara. Additionally, because illegal poaching of Yellow-crested Cockatoos is still believed to be occurring, we planned educational outreach efforts in selected villages likely to have some level of trapping activity on Moyo and Sumbawa Islands.



“Getting to Sumbawa was challenging - Bali and Lombok airports were closed because Mount Agung, on the island of Bali, was violently erupting.

So I took my motorbike, using the ferry to get from Bali to Lombok and from there to Sumbawa. It took an entire day and night to get there.”

~ Oka



Yellow-crested Cockatoos observed during a search at Kokar Turu

Once we finally arrived on Moyo, we began surveying the area with a couple of experienced local guides who had counted the cockatoos before with BKSDA.

We conducted surveys with two teams, one working from a boat to identify birds in trees within 100 metres of the shore, and a second trekking team that would enter the forest looking for roosting and nesting sites.

The two teams stayed in contact with handheld radios. There are no paved roads on Moyo Island, so the land-based team relied primarily on existing trails and dirt roads for access, and cleared thick brush to get to suspected nests and roosts.

Counting cockatoos and learning about trapping

We recorded a minimum of 95 Yellow-crested Cockatoos, with the largest group (76 birds) living on the western part of the island. An additional 19 birds were counted on the southern and southeastern portions of the island. The numbers between 2016 and 2017 showed that the population on Moyo is relatively stable, a vast improvement from a 1999 survey conducted by BirdLife international that found just 10 birds.

The increase to just over 100 birds now, 18 years later, is probably a result of the protections granted this species in 1993 and its

uplisting to CITES Appendix I in 2005. Unfortunately, illegal trapping still occurs. In the field, we found evidence - a nest tree with a telltale ladder pattern on its trunk, and on a large branch a leftover root and hook assembly was hanging close to the tree's cavity. The area around the base of the tree was cleared of brush and small trees, and the ground was dotted with discarded paper commonly used for rice wraps, the remains of a poacher's lunch.

Later, we interviewed a honey hunter who lived on the island. He told us that in addition to searching for the sticky-sweet prize he had also once taken cockatoo chicks to give to relatives on the Sumbawa mainland.



He also said that other honey gatherers sometimes saw the cockatoos in nests deep in the forest. That led us to believe that they might become trappers as well.

And if they did trap cockatoos, where would the birds end up? As it happens, there are no bird markets on Moyo or Sumbawa Islands. Birds trapped there probably make their way to markets in Bali, the Philippines, or Singapore. We visited markets in Bali and Lombok looking for cockatoos for sale and found none. That might be expected given the steep fines that would be incurred if a seller were caught.

It is likely that birds are captured and sold “on order”, so there is no advertising or marketing involved. Because of these findings we knew we had to step up the effort to help protect the cockatoos here. Hobbled

by budget shortfalls, the forestry department urgently needed backing for more programs to directly protect the cockatoos. They had already succeeded in hiring a few former poachers to begin protecting instead of taking the birds. Now, they needed to start educating more of the people, especially the children.

One obstacle we faced was that many Sumbawese believed that Yellow-crested Cockatoos were already extinct on Sumbawa and surrounding areas because of the cataclysmic Mt. Tambora eruption of 1815, which destroyed much of the flora and fauna of the island. Another assumption was that the cockatoos had been trapped completely out of the forests.

With this in mind, we began an awareness campaign in the primary

schools of two villages, Limung and Marente, on Sumbawa. In Marente village, near Jerewah Nature Sanctuary, there are still small flocks of cockatoos around, so the children could potentially see the birds they were learning about.

More villages were initially considered in the campaign, but in the end we avoided them because the locals were not open to receiving government-sponsored visitors - the BKSDA had recently arrested some residents there for deer poaching.

Reaching young, curious minds

Sixty-two enthusiastic children from Limung primary school took part in the interactive talks about the natural history and conservation needs of the Yellow-crested Cockatoo, jointly given



Above photos: Oka engages young children in protecting and cherishing their special cockatoo

by us and BKSDA. We left their teachers with field guides, notebooks and binoculars to further encourage their interest in bird watching and conservation. At Marente on Sumbawa we spoke to Samawa University students, high school students, junior high school students, local villagers, and the scouting community.

Included in the activities was a tree planting session, which was sponsored by a local Sumbawa biodiversity society (OASE). On Moyo Island, we trained a

number of villagers willing to act as bird guides and watchers. One session we had resulted in locals proudly spotting 16 cockatoos in the trees surrounding Kokar Turu. Through active participation, the people of Moyo and Sumbawa are now learning that their beautiful bird - the Yellow-crested Cockatoo - is a conservation priority, and that they can take part in protecting, benefitting from, and treasuring it.

Focusing on collaboration with local people and non-profit organisations could help Moyo Island become a

safe sanctuary for the cockatoos to begin to rebuild their populations. Supporting continuing education and other activities such as birding tourism, surveys, and anti-trapping patrols can go a long way in helping cockatoos, and people, too. □

- This project was made possible by the
- Mabel Dorn Reeder Conservation
- Endowment Fund at Atlanta Zoo and support from the World Parrot Trust.



© Lisa Desatnik

ARRANGING ANTECEDENTS

A positive approach to solving behaviour problems



by Lisa Desatnik, CPDT-KA, CPBC

For more than 18 years, I shared my home with a voracious chewer named Chester. He was an endearing soulmate who went with me to visit adults in a assisted care home, helped me mentor a young girl in need of a positive role model, and just kept me laughing — a lot.

That is, except for the time when I heard from my apartment office a loud **CRUNCH** coming from my dining room and quickly dropped the phone to run out and find a gaping hole in one of my dining room chairs...next to where Chester was standing.

Admittedly, I was furious. But when I was honest with myself, I knew the brunt of blame needed to be on me. After all, I often kept his cage door open when I was there, and he was simply an Alexandrian Ringneck who was looking for something to do, and something to chew on.

He had his — very strong — needs, and from his standpoint, that chair looked like a good option. So often we bring animals into our homes and then get frustrated with them

when they do things we do not like. We should realize, however, that they have needs just as we do. If we do not give them appropriate choices for getting their needs met, then they will come up with their own ideas...ones we may not like.

Antecedent Arrangement to the Rescue

Luckily for me, I had begun learning from Dr. Susan Friedman about Applied Behaviour Analysis, a systematic approach to solving behaviour problems by changing the environment in which the behaviour occurs, rather than focusing on changing the animal. It involves looking at the very specific behaviour and the related environmental context that surrounds it.

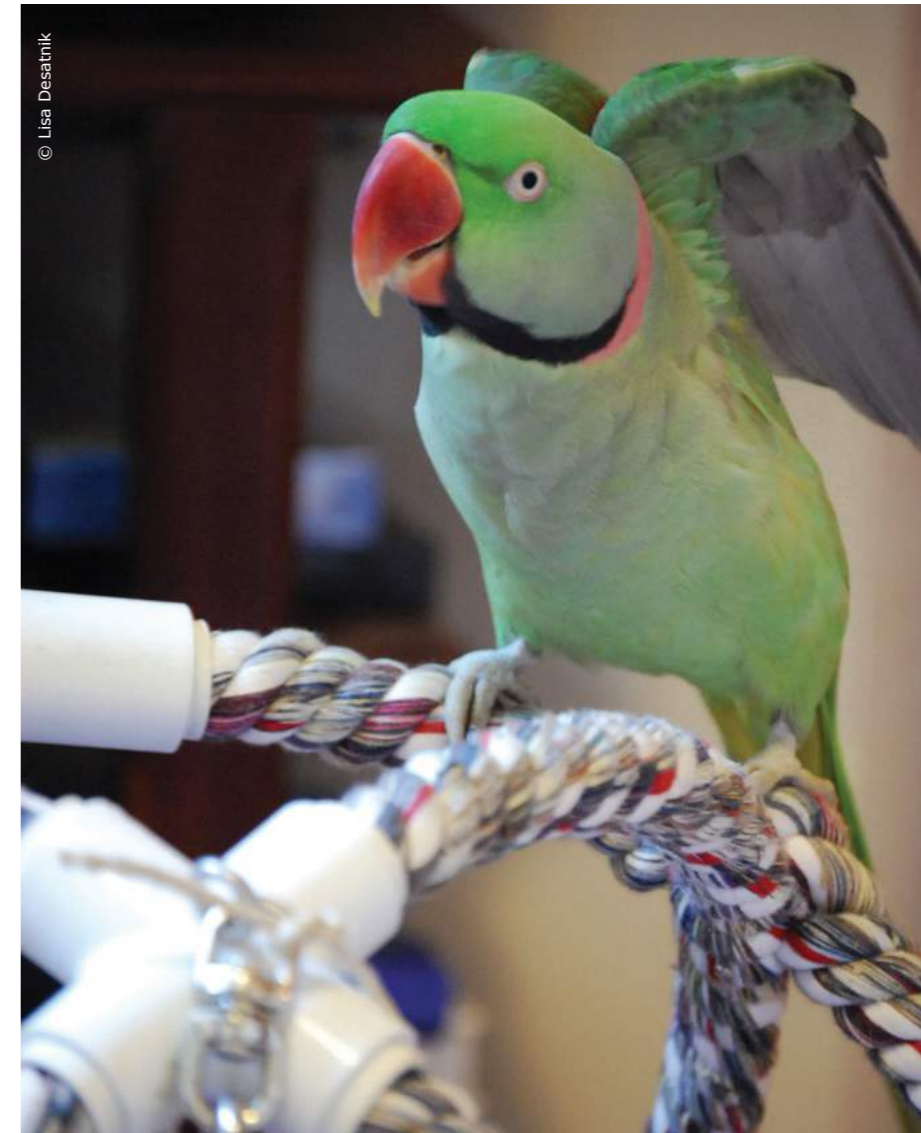
We ask, "What happened immediately before the behaviour to set it in motion (**the antecedent**) and what occurred immediately after the behaviour (**consequence**) to reinforce or punish it.

There are many circumstances where focusing on the antecedent *alone* can solve behaviour issues. It most certainly did in my case. When I bought my house (and a new dining room set), I was determined to set us up for success so as to avoid a repeat of having my furniture destroyed.

What did I do? In my case with Chester, the antecedents were his proximity to the furniture, his open cage door, and his lack of appropriate chew choices on his cage. I did a number of things. I did not want to keep his door closed, so I focused on placement of his cage and providing him with other enrichment opportunities.

I transformed one of my bedrooms into the bird room (I had two other birds, whom I still have, and also gave them a lot of enrichment options.) To lessen his motivation for seeking out furniture, every day I supplied him with A LOT of options for chewing in and around his cage.

He had rolled up phone books, cardboard boxes, chunks of wood, vegetables on skewers, and more. For the occasion that he would come off the floor (or I would put him on the floor when supervised), I made play stations for him. Chester loved a baby toy I found that is a mirror on wheels so I got him several of those and surrounded it with beads (which he also loved) and other things to keep his interest. Chester had so much to keep his interest on his cage that he rarely would come off, but in those circumstances where he would venture away, he immediately sought out one of his play stations.



© Lisa Desatnik

Far left and above: Chester, the author's companion of many years, takes a moment to consider a myriad of options for play.

His behaviour of chewing on furniture (and destroying my house) was successfully eliminated without any need for using negative reinforcement. And, his life was enriched in the process.

When Chester died in my arms, my loss was traumatic. He taught me so much about behaviour. One of those lessons was the importance of stopping the blame and looking for the most positive and humane solutions to behaviour problems. Sometimes those solutions are simply rearranging the environment to make the wanted behaviour the easiest and best choice for the animal. ☐

About the Author

Lisa Desatnik, CPDT-KA, CPBC, is a certified parrot behaviour consultant through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC), teaching the most positive and humane strategies for preventing and solving pet behaviour problems.

Follow her behaviour blog on her website at:
www.SomuchPETential.com.



Soaring the Skies Once Again

Encouraging results in the reintroduction of Scarlet
Macaws to Los Tuxtlas Reserve, Mexico

Article by: Patricia Escalante, Areli Arias, Diana Cortés and Esteban Cortéz
Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

“When you came to Catemaco the jungle was exuberant, and the most notorious animals were monkeys and macaws that crossed everywhere”, remarked Mr. William Schaldach Jr., a Catemaco resident naturalist who, over 50 years, had documented the birds of Los Tuxtlas, with a list of 565 species among residents, wintering, migratory and accidentals.

“The last record of the Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao cyanoptera*) in Los Tuxtlas Reserve was in 1975, when I watched a small group heading into the sunset from the Jicacal beach to the rainforest of the UNAM Biology Station,” recounts Félix Aguilar-Ortiz, biologist and ecotourism guide in Dos Amates, a small village 13km north of Catemaco.

Trapping for the pet market and habitat destruction caused the loss of the original population of these colourful and intelligent birds. From 1975 to 2014 they were not seen again, until the reintroduction project made its return thanks to the initiative of UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) and Xcaret Eco-Archeological Park, whose successful breeding program has produced hundreds of macaws.





Since 1998, Los Tuxtlas has been an ecological reserve with federal-level protection.

Within it there are privately protected sites, such as the Nanciyaga Ecological Reserve on the shores of Lake Catemaco. This 10-hectare rainforest, in addition to a neighbor's land, forms a 45-hectare continuous patch of forest that is supported by ecotourism and where the reintroduction project is based.

In 2014 we began transfers of captive-bred Scarlet Macaws from Xcaret. We now have three sites where we conduct soft releases: La Otra Opción, Reserva Ejidal Benito Juárez, and Nanciyaga.

In total seven groups of between 24 and 29 macaws each have been brought from Xcaret, and six groups have been released.

Nanciyaga was founded in 1986, and there we built our pre-release aviary and related facilities in 2014. We have a rustic cabin where we

house volunteers, young people who enthusiastically contribute their time to the project.

Areli Arias, DVM and Esteban Cortez, our local technician, awaken each day to a jungle chorus: chachalacas (a type of bird), howler monkeys, jays, and, of course, macaws. Then the morning chores begin: washing the aviary feeders and the external feeding stations that both the newly liberated and previously released macaws still use, and the food preparation and feeding. Only after these duties are completed can the team have their own breakfast.

During the day we observe the interactions between the wild birds and the new ones that are in the aviary, bring them branches for enrichment, and provide wild fruits that they will need to recognize once released, among many other duties.

The macaws' behaviours are recorded to keep track of both positive and negative interactions, using beak markings to identify

specific birds. The monitoring has proven vital more than once - one of the macaws became aggressive towards the other birds, injuring a female in the process. We have had to separate the injured bird briefly to allow her to heal before she can be released.

As of April 2018, 189 macaws have been moved, of which we have released 162. Thirty-one have been lost in four years, meaning a survival rate of 81%.

Happily, since the first release breeding behaviours have been observed: the birds went into the nest boxes we provided and were observed copulating.

They've also produced eggs, but we do not yet know if they are incubating them, or if they have had success in raising chicks. We will continue to place nest boxes to support them in their activities.



As with any project it is the individual stories that highlight the amazing lives of the participants. Here are a couple of our favourites.

FLYING RAY

Ray belongs to the 6th group of Scarlet Macaws that arrived in Los Tuxtlas. A few months ago, it was the day of her release, the time to get to know the forest and the joy of freedom. However, Ray had one problem: she was hesitant, even afraid, to fly.

Most of her companions flew without much difficulty to the outside feeding stations but she could not, and instead called out miserably to her companions. We tried a number of options to get her interested in flying, all to no avail.

So, we devised a little test for her to overcome: in a feeding station in a tree near the aviary, we placed a horizontal bamboo rod with which she could reach her daily breakfast. But it was still one metre away from her prize, and she needed to work that out.

The first time she walked the rod and arrived at the tip, turned her head several times as if examining

the situation, flapped her wings like she was preparing for the big flight, and stopped. That day she missed her breakfast.

The next day she walked across the bamboo rod, came right to the edge and...took her first small (big!) flight. We were delighted! She perfected her skills day by day until the bamboo rod finally fell.

The bridge that allowed her to overcome some of her fear was no longer there so she became distressed again, searching for a way to the platform through the nearest tree branches.

None seemed to be close enough.

Then, the next morning something unexpected happened. From the roof of the aviary she opened her wings, determined not to miss any more breakfasts, and bravely flew over to the feeding station! It was a beautiful flight, with only a small mishap in some bushes. She landed on the platform and ate with great joy, her efforts and determination finally paying off.

Now Ray flies from the roof to the station, where she eats everything she wants and then flies back to the aviary roof again. Sometimes she goes back and forth, as if she is training herself to be better, to perfect her flight, and to fly more and more. Ray is enjoying the flight that at some point caused her fear and is feeling the air of freedom touching her wings.

Ray has more challenges ahead. She'll need courage to fly away from the aviary, explore the forest, and fly over all the trees along with her companions, who each sunrise open their wings in celebration of the freedom of their new home.





© Patricia Escalante



© UNAM

© Aaron Legaspi

THE OWNERS OF THE AVIARY ROOF

Caco is twelve years old and Manuel three. They are two male macaws from the first group released in Nanciyaga in 2015, and both have developed an interesting approach to daily life.

Usually after release the macaws slowly move away from the aviary which was their home. Most of them return to hang out on their roof, make flights to the feeders, and come back to rest, groom and interact with the other macaws.

However, with one group we noticed that many macaws were not returning to the aviary, instead staying in the surrounding trees. We soon discovered the reason: a pair of big, burly male macaws were patrolling the roof, and any macaw that put even a claw on their turf were sent off very quickly!

They guard the edges of the roof along the entire perimeter, and if necessary, take to the air to chase "the intruders." Any resistance is met with pecking and mobbing. The pair even harass the new arrivals inside the aviary by attacking their

feet when they hang from the wire ceiling. The other macaws prefer not to fight so they leave.

Caco and Manuel celebrate their successes by clicking each other's beaks and calling back and forth. The two leave just to eat, at which point we observe some brave macaws returning to claim the roof. When Caco and Manuel return the others go away again; apparently the roof is the best cared-for place, 24 hours a day, all because of a pair of big, beautiful, determined macaws known as "the owners of the aviary roof."

Perhaps Don Caco—the person who made Nanciyaga's dream of preserving the rainforest possible and gave a safe home to many animals—would be proud to know that his namesake is still caring as much as he did.

In addition to the work and the birds' stories, the involvement and education of local people is vital to our success with the release project. Our team has made a strong commitment in this area, both in schools at all levels of education and in community meetings, and as a result the project has been

welcomed over time. Tourist service providers (hoteliers, restaurants, artisans, guides, fishermen and boatmen) are also encouraged by our progress.

It is our hope that visitors to the area will enjoy seeing the birds and then tell their friends about the experience, which will benefit the service providers, and the regional economy in general.

Most importantly, maybe this will help us protect these wonderful macaws. ☐



© Patricia Escalante

Special thanks to the organisations that have made our work possible:

- Tang, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bosque Antiguo AC, Defenders of Wildlife, Reserva de la Biosfera Los Tuxtlas (CONANP), and the World Parrot Trust.



ECOTOURISM

Responsible travel
supporting conservation

PHOTOS AND TRAVEL NOTES
© COREY RAFFEL

Ecotourism has evolved in the decades since it was first conceived — it has united conservation, communities and sustainable travel for the benefit of people and animals around the world. It has gone from being unregulated and somewhat unpredictable to, thanks to changing attitudes, a genuine and successful approach to help save wildlife and wild places.

The World Parrot Trust supports responsible ecotourism as a viable means to help protect both parrot habitat and populations. WPT has a number of supporters that are keen to back these in-country ventures, both for the conservation value and the chance to see wild parrots.

One of them — WPT friend Corey Raffel — shares with us his experiences visiting some extraordinary places that go a long way in helping make life better for parrots and the people who live with them.

"Lear's Macaws rest in the midday sun. They were very wary of our approach; this shot was taken at some distance."



"The Hyacinth Macaws were far more tolerant of our presence, and we were often able to get quite close..."

Travel Notes - Brazil:

A recent trip to Brazil was organised by Steve Brookes of *Wild Parrots Up Close* with the goal of seeing Lear's Macaws and Hyacinth Macaws. The Lear's macaws were very wary, and my most common photo is a rear view of these parrots flying away from me!

Fortunately, the Hyacinth Macaws were far more tolerant of our presence than the Lear's macaws. We were often able to get quite close and observe their activities for extended periods of time.

A Haven for Macaws

The Hyacinth Macaw is reportedly increasing in numbers and range in the Pantanal. I had assumed this was secondary to study of behaviour and subsequent appropriately targeted protection.

However, our tour guide Ricardo suggested that the reason related to changes in Brazil's laws regarding the harvest of caiman for the leather trade. Killing caiman for their skin has been outlawed, so there are now far fewer hunters out taking caiman.

These same hunters would also take young macaws from the nest to sell whenever then encountered a nest. Ricardo believes that the decrease in caiman poaching is in part responsible for the growth in the macaw population. This remarkable story of a beneficial, unexpected consequence of

wildlife protection demonstrates the wide ranging potential positive effects that can occur from a single conservation action.

We saw numbers of Hyacinth Macaws every day we were in the Pantanal... Although the birds [here] appear to be doing well, the two other separate Brazilian populations in east Amazonia and the Gerais are still decreasing, indicating the need for further conservation actions in these areas.

Gathering at Clay Licks

A separate trip took us to the Sani Lodge, in the Ecuadorian Amazon. It was a great place to visit, as it is run by the local Sani Kichwas people and is very environmentally savvy. Northern Mealy Amazons, Scarlet Macaws, Orange-cheeked Parrots and Cobalt-winged Parakeets can be

seen at a clay lick nearby. The clay licks at Sani Lodge included one that had mostly Mealy Parrots, and the "seep," where water flowed out of a hole at the bottom of a cliff.

The two great attractions of the lodges we stayed at were the clay licks and the canopy towers. The tower at the Sani lodge offered views of Mealy Parrots flying past, always in the distance and usually with low early morning light. The tower at the Cristalino Lodge (Brazil) offered White-bellied Parrots, Crimson-bellied Parakeets, and Blue-and-yellow, Red-and-green and Scarlet Macaws flying by.

Other lodges with great licks included the Tambopata Research Center and the Heath River Wildlife Center, both located in Peru. ☐



A lone Orange-cheeked Parrot (*Pyrrhula barrabandi*) amidst a flurry of Cobalt-winged Parakeets (*Brotogeris cyanoptera*)



White-eyed Conures (*Psittacara leucophthalma*) in flight

Scarlet Macaws (*Ara macao*) drink mineral-rich water at a clay lick



Sourcing Responsible Travel:

The International Ecotourism Society (TIES) is a global network of professionals, institutions and individuals helping to put environmental and socially accountable principles into practice within the ecotourism industry.

Links to TIES, *Wild Parrots Up Close*, *Parrot Lover's Cruise*, *Grey Parrot Excursions-Uganda* and others can be found on the WPT website at:

PARROTS.ORG > TAKE ACTION > ECO-TRAVEL



Cactus Conure (*Eupsittula cactorum*) enjoying local fruit

NEWS

A park in South Australia to house a cockatoo food garden



The Environmental Services Team in the city of Cockburn, South Australia, is creating a planted area devoted to the production of the Carnaby's Cockatoo's (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) favourite foods. The garden will be planted at Goodwill Park in Atwell, a neighbourhood in Cockburn, and will feature *Banksia*, *Hakea* and *Callistemon* tree varieties beneath a canopy of marri and larger trees. Following these, several mature macadamia, pecan and *Tipuana* trees will be planted. The park already contains mature pines that the cockatoos feed in, and the added trees will attract other wildlife. Officials hope that local residents will be inspired to plant these species in their own suburban gardens.

Read more:
tinyurl.com/yavsuvd8

Philippine bird trade targets Indonesian species

In a joint operation by the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Trade of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and the National Bureau of Investigations, hundreds of threatened Indonesian animals were discovered on March 12th hidden in a Philippine home. Over 300 birds and mammals, most of which were likely destined for the pet trade, were thought to be from the island of New Guinea (Papua province of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea). Of the four men arrested in the raid one had a prior record of illegal possession and trading of wildlife.

Among the animals seized were Sulphur-crested Cockatoos (*Cacatua galerita triton*), Moluccan Cockatoos (*Cacatua moluccensis*), Palm Cockatoos (*Probosciger aterrimus*), and other parrots such as Black-capped Lorries (*Lorius lory*), and Desmarest's Fig-parrots (*Psittaculirostris desmarestii*).

Read more:
tinyurl.com/y8submz2

The tragedy of America's only endemic parrot, now extinct for 100 years



Exactly one hundred years ago this past February, the last captive Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*) died at Cincinnati Zoo. Scientists aren't entirely certain what caused the species' demise, but recent research using written records and museum skins has helped a group of scientists find out that the birds' range was much smaller than previously thought, and how studies into extinctions can support conservation actions in the present.

Read more:
tinyurl.com/y9dxukm5

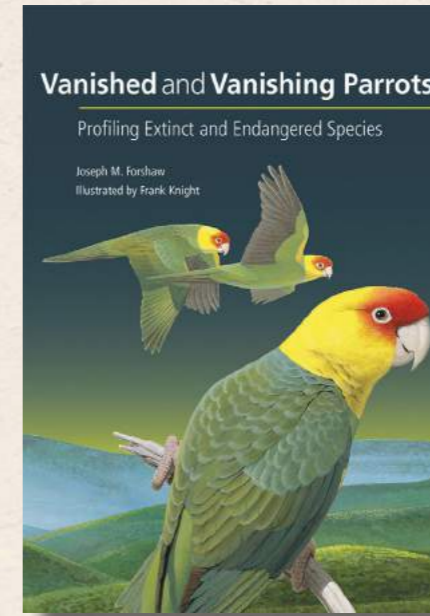
BOOK REVIEW

Vanished and Vanishing Parrots: Profiling Extinct and Endangered Species

By Joseph M. Forshaw.
Illustrated by Frank Knight.

Reviewed by: WPT Staff

Highly anticipated for those of us who have learned much from his previous books, Forshaw's latest volume, *Vanished and Vanishing Parrots: Profiling Extinct and Endangered Species*, is a thorough overview of selected endangered and extinct parrots. This is not an all-encompassing review of vulnerable and endangered parrots, but rather a reference with fewer and much more researched and expanded entries.



The introduction about the threats to parrots addresses issues many of us might not consider, such as biological attributes (ie: large body size and consequent vulnerability to hunting; naturally small range, etc), and the relatively new (*read: unstudied*) but suspected threat of climate change on psittacines. Next is a compelling fossil history by Walter Boles, PhD of Australian Museum, that traces parrots as far back as the Eocene, pointing out fossil evidence found in what is now western Europe, India and North America, to name a few.

The species profiles follow, broken out by region (ie: Australasian Distribution). Here Forshaw delves deeply into his subjects, which are further enhanced by Frank Knight's accurate and helpful illustrations. At the end of the volume the 'references cited' section contains a long list of papers for those adventurous enough to keep researching.

Overall a remarkably detailed book, one to keep serious parrot students occupied for a long time.

Get your copy from Cornell University Press:
www.cornellpress.cornell.edu



10th Annual Parrot Lovers Cruise
November 9 - 17, 2018: Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao

Imagine cruising crystal blue waters while experiencing some of the most magical sightseeing in the world! Join fellow parrot lovers aboard the Royal Princess for eight days of enlightening seminars and exciting excursions visiting a variety of stunning locations, all while supporting parrot conservation. Don't miss out - contact Carol Cipriano to book your cabin today.

Book today!
✉ carolstraveltime@gmail.com
☎ 1-510-200-5665 (USA)

PARROTLOVERSCRUISE.COM

WPT CONTACTS

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: (1) 250 766 7828
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
- Indonesia: Oka Dwi Prihatmoko
indonesia@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 Zagarra
centralamerica@parrots.org
- Sweden: Maria Rogstadius
sweden@parrots.org

ACCESS PAST ISSUES AT: PSITTASCENE.ORG
English, Dutch, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish

PARROTS IN THE WILD:
Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*)

A Scarlet Macaw drinks deeply at a clay lick seep at the Sani ecoLodge in Ecuador. Their numbers are on the decline due to habitat loss and heavy trapping; there are between 20,000 and 50,000 individuals left in the wild.

Photo © **Corey Raffel**

