



THE WPT 12

Twelve parrot species

that highlight the threats to all parrots and all of nature



In its twelve year history the World Parrot Trust has been able to help fund conservation work for 37 species in 22 'parrot range' countries such as Australia, Brazil, Mauritius, South Africa. It has formed support groups in 13 countries and won thousands of members among thoughtful people in the global 'parrot community'. In all its activities the interests of parrots – not people – are paramount.

WPT has now chosen twelve species to illustrate the reasons why PARROTS NEED HELP to survive in the wild. With one exception, the parrots shown here are included in the 90 species given priority in the Parrot Action Plan, a vital document published by IUCN, the World

Conservation Union. This global plan was progressed and largely funded by the World Parrot Trust.

Please study these twelve birds, each of which has a brief updated status report. Every one of these parrots has received support from WPT, but much more is needed. We suggest that individual members, bird clubs or zoos might like to select a particular favourite and raise funding to help ensure its survival in the wild. This is a golden opportunity for WPT members to participate directly in the future prospects of a particular parrot species. *PsittaScene* will list all donations received for The WPT 12.



Lear's Macaw Photo: M. Reynolds
Numbers reduced to around 150 by trapping for collectors. Also threatened by shortage of palm fruits, its primary food source, and shooting by farmers. WPT funds research and protection activities by BioBrasil, an effective Brazilian NGO.



Echo Parakeet Photo: L. Woolover
At last, a success story! This Mauritian species was reduced to about 12 individuals, but Carl Jones and his team have used their exceptional skills to bring numbers back to well over 100 and climbing. WPT has funded this work since 1990, providing over US\$150,000.

Golden Conure Photo: K. Ewart
Threatened by loss of habitat and trapping for the domestic and international pet trade. Its nesting and roosting trees are being logged, it needs the purchase of key areas to help it survive. WPT is working with Dr. Carlos Yamashita, aided by the 'Golden Conure Survival Fund' which has now raised over US\$25,000 for this species.



African Grey Parrot Photo: R. Low
Although not globally threatened by IUCN criteria, the Trust believes its ruthless trapping and exporting from West Africa will lead to the extirpation of this species throughout much of its range in the near future. Enforcing existing protected areas and eliminating unsustainable trade in this species are both desperately needed.



Great Green Macaw Photo: S. Winter
Numbers reduced to double figures in Costa Rica and extinct in much of its historic range. This bird relies on the large Almendro tree for nesting and these vital trees are being logged out. WPT is supporting solid conservation work in Costa Rica which is supervised by Dr. George Powell. WPT's 'Great Green Macaw Fund' has now raised over US\$15,000 for this species.



Palm Cockatoo Photo: R. Low
Much sought after in aviculture, this remarkable bird is heavily trapped and traded in and around New Guinea, both for illegal export and for internal Indonesian markets. WPT is funding basic biological research on this little known species in Cape York, Australia and has recently launched the 'Palm Cockatoo Conservation Fund' with plans to support future conservation work in New Guinea.

St. Vincent Amazon Photo: M. Reynolds
This spectacular bird, like all Caribbean *Amazona*, is regarded as globally threatened by the IUCN. Another conservation success story, its numbers are up to around 800, but support is still needed to restore degraded habitat. WPT has provided veterinary help, funds to carry out surveys, and aviary construction.



Kakapo Photo: D. Merton
Officially listed as 'extinct in the wild', the Kakapo is one of the most remarkable birds on Earth. Only 62 remain, carefully tended and bred by the NZ Department of Conservation on off-shore islands. WPT has provided veterinary input to the programme.



Imperial Amazon Photo: M. Reynolds
Found only on the island of Dominica in the West Indies. Imperial numbers hover near 100 individuals. A new National Park has just been created, and this will be a great help to the Imperial's survival. WPT contributed towards the land purchase cost of this new park and intends to follow through with support of conservation action to aid the recovery of this critically endangered bird.



Red-throated Lorikeet Picture: D. Watling
This is a mysterious bird from Fiji, hardly seen for a century, but with recent reports of flocks of 2 to 6 birds. WPT is working with the Fiji National Trust to organise and fund research, and help to protect the five parrot species there.

Hyacinth Macaw Photo: WPT
The most desired bird in aviculture, this beautiful macaw has been reduced in the wild from around 30,000 to no more than 5,000 in thirty years. Recent work to protect foraging and breeding areas is helping and ecotourism to see the wild Hyacinths is doing wonders for their protection. WPT's 'Hyacinth Fund' has supported this conservation work for many years, but now needs new funding to continue.



Moluccan Cockatoo Photo: WPT
One of the most beautiful cockatoos, the Moluccan is threatened by domestic and international trade as well as widespread habitat destruction. Supporting the innovative work of Project Bird Watch, the Trust is encouraging a program to protect cockatoo habitat by harvesting and exporting Molucca Nuts – a delicious and nutritious treat for birds and their human companions alike.



Parrot Society of Los Angeles Trip

The 2001 PSLA Brazil Trip was a tremendous success. The Group visited Hyacinth Cliffs, the Gabriel's Valley and enjoyed themselves observing some 50 Hyacinth Macaws in the Hyacinth Valley. Red-bellied Macaws, Green-winged, and Janday Conures. Many other representatives of Cerrado avifauna had been frequently observed by the group. Subsequently we visited Fazenda Serra Branca in which BioBrasil Foundation carries a conservation project on Lear's Macaws, which is being sponsored by The World Parrot Trust. The Parrot Society of Los Angeles granted us with funds for the whole improvement of Hyacinth Valley, which includes the purchase of a generator, the construction of a water-well and landscaping at the lodge area. The 2002 PSLA Brazil Trip is scheduled for next June. One can obtain more information by accessing www.parrotsocietyoflosangeles.org

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Thanks for Golden Conure Print

Dear Mr Hacking

We just purchased your Golden Conure print from the WPT, and I must say that it is the most



Hyacinth Macaws from Parrot Society of L.A. Trip.

Photo: Gil Serique



Hyacinth Macaws feeding on fallen Licuri Palm nuts.

Photo: Gil Serique

brehtaking parrot print that I have ever seen. I am anxious to get it mounted and hung on the wall where everyone can see it. We have a Golden Conure, and her name is Hanna, and she is the most loveable little girl that we have. I just wanted to let you know how much we love this piece of work that you did, and I am happy that our purchase is helping the Golden Conures.

A parrot lover,
Chris Posey

New Fiji Project needs Help

In November, Kirsty Swinnerton will be setting out to do a survey of the Red-throated Lorikeet *Charmosyna amabilis* on Fiji and other islands. Kirsty is well known for her long term work with the Echo Parakeet and Pink Pigeon teams on Mauritius. This survey will take a minimum of three months, and the majority of the funding will be provided by the

World Parrot Trust.

One of the major expenses is the necessary purchase of two Suzuki TS 185ER or Yamaha trail bikes, one for Kirsty and one for her Fijian colleague. These cost about £1,600 each, and we would be most grateful for any contributions towards this part of the budget. This is a most exciting project, seeking to establish the present status of this mysterious little lorikeet. Here's a chance to play an active part in it.



New Trustee for WPT

The board of trustees of WPT has appointed a new trustee, Glenn Reynolds (USA). Glenn (no relation to other Reynolds's in the UK) has been working tirelessly for the trust for four years, and has been responsible for setting up and running our successful Golden Conure Survival Fund. He is now working on our Great Green Macaw Fund, and keeps a busy schedule of talks to bird clubs about WPT's activities.

WPT-UK and WPT-USA are separate charities, but we have appointed the same list of trustees to both of them, so as to ensure that they work together effectively. The

trustees (directors in the USA) are as follows: Mike Reynolds, Audrey Reynolds, Andrew Greenwood, David Woolcock, Alison Hales, Victoria Ewart, Nick Reynolds (all UK), Charles Munn, Steve Martin, Glenn Reynolds (all USA), Cristiana Senni (Italy).

Eastern Ground Parrots still out west

From 'WINGSPAN' Vol 11, No 1, March 2001 the membership magazine of Birds Australia.

Eight Eastern Ground Parrots have been 'rediscovered' near Nelson on the Vic. -South Australian border. In a survey in October 2000 initiated by the Portland Field Naturalists Club and co-ordinated by the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), birds were heard calling at late dusk. Andy Govanstone of NRE reports: 'It was extremely pleasing to find the birds here again. With populations in trouble in most places on the mainland, particularly at the margins of their range - for instance they are almost certainly extinct in South Australia, and there are no recent records from the Otways - we feared we may have lost them from the western edge of their range.'

It's good that the birds were located within the Discovery Bay Coastal Park, so we can work on appropriate management regimes for fire and feral predators. We are also looking forward to follow-up surveys to determine the full extent of this isolated population.