

PSITTAScene

Magazine of the WORLD PARROT TRUST



Spring 2020



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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. Over that time WPT has led or aided conservation and welfare projects in 43 countries for more than 70 species of parrot.

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

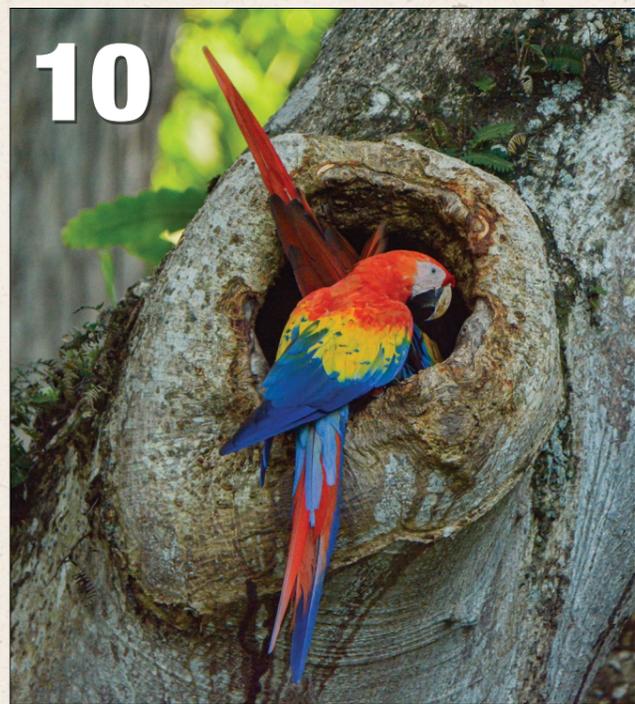
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ON THE COVER

The Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Zanda funerea*) is a resident of SE Australia and Tasmania. These birds are reliant on *Eucalyptus* woodland for breeding.

Their numbers are declining in some areas due to habitat loss, but in general their wild population is considered stable.

Photo © Beth Baisch | Dreamstime.com



A message from the Editor

As we all head into the unknown this year we at the World Parrot Trust hope that you, your families and your friends are all staying as healthy as possible. We're monitoring the COVID-19 situation closely as it unfolds and doing everything we can to ensure our colleagues and field teams remain well and able to continue to help the parrots of the world.

Many of you are also wondering - is my bird safe? The short answer is yes, it appears this particular strain of the coronavirus cannot be transmitted to or from our parrot companions. So please, continue seeking comfort from your feathered friends. We could all use their love more than ever right now.

In the meantime, the vital work of the WPT goes on. At our partner Macaw Mountain Bird Park and Nature Reserve, many new things are afoot - and ten years on, Scarlet Macaws are flourishing. On other continents, a group of Grey Parrots has entered a new chapter upon arrival at the WPT's Kiwa Centre in the United Kingdom, and parrots rehabilitated from the wildlife trade finally go free on Morotai in Indonesia. A lab biologist takes a walk on the wild side in the field, and a beloved companion Eclectus Parrot survives a difficult illness.

We hope all of these positive stories provide an inspiring balm for everyone.

Take care,



Desi

Desi Milpacher
WPT Publications Editor

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR PARROTS

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo © Keith Lightbody



What will be your legacy?

By including the World Parrot Trust in your will, trust or beneficiary designation, you are creating a personal legacy that will have a lasting impact for parrots and the places where they live.

For more information about including WPT in your planned giving opportunities, visit www.parrots.org/legacy, or contact the branch nearest to you (see page 19.)

KIWA CENTRE WELCOMES GREYS

...after a series of unfortunate events

by Desi Milpacher and David Woolcock



Opposite page and above: At long last - the Greys settle into their new home.

On January 31, fifty endangered Grey Parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) that had been confiscated by European authorities arrived at the World Parrot Trust's Kiwa Centre in the United Kingdom. They are there to receive expert care & flight exercise while options for their long-term care and future are explored.

It was the end of an episode that included proceedings in court, subterfuge on the part of an actor with an erroneous claim to the birds, and action by authorities and experienced animal transporters to see that the birds finally got to the home they deserved.

The Greys were originally confiscated in Hungary and Bulgaria in 2014. Following legal proceedings that assigned ownership of the parrots to the two governments, the WPT was asked to assist in their relocation.

In 2016, the birds were sent for what was to be a temporary stay at a private French facility, where they were well-cared for. It was while the birds were in the country that things took a turn.

A claim of ownership of the Greys was made by a separate individual (not the facility holder) and it went from there, with the subject eventually staging an unauthorised removal from the private facility to a zoo in Pont Scorff in northern France, against the direction of CITES and the authorities of the countries involved. Hungarian and Bulgarian authorities requested the Greys be moved to the Kiwa Centre (*see sidebar*) to be in the custody (not ownership) of the WPT.

The French and UK governments also supported the move. WPT then planned for and enlisted the help of internationally approved and experienced animal transporters from the UK to carry out the transfer of the birds. On January 27th the transport team left for France in a van packed with 62 carriers and the equipment required to safely catch and handle the birds.

Once through the Eurotunnel and across the border they arrived at Calais for the night, and after a further 420 miles the next day the team arrived at Lorient. Early on the 29th they had a meeting at the Gendarmerie Pont Scorff with the French Police Enforcement Team, all seven of whom were officers

from the OFB (Office Francais de la Biodiversite), plus a team of Gendarmes and a veterinarian.

There then followed a briefing on the planned operation where the animal transport team and the veterinarian team were officially sworn in to assist with what was to be a legal seizure of the Greys. Afterward, the officers and transport team arrived at the Zoo de Pont Scorff at a quarter of ten.

Two pairs of enforcement officers were positioned at each of the exits to the zoo, while three others entered the grounds and served papers for the seizure. The transport team was asked to remain in the van until summoned by the lead Gendarme.

They were left waiting for four hours. At length the lead enforcement officer came out and explained that the individual and his lawyer had put forward a legal challenge to the WPT's custody claim of the Grey Parrots. As was the law in France this claim had to be fully investigated and because of this, the transport team weren't able to move the birds that day. At this point the subject also made a complaint about the transport carriers' suitability, even though he had not seen them. After the transport team produced appropriate IATA (International Air Transport Association, which also applies to road transportation) crate specification documents this assertion was quickly dismissed

by legal authorities. The transport team was being made to perform a delicate and unpleasant dance as they were not permitted into the zoo grounds, were dealing with accusations and delays, and were left wondering what would happen next. And worse, it was looking like the birds were going to be put through the unnecessary stress of extra handling thanks to the individual in question.

Later that day the WPT was asked to make a lengthy statement to the Gendarmerie, which was then submitted to the prosecutor charged with examining the evidence. Nothing more could be done until the next day. The following day the antagonist and his lawyer



Watch video online →

See how the parrots are enjoying their new surroundings at the Kiwa Centre!

Go online to view:

www.tinyurl.com/kiwa-greys

made several hours of representation at the Gendarmerie claiming legal ownership of the birds and not until that was completed could the prosecutor make his decision. Throughout this period the animal transport team and the vet had no option but to wait. Eventually the prosecutor ruled in favour of the WPT and the animal transport team, together with the vet and the officers from the OFB, went back to the zoo at 4.30pm.

The Enforcement Officers served the subject (and a mob of his supporters) with the prosecutor's decision, prompting a loud and verbal altercation. The Enforcement Officers had called for reinforcements from the Gendarmerie (20 in all by then), but the transport team was shaken by the events. After the individual refused to give access to the Greys an officer, who clearly meant business, produced an impressive pair of bolt-

cutters to hurry the process along. The unruly group finally acquiesced. It was only then that the now-rattled and exhausted transport team were able to catch and examine the birds and carry them on their way. It was certainly not a battle the WPT and its partners expected: parrots being rescued from trade and then having to be re-rescued because of a lack of insight into the birds' true needs.

The WPT and its partners have been providing ongoing guidance and support to the birds, which have always belonged to the countries which confiscated them, not to the individuals, zoos, and charities doing their best to provide them with supportive care. The participating organisations and governments have all simply played supporting roles to ensure their survival, rehabilitation and hopefully one day, under IUCN reintroduction guidelines, repatriation back to Africa where they belong. 📍

Sincere thanks go to the French CITES Management Authority Team, the officers of the OFB, Officers of the Pont Scorff Gendarmerie, Specialist Wildlife Services, and Faune Vets.

About the Kiwa Centre

The Kiwa Centre, founded and built by the WPT and a generous donor, was created for the purpose of providing a home for parrots seized from wildlife trade and welfare emergencies. Governments in Europe had indicated to the WPT that a lack of infrastructure existed for them to handle emergency seizures, making care for these birds difficult if not impossible. The first birds sent to the centre were from a severe neglect situation in the UK (see 'Kiwa: The Story of a Macaw Rescue,' *PsittaScene Autumn 2018*).

The WPT was able to move the Grey Parrots from France specifically because this facility now exists to enable their long-term care in safe and enriched surroundings. The centre will continue to fulfill its mission to provide a home for future rescued birds as requested by CITES and government authorities.

UPDATE FROM THE FIELD:

FREEDOM: CONFISCATED PARROTS GO BACK TO THE WILD ON MOROTAI

By Mehd Halaouate, WPT Indonesia Program Manager

FIGHTING THE WILDLIFE TRADE in Indonesia is an ongoing and complex effort, one that the World Parrot Trust is committed to for the long term.

Our in-country staff has been working with North Maluku's forestry office and rescue centre for a few years now, trying to lessen the effects of trade on parrots in the region. Overall we're hopeful about being able to help more of these distressed birds, as we've been providing parrot care and husbandry training for the rangers making the confiscations, teaching them about the differences in subspecies so that recovered birds can be released back to their proper islands, and showing them how to recognise sick birds and provide treatment for them. We've also been providing funding to help in the day-to-day care of the birds in many confiscation cases.

In September of 2019, 49 Chattering Lorries (*Lorius garrulus*), 15 White Cockatoos (*Cacatua alba*), 11 Moluccan Eclectus (*Eclectus roratus*) and 10 Violet-necked Lorries (*Eos squamata*) were seized by officials. A month later, after we visited the centre where the birds were being kept and held discussions with the head of Forestry, we decided that larger enclosures were needed, and more of them. In the end, the cages were designed

so they could be dismantled and be used again at the different locations where the birds would finally be released. It was also important to separate any new arrivals from the recovering birds, and subspecies from each other, so that they could be observed and screened for disease.

After the required health checks were done we were relieved to see that 30 of the Chattering Lorries (*ssp. morotaianus*) and six of the Eclectus (*ssp. vosmaeri*) were cleared for release into the wild on Morotai Island in North Maluku. The World Parrot Trust worked closely with local authorities to plan for the event, which occurred on February 4, 2020.

A plan was developed to monitor the forest patch where the birds were set free, in an effort to deter trapping. In an encouraging show of support to protect the parrots and other wildlife that still thrive on the island, the release was attended by villagers and dignitaries from the area. The remaining birds from the confiscation continue to do well, with the hope they will be released to their appropriate areas soon. 📍



Chattering Lorries and Moluccan Eclectus wing their way to freedom. © BKSDA Ternate

MACAW MOUNTAIN

Scarlet Macaw conservation in Honduras hits its stride

by Lloyd Davidson - Managing Director, Macaw Mountain; President, PRO-ALAS

It has been several years since we contributed to *PsittaScene* about the Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*) releases in Copán Ruinas, Honduras (See *Sacred Valley of the Macaws, PsittaScene Winter 2015*). What follows describes changes that have occurred in the program itself and in the direction of our future efforts.

We have the advantage of a major Mayan ruins and World Heritage Site location for the liberations that is replete with macaw glyphs, stunning macaw sculptures, a founder named K'inich Yax K'uk' Mo' (Resplendent Quetzal-Macaw) and visited by 80,000+ Hondurans each year. This is our "Marketing Office" and over the last 10 years it has managed to popularize the program throughout the country as visitors to the site return home with their stories and photos - the impact both locally and nationally has been surprising.

We now have had six releases in the Copán valley and with an increasing number of yearly births, the group of Scarlet Macaws flying free exceeds 70 individuals.

The Scarlet Macaw is the National Bird of Honduras, but the personal encounters with the noisy flock at the archaeological site has popularized their image all around the country in advertising, murals, tourism promotions and more.

The macaws are now integrated into the Copán Ruinas community, and their presence has had a significant impact here. The 870km² "Sacred Valley of the Scarlet Macaw" is now a legally declared protected area for the birds in four municipalities, and the town has created a "Guacamaya Fest" which grows yearly in size and enthusiasm.



From a pessimistic start 10 years ago when the locals thought it unlikely they could survive here in freedom, the macaws are proving themselves as cherished and increasingly influential members of the community.

Almost six years ago we began a second re-introduction effort with the Scarlets on a private island off the northern coast. The Copán releases had been successful enough to make us feel that we had developed a "model" that could work elsewhere. We were concerned at the time that the wild Scarlet population in the remote Honduran Moskitia was under serious threat from continued trafficking, habitat destruction, and agricultural encroachment. On a visit to assess the condition of a resident population of Yellow-naped Amazons on the island, it occurred to WPT's Jamie Gilardi that "this could be the most secure piece of land in Central America."

We had been discussing the need for a reserve population of Scarlets to counter the continuing loss of wild birds and this, with the island owner's full cooperation, became a reality. After seven releases over six

years there are now more than 70 Scarlet Macaws flying about the island, nesting and producing chicks for the future.

CHANGES IN DIRECTION

The apparent success of the macaw releases in Copán and the Bay Islands has led to growing interest in similar efforts elsewhere in the country. This has oriented our thinking more in an outreach direction and has demanded that we improve government/political connections and assistance as well as exterior sources of funding. We were fortunate in being able to establish connections with the Ministers of important government departments who had experienced the macaws in Copán and looked favorably on our efforts.

This led to two meetings with the President Juan Orlando Hernandez, who has for several years had a group of 10 Scarlets flying free from his property. He is enthusiastic about the potential of the macaws as an environmental tool and game-changer and has designated six sites he hopes to extend the releases to. He hopes we can establish "The Route of the

Guacamayas" across the northern part of the country, connecting natural areas in a conservation project with obvious benefits for the country's tourism sector.

As a private sector effort Macaw Mountain has limits on outside funding and international cooperation so we have registered an NGO, "PRO-ALAS" (*"PRO-WINGS" in Spanish*) to conduct projects outside of Copán, and in the future perhaps in neighboring countries. Its mission will be defined by "The Four R's" – Rescue, Rehabilitation, Reproduction, and Release, with education being an important component. The NGO will interact with the government on planning and permitting issues and will be able to accept financial help from them and abroad.

Should Honduras actively participate in the projects with PRO-ALAS as they intend, it would be a first.





Above: A wild pair perches in an artificial nest box.
Lower left: A chick gets a weight check as part of its health exam.
Far right, upper: A couple inspects a natural cavity.
Far right, lower: Macaws fly free amongst the ruins.
 All photos © PRO-ALAS



Normally governments simply give a “Yes or No” on the project and observe as the NGO does all the heavy lifting. In another unique step, the Honduran Army has formed an Environmental Brigade (C-9) to actively intervene in instances of habitat destruction and animal trafficking. We hope to work closely as they alone can exert authority in the remote Honduran Moskitia, still a lawless zone but critically important for its wild populations of both Scarlet and Great Green Macaws.

PRO-ALAS will utilize the already established facilities, experience, and accumulated expertise of Macaw Mountain in the practical rehabilitation and flight training aspects of re-introduction. While initial public efforts will focus on Scarlet Macaws we will continue working on behalf of and releasing a wide variety of Central American parrots, toucans, and raptors.

To significantly expand the release program across Honduras, and eventually other parts of Central America, we must significantly increase the number of available macaws. Our experience has been that donations and confiscations by wildlife authorities yield only about 30-40% of flight-capable macaws. With luck an additional 20% may eventually become part of a breeding pair that produces fliers, but the rest are long-term care candidates.

To help encourage breeding we have thus far relied on a combination of tree-mounted nests in the valley and an increasing number of breeding pairs in “apartments” built onto the larger aviaries at Macaw Mountain. Five years ago we had ten Scarlet chicks hatch annually but this has increased steadily

to 32 in 2019. While positive, it is not sufficient for aggressive re-introduction programs countrywide. We are working on two options; one, to establish a breeding center at the bird park with incubators, brooders, and trained personnel to maximize the output of our 12-15 aviary pairs and two, a cooperative agreement we have with “Experiencias Xcaret”, a sophisticated tourism operation in Mexico’s Yucatan with the world’s most productive breeding program of *Ara macao cyanoptera*. They wish to expand their release programs in a responsible fashion and we have a track record of successful releases

that could help. Mexico currently prohibits exporting Scarlets but the issue has been discussed by the Honduran and Mexican Presidents and a positive outcome seems a long term possibility. Such international cooperation to re-establish an iconic species across suitable portions of its former range would set a regional precedent. Our program could rapidly accelerate with this large input of health-checked, micro-chipped, 100% flighted macaws.

The past several years brought significant changes to Macaw Mountain’s programs and possibilities. At first we were just hoping to create a chance for the macaws of

Honduras to increase their numbers and likelihood of survival. Although the Mayans knew they were very special, we underestimated the impact that groups of these spectacular, screaming birds can have on those in their flight path. Normally all activity is suspended, everyone looks skyward until they pass, and everyone carries that moment with them. It now seems that the initiative has passed to the Scarlets and we are scrambling to keep up with the possibilities they are creating.

In Copán Ruinas they have captivated the community, created their own “Sacred Valley”, now have their own festival, and have increased both

the town’s tourism and the bird park’s reputation. In Honduras their presence is sought across the country, they are becoming an icon and powerful tool of conservation here, they have the attention of Ministers and Presidents, and it seems they intend to lead all this countrywide and beyond. Macaw Mountain, now with the help of PRO-ALAS, is trying to keep pace! 📷



Learn how you can help support the Scarlets of Macaw Mountain by visiting their website: www.macawmountain.org

TWO SIDES: A LAB BIOLOGIST GOES WILD

by Carlos I. Campos

"Hot and humid. I can handle it," I kept telling myself as my flight approached its destination – the city of Tapachula in Chiapas, Mexico. As we landed, I began to mentally prepare myself for five weeks spent in the Central American summer.

Up to this point, I never had any true field work experience. All my previous conservation work was lab-based. Yet here I was, about to embark on one of the most exciting and rewarding ventures of my career as a conservation biologist.

My background in conservation biology came from a research experience I had while I was an undergraduate at New Mexico State University working in the lab of Dr. Tim Wright. For two years I studied the extent of population differentiation and amount of genetic diversity in the critically endangered Blue-throated Macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*) in Bolivia, a project supported by the World Parrot Trust.

This was my first experience with research and my first experience with animal conservation. It turned out to be a career-defining moment for me and I now aim to pursue a PhD. in conservation genetics. Throughout my entire undergraduate project, I did nothing but lab work. I spent my days in an air-conditioned building performing DNA extractions from blood samples taken from nestlings to find out how genetically diverse the population was, and how it was structured.

I enjoyed the order and the solitude of lab work but also experienced my fair share of setbacks. During

my first semester working on this project, we ran into a few issues with missing data on sample location, collection date, and specimens that could not be used due to the fact that we could not successfully isolate and copy the area of DNA we needed for analysis. I learned the importance of data collection and sample management in the field through these struggles in the lab.

However, I also understood that this is not always as simple as it seems.

In addition to data management issues, I also had to deal with statistical issues that are common when working on the population genetics of an endangered species. Endangered species are often found in small, fragmented populations that may be suffering from the negative effects of inbreeding due to a lack of genetic diversity in the population. Samples are often collected non-randomly, from the few nests that can still be found. These circumstances – which are things that we are often trying to better understand with your research– often contradict the assumptions about the data that many statistical software programs make before performing an analysis. Even with the setbacks I encountered, I was able to finish my undergraduate research and write up my thesis in time to graduate.

I fell in love with lab work and conservation during my two years working on the Blue-throated Macaw project and I wanted to continue my work in conservation. After graduating, I was offered



a chance to get conservation field work experience during the summer. It was a different side of the conservation work that I had grown passionate about so I jumped on it. I was nervously excited for my first field work experience.

My job was to assist Molly Dupin, a master's student from our lab, in performing nest counts and vocal recordings of the endangered Yellow-naped Amazon (*Amazona auropalliata*) throughout their population range in Central America, with the support of the World Parrot Trust. We planned to survey hotspots for Yellow-naped Amazon sightings around Tapachula, throughout the Pacific slopes of Guatemala, and the Caribbean island of Roatan, Honduras. I was excited for the challenge and the prospect of being involved first-hand in a conservation effort in the field.

However, the first week we spent in Mexico I was convinced we were never going to see a Yellow naped-Amazon. We saw nothing in the spots around Tapachula that we had marked to visit. Even after driving through every side road we could find and seeing plenty of suitable habitats we saw and heard nothing. It wasn't until we visited the small community of Aztlán that we saw our first Yellow-nape roosts.



Top: Entrance to the national park. © Carlos Campos.
Middle: Cashew processing operation in Aztlán. Sales proceeds were used to support the protection of the area's Yellow-naped Amazons. © Chris Dahlin
Bottom: Set up for evening roost counts in Aztlán. © Chris Dahlin

This was when things started to feel real for me. Here I was, far from the lab in a foreign country, observing an endangered parrot species first-hand. I recognized the responsibility I had to accurately collect data because I remembered my struggles with data gaps. However, I could not help but feel an overwhelming sense of joy in just being there. At that moment, I forgot about the heat and humidity surrounding me and how exhausted I felt from a lack of sleep the night before. All I could focus on was the joy I was feeling.

I held onto that joy for the rest of the trip. At other times I used it to drown out the sorrow I felt during moments when we went days without out seeing any parrots. We talked with a villager living on a reserve in Guatemala who told us he had not seen the Yellow-napes in that area in years and that he remembers when all of their habitat was converted to agriculture.

He told us of the sadness he felt for his children to never be able to witness these parrots like he once did. For me, this was the hardest part about transitioning from my position in the lab to one

in the field. It wasn't the heat, the humidity, the level of safety, or the pace.

The most difficult part was seeing the sad reality of why we must implement conservation actions.

There were plenty of moments when we got to enjoy unique and memorable experiences, but we were also faced with the sad reality of species conservation, witnessing in-person the status of an endangered population but hoping each day to find a large, healthy population in a protected area.

It wasn't until I personally witnessed what conservation field work was truly like that I developed an even deeper love of conservation. I grew more connected to my work in the lab because I could better see how my work could affect species in the wild. I am excited as I move forward in my conservation career. I hope to make an impact in the field and in the lab.

Hopefully, I can continue to grow my experience in the field and use it to motivate the work I do in the lab as I continue on my path. 📷



About the Author
Carlos I. Campos

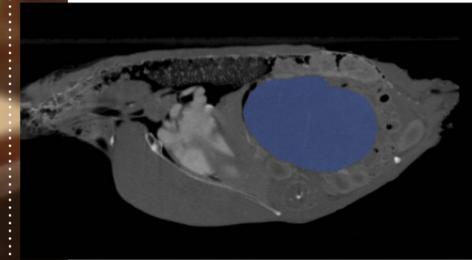
Carlos Campos is a World Parrot Trust funded post-baccalaureate researcher in the lab of Dr. Tim Wright at New Mexico State University. He currently works on the genetic diversity and population structure of the Critically Endangered Blue-throated Macaw in Bolivia and the Endangered Thick-billed Parrot in Mexico.



MURPHY GREEN:

Cancer in a Solomon Island Eclectus

by Carol Frank



Murphy is a 25 year old male eclectus that presented for referral to evaluate a coelomic (abdominal) tumor and assess for surgical or other treatment options. Initial clinical signs included sudden onset of vomiting. The mass had already been biopsied and confirmed as an undifferentiated cancer. A contrast computed tomography (CT) scan was performed at Parrish Creek Veterinary Clinic in Centerville, Utah by Dr. Scott Echols and staff. As seen in the sagittal (side image) plane of the CT, Murphy's mass occupied most of the back half of his coelom. Blue false color was added to better highlight the tumor. Due to the location and blood supply, the mass was most likely testicular in origin. The mass was considered inoperable and targeted radiation treatment was pursued at Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Fort Collins, Colorado under Dr. Matt Johnston's care. One year later, Murphy is clinically normal. Murphy's case demonstrates a range of technologies currently available that were used to diagnose and manage his cancer. These and other advanced diagnostics and treatments are available and commonly used in avian patient care today.

M. Scott Echols, DVM,
Diplomate ABVP- Avian Practice
The Medical Center for Birds

On December 27th, 2018 I noticed a significant change in behavior in my beloved 25 year old Eclectus who I have had since he was six weeks old. As the founder of Avian Adventure bird cages, I took Murphy to trade shows, to my speaking engagements, and he even appeared with me on Oprah. To know Murphy is to love Murphy.

Murphy wouldn't eat, which is highly unlike him, and he insisted on being on my shoulder. As soon as I put him there, he threw up on me – something he has NEVER done in his life. I knew right away he was critically ill, so we rushed him to Colorado State University in Fort Collins to see his avian vet, Dr. Matt Johnston.

What commenced was a long and brutal two days of testing to find out what was wrong. During a biopsy, he almost bled to death and when they put him in ICU that night, he could barely hold his head up or stand, and I assumed I was saying goodbye to him forever when I left the hospital. Words cannot describe my joy when I arrived the next morning and he was still alive.

CSU informed me that he had an inoperable tumor in his abdomen and that his prognosis was poor.

Upon the recommendations of Irene Pepperberg, PhD and Dr. Greg Burkett, I flew Murphy to see Dr. Scott Echols in Salt Lake City for a second opinion. Dr. Echols confirmed through a CT scan that Murphy's tumor was the size of a chicken-egg and likely testicular in origin. He recommended we try a series of Lupron injections and a Deslorelin implant to try to shrink the tumor. While these didn't shrink the tumor, it did stop growing.

Instead of giving up on Murphy, the veterinary team at Colorado State University started Murphy on a course of radiation therapy, using the Precision X-Ray Small Animal Irradiator that could target Murphy's tumor while sparing other vital tissues. The use of this type of radiation therapy had been confined to larger patients in the past, but recent advances have allowed radiation therapy in tumors even in small birds.

Murphy had to be anesthetized three times a week for two weeks to receive his treatments, and he handled the repeated anesthesia and treatments like a champ. His tumor showed visual improvement on imaging within weeks of treatment, and at his three-month follow up visit, the team at CSU was pleased to tell me that his tumor had shrunk to an undetectable size.

Murphy was the lucky recipient of leading-edge diagnostics and treatments that are now available to treat and manage cancer in avian patients. One year after diagnosis, Murphy is clinically normal and back to his happy, healthy self. I am beyond grateful both to Dr. Echols and the talented staff at CSU for saving his life and hopefully giving us another 20-30 years together. 📷



Animal Genetics UK
www.animalgenetics.eu

Tribute to Janet Marsh

It is with the deepest sadness that we report the recent death of Janet Marsh, owner of Animal Genetics (UK) Ltd. based in St.Austell, United Kingdom. Janet was a great friend of both the World Parrot Trust and Paradise Park. Over the course of her lifetime Janet worked tirelessly to improve the welfare of many pet parrots, often bringing them into her own home for rehabilitation before finding loving homes for them elsewhere. It has to be said however, that Janet often kept some of the most badly treated birds herself, ensuring that they received only the best care for the rest of their lives. One of the birds that Janet rescued from truly awful conditions went on to become the cornerstone of a captive breeding programme for a critically endangered species of cockatoo, siring more than 25 youngsters!

The World Parrot Trust has benefitted greatly from Janet's kindness and generosity. When we needed to health screen two hundred rescued macaws Janet stepped in and offered to do

the testing at a vastly reduced rate, saving the Trust many thousands of pounds. She did exactly the same when a cohort of confiscated wild Grey Parrots required health screening. She was truly one of a kind and a beacon of caring and kindness. Janet's daughter Danielle has now taken on the running of the company and our thoughts are with her and Janet's partner John at this sad time.

Western Australia bushfire wildlife and habitat recovery receives priority support

The critically endangered Western Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus flaviventris*) is receiving an important lift up from the Australian federal government – its recovery has been considered a priority in an initial wildlife and habitat restoration package. This comes after a spate of dangerous bushfires razed many areas of Western Australia, killing and putting at risk hundreds of thousands of animals. The threat to these parrots is very real: they number less than 150 individuals in the wild.

Read more:
www.tinyurl.com/r2gecxn

Iconic Wheatbelt resident to receive help to find forever home

Carnaby's and Red-tailed Cockatoos (*Zanda latirostris* and *Calyptorhynchus banksii*, respectively) will be given a helping hand by farmers to find future homes in the region.

These birds are found in many parts of the Wheatbelt or inland agricultural area in Western Australia, and rely on tree cavities to raise their chicks. Their specialised needs dictate that they use specific sized hollows in eucalypts that are more than 100 years old.

These cavities are becoming more difficult for them to find, owing to years of land clearing and declines in the area's remaining bush. In an attempt to help them, Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management (NRM), with the support of the National Landcare Program, are working with farmers across the region to encourage reporting birds and cavities in the area, as well as install artificial nest boxes.

Read more:
www.tinyurl.com/w6x5kp6



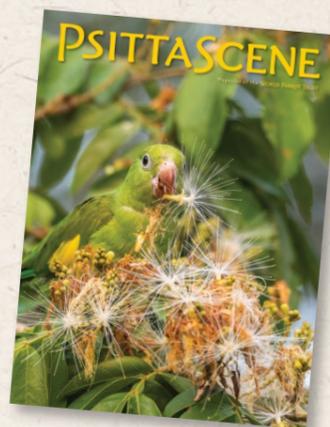
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October 25 - November 1, 2020: Southern Caribbean

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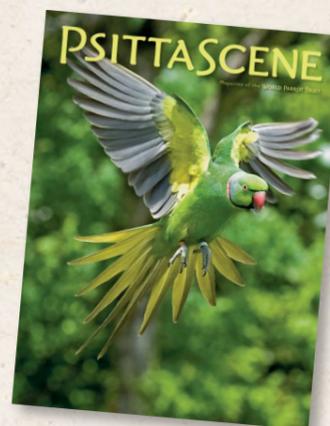
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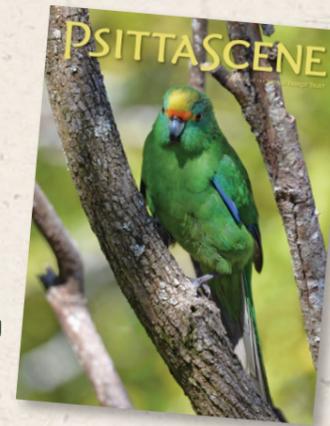
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PARROTS IN THE WILD:

Cactus Conure

(Eupsittula cactorum)

A pair of Cactus Conures feeds on cacti in the scrubland of northeastern Brazil. These medium-sized parrots are seen in pairs or flocks of up to 20 outside of the breeding season, and more where food is abundant. They feed on cacti and their flowers, as well as seeds, fruits, berries, nuts and buds.

Photo © Hecke71 via AdobeStock

