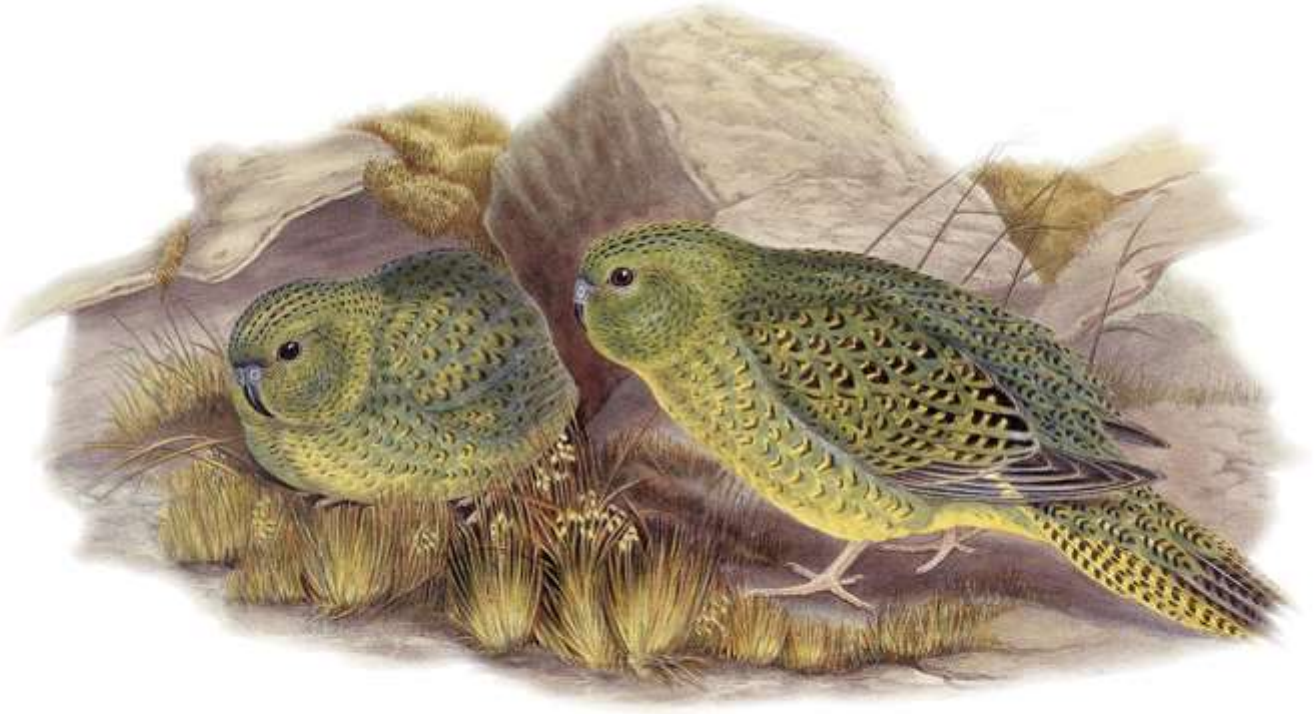
American Federation of Aviculture Inc.

Conservation News

Issue #4, Summer 2021

Night Parrots: No Longer Extinct!



Night Parrots by John Gould

The Elusive Night Parrot Rediscovered and Recorded

(A synopsis of articles and press releases on the subject)

Australia is home to many different species of parrots. One species disappeared sometime in the early 1900s and had not been seen for almost 80 years, despite periodic reports of sightings by ornithologists or land owners in remote parts of the country. There had been no solid proof that the bird existed until, in 1980, a dead specimen was found along the highway, apparently hit by a truck and carried many miles on the front grill, near Boulia in western Queensland. After that, sporadic sightings were reported in the Cloncurry area, some ninety miles north of where the dead body was found.

In this edition

Night Parrot Rediscovered, A Hero for Guatemalan Parrot Conservation, Sea Eagles Return to Loch Lomond, Scotland, The Increased Monitoring Practiced at Loro Parque During The Breeding Season, Current Threats of Neotropical Parrot Populations, Eye to Eye With a Kakapo For Conservation

Night Parrot Rediscovered...

So, the hunt was on to prove the species was, in fact, alive somewhere in the area. Another corpse was found in early 2000s that had apparently hit a barbed wire fence while in flight. Fencing has always been a concern for any nocturnal species; yes, the night parrot is nocturnal and most active after dark. The little bird is not much bigger than a budgerigar but slightly more robust, with a shorter blunt tail. It is mainly green with some black and yellow markings, dots, and lines on its back and a yellow underside. Like the ground parrot of Australia, it is hesitant to fly even when disturbed. Although officially listed in the genus *Geopsittacus*, it is now often referred to as belonging to the same genus as the ground parrot, *Pezoporus*.

Habitat of the Night Parrot. Bush Heritage Australia

In 2013, a naturalist, John Young, discovered a population of the species in western Queensland. Several organizations and groups came forward to fund and begin the research needed to ensure the survival of the species. By 2016 an official project was built on the information provided since the 2013 rediscovery of the species. Remember, it is very difficult to research nocturnal species, and this bird has not been seen or studied in over 100 years. Scientists know very little about its habits, diet, needs during the dry season or wet season, nesting behavior, whether it is nomadic or stationary, and much more. Data gathering had to start basically from scratch. For example, something as simple as how long does this species go between drinks of water, since this habitat gets very little rain, sometimes none for months on end.

The American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. (AFA) is a not for profit organization dedicated to all aspects of aviculture.

The AFA has provided funds through our grants programs to benefit wild-bird conservation and the study of their biology since the mid 1970s.

Visit us on the web at: www.AFABIRDS.org

The Fundamentals of Aviculture I and II
Online Education Courses

FOA Level I provides a foundation for the emerging science of aviculture. It is presented in nine chapters ranging from anatomy and physiology to avian behavior, from laws and regulations affecting aviculture to how to provide proper housing and prevent illness of birds in our care, and much, much more. Admission is $45 for current members of the American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. Non-members can buy a one year membership and admission to the course for $85 on an individual basis. Family memberships allow for another member of the household to take the FOA I course for the $45 member price.

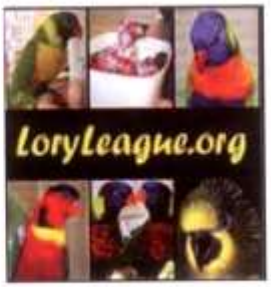
The FOA Level II Course is offered in 15 chapters covering conservation and research, courtship and nesting, basic avian genetics, color mutations, hybrids, breeding stimuli, incubation, hand-rearing, non-parrot studies, basic microbiology, illnesses, first-aid, avian enrichment and more. Admission to this Level II course requires that all students complete Level I prior to enrollment.

www.Fundamentalsofaviculture.com

LoryLeague.org

A fun group of Breeders, Pet Owners, Exhibitors & More
See us at Events & Shows

Come join the fun at
LoryLeague@yahoogroups.com
Julie 206-501-7428
blconnection@hotmail.com



Nature & Wildlife Art
By Lyrae Perry

"Art is a spiritual practice with the power to connect each of us with all of creation."

P.O. Box 1535
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
951-317-1236
elink22@gmail.com
www.lyraeperry.weebly.com

Help Sponsor this publication

To place an ad and sponsor Conservation News, contact us at:

AFAOFFICE@AFABIRDS.org

The Night Parrot
(Cont'd from page 2)

In only a few short years of study, scientists have recorded the calls of the species and made important observations about its basic needs and habitat. Enough that this information has been used and has resulted in two more colonies or populations being found, one in Western Australia and possibly one in the Northern Territory.

Researchers will have their hands full trying to conserve and save the last of the night parrots. They will have to learn the very basics of its needs and study its reproductive habits without intervening too much into the surviving populations. The use of GPS tags is being attempted to study its movements during different times of the year and varying weather conditions as well. The good news is that this species is not yet extinct. Juvenile birds have been observed by the researchers and cameras are being used to record its habits and movements. Predator studies are underway, and protection is being provided for the existing colonies. The future is certainly brighter for this species now than it has been for decades.

This research is being led by researchers from the University of Queensland, with significant support from Bush Heritage Australia, the Australian Academy of Science (Max Day Award) and Birds Queensland.

Bush Heritage, Queensland, Australia

The American Federation of Aviculture

47th Educational Conference & Avian Expo

Working Towards a Rosie Future for Aviculture

August 12-14, 2021

Hilton Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport

The hotel is less than three miles from Minneapolis-Saint Paul Airport via free shuttle. Enjoy neighboring Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Mall of America. Convenient on-site dining, 24 hour fitness center, heated indoor pool and pet friendly rooms round out the amenities.

The American Federation of Aviculture is a 501(c) 3 non-profit educational organization

Juvenile Night Parrot Photo by Nick Leseberg

...What Can You Win in the...

AFA Super 8 Raffle

#2 An Austin Air Pet Air Purifier. An air purifier designed specifically for pet dander and impurities. Donated by ABC Birds

#1 An i3 (3550) Roomba Wi-Fi enabled robotic vacuum with auto empty, Donated by Hill Country Aviaries

#3

#3 A large walk-in aviary donated by Centurion Cages. Note: May substitute double macaw cage due to shipping shortages and availability

#4 A $500 VISA card donated by Kaytee

#5 A Brinsea Brooder donated by Brinsea

#6 A 4 Days, 3 Nights vacation get-away at the Banana Bank Lodge in Belize!! (Air Fare not included)

#7 A Ladies Diamond Ring donated by Mary Ellen LePage (TCW .053 C) Round brilliant and baguette diamonds.

#8 Full Conference registration and 4 nights in the conference hotel for the 2022 AFA Educational Conference.

Drawing will take place at the AFA Educational Conference, Saturday night banquet, August 14th 2021, Hilton Minneapolis St. Paul Airport. Winner need not be present to win however winner is responsible for any shipping charges to deliver prizes. Prize must be claimed within 30 days. Any unclaimed prize will be auctioned and proceeds will be donated to the American Federation of Aviculture, Inc.

The American Federation of Aviculture Inc. is a 501 (C) 3, Non-profit Organization

Tickets are available *Now* on the AFA website. Go to www.AFAbirds.org for more details.

A Hero for Guatemalan Parrot Conservation

In the last issue of Conservation News we had an article about the murder of a local parrot conservationist in Colombia. Sadly, we have another article for you about the murder of another parrot conservationist, this time in Guatemala.

By LoraKim Joyner
http://www.oneearthconservation.org
amoloros@gmail.com
White Plains, NY, USA

I first met Pedro Viteri several years ago when we visited his finca, La Gracia, to see how many endangered Yellow-naped amazon parrots (*Amazona auropaulliata*) were in the area and if the owners would like to become part of the project, COLORES (Corredores de Loros, Reservas, y Santuaries), a consortium of universities, government agencies, ranches, and parks, led by ARCAS and One Earth Conservation. He told me stories of how it seemed impossible, and risky, to keep the illegal hunters off his ranch, which includes a sizeable forest patch in prime Yellow-naped parrot habitat. After finding a notable roosting site and some probable nests, La Gracia became one of our six primary "hot spots" for parrot conservation. Together we could help with protection and advance their conservation goals.

So, when he called us asking for help in February 2021 with encroaching poachers, we responded by organizing a patrol with authorities to see if this might ward off illegal activities. It didn't. The next day Pedro responded to a report that two men were at the base of their active parrot nest and he went to investigate. No one knows how the violence ensued, but he was found shot nearby, and we presumed by the parrot poachers. We confirmed that the nest was now not active and a few days later the police arrested a group of men with the caliber of gun that killed Pedro and two young Yellow-naped parrot chicks. The case is still under investigation and we don't know if the killers will be successfully prosecuted. The current hope is to link the DNA from the rescued chicks to dried feces in the nest, tying the arrested men to Pedro and La Gracia.
Those who knew Pedro, and even more so his family, suffered a deep wound. A man, a father, a spouse, a friend, and a conservation colleague had died trying to protect parrots. Let us honor him with this short description of his life:

Parrot parent at nest tree that was poached and that Pedro died protecting (photo by Manuel Galindo)

Yellow-naped amazon
(Amazona auropaulliata)

Hero

Pedro was born in Guatemala and lived most of his life on Guatemala's Pacific slope.
His mother's passion for ranching spurred him on to dedicate his studies and his life to working and loving the land. He got a degree in animal science at the University of Louisiana (Lafayette) (BS, 1984) and after graduation, studied milk processing at the University of Wisconsin (Madison) before returning to Guatemala. His work included the breeding of award-winning Brahman cattle and Arabian horses, and he also became involved in growing ornamental plants and vegetables, latex production, and free-range eggs. At his farm, Finca La Gracia, he focused on hay and dairy production. He left one-third of his land untouched, and among a sea of monocultures (sugarcane, rubber, pineapple, oil palm), this tract of very humid, subtropical (warm) forest offers refuge to the local flora and fauna, including his favorite bird: the Yellow-naped Parrot.

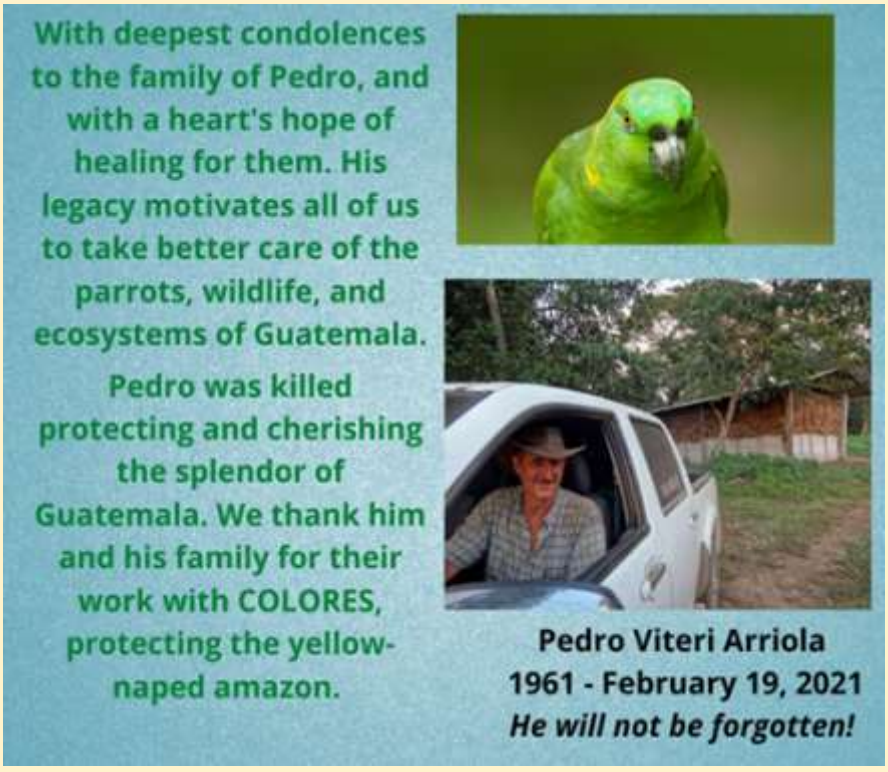


Photo of Pedro Viteri and the memorial card issued after his death

Pedro was kind-hearted and a hard-worker. He would always wear a smile and take time to chat with the bank tellers, store clerks, and food vendors, and he would gladly and freely share his experience when new farmers sought his advice.

He is sorely missed, and his loss is a shock, but not entirely out of the range of what one can expect here in Guatemala. Armed trespassers come into our conservation areas and this entire region is known for the violence against environmentalists. In January, another conservationist, Gonzalo Cordona Molina, was murdered in Colombia. I have been working in Guatemala for 34 years, and know of the risks and the loss from trying to keep parrots flying free here when there is nearly 100% poaching of nests. Only a lucky few fledge, and usually only if in dangerous trees to climb that are dead or have Africanized bees. A member of Pedro's family told me this week, "the situation is extreme," and it has been for decades. I wrote a book about the early efforts of parrot conservation here, and its title bears witness to the work before us, "Conservation in a Time of War." Then there were tens of thousands yellow-napes, now maybe there are only 400-500.

Our approach here is not to consider conservation as war, but as working for peace and healing. To that affect we parrot conservationists of Guatemala came together in late April for a lunch meeting to honor Pedro and his family. We consider this will become an annual event, for we need each other as evidenced that most of us elected to stay overnight and continue spending time with one another.

Hero (Cont'd)

Besides showing solidarity with our presence, we will also put up a large highway sign along the road of his ranch to discourage the illegal wildlife traffic and will work with the authorities to increase patrols in all our areas. We will also continue with our parrot nest monitoring, annual census, and education and conservation research. We are hoping to inundate the area with nest boxes, inviting more ranches and people into the project, and hopefully resources as well. As I write this we are finishing up a grant to see if we can help the family turn the farm into a sanctuary, the Pedro Viteri Ecological Reserve.

As I said at the luncheon, I don't know if our efforts will win the day, or what the exact mix of solutions are. I only know that we are stronger together, for even in our grief we are powerful. The spouse of Pedro, Heidi Pasch, who is building the ecoreserve "The Lost Tinamou" on the La Gracia Ranch told me, "Whatever you need, you can count on the family Viteri." I started to say, "But you have already done too much," but choked up to witness their compassionate and courageous offer. Indeed the times are extreme, but so is the reserve and strength of parrot conservationists. Coming together means that ordinary people can produce extraordinary results in extraordinary times. Will you join us?

Left: Visiting nest tree with Pedro's family to honor Pedro – tree is down on ground in background

Below: Luncheon meeting to honor Pedro Viteri

Sea Eagles return to Loch Lomond, Scotland

For the first time in over a century, White-tailed eagles, aka Sea eagles, have returned to Loch Lomond

Twitchers (bird watchers) are aflutter this week after White-tailed eagles were spotted at Loch Lomond for the first time in over a century. A pair of the raptors were seen at Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve in early March this year, and they are now 'nest prospecting', suggesting they intend to stay. NatureScot, Scotland's nature agency, and other bird conservation programs are working together to monitor the birds' behavior, and to put in place protection and visitor management measures to ensure the birds are not disturbed by visitors and other loch users. This includes an exclusion zone, signs asking visitors to keep their distance and monitoring of the area during regular ranger patrols.

Persecution and habitat changes pushed the birds to extinction in the UK in the early 20th century. The last known bird was reported in the Shetland Islands in 1918. However, subsequent reintroductions to Scotland, first in the 1970s and again in the 90s and early 2000s, have been a conservation success. There are now believed to be more than 150 breeding pairs in the northern part of Great Britain.
Paul Roberts, operations manager of NatureScot said: "This is the latest chapter in the continuing success story of Sea eagle conservation." **Sources**: https://presscentre.nature.scot/...https://www.positive.news/about/...images: stock photos

You Can Help the AFA to Help Wild Birds

The AFA conservation committee projects are not funded by your AFA membership; our assistance to *in situ* conservation projects and the publication of this brochure is funded by donations. The AFA has a very long history of assisting field work and wild bird conservation all over the world. In the past, the AFA has:

- Purchased stainless steel leg bands used on nestlings in the wild
- Funded population counts of Amazon parrots in Mexico
- Assisted in setting up a satellite office for the Spix's macaw project in Brazil
- Purchased a computer for the Puerto Rican Amazon Project
- Helped fund the corn subsidy program in Brazil for the recovery of the Lear's macaw
- And hundreds of other projects aimed at the recovery of species in the wild

You can help!

The AFA conservation fund is a separate account from the AFA general fund. To make a donation to this fund, simply write a check to the AFA Conservation Fund, or go online to our website www.afabirds.org, choose donation, and mark your donation for conservation. Your money will help us to fund field biologists, government programs, private conservation efforts, and more across the world.

Aviculture is Conservation Too

The increased monitoring we practice at Loro Parque during the breeding season

Rafael Zamora Padrón
Scientific Director
Loro Parque Fundación

Many advanced breeders and centers ask us at Loro Parque Fundación about the protocols we use during the breeding season. The answer is so broad that it would include endless lists of points for daily checking. But we include here a basic list of things to do during the breeding season. A good approach is to write down simple lists of tasks to be completed on a daily basis, especially for those centers that work with more than three pairs of parrots.

When the breeding season has begun, the tasks on the part of the keeper increase. Increased food supply, more facility inspections, and more attention to everything that happens are needed. This increase in monitoring is essential in this phase since there are many more details that impact the health and survival of the baby parrots.

Among the chicks that have recently been ringed at the Loro Parque Fundación, species such as the Black Lory (*Chalcopsitta atra atra*) stand out, which at 32 days show an appearance that is still far from its future jet black color.
(Rafael Zamora and Pinterest)

Another important consideration is to prepare in a timely fashion to prevent unwanted events that may occur at each stage of rearing. External and internal parasites are more likely to occur in the spring during the breeding season. Rodents, insects, and potential predators such as owls, kestrels, snakes or other predators—depending on the location of the breeding center-- may threaten the parents or young chicks.

Double mesh or wire that prevents raptors from perching on the top of the enclosures is usually sufficient to prevent injuries to the parrots. If the flights are not suspended above ground, solid panels 3 feet (1 meter) high from the ground up and buried wire extending a foot or more outside the sides of the flight or cage will help prevent snakes and rodents from getting in and frightening or killing birds or chicks, or contaminating food and/or water.

Loro Parque

The daily routines at the Loro Parque Breeding Center (La Vera) during the breeding season include the following:

- Examine feeders and water bowls and drinkers 3 times a day.
- Check on each parrot in each enclosure twice a day in the morning and at noon. If they are breeding it is important not to disturb them at sunset.
- Check security of doors and access to the cages.
- Observe nests from a safe distance if eggs are being incubated or if young chicks are in the nest, the objective being to make sure the parents and chicks are doing well but taking care not to upset them.
- Check perches and bottom of the aviary to detect plucked feathers, unusual feces, or abnormalities that should not be on the cage bottom. Take necessary actions.

Black-headed caiques (*Pionites melanocephalus*) ready for breeding at La Vera Breeding Facility (Rafael Zamora)

The behavior of the parents can change very abruptly during this season. When the first chicks leave the nest, some breeding males, especially the youngest ones, can become very aggressive towards their offspring. It may not recognize them and this often happens with males that do not feed their females during incubation. For this reason, we must pay special attention to this circumstance to be able to act in time and separate the chicks still being fed from the nest with a grid that allows the parents to feed their chicks without harming them within the same enclosure.

At other times the males may force the chicks out because the female shows signs of starting to begin a new laying cycle even when the chicks are not yet independent. In these cases it is best for the couple to have two nests and for the female to occupy the second.

Another important task during the breeding season is to assist the youngsters that are not being fed properly by their parents. For this we must have the incubators and hatchers ready, sanitized and functioning properly. We always recommend that they be turned on from the beginning of the incubation period of pairs that may need these auxiliary techniques, possibly including artificial care of eggs or newly hatched chicks.

Breeding-time can be an emotional one for the keeper, possibly loaded with many unforeseen unpleasant events. To minimize unpleasantries, the keeper must anticipate eventualities and be ready for them, based on accumulated experience and careful monitoring of the breeding cages.

Current Threats Faced by Neotropical Parrot Populations

A summary of the paper: Berkunsky, et al. 2017. "Current Threats Faced by Neotropical Parrot Populations" Biological Conservation, 214, 278–287. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2017.08.016

Psittaciformes (parrots, cockatoos) are among the most endangered birds, with 31% of Neotropical species under threat. The drivers of this situation appear to be numerous and mainly caused by human actions. In 2017 almost 100 parrot researchers and conservationists produced a paper summarizing the threats faced in the first decades of the 21st century by parrots in the Neotropics—that is, Central and South America. They reported on information on threats in the populations they studied or were familiar with: 192 populations of 96 Neotropical parrot species across 21 countries. This study was not able to extend conclusions to all areas of Neotropical countries, but gives a snapshot of hopefully representative parrot populations.

Of the 192 Neotropical parrot populations studied, 72 (38%) were found to present a decreasing population trend since 2001.

An **extreme decrease** since 2001 was reported for four populations (**2%):**

- **Red-tailed amazon** *Amazona brasiliensis*, Brazil,
- **Spix macaw** *Cyanopsitta spixii* in Bahia, Brazil
- **Blue-winged macaw** *Primolius maracana* in both Argentina and Paraguay

The Neotropics

A further 16 populations (**8%**) experienced a **major decrease**, including:

- **Yellow-naped amazon** *Amazona auropalliata* Guatemala
- **Cuban parakeet** *Psittacara euops*, Cuba
- **Grey-cheeked parakeet** *Brotogeris pyrrhoptera*, Peru

A **moderate decrease** was reported for 15 populations (**8%**), including:

- **Great Green macaw** *Ara ambiguus*, Honduras
- **Green-winged macaw** *Ara chloropterus* , Bolivia, and the
- **Yellow-shouldered parrot** *Amazona barbadensis*,

Finally, a **minor decrease** was reported for 37 populations **(19%**), including the

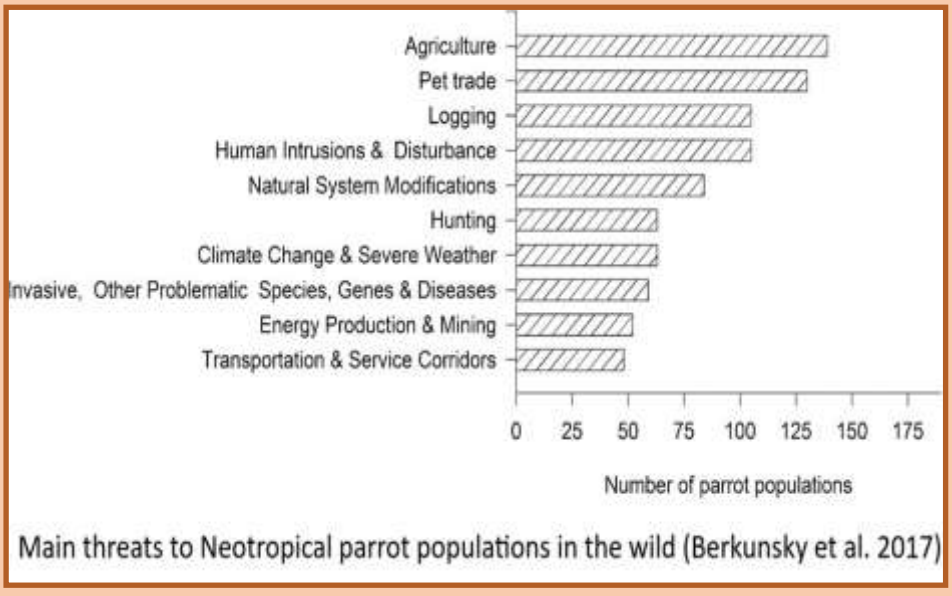
- **Hispaniolan parakeet** *Psittacara chloropterus,* Dominica
- **Painted parakeet** *Pyrrhura picta*, Colombia

Green-winged macaw (Ara chloropterus) Photo by Shane Hancock, Australia

Current Threats (Cont'd)

The news was less negative for the remaining 120 out of 192 populations. Forty studied populations (21%) were stable; 22 populations (11%) reported an increasing population trend. Finally, due to the lack of complete information, the population trend could not be established for 58 of the studied populations (30%). In 18 out of 25 cases, differences in population trends were found in sub-populations of the same species in different regions.

What were the causes of these declines? The main threats to neotropical parrot populations in the wild were related to human activities (see Figure). Agriculture threatened 72% of populations (N = 139), followed by the capture of individuals for the pet trade (N = 130 or 68%), logging (N = 105 or 55%), and human intrusions and disturbance (N = 105 or 55%). Nine out of ten major threat categories affected at least 50 of the parrot populations studied.



Main threats to Neotropical parrot populations in the wild (Berkunsky et al. 2017)

In Mexico, 200 year old Ceiba trees are being cut and burned to make way for oil palm plantations. These trees and the surrounding rain forest are home to several species of neotropical parrots.

Conclusions and perspectives from the study:

"Our population level study suggests that at least 38% of parrot populations in the neotropics may be declining. However, we suspect that this is an underestimate as 84% of the species with unknown population trends were reported as affected by at least one of the major threats and for this reason may also be declining. In addition, our findings show that 72% of populations face at least one major threat. Unfortunately, a similar worrying conservation scenario was found in a previous study in Africa (Martin et al., 2014). Both studies suggest that the global conservation situation for parrots may be even worse than previously evaluated and that the need for conservation actions is urgent. Our study also suggests that priority should be given to conservation actions aimed at reducing the capture of wild parrots for the pet trade, mainly domestic use but also international trade, as well as the conservation of parrot populations located at agricultural frontiers. Finally, it is also important to point out that our extensive survey was unable to find any data on population trends or threats for over a third of studied neotropical parrot populations. We were also unable to find population trend data for any parrot populations from a number of neotropical countries, including Panama, Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana, Uruguay, and many islands of the Lesser and Greater Antilles. These species and regions should be targeted especially for future research and monitoring of free-living parrot populations in the neotropics."

Eye to Eye with a Kakapo...for Conservation

...by Rick Jordan

The Kakapo, the world's largest flightless parrot, was perilously close to extinction due to predation from rats, possums, and stoats that had reduced the wild population of over 200 birds in the 1980s, to 51 birds by 1995. In 1996 the National Kakapo Team was formed, and between that time and 2006, the population grew to 86 birds. By March of 2021, 205 birds were known to exist. The saga of the Kakapo is finally heading toward a happy ending.

As an aviculturist I am frequently asked to address bird clubs and share my knowledge of parrot incubation, hand rearing, and husbandry. In the early 1990s, a very exuberant aviculturists named Pauline Colpman asked me to speak to her club in New Zealand. When the conference was over, she introduced me to a conservation officer who promptly asked me if I had a few extra days in the country to give him some input on a newly established colony of Kakapo on Maud island. Little did I know that Pauline had arranged for this to happen with Don Merton, the man in charge of Kakapo for the New Zealand government at that time. I accepted the invite and off I went on a strange but life-changing experience on this tiny island reserve in New Zealand. I was transported by boat, something I have always avoided due to a fear of "what's in the water", to Maud Island. The boat ride took almost an hour at full throttle. The officer had purchased several days' worth of food for me and handed me a large bag as I stepped out onto the pier at the island. He informed me that he had to get back and that I could liaison with the onsite biologist at a station just barely visible from the pier. As he reversed direction in the boat I began my walk up the side of a steep hill to the biologist field station.

Left: Takahe were considered extinct at the turn of the century. Fifty years later a small population was discovered and with close management, this species is recovering.

I found myself totally alone on the island. Apparently, the officers in charge forgot that the onsite biologist was on a short vacation and was off the island. I spent the next two days by myself with no one to talk to, no transportation and no phones! There was a full kitchen and several bedrooms in the station, so I settled in to wait for further instructions. During my solitary wait, amazing things happened to me that could not happen anywhere else on earth. I had a rare and endangered Takahe hen walk by the porch with her chicks and pull on my boot strings. I saw kingfishers fishing for food by day, and at night I heard the eerie booming of male Kakapo on the mountain.

Right: Rick Jordan and "Hokie", one of the first Kakapo to be hand reared in New Zealand.

Kakapo (Cont'd)

Once the biologist returned to the island it was time to get to work. He took me on long hikes up the mountain to assess the supplemental feeding protocols for the introduced Kakapo that now lived there. At that time, there were six birds on the island, five free wild birds and one hand reared bird, "Hokie", in a walled enclosure. Most of my time was spent hiking and tracking Kakapo with telemetry equipment to map out their movements and possible nesting activities on the island, as well as weighing food to see how much a wild bird ate each night.

The Kakapo: Photo by the late Don Merton. Don was a conservationist from New Zealand best known for saving the Black Robin from extinction. But his work with the Kakapo was the foundation on which most of the later programs built upon in order to recover this unusual parrot species from certain extinction.

Maud island did eventually become a successful Kakapo nesting area. Through the 1990s the population grew to 18, before all birds were removed from Maud Island in 2003 and moved to more suitable habitats on other islands.

Join the American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. Today.

Visit us on the web at: WWW.AFABIRDS. org

Kakapo

Birds were moved from island to island depending on their needs. Breeding took place in the wild and some eggs were left to be reared by parents while others had to be gathered, hatched and reared in captivity. Literally all methods of aviculture were utilized to increase the number of birds and to preserve the genetic variability that remained in the last living birds.

It is important to look at the success of the recovery of the Kakapo. From my understanding the efforts put into this program from the late 1980s through today included the expertise of field biologists, conservation experts, zoo personnel, private aviculturists, government ornithologists, parrot behavior specialists, experts in predator control, and many more. I admire the dedication that so many people have put into saving a species that almost disappeared from this earth. It would not be possible to mention everyone here by name , but I was personally touched by this species in my short involvement in its recovery, and I am forever changed with a new respect for conservation as a complex team effort.

Above: Hand reared Kakapo chicks, photo by Andrew Digby, Kakapo Recovery Program. These chicks were eventually released and became part of the breeding population to save their kind.

Want to see your article in the next issue of the Conservation News? Contact the AFA Business Office Email us at: AFAoffice@AFABIRDS.org

Visit the AFA Store today! WWW.AFABIRDS.ORG

CITES Lapel Pin featuring the Citron-crested Cockatoo is now available!

Want to see who has birds for sale? Sign up for the AFA FastAds. FastAds are published on the first and third Tuesday of the month to all subscribers. A subscription to FastAds is open to all interested parties. If you wish to be added to the mailing list, send an email to Fastads@afabirds.org

Join the American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. and help us to help *insitu* conservation projects across the world.

WWW.AFABIRDS.org

The Conservation News is a publication of the conservation committee of the American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. You can help to assure future publications of this newsletter by donating to the AFA conservation committee today. All donations are tax deductible. Make a donation at www.AFABIRDS.org or send your donation to: AFA, PO BOX 91717, Austin, TX 78709.