

**REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR PARROT CONSERVATION, GUADALAJARA, MEXICO, 7-11 JUNE 1994**

Donald Anthony

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The meeting of the Association for Parrot Conservation [APC] was held in Guadalajara, Mexico, together with the annual meetings of the Society for Conservation Biology and the Association for Tropical Biology. These were international meetings, with conservatists, biologists, zoo directors, professors, aviculturists, students, funding agencies, and job seekers participating.

The Association of Parrot Conservation was dwarfed when compared to the attendants of the other two associations. However, when discussions took place and arguments ensued, our voices were heard. Several topics and issues dealing with the conservation of parrots were discussed; for example, habitat destruction, trade, captive breeding, and trafficking in pet birds.

Three draft APC policy statements on reintroduction, sustainable use and trade of birds, and captive breeding were discussed, with disagreements and many heated arguments. At one time, it was like being among sharks and barracudas. Time did not permit for full discussion and amendments of the draft documents, so participants were asked to send in their comments to various authors by 15 July 1994.

At this meeting, I met a new breed of conservationist: people who have never been in the field or worked with a species, but seem to know all about the species and how best to conserve it, and are tenacious in their conviction.

I did not agree with all that was said, and voiced my disagreement, especially on the issue of captive breeding. Some participants said that captive breeding is extremely important for the conservation of parrots. I am sure we all know otherwise.

The meeting was very informative. I met many experienced people, especially those who work with parrots. I would like to thank the Society of Caribbean Ornithology for sponsoring me and look forward to seeing the amended APC policy statements soon.

**CREATION OF A NATIONAL PARK IN THE BAHAMA ISLANDS**

Rosemarie S. Gnam

*Friends of the Abaco Parrot, 13 East Rosemount Ave., Alexandria, Virginia 22301, U.S.A.*

I know that many of you share my joy in announcing that the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, Hon. Hubert Ingraham, has declared the creation of a national park on southern Abaco for the endangered Bahama Parrot (*Amazona leucocephala bahamensis*). When I began my research project on the breeding biology of the parrot on Abaco in 1985, the overall

objective was to develop a biological understanding of the Bahama Parrot upon which a conservation program could be based. In 1985, the national park was a dream, but today it is a reality.

I applaud the Bahama Parrot Education Committee, the Bahamas National Trust, and The RARE Center for Tropical Conservation for their efforts to increase conservational awareness for the parrot's plight, and their educational campaign in the Bahamas, which they initiated in 1992. The diligent efforts of these groups have helped achieve the desired results — the national park on Abaco.

I thank all of you who played a role in this research project. My field assistants worked enthusiastically to collect data that helped to conserve the parrot. In addition, this project would not have been possible without the many other persons who supported the project.

With most of the Bahama Parrot's nesting habitat now protected on Abaco, attention can be focused on the management of this parrot population and plans for its recovery can be implemented. The future now looks brighter for one of the world's endangered parrots. More importantly, this development demonstrates that parrot conservation can succeed in the wild! Too often, we give up hope. So, for today, let us congratulate the Bahamas and celebrate with them!

**ARUBA SEABIRDS THREATENED**

The government in Aruba, Dutch West Indies, intends to develop an area near sensitive coral reefs and seabird nesting colonies for watersports, including for jet-skis and water-scooters. This plan seriously endangers 10,000 pairs of 9 species of nesting seabirds, including Sandwich and Roseate terns. Aruba conservationists are greatly alarmed by these prospects. More information is available from Foundation Stimaruba, Urataka 6, Sta. Cruz, Aruba, Dutch West Indies. [from *U.S. Birdwatch*, 1994]

**FUNDS FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS**

BirdLife International and the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, with support from British Petroleum, hold an annual competition for conservation exploration projects. Projects entering the competition are judged especially on the level of host country involvement and the global importance of the conservation issues on which the project is focused. Proposals for 1995 expeditions must be entered no later than 31 December 1994.

For further information, contact: Michael K. Poulsen, BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge, CB3 0NA, United Kingdom; Telephone: (44-223) 277318, Fax: (44-223) 277200.

**GRUPO ECOLOGISTA TINGLAR**  
*Santo Domingo, República Dominicana*  
*Fundado el 28 de octubre de 1985*

El grupo Ecologista *TINGLAR* es una organización sin fines de lucro inspirada en la Declaración de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Humano, de Estocolmo, 1972, y cuyo objetivo es trabajar en la defensa del medio ambiente, los recursos naturales y la calidad de vida del pueblo dominicano por medio de una estrategia de *Educación Ambiental a través de la Acción Comunitaria*.

*TINGLAR* es el nombre vulgar de la tortuga marina *Dermochelis coriacea*, muy amenazada en nuestro país, debido a la depredación humana, alteración de su hábitat y contaminación del mar. Tomamos ese nombre para llamar la atención sobre hechos como estos.

Grupo Tinglar está constituido por un equipo multidisciplinario de voluntarios. Por acuerdo con Grupo Jaragua, Inc. estamos ubicados en la calle El Vergel #33, Reparto El Vergel, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana.

Nuestras acciones al presente se concentran en trabajos en cuatro barrios en la ciudad de Santo Domingo, en los que estamos vinculados a organizaciones de base, tratando de animar un enfoque ecologista en la solución de los diversos problemas que enfrentan esas comunidades, generalmente de condiciones socio-económicas insuficientes.

En relación a la educación para la conservación de la biodiversidad, realizamos continuamente actividades, tomando como base particularmente la población escolar con la que ejecutamos acciones en coordinación y asesoría de otras entidades, generalmente en áreas protegidas.

Para contactos y mayor información, favor de dirigirse a Teodoro Lara y/o Rafael Lorenzo, *GRUPO ECOLOGISTA TINGLAR*, calle El Vergel #33, Reparto El Vergel, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana; teléfono: (809) 472-1036, Fax: (809) 472-1235 y 472-1728.

**LATIN AMERICAN LIBRARY  
ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

Dear Colleague:

Several years ago, we initiated the LATIN AMERICAN LIBRARY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (LALEP) with the goal of increasing the exchange of information among Western Hemisphere scientists interested in natural history. Its first activity was to survey research natural history libraries in Middle and South America and the Caribbean (for convenience, "Latin America") to determine who their primary users are and what their needs might be.

After the results of the survey were published, LALEP began distribution of scientific journals and other publications produced by institutions in the United States to research natural history libraries in Latin America. Nearly 100 Latin America institutions have participated in the program so far. We are now initiating another phase of the project that will

focus on scientific journals produced by institutions in Latin America.

This phase of the project has two goals. The first goal is to facilitate the distribution of Latin American scientific journals to libraries and individuals in countries throughout Latin America, in the United States, and elsewhere. The second goal is to inform investigators about Latin American scientific journals that may serve as publication outlets for reports on their research. We hope that this will encourage scientists from all countries to publish results from their studies in journals produced in the country in which the research was carried out.

As a first step toward achieving these goals, LALEP is conducting a survey of Latin American scientific journals oriented toward ecology, evolution, behavior, systematics, and other aspects of natural history. Survey forms are available for forwarding information to me. Also available is a list of publications by country which you may want to examine for completeness. Your assistance with both these activities is greatly appreciated.

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[Note: copies of the survey form are being enclosed with this newsletter to selected members. Others can obtain copies from Dr. Foster or from me. Editor]

**REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE**

I thank those of you who earlier provided slides, tapes, or other data on *Contopus caribaeus*. I would appreciate similar information for a study of the Lesser Antillean Pewee, *C. latirostris*. Also, I would appreciate receiving tape recordings of the black-hawk (*Buteogallus*) group in the Caribbean region, and *Nyctibius* from anywhere in Central America.

George B. Reynard, 105 Midway St., Riverton, New Jersey

**1995 SCO MEETING IN TRINIDAD**

The 1995 annual meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology will be held from 27 July through 3 August 1995 in Trinidad. Details and a call for abstracts will appear in a future edition of the bulletin.