

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

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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

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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.

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