

The Conservation Corner

By Janice Boyd, PhD
AFA Conservation and Research Committee

In the last issue, I described two of the four subcommittees that are part of AFA's Conservation and Research Committee: the Red Siskin Project and the CITES Committee. This time I'll introduce the Cooperative Breeding Programs and the Avian Research Committee and mention the Exotic Bird Registry.

The subcommittee on Cooperative Breeding Programs (CBP) is chaired by Nancy Speed. The provisions of the Wild Bird Conservation Act (WBCA) allow the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to approve cooperative breeding programs of WBCA-protected birds, and subsequent import permits under such breeding programs. The purpose of cooperative breeding programs is to enhance or promote the conservation of the species in the wild or to establish a self-sustaining population of the species in captivity in the United States. Every program must be overseen by an "appropriate avicultural, zoological or conservation" organization, one of which is the AFA. As of 2003 there were 24 CBPs, four of which were overseen by AFA. As of 2005, AFA oversees five -- two active and successful, one recently proposed, and two not very active:

1. Cooperative Breeding Program CB009: Crimson-bellied conure (*Pyrrhura perlata perlata*); Pearly conure (*Pyrrhura perlata lepida*; *P.p. coerulescens*); Blue (mutation) Green-cheeked conure (*Pyrrhura molinae*); Fiery-shouldered conure (*Pyrrhura egregia*); Rose-fronted (painted) conure (*Pyrrhura rhodoccephala*); Painted conure (*Pyrrhura picta picta*, *P.p. reseifrons*); White-eared Conure (*Pyrrhura leucotis leucotis* and *P.l. emma*) – an active and successful program with F3 generation hatchings taking place in most species. The crimson-bellied population grew from 50 imports to over 350

birds in the program in only a few years. All other species have responded well with the exception of the painted conure. Only four pairs were imported to attempt to supplement the U. S. population.

2. Blue-headed Macaw (*Ara couloni*) - Another active and successful program. Several birds have been imported under the program. In 2004 eggs were produced but as yet no young have hatched.

3. Blue-eyed Macaw (*Cacatua ophthalmica*) – AFA's newest CBP pending approval from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

4. Javan hill mynah (*Gracula religiosa religiosa*), Sumatran hill mynah (*Gracula religiosa robusta*) – Some Javan hill mynahs were imported, but there has been no successful reproduction. One of the participants reported that this CBP is interested in recruiting another member to continue this program.

5. Red-crested Cardinal (*Paroaria coronata*) and Yellow-billed Cardinal (*Paroaria capitata*) – not active at present time.

A CBP-to-be must have at least two members, must submit USFWS Form 3-200-49 (10 pages with instructions at website <http://forms.fws.gov/3-200-49.pdf>) and pay a fee of \$25 – proposed to be increased to \$200. It must be periodically renewed, and the FWS has requested approval of a renewal fee of \$50. To amend the program to add additional species or additional participants will soon cost \$100. Once a program is approved, the CBP may request specific import authorization through submittal of form 3-200-48 (another 10 pages with instructions at website <http://forms.fws.gov/3-200-48.pdf>) and paying another \$25 (I didn't find any specific information saying this fee has been proposed to be increased).

Now, how does one know what avian species are well represented in aviculture, and which ones would be good subjects of a

CBP because they are not well represented in US aviculture or that need new blood to prevent inbreeding? That was one of the purposes of AFA's Exotic Bird Registry. The Exotic Bird Registry was established in 1994 to serve as a central repository of demographic information on the various species of birds being kept and bred in aviculture. But the Registry has been slumbering over the past few years because AFA is a volunteer organization and unless volunteers can be found to promote and manage programs, they become inactive. The Exotic Bird Registry has suffered this fate but is just waiting for the day when some energetic volunteer(s) would like to take it on and give it the attention and promotion it deserves. (Hint to some volunteer-in-the-wings.)

Another slumbering program has been the fourth and final official subcommittee of the CRC, the Avian Research Committee, with the official role to "solicit, review and recommend avian research programs to the Board for grant approval and to solicit and receive donations for avian research." Its acting chair is myself, Janice Boyd. Making this subcommittee active and effective again is one of my goals. In the 1980's and early 1990's the Avian Research Committee provided grants to dozens of projects. In 1994 AFA published a CITES Supplement in which were listed the 65 AFA-supported projects between 1982-1993. Laurella Desbrough was kind enough to send me a copy of the list, which I've reproduced in the table. Wow; very impressive! Unfortunately, as many of you readers know, for a period AFA fell upon hard times. During that time it was not financially able to continue its grant program, although funds were

raised to donate to the Spix's macaw conservation effort. Now things are looking up for AFA, and over the next few years the grants program should begin again. I hope we can begin a modest program in 2006. One possible approach at first would be for members and affiliated clubs and organizations to pledge a small amount of money to a specific AFA research fund for providing small (to start with) grants to worthy research projects. Sort of like what has been done for the Disaster Relief Fund. The amount of each grant might be around \$1,000, and on the AFA website we would post a notice requesting grant proposals by a specific date. A Research Grant Review Team would then review the proposals and suggest one or more proposals for funding, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Other ways of raising research grant funds are also possible. If you have a suggestion or opinion on these ideas, please send me an email to info@parrotfund.org (or to one of the other emails you may know me by – they all converge on yours-truly).

Starting now, one of the things we will do to begin to ramp up our assistance to avian research will be to look for avian research speakers for our Conventions and to do some fund raising for these projects from Convention attendees. We already have plans for the August 2005 Convention in Miami. Stay tuned!

Projects Receiving AFA Avian Research Grants, 1982 – 1993, as reported in the 1994 AFA CITES Supplement

**Projects Receiving AFA Avian Research Grants, 1982 – 1993,
as reported in the 1994 AFA CITES Supplement:**

Title	Principle Investigator(s)
Estimation of the population parameters of the Green-cheeked Amazon <i>Amazona viridigenalis</i> in northeastern Mexico	Jack Clinton-Eitnear, Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, MacAllen TX
Seasonal evaluation of excretory sex steroid hormones in juvenile psittacines, non-invasive applications to a functional appraisal of sexual identity of mature birds	A. Bercovitz, San Diego Zoo, San Diego CA
Detection of <i>Chlamydia psittaci</i> infection in exotic birds	J.M. Gaskin, University of Florida, Gainesville FL
Development and efficacy of a live budgerigar fledgling disease virus vaccine for use in breeding budgerigars <i>Melospiza undulatus</i>	P. D. Lukert and R.B. Davis, University of Georgia, Athens GA
Follow-up study on psittacine parvovirus study from 1982	P. D. Lukert and R.B. Davis, University of Georgia, Athens GA
Solid food requirements and water tolerance of cockatiel chicks from hatching to five weeks of age	C.R. Grau and T.E. Roudybush, University of California, Davis CA

Projects Receiving AFA Grants cont.

Exogenous factors affecting the natural population of <i>Amazona viridigenalis</i> and a determination of its natural diet.	Jack Clinton-Eitnear, Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, MacAllen TX
Lysine requirements of cockatiel chicks	C.R. Grau and T.E. Roudybush, University of California, Davis CA
Protein and energy utilization of Amazon parrots	C.R. Grau and T.E. Roudybush, University of California, Davis CA
Breeding biology of the Monk Parrot	Steven Emlen, Cornell University, Ithaca NY
Development and validation of egg waste estrogen analysis in rare and endangered psittacine species—applications in neonates for sex identification and non-invasive assessment	A. Bercovitz, San Diego Zoo, San Diego CA
Nutritional requirements of budgerigars through their lifecycles	D. Polin, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI
Cryogenic preservation of budgerigar semen	T. Hargrove, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton FL
Vitamin A stores and onset of hypovitaminosis A in cockatiels and parrots	C.R. Grau and T.E. Roudybush, University of California, Davis CA
Artificial incubation temperature requirements of cockatiel eggs	U. R. Abbott and B.A. Cutler, University of California, Davis CA
Environmental control of reproduction in cockatiels	J. R. Millam, University of California, Davis CA
Handling and disturbance stress in captive psittacines	K.T. Patton and W.C. Crawford, Raptor Rehabilitation and Propagation Project, Eureka MO
Use of doxycycline and chlortetracycline medicated avicake for treating chlamydiosis (psittacosis) in orange-winged Amazon parrots	K. Flammer, North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC
The influence of selected adjuvants on the humoral immune response of umbrella cockatoos <i>Cacatua alba</i>	J.M. Gaskin, University of Florida, Gainesville FL
Incidence and host specificity of toxoplasmosis in canaries	K. Flammer, North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC
Calcium requirements of egg production in cockatiels	C.R. Grau and T.E. Roudybush, University of California, Davis CA
Congo red binding in <i>E. coli</i> isolated from the cloaca of psittacine birds	K. Flammer, North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC
The efficacy of various disinfectants against certain psittacine viruses	J.M. Gaskin, University of Florida, Gainesville FL
Treatment of psittacosis in cockatiels with chlortetracycline medicated seed diet	K. Flammer, North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC
Phase III psittacine beak and feather disease investigations	B. W. Ritchie, University of Georgia, Athens GA
Potential use of enrofloxacin (Baytril) for treating psittacosis in psittacine birds	K. Flammer, North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC
Gonadal response to gonadotropin releasing hormone	J. R. Millam, University of California, Davis CA
Development of a nonradioactive genomic probe for diagnosis and study of psittacine beak and feather disease	B. W. Ritchie, University of Georgia, Athens GA
Development of an immunoperoxidase test to diagnose psittacine beak and feather disease	K.S. Latimer, University of Georgia, Athens GA
Potential use of doxycycline medicated corn and soy bean feed to treat chlamydiosis in psittacine birds	K. Flammer, North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC
Use of DNA probes for the detection of subclinical carriers of the PBFV virus in breeders' aviaries	B. W. Ritchie, University of Georgia, Athens GA
Effect of dietary iron on the accumulation of iron in the liver of European starlings	Susan Crissey, Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield IL
Stimulation of breeding in orange-winged Amazons	J. R. Millam, University of California, Davis CA
Endocrine response of orange-winged Amazons to photostimulation	J. R. Millam, University of California, Davis CA
Breeding biology of the Mariana Crow	Gary A. Michaels
Development of a field-based program for the Hispaniolan Trogan	Steve Amos, Jose Ottenwalder, Jack Clinton Eitnear, William Hasse
Breeding Biology of the Bahama Parrot <i>Amazona leucocephala bahamensis</i>	Rosemarie Gnam, City University of New York NY

Projects Receiving AFA Grants cont.

Conservation of the Java Hawk-eagle	Sebastianus van Balen and Robin Chancellor
Status and conservation of the Cape Parrot in southern Africa	Andre Boshoff
Determination of preferred habitat characteristics of Ocellated Turkeys in Tikal National Park, Guatemala	Maria Jose Gonzales Fuster
Tropical Andes Film Project	Megan and Greg Epler Wood
Ecology, breeding biology and conservation of the Yellow-shouldered Amazon on Margarita Island, Venezuela	Kirsten M. Slivius
Preliminary study on the impact of Hurricane Gilbert on the psittacine population of Yucatan	Joann M. Andrews, Pro-Natura, Yucatan, MX
Macaw conservation in Belize and Honduras, Central America	Michael Kreger
The use of starch-gel electrophoresis to access the degree of genetic variability in a captive population of Socorro Doves	Luis F. Baptista
Natural history of the El Oro Parakeet <i>Pyrrhura orcesi</i>	Sergio Lasso
Cooperative breeding and habitat utilization by the Toucan Barbet <i>Semnornis ramphastinus</i>	Carla Restrepo and Marta Lucy Mondragon
Campaign for the preservation of the Seven-colored Tanager <i>Tanagra fastuosa</i>	Maria Tereza Jorge Padua
Feeding biology of the Bahama Parrot <i>Amazona leucocephala bahamensis</i> during the breeding season	Rosemarie Gnam, City University of New York NY
Assessing the status of Madagascar's endemic land birds	Michael S. Putnam
Determination of the status of the Glaucous Macaw and Hyacinth Macaw in Argentina and Paraguay	Dr. Manuel Nores
The genetics of the Puerto Rican Amazon <i>Amazona vittata</i>	M. Kelly Brock
Support for the Centro para la Conservacion de los Psitacidos Mexicanos	John Ehrenberg, Merida MX
Conservation of Madagascar birds	Michael S. Putnam
First workshop on the management and conservation of macaws in Mesoamerica	Sherry Thorn
Project to study incubation of the ocellated Turkey <i>Agiocharis ocellata</i> using the Common Turkey <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Johanna Motta Gill, Tikal National Park, Guatemala
Captive breeding of the Southern Ground Hornbill <i>Eucorvus cafer</i>	Eugene Marais, National Zoological Gardens, Pretoria, South Africa
Halfmoon Conure Breeding Consortium	Susie Vaught and Gary Clifton, Arizona Seed Crackers Society Conservation Project
Post-release behavior and movements of the Bali Mynah in Balie Barat (second season)	Mark Collins and Thomas B. Smith, Department of Biology, San Francisco State University CA
Tracking of seasonal movements of the Great Green Macaw in the Atlantic forest of Costa Rica and Nicaragua	Dr. George Powell, RARE
Hematology and serum biochemical analysis of wild-caught Amazons in Guatemala	K. Joyner, Marian Aviaries, Guatemala
The use of intracarazole sustained release dosing	Marn Stetter and others, New York Zoological Society, NY NY
Treatment of avian giardiasis	Stephen Smith and others, Virginia School of Veterinary Medicine, VA
Pharmokinetics of intracarazole	Susan Orosz, University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN
Flow cytometric evaluation of leucocyte count	William King and others, Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine, Baton Rouge LA

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