

International Conure Association Saving the Yellow-eared Conure

by Brent Andrus, Las Vegas, Nevada
Co-Founder

This rare conure is *Ognorthynchus icterotis* or Yellow-eared Conure. An amazingly beautiful conure, this species was abundant in the early 1900s across the High Andes of Columbia and northern Ecuador. By the 1980s the population had undergone a catastrophic decline as large flocks started dwindling and disappearing at an alarming rate. By the mid-1990s it was reduced to only two known surviving flocks – one in Ecuador, another in Columbia, together numbering fewer than 50 individuals.

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In June of 1998 Proyecto Ognorthynchus was launched aimed at locating these flocks and studying the species. Searches and a poster campaign was begun. Farmers were asked to report any sightings. However, none could be found. All traces of this species had vanished; traditional haunts had been deforested or hunting had exterminated the last known birds. With no reports and not a single individual in captivity the worst was feared.

The search was about to end when a local person having seen the

campaign poster reported seeing the species in a remote region of Columbia. In April of 1999, with utter euphoria, a roost site was found with three flocks totaling 81 birds. No others have been found since.

You can read and view pictures of this conure at the International Conure Association web-site at:

<http://www3.upatsix.com/ica/>

Click on the Yellow-eared Conure in the index.

The International Conure Association (ICA) has joined in an alliance with Loro Parque, the American Bird Conservancy, and the World Parrot Trust to raise funds to support the ongoing research and conservation program to save this bird from extinction. It is hanging by a narrow thread. A comprehensive program has been developed to educate the local people as to the status of this parrot and to expand its needed habitat. The wax palm that the Yellow-eared Conure (YEC) needs for nests and food is also an endangered species.

We have speakers available with a slide show and video presentation for your local bird clubs. All the speakers need is travel expenses. In addition, Paul Salaman, director of the Yellow-eared Conure Program, will be speaking at the American Federation of Aviculture's annual convention in August in Houston.

I know that the hearts of conure lovers are big. I am hoping that conure lovers will embrace the Yellow-eared Conure and help to make the salvation of this endangered species a fact. Since the discovery of the 81 YECs in April, 1999, they have been through a breeding season and the flock has increased to 110 individuals. But we have a long ways to go – come make the journey with us. For more information contact:

Brent Andrus
Co-founder

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International Conure Association

by Sandee L. Molenda
Specialty Organization Vice President

On August 8, 1997, co-founders Brent Andrus and Sandi Brennan, as well as others attending the AFA convention in San Antonio, Texas, formed the International Conure Association (ICA). At that meeting the by-laws were ratified and the first officers were elected.

Current Officers

President: Sandi Brennan
Edgewood, NM
Vice President: Fran Smith
Ramona, CA
Recording Secretary: Lisa McManus
Aurora, CO
Corresponding Secretary: Nora Schmidt
Corpus Christi, TX
Treasurer: Brent Andrus, CPA
Las Vegas, N

The objectives of the Society are the study of conures in captivity and in the wild, the dissemination of information for the care, breeding, and feeding of conures in the home and aviary, the perpetuation of all conure species, in particular, those threatened with extinction, and the publication of matters pertaining to conures and aviculture.

The goals of the International Conure Association are:

1. To provide information, in the form of a quarterly journal, on the needs of conures both in the home and aviary.
2. To assist persons in locating that perfect pet or breeder, by way of advertisements and by maintaining a database of members and what they are breeding, selling, or looking to buy.
3. To promote the breeding of less common conures by helping breeders determine what bloodlines they have and where they may find persons who have unrelated ones.

4. To keep stud books on less common conures.

For its members, ICA will send information quarterly, set up so it can easily be kept in a standard three ring notebook. If you wish to sell something you can advertise for a small fee. If you are looking to buy, it is free.

ICA maintains a web site at:
<http://www3.upatsix.com/ica/>

Check the email list at:
IntlConureAssociation@
yahoogroups.com

ICA will keep a database of those persons willing to have their names, and phone numbers given out to those seeking information, regarding conures.

ICA recognizes that some species of conures are threatened or

endangered. Birds can no longer be taken from the wild and imported into the U.S. It is also difficult to transport them from one country to another even if they are captive bred. For that reason, ICA recognizes the need to manage the breeder birds very carefully so that future generations can enjoy them.

The ICA plans to start stud-books on those conures whose numbers are so small that they are in danger of being inbred. By tracing bloodlines and keeping records, ICA can help people find unrelated birds when they want to set up pairs for breeding.


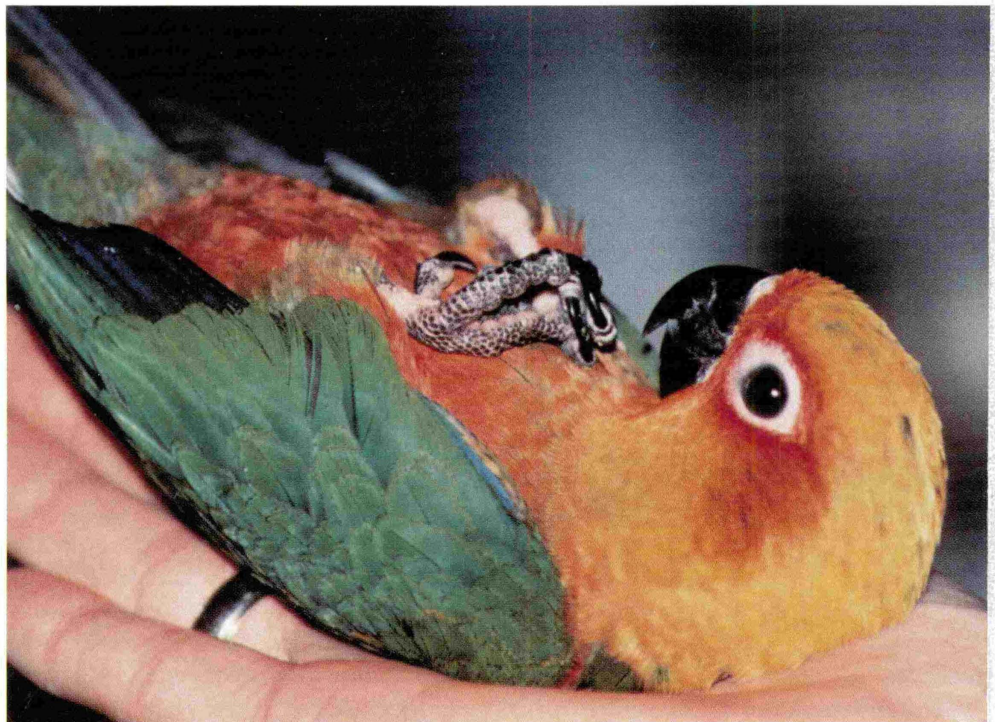
ICA also accepts articles for its publication. Anything from a diet tip, a funny story, or a picture to a detailed article. Your experience is valuable, share it if you can. Send all articles to PO Box 70123, Las Vegas, NV 89170 

Photo by Fred Harris



Jenday Conure