

Nestmates Anonymous

by Val Clear, Ph.D.
Anderson, Indiana

This service is to match unmated birds, to bring joy to forlorn single birds and their discouraged owners, and to broaden the gene pool in needy species.

To list a bird give as much of the following as you can: English name or names by which it is known, Latin name and sex; your name, address and phone number; one dollar for up to four birds.

To answer a listing send a separate letter for each bird sought (each one goes to a different source), including your name, address and phone number; enclose a dollar for each bird sought (to cover mailing your response).

No responsibility whatever can be accepted by the Media Committee, *Watchbird* or the American Federation of Aviculture for transactions entered into as a result of this service. All persons' names will be kept strictly confidential. Receipts above expenses go to the AFA treasury for appropriate uses. The facilitator serves without remuneration other than satisfaction for making a contribution to the fancy.

Address all communications to Ms. Cathy Grosse, 3120 Epworth Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211. Do not write to the *Watchbird*.



ENTER THE WATCHBIRD EXOTIC BIRD PHOTO CONTEST

Subject: exotic aviary birds

Deadline: August 1, 1985

Entries: displayed at the A.F.A. convention, commercial display area, Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco

Limit: 3 entries to a category and no more than 5 overall

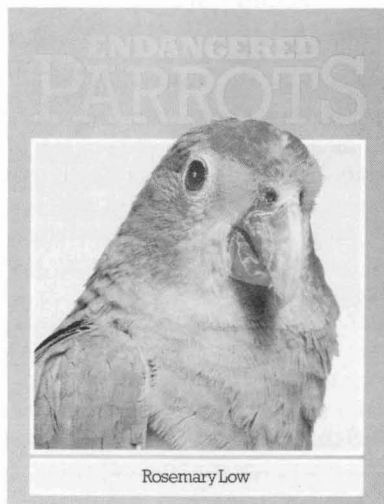
Categories: color prints, color slides, black and white prints

Entry fee: \$1.00 each entry, total fee cannot exceed \$5.00

Winners: to be announced Saturday evening, August 10

Look for details and entry form in the complete convention mailer packet, or contact:

Rolland J. Fournier, photo chairman
322 South California Street
Campbell, CA 95008



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Endangered Parrots — by Rosemary Low

Reviewed by Tom Marshall
Great Falls, Virginia

Aviculture is conservation too! However, "conservationists" have opposed or ignored perhaps the only practical method of conservation left to them: captive breeding. They cling tenaciously to protection of habitat alone, relying on man's goodwill or on repression, both of which are too uncertain. Protection of habitat and maintenance in captivity doubles the chances of survival of species in danger of extinction.

Rosemary Low has written her most important book to date; she has eloquently defined and described, with specific detail, aviculture and its purpose and value as a conservative tool on behalf of endangered parrots.

Ms. Low states that according to her records, of the 314 parrot species at least 253 have been kept in captivity; of these at least 220 have reproduced and at least 141 species have reared young to second or multiple generations. It is worth noting that private aviculturists, rather than zoological associations, have been responsible for the majority (probably more than 90%) of the parrot species bred in captivity, and of those bred to more than one generation.

To date, it is a private individual from Florida, Ramon Noegel, who has probably achieved the most success

with a single endangered species and also with a single genus. The proof that aviculture can be elevated to a valuable conservation tool is irrefutable; Ramon Noegel reared 81 *Amazona leucocephala* (endangered races of the Cuban Amazons), while his friend and former President of AFA, Tom Ireland, raised 63 golden-capped conures (*Aratinga aurifrons*) in one year.

In New Zealand breeders started with 103 red-fronted kakarikis (*Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae*) in 1958 and, within six years, had increased their numbers to 2500.

Most parrot species live in the rain forest areas of the world where humans often live on a mere subsistence level. These people have a real need. We of the industrialized world are already using more than two thirds of the world's resources and we continue to demand more, thereby putting severe pressures on the parrot's habitat and environment. This combination of need and greed has placed many parrots on the brink of extinction.

At least half of Ms. Low's well written book is devoted to describing the variety of circumstances affecting endemic parrots in various locations around the world. They range from the Caribbean Islands Amazon parrots whose habitats have been reduced to a few square miles, and the majestic macaws, endangered by the combined pressures of habitat destruction and trade, to possibly the most unique bird in existence, the kakapo from New Zealand, whose strange habits do not benefit it for survival in the twentieth century. Other parrots highlighted include: yellow-eared conure, queen of Bavaria conure, thick-billed parrot, the echo parakeet and many other fascinating parrots the world over.

ENDANGERED PARROTS also contains statements of a controversial nature, which should serve to promote serious discussions in avicultural circles about standards of ethical conduct and present practices. For instance, Rosemary Low says, "Large birds are generally more vulnerable to habitat alteration and predation by man than smaller species. Thus macaws, the largest and most spectacular of all parrots, have declined greatly as a result of man's interference in their environment. There can be no justification for taking the larger macaws from the wild; from those already in captivity the demand should be met. A more responsible attitude on the part of traders and aviculturists is