

# Fund Raising for the Kakapo Project

by D. Grenville Roles  
Salt Lake City, Utah

At a recent fund raising soiree of the Avicultural Society of Utah attended by the AFA Board, a magnificent painting entitled "Kakapo", a spectacular rendition of the Owl Parrot of New Zealand, was auctioned.

This lovely painting together with other art and artifacts auctioned and raffled, raised over \$1,700 for the Kakapo project.

The generous and gifted artist who donated this unique work, Carel Brest Van Kempen, is resident here in Salt Lake City.

As can be seen from the accompanying art work, Carel has combined his extraordinary sense of perspective and composition with superb technique, scientific accuracy and artistic sensitivity, to produce some remarkably exciting and extraordinary work.

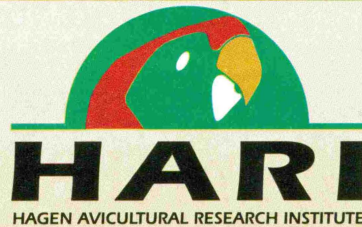
Astonishingly, Carel has pursued no formal training beyond high school drawing, and although a full-time artist since 1983, has been commercially successful since fifth grade when he sold drawings of motorcycles at a quarter each!

Inspired by his Dutch forebears, Salvador Dali, Louis Agassiz Fuertes and John James Audubon, Carel identifies the phenomenally brilliant Raymond Ching as his favourite artist.

Though currently working primarily in acrylics, Carel has become proficient in other media, especially water colour and his technique continues to evolve. Each picture takes



Mark Hagen is Research Director at HARI. He has a Master of Agriculture from the University of Guelph and specializes in Psittacine Aviculture. His continued Research includes Nutrition, Incubation and other Psittacine Aviculture research projects.



The HAGEN AVICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (HARI) located in Rigaud, Québec was established in 1985 to study the captive breeding and maintenance of companion birds. At present, the breeding colony houses 150 pairs of 40 various parrot species.

The birds are housed in separate, double door rooms incorporating the latest techniques in environmental control.

- Insulated walls and ceilings are totally waterproofed with PVC plastic sheeting.
- Sloped poly-urethane concrete floors are drained to an environmentally secure in-house septic system.
- Down draft ventilation is connected to a high tech air-to-air heat exchanger and multiple fan system which provides fresh warm air.
- 400 watt sodium and fluorescent lights with timers provide photoperiodic manipulation.
- Green House misting system provides continuous humidity control and a rain-like effect which the birds love.
- Large eight and ten foot suspended flights and gravity feeders provide privacy and minimal human disturbance.

Research fields include disease control, pair bonding, nutrition and the influence of temperature, humidity and light cycles on breeding. Progress has been rapid in the area of feeding research at HARI.

Hagen's new VME seed line (Vitamin and Mineral Enriched) incorporates the most effective supplementation for smaller bird species. HARI research determined that vitamin and mineral enrichment of dehulled seed kernels was more effective than other industry methods, such as coloring the outside hull or simply mixing seeds with poultry type pellets, which are often rejected by the birds.

PRIME, a unique vitamin/mineral and limiting amino acid supplement which includes beneficial bacteria and digestive enzymes, was also developed by HARI. The formula is designed for birds on a soft food or seed diet, ensuring that all essential nutrients are made available in the diet.

The TROPICAN line of formulated, fruit flavored extruded foods for parrots is the direct result of intensive nutrition research at HARI. The TROPICAN line includes both a High Performance formula for breeding birds, moulting or periods of stress and the Life-Time formula for normal maintenance conditions. Both PRIME and TROPICAN have been fed to HARI's own colony of birds since 1985 with excellent results. Hari has raised many of the larger parrots and is presently supplying pet stores with tame babies.



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at least two months, involving meticulous research of backgrounds and plant material to ensure an authentic setting. Carel has travelled widely over all of North America and many of our wild places are depicted as backgrounds in some of his pictures.

In creating his pictures, Carel tries to "convey something of the ecological essence of the creature depicted and visualize the appropriate environment to convey information on its lifestyle."

A falconer and aviculturist since childhood, Carel has won numerous prizes in art exhibitions around the country, most recently taking Best of Show at the prestigious Mountains and Meadows exhibition at Meadow Vista in California.

Carel is also exhibiting at present in a traveling exhibition entitled "Endangered Species Media Project", sponsored by TransCo Energy Company, opening December 8th in Houston, Texas and which will go on to visit many major cities in the eastern states.

A successful muralist and commercial artist, Carel is presently working on a series of illustrations of endangered species.

The Kakapo project referred to earlier is the conservation effort currently underway by the New Zealand Department of Conservation based in Wellington. The person responsible for generating such interest here in Salt Lake is Rebecca Dennett, who will be taking the \$1,700 cheque to Ralph Powlesland, head of the project. Rebecca plans to spend time on predator-free Little Barrier Island observing the transplanted population established there.

The extraordinary Kakapo has an estimated world population of no more than 60 and is teetering on the very edge of extinction.

Despite careful monitoring and a massive effort by the New Zealand Department of Conservation, the bird's naturally slow and complex reproductive behaviour, together with the deprivations of introduced predators encroaching throughout the natural range of the birds, produce a very bleak picture indeed of the long term survival of this unique and fabulous creature.

You can, of course, assist in this effort by making contributions directly to the New Zealand Department of Conservation, Wellington, New Zealand, c/o Ralph Powlesland.