

CONSERVATION UPDATE

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RARE WOODPECKER SIGHTED. The **helmet woodpecker**, (*Dryocopus galeatus*) the rarest of South American piciformes, has been reliably spotted for the first time in decades, reports Piciformes Specialist Group Chairman Dr. Lester L. Short. Researcher Dr. Edwin Willis sighted one female of the distinctive species in February in western Sao Paulo, Brazil. (I.C.B.P. World Birdwatch, Vol. 9, No. 2).

Linhares Reserve in the Atlantic Forest of Brazil may have already lost both the **kinglet calyptura** (*Calyptura cristata*) and the **cherry-throated tanager** (*Nemosia rourei*) but due to a state-owned mining company, Companhia Vale do Rio Doce, that created the reserve, many additional species may be saved. While famous for its population of **red-billed curassows** (*Crax blumenbachii*), the forest is also known to be inhabited by the **blue cotinga** (*Cotinga maculata*), **white-winged cotinga** (*Xipholena atropurpurea*), **rufous-vented ground cuckoo** (*Neomorphus geoffroyi*), **ringed woodpecker** (*Celeus torquatus tinunculus*) and **black-headed berryeater** (*Carponia melanocephalus*) (I.C.B.P. World Birdwatch, Vol. 9, No. 2).

The **Florida scrub jay** (*Aphelocoma coerulescens coerulescens*) has been listed by the Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species as of 6 July 1987. This bird is exclusively confined to scrub habitat in peninsular Florida. (AAZPA Newsletter, Vol. XXVIII, No. 3).

The **Inyo brown towhee** (*Pipilo fuscus eremophilus*), a subspecies of the brown towhee, has also been listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. It is estimated that the entire population is less than 200 individuals and occurs in an 11 mile area in the Argus Mountains, Inyo County, California. (AAZPA Newsletter, Vol. XXVIII, No. 3).

Bali mynahs (*Leucopsar rothschildi*) may be established in the Surabaya Zoo in Indonesia as soon as October of 1987. Twenty pairs of birds whose removal would not affect the

long-range management of the species in North America will be used to establish the colony at Surabaya. The species is maintained at 66 institutions and in 8 private collections. It is hoped that the removal of 40 specimens will free up needed space in this country and that increased emphasis will be placed on reproduction from more desirable pairings. (AAZPA Newsletter, Vol. XXVIII, No. 3).

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service amended its regulations on the importation of psittacines effective 8 July 1987. There is an increase in the period of time during which Federal and commercial quarantine facilities must legband or otherwise individually identify imported psittacine birds from 72 hours to 7 days. Extending the identification period will allow newly imported psittacine birds to recover from shipment-related stress and will result in reduced costs for quarantine facilities. (AAZPA Newsletter, Vol. XXVIII, No. 9).

The **black-capped vireo** (*Vireo atricapillus*) has been listed by the Fish and Wildlife Service as an endangered species. Historically this bird was found in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Mexico. The vireo no longer occurs in Kansas, is gravely endangered in Oklahoma, and no longer occurs in several parts of its former range in Texas. (AAZPA Newsletter, Vol. XXVIII, No. 11).

The World Bank, which is funding the construction of Chile's Pehuenche Hydroelectric Project, is also aiding the financing of a national environmental program designed to protect the **greater Patagonian conure** (*Cyanoliseus patagonus byroni*), whose habitat is threatened by the dam. About 2,800 conures were counted in 1984. The dam will drown two of the 12 remaining nesting cliffs of the conure. The World Bank will assist with captive breeding, reintroduction, education and surveillance programs for the conure. (I.C.B.P. World Birdwatch, Vol. 9, No. 3).

The **Moorea Polynesian warbler** (*Acrocephalus caffer longirostris*) is another Pacific Ocean passerine that has just been reported apparently extinct. It was restricted to montane forests on Moorea in the Society Islands and was already scarce in 1921. By 1973 only two pairs could be found and a recent search by J. C. Thibault has failed to locate any individuals. (I.C.B.P. World Birdwatch, Vol. 9, No. 3).

The **white-breasted white-eye**

(*Zosterops albogularis*) of Norfolk Island in the southwest Pacific may already be extinct. In October/November 1985, a survey conducted by Ian Rooke of the Royal Australian Ornithologists Union did not locate a single white-breasted white-eye. Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service staff on the island remain vigilant, but it appears that neither they nor any local inhabitants have seen the species since 1980. (I.C.B.P. World Birdwatch, Vol. 9, No. 3).

Studies carried out by the International Council for Bird Preservation on the island of Dominica reveal that there are about 300 **red-necked parrots** (*Amazona arausiaca*) and 60 **imperial parrots** (*Amazona imperialis*) in the wild. Both species have their ranges centered upon the northwest slopes of Morne Diablotin, much of which has recently been leased to farmers. The I.C.B.P. is currently attempting a study of the ecology and conservation of these two endemic parrots. (I.C.B.P. World Birdwatch, Vol. 9, No. 3).

According to a recent article by Carlos Yamashita, less than 200 **indigo or Lear's macaws** (*Anodorhynchus leari*) exist in the wild. Contrary to a previous article by note Brazilian ornithologist Helmut Sick, the species is not protected by the establishment of the Ecological Station of Raso da Catarina as the species only "sporadically feeds in this protected ecological reserve." Communication is being made with Yamashita on the possible involvement of AFA (through its Conservation Committee) in the creation of a reserve for the species. (The Wilson Bulletin, Vol. 99, No. 2, June 1987). ●

AAV & MASA To Hold Seminar In Washington, D.C. April '88

The Association of Avian Veterinarians and the Mid-Atlantic States Association of Avian Veterinarians will jointly sponsor the 9th Mid-Atlantic States Avian Medicine Seminar on April 16-18, 1988 in Washington, D.C. during the AAHA yearly meeting. One day of lecture and two days of wet-labs will be held, emphasis being placed on reproductive avian medicine. For further information contact AAHA, P.O. Box 15899, Denver, CO 80251-0899. Watch AAV and MASA publications for details.