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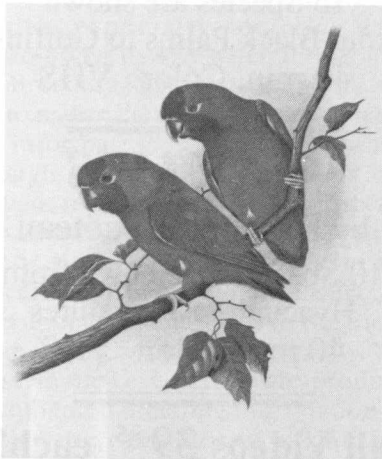
# Art Prints

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# CONSERVATION UPDATE

compiled by Jack Clinton-Eitniear  
Chairman, AFA Conservation Committee  
San Antonio, Texas

A pair of **Mauritius parakeets** (*Psittacula eques*) has successfully hatched in the wild. This is the first known breeding record for the severely threatened parrot in recent years. The adult population is estimated at eight individuals. (*World Birdwatch*, Vol. 10, No. 1, 1988)

A shipment of captive bred **Bali mynahs** (starlings) (*Leucopsar rothschildi*) from American zoos and the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust arrived at the Surabaya Zoo in December to provide a stock from which to produce offspring for release into the wild. In January the first eggs were laid and the building of a pre-release training centre in the heart of Bali Barat National Park will shortly begin. Sadly, a census carried out by the National Park staff late last year revealed the wild population is still in decline. Only 55 individuals were sighted during the census of all previously known roost sites. This clearly highlights the plight of the species and emphasizes the importance of the project. (*World Birdwatch*, Vol. 10, No. 1, 1988)

The first draft of the Regional Studbook for **thick-billed parrots** has been distributed to institutions holding this species. The studbook lists 54 birds (29.25) held in North American zoos and by private aviculturists. Hatchings occurred last year at only the Sacramento Zoo and the Aviculture Institute of Los Angeles. The Sacramento Zoo had eight hatchings from three pairs, and six chicks survived to maturity. The Avicultural Institute reported one hatching, and it survived. It is imperative that additional institutions begin breeding this parrot species. (*AAZPA Newsletter*, Vol. XXIX, No. 5, May 1988)

On 18 January, 7.5 **West Indian tree ducks** (*Dendrocygna arborea*) were sent to the Parque Nacional to be reintroduced into their natural habitat in the Dominican Republic. They were donated to ZOODOM by White Oak Plantation, Yulee, Florida, where they were hatched and parent raised. (*AAZPA Newsletter*, Vol. XXIX, No. 5, May 1988)

A studbook on the **white-naped crane** (*Grus vipio*) has been completed and distributed to institutions holding specimens. A breakdown of the crane's population in the U.S. (as of

August 1987) is as follows: The number of birds in the U.S. is 45, 36, 2 = 83. Seven birds hatched during 1986. Seven birds died, of which four were hatchlings. Four offspring of the over-represented Bronx line were sent to Taipei, reducing the total U.S. population but improving the balance of founder lines. Ten U.S. founders, eight still capable of reproduction, are represented in the U.S. population. Eleven foreign founders are represented by their offspring in the U.S. Six potential founders exist in the U.S. and two of these produced fertile eggs in 1987. (*AAZPA Newsletter*, Vol. XXIX, No. 2, February 1988)

According to a recently published report on the **Puerto Rican parrot** (*Amazona vittata*), the total (minimum) number in the wild increased in 1987 to 41 with an additional 42 being held in captivity. This is an increase from the previous year's count of 28 in the wild. (*Parrotletter*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1988)

**A new species of parakeet** has been discovered in the Ecuadorian Andes. An investigation as to the species' status and distribution was made by Mark B. Robbins and George S. Glenn during August 1986. Two flocks of eighteen birds were sighted in the mountains just west of Naranjal in the province of Azuay. This discovery extends the range of the species 100 kilometers north of the original discovery site. **A request have been received by Sergio Lasso B. of Corporacion Ornithologica del Ecuador for funds to establish a reserve for this parakeet in El Oro Province. Clearing for cattle grazing may well consume this species' total habitat if a reserve is not established. Those that can contribute to the reserve fund should send their contributions to the Home Office with a notation, "Conservation Fund Donation/El Oro Reserve."** (*Parrotletter*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1988)

A new species of parrotlet was discovered by Dr. John P. O'Neill and Dr. Charles A. Munn, ornithologists conducting field studies in Peru. The species appears to be a new species of *Nannopsittaca*, a genus that, until now, contained only one species, the **Tepui parrotlet** (*N. panychlora*) of Venezuela and Guyana. The new species is all bright green with the exception of powder-blue forecrown, flesh colored bill and feet, a dark iris, and a faint light eye-ring. (*Parrotletter*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1988) ●