

# CONSERVATION UPDATE

## AFA Funds Studies on Bahama Parrot, Java Hawk-eagle, Ocellated Turkey and Cape Parrot

by Jack Clinton-Eitnrear  
Chairman, AFA Conservation Committee

During the recently held AFA convention, the Board of Directors approved funding for the following four avian field studies.

### Breeding Biology of the Bahama Parrot

*Principle Investigator:*  
Rosemarie Gnam  
Amount: \$2,750

Avian research grants were awarded to Rosemarie in 1984, 1986. She continues to investigate the ecology and population dynamics of the species

and is involved with the development of a comprehensive conservation strategy for the species.

### Conservation of the Java Hawk-Eagle

*Principle Investigators:*  
Sebastianus Van Balen, Robin Chancellor  
Amount: \$2,750

This eagle inhabiting the island of Java is unknown to science in terms of its breeding biology (no nest or eggs have been discovered), population

dynamics, and ecological requirements. Perhaps only 50 exist in the wild according to a recent short expedition to the island by the principle investigator. Funds provided will allow further investigation as to the species' status and ecological requirements.

### The Status and Conservation of the Cape Parrot in Southern Africa

*Principle Investigator:*  
Andre Boshoff  
Amount: \$1,500

This species is considered "vulnerable" in the South African Red Data Book; Birds, and may prove to be an endemic species of South Africa. Funds provided will allow Andre to present his data on the species' status and conservation at the Parrot Specialist group meeting in Brazil as well as to continue his needed studies on the species in the wild.

### Determination of Preferred Habitat Characteristics of Ocellated Turkeys in Tikal National Park, Guatemala

*Principle Investigator:*  
Maria Jose Gonzalez Fuster  
Amount: \$2,750

The ocellated turkey is a monotypic species with a relict distribution in Yucatan Peninsula (Mexico), Belize, and northern Guatemala. Despite the fact that it is a big, showy bird and a tourist attraction, there is little information on this species' habitat requirements. Its situation is now critical, since ocellated turkeys are considered endangered because of habitat destruction throughout its range, and because of their high susceptibility to domestic poultry diseases. Maria will evaluate ocellated turkey habitat in Tikal National Park, El Peten, Guatemala. Tikal presents the major types of vegetation associations that are found in northern Peten, and harbors the only large, protected population of turkeys in Guatemala.

In addition to the above mentioned field studies, funding was approved for three committee projects: **Production of a Red Siskin Propagation Pamphlet in Spanish, Field Census of Yellow-faced Parrotlets in Peru, and Field Studies on the Red Siskin in Puerto Rico.** These projects, and other activities of the committee, will be reported upon more fully in future issues of the *Watchbird*. ●

## Aviculture is Conservation too...

**Name:** Scarlet-chested Parakeet  
*Neophema splendida*

**Range:** Interior of southern Australia

**Status in the Wild:**  
Rare

**Status in Captivity:** Well established. Captive members may exceed those in the wild.

**Conservation Action:** No current action is being taken; however, a large captive population exists should a reintroduction be implemented.

### Support the AFA Conservation Fund

Send your tax deductible contributions to: **AFA Conservation Fund**, American Federation of Aviculture, P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, California 90278 U.S.A.

