

CONSERVATION UPDATE

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The first fertile egg ever produced by a pair of captive **California condors** was laid 3 March 1988 at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. It was removed and placed in an incubator, in the hope that the pair would produce another. The egg hatched on 29 April. (*Ornithological Newsletter* Number 64, June 1988).

A field study on the **horned currawong** being conducted in Amboro National Park, Bolivia will have to be terminated immediately if more funding is not forthcoming. The study is needed if Amboro is to become an internationally important cracid reserve. Those interested in contributing or in general correspondence should write Guy Cox, Casilla 2097, Santa Cruz, Bolivia (*Ornithological Newsletter*, Number 65, August 1988).

John Clark, Ph.D. conducted a survey on the impact of Hurricane Gilbert to the natural resources of the Yucatan Peninsula. The hurricane caused major damage to the barrier island chain, cutting 23 new channels into the interior estuary. The nine new channels at Rio Lagartos Wildlife Refuge, the only nesting site for the **Caribbean flamingo** in Mexico (estimated 20,000 to 30,000 adults) has caused significant reductions in the hypersaline conditions needed by flamingos for feeding and breeding. This will undoubtedly affect the future breeding of this species in the region. The hurricane, the most powerful of cyclonic storms registered for the Western Atlantic, killed an estimated 3,000 adult and 150 fledgling

flamingos.

Several projects were approved funding by the Pan American Section of I.C.B.P. during the May board meeting. Some of interest include: "Density, distribution, and status of Cracids in Honduras" (Sergio Midence); "Distribution, ecology and status of the Psittacid populations in the State of Concepcion, Paraguay" (Nancy Lopez); and "National survey of the population status, use in local and international trade, and biology of the Family Psittacidae in Venezuela" (Philip Desenne). (*Pan American Bulletin (ICBP)*, Volume 3, No. 2, October 1988).

A Cambridge Columbus Zoological Expedition, led by Anna Varey, will be visiting the Paria Peninsula in northeast Venezuela, an important center of endemism. Bird census work and more detailed studies of five endemic species will be carried out. One of the species to be studied will be the threatened **red siskin**.

The **Socorro mockingbird** is endemic to the island of Socorro, one of the four Revillagigedo Islands which lie about 380 km south of the tip of Baja, California, off the Pacific coast of Mexico. By 1981 the mockingbird was in serious danger of extinction, probably owing to the introduction of feral cats and the establishment of a military garrison in 1958. Only a single bird could be found during a partial survey in 1984. In February of this year, Steve Howell and Sophie Webb visited the island and found several individuals, including possibly as many as three pairs in one small area.

Surprisingly, apart from captive breeding efforts for the Socorro dove, no attempt has been made to preserve the unique wildlife of these islands. (*World Birdwatch*, Volume 10, No. 2, April-June 1988).

The first second-generation **Guam kingfishers** hatched at the San Antonio Zoological Gardens and Aquarium on 1-2 July 1988. Since 1984, when AAZPA institutions became involved with the Guam bird recovery project, six zoos have hatched Guam kingfishers. San Antonio's wild-caught pair arrived in 1985 and produced their first chicks in 1986. So far this year, the wild-caught pair has produced six chicks. (*AAZPA Newsletter*, Volume XXIX, No. 8, August 1988).

The 1988 North American Regional Studbook on the **thick-billed parrot** was published in September by the Sacramento Zoo. Currently, 11 zoos hold 59 (30/28/1) specimens, pri-

vate owners 9 (4/5) and the Arizona Fish and Game 10 (5/5) as part of a release program. For further details write Susan Healy, Sacramento Zoo, 3930 West Land Park Drive, Sacramento, CA 95822.

The 1987 North American Regional Studbook for the **Micronesian kingfisher** was published by the Philadelphia Zoological Garden. As of September there were 48 (23/24/1) Micronesian kingfishers in captivity, 21 of which were hatched in the wild. Additional details can be obtained by contacting Beth Bahner, Philadelphia Zoological Gardens, 34th Street & Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104. (*AAZPA Newsletter*, Vol. XXIX, No. 11, November 1988).

The Washington Park Zoo in Portland, Oregon plans to build an off-exhibit facility to research and propagate rare and endangered species. Although plans for the center are in the initial stages, an emphasis on small cats, primates and birds is projected. The focus of the facility will be to conserve rare and endangered species through captive propagation while systematically examining management and husbandry techniques conducive to successful reproduction.

The International Studbook for the **hooded crane** was published by the St. Louis Zoological Park. The pedigree reports on 75 living cranes (32/36/7) in 21 locations worldwide. For further information contact Bruce Bohmke, St. Louis Zoological Park, Forest Park, St. Louis, Missouri 63110.

The Regional Studbook for the **crowned pigeon** was also published by the Kansas City Zoological Gardens. The studbook includes all three species of crowned pigeons. For a copy, write Dave Wetzel, Kansas City Zoological Gardens, 6700 Zoo Drive, Kansas City, MO 64132. (*AAZPA Newsletter*, Vol. XXIX, No. 9, September 1988).

The Regional Studbook for **Bali mynahs** was published by Riverbanks Zoological Park this spring. Included is a synopsis of last year's transfer of 39 captive-hatched specimens from zoos in North America to the Surabaya Zoo in Indonesia for development of a release program. At the end of 1987, the North American studbook recorded 481 (191/181/109) birds in 95 sites, as well as a complete listing of all birds ever registered in the studbook. For additional information contact Robert Seibels, Riverbanks Zoological park, Columbia, SC 29202. (*AAZPA Newsletter*, Vol. XXIX, No. 7, 1988). ●

NOTICE

As of January 1, 1989, all correspondence intended for the editor of the *Watchbird* should be mailed directly to the AFA business office. Send to the Editor, c/o AFA, P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

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