

Avian Trade Shows & Seminars

Kentuckiana Bird Society's 4th Annual Tri-Club Bird Fair December 5 & 6, 1992

St. Denis School
420 S. Cane Run Road
Louisville, KY

For information:
Karen Hunt
(502) 962-8818

Bird Clubs of Virginia is sponsoring its 9th Annual Convention & Bird Mart

March 27 - 28, 1993

Omni Hotel
Richmond, Virginia

For convention information, contact:

Evelyn Horner (804) 276-5311 or
Jo Engels (804) 264-9230

or write:

BCV

P.O. Box 136, Richmond, VA 23201

For bird mart information, contact:
Arnold Horner (804) 276-5311

Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club 5th Annual Exotic Bird Fair April 3-4, 1993

Knoxville Convention Center
World's Fair Park

For info, call:

John Rich (615) 691-5123 or
Gary Reid (615) 690-0613

Everybody's Bird Mart April 4, 1993

9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Los Angeles County Fairplex
Building 4

Pomona, CA

For information:

James Williams
(805) 269-0424

P.O. Box 794, Acton, CA 93510

Portland's Rose City Exotic Bird Club's 3rd Annual Spring '93 Bird Expo/Sale May 15 & 16, 1993

Washington County Fairgrounds
Hillsboro, Oregon

For info, call:

Ron Marks (503) 684-3799



Translocation of the Ultramarine Lory

from

the field

by Cyndi Kuehler,
Curator of Zoology, San Diego Zoo,
and

Alan Lieberman,
Curator of Birds, San Diego Zoo

The Ultramarine Lory, *Vini ultramarina*, is one of the least known and most threatened of all the insular

lory species. Known only from the Marquesas archipelago, it is a species of special concern for the Marquesan



Cyndi Kuehler, curator of zoology for the Zoological Society of San Diego, releases one of the seven Ultramarine Lorries (*Vini ultramarina*) on the Marquesan island of Fatu Hiva, where they were recently translocated from the island of Ua Huka — home to the only remaining population in the world. A recent survey indicates the population to be only between 1,000 and 1,500 birds.



The first Ultramarine Lory (*Vini ultramarina*) peeks out from its traveling crate to inspect its new surroundings. This marks the first phase of a translocation program, bringing founder stock from the Marquesan Island of Ua Huka to their new home on Fatu Hiva. The world population for this lory has been recently surveyed to be between 1,000 and 1,500 birds — all on the 80 sq. km. island of Ua Huka. The establishment of this lory on Fatu Hiva will help ensure the species' long-term survival.

Photos by Alan Lieberman, courtesy of Zoological Society of San Diego

islanders as well as the Office of Environment for French Polynesia. Its distribution included the islands of Nuka Hiva, Ua Pou, Hiva Oa and Ua Huka, being extirpated from all but the latter island. A special expedition in November 1991, co-sponsored by the Office of the Environment (F.P.) and the Zoological Society of San Diego (ZSSD), found no lories on Nuka Hiva or Ua Pou and a population of between 1,000 and 1,500 individuals on Ua Huka. Although this population is fiercely protected by the Ua Hukan islanders, its future is of much concern due to the prospect of the construction of a wharf to be built in 1993. Such development will allow the docking of large cargo ships which will lead to the potential invasion of exotic rat species and further anthropogenic activities, i.e. industry, agriculture, and urban development. Such factors, in addition to cats, a large goat population, possible presence of avian malaria and the introduction of the Common Mynah and Great Horned Owl have led to the extinction of the Ultramarine Lory on all of the other islands.

In accordance with the draft recommendations of the ICBP/IUCN/CBSG Parrot Action Plan for *V. ultramarina*, the Zoological Society of San Diego undertook the first step of an experimental translocation of this lory species from Ua Huka to Fatu Hiva, the most southerly of all the Marquesan Islands. This decision was based on the prehistoric evidence of the presence of the Ultramarine Lory in Fatu Hiva and the pristine nature of the island, having few of the environmentally negative features of Ua Huka; i.e. no wharf introduced rat species, no introduced avian competitors or predators (mynah, owl, harrier), and a controlled goat population which has allowed the island to maintain good primary and secondary forest cover. In addition, Fatu Hiva has many of the plant species known to be food plants for the lory, including kava, banana, coconut, coral tree, "ahaia," mango, "tamanu," and Tahitian mango.

In August 1992, ZSSD staff, accompanied by personnel from F.P. Office of the Environment and the rural Economy Service, travelled to Ua Huka and spent 10 days mist-netting Ultramarine Lories. Hampered by the unseasonable rains caused by Hurricane Omar, the total capture was seven lories. These birds were kept

for six days before being transferred by boat to Fatu Hiva. In Fatu Hiva the inhabitants of Omoa visited the birds while still in their holding cages and learned about the translocation program. The birds were released in a foothill valley above Omoa, in an area rich in food plants, especially coconut and banana. All the birds were released at first light and began to feed on coconut flowers within minutes. Within one hour the birds' foraging activities took them high into the hills and out of contact with the human observers.

The birds will be monitored in the

future by an employee of the Rural Economy Service who will make field observations, as well as collect data from other island residents. This translocation program will continue on an annual basis to provide enough founder birds to establish this species on Fatu Hiva.

This translocation project is just one component of a comprehensive joint conservation program between the government of French Polynesia and the ZSSD, which includes field research, continuous monitoring of endangered bird populations, translocations and captive-rearing. ●

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