

# *AFA in action...* **NEWS and VIEWS**

SEPTEMBER 1994

## **Spix's Recovery Meeting to be Held at Loro Parque**

The Vice-president of the CPRAA Spix's Macaw Recovery Committee in Brazil, Dr. M<sup>a</sup> Iolita Bampi, has recently confirmed that the **Sixth Official Meeting of the Committee** will be held at Loro Parque during the **Third International Parrot Convention** from **14-17 September 1994**.

All the committee members are in agreement with this decision and Loro Parque is delighted that so many prominent figures in aviculture will be congregating in Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife for this extremely important double-event. Representing IBAMA (the Brazilian Institute for the Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources), apart from Dr. Bampi, will be Marcos de Ré, the biologist who has been carrying out field work in the area of the last remaining wild Spix and Paulo Antas who will be informing on the Reintroduction Project.

Obviously this is yet another plus for the **Loro Parque Foundation** which, to date, has donated the sum of U.S. \$123,000 towards this project, with more commitments being considered for 1994. The Foundation will be playing an important role at the Convention and with the sale of souvenir items such as T-shirts, posters, pins, stickers, etc. from our Foundation "Eco-Shop" and with the auction of an original painting by Eric Peake of the Spix's Macaw with Young, amongst others, we hope to be able to again raise a considerable amount for parrot conservation projects.

### **Speaker Highlight - EEP's for Parrots**

Yet another exciting addition to the Speaker Programme of the Third International Parrot Convention is that of the Chair of the EEP Parrot TAG, Dr. Roger Wilkinson and Drs. Koen Brouwer of the EEP Executive Office in Amsterdam, who will be co-authoring a paper entitled "European Endangered Species Programmes for Parrots." Once again, this is a unique chance for European aviculturists to make contact with such extremely prominent people in the parrot world.

### **Convention Registration**

The response to the Convention so far has been tremendous. There are already 220 participants from Germany; Italy has filled their allotment and requires more places; and the U.K., Switzerland, Belgium, Austria and Scandinavia are all doing extremely well. Even from as far afield as Australia we have taken 25 registrations not to mention the five Japanese participants!

The majority of the delegates who have already registered,

participated at the second convention in 1990 and some even at the first one in 1986. This is certainly "a feather in Loro Parque's cap" as regards the success of their conventions and the reason why the limited amount of spaces will soon all be filled.

For more information contact Loro Parque, Parque Subtropical Especializado en Papagayos, Puerto de la Cruz (Tenerife), Spain; phone (34 - 22) 37 38 41 - 37 40 81 or Fax 38 73 21. ●

## **Creation of a National Park for the Endangered Bahama Parrot**

*by Rosemarie Gnam  
Alexandria, Virginia*

I am pleased to inform you that the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, Hubert Ingraham, has declared the creation of a national park on southern Abaco for the endangered Bahama Parrot. I know many of you will share my joy today.

When I began my research project into the breeding biology of this parrot on Abaco in 1985, the overall objective of this project was "to develop a sound biological understanding of this parrot upon which a conservation program could be based." In 1985, this park was a dream and today it is a reality.

I thank all of you who played a role in this research project. My field assistants worked enthusiastically to collect data that helped to conserve this parrot. In addition, this project would not have been possible without the many persons who supported this project and conservation efforts for the parrot. A special note of thanks to the organizations who financially supported this project. Their members share in our joy today.

Last, I applaud the Bahama Parrot Education Committee, the Bahamas National Trust, and the Rare Center for Tropical Conservation for their efforts to increase conservation awareness for this parrot's plight and their educational campaign in the Bahamas which they started in 1992. Their diligent efforts have helped achieve the desired result — a national park on Abaco.

With most of the Bahama Parrot's nesting habitat now protected on Abaco, attention can be focused on the management of this parrot population and plans for its recovery implemented. The future looks brighter for one of the world's endangered parrots. More importantly, this development demonstrates that parrot conservation can succeed in the wild! Too often, we give up hope. So, for today, let us congratulate the Bahamas and celebrate with them! ●