



# EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIA

TAG Reports 2020



see it close this year. They held the Inca tern ESB, as well as a productive flock of wader species. Hopefully most have already been allocated to other collections within the EAZA community.

## 17 PIGEON AND DOVE

**TAG Chair:** Duncan Bolton (institutional support from Paignton Zoo, Paignton, United Kingdom) • **Vice Chair:** Nigel Simpson (Bristol Zoo, Bristol, United Kingdom)

### INTRODUCTION

No formal meeting took place during 2020, with most collections' activities focused on operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The commitments for institutional responsibilities have meant that very few activities in relation to the EAZA Pigeon and Dove TAG could take place throughout the year.

### POPULATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS

Initial discussions and planning between the TAG Chair, Vice Chair and the EEO started in late 2020 in regard to RCP evaluation and process due to be undertaken in 2021. Initial species selection and setting out of the procedures and processes for an online RCP workshop were decided.

The data regarding the EEP for Socorro dove (*Zenaida graysoni*) was migrated to ZIMS for Studbooks in 2020 with data reconciliation ongoing. An updated Studbook is planned for 2021 once all data has been corrected. A concern with this EEP is the heavily biased sex ratio for males with current EEP population of 58:30.

In the EEP for Mauritius pink pigeon (*Nesoenas mayeri*) and the three ESBs for Crowned pigeon (*Goura* sp.), migration to ZIMS has also proceeded with data clean-up continuing through the year.

### ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

Discussions began with the Coordinators of the Victoria (*Goura victoria*), Sclater's (*G. sclateri*) and Blue crowned (*G. cristata*) pigeons for joint BPG. An initial meeting in 2019 was followed up with email correspondence throughout 2020. Progress with this has been slower than anticipated due to the pandemic, but nonetheless is continuing.

### CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

Due to the COVID-19 situation, various field project work was either halted or postponed as countries went into lockdown and travel restrictions were imposed.

The Socorro dove team was not able to visit Socorro Island in 2020 as planned. They had hoped to start evaluating the flora of the island since the eradication of sheep in 2012. Evidence is that the island is much greener, but that the highly successful species are likely alien to the island and full evaluation is required. A PhD student is looking at aspects relating to habitat restoration in preparation for the future return of Socorro dove to the island.



Socorro dove (*Zenaida graysoni*) © Nigel Simpson - Bristol Zoo

Bristol Zoo's field researchers were stuck on the North-West Panay Island in the Philippines, when extensive travel restrictions were imposed, preventing even local travel. They have recently produced heat maps for this area for suitable habitat for Negros bleeding-heart doves (*Gallicolumba keayi*).

Mauritius pink pigeon genetic research is continuing. The species is benefiting from a number of research projects at present. Cock van Oosterhout (University of East Anglia, UK) successfully obtained a Royal Society Grant for his project 'Next generation genomics for the conservation of three iconic bird species of Mauritius'. This ambitious study will sequence Mauritius pink pigeon samples, identifying mutations that are responsible for fitness loss, as well as identifying immunogenetic variants that offer resistance to disease. Essentially, this will lead to a genomics-informed rescue of the Mauritius pink pigeon population. The Bird 10,000 Genomes (B10K) Project and the Vertebrate Genome Project are also keen to work with the species, and such work will yield unprecedented resolution of the pigeons' genetic make-up.

## 18 PARROT

**TAG Chair:** Simon Bruslund (Marlow Birdpark, Marlow, Germany) • **Vice Chair:** Sandra Molloy (Dublin Zoo, Dublin, Ireland)

### INTRODUCTION

The EAZA Parrot TAG is a very large TAG with over 18,500 parrots in around 250 institutions. The TAG continually strives to increase the conservation impact of our *ex situ* populations. The year 2020 was hugely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Parrot TAG continued to be active thanks to the dedication of the many TAG members and collaborators.

### POPULATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS

The programmes for Yellow-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua sulphurea*; excluding *C. S. citrinocristata*) and White cockatoos (*Cacatua alba*) were officially approved as new style EEPs.



An online check-in call with the EAZA Population Management Centre (PMC) was conducted for the EEP for Red-fronted macaw (*Ara rubrogenys*). This species was up listed to Critically Endangered in 2018. The EEP has the largest *ex situ* population and therefore an important insurance population.

A veterinary student from the National Veterinary School of Nantes (France) began work on BPG for macaws (*Ara spp.*) under the primary supervision of the Great green macaw EEP and Zoo des Sables d'Olonne (France) with support from all macaw programme Coordinators.

### ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

One of the first tasks of the new Education Advisor, Stephan Worm (Serengeti-Park Hodenhagen, Germany) was to promote World Parrot Day among EAZA Members. It is held on the 31 May each year. A wide range of open-source educational materials was developed and placed on the joint EAZA/ZA Parrot TAG website ([www.parrotttag.org](http://www.parrotttag.org)) as well as on the Parrot TAG page on the Member Area. EAZA Members were also requested to raise funds for parrot conservation with the TAG recommending the Limbe Rescue Centre in Cameroon. As many zoos around Europe were closed to the public due to the pandemic, a "Corona Virus Supplement" was added to the list of resources including many alternatives to celebrate World Parrot Day online.

In March, the TAG held a meeting at the Bird TAG mid-year meeting in Royal Burgers' Zoo (the Netherlands). The focus of the meeting was parrots and education. Avifauna Birdpark

(the Netherlands) gave a presentation on using birds in public demonstrations. Royal Burgers' Zoo provided an overview on how they inspire education using birds and Stephen Worm gave a presentation on the upcoming World Parrot Day.

In September, Stephen Worm gave a presentation on using World Parrot Day as an educational tool at the online EAZA Annual Conference. Later in the year he distributed a questionnaire to get an overview of the extent to which parrots are included in the conservation education work of zoo educators.

A survey was circulated by Anthony Dabadie (Parc Animalier de Branféré, France), Studbook keeper for the Ochre-marked parakeet (*Pyrrhura cruentata*) in collaboration with Akongo (France) to investigate mixed-exhibit holdings with parakeets and callitrichids.

With support of the Veterinary Advisors, the TAG submitted a final draft of the guidelines for virus management in parrots to the EAZA Veterinary Committee, for approval before distribution in 2021.

### COLLABORATIONS

The Parrot TAG was contacted by the Centre Suisse de Recherche Scientifique in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) that was looking for data on artificial nest-boxes. This organisation was planning on using them to help wild Timneh parrots (*Psittacus timneh*). Detailed information was provided by the TAG Chair.



Red-vented cockatoos (*Cacatua haematuropygia*) © Katala Foundation



Ecuadorian amazon (*Amazona lilacina*) © Rebecca Biddle

The AZA Parrot TAG shared their recently produced RCP. Later in the year, the EAZA and AZA Parrot TAGs launched a joint website to share resources in the spirit of the cancelled joint TAG Chair meeting.

Members of the Parrot TAG assisted different government authorities for CITES on welfare issues with advice on housing and husbandry requirements in cases of investigation or confiscations in the Netherlands, Italy and Germany.

### CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

The TAG contacted holders of African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) to raise funds for the Limbe Wildlife Centre to help care for hundreds of these birds which had been rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. The project was supported by Marlow Birdpark (Germany), Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP, Germany), Parrot World (France) and Parc Animalier de Branf  re who even send staff as technical support to Cameroon.

Becca Biddle (Chester Zoo, UK), EEP Coordinator for Ecuadorian amazon (*Amazona lilacina*) was the lead author on a conservation status overview for this species. This paper provided evidence for the recent up-listing to Critically Endangered. Chester Zoo continued the *in situ* conservation work in Ecuador involving local people to conduct conservation research and provide protection measures. ZGAP and Marlow Birdpark also provided funding for other Ecuadorian project partners on this species.

Eight EAZA Members provided substantial funding to the Katala Foundation (Philippines) which spearheads *in situ* conservation for the Critically Endangered red-vented cockatoos (*Cacatua haematuropygia*).

A conservation crisis was flagged by BirdLife International on the recent taxonomical changes, splitting the blue-backed parrot (*Tanygnathus everetti*) from the Philippines as a separate species. The TAG now collaborates in a working group on this species and other *Tanygnathus* spp. together with BirdLife International, Katala Foundation, Talarak Foundation (Philippines) and ZGAP.

Overall, based on reports directly to the TAG or entries in the EAZA Conservation Database, ten EAZA institutions supported *in situ* projects involving 17 parrot species. We believe this is an under-representation of the actual shared picture with major contributors not having reported their support during 2020.

The TAG supported the plans to organise a conservation planning workshop facilitated by Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) encouraging the Bolivian environmental authorities to support a One Plan Approach for the blue-throated macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*).

Six students (three PhD, two MSc and one BSc) were reported to be supported directly by the TAG or relevant EEPs in the fields of welfare, population dynamics, genetics, and conservation management. These efforts have included collaborations with the following institutions: University of Sheffield (UK), Macaw Recovery Network (Costa Rica), Nottingham Trent University (UK), Akongo, National Veterinary School of Nantes, Goethe-Universit  t Frankfurt (Germany), Max Planck Institute (Germany), University of Southern Denmark (Denmark) and University of Copenhagen (Denmark).

### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The Parrot TAG was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Tobias Rahde (Berlin Zoo, Germany) who was the programme Coordinator for the White cockatoo. His contribution to bird conservation will be greatly missed.

Jo Gregson (Paignton Zoo, UK) retired. Jo was the population monitor for Princess of Wales parrot (*Polytelis alexandrae*) and the TAG would like to thank her for her work on this species.

Publications co-authored by members of the TAG and collaborators this year:

- Bents, A. (2020). *Eine verhaltensbiologische Studie an Gelbwangenkakadus (Cacatua sulphurea) im Zoo Neuwied*. Bachelor's Thesis Goethe-Universit  t Frankfurt
- Biddle, R. et al. (2020). *Conservation status of the recently described Ecuadorian Amazon parrot Amazona lilacina*. Bird conservation international, 30(4): 586-598
- Birkendorf, M. (2020). *Haltung und Zucht des Gelbwangenkakadus im Zoo Neuwied (Teil 1)*. PAPAGEIEN, 8: 262-265
- Birkendorf, M. (2020). *Haltung und Zucht des Gelbwangenkakadus im Zoo Neuwied (Teil 2)*. PAPAGEIEN, 9: 300-304
- Schardt, T. (2020). *Yellow-Crested Cockatoos Pose Challenges At Neuwied Zoo*. Zooquaria 108: 8-9

## 19 TOUCAN AND TURACO

Due to the current lack of Chair and Vice Chair in the EAZA Toucan and Turaco TAG, no report was submitted by the TAG for 2020.