

In This Issue

Notes From the President

Bylaws Revisions

AFA Affiliation Status

Treasurer's Report

Membership Report

AFA In Brief
Member
Receives 1st
Breeding Award
For *Pyrrhura
rhodoccephala*

Update From
AFA Specialty
VP

Searching For
Pyrrhura: A
Journey Through
Venezuela

Breeder Ads

Officers / PBA
Addresses

The Py Press

A Quarterly Publication
of the



**PYRRHURA BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION**

Winter 2005 Newsletter

Notes From the President

Tim Robertson

It's hard to believe that another year is upon us. Time just seems to fly by, and the older I get, the faster it flies! With Old Man Winter gracing us with his chilly embrace, my chore list is always growing. There's always work to be done around here, and funny how those Py's choose the coldest time of the year to start producing!

2004 was a tumultuous year for many of our members. We had not one, but FOUR major hurricanes battering the States in just a few weeks' time. Many of our breeder friends were just recovering from the first one when the subsequent storms were blowing at their doorsteps. Thankfully, those who were able to physically help were quick to lend a helping hand, and for those who could not contribute physically, the disaster relief funds were available for financial contributions. My hat goes off to all of the neighborly members who helped either physically, financially, or both. We as an organization gave money to both the AFA and the OPA disaster relief funds. I think it would be a worthwhile investment for us as an organization to continue to contribute a small portion of our available income to the disaster relief funds on an annual basis; you never know when or where a natural disaster will occur, and any of us might need the assistance. Let's discuss this topic further on the list and get everyone's opinion.

2004 also brought a change of Officers. In February, Don Harris took over as President, I took over as Vice President, Elke Davis took over as Secretary, and Bee Gee Bunch took over as Treasurer. Unfortunately, Don recently had to step down as President for health and personal reasons, and we all wish him the very best. As Vice President, I was required to assume the President position, and Marcy Covault graciously agreed to assume the open Vice President position.

(Continued)

Notes From the President (cont'd)

Tim Robertson

Marcy has been a breath of fresh air. She brings a wealth of knowledge to us, and her organizational skills are superb.

The time for elections this year is fast approaching. Elke and I will be leaving office. Andrew Pike has agreed to be the Vice President, and Marcy has agreed to be President. Bee Gee will continue on in her current capacity as Treasurer. After some difficulty, we have been able to recruit some volunteers for the open position of Secretary. Paula Parmley and Kelli Eager will be running for Secretary. I want to thank Marcy, Andrew, Bee Gee, Paula, and Kelli for volunteering to run for these offices. And thank you Nora Schmidt for volunteering to help out with the Secretary position. Marcy has already voiced some terrific ideas to solidify and revitalize the Organization and to ensure that it continues to grow. Enclosed with this newsletter, you will find a ballot for the office of Secretary. Please take the time to vote and return the ballot in the enclosed envelope.

The incoming Officers have my best wishes for the upcoming year. Here's to a happy, healthy, prosperous 2005. May all your nestboxes be overflowing!

Pyrrhura m. molinae

(Green-cheeked Conure)

Cinnamon-Yellowsided

(Pineapple) Mutation

Owned, Bred, and Photographed
by Tim Robertson, The Hatching
Post Aviary, Dumas, TX



Bylaws Revisions

On December 1, 2004, the polls for voting on the most recent proposed Bylaws revisions were closed. Of 48 active members at the time, 20 votes were cast. All of the proposed revisions received greater than the required 2/3 majority vote; therefore, the proposed revisions were passed and implemented. Following is the text of the current PBA Bylaws:

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Pyrrhura Breeders Association, hereafter referred to as the Organization.

ARTICLE II – SPECIFIC & PRIMARY PURPOSE

This is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization and members are not to derive any profit there from. The purpose for which the organization was formed is as follows:

- A. To create a cooperative spirit and feeling among the various bird owners and breeders and to enhance our common bond.
- B. To encourage the breeding and keeping of Pyrrhura Conures.
- C. To educate the public, pet owners, and breeders in good avicultural practices.
- D. To promote better caged bird care and husbandry.
- E. To promote the conservation and preservation of Pyrrhura Conures through captive breeding of common, uncommon, rare, or endangered species and sub-species.
- F. To assist each member in the solving of any problems that may arise in the pursuit of aviculture.
- G. To keep the members informed of local, state, and national legislation which impacts aviculture.
- H. The Organization will not exceed the powers stated in the Specific & Primary Purposes.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

(Continued)

Bylaws Revisions (cont'd)

- A. Any person shall be eligible for membership who:
 - 1. Has not been convicted of illegal trafficking in birds.
 - a. This requirement may be waived, through unanimous agreement of the Officers, if a period of ten years has elapsed after the offense occurred and constructive behavior has been presented.
 - b. Failure to disclose conviction shall result in immediate dismissal from the Organization.
 - 2. Has not been convicted of animal abuse.
 - a. This requirement may be waived, through unanimous agreement of the Officers, if a period of ten years has elapsed after the offense occurred and constructive behavior has been presented.
 - b. Failure to disclose conviction shall result in immediate dismissal from the Organization.
 - 3. Submits an application that is acceptable to the Organization.
 - a. All applications for membership shall be reviewed by the Officers of the Organization. The Officers will approve or deny the membership, by majority vote, based upon the applicant's meeting the eligibility requirements.
 - b. All applicants shall be notified whether accepted or not.
 - c. Unaccepted applications and the reasons for denial are the private business of the Organization and shall not be released publicly.
- B. Annual dues for membership shall be \$20 per year for members paying via postal mail or \$21 for members paying through Paypal.
- C. Dues shall be on a yearly basis from the month of original membership for twelve (12) months. Members whose dues have not been paid within 60 days thereafter shall be automatically dropped from the membership rolls of the Organization.
- D. New members shall receive the following from the Secretary upon payment of annual dues:
 - 1. Membership notification
 - 2. Membership directory
 - 3. Bylaws

Bylaws Revisions (cont'd)

- E. If at any time a member becomes involved in actions detrimental to the keeping of birds or becomes a hindrance to the Organization, the Officers, with a simple majority vote, may recommend to suspend or expel such person from membership. Such member shall have the right to appeal to the Officers on their own behalf. After a two year period of time, past member may reapply for membership.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

- A. The Officers of the Organization shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Any member age 18 or older shall be eligible to serve as an Officer. These Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Organization. A Newsletter Editor/Web Master may be elected or appointed according to the needs or desires of the Organization.
- B. Nomination of Officers by the general membership shall take place from November 1 to December 10, and shall be seconded by a member. Due to the geographical diversity of our membership, nominations may be via e-mail, USPS, or electronic list.
 - 1. The Nominating Committee will consist of one elected Officer and two others from the general membership. The Nominating Committee shall convene via email, an electronic list, or in person in November and report to the Secretary on or before December 15.
 - a. The slates of the Committee shall be published in the January newsletter/web page. Ballots will be mailed with the January newsletter.
- C. Elections of Officers shall be in February. Election shall be by a majority vote, one member-one vote. Ballots shall be mailed to the Membership with the January newsletter. Returned ballots must be postmarked within thirty (30) days after the date printed at the top of the ballot, at which time the polls will close.
- D. Officers shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Term of office shall begin at the close of the regular month at which they are elected.

(Continued)

Bylaws Revisions (cont'd)

- E. No member shall hold more than one office at a time. No household shall hold more than one office at a time.
- F. Duties of elected Officers:
 - 1. President:
 - a. Shall preside at all business meetings of the Organization and attend all specially-called meetings of the Organization.
 - b. Shall have the authority to appoint such personnel as may be necessary to publish and distribute special publications, which the majority of the membership or Officers may consider desirable.
 - c. Shall sign all contracts, agreements, and other instruments in writing, which have first been approved by the Officers.
 - d. Shall be directly responsible to the Organization for the general administration of the Organization's activities.
 - e. Shall at all times strive to do the will of the Organization within its rules.
 - f. Has the option to vote to break a tie vote.
 - g. Has the right to maintain order and respect for the chair, guest speakers, and members of the Organization.
 - 2. Vice President:
 - a. Shall perform the duties and functions of the President during the absence or incapacity of or at the request of the President.
 - b. In the event of a permanent termination of the services of the President from any cause, shall be automatically designated as "Acting President" until the vacancy is filled as in Article IV, B and C.
 - c. Shall accept and carry out mutual duties with the President. These duties shall be agreed upon and listed with the Secretary within 30 days.
 - 3. Secretary:
 - a. Shall keep minutes/transcripts of all proceedings of all meetings of the Organization.

(Continued)

Bylaws Revisions (cont'd)

- b. Shall chair all meetings of the Organization in the absence of both the President and Vice President.
 - c. Shall provide a copy of the Bylaws at all meetings.
 - d. Takes notes, or records, at regular meetings in order to write a synopsis for the quarterly newsletter/web page update.
 - e. Shall be responsible for the safekeeping of all Organizational records.
 - f. Shall keep an accurate membership list for reference at all meetings.
 - g. Shall inform members when dues are about to expire.
 - h. Shall forward all moneys to the Treasurer.
 - i. Shall forward all timely and pertinent materials to the Editor of the newsletter/web page in time for publication in the following quarter's newsletter/web page update.
 - j. Shall bring a copy of Roberts' Rules of Order, Newly Revised, to all meetings.
4. Treasurer:
- a. Shall deposit all moneys received, in the name of the Organization, in a Bank approved by the Officers, except for petty cash which the Treasurer will have on hand at Organizational functions as needed. Petty cash shall not be less than \$20 or more than \$50. Petty cash shall be part of the General Fund.
 - b. Shall keep an accurate record of all moneys received and expended for the Organization. Funds shall be drawn on the signatures of two designated Officers.
 - c. Shall reimburse members for authorized expenditures only after the member gives the Treasurer a receipt for authorized expenditures. If a member is unable to obtain a receipt for authorized expenditures, the member will submit a signed statement to the Treasurer showing the detailed nature and itemized amount of the expenditure. The Treasurer will then reimburse the member.

(Continued)

Bylaws Revisions (cont'd)

- d. Shall not pay out moneys in excess of fifty dollars (\$50) which are not included in an approved budget or Motion without the approval of the Officers or majority of the membership present at a scheduled meeting.
 - e. Shall submit to the Newsletter Editor or to the electronic list, in a timely manner, an itemized account of receipts and disbursements for the prior quarter.
 - f. In February, shall submit to the members a yearly summary statement, prepared in a format of the Annual Budget, of the actual income and expenditures since taking office. This statement shall be audited by the incoming Treasurer and two other members of the Organization who do not hold Officer positions. If the Treasurer is re-elected, the statement shall be audited by the President or Vice President and two other members of the Organization who do not hold Officer positions.
- G. Expiration of Terms:
- 1. All terms shall expire at the end of February, when newly elected Officers take their duty.
- H. Outgoing Officers:
- 1. At the expiration of his/her term, the Officer shall deliver to his/her successor all books, moneys, and other property of the Organization. In the absence of a successor, they shall make delivery to the President, and shall sign any necessary documents to update bank and other legal documents.

ARTICLE V – EDITOR

- A. Shall be responsible for the layout, collating, printing, and distribution of the quarterly newsletter/web page update.
- B. Shall see that all materials included in the newsletter/web page are in compliance with Article II of these Bylaws.
- C. Shall, as Editor, have license over any and all material contributed for publication of the newsletter/web page.

(Continued)

Bylaws Revisions (cont'd)

ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. At the time the Organization shall exceed 251 members, five trustees shall be elected in June for a period of 12 months, and a Board of Directors shall be in operation.
- B. The Board shall consist of the Officers of the Organization and five members-at-large called Trustees. The President will be the Chairman of the Board.
- C. If at any time a vacancy occurs on the Board, that office may be appointed by the members of the Board present at the next scheduled Board meeting. The Board Member, thus appointed, shall serve the balance of the unexpired term.
- D. Members of the Board, in order to remain in office, cannot miss more than two meetings in a row and must attend two-thirds of all Board meetings. Missing more, without acceptable cause, shall constitute automatic resignation.
- E. The total number of people serving on the Board shall not exceed two (2) per household.
- F. The property, affairs, business, and concerns of the Organization shall be vested in the Board of Directors. The Board shall control and manage the affairs of the Organization, engage assistants, and suspend or expel members. They shall do everything necessary and desirable to conduct the business of the Organization in the best interest of its members and in accordance with these Bylaws.*
- G. No contract of any Officer or Member of the Board shall be valid without previous authorization or subsequent ratification of the Board.*
- H. The Board shall determine the rates for paid advertising in the web page or newsletter when available.*
- I. The Board shall appoint three (3) persons, not to include the Secretary or Treasurer, to audit the financial records of the Organization at least once a year and at such times as requested by the Secretary or Treasurer. An audit will also be conducted any time that the office of Treasurer passes from one person to another. The results of these audits shall be published in the newsletter/web page within ninety (90) days of completion of the audit.*

* Prior to the establishment of a Board of Directors, the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall have these responsibilities.

(Continued)

Bylaws Revisions (cont'd)

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

- A. Chairman of all committees shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.** Newly appointed committee chairmen will select their own committee members. All committees end with the election of the new Officers. The new President and Board of Directors will reappoint chairpersons.
- B. Special committees shall be appointed by the President as necessary, to carry out the needs of the Organization. The President shall be an officious member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
- C. Standing Committees may be as follows:
 - 1. Program Committee
 - 2. Legislation Committee
 - 3. Raffle Committee

** Prior to the establishment of a Board of Directors the President shall have this responsibility.

ARTICLE VIII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts' Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Organization in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which case that they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws or any special rules of order the Organization may adopt.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

- A. Amendments to these Bylaws shall require a thirty (30) day advance notice to all members. Advance notices shall be provided via the Organization's Email List, and paper notices shall be sent by postal mail for those members without subscriptions to the Email List. After the thirty (30) day notice period has expired, the proposed amendment(s) shall be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote using a vote/poll with the Organization's Voting List. Paper ballots shall be sent by postal mail for those members without subscriptions to the Voting List. Returned paper ballots bearing a postmark up to and including the date of poll closing will be accepted. Polls shall close two (2) weeks after opening.

(Continued)

Bylaws Revisions (cont'd)

- B. This Article shall also provide for the Pyrrhura Breeders Association Vote List and Email List to be used for polling of the general membership, but shall exclude voting via this means for elected office.

ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION

- A. Upon the dissolution of the Organization, its assets remaining after payment of all debts and liabilities of this Organization shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation, or corporation, which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under IRS Section 501 (c) 3.
- B. No part of the net earnings or treasury of the Organization shall inure to the benefit or be distributed to the members, Officers, or other private persons.

ARTICLE XI – OWNERSHIP OF EMAIL LISTS USED FOR PBA COMMUNICATION

- A. The Organization may utilize an online email list for communication with members who desire to be on the list.
- B. The email list will be owned by the current President or designated member, with all other Officers added as moderators.
- C. Immediately after the Organization's yearly election, the ownership of the list will be transferred to the newly elected President or designated member. The President will change the moderators to the present Officers of the Organization.

AFA Affiliation Status

The Pyrrhura Breeders Association has submitted its affiliation for 2005 with the American Federation of Aviculture. Pat Chinnici and Bee Gee Bunch have volunteered to represent our organization as delegates and will be voting on our behalf at the AFA House of Delegates meeting in August at the AFA convention in Miami. The delegates will also be keeping us as a group informed on AFA activities. Thanks Pat and Bee Gee!

Treasurer's Report

Bee Gee Bunch

For Period 1/1/2004 through 12/31/2004:

Description	Income	Expenses	Balance
Balance Forward			\$4,394.54
Membership	\$765.00		
Raffle Proceeds and Sales	\$581.00		
AFA Convention		-\$207.89	
Books		-\$20.00	
Charity (Disaster Relief)		-\$620.00	
Balance Adjustment		-\$10.73	
Newsletter		-\$150.26	
Office		-\$16.25	
Postage and Delivery		-\$10.67	
Raffle		-\$93.81	
TOTALS	\$1,346.00	-\$1,129.61	
Ending Balance			\$4,610.93

Membership Report

Elke Davis

As of January 12, 2005, we have 52 current members. We have had 10 new members since August 2004.

We have 46 PBA members subscribed to the Pyrrhura Breeders Association Yahoo list. If you are not a current member of this list and would like to join, please contact one of the Officers. We'd be happy to send you an invitation.

December 2004 AFA In Brief

MEET MATT SCHMIT, SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Matt Schmit has been involved in aviculture since his early teens. By the age of 15 he was working with a small collection of *Neophema* parakeets and finches. Currently Matt's personal collection includes parrots, primarily lories and fig parrots, and softbills. In addition to caring for his personal collection, he has also worked in the pet industry where he spent many years working for several independent pet retailers, hand-rearing a large number of baby parrots.

He received his BS in Zoology, with emphasis on animal behavior and wildlife nutrition, from Washington State University. While earning his degree, Matt worked for the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium as a zookeeper, working with birds, reptiles, and small and large mammals. After graduating, Matt joined the bird department at the Houston Zoo, where he currently works with a very diverse collection of birds as well as maintains the American Zoo and Aquarium Association Studbook for the Chestnut-mandibled Toucan.

Matt is currently a member fo the American Federation of Aviculture, American Lory Society, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), the Avicultural Society of America, the Solomon Island Parrot Consortium, the Hanging Parrot and Fig Parrot International Conservancy, Softbill Songster International, and the Turtle Survival Alliance (an IUCN partnership network for sustainable captive management of freshwater turtles and tortoises). He is the AFA specialty group delegate for Softbill Songster International and the Hanging Parrot and Fig Parrot International Conservancy representative for the National Avian Welfare Alliance (NAWA). In August 2004, Matt was elected to be AFA South Central Regional Director, and recently was appointed to chair the Publications Committee with Mark Moore. He has many good ideas: watch for them!

JINGLE BELLS! CHECK OUT THE ONLINE AFA STORE FOR GIFTS!

It's online and it's better than ever! All the exciting items you would find at the annual convention are available online! Pins, plates, magnets, key chains, apparel and more! Go to <http://www.AFAbirds.org> and click on AFA Store to enjoy shopping!

ARE YOU WANTING TO PLEASE A SPECIAL SOMEONE?

(Continued)

December 2004 AFA In Brief (cont'd)

Consider sending someone special to Tambopata with AFA! Go to <http://www.AFAbirds.org> and scroll down to find this educational trip-of-a-lifetime in the body of our front page.

Another good choice is to surprise someone with a paid registration to the 2005 Convention in Miami. Registration information will be available next year. Also good for birthdays, anniversaries, or just because you care. Contact <conventioncentral@idealbirds.com>.

AFA WESTERN REGION CONFERENCE FEB 12-13, 2005, DENVER

Topic: Raising and Keeping Better Companion Parrots. Speakers include Lisa Paul, DVM, Dianalee Deter, Mattie Sue Athan, Jean Pattison, and Liz Wilson. Early bird pricing. Email now to cbtimneh@comcast.net ... or call 303-420-0782 for registration information.

Member Receives 1st Breeding Award

One of our members from Canada, Darlene Johnson, was recently awarded the 1st Breeding Award for *Pyrrhura rhodocephala* (Rose-crowned Conure) from the Avicultural Advancement Council of Canada (AACC). An article with photographs was published in the AACC's journal in Volume 27, Issue #3.

We wish to congratulate Darlene on her accomplishment! I know we in the States would love to have some of Darlene's birds; however, *P. rhodocephala* is unavailable in the United States at this time.



Pyrrhura rhodocephala

(Rose-crowned Conure)

Bred and Photographed by Darlene Johnson, Little Darlings Aviary, Ontario, Canada

Update From AFA Specialty VP

Margrethe Warden

November 8, 2004

Dear Specialty Representatives,

This past weekend I attended our quarterly board meeting and I'd like to provide some updates.

In a departure from our usual Houston venue, we traveled to Kansas City. We were able to visit the AFA office in Kansas City and meet with some of the folks who work diligently to support our organization. Then we traveled to Shawnee, Kansas, where ZuPreem hosted our actual meeting. We could not have asked for more gracious hosts than the people who work for this company. They provided us with meeting space, ensured we did not go hungry or thirsty, gave us tours of the company, introduced us to new products, and we met all the personal pet birds that come to work daily with the employees.

Regional Director Fred Smith who has handled the Disaster Relief for the AFA gave us a brief presentation on some of his activities. Four hurricanes hit the state of Florida all within a few weeks, causing serious damage to most of the state. Many aviaries were damaged and Fred worked tirelessly to coordinate the relief effort that helped many people begin to recover. I am proud to be a part of an organization that provided so much assistance to so many in the form of labor, supplies and even moral support. And, I'm honored to work alongside Fred on the AFA board.

We have a new web site; please check it out at www.afabirds.org. It looks great and will provide you with regular updates and information on the organizations activities. You'll find important information such as the call for papers for the 2005 convention and the AFA position on the proposed regulations for birds under the AWA.

On a more disappointing note, any changes made to the by laws during the August House of Delegates meeting have been overturned. When the votes were counted, the results were turned over for safekeeping. Regional Director and Membership Chair Yvonne Catena challenged the results but because the info had been discarded, the results could not be supported and thus became invalid. This will impact specialties in that an overwhelming majority of the votes supported including a membership category for specialties with less than 50 members and a membership affiliation rate of only \$65. As we revert to the previous by laws, although groups with less than 50 members will only be entitled to one delegate, ALL groups must pay an affiliation fee of \$125. I assure you I will do everything I can to get the changes on the ballot for 2005.

(Continued)

Update From AFA Specialty VP

Margrethe Warden

Please support the 2005 convention to be held in Miami, Florida, and consider sponsoring a speaker.

If you have any questions, comments and concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Margrethe Warden
AFA Specialty Vice President

Searching For *Pyrrhura*: A Journey Through Venezuela

Michael Glogowsky

It was the beginning of 1995 when I received the call. I was asked if I would assist in planning and developing a breeding station in Venezuela. I had agreed to it before I'd put down the phone. The main

emphasis was on feeding and organization issues as well as on educating the staff in the broadest sense. However, what really made it irresistible for a *Pyrrhura* enthusiast was the chance to set up pairs of *Pyrrhura leucotis emma* (Emma's Conure) and search for *Pyrrhura rhodocephala* (Rose-crowned Conure) and *Pyrrhura hoematotis*



The Breeding Facility

immarginata (Cubiro Red-eared Conure) in their natural habitat. How my approximately 80 birds would get taken care of during this time was not something I had thought of while agreeing, and it was breeding season as well. Therefore, for several hours my taking part was questionable until I was able to make other arrangements for my birds.

(Continued)

Searching For *Pyrrhura*: A Journey Through Venezuela (cont'd)

Michael Glogowsky

I only met the project leader, Professor F. Cerutti from the University of Milan, the evening of departure. The pilot took us to Caracas.



Another View of the Breeding Facility

land was lush green, and people informed me that it hadn't rained this much in years. It was fine by me. The *Pyrrhura leucotis emma* were paired up, which without endoscopy or DNA, was a lottery, even with experience and a feel for these birds. Later I learned that I'd messed up quite considerably. They were

birds with dark eye rings and ceres. Birds with white eye rings hadn't been spotted so far, not even by the natives who capture them. I later saw similar birds in Maracaibo. The picture at right shows wild-captured birds which hadn't been banded yet. Left is the hen and the bird on the right is the male.

(Continued)



After another inland flight and a trip by car, we reached our destination, Carora. This was the habitat of *Aratinga pertinax* (St. Thomas Conure), *Forpus passerinus* (Green-rumped Parrotlet), and further north, *Amazona barbadensis* (Yellow-shouldered Amazon). For a short period of time, it would be my habitat as well.

Over the next few days, I did some routine work at the facility, got to know the surrounding area, and met a lot of nice people. The

Searching For Pyrrhura: A Journey Through Venezuela (cont'd)

Michael Glogowsky

I have F2's of these in Germany. After the conversations I had, I doubted if *P. l. emma* and *P. l. auricularis* (Monagas White-eared Conure) are different species, although it earned me some fierce opposition. I feel that the natural habitats of both subspecies are too close. It is striking that the habitats of *P. l. griseipectus* (Brazilian Grey-breasted Conure), *P. l. leucotis* (White-eared Conure), and *P. l. pfrimeri* (Pfrimer's Conure) are a few thousand miles from each other. The habitats of the other two are not. Also, the supposed difference in the white ear patches, only visible with sufficient imagination, does not convince me. It is a known fact that all species of *Pyrrhura* live in sometimes rather isolated populations, which are in some cases rather a large distance apart. It is a possibility that the subtle differences are caused by the different altitudes in which the birds live, or even more likely, by the density of the forest where they live, which results in differences in their exposure to sunlight. Some *Pyrrhura picta picta* (Painted Conures) I received as wild-caught imports also showed the dark cere and eyering. After being put in my shaded aviary, both the ceres and the eyerings turned white in two years' time. As several breeders have stated to me, the same happens with *P. l. emma* and *P. p. roseifrons* (Rose-fronted Conure). I'm certain to read more about this in years to come, but all that is meant with this contribution is to start a discussion.

At the breeding station, it took some convincing to get the diets altered and supplemented. It was rather difficult to stress that birds need a varied diet, when many families could not afford the fruits and vegetables now given to birds. How one could have so much concern over a bird was something that no one understood anyway.

After we had traveled to Cubiro in vain to gather some information about *P. h. immarginata* from a senior citizen, we decided to go search for *P. rhodocephala* at Merida. We left at the break of dawn. A six hour journey lay ahead. The landscape changed and there was too much to see, to absorb it all. We reached La Azulita and had some good fortune. One man recognized *P. rhodocephala* on a picture shown to him. Flocks of 10 to 15 birds would often land behind his house to feed on the guayaba fruit. Would we be so lucky to be able to spot a *rhodocephala*? We were lucky five times....and saw a total of 16 birds which were kept by the local residents in small containers. The people living there had very little, and the birds were kept and cared for in like manner. To be able to see *rhodocephala* alive for the first time and be able to take pictures made me very happy. Later this film containing beautiful pictures of landscape and local people was destroyed due to my own carelessness. We were able to acquire four pairs and take them back to the facility with us. We payed between \$3 and \$10 for them then.

(Continued)

Searching For *Pyrrhura*: A Journey Through Venezuela (cont'd)

Michael Glogowsky



Pyrrhura rhodocephala

Later I would observe that *rhodocephala* has a certain speech ability. We heard a bird say a few Spanish words while we walked past a backyard garden.

To me the curving mountain road up to Merida was fascinating. The temperature had dropped to between "only" 23 to 25 degrees Celcius (73 to 77 degrees Fahrenheit), with high humidity. Sometimes we could almost grab the fog. The fog disappeared as quickly as it had come and now we had a free view on subtropical mountainsides. Climbers, ferns, bromeliads, and orchids were all around. This was *P. rhodocephala*'s natural habitat. I couldn't have picked a nicer one. I was blessed to witness the diversity of this part of South America and could never find words for the sheer beauty of the Cordillic slopes. I'd come to believe that around Merida the Rose-crowned Conure was numerous and not threatened in its existence. Later, wild imports came

into the Netherlands through Curacao, and I got information saying that nature had taken severe losses. More about this later in a breeding report on *P. rhodocephala*.

We spent three more days traveling in

(Continued)



Searching For Pyrrhura: A Journey Through Venezuela (cont'd)

Michael Glogowsky

the Merida area. These trips especially left lots of memories. The more temperate climate was refreshing and the nights were pleasant. During the day it was mostly sunny, but later in the day the clouds came in and it could rain until late at night. This change allows for many epiphytes living on the trees.

There are no bird markets in Venezuela. Officially it is illegal to keep birds. Only the breeding facility was able to keep and breed these birds. When it comes to its animal world, Venezuela has very strict laws.

On the way back to La Azulita, we heard parakeets screeching. I tried to locate the tree they were in. Meanwhile, 10 to 12 *P. rhodocephala* flew over our heads and disappeared. A few could still be heard, and after a long search with my binoculars, I could make out one single bird in the



Merida Area

treetops. Other obligations forced us to move on, and I silently promised myself to return here. Later these plans got shifted into the future, and one day you notice that time is passing by by.

After I had concerned myself with the breeding station again, temperatures had risen to 38 degrees Celcius (100 degrees Fahrenheit). We planned a visit to the area of Rio Claro to search for *Pyrrhura h. immarginata*, so again we left very early in the morning. In the mountains we experienced a rain day. Fog limited our sight to just 5 meters (~16 feet) and the temperatures dropped to 18 to 20 degrees Celcius (64 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit). Suddenly it was wet and cold. All questions asked to the local residents remained unanswered; a shrug was all we got. Finally one of them gave us the advice to try near Cubiro.

With the distances in Venezuela, that was as good as around the corner. Back into the valley where the temperature rose sharply again and back up the mountain we went. The weather wasn't any better there and humidity seemed to be even higher. The forest was dripping. Here, tomatoes, potatoes, and coffee were grown, and the farmers wore gummy boots and were standing in muddy soil. Beside the swampy roads there were bromeliads again and the butterfly trees, which were well-known to us. In these circumstances we wouldn't get any further

(Continued)

Searching For Pyrrhura: A Journey Through Venezuela (cont'd)

Michael Glogowsky

without an all-terrain vehicle. Finally we found a land worker who was able to help us. He was prepared to drive us along the mountainside. We found ourselves in the habitat of *Pionus sordidus* (Red-billed Parrot), although we were not sure as to which subspecies it was, and *P. h. immarginata*.

Pionus sordidus, we were told, never left the slopes. *Pyrrhura h. immarginata* sometimes came in flocks of up to 40 into the fields to feed. They would fly down using the treetops. Their call sounds like, "Kri, Kri", but name one *Pyrrhura* whose call doesn't. We knew now that the Red-eared Conure was near but no further specifics could be obtained. None were seen as caged birds in the area. If birds were kept, they were always larger species. We saw poor muddy huts and the people didn't make a very happy impression on me. It was not JUST the foul weather. Rain clothing and rubber boots seemed to be standard equipment.

Somewhat disappointed, we left late in the afternoon. After all the luck we had in the Andes, we perhaps expected too much. It was only late Spring, and it was not unlikely that the birds would still be breeding at the time. In the evening there was some laundry, dinner, and one or two beers on the program. After that it was straight to bed.

A visit to a bird dealer a few days later didn't have the expected results either. But the disappointment was topped by the visit to Maracaibo. Scorching heat and high humidity, due to being close to the Caribic, made even the locals sweat. Afterwards, we felt like we were drained. Refineries, drilling platforms, and storage tanks bore witness to the fact that in the 1960's, Venezuela must have belonged to the richest countries in the world. Nothing of this has remained now.

Don Mario, our host, wanted to drive south to the llanos to acquire some macaws. The llanos, north of the Orinoco, stretch from the Cordillic range in Colombia straight across the continent. The journey went through Guanare and led to Guanarito. This was macaw country. *Ara macao* (Scarlet Macaw) and *Ara severa* (Severe Macaw) were at home here. At the ranch, young bulls got neutered and branded. Around the equator, day divides almost equally in 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of night. Twelve hours is also the standard working day in the llanos. In the lagoon which received its water from Rio Guanare, the caiman were numerous; locals called them "Babos". Besides these we saw capybara (Chiguire), ibis (escarlatta), and various species of egrets and singing birds. Later that evening a rain shower cooled the atmosphere and when it turned dark, there was a large evergreen steaming field lying at our feet.

(Continued)

Searching For Pyrrhura: A Journey Through Venezuela (cont'd)

Michael Glogowsky



Cowboys Working In the Llanos

The evening with friends out on the porch with beer, a few grilled goats, the abundant crickets in the grass and trees, frogs croaking in the lagoon.....these are memories I will never forget. Nor will I ever forget the mosquitoes. It had been a long day, and the beer took its toll. I went to bed completely exhausted.

When leaving the next day, we were lucky enough to spot on a short distance a pair of *Ara severa* at their nesting site. The remaining

days were spent with some leftover work and giving instructions for the weeks to come. The day of departure was near. I left plenty of plans and work for later times. The facility would then have a capacity of around 60 pairs. Unfortunately, I learned later that nothing was ever realized of these plans.

Here ends my journey. The flight back to Milan through Barquisimeto and Caracas was routine. But at departure, there was quite some melancholy. *Hasta luego, Venezuela.....*

Acknowledgements:

Many thanks to Martijn Christenhusz for his accurate and caring translation of this article into English.

My thanks to the many wonderful people I met on this journey.

Breeder Ads

Pauline Lane

South Carolina

pslane@sc.rr.com

www.thefeatherranch.com

803-436-2724

I do not ship.

FOR SALE

Cinnamon Green-cheeked babies, \$175 each

1 male Painted Conure, 1-1/2 years old, \$275

Proven pair Green-cheeked Conures, female is YS, male is split to YS, \$350 pair

Call or email for more information. No shipping.

M. Covault

Feathered Companions Aviary

Texas

birdcompanions@juno.com

www.birdcompanions.com

512-250-0442

2004 Green-cheeked Conures:

Normal/cinnamon/possible YS, DNA-male, very tame, great personality, \$175

2 cinnamon males, \$175 each

Cinnamon male x YS female, \$375

YS males (wean end of January 2005), very tame, \$250 each

Can pair YS male above with Spring 2004 unrelated YS female. \$450 pair.

Shipping from Austin via Continental, \$125, including carrier for up to 4 birds; \$155 for more than 4 birds.

Breeder Ads (cont'd)

Dennie Saul
Cele, TX

celebirds@aol.com

www.celebirds.com

512-251-3941

Normal Green Cheek Conures now being hand fed, ready in February 2005 - \$125 each. Will have Yellow-sided Green Cheeks, Pineapple Green Cheeks, and Crimson Bellied Pyrrhura Conures this Spring.

Will ship Continental year round. Health guaranteed. Abundantly weaned, allowed to fledge, and on excellent diet of sprouts, chopped veggies, pellets & seed.

Tim Robertson
The Hatching Post Aviary
PO Box 752
Dumas, TX 79029
(806) 681-6894

Tim@HatchingPost.com or tlrnp67@aol.com
www.hatchingpost.com

Green-cheeked Conures:

Male YS split to pineapple....\$350
Female normal split to turquoise....\$400
Female cinnamon....\$250

Abundantly weaned, well-socialized, closed-banded. Can ship via Continental QuickPak. Written health guarantee included.

I accept Visa, MC, or Discover as well as Paypal. I carry a full line of pet bird and breeding supplies. Email privately for complete product listing and price list.

Breeder Ads (cont'd)

Rockport Roost

Deryl and Elke Davis

361-729-6745

(prefer email requests) elke47@sbcglobal.net

www.rockportroost.com

Available soon (birds on eggs)

Green Cheeks normal, Yellow-sided Green Cheeks, Cinnamon Green Cheeks, Pineapple Green Cheeks,
Crimson bellied Conures.

Pricelist and availability www.rockportroost.com/Pricelist.htm

Pyrrhura Toys

PBA members can order from our wholesale list of toys:

No minimum order required for **PBA members** at wholesale prices.

www.rockportroost.com/7WSPyrrhura1.html

Don Harris

byrdy1@aol.com

I have numerous pairs of Pyrrhura p. roseifrons and P. e. egregia available - considering all offers. They all have to go, soon.

Please email privately if interested in getting some of these pairs.



Pyrrhura hoematotis

(Red-eared Conure)

Photograph by Martijn Christenhusz



Can You Identify These Species?

Please send your guesses to the PBA Yahoo List!

Photographs by Michael Glogowsky



Pyrrhura m. molinae

(Green-cheeked Conure) Cinnamon Mutation
Bred & Photographed by M. Covault,
Feathered Companions Aviary, Austin, TX



Pyrrhura p. perlata

(Crimson-bellied Conure)
Bred & Photographed by M. Covault,
Feathered Companions Aviary, Austin, TX



Pyrrhura m. molinae

(Green-cheeked Conure)
Bred & Photographed by M. Covault,
Feathered Companions Aviary, Austin, TX

PBA Officers

We are here to serve the needs of the organization. If you have questions, concerns, ideas, or suggestions, please feel free to bring it to the list or to us for discussion. We value every individual's expertise and input. It is through your involvement that the PBA will continue to grow and improve.

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Webmaster/Editor

Tim Robertson
Marcy Covault
Bee Gee Bunch
Elke Davis
Judi Robben

President@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com
Vicepresident@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com
Treasurer@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com
Secretary@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com
Editor@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com



PYRRHURA BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

924 West Terrace

Rockport, TX 78382

www.pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com



Maia

Pyrrhura perlata perlata (Crimson-bellied Conure)

Owned by Julie Hunt

Bred by Darlene and Kevin Johnson, Little Darlings Aviary, Ontario, Canada

Photograph by Carolyn A. McKeone