



You Can Help

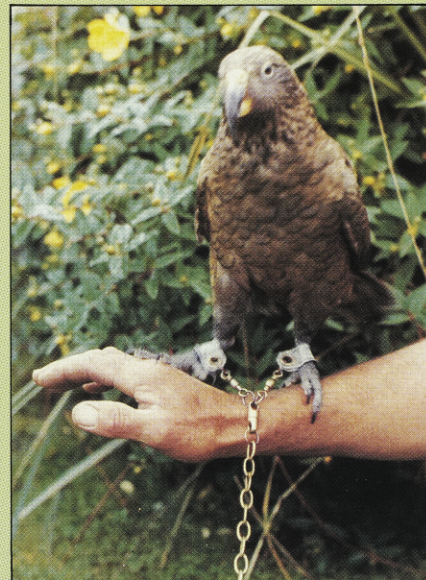
With your help, the kea can be given full legal protection. To coincide with its campaign to care for the kea, the Society has produced a range of marvellous kea products: a t-shirt, poster and greeting card (reproduced off a painting by artist Pauline Morse). The poster photograph is the magnificent one used in this article by Andris Apse.

Order your "kea gear" from:
R F & B Mail Order
PO Box 631 Wellington

T-SHIRTS \$14.00 POSTERS \$4.00
White or silver, SM, M, OS
GREETING CARDS \$4 for 6
This pack of 6 includes 2 each of the kea, black robin and yellow-eyed penguin.

The Wildlife Service want to give the kea full legal protection and have asked our society to poll its members for their opinions. Please write to the Forest and Bird Secretary Box 631 Wellington with your views.

They shoot keas, don't they?



This kea from a Canterbury high country station was discovered by the Wildlife Service in a chained and distressed state at a Greymouth house. The Service cared for it and it was later released into the wild.

In May 1985 a New Zealand Herald and Christchurch Press article on Canterbury Castle Hill station run-holder Max Smith (and former Wai-taki power project chief engineer) caused public outrage throughout New Zealand.

"Keas are no friends of high country farmers," he asserts. Max Smith points out a couple of keas in a wire netting cage at the back of the house: "They are our call keas. They call to others which fly down to the house where we shoot them through the window with a .22 rifle, averaging one a week." (NZ Herald, May 28, 1985)

Full legal protection for keas would prohibit such appalling indiscriminate slaughter of keas. Such protection deserves public support. However, it would still allow Wildlife staff to control birds in those exceptional circumstances where keas could be proven to damage sheep.

Gerard Hutching, Editor



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Map of kea distribution in the South Island
— adapted from *The Atlas of Bird Distribution in New Zealand*.