



Welcome to this new section of your magazine! Through this page *Forest and Bird* will be strengthening its ties with the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP). Founded in 1922, ICBP is a global federation of 350 organisations in 111 countries, whose aim is to save the world's birds and their habitats. *Forest and Bird* has been a member of ICBP for 15 years and is ICBP's delegate in the South Pacific. Our conservation efforts can only be enhanced by joining forces with overseas conservation groups, particularly with our work in the Pacific and Antarctica.

## Bali Starling success

**I**N 1987 ICBP, in collaboration with other organisations, launched a programme to protect the 30 wild Bali starling in Bali Barat National Park and to increase the population with captive-bred birds. The Bali starling, a beautiful snow-white bird, is the only endemic bird to Bali.

Birds are now breeding in Surabaya Zoological Park, East Java, and 13 marked offspring were released into the wild last April. Some birds have integrated well into the population. Unfortunately one bird was caught by local bird trappers and was found for sale in a local market. It was identified by a small electronic transponder implanted in the bird.

The bird trade is rife in Indonesia, where birds are caught for the large European, North American and Japanese bird markets. The Bali starling will remain in peril until first world countries control their trade in exotic and endangered birds.

## ICBP surveys the Solomons

**A**n ICBP SURVEY, carried out with the assistance of other conservation groups and Solomon Islands government agencies, has recommended a number of forest ecosystem reserves and reserves for significant plant and animal species on the Solomon Islands.

The survey in January-March 1990 visited six of the main islands and consulted widely with local people. It was funded by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Solomon Islands are a major centre of biodiversity in the Pacific, with over 4500 plant species, 136 land birds (of which 44 percent are endemic), 130 species of butterfly, 70 reptiles, 34 bats and 25 frog species. Their main habitat is tropical rainforest, but at the present rate of logging these will be virtually logged out within 15 years. The greatest challenge lies ahead in implementing these reserve proposals.

## Cagou on the increase



**R**EADERS MAY REMEMBER an article on the plight of the New Caledonian cagou in the May 1984 *Forest & Bird*. We can now report that this large forest rail is increasing in the Riviere Bleu Territorial Park, near Noumea. The New Caledonian Ornithological Society and the New Caledonian Nature Protection Society's captive breeding programme has released 22 birds into the park.

Meanwhile, conservation work by the South Province Environment Service staff has boosted the survival and the breeding success of wild cagou, by controlling pigs, cats, rats and dogs in a 600-ha study area at Riviere Bleu.

A forest bird survey is planned for New Caledonia, which should identify remnant cagou populations away from Riviere Bleu and likely sites for re-establishing cagou in the wild. Forest protection and predator control appear to be the key to the survival of New Caledonia's national bird.



Cagou conservation advocates Jean-Louis d'Auzon, Yves Letocart and Serge Sirgouant at the ICBP Conference.

## Resolutions from the XX ICBP World Conference

**C**HATHAM ISLANDS: The conference recognised the plight of birds on the Chatham Islands, where 10 endangered species have populations less than 300, by passing a resolution calling on the NZ Government to put additional staff and financial resources into conservation on the Chathams. It called also for greater effort on forest restoration and predator eradication, especially on Pitt Island.

We are pleased to record that Conservation Minister Denis Marshall agreed with the resolution.

**SEABIRDS KILLED IN FISHERIES:** The conference passed a series of resolutions addressing the problems of seabirds killed in fisheries around the world (see *Forest & Bird* November 1990). New Zealand delegates played a leading part in the seabird workshop that proposed resolutions that:

- \* supported the United Nations and South Pacific treaties to end drift netting.
- \* proposed controls on gill netting.
- \* recommended a prohibition on net monitor cables on trawlers (which are killing large numbers of albatrosses).
- \* fishers and governments adopt methods for reducing the number of seabirds caught on longlines.
- \* fisheries observers be trained to record bycatches of seabird species.

## Spix's Macaw – A lone survivor

**I**CBP'S PARROT OFFICER Tony Juniper recently went on an expedition to Brazil to find the rare Spix's macaw in the wild. He and his four companions finally came across the last wild Spix's macaw in a woodland degraded by grazing goats, sheep and cattle.

Juniper suggests that habitat loss may have caused a decline in the species, leaving it vulnerable to trapping.

Only 15 Spix's macaw are known of by ICBP, although there are probably others held secretly by bird fanciers which will never be available for a species recovery programme.

## California Condor

**T**HE CALIFORNIA CONDOR, subject of a controversial captive breeding programme, is making a gradual comeback. Once down to a handful of birds, the latest population count stands at 40, all in captivity.

Scientists have increased the number of condor eggs laid a season as well as artificially incubated eggs. Thanks to artificial incubation, 28 chicks were born between 1983-1990.