

Golden Conure Survival Fund

Useful progress to report

In our issue of PsittaScene for November 1999 we launched this special fund for the Golden Conure Guaruba (*Aratinga guarouba*). The fund was introduced by Glenn Reynolds of Springfield, Virginia, USA, who described our hopes for this fund, and the very beautiful T-shirt that has turned out to be very popular.

Glenn also mentioned Grant Hacking, a South African wildlife artist who now lives in the USA. Grant has now completed his painting of Golden Conures, and you will see from the illustration here what a superb piece of work it is. With Grant's approval, we have decided to sell a limited edition of 250 prints, using a new technique that prints the painting onto canvas. The result is indistinguishable from the original! Both the original and the prints are 30" by 20". The price of the prints is \$165 plus \$10 for post and packing, or £110 plus £7. Please send orders to our UK or USA

administrators (see page 19). After the (expensive) prints are paid for, ALL PROFITS will go directly to the Golden Conure Fund, and you will be in possession of a wildlife masterpiece.

As for the original painting, offers are invited in excess of \$8,000, and may the most conservation-minded connoisseur win! Grant has generously said that 50% of the eventual sale price will be donated to the Golden Conure Fund.

We must express WPT's great appreciation of the work done

by Glenn Reynolds, who has put in hundreds of hours for this fund, which now stands at \$15,000. (Glenn takes great pains to acknowledge the help he gets from supporters in an e-mail to WPT-UK he said 'Kim Strong was the person responsible for the Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club's donations to the Golden Conure Fund. To me this is what it is all about. People realizing that they are helping and feeling good about it.')

Many bird clubs in the USA have contributed to the fund, perhaps a recognition of how highly this species is prized in aviculture. A first donation

from the fund of \$10,000 has been sent to Biobrasil (a Brazilian NGO based in Salvador, Bahia) to be used by Dr. Carlos Yamashita to fund his study of this highly endangered bird. But we all know that much larger sums will be needed to create a situation that will allow this bird to survive in the long term. Our original target was \$20,000, but with this wonderful new painting and our on-going t-shirt, we have raised the target to \$35,000.

A proposal from Dr. Charles A. Munn III for the work needed was included in our introductory article in the November 1999 PsittaScene, and readers may like to refer to that for more information. In the meantime, PLEASE CONSIDER ORDERING THIS OUTSTANDING PICTURE. Anyone who keeps or simply cares about the Golden Conure will enjoy it, and it would make a superb Christmas present.

