



BELIZE BIRD RESCUE

Avian rehabilitation centre and wild bird sanctuary

Belize Bird Rescue was founded in 2004, entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Belize in 2006. We are a registered non-profit organisation with non-governmental organisation status pending approval. We are practically 100% privately funded by the two founding Directors

Our primary focus is on the illegal trade in wild-caught parrots

Licensing and monitoring of captive parrots



Belize, like most Caribbean and Latin American countries has a deeply ingrained culture of parrot ownership. Bringing about change has been a slow and delicate process, but finally we are seeing history being made. Working in close cooperation with the Belize Forest Department, a Captive Wildlife Permit Programme has been launched with respect to wild-caught parrots. Following inspection, owners are given a probationary period to conform to minimum standards of care and husbandry, or face confiscation of their bird. The amnesty ends 31st December 2014 after which time no new

licences will be issued, and any un-licensed birds will automatically be confiscated, thus putting an end to the local trade in wild-caught parrots.

Sanctuary for non-releasable birds

For those birds that, for whatever reason can't or won't make it through the programme, we provide permanent sanctuary. Some are fully flighted and choose to remain around the sanctuary, others are confined to enclosures due to physical or mental disabilities. Once the licensing amnesty period is over, we plan to work with the government on implementing a national fostering programme for some of our more demanding residents.



Helping all avian species

As the only avian rescue centre in the country, in addition to our strong psittacine focus, we assist injured or orphaned wild birds of every species.



Rehabilitation of former captive parrots

We have developed a proven rehabilitation process which can take up to 2 years to complete for the most severe cases of abuse or neglect. To date we have successfully rehabilitated and released more than 80 former pet parrots, several of which have been documented breeding in the wild. Thanks to increased enforcement by the Forest Department, we currently have a further 68 parrots scheduled for release over the next 18 months.



Conservation efforts for wild populations

In 2014 we partnered with the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE). Forest Rangers from their protected areas identified nests of the endangered yellow-headed Amazon parrot (*Amazona oratrix belizensis*) which were at risk from poachers, predation or structural failure, or nests with multiple chicks where the third bird would be unlikely to survive. We removed and hand-reared these at-risk birds and have now constructed a pre-release enclosure in the TIDE reserves for reintroduction once the chicks are fledged and independent. In 2014 we worked with 6 birds: next year we hope to assist many more.



In 2015 we will begin working with Friends for Conservation and Development and Scarlet Six on a similar initiative with the scarlet macaws of the Chiquibul Forest in Belize.



Come and see for yourself

If you decide to visit Belize, please contact us to arrange a brief tour. We are located in the Cayo District, just outside Belmopan
Belize Bird Rescue, PO Box 219 Belmopan, Belize

Visit www.belizebirdrescue.com or contact us: belizebirdrescue@gmail.com Telephone: +501 610 0400