



World's first successful national eradication of *Psittacula krameri*

Nancy Bunbury

J. Agricole, J. Appoo, J. Moumou, P. Haverson, L. Leite, N. Page, J. Friedlander & F. Fleischer-Dogley

Psittacula krameri: most widely introduced parrot



History of introduced parakeets in Seychelles

1970s: Introduced to Seychelles as cage pets

1990s: Wild population established

2001: 20-25 individuals on Mahé

2004-2005: Eradication programme started: 56 shot

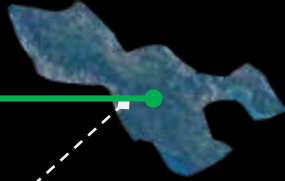
2008: 50-60 individuals counted

2011-12: Estimate of 288 individuals on Mahé (roost counts)



Seychelles black
parrot (endemic)

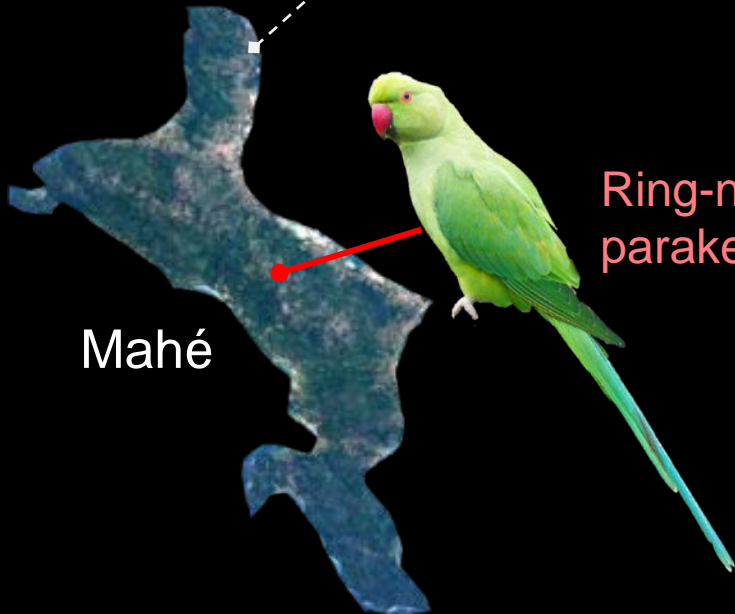
Praslin



37.2 km

Ring-necked
parakeet

Mahé



Why eradicate?

- Proximity to endemic Seychelles black parrot population (managed by SIF)
- Potential disease vector for BFDV
- Potential nest competitor
- **Pre-emptive action needed**
- **Eradication started in 2012**



Photo: S. Tollington/MWF

The challenge

- RNPs restricted to Mahe – large island!
- Steep terrain
- Population of 90,000 people
- Firearms restrictions & sensitivity
- Lack of knowledge
- Charismatic, beautiful, intelligent species
- Nobody had eradicated before...





Methods

Phase 1. Survey & trials (2012)

Surveys & observations

- Simultaneous roost counts
- Identified flightlines, feeding areas & flocking spots



Methods trials

- Traps **X**
- Mist-netting (aerial) **X**
- Targetting nesting birds **X**
- Shooting (shot gun) ✓



Phase 2. Intensive eradication (2013–2016)

- Shooting
- Flightlines, flocking & feeding areas targeted
- Avoided targeting roosts



Phase 3. Monitoring (2016–2019)

- Observations
- Bounty offered
- All public reports followed up



Visibility

Killing birds to save birds

By J. Rhy TODAY
Following the successful ground phase of the conservation drive to protect Aldabra, the battle has now moved to the air.

With the last of the first phase eliminated in August 2012, the focus has shifted to reclaiming Aldabra airspace once and for all. And not from feline jets or planes in hang-gliders, but dive-bombing balloons and fides.

In a notice published in the 10th September edition of the Official Gazette, it was announced that five bird species would be eradicated in the interest of preserving the endemic fauna on the paradise atoll.

TODAY in Seychelles has learned that three publications of the gazette list has been whittled down to three, as the other two had already been wiped-out on their target sites.

Now, cross hairs have shifted onto a non-native, invasive alien air force of between 1200-2000 Madagascar fodies and 1000-6000 red-whiskered bulbuls on Assumption and more than 100 ring-necked parakeets on Mahé and Silhouette.

The land-larks, which were all introduced to Seychelles in the last five decades, have been deemed too threatening to the native, endemic birds that are unique to the Aldabra ecosystem, such as the Aldabra Frigate, the Aldabra Rail and the Aldabra Ibis.

Continued on page 13

A squawk for help



Ring-necked parakeet on 'Green Peril' in the conservation area, Mahé.

SIF Seychelles Islands Foundation - SIF

The Ring-necked Parakeet (RNP) team, usually based on Mahé, recently spent a week on Praslin following up and trying to confirm the sighting of the RNP reported there sporadically since September 2014. The team talked to everyone who has reported seeing or hearing an RNP, checked the details of the information and followed up with observations in the most likely areas. The team did not see any signs of an RNP on Praslin while they were on the island. This does not mean that there is no RNP there but further observations are needed so the team will be returning to Praslin in mid-January. In the meantime anyone with information on Ring-necked Parakeets on Praslin or Mahé please call SIF on 2523623



682 people reached

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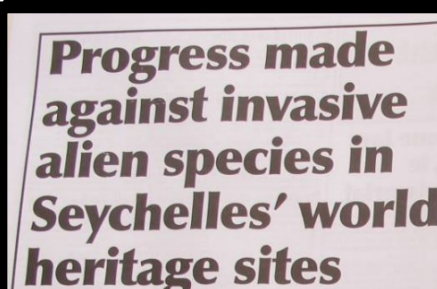
A challenging road to eradication - Seychelles' tireless efforts to rid the archipelago of the destructive green parakeets

Volume, Seychelles | September 13, 2014, Saturday | 10:41 in Environment | By: Brigitte Mawhood | Views: 120



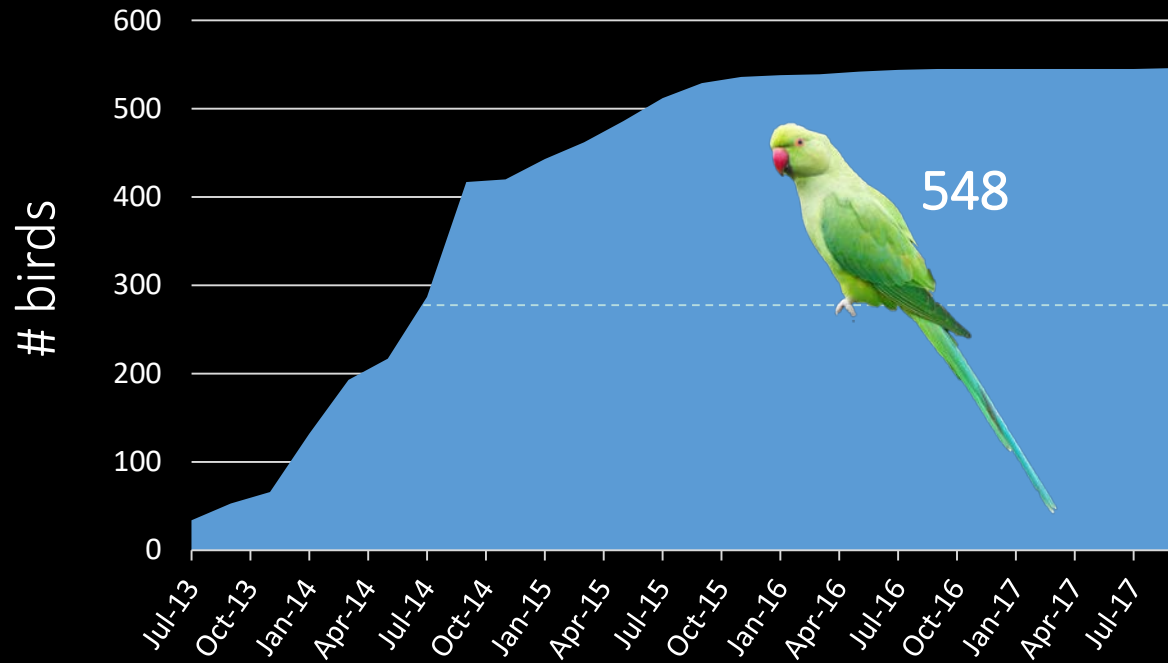
Ring-necked parakeet feeding on berries. Sully Park, 2012. (Sully Park, 2012) Photo: Sully Park, 2012

(Seychelles News Agency) - Perched high up in a tall Aldabra tree (Ficus religiosa), one of its favorite foods - the ring-necked parakeet (Eski Oun Vwar Sa Zwazo) is commonly known the green parakeet, also beautiful and invasive.

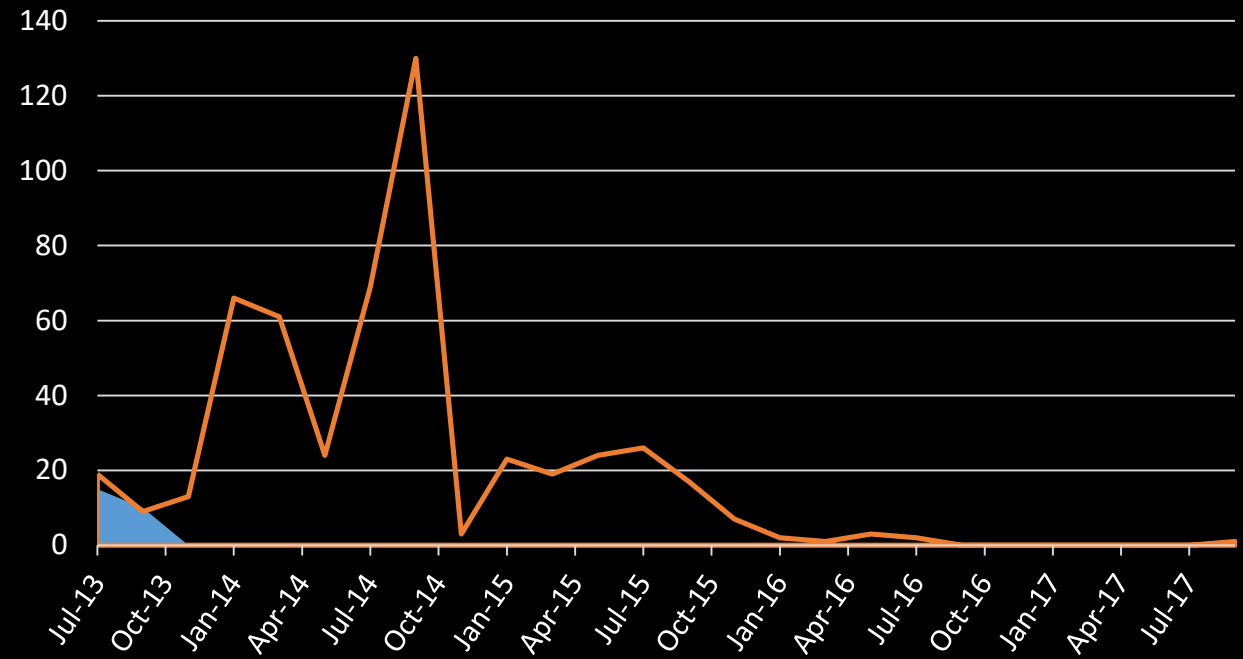


Results

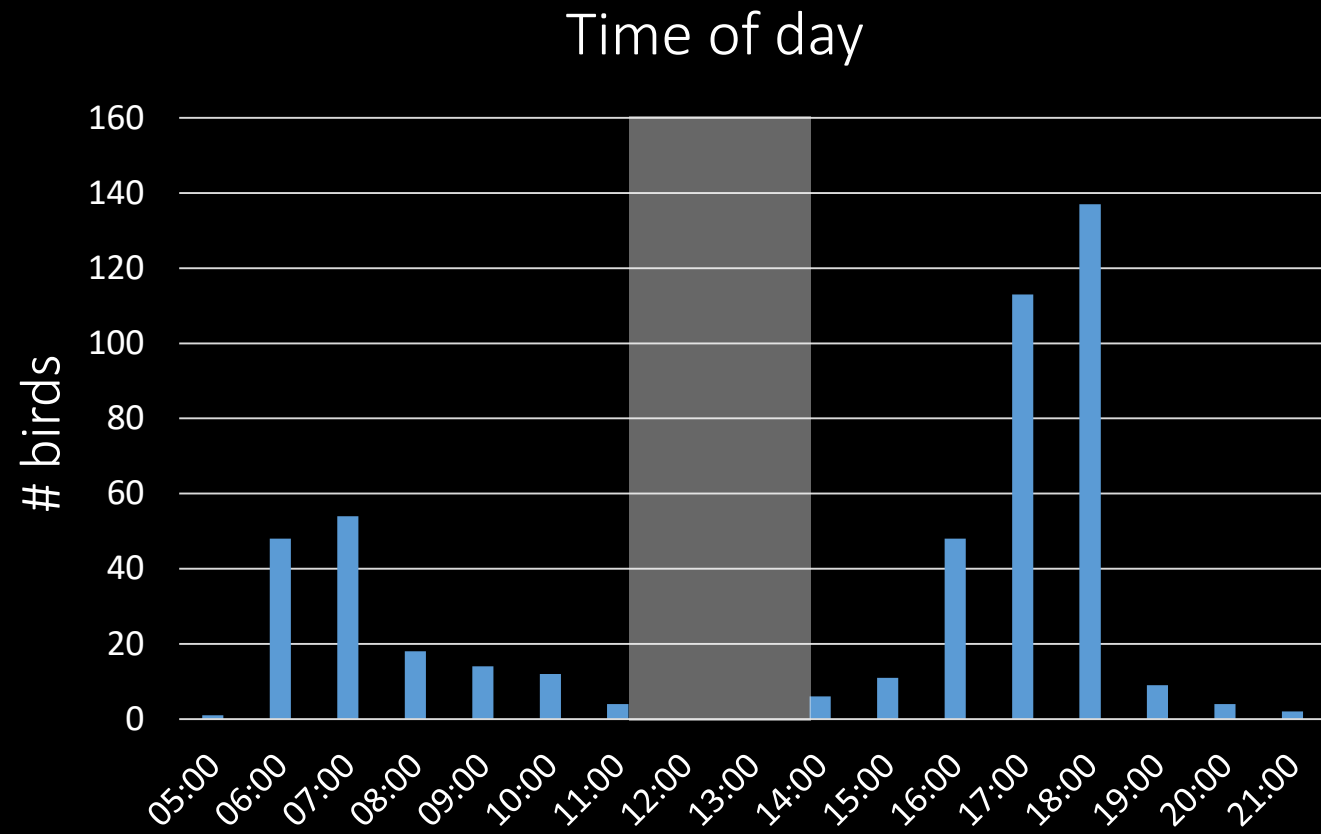
Cumulative total of parakeets culled



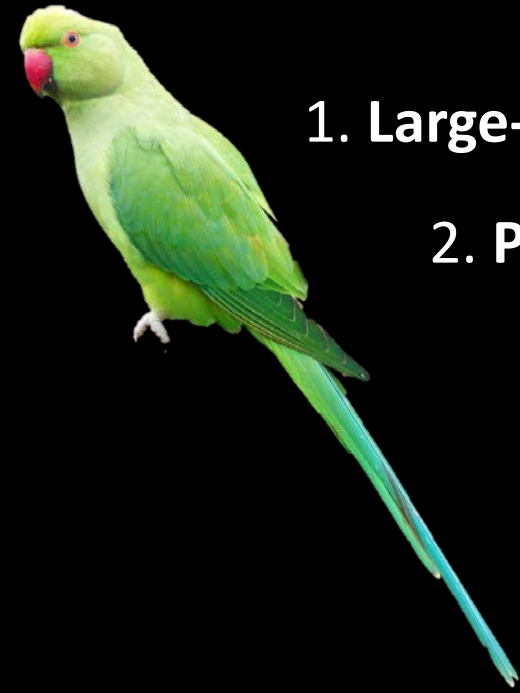
Mist-netted vs shot birds over time



Results



Lessons



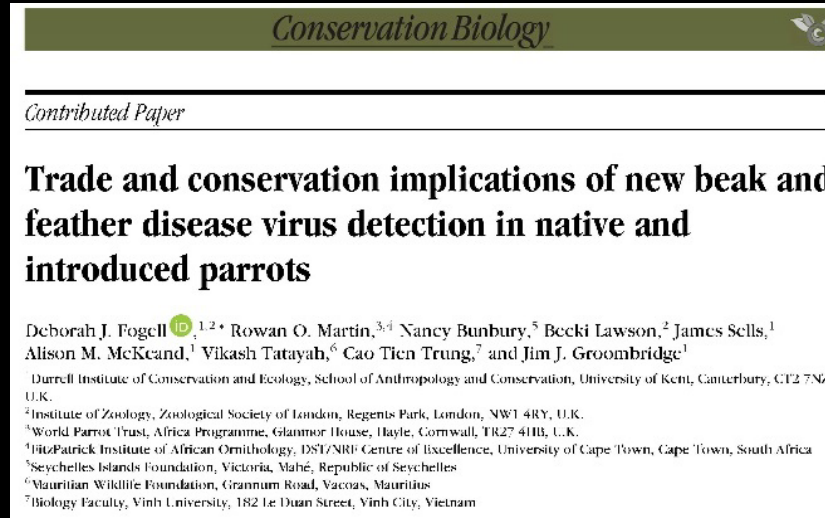
1. Large-scale parakeet eradications are feasible

2. Perceived threats not alarmist – nick of time?

- Parakeet reached Praslin, Mahé parakeets infected with BFDV
- Pre-emptive eradication for effective protection

3. Exploit ‘weak spots’ – communal roost sites, flightlines

4. Could have been faster – funding, lack of permanent hunter



Outcomes

Eradication declared successful in April 2019



- World's first national eradication of this species?
 - First 'public' eradication in Seychelles
- Main threat to the black parrot eliminated
- New government ban on import of parrots
- Encouragement for attempts elsewhere?





Thank you

Seychelles public



Funders:

- European Union
- Environment Trust Fund Seychelles
- Global Environmental Faculty

Seychelles partners:

- Ministry of Environment, Energy & Climate Change
- Seychelles People's Defence Force
- Police Special Services Wing

Consultants and staff: Darryl Birch, Wilna Accouche, Nyara Anacoura, George Angell, Annabelle Constance, Stan Denis, Steve Denis, Helga Hoareau, Pete McIntosh, Catherina Onezia, Jeremy Raguain, Jovani Simeon, Chris Tagg, Rowana Walton, Jeremy Waters

Research collaborators: Dr Jim Groombridge (DICE, UK), Dr Hazel Jackson



Marianne North, 1883
(Only known live depiction)

Seychelles parakeet *Psittacula wardi*

- Mahé, Silhouette, Praslin
- Last wild birds collected in 1881
 - Extinct by 1906
- Persecution & habitat loss
 - Related to Alexandrine parakeet and Mascarene parrot
 - Large bill!
- Believed to eat insects? (+ fruit and seeds)



John Gerrard Keulemans, 1876

