

8/9/2018

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
ec.sen@aph.gov.au

RE: Inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis

The Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia (CCBFA) represents many hundreds of clubs nationally with tens, if not hundreds of thousands of members. We support the protection and conservation of wild populations of avian species through a range of activities and projects. Our clubs endeavour to work cooperatively with government to achieve the best outcomes for the native birds in our care and in the wild. CCBFA operates across all jurisdictions and have represented aviculturists on a variety of government committees at both state and national level.

We have grave concerns for many threatened native Australian avian species and have been lobbying government to offer our assistance for many years. Both state and federal government departments have proven to be hard nuts to crack with proposals being rejected without reason and promised meeting outcomes not being realised.

In 2017 we formed a threatened species working group of avicultural representatives nationally. Representatives from this group met in December 2017 in Canberra with the office of the threatened species commissioner (TSC). Details of this meeting, including areas of direct relevance to this senate inquiry are included as Appendix A and B of this submission. Unfortunately, the TSC has not followed up and has not responded to our requests for further meetings. This is most disappointing - we were optimistic of a fair hearing given the terms of reference of the TSC.

Another recent example is our Managed Citizen Science proposal put to NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) as part of our submission on native animal licensing. This proposal, included here as Appendix C. has been completely ignored by OEH.

Within our membership base is an extensive range of expertise and facilities. Many magnitudes more aviary space is available in private collections compared to zoo and wildlife parks. Amazing experts, specialists with decades of experience caring and breeding captive threatened species or their analogues. These facilities and these expert aviculturists are available at little or no cost to threatened species efforts.

So why is such expertise and facilities not being utilised?

- The conservation industry has evolved into a series of grant-based larger enterprises and government departments – top heavy organisations.
- There is competition for conservation funds and voluntary community-based organisations such as ours have trouble competing with large NGOs and zoo entities.
- In the last 50 years or so avian conservation organisations have split off and grown apart philosophically from avicultural clubs. Prior to this time, we were one and the same.
- Our expertise, established over hundreds (in some cases thousands) of years still exists but is now largely ignored by conservation organisations.

What is private aviculture already doing?

A number of example threatened species programs are outlined in Appendix B as part of the description of those attending the TSC meeting, disappointingly NONE of these programs have the support of federal or state government in Australia.

Aviculture in Australia and internationally maintains good captive stock of numerous threatened species both native and exotic. These birds have and continue to be used for recovery release programs directly. However perhaps the most valuable contribution is our husbandry expertise called upon when species reach endangered or critically endangered status. Furthermore, the public overwhelming (98% of respondents, n=971) values captive stock of extinct species as demonstrated by our recent public social media poll in Appendix D.

What do we recommend?

We continue to make recommendations to state governments and the TSC as a way to move forward.

1. Assistance with captive breeding programs for threatened species and their analogues. Obvious examples where we can economically assist include Orange Bellied Parrot, Swift Parrot, Plains Wanderer, Mallee Emu Wren, Hooded Plover, Black-throated Finch, but there are numerous others.
2. Inclusion of private aviculture representatives on recovery teams. We setup a working group to appoint/invite avicultural experts with specific experience with the specific species or its analogue. The detailed knowledge aviculturists know of the species they keep will surprise recovery teams
3. Facilitate real consultative meetings with state-based programs, such as NSW OEH Saving Our Species to raise awareness of the possibilities and explore a way forward.
4. Assistance uncovering why a number of projects and offers have been unsuccessful in the past. Explore attitudes and educate bureaucrats as to the possibilities.

Many of our practical proposals do not involve significant funding, furthermore, they need not replace existing efforts – they can supplement or run in parallel. Currently, as the subject of this inquiry has made clear, the extinction of our native species is getting worse not better. Programs delivered by existing government and NGO entities are clearly failing to arrest the decline despite significant financial investment. Let's try some new strategies and we offer some possibilities.

We are organised dedicated expert hobbyists with a love of caring for birds. Our expertise is keenly sought internationally yet Australian governments ignore our efforts. All Committee Senators should read the words of Graeme Phipps (Appendix A, p4,5) which are particularly pertinent to this issue.

We would welcome the chance to present in person to this Senate Inquiry.

Kind regards



Sam Davis
President – Canary and Caged Bird Federation of Australia Inc.
E: president@ccbfa.org.au
M: 0411 253 512

Appendix A - Avicultural Representatives to meet with the Threatened Species Commissioner

The Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia (CCBFA) has been lobbying for a meeting with the Threatened Species Commissioner for some years. A December 14th meeting in Canberra has now been scheduled with Sam Davis, Gary Fitt, Graeme Phipps, Steve Sass and Simon Degenhard representing avicultural interests nationally. A wider group of representatives from across the country are actively conversing via an email group to ensure ideas and opinions are shared leading to widespread support.

We aim to raise awareness of possibilities where private aviculture can run programs in parallel to and with the support of existing threatened species projects. The office and role of the Threatened Species Commissioner (refer *Appendix A*) is well positioned to assist aviculture, to assist threatened species we care for and care about.

Those attending the meeting were selected for their specific areas of expertise and experience.

Sam Davis



Sam is currently President of the Finch Society of Australia (FSA) and Vice President Government Liaison of the Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia (CCBFA). A major focus under Sam's leadership is the promotion of aviculture, with emphasis on communicating our strengths, achievements and potential to the general public, scientific, government and zoo community. Sam actively represents the interests of aviculturists nationally on a number of government committees and via his lobbying efforts on behalf of the hundreds of CCBFA affiliate clubs.

Aviculture remains a lifelong passion for Sam. As a child he bred and exhibited budgerigars. He has kept a broad range of finches, quail, and parrots over the years. After moving onto acreage Sam constructed a number of larger aviaries housing numerous finch species, some parrots and in recent years a range of softbills. One area of personal interest to Sam is including private aviculturists in threatened species work. Aviculture's involvement will be enormously beneficial. Our expertise is an untapped and economical resource of knowledge and skills.

Gary Fitt



Gary Fitt has over 50 years experience in finch aviculture having kept and breed a number of native and foreign species. Gary established significant avicultural collections in Narrabri NSW and now Brisbane and has been involved in management roles in aviculture for some time. Gary has been President or Vice President of the Qld Finch Society for the last 10 years, was convenor of the last 4 International Finch Conventions (2008, 2011, 2014, 2017) and was the inaugural and is the current President of the National Finch and Softbill Association. In these roles he has interacted with governments around several issues which threaten aviculture and has initiated conservation breeding

programs through QFS for species which have become rare in aviculture. These are usually foreign finch species. In addition Gary is actively involved in finch conservation in the wild. He is Science Advisor for the Save the Gouldian Fund coordinating the research program focussed on recovery of the Endangered Gouldian finch across northern Australia, including on-ground actions to make a difference. Gary is also a member of the Blackthroated Finch Recovery Team which implements the Federally endorsed recovery plan for this species, seeking to stem the precipitous range contraction and decline in abundance of the southern Blackthroat, *Poephila cincta cincta*.

Graeme Phipps



Graeme Phipps has been a member of the Avicultural Society of New South Wales since the mid-1960s and is currently President.

In the 1980s he presented at the first International Conservation and Aviculture Convention in Hollywood, USA on the need for zoos to collaborate with private aviculture, pointing out the mathematical limitations of zoos to achieve ANY of their stated goals without the involvement of the private community. A database system to facilitate collection management called OZCOLL was outlined.

Since that time, 37 years ago, there has been little advance in the area of collaboration on recovery programs and species management goals involving the private community. In 1985 Graeme became Curator of Birds, Taronga and Western Plains Zoos (later Principal Curator) and developed a cut down version of OZCOLL called REGASP – originally the Regional Avian Species Planning database system, later the Regional ANIMAL Species Planning database system- which was taken up by the International Species Information System (ISIS) and used by most zoos throughout the world for cooperative and collaborative collection management, in six languages. He also founded the ASMP – the Australasian Species Management Program to drive cooperative program work in Australasian zoos. To his delight REGASP evolved 25 years later into ZIMS – the global realtime online Zoological Information Management System. REGASP was also a core tool underpinning the World Zoo Conservation Strategy.

In 1988 Graeme was simultaneously Curator of Birds for the Zoological Parks Board of NSW; Conservation Committee chairperson to the Avicultural Federation of Australia (a position held for nearly 20 years) AND chair of the Conservation Committee of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union. One would think that that would offer a unique opportunity to facilitate collaborative programs – when in fact it was the Bermuda Triangle. There was no way one could navigate thru the bigotry of the birdwatching and zoo communities; features which continue to this day. Disappointing to witness such unscientific and uninformed attitudes dredged up as facts – particularly disappointing in that if people thought that the private avicultural community was responsible for species endangerment in Australia it meant that they were not looking at the real issues that were confronting these populations.

Species on the national threatened species list are increasing, not decreasing. A paper written by Graeme at the time of the publication of 'Birds to Watch' in the 1990s entitled 'Threatened Species in Australian Aviculture' and subsequently re-edited twice at 10 year intervals outlines potential

roles private aviculture can and NEEDS to play. There are some 100 threatened species or their analogues that figure in Australian aviculture.

Graeme is trained in facilitating PHVA Workshops. PHVAs – Population and Habitat Viability Analysis and Assessment workshops are participatory and collaborative workshops which use modelling to arrive at measurable and consensus options for the recovery of species. The tools and programs on which these workshops depend are created by the CPSG – the Conservation Planning Specialist Group of the SSC the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN – the World Conservation Union, of which Graeme is a member of CPSG Australasia.

Despite the injunction of the IUCN and the SSC to use these tools and to engage in ex situ support of in situ recovery programs early, most critically threatened species have not had these workshops run for them....notably the Orange-bellied Parrot *Neophema chrysogaster*. It is shocking to watch this species slide into an extinction vortex without even the benefit of such a workshop; and ignoring the many offers of assistance that have come from, and continue to come from the private avicultural community which has both the skills and spaces to assist; while at the same time the program is being managed by people who are clearly not up to the job of recovery.

Graeme attended a PHVA held in Canberra three years ago for the Plains Wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus*. It is a matter of record that South Australian aviculturist Eric Ridley cracked the aviculture of the species – which would have to be one of the most undemanding species possible to imagine re captive management. Graeme coordinated the creation of a Husbandry Manual for the species. Yet it was still decided that ZOOS had to confirm all of that information before proceeding further, and of course private involvement was not required. Plus, that zoos could ‘save’ the species at a cost of \$20Million over 10 years! Well they might; although note their performance with the Orange-bellied Parrot ...and note that private aviculture has the capacity to achieve any of those outcomes for a tiny fraction of those costs.

Graeme currently teaches Collection Management to zoo keepers at Certificate 3 and Certificate 4 levels. A unit of study exists at Certificate 5 and Lou Grossfeldt, Curator of Mogo Zoo and Species Co-ordinator of Bolivian Squirrel Monkeys and co-convenor of the Primate Taxon Advisory Group of ZAA will be offering with him thru TAFE a skill set to enable ANYONE to gain the skills to create and run studbooks, and operate as species co-ordinators for any captive population.

The contribution on offer from the private avicultural community is significant and should not be ignored. Indeed one should take a view that those who continue to ignore private avicultural involvement need to be held to account because species recovery is EVERYONE’s responsibility. It is inappropriate that avicultural involvement needs to pass thru the filters of what zoos or bird watching NGOs consider worthwhile. Their own performance in the balance is found wanting.

On a final note, Graeme was recognised for environmental contributions as Parramatta Citizen of the Year for 2008; for the creation of REGASP and ASMP by ARAZPA – the Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (now ZAA); and is a Life Member of the Avicultural Society of New South Wales. Of all the degrees, awards etc it is the Life Membership he values the most because aviculture is a celebration of the lives of birds and most speaks to his values. Aviculturists as a community need to step up for them and not be put aside any longer by anyone because it is birds and their survival that matters.

Steve Sass



Steve is a highly experienced Consulting Ecologist having undertaken hundreds of ecological surveys and assessments across Australia since 1992. Steve was appointed through his ecological consultancy EnviroKey, as an 'Expert' by NSW Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) for 23 species (mostly birds) listed as Endangered under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. A keen aviculturist, Steve has more than 30 years' experience in a wide range of birds including very difficult species such as the 'softbills' (eg, bush stone curlews, whipbirds, chats, robins, kingfishers, bowerbirds, honeyeaters and fairy-wrens) and is a member of the NSW Expert Bird Group (OEH), formed as part of a review of the existing state legislation. In 2015, Steve along with his wife Linda (an aviculturist for the past 25 years and a Consulting Ecologist for the past 12 years), opened On the Perch Bird Park at Tathra on the NSW Sapphire Coast. A fully licensed zoo, On the Perch brings the field expertise of Steve and Linda, and translates it into an avicultural setting, show casing more than 90 species to more than 13,000 visitors annually with a commitment to threatened species conservation and education.

Simon Degenhard



Simon Degenhard was born in December 1980 and has been watching, keeping, breeding, reading and writing about and generally living and breathing birds for some 30+ years. Simon's love of our feathered friends was recognised from a young age and was encouraged and nurtured by his family, especially his late grandfather Roland, who spent many hours pointing out the native birdlife that was found on and around the family farm in Crystal Brook, South Australia.

Simon's avicultural journey all began in the Adelaide suburb of Campbelltown in the mid 1980's with the taming of a young Galah that was affectionately called Galahry, and yes he knows that this name was not very original, but it was effective all the same! From that point on Simon was hooked and his life with birds rapidly progressed.

The next additions to the family were Peach-faced Lovebirds, which Simon quickly achieved breeding success with. He was thrilled with this early success and enjoyed taming the chicks, many of which were then sold to various friends as pets; such was his enthusiasm for aviculture that he took every available opportunity to encourage as many friends as possible to give it a go.

From here he progressed to numerous other species including Ring-necked Pheasants, domestic ducks, bantams, various native and foreign parrots, finches, softbills, pigeons and doves. Simon was told on many occasions by older experienced breeders that he should think about specialising, but as much as he could see their point he couldn't possibly choose just one group of birds, let alone one species to concentrate on!

Simon moved to Bellingen, on the mid-north coast of NSW in December 1994 and was immediately taken by the amazing native birdlife found throughout the region. This abundance of wild birdlife satisfied his desire to get back on the avicultural band wagon for the short term. A year or so later

the first new aviary was erected and the aviculturist within came back out as if it had never left! He maintained a mixed collection throughout his high school years, and especially enjoyed hand rearing numerous Cockatiels and selling them to other Bellingen locals.

Upon finishing high school in 1999, Simon moved to Sydney to pursue work. This meant living without a bird collection for a while, but he stayed in the mix by attending bird club meetings and visiting other breeders as often as possible. Following the purchase of a property with his wife Telea in 2004 he quickly set about building aviaries and subsequently built up a mixed collection of both native and foreign parrots, cockatoos, native and foreign lorikeets and softbills.

From the age of twelve Simon's enthusiasm compelled him to seek further knowledge by means of doing work experience at various wildlife parks and zoos. He started this with a stint at the Gorge Wildlife Park in the Adelaide hills back in 1993 and since then has spent time at Currumbin Sanctuary on the Gold Coast, Featherdale Wildlife Park and Taronga Zoo in Sydney and Walsrode Bird Park in Germany.

Over the years Simon has had involvement with numerous bird clubs including the Avicultural Society of South Australia, the Coffs Harbour Caged Bird Club, the Softbill and Native Pigeon Society of Australia, the Parrot Society of Australia (NSW) Inc., the Finch Society of Australia, The Northern Rivers Avicultural Society and the Avicultural Society of NSW.

Simon's writing career began in the early to mid 1990's with articles that were published in bird club magazines. This love of writing about his feathered companions progressed further over the years and in the mid 2000's he began writing regularly for Australian Aviary Life (AAL) magazine (now Aviarylif). This association with AAL led to Simon becoming assistant editor of the magazine and then co-owner in 2010. AAL is something that he is evidently very proud of and enjoys working on immensely. Simon is now the Editor and sole owner of Aviarylif magazine. In recent years Simon has also written numerous other articles for various bird club magazines.

Simon has travelled fairly extensively over the last decade and has made a point of visiting bird collection wherever possible. He has been lucky enough to visit collections in England, Europe, Singapore and the USA along with countless setups in Australia. He has also visited some of the world's best bird parks including Walsrode (Germany), Loro Parque (Tenerife, Canary Islands), Bird World (England), Jurong Bird Park (Singapore) and Dallas World Aquarium (USA).

Over the past 6-7 years Simon has turned his attention to the conservation of birds in a major way, supporting many projects through publicising their work within the pages of Aviarylif. During this time Simon has closely followed and supported the work of German based NGO, the Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots e.V. (ACTP) with great enthusiasm, and is immensely proud of his strong ties with this leading player on the worldwide conservation scene.

Simon's passion for all things feathered is a major force within his life; his love for birds encompasses both aviculture and ornithological interests, with the long-term preservation of the world's birdlife being at the top of his agenda.

Appendix B

Aviculture and Threatened Species - Finding a way forward

Threatened Species Commissioner Meeting Summary

Canberra 14/12/2017

On December 14th a group of aviculture representatives - Sam Davis, Gary Fitt, Graeme Phipps, Steve Sass and Simon Degenhard – met with the Acting Threatened Species Commissioner (TSC) in Canberra to raise awareness of the possibilities for private aviculture to contribute actively to conservation breeding programs focussed on high priority threatened bird species. The Aviculture and Threatened Species Group involves several leading aviculturists across Australia who are jointly developing arguments to support the case for private aviculture to participate in conservation programs.

By all accounts the meeting was a success – all we could have hoped for - a terrific start. The TSC is well placed to open doors leading to broader understanding of our amazing skills, experience and the extensive resources at our disposal for successfully breeding rare and endangered species. The wide-ranging discussion in the meeting covered options for aviculture to contribute to recovery team efforts, to work with state government threatened species efforts, and the need to overcome obstacles with some other stakeholder groups who don't yet see the value that aviculture can bring.

After the initial pleasantries, the five representatives provided an overview of their experiences including thoughts on a way forward.

Gary Fitt (the Scientist) focused on science based initiatives. The privately funded Save the Gouldian Fund is an exemplar, but Gary noted the expertise, infrastructure, passion and commitment that private aviculture could bring to bear on some of the top 20 birds on conservation lists. An amazing stem cell based advanced reproductive technology proposal to dramatically increase Orange-bellied Parrot numbers was outlined, including a request to uncover why this proposal has not progressed despite considerable interest internationally. Such frustrating experiences - low interest/involvement/respect domestically with high interest/involvement/respect internationally - arose a number of times during the meeting.

Simon Degenhard (the Publicist) focused on international projects. His work publicising the expertise of Australian aviculture via AviaryLife magazine and his vast connections to the world's most significant avian collections is crucial in upholding our highly regarded status in world aviculture. All our avian publications and products are highly regarded internationally, and this has and continues to be a catalyst for international partners seeking our expertise and offering assistance with our recovery programs. For instance, at the meeting Simon announced an ACTP contribution of \$200K to assist with Western Ground Parrot recovery efforts via the WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Sam Davis (the Organiser) spoke of the desire for aviculture to engage with recovery efforts and some of the stumbling blocks he has encountered in recent years. Our knowledge is sought internationally (the Smithsonian led Red Siskin Initiative, for example), we are working alongside university research efforts (projects with Macquarie Uni, Western Sydney Uni and ANU are underway) yet we experience ongoing difficulties infiltrating the conservation and threatened

species effort in our own country. The detailed knowledge aviculturists have of the species they keep will surprise recovery teams – and not just regarding captive breeding. We're volunteers with a passion for the birds we breed. Many of the best of us spend all day observing and tweaking husbandry - these are real experts and they're itching to be involved. To share their knowledge, to refine husbandry, to be part of captive breeding recovery efforts here in Australia.

Graeme Phipps (the Zoologist) has a long and distinguished history promoting the obvious benefits private aviculture can contribute to threatened species efforts. Graeme has seen a long line of action plans, recovery programs, species management goals, etc. come and go over many decades. There is one thing all these long winded well-meaning documents have in common – they do nothing whatsoever, if nothing practical is actually done. Action, unsurprisingly, means doing something, something practical to help the birds we care for and care about. Graeme has the practical qualifications to train avicultural leaders to manage studbooks, perform Population and Habitat Viability Analysis and Assessment workshops, to use modelling to arrive at measurable and consensus options for the recovery of species. These internationally respected methodologies are open to all - private aviculture can and should do all this.

Steve Sass' (the Ecologist and Bird Park owner) presentation at the meeting made it clear he is definitely in the thick of it, and on a daily basis. Steve's professional ecology work involves assessing the effects of development and other influences on threatened species whilst his lifelong passion for aviculture and more recently development of "On the Perch" gives him a broad view of the overall threatened species effort and how aviculture can assist. It appears, On the Perch's recent proposal supported by aviculture, to work with Red-capped Plovers as analogues of the threatened Hooded Plover was rejected without due consideration. Was this yet another example where aviculture's expertise is not recognised by some other influential threatened species stakeholders?

Much past frustration is a result of other major stakeholders' inability to understand, accept and engage with aviculture or consider alternative strategies. Stakeholder's in the conservation area have proven to be hard nuts to crack. Much is due to ignorance of what we offer, some appears due to simple bigotry and some due to a desire to protect their turf. The meeting endeavoured to find a way forward, practical assistance from the TSC office to assist our voice to be heard. We also explored a range of strategies and projects where we can go it alone, running our own projects in parallel to existing programs.

Recommendations for the Threatened Species Commissioner to explore include...

1. Inclusion of private aviculture representatives on recovery teams. We setup a working group to appoint/invite avicultural experts with specific experience with the specific species or its analogue. The detailed knowledge aviculturists know of the species they keep will surprise recovery teams
2. Facilitate meetings with state based programs, such as NSW OEH Saving Our Species. Meetings similar to this meeting are needed to raise awareness of the possibilities and explore a way forward.
3. Assistance, where possible, uncovering why a number of projects and offers have been unsuccessful. In particular, projects and offers of assistance outlined by Gary Fitt, Graeme Phipps and Steve Sass during the meeting.

The Threatened Species Commissioner has committed to...

1. Consider and respond as to how the TSC office can assist private aviculture to move forward.
2. A new TSC, Dr Sally Box, has recently been appointed to commence late January 2018. Signal our intentions to Dr Box, including an overview of this meeting.

The Threatened Species Commissioner has already established a priority list of 20 bird species which are the focus of Federal government conservation efforts (<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/20-birds-by-2020>) and a key outcome from the meeting was a suggestion from the TSC that we consider a specific targeted species in the Threatened Species Strategy and explain how private aviculture was well placed to contribute to recovery, as a way of clearly illustrating our skills. Much work has already been undertaken and is ongoing to identify species where we have a definite role to play. There are many possible species to consider and we welcome input from everyone.

Many thanks to the office of the Threatened Species Commissioner. This was just the first of what we hope will be a series of planning and engagement meetings. Together we can find a way forward - for the birds.

Appendix C

MANAGED CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT REQUIRING COLLECTION OF PROTECTED FAUNA FROM THE WILD IN NSW

Expert Bird Group Proposal for an additional licence class under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* Part 2 Division 3 and subordinate regulations.

We recommend an additional licence class under the BC Act Part 2 Division 3 and subordinate regulations to implement this recommendation. The licence to be titled as follows.

MANAGED CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT REQUIRING
COLLECTION OF PROTECTED FAUNA FROM THE WILD IN NSW

Recommended guidelines and form to implement this licence class are included below.

The rationale for this process includes the following.


- Implementation of Recommendation 28 in *A review of biodiversity in NSW, Final Report* which is required by Government to be implemented and reads as follows.
Recommendation 28 – Improve the public’s knowledge and understanding of wildlife conservation and management through community-oriented education programs about native plants and animals, the impacts of human-wildlife interactions, and the welfare needs of animals in captivity.
- Promote the sharing of husbandry knowledge and expertise between all captive animal stakeholders nationally and internationally including OEH/NPWS, display establishments and DPI.
- Encourage the maintenance of sustainable captive populations via managed documented processes.
- Utilise the vast network of avicultural societies to assist with threatened species recovery and conservation efforts.
- Aviculture is involved in threatened species efforts for many species, both native and exotic, and our expertise is keenly sought nationally and internationally. We would be happy to present practical examples.
- Contribute the vast knowledge, expertise and resources of private aviculturists to threatened species conservation efforts.
- Reduce the incentive for illegal take-from-the-wild through the provision of a legal managed process.

GUIDELINES AND POLICY

MANAGED CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT REQUIRING COLLECTION OF PROTECTED FAUNA FROM THE WILD IN NSW

1. Biodiversity Conservation Licences for the collection of protected fauna from the wild in NSW are made under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* Part 2 Division 3 and subordinate regulations.
2. This Policy adopts the ethic that limited collection from the wild is acceptable, and provides valuable opportunities for the broader public to interact with and develop an affinity for a diverse range of native wildlife. While the Policy directs that the removal of any wildlife is undertaken in an ecologically acceptable manner, it also recognises the broader conservation and public knowledge benefits that are acquired through having wildlife in captivity.
3. This Policy recognises that a secure established captive population of a species discourages illegal collection whilst providing valuable species knowledge to assist in the conservation of wild populations.
4. The general purpose of this class of licence includes, but is not limited to
 - establishing a species in captivity,
 - re-establishing a species in captivity,
 - refining or establishing husbandry guidelines for species such as a threatened species or their analogues, and/or
 - threatened species captive breeding as part of a threatened species recovery program.
5. Applicants may include specialist animal keeper societies and associations, private keepers and breeders, and wildlife exhibitors such as zoos and wildlife parks.
6. Scientific research purposes are outside the scope of this class of licence. This class of licence does not require approval under the *Animal Research Act 1985*, in particular, there is no requirement for Animal Care and Ethics Committee (ACEC) approval.
7. The welfare of animals collected from the wild is of paramount importance. The treatment of all animals must be in accordance with the provisions of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* including relevant code(s) of practice.
8. The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) promotes fair and reasonable access to wildlife. When assessing applications, the following parameters will be considered:
 - positive and negative impacts on wild populations,
 - purpose for taking an animal from the wild,
 - conservation status of species in the wild,
 - status of the species in captivity,
 - knowledge and experience of the applicant, and
 - standards of husbandry and appropriate facilities to be provided by the applicant.
9. During collection activities, personnel must carry a copy of the licence, which is to be produced on demand to authorised officers. Licence holders should be present or readily able to direct the actions of other nominated persons assisting in the collection of the animals.
10. Any animal collected from the wild pursuant to this licence shall not be traded without the prior consent of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). Progeny of collected animals may be freely traded.
11. Review of unsuccessful licence applications, licence conditions or other issues relating to this class of licence is available via the Native Animal Keepers Consultative Committee (NAKCC).

Appendix D – Social Media Poll

 **The Finch Society of Australia Inc.** created a poll. ⋮
Published by Sam Davis [?] · 18 April · 🌐

Do you think there is value in maintaining captive populations of species that are extinct in the wild, so at least the species continues to exist?

Response	Percentage
YES ✓	98%
NO ✗	2%

YES ✓ NO

Undo Vote 971 Votes

Appendix E – Recent social media campaign for threatened species day

