

CASA

Casa Avian Support Alliance

Journey to CASA

Paige Bente and Brad Wagner Travel from San Francisco, California to San Ignacio, Belize to Donate Bird Rescue Vehicle



October 23, 2007: Paige and Brad at their Vallejo Street apartment in San Francisco at the outset of the journey

At the CASA Annual Board meeting conducted in April of 2007 the need for a dedicated bird rescue vehicle was discussed and recorded as a target acquisition in the years to come. On October 24, 2007 Paige Bente and Brad Wagner began the 'Journey to CASA' in a 1994 Isuzu Trooper they had purchased and intended to donate to CASA.

Just days before departure the vehicle's mission was made apparent by the addition of signs to each of the front doors which read— "BIRD RESCUE, Casa Avian Support Alliance, LLC NGO, San Ignacio, Belize CA, www.casaavian.org, along with a large red cross. At departure a page was added to the CASA web site titled 'Journey to CASA.' In addition to providing a brief background describing the trip, the page instructed readers how to follow the route and to view pictures taken along the way by downloading Google Earth, and a periodically updated file "Journey to CASA.KMZ."

- this is still available on the web site.

Their route took them south to the border at San Ysidro, through the Sierra Madre to Durango, southwest to the coast, and then southeast to Guadalajara and Morelia, and on to Mexico City. From the highlands of Mexico City they traveled through Oaxaca and on to San Cristobal Las Casas in the Chiapan highlands, and then northward into the Yucatan Peninsula, and then south into Belize—a journey of some 5,800 miles.

Along the route they visited numerous biological reserves and sanctuaries where they were able to share and discuss the goal and mission of CASA and to initiate a dialogue with other organizations dedicated to the preservation of biodiversity in the Americas; en-route they developed a deep-appreciation for the natural and cultural beauty of Mexico, and met many kind people who they thank for every assistance provided.

Muchas Gracias



November 27, 2007: Journey's end—5,781 miles! Paige and Brad's arrival at CASA in the late afternoon

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Carol Manganero to Begin CASA Volunteer Program</i> | 2 |
| <i>BRB and BIB Construction Completed</i> | 2 |
| <i>Fiscal 2007 Goals and Accomplishments</i> | 3 |
| <i>Rachel Dueck Completes Internship Program at CASA</i> | 3 |
| <i>Bird Sightings October and November</i> | 6 |

Special Points of Interest:

- Dinner for staff and volunteers of Cornerstone held on Saturday November 24, 2007
- Annual Board/General membership Meeting to be held January 26, 2008—There is one room remaining
- CASA receives Mottled Owl for care and rehabilitation
- Recent Bird Sightings on last page



Carol Manganero to Begin Extended Volunteer Program in January 2007

January 2008, the CASA Team will be joined by our first experienced wildlife rehabilitation volunteer, Ms. Carol Manganero of Fairfax, CA. Ms. Carol will arrive in late January to begin planning CASA's next phase of development.

Upon arrival, and a brief period of familiarization, Ms. Carol will help to further develop the program by providing a 24/7 on-site presence, researching and writing grant applications from Belize, and beginning a "Cookbook for the Birds of Belize." Ms. Carol with the guidance and help of Humberto Wohlers and Gracie Obando will create a cookbook designed to address the dietary needs of individual bird species, help to plan and set-up (identifying equipment and supplies needed) for the Bird Intake and Medical Rooms, provide input and ideas for patient management based on prior experience, and be the daily on-site presence needed to establish an on-going Intern Program for CASA and the caretaking of the patients, in concert with the In-Country Director Mr. Baldemir Manzanero.

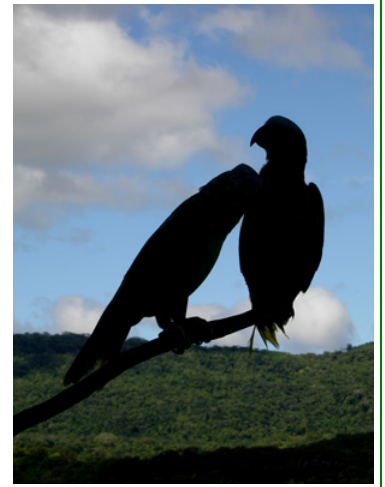
Ms. Carol was referred to CASA by Dr. Debra Scheenstra, DVM of Northern CA, a key member of the Advisory Board. After discussions with the CASA team and

members of the Advisory Board, it was agreed that CASA needed and would welcome the assistance of Ms. Carol in January 2008. Her background working with wildlife rehabilitation for a number of years, including her current experience working as a volunteer at Wildcare of San Rafael, CA, a US non-profit with a focus on wildlife rehabilitation and release, exposed Ms. Carol to a variety of bird species including raptors, song birds, and waterfowl.

Parrot Profiles

Mealy Parrots (*Amazona fari-nosa*) 16" largest of the *Amazona* genus, distinctive blue crown—canopy and sub canopy within tall secondary forest, gallery forest and forest edge.

Photograph taken in Guatemala, November 23, 2007



Construction for Bird Rehabilitation Building and Bird Intake Building Completed in November and Receiving Birds

Among the goals for 2007 was the design of caging for the Bird Rehabilitation Building (BRB). The CASA staff benefited from the good fortune of the In-country Director's friendship with Mr. Julio Hob of Benque Viejo del Carmen, a local contractor of great skill. Following on the completion of the equipment shed/tool shop, Mr. Hob embarked on a sequence of contracts that completed the basic caging requirements of the BRB and then addressed the deficiencies of the Bird Intake Building (BIB).

Initiated in June of 2007 with installation of the rack supports for restricted activity caging in the middle cells on each side of the BRB, the finish construction of the BRB and BIB was completed in November with the installation of the ceiling fans in the BIB. The completion of both buildings in the 7 months following the April board meeting surpassed all expectations, and has enabled CASA to begin receiving injured birds for treatment and rehabilitation much sooner than anticipated.

As pictured on the right 'Lored Captain Jack' has now taken residence in his permanent caging in the BRB, a large room, with screening on two sides, 8 foot plus ceilings, ample perching, a newly added nesting box, and numerous toys. Captain Jack's location makes him available to each of the staff which provides him with daily opportunities for socializing.

In late November CASA received a Mottled Owl with an injured wing that is currently housed in a limited activity cag-



Lored Captain Jack seen in his new accommodation in the Bird Rehabilitation Building—Captain Jack's cage now includes perches, toys, and a swing all handmade by CDCB grounds-man Ronnell Manzanero. As 1ST Ambassador to Casa Avian Support Alliance the entire staff of Casa del Caballo Blanco participates in the care and feeding of Captain Jack.

ing on the Raptor Block, and under surveillance until the injury can be properly diagnosed. We thank Mr. Humberto Wohlers, Wildlife specialist, for selecting CASA for care of these birds, for his support and confidence; we are equally grateful to our staff and volunteers who on a daily basis contribute their time and efforts to assist all of us in the conservation of bio-diversity in the Americas.

Fiscal 2007 Goals and Accomplishments

In April 2007 the following goals, divided into three Tiers were adopted for fiscal 2007. We are proud to make the following summary report, specifics will be provided in the annual report delivered at the Annual Meeting, January 26, 2008.

Tier 1.

- 1.) Create a web page—Complete
- 2.) Develop a Naturalist Trail—Complete
- 3.) Publish Biologist Report—Complete
- 4.) Prepare and execute a long-term lease with Casa del Caballo Blanco –Complete

Tier 2.

- 1.) Identify a Grant Writing Team—In Process
- 2.) Identify a team to design caging—Complete, (Construction in Bird Intake Building and Bird Rehabilitation building in November 2007)
- 3.) Join two organizations to promote CASA—Complete
- 4.) Build owl and bat nest boxes—In process

Tier 3.

- 1.) Create interpretive signs for trail—Complete
- 2.) Identify/donate to local parrot org—Complete
- 3.) Select six passport destinations—In progress
- 4.) Design and print trail map—Complete
- 5.) Undertake preparation of 501 (c) (3) papers— Complete.

On October 17, 2007 Casa Avian Support Alliance was incorporated in the State of California as a C Corp; a requirement to request recognition from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a non-profit organization. The substantial paperwork required for review by the IRS to become a non-profit was submitted on 15 December, 2007. A letter that will formally notify CASA that the submission is under review is expected in mid-February.

with everyone my patient views of CASA, the development of the habitat restoration area and to write letters in response to students who write me with questions about the environment and the sustainable programs that are practiced at CDCB. I was lucky that someone found me and took me to the Belize Zoo, where I was transported to CASA and taken care of by a volunteer named Gerald Wholers. He is a student at a local high school and his father is an experienced wildlife rehab expert, so my medical treatment was exceptional and my physical therapy was successful and Gerald is my hero.

CASA provides a location for injured or captive birds to rehabilitate and gain strength prior to

'Lored' Corner



Hello, my name is 'Lored Captain Jack,' I am a 7-month old Red-lored parrot. I was brought to Casa Avian Support Alliance, LLC NGO in June of 2007 with a severe eye injury from what is believed to be an attack by a Black Spiny-tailed iguana. My wounds have healed but my balance is not the best and I am unable to fly, and oh, I lost my right eye - so I will live at CASA for my lifetime, which can be up to 80 years. I am known for my beautiful red lore and for my abilities to learn to talk and sing. My favorite foods include okra, carrots, scrambled eggs, I guess that is kind of a person thing, and papaya seeds. I live in the southwest corner of the BRB and will be responsible, as 1st Ambassador to CASA, to share

release back into the wild. For those patients who cannot be released, CASA works to find long-term care options that may include, like me, a home on site. Patients that have been brought to CASA include baby Social Flycatchers, Euphonias, a Barn owl, and a Mottled Owl, and a White-shouldered Kite.

CASA depends on volunteers to support the daily effort to help feed and clean the patient rooms. Revenue to purchase fruits and vegetables and other medical items derives primarily from private contributions made by the owners Jodi and Vance Bente and guest revenues from the lodge CDCB.

Thank you for your help, C.Jack

Rachel Dueck Completes Internship at CASA

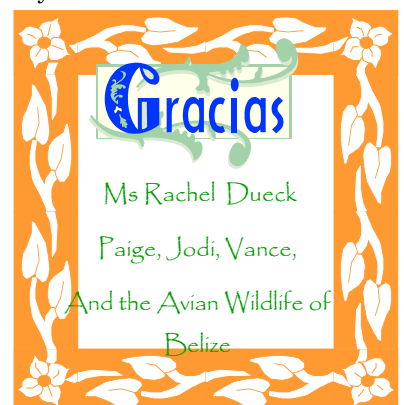
Focus on Habitat Restoration and Avian Rehabilitation

On September 24, 2007 CASA accepted Ms. Rachel Dueck, a student from Sacred Heart Junior College, San Ignacio, Belize, who is pursuing a degree in Environmental Science, for an 8-week internship program. While the internship was a requirement for Ms. Dueck to graduate, it was also an opportunity for CASA to work with local students who are interested in furthering the mission and goals of CASA and who are willing to share their knowledge and expertise with the CASA team. Growing up on a farm in the Spanish Lookout area, Rachel has experience working with animals and plants.

Ms. Dueck reported to Mr. Ricky Manzanero, In-Country Director of CASA for her daily assignments and worked with other team members to coordinate her efforts on behalf of the patients at CASA. At the end of an 8 week program, Rachel had successfully participated in selecting cuttings from donated trees, repotting and identifying orchids, thinning brush along the Tzu'nuun Trail, assisting with the design and construction of small water features for visiting wildlife, feeding patients at CASA and cleaning their housing, identifying and researching plants along the Tzu'nuun Trail for signage, assisting with relocating plants

in the habitat restoration area, helping to preparing a dedicated area for a small vegetable garden that will supplement the dining room table as well as provide sustenance for the patients at CASA. Her love of nature and her interest in botany and husbandry made her an asset to the CASA team. Her internship ended the week of November 13, 2007.

Lored Captain Jack and the team at CASA wish her well in her future endeavors and hope that she will come back and visit very soon.





Bird Intake Building

The Bird Intake Building (BIB), the headquarters of CASA, is the eastern most of three structures that form the nucleus of the Casa Avian Support Alliance *ex-situ* conservation facility. Like the Bird Rehabilitation Building (BRB), pictured to the right, but located to the west ¹, each of these buildings were formerly pig-sties that have undergone substantial modification to serve in their present capacity.

Recent and final construction at the BIB, which was undertaken and completed in November by Mr. Julio Hob and crew, from Benque Viejo del Carmen, included construction of a partition and the addition and removal of doorways to isolate the avian section from the Laundry, installation of sliding glass windows (shown at the left and in the photograph of the nursery room below), white tile floors, fluorescent lighting and ceiling fans.

In plan, the BIB consists of three rooms. From the entrance (shown above) the room on the right will serve as an Administrative/Medical Evaluation Room. This room has a 'hard' ceiling, and tile floors and will—when possible—be air-conditioned and dehumidified to provide for the placement and operation of medical equipment and a computer/printer. Medical supplies, documentation, and perhaps one day a digital x-ray machine will be located in this room.

The room to the left of the entrance is the Bird Examination Room, where birds received at CASA will be examined and initial intake documentation will be prepared. This room like the rest of the facility has a white tile floor and a 1/2 inch mesh ceiling to promote cooling but protect avi-fauna from overhead fans. Each room is equipped with fluorescent lighting.

The third and largest room, shown below, is the nursery (prior to repainting), where hatchling and fledgling birds



will be cared for until they are ready for transfer to the Bird Rehabilitation Building.

This room will be equipped with the appropriate caging and equipment to properly accommodate the young birds described above. In the event that numerous birds are received simultaneously, e.g., recovered from illegal capture, this room may serve as a quarantine.

Among the first tasks for Carol Manganero, the volunteer arriving in January, will be to plan, inventory and prepare a layout of the equipment and materials that will be required to complete the installation. These materials and equipment will be sought through donations and grants prepared by Ms Manganero and members of the grant writing team.

¹ The center structure being a concrete cistern that is filled with rainwater captured from the roof of the BIB



Bird Rehabilitation Building

The Bird Rehabilitation Building (BRB) is the westernmost of the three buildings that comprise the facility, and provides the birds in the final stages of rehabilitation with a clear unfettered view of the “Mer de Verde,” the green ocean, where they may be released in the near future.

The antecedent structure of the BRB, like the BIB was a pig-sty, that today is covered with a thatched-roof, and each of the 8 individual pig-sties have been modified as to provide individual rooms for avi-fauna in various stages of rehabilitation (restricted activity, limited activity, and unlimited activity).

The right, or east side of the structure is essentially enclosed, with the exception of the

unlimited activity room on the north end, to provide suitable accommodations for raptor species and to visually isolate them from the psittaciformes, song birds and water fowl on the west side. “Lored” Captain Jack has permanent residence in the front cell of rooms located on the west side.

Creating easily cleaned surfaces was achieved by applying a polished, smooth coat of cement to the inside and top surfaces of the half walls, and the floors, that form the individual rooms. Solid walls providing visual isolation, were built with hardwood framing and ply-cem panels; circulation was achieved by screening the upper 12 inches of each enclosure, and providing screened panels (where possible) and screen ceilings. Security against accidental escape is promoted by having doors at each end of the facility that latch from the inside, and individual doors on each enclosure that also are equipped with inside latches. The connecting hallway is also



screened to prevent escape. A single fluorescent light is mounted in the overhead in the event of an emergency in hours of darkness, but otherwise, the cycle of daylight and darkness in the BRB is tied to natural rhythms.

As with the BIB we thank Mr. Julio Hob and his crew for their attention to detail and dedication to the completion of this job prior to year’s end. We are proud that local Belizeans have played a major role in the development and construction of the CASA facility.

Recent Bird Sighting Recorded by Ricky Manzanero In-Country Director, CASA

October

Black-and-white Warbler
 Black-headed Saltator
 Black Vulture
 Blue-black Grassquit
 Blue-gray Tanager
 Brown-crested Flycatcher
 Brown Jay
 Clay-colored Robin
 Common Pauraque
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Ferruginous Pygmy Owl
 Golden-fronted Woodpecker
 Gray Catbird
 Great Kiskadee
 Great-tailed Grackle
 Green-backed Sparrow
 Groove-billed Ani
 House Wren
 Lineated Woodpecker
 Mangrove Vireo

Masked Tityra
 Melodious Blackbird
 Olive-throated Parakeet
 Plain Chachalaca
 Red-billed Pigeon
 Red-lored Parrot
 Roadside Hawk
 Ruddy Ground Dove
 Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
 Social Flycatcher
 Spot-breasted Wren
 Tropical Kingbird
 Turkey Vulture
 Wedged-tailed Sabrewing
 White-collared Seedeater
 White-eyed Vireo
 White-fronted Parrot
 White-tipped Dove
 Yellow-throated Warbler
 Yellow Warbler
 Yellow-winged Tanager

November

American Redstart
 Baltimore Oriole
 Black-and-white Warbler
 Black-headed Saltator
 Black-headed Trogon
 Black-throated Green Warbler
 Black Vulture
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Blue-gray Tanager
 Brown-crested Flycatcher
 Brown Jay
 Cattle Egret
 Clay-colored Robin
 Common Yellowthroat
 Ferruginous Pygmy Owl
 Golden-fronted Woodpecker
 Gray Catbird
 Great-tailed Grackle
 Great Kiskadee
 Green-backed Sparrow
 Groove-billed Ani

Mangrove Vireo
 Masked Tityra
 Melodious Blackbird
 Mottled Owl
 Plain Chachalaca
 Red-billed Pigeon
 Red-lored Parrot
 Ruddy Ground Dove
 Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
 Social Flycatcher
 Summer Tanager
 Turkey Vulture
 White-collared Seedeater
 White-eyed Vireo
 White-fronted Parrot
 White-tipped Dove
 Yellow-breasted Chat
 Yellow-throated Warbler
 Yellow Warbler
 Yellow-winged Tanager

Please Don't Forget to renew your membership

MEMBERSHIP—The Board of Directors for the Casa Avian Support Alliance (CASA) recognizes the value of interested individuals and organizations (both profit and non-profit), as a means to promote the goals of the organization. Memberships are not viewed as a primary source of income with respect to the sustainability of the NGO, but rather as a means to share the mission, goals and accomplishments of CASA with a broader public. Revenues captured from annual dues will be used primarily to support member related activities such as the Badge of Bird Program and the Quarterly Report to Members.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

| REGULAR | Membership Description | BZE | US |
|----------------------------|--|--------|--------|
| Student or Sr. Citizen | Currently enrolled or graduated in last two -years | \$5 | \$15 |
| Individual | Individual on card plus one other | \$10 | \$30 |
| Family | Two or more | \$25 | \$50 |
| Participating Professional | Designed primarily for Veterinarians, Ornithologists, and Biologists involved in CASA's programs | \$30 | \$60 |
| SUPPORTING | | | |
| Affiliate | Members wishing recognition for affiliation | \$100 | \$100 |
| Advocate | Members that actively advocate the mission and goals of CASA | \$250 | \$250 |
| Patron | Members who wish to contribute to specific programs underway at CASA | \$500 | \$500 |
| Benefactor | Individuals who wish to support and promote the mission and goals of CASA | \$1000 | \$1000 |
| Guardian | Lifetime membership | \$2500 | \$2500 |
| Non-Profit Organization | Organizations with sympathetic missions and goals that would like to support and identify with CASA | \$250 | \$250 |
| For-Profit Enterprises | Enterprises who wish to support the mission and goals of CASA and be recognized for the contribution | \$250 | \$250 |

The benefits of membership at the various levels are as follows:

All Regular Memberships receive a membership card, are invited to the annual meeting, receive a quarterly report, are enrolled in the "Passport Program," are listed in the membership directory, have the right to vote on issues put before the membership, and receive 10% discount on items offered in the gift shop.

Supporting Memberships receive the same benefits listed above and are recognized in the annual report for their contribution to the programs and activities of CASA