

Parrots in the Wild

Psitta Scene



White-breasted Parakeet

Pyrrhura albipectus

This parakeet is found only in south-east Ecuador. Up until 1990 very little was known about this endangered bird. However, support from The World Parrot Trust and other conservation groups enabled Dr Paul Toyne to lead a series of expeditions called Parrots in Peril comprised of British and Ecuadorian scientists to find and study this beautiful parakeet (see Psittascene Vol 6 No 3 for more information).

The expeditions were a success and much of the information

collected has been incorporated in the Global Action Plan for Parrots. Here the parakeet is listed as vulnerable, CITES Appendix 2. The parakeets' one known safehaven is Podocarpus National Park in Loja Province, where within its altitudinal sub-tropical range of 940 - 1800 m it is fairly common. However, outside of this protected area habitat loss due to agricultural encroachment, gold mining and road building appear to be the biggest threat.