



Breeding project for swift parakeet Breeders from all over Europe are invited for working together

GÜSTROW, 21.12.2016: Habitat destruction, exploitation, hunting, invasive species, diseases and pollution are some factors which are responsible for the declining of species all over the world. Some years ago Mike Rands (Executive Director, Cambridge Conservation Initiative) said that birds are a good example for what we do with our planet. But there is hope, people can do positive things for birds, too. Maybe they can rescue some species before extinction. The Swift parakeet is an example for a species which has a negative trend in the last years. Habitat destruction, lack of food and high competition in breeding places are some factors. Another factor is the non-native sugar glider (*Petaurus breviceps*) which cause the population heavily. Some specialists think the swift parakeet will be lost in the next 15 years. Because of this reason the IUCN grade up the Swift parakeet from “endangered” to “critically endangered”.

After this new information goes around the world the GAV (Gesellschaft für Arterhaltende Vogelzucht e.V.; Conservation Breeding Society) setup a breeding project for Swift parakeets. The GAV works together with the “EAZA Parrot TAG”, some EAZA zoos, scientists and private breeders.

At the moment we collect data of swift parrots which are suitable for the project. In parallel we work on different specimen from different museums for getting a good base to compare our Swift parakeets with wild caught birds. We have a special look at colour and size of the birds. The next step will be to test the birds in the project for different diseases like PBF. That will be supported by IMDB Bielefeld.

We are looking for breeders who help us breeding birds for the project. Maybe these offspring can be released in Tasmania from biologist some days. We are looking also for other partners like breeder organisations or institutions.

Further information: www.swift-parrot-project.org (soon also in English)

If you have swift parakeets please support us and become a member of the project. We are open for breeders from all over the world. Please write us a mail

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