



Creating the Nation's first BioPark

National Zoological Park · Smithsonian Institution · Washington, D.C. 20008

In August 1989 a meeting of Spix macaw (*Cyanopsitta spixii*) holders and government officials was convened in Sao Paulo by Dr. Faical Simon of the Sao Paulo Zoo. The National Zoo funded Ms. Natasha Schischakin of the Houston Zoo who was invited to attend as a participant and as a representative of the committee outside of Brazil. (A copy of her Report is enclosed.)

The group was formed to oversee and coordinate a propagation program for this species in Brazil. The inability to sex these birds, and thus form pairs, was identified as a major obstacle to captive breeding; chromosome analyses of feather pulp was determined to be the best method for overcoming the problem.

The National Zoo has located a private laboratory for analyses in the U.S. (Avian Genetic Sexing Laboratory; Mark Valentine), parallel to similar analyses in Brazil. Ms. Schischakan will return to Brazil to assist in the feather collection and preparation, and she will personally courier the feathers - which must be tested within 24 hours of collecting - from Sao Paulo to the U.S.

The National Zoological Park hereby applies for a CITES permit to import up to 20 feathers, collected from up to 10 live captive Spix macaw, in mid-November 1989. This application is made in conjunction with "blanket" Endangered Species Permit #PRT-700309.

Enclosures:      1) NZP Permit #PRT-700309  
                     2) Letter from Dr. Simon, 2 Oct. 1989  
                     3) Letters from Mr. Pickett, 20 Sep. and 12 Sep.  
                     4) Letter and protocol from Dr. Valentine, 11 Oct.  
                     5) Meeting Report by Ms. Schischakin



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the education and recreation of the people."