

Parrots of The Bahamas

* Chatting Parrots
33" x 89"
Acrylic on Canvas



A series of 14 paintings
In collaboration with
Caroline Stahala

these paintings are in celebration of
the amazing Parrots of South Abaco



PARROTS OF ABACO

In collaboration with Caroline Stahala, a Phd scholar from Florida State University these paintings are in celebration of the amazing Parrots of South Abaco in particular and others that have migrated to other islands in The Bahamas.

My intent was to capture the vibrant hues of greens, blues, reds and whites of these vivacious and melodic creatures as they explore and blend into the beautiful tropical landscape.

Part proceeds from the sale of this series will be donated to Bahama Parrot Project, headed by Caroline Stahala, for research and conservation of these parrots.

Antonius Roberts

* Yellow Poincianas
28" x 38" each
Acrylic on Canvas

* Day Break
32" x 40"
Acrylic on Canvas





* Celebration
22" x 32" each
Acrylic on Canvas



THE KEY TO THE
CONSERVATION OF
THE ABACO PARROT
IS...
COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT
AND INVESTMENT

PARROTS OF THE BAHAMAS

Although the Abaco and Inagua parrot populations are together called the Bahama parrot, the two are significantly different from one another. The two populations are geographically isolated and differ in important behavioural traits, ecology and even coloration.

Abaco Parrot

Abaco Island's unique parrot is the world's only underground nesting parrot. This special and charismatic bird faces the same threats most parrots worldwide experience such as habitat loss, predation by invasive species, and poaching. Much is being done to prevent the loss of this parrot.

Biology

The Bahama parrot is a medium size parrot native to the Bahamas. Parrots forage on seeds, nuts, flowers and fruits available in the pine forest and hardwood coppice. Throughout the year they also feed on fruits such as mangoes and

papaya, which can cause resentment from local residents.

Parrots breed only once each year during the spring and summer months. A breeding pair will produce 4 eggs and raise 2-3 chicks. Mothers stay in the nest, incubating the small white eggs, for a month. During this time she only leaves the nest for short periods of time when her male partner calls her out for feeding. Chicks are altricial at hatching which means they are helpless and require parental care until fledging from the nest two months after hatching. During this time that parrots face the greatest threat from non-native predators such as feral cats and raccoons.

Wintering

The Abaco parrot spends most of the year in the hardwood coppice due to the continuously available fruits and seed the trees produce. They move into the pine forest during the breeding season to utilize the abundant pine seeds the caribbean pines trees produce during this season, as well as the available ground

cavities for nesting. Both Coppice and Pine habitats are important for the parrot's continued survival.

Research

There is ongoing research into conservation and management strategies to protect the Abaco parrot. Current research includes understanding their social behavior and how it affects individual and group survival; whether nesting on the ground is an optional behavior; and how to reduce predation on nesting parrots.

Management

Protecting the hardwood coppice and pine forest is critical for maintaining parrot populations. Without sufficient pine forest, parrots cannot rear their young and

without sufficient hardwood they will lack resources during the rest of the year. Controlling predator populations and preventing predator access to nests is also crucial to the persistence of the Abaco parrot. Abaco has no native land mammals and this parrot has no defense against introduced species such as feral cats and raccoons, which prey heavily upon them during nesting season when they are vulnerable in ground cavities. Parrots also suffer poaching from humans.

The key to the conservation of the Abaco parrot is continued prevention of habitat loss, management of non-native species and understanding of the species. Also, community involvement and investment in the protection of this parrot will ensure the persistence of the Abaco parrot.

Caroline Stahala

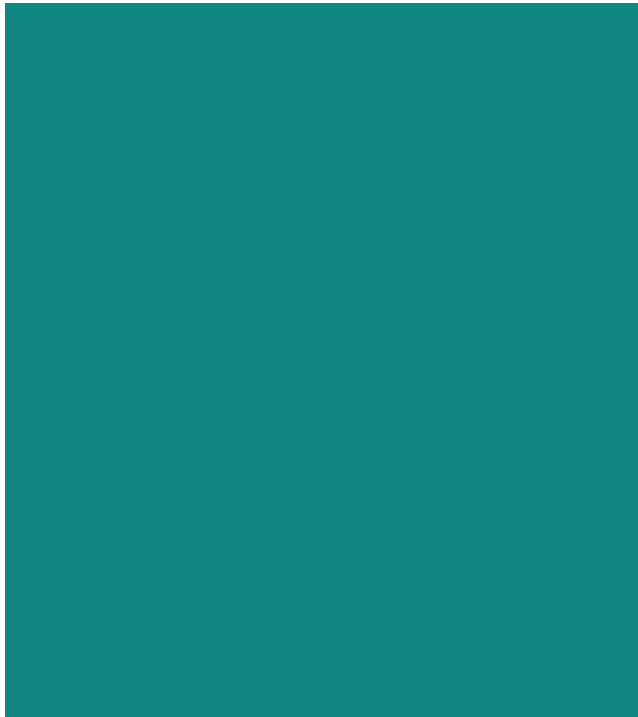




Studies of Celebration
15" x 20" each
Acrylic on Canvas



Studies of Nesting Sites
15" x 17" each
Acrylic on Canvas
From the collection of Dawn Davies





A MESSAGE FROM THE BAHAMAS NATIONAL TRUST

The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) would like to endorse and salute Antonius Roberts for his strong commitment to the environment and conservation. This exhibition supporting Bahama Parrot Research is indicative of Antonius' love of the nature of The Bahamas.

The Bahama Parrot *Amazona leucocephala bahamensis* has two major populations on Abaco and Inagua. The recent collaborative work in the Abaco National Park between the BNT and scientist Caroline Stahala shows the importance of strong working relationships between scientists working in The Bahamas and in our parks, and the Bahamas National Trust and other important conservation agencies.

The Trust has also been supported by Schooner Bay who very generously have provided a southern office for the organization at Schooner Bay. The BNT Office provides support for our Abaco National Park Warden and Ms. Stahala providing them with a working space to write technical reports, check email and conduct other office supported activities.

The BNT working with Ms. Stahala has implemented a predator control programme in the parrot nesting area in the park as an important management activity for the parrot. A designated warden works closely with the researcher to identify threatened nesting areas and to humanely remove feral cats from the nesting area. The Trust through a grant was also able to purchase remote cameras for the nesting area providing us with important information regarding the parrots nesting habits and also learning the hunting techniques of feral cats which has greatly assisted us in reducing predation on nesting parrots over the past two years.

We hope that you will support this conservation support initiative which will provide much needed funding for the continued research on the Bahama Parrot in Abaco.

Yours sincerely,

Neil McKinney
President





* PLEASE NOTE THE PAINTINGS THAT WILL BE REPRODUCED IN GICLEE, TO CREATE A LIMITED EDITION OF 200 PRINTS.

PART PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THESE PRINTS WILL ALSO BE CONTRIBUTED TO THE BAHAMA PARROT PROJECT.



Antonius Roberts Studio & Gallery

At Hillside House

25 Cumberland Street • Nassau, Bahamas • (242) 322-7678



Schooner Bay Village, South Abaco Bahamas