

To: Animal Acquisition Committee

From: Dr. William Rapley  
Executive Director  
Conservation, Education & Research

Subject: **BIRD ACQUISITIONS – NEW SPECIES**

Date: 2010-02-18

---

**Summary:**

This report is seeking approval for the acquisition of four Red-capped cardinals, four Peter's twinspots and two Green aracari.

**Recommendations:**

**It is recommended that the following new species be added to the collection:**

1. (4) Red-capped cardinals (*Paroaria gularis*)
2. (4) Peter's twinspots (*Hypargos niveoguttatus*)
3. (2) Green aracari (*Pteroglossus viridis*)

**Financial Impact:**

**The Red-capped cardinals would cost \$139.00 each and the Peter's twinspots cost \$99.00 each. The total cost of the acquisition is \$813.00 and would be obtained from the Animal Acquisition Budget. There is no cost to the Toronto Zoo for the Green aracari as they are being donated by the Biodome.**

**Background:**

The Toronto Zoo bird collection has lost several species in the past year through predation, disease and age related issues. Obtaining birds has become more difficult and therefore it is not always possible to stay with species that are specified in the collection plan. Therefore, species that are closely related will sometimes be used to fill vacancies in the collection.

**Comments/Discussion:**

As all these birds have either been born in Canada or already been through Canadian quarantines, the overall cost would be less than birds that are imported. The birds would be placed into existing aviaries, so there are no additional costs other than graphics required.

The “cardinals” are from the group of passerine birds that fall within the collection plan as a species of interest for breeding for the tropical Americas.

The twinspots are a species that look much like the African bluebills, which have been lost from the collection, and will be used to replace them.

The aracari are a small representative of the toucans and are needed to keep diversity in our collection. They will be the one representative species of the order Picciformes at the Toronto Zoo. Their smaller size will allow us to mix them into the Costa Rican forest aviary without risk of them becoming aggressive towards the public during nesting periods. This species will replace the collared aracari that are in the collection plan.

---

John Tracogna  
Chief Executive Officer

---

W.A. Rapley, D.V.M., M.Sc.  
Executive Director  
Conservation, Education & Research