The Cuban Conure was once abundant and widespread, but they are now restricted to the wilder areas. The great decline can be attributed to the loss of suitable habitat, and unless Cuba's remaining forests are protected this species will surely become extinct.

_Euops_ once ranged over most of Cuba; presently they are found in the Las Villas Province and possibly parts of the Sierra Maestra Mountains in Oriente, easternmost Cuba. Recent reports indicate that there are small flocks in El Pan de Guajaylon, in the Trinidad Mountains and in Zapata Swamp, all in Las Villas Province.

On Isle of Pines _euops_ were formerly abundant, but they are now believed to be extinct there. In 1876 Juan Gundlach wrote that unless the massive exportation of chicks would cease, _euops_ would become extinct. Sixty years later Thomas Barbour wrote that, "This will be one of the next birds to become completely extinct on Cuba as it already has on Isle of Pines where forty years ago it was to be found in great flocks." More recently, 1975, Garrido and Montana wrote that "Jorge de la Cruz recently saw two flocks, at different times, in Northern Isle of Pines." The authenticity of this recent sighting is doubtful. In 1980 an islander informed me that "There are no parakeets on the Isle of Pines, and none of the residents here ever remember seeing any." It seems very unlikely that this species would survive nearly three quarters of a century without being seen.

_Euops_ inhabit virgin and mountain forests, and occasionally open country in the lowlands. In the 1920s and 1930s they would occasionally attack ripening fruit, doing considerable damage to agriculture.

According to Dr. Abelardo Moreno, director of the National Zoological Park in Havana, Cuba, this endangered species has been offered legal protection. But apparently this law is not being enforced because Cuban birds were, until recently, imported again. Captive breeding programs should be initiated in Cuba under the auspices of the National Zoo or the Academy of Sciences, Havana. Unless this species is firmly established in captivity and is afforded better protection it will undoubtedly vanish on Cuba as it already has on Isle of Pines.

Editor's note: Anyone breeding, raising, having in their possession, or even knowing anything about this Cuban conure, please contact Mr. Tony Silva at 8225 W. 30th St., No. Riverside, IL 60546.

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