


inter-relatedness of the individuals in captivity. As a result, the more samples saved the greater the chance of reconstructing a viable population. When the technology is available, the DNA for each sample of a species would be sequenced and the range of variation within the species determined. In this way the largest variation for each species would be used resulting in the healthiest group of individuals for the reconstructed population.

Who would own the DNA samples?

The samples would remain with the Avian Preservation Foundation of Canada until both the technology is available and the need arises to process the samples. Until the technology is available, these samples have no commercial value. At the time when reconstruction is possible and necessary, the DNA will be used to rebuild a population of the near or totally extinct species represented. The process will likely be expensive and the Avian Preservation Foundation of Canada will be responsible for generating the necessary funds for the project. We have no way of knowing what conditions will exist in 20-30 years in the future (or however long it will take), but we do know that extinction is very permanent. Without the stored DNA, extinction of these species could be the final result.

This program is a pilot project and we hope that organizations with interests in other families of creatures, such as mammals, reptiles, etc. will undertake similar programs. Whatever we learn from this project will be made available to any groups interested in duplicating this process.

We hope that we are not too late for many of the endangered bird species. We are too late for those now extinct. For a very small price you can help to ensure that the species that you love will exist for future generations to enjoy, as you now are able to. You have a chance to really make a difference. 

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Windcrest Animal Hospital, Wilmington

Florida

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Last Chance Farm, Inc, Miami

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