

# Highlights of Loro Parque '96 Breeding Season

by Roger Sweeney, Curator of Birds  
Tenerife, Spain

During the 1996 breeding season at Loro Parque, around 800 psittacines of some 150 different species and sub-species were successfully reared to independence in the bird collection, which is entirely under the ownership of the Loro Parque Foundation.

This figure represents one of the most successful seasons that the collection has ever seen and among the total were some very significant species which are described below.

## Lories and Lorikeets

Over 100 birds of 29 taxa from the Loriidae family were reared in 1996, which included four taxa reproducing for the first time in the collection. Two sub-species of the familiar Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) bred for the first time—the Blue-headed Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus caeruleiceps*) and the Messena's Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus massena*).

The Bernstein's Lory (*Chalcopsitta atra bernsteini*) which is the least commonly seen sub-species of the Black Lory was another first time breeding in the collection, as was the Red and Blue Lory (*Eos bistris*) from which seven chicks were reared and is viewed as being one of the most important species to have bred in 1996.

Two other taxa within the Loriidae family deserve to be mentioned—the rearing of five Mount Apo Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus johnstoniae*) and five Mitchell's Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus mitchellii*), both of which, as with the Red and Blue Lory, are of great conservation concern.

Other notable species included the Rajah Lory (*Chalcopsitta a. insignis*), Cardinal Lory (*Chalcopsitta cardinalis*), Forsten's Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus b. forsteni*), Weber's Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus*

*b. weberi*), Stresemann's Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus b. stresemanni*), Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*), Josephine's Lorikeet (*Charmosyna josefinae*) and Red-spotted Lorikeet (*Charmosyna rubrontata*).

## Cockatoos

54 Cockatoos of 13 different taxa were reared to independence which included two Gang-gang Cockatoos (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*), 10 Moluccan Cockatoos (*Cacatua moluccensis*), 11 Major Mitchell's Cockatoos (*Cacatua leadbeateri*), eight Slender-billed Cockatoos (*Cacatua tenuirostris*), four Ducorps Cockatoos (*Cacatua durcorpsii*) and a single chick each of Red-vented Cockatoo (*Cacatua haematuropygia*) and Citron-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua s.*

*citrinocristata*). Our breeding pair of Black Palm Cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*) did hatch two chicks in 1996 but neither of these was reared.

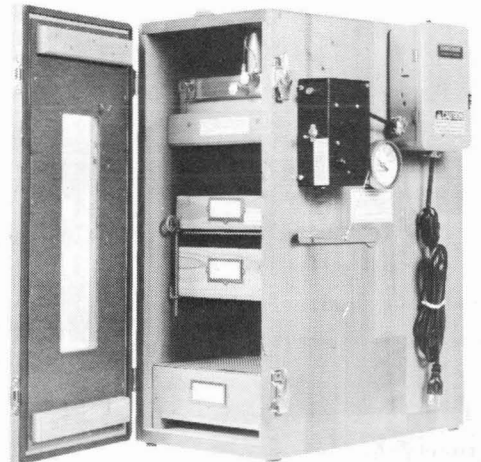
## Asian/Australasian Parrots

Asian species to have bred included a first time breeding of the Blue-rumped Parrot (*Psittinus cyanurus*) and our first Salvadori Fig Parrot (*Psittaculirostris salvadori*) to be parent reared. This species has previously been hand reared in the collection but this was the first successful attempt by the parent birds. Two sub-species of the Eclectus Parrot (*Eclectus roratus*) bred again, as did the Philippine Blue-naped Parrot (*Tanygnathus lucionensis*) which is now becoming increasingly endangered in the wild.

Many of our Asian and Australasian parakeets have been disturbed by changes in their aviary accommodation during 1996 but successful breed-

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ing was recorded from several species including Red-fronted Kakariki (*Cyanoramphus noveazelandiae*), Hooded Parakeet (*Psephotus dissimilis*), Many-colored Parakeet (*Psephotus varius*), Conclurry Parakeet (*Barnardius b. macgillivrayii*), Green-winged King Parakeet (*Alisterus c. moszkowskii*), Derbyan Parakeet (*Psittacula derbiana*) and 15 Hanging Parrots (*Loriculus* species).

#### African Parrots

The Greater Vasa Parrot (*Coracopsis vasa*) had a successful season with 13 chicks reared and all seven of our *Poicephalus* species bred rearing a total of 44 young between them. Six species of Lovebirds (*Agapornis*) bred rearing 53 chicks between them and both sub-species of the African Grey

Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) again bred making this a good season for African species in general.

#### Macaws

From our Macaws we were particularly pleased to see nine Hyacinth Macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) reared and also five Blue-throated Macaws (*Ara glaucogularis*) and five Red-fronted Macaws (*Ara rubrogenys*) reared in 1996. In total, 76 birds were reared from the genus *Ara* as well as the nine *Anodorhynchus*.

#### Conures

1996 saw a return to success for our Golden Conure (*Guaruba guarouba*) after they had been infertile the previous year. A first time breeding in the collection was recorded from our Rose-crowned Conures (*Pyrrhura picta roseifrons*) with eight chicks being reared. Other significant conures reared included: Red-throated Conures (*Aratinga b. rubritorquis*), Finsch's Conure (*Aratinga finschi*), Peach-fronted Conure (*Aratinga aurea*), Slender-billed Conure (*Enicognathus leptorhynchus*), Austral Conure (*Enicognathus ferrugineus*), Blue-throated Conure (*Pyrrhura cruentata*), Fiery-shouldered Conure (*Pyrrhura egregia*), White-eared Conure (*Pyrrhura leucotis*), Crimson-bellied Conure (*Pyrrhura p. perlata*) and Black-tailed Conure (*Pyrrhura melanura pacifica*).

#### Brotogeris/Bolborhynchus/Pionus

Three species of Brotogeris parakeets were successful including a first time breeding in the collection of the Golden-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris chrysopterus*) of which nine chicks were reared. Two species of Bolborhynchus were reared. Three species of Pionus were reared—Blue-headed (*Pionus menstruus*), Coral-billed (*Pionus sordida corallinus*) and the Bronze-winged (*Pionus chalcopterus*).

#### Amazon Parrots

Our Amazon parrots were particularly successful with two highlights being the rearing of 13 Red-browed Amazons (*Amazona rhodocorytha*), a species for which Loro Parque is now

coordinating an EEP scheme, and a first time breeding in the collection of the Yellow-lored Amazon (*Amazona xantholora*). In total, some 97 Amazon Parrots were reared of 21 taxa, some of the other more important species including: Cuban Amazon (*Amazona leucocephala*), Yellow-faced Amazon (*Amazona xanthops*), Vinaceous Amazon (*Amazona vinacea*), Yellow-shouldered Amazon (*Amazona barbadensis*), Red-spectacled Amazon (*Amazona pretrei*), Tucuman's Amazon (*Amazona tucumana*), Lilac-crowned Amazon (*Amazona finschi*), Hispaniolan Amazon (*Amazona ventralis*), Lilacine Amazon (*Amazona a lilacina*), Double-yellow headed Amazon (*Amazona oratrix*) and the Bodin's Amazon (*Amazona f. bodini*).



#### Other South American Parrots

With two other interesting South American species also breeding, the Hawk-headed Parrot (*Deroptryx accipitrinus*) and the Purple-bellied Parrot (*Trichloria malachitacea*), 1996 was indeed a good season for our bird department.

#### Other Animals

Elsewhere in the park the successful births of a California Sea Lion and our second breeding of a Bottle-nosed Dolphin, helped to make this a year with much to look back on.

1997 will see the first stage of our off-exhibit breeding centre relocation coming into action with initially some 350 breeding cages now situated away from the main site of Loro Parque and so the next season will prove to be a challenging one which we hope will be even more successful than the last.



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