

# Another sensational hatching of a Spix's Macaw at Loro Parque

By Matthias Reinschmidt, Curator  
Loro Parque, Tenerife

For several years the Loro Parque Fundación of Tenerife, Spain has maintained a pair of Spix's Macaw (*Cyanopsitta spixii*) in its conservation breeding centre. This is the most important species in the centre which otherwise, with approximately 350 different parrot species and sub-species, is the most diverse parrot collection in the world. Native to north-east Brazil, the Spix's Macaw went extinct in the wild in October 2000. Therefore it is now very important that the remaining birds in captivity will be encouraged to breed in order to keep this species alive.

Only nine adult Spix's Macaw existed in zoos worldwide at the beginning of 2004, two of these birds being kept in Loro Parque, Tenerife. In May the pair laid for the first time an egg and on June 9 the sensational hatching of the first chick took place. Thus, the population in zoos increased to 10 birds. This chick was reared by hand and became independent after 140 days. The young



*First feeding of the young Spix's macaw.*

bird was transferred into a big flight aviary in the breeding centre of Loro Parque Fundación in which it can learn, together with its socializing partner - an Illiger's Macaw, to fly and to move freely in order to obtain the fitness for future breeding trials.

Five months after the hatching of the first egg, the female of Spix's Macaw again laid at the end of October 2004 two eggs. On November 24, a Spix's Macaw again hatched with a weight of 12.2 g, a little bit lighter than the first chick in June. This chick compensated this deficit quickly with an enormous appetite, and it already weighs on its 9th living day 49.1 g, contrary to the first chick which had at the same time only a weight of 31.5 g. This promising start regarding the development increases our hope that also this second breeding, the chick also being hand-reared by humans, will be successful.

This second breeding success within the official breeding program is an important step towards the conservation of this parrot species, which is eventually intended to be reintroduced back into its native habitat. At the moment the pair in Loro Parque is the only currently breeding pair in the conservation breeding program. We hope that further breeding success will follow in the near future. ■



*The first young Spix's macaw (Arabell) in the age of 140 day, together with his partner for socialization an Ara maracana and the Curator of Loro Parque Matthias Reinschmidt.*