

## Loro Parque Fundación

### 2009 Breeding Results

At the end of every breeding year, the balance is drawn up and evaluated, and the total breeding result for 2009 with 1,214 young parrots can be rated as an average breeding year. The highlights have certainly been the four young Lear's Macaws (*Anodorhynchus leari*), the Yellow-tailed Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*), two Palm Cockatoos (*Probosciger aterrimus*), the Scaly-naped Amazon (*Amazona mercenaria*), two Yellow-crowned Amazons (*Amazona ochrocephala xantholaema*), three Red-spectacled Parrots (*Amazona pretrei*), four Pesquet's Parrots (*Psittichas fulgidus*), the Short-tailed Parrot (*Graydidascalus brachyurus*), as well as two Mindanao Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus johnstoniae*), four Red-fronted Lorikeets (*Charmosyna rubronotata*), eight Gustav's Parakeets (*Brotogeris cyanoptera gustavi*) and the Thick-billed Parrot (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*).

In the new year we have already been able to ring the first 18 parrot chicks. Besides some lovebirds (*Agapornis*), two Blue-crowned Lories (*Vini australis*) and two Rainbow Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus capsitratus*) were born.

With our latest Loro Parque project, "Katandra Treetops," which has now been open for four months, we have learned many things. The Moluccan Cockatoos (*Cacatua moluccensis*) originally introduced into the aviary were great to observe, but they got too tame and confident with the visitors, so that one or another earring got snatched. Therefore we decided to take them out of the aviary and to replace them with some Major Mitchell's Cockatoos (*Cacatua leadbeateri*), which have adapted very quickly to their new environment, as well as being a real eye-catcher. Apart from the fact that the population of 120 birds is very stable, and there is an easy cohabitation of all



At top, a Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (*Cacatua leadbeateri*) in Katandra Treetops. Above, a Blue-crowned Lory (*Vini australis*).

the different species, for the visitors it is a great experience to see the parrots and other birds all together without any separating mesh or other barrier.

### 33 Reasons to Attend the 7th Annual Parrot Festival

From Sept. 22–25, 2010, the 7th International Parrot Convention takes place in Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Spain. The congress will be organized once again in its tried and tested form by the team of Loro Parque and the Loro Parque Fundación, and is the top event worldwide for all parrot-lovers. Innumerable reasons exist for why you must not miss this event

and some of them we have gathered for you here, dear reader:

1. There is no better setting for a congress about parrots than the sunshine island Tenerife, with its sub-tropical beaches, palm groves and mountain forests.
2. Parrot-lovers worldwide only get together like this once every four years.
3. You can meet friends of the parrots from all over the world; at the previous Convention, participants from more than 40 countries attended.
4. Nowhere is there a bigger parrot Convention than in Tenerife.
5. Top speakers coming from all over the globe will present news and developments from the world of parrots.
6. Participants will learn about the latest findings concerning parrots: protection of species, keeping, breeding, research and medicine.
7. From these presentations you can take away practical tips for your own keeping and breeding of parrots.
8. Convention presentations will be simultaneously translated into the German, English, Spanish and French,



**Paisaje Norte**

- giving ample opportunity for participants to understand these.
9. You can renew or establish valuable contacts with fellow parrot breeders from all around the world, which can have a positive effect on your own breeding population.
  10. The varied evening programme, with Cocktail reception, Beach Party, surprise Party and Gala Dinner is organized to provide a number of surprises.
  11. During the three days of the Convention, in the Taoro conference center in Puerto de la Cruz, there will be a range of booths from companies which will present their products all about parrots.
  12. On one afternoon of the Convention you will be able to visit the new Siam Park of the Loro Parque group in the south of Tenerife. In the evening will be announced the Beach Party, right there in Siam Park.
  13. Siam Park is one of the most attractive water parks of the world, where you can relax after the lectures—floating in the lazy river through the park, jumping into the water of the largest wave pool of the world, sipping a cocktail on the white sandy beach or having fun on the 28 different water slides, which are up to 35m high.
  14. You will enjoy during the entire Convention free admission to Loro Parque.
  15. The Loro Parque Fundación will inform you first-hand about its activities for the protection of species and habitats worldwide. To date the LPF has been able to provide more than \$9 million for conservation measures for endangered animals worldwide.
  16. At Loro Parque you can admire, with 350 different species and subspecies of parrots, the largest, most species-rich parrot collection of the world.
  17. You should absolutely discover the new sensation “Katandra Treetops,” one of the largest parrot aviaries of the world with its incredible, precious and diverse population of parrots and other birds, totaling 120 individuals.
  18. Loro Parque sets internationally high

standards with its orcas, dolphins, sea lions and parrots.

19. You can marvel at the largest penguin house in the world, including more than 120 penguins of five species, as well as the biggest puffin colony in a zoo.
20. Loro Parque presents exemplary enclosures, more interesting animals like gorillas, chimpanzees, several marmoset species, meerkats, flamingos, cranes, alligators, Galápagos giant tortoises, iguanas, an aquarium, a shark tunnel, and more.
21. Loro Parque has become, through about 200 television broadcasts, one of the most famous zoos in Europe, which you absolutely have to see "live" at least once.
22. As a member of the Loro Parque Fundación you get an exclusive opportunity to see its breeding station in "La Vera, otherwise closed to the public"—and to have a guided tour and overview of the 1,200 existing aviaries. There, besides Spix's and Lear's Macaws, also the least frequent parrots of the world are maintained and bred.
23. For the first time prior to the 7th International Parrot Convention will be the two-day I. International Convention on the Conservation of Psittacidae: Science, Policy and Practice, dealing in more depth about issues affecting parrots in the modern world, to which as a Convention participant, you can additionally enroll.
24. After the 7th International Parrot Convention, following the great success four years ago, the biologists and veterinarian of Loro Parque as well as other chosen specialists will conduct a practical parrot workshop. In these three days following the Convention, subjects like artificial breeding and hand-rearing, diets of parrots, and parrot diseases will be discussed. You can book every day individually.

25. Tenerife is the Island of eternal spring, which has a great many things to discover.
26. In Tenerife, with its 3,718 m high volcano "Teide," you can climb the highest mountain in Spain.
27. Tenerife due to its topography, offers a varied flora and fauna from the ocean to the high mountains, and all this is

- attainable within one hour by car.
28. Tenerife harbors more endemic animal and plant species than anywhere else in Europe (ecological "Hot-Spot")! The most renowned representatives are the Blue Chaffinch.
29. From Tenerife you can go on a whale and dolphin safari. One of the biggest groups of pilot whales with several



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hundred animals live as residents between Tenerife and La Gomera, and you can encounter them regularly, as well as different species of dolphins.

- 30. The friendliness of the Canarian population also invites you to linger in the cafes, restaurants and pedestrian zones of the old towns.
- 31. The Atlantic Ocean is, even in September, still at least 23° C and invites

you to take a refreshing swim in the bright warm water.

- 32. The month September is one of the sunniest months of the year.
- 33. There are still so many interesting things to list, but you have to experience it first hand to have an opinion about it.

More information on the 7th International Parrots Convention, including details on the program and an application form, can be found at [www.loroparque-fundacion.org](http://www.loroparque-fundacion.org). You can request directly from:

Loro Parque Fundación, Avenida Loro Parque s/n, E-38400 Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Spain

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~Dr. Matthias Reinschmidt, curator

Loro Parque Fundación

## Another Species Declared Extinct

### It Happened in Our Lifetime

I don't know about you, but I am beginning to wonder how long any wild animal, bird, reptile or even awesome-looking bug is going to survive the "human overpopulation era" we seem to be living in. I know it's politically incorrect to blame over population, but I can't help but think that if it were not for the crowding of humans into the native habitats of our wildlife, things might be different. The reason we are destroying habitats is because we need more room or more farmland and have greater energy demands. When our children need a place to live, we don't think twice about buying a beautiful country lot and cutting the trees down to build a new family residence. OK, hate me, go ahead, but you know I'm right. Did

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anyone stop to consider how those trees may have been supporting the last population of an endangered species? Maybe, but the drive to be human always wins in the end.

This very same mentality is what has now apparently driven the Alaotra Grebe to its final resting place in Madagascar. I am not speaking from total ignorance here; I have visited Madagascar and came home depressed from the overwhelming poverty and day to day struggle that humans must face there to survive. While attending a CITES animal's committee meeting in Antananarivo, Madagascar, back a few years, I got a real eye full, full of tears that is. It was an everyday sight to see the beautiful hillsides being burned to rubble. Why, because the local people needed the charcoal to heat their homes and to fuel their wood-burning ovens to bake bread. Sacks of charcoal were offered for sale all along the roadsides, all gathered from the remains of, what

was once, a lush tropical forest. Women walked for miles to get water for their families, water that was so contaminated it would have killed me if I were thirsty enough to take a drink. All in all, the scenes in Madagascar's cities and along its suburban roads would make anyone understand how unimportant wildlife conservation is to the real people that struggle every day of their life, to survive and be human.

And so, in our time, it has come to pass that the Alaotra Grebe, a native of Lake Alaotra Madagascar, has finally succumbed to the pressures of habitat invasion by humans. A very basic tool for survival, fishing, drove the native people to fish Lake Alaotra with monofilament fish nets, nets that entangled and drowned numerous grebes in the process. In an attempt to survive in poverty, the people appear to have introduced a type of carnivorous bass to the lake. A seemingly innocent thing,

this introduction, and certainly done to provide a protein rich meal for their families, this fish probably destroyed any hope for the remaining grebes that swam on that lake. Surely no one would have thought that these bass would feast on the chicks of the endangered grebe and other waterfowl. And if they had stopped to think about that, would that have made a difference? When faced with starvation your priorities might change a bit.

The last Alaotra Grebe was sighted on Lake Alaotra in the mid 1980s. It was not until recently that Birdlife International finally declared the species extinct. Another of the estimated 130 or more species of birds now thought to have disappeared in the past 400 years. No one could have summed it up better than Leon Bennun, one of the directors of Birdlife International, when he said "it is another example of how human actions can have unforeseen consequences."

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It is too late for the Alaotra Grebe. There will never be another, not now and not through eternity. But it is not too late to take a tiny piece of our humanity from within and turn it into a reprieve for other species now on the brink of extinction. Think before you waste resources. Move trees, don't cut them, and educate our children about the choices they have before it is too late for another of earth's species. It is our human nature that has created so many problems on earth; it can be human nature that solves them.

~Rick Jordan

## Armonía Updates

### Titicaca Flightless Grebe (*Centropelma micropteryum*) Conservation

Program Coordinator: Hugo Arani-bar; zambullidor@armonia-bo.org

Program area: Lake Titicaca (Bolivia/Peru)

The Titicaca Flightless Grebe is endemic to the Lake Titicaca catchment in Bolivia and Peru. It is considered Endangered by IUCN on account of its very rapid population decline—15 percent of the total population between 2003 and 2005. The current population is estimated at between 900 and 1200 individuals. Threats identified by Armonía include loss of rush-bed breeding habitat, water-pollution and over-fishing though the principal cause of drastic population decline is drowning in monofilament nets which have been used on the lake since the early 1990s. In collaboration with the Lake Titicaca National Reserve in Peru, we are conducting experiments to identify fishing methods and materials which maintain fish-catch while significantly reducing by-catch of grebes.

The next course of action for this species at a medium grant level would be to insure the protection of the National Reserve in Peru. To save the species through-out Lake Titicaca would require

a massive program mostly dedicated to alternative social practices

### Important Bird Areas Program

Program Coordinator: Oswaldo Maillard

The Important Bird Areas program in Bolivia was initiated by Armonia in 1999. To date a total of 50 IBAs have been identified, covering an area of 227,431 km<sup>2</sup> or 21 percent of the country's area and 65 of 75 species of conservation interest in Bolivia (28 globally threatened and 37 Near Threatened). In September we began a detailed review of the IBAs designated in 2005 as well as updating much of the information on the sites. As a result, the boundaries of six IBAs were modified and six new sites were identified as IBAs. Oswaldo is also evaluating current and potential threats to IBAs. The aim is to use this information to set priorities for each IBA, leading to a strategy for establishing immediate conservation actions and implementing monitoring for the most threatened sites.

Presently the program is without funds. We are seeking \$10,000 for education materials to raise awareness of the IBA program and promote greater local stakeholder support and participation in

conservation actions in 10 priority IBAs where Armonía has ongoing projects.

### Lomas de Arena Municipal Park

Lomas de Arena Municipal Park is a protected area in the department of Santa Cruz, located 7.5 miles southeast of the department's capitol city, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, and 1.5 miles from the Armonía Conservation Center. Created in 1999 to protect a spectacular series of sand dunes (lomas de arena in Spanish), the 32,000 acre park also includes important wetlands and areas of native savannah and forest that provide habitat for a rich diversity of animals. Of the 259 bird species recorded in the area, about 180 are migratory birds from South and North America.

The park is a popular weekend destination for city residents. While the main attractions currently are the enormous sand dunes (up to 30 feet high) and several lakes, the diversity of birds and other fauna along with great scenic beauty make Lomas de Arena an excellent place for bird-watching and ecotourism. Sadly, owing to lack of public awareness and insufficient park personnel, the recreational use of the park threatens the conservation of this important natural area—the principal problems are the uncontrolled use of four-

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wheel motorcycles and deficient refuse management.

The park is an excellent tool for environmental education in the rural area and the conservation importance of this area for migratory birds. The project is seeking \$4,000 for educational materials, \$3,000 for park guard training, and \$3,000 to improve the existing bird blind and interpretive center.

### Bolivian Bird Guide

Project Coordinator: Sebastian K. Herzog; [skherzog@armonia-bo.org](mailto:skherzog@armonia-bo.org)

With just slightly fewer than 1420 species, Bolivia is the sixth-richest nation in the world for bird diversity, yet lacks a field guide to its birds. Thus, the country's wealth in avifauna is not well known, and foreign bird watchers hesitate to embark on birding trips to Bolivia. In addition, lack of awareness and appreciation abounds among Bolivians for their biodiversity and

its conservation problems. Between 2005 and 2008 Armonía worked on the production of a field guide and handbook to the birds of the Bolivian Yungas (710 species) with intermittent support from WWF Bolivia, reaching 80 percent completion. The project has just received a new boost through financial support from the Swiss Development Cooperation in Bolivia, and it has been redesigned as a guide to all of the country's birds.

Additional funding is needed, however, to complete artwork and species accounts as well as for printing. The final products will be a compact bilingual field guide and a detailed handbook published both as English and Spanish versions. Revenues from book sales will be invested into ecotourism capacity-building (mainly training of naturalists/local guides for bird watchers) in rural areas with ecotourism ventures as well as into the production of regional field guides in Spanish.

### Bird Conservation Center

Administrative Director: Iván Pérez Hurtado; [iperez@armonia-bo.org](mailto:iperez@armonia-bo.org)

Productive, financially responsible conservation programs require a strong, organized administrative base. Armonía works to reduce administrative costs to the minimum necessary, insuring as much support can get in the field as possible. In order to decrease long-term administrative expenses, in 2003 Armonía purchased the land and the construction which makes up the Armonía Bird Conservation Center.

The center offers a public bird and conservation library, information on our conservation programs, and has a reception room with support through memberships, book and T-shirt sales. We are searching for \$12,000 support to increase the work space for visiting field project staff and for administrative personnel. We are also searching for \$2,000 for computer equipment.

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