

Loro Parque, Tenerife

May 2008



Recently hatched Pesquet's Parrot (*Psittichas fulgidus*)

Now the breeding season is approaching its climax. Over 400 youngsters have been already ringed, and a lot of eggs have been laid. This year we would again like to present some highlights about this.

A special surprise was the number of eggs laid by the St. Vincent Amazons (*Amazona guildingii*). There were three of them, but all infertile. The birds are still producing eggs, so we hope the next clutch will be successful.

The mentioned egg-laying of the Grey-naped Amazons (*Amazona mercenaria*) of last month resulted as partially successful. Just two of four eggs were fertile. One of them was unfortunately bad, but one chick survived and now is growing in the baby station of Loro Parque.

Meanwhile, his parents are about to produce the next clutch of eggs, which they are going to incubate and rear themselves. Gratifying was also the hatching of two young Salvin's Amazons (*Amazona autumnalis salvini*), the result of an old pair which after a long break from breeding started again. They laid two eggs, both of them fertile, and the chicks have already hatched.

Our Lear's Macaws (*Anodorhynchus leari*) suddenly started to breed again. After their breeding last year, with two chicks adopted by other parents and one chick being raised by themselves, these macaws produced three new eggs. They all were fertile, but two of them were so damaged with small holes and partially squashed, that the embryos could not survive in spite of some repair work on the egg-shell. No one chick has hatched and is being fed by hand. His hatch weight was 21,7 g. Today he is 13 days old and his weight is approaching 143 g., that's to say, 6 times more than by his birth weight.

After a short period the same pair of birds

had another round of breeding, where all the eggs were fertile. Two eggs were damaged as before and also got some help with glue on the egg-shell. However they died too. The other two eggs developed very well and are now together with their adoptive parents. This pair of Green-winged Macaws (*Ara chloroptera*) will rear the chicks after their hatching. This experienced older breeding pair, as well as rearing its own chicks, last year raised two Buffon's Macaws (*Ara ambiguus*), these chicks being green, and the year before red! This year the babies are expected to be coloured blue. Usually, small pink featherless macaw chicks all look almost the same. The parent-offspring relationship of these birds is normally so strong, that if the chicks later develop another colour, the parents do not have any problems with the rearing. All of the adoptions have been successful

In April the 10th Workshop of Parrots took place in Loro Parque in collaboration with *Papageien* magazine. Almost 40 participants stayed for one week in Loro Parque, each wanting to learn from our biologists and veterinarians the latest in the treatment, breeding and diseases of parrots. There were some special guest presenters such as Mr. Thomas Arndt from Germany, the publisher of *Papageien* magazine, as well as Bernd Marcordes, the curator of Cologne Zoo. For the first time, all of the participants had an opportunity to give a small presentation of their own work with parrots. Thus it was a collaboration with a really good result for both the participants and the organizer of this event. There was a lot of detailed discussion about the parrots and some new aspects about this topic, and the event was also very important for the development of connections.

Dr. Matthias Reinschmidt,
Curator, Loro Parque Tenerife

Vogel Park (Walsrode Birdpark)

June 2008

The breeding season is in full progress and numerous young birds can be seen everywhere in the park, but it is in particular behind the scenes that things are really busy at the moment. More than a third of our birds are kept off-exhibit for breeding purpose.

The notes below are a short summary of some of the developments in May:



The Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus colombianus bewicki*) incubated and hatched four young.

The Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus colombianus bewicki*) incubated and hatched four young. This was good news as most of the other Swan species in the Park has been unsuccessful this season.

Nest-controls revealed that the colony of White-faced Whistling-ducks (*Dendrocygna viduata*) has produced more than 60 fertile eggs up until now. As it will be a significant problem for the park to surplus all of these ducks a restriction of the breeding has been introduced by puncturing a large number of the eggs in the nests.

The single chick produced by the Magellan Goose (*Chloephaga picta leucoptera*) is quite enough as this species is notorious for their aggressive behaviour, as any visitor coming too close to their enclosure will experience first hand. Placing the offspring can therefore be somewhat of a problem as they will invariably try to terrorize any other bird in the same enclosure.

African Pygmy-goose (*Nettapus auritus*) male died the third loss in this species over the past few months putting our breeding-population at jeopardy. In the recent years breeding with this species has been rather successful in Walsrode, however only a single male chick was reared this year and we also lost the old main breeding female which lived for more than 25 years in Walsrode Birdpark. We now hope that a younger female will prove to be just as prolific in the long term.

Northern Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) were among the first birds on the large ponds to start breeding behaviour, only minutes after being released from their wintering-quarters in March they started gathering nesting material and place it in the nest baskets. Currently the three pairs are rearing 11 chicks together. The pairs consistently favour the same nesting-site year after year even though the baskets are exchanged before