



A Guided Tour of Loro Parque

Photos & Article by Rosemary Low

Loro Parque is *THE* Mecca for parrot enthusiasts. There simply is no competition. With 350 species and sub-species, it exhibits the world's most comprehensive parrot collection in a setting unrivalled for interest and beauty in an island with the same qualities. Tenerife in the Canary Islands (off the coast of West Africa) has the perfect climate for keeping parrots outdoors. As long ago as the second century BC, the Greek philosopher Plutarch identified the Canary Islands as the mythical "Fortunate Islands" on account of the wonderful climate. This attracts the millions of tourists necessary to maintain a park of this size. Between 1972 and September 2004, 30 million people visited Loro Parque. Many of them returned again and again – just as I have since my first visit in 1984.

Little did I imagine then that only three years later I would become curator of this great collection – a challenging position that taught me so much. In the 15 years since I left, the park has changed literally beyond recognition. Nothing is left of the old park except the plants and trees. Many new exhibits and attractions, in an expanded area, fascinate visitors on a full day out.

The original 13,000 square metres have grown to 130,000 with the purchase, over the years, of the adjoining banana plantations. Due to the driving force and foresight of the founder, Wolfgang Kiessling, Loro Parque never ceases to go forth with new ideas, while maintaining its very high standard of excellence in design, initiative and cleanliness. Furthermore, it has become a school of learning for hundreds of vets and biologists, and thousands of college students. Science and conservation are aspects unseen by visitors yet these disciplines have placed the park at the forefront of parrot research.

The original aim, to attract the public, has almost taken second place to that of conservation. Only one fifth of the parrots, totalling about 600, are on exhibit, with more than 2,400 housed in a breeding centre away from the park. All the parrots belong to the Loro Parque Foundation, much of the funding for which comes from the sale of young birds. The Foundation funds a host of important parrot conservation projects.

In this article I will focus on Loro Parque as a day out for parrot lovers that is unrivalled anywhere in the world. No one who visits the island can fail to know of its presence: every waste bin on the island proclaims different aspects of Loro Parque, which is situated on the central part of the north coast, close to the attractive and historic town of Puerto de la Cruz. The north of the island is very different from the commercial sunspots of the south!

The park's impressive entrance is quite literally dazzling! The main building is part of a Thai village (the largest outside Thailand). The gables and ridges of its elegant carved roof are decorated with 24-carat gold leaf, which gleams invitingly in the sun. A huge plinth resides on each side of the entrance steps and atop each plinth is a giant bronze cockatoo, carved in beautiful detail by a renowned Thai artist. These cockatoos are extraordinary works of art and repay close study.

From the entrance one crosses a picturesque bridge, below which the water "boils" with the activity of hundreds of huge and colourful Koi carp. To the left stately Crowned Cranes stroll through a grove of 700 Kentia palms, daintily picking up insects as they go. A flock of Lesser Flamingos from Africa reside between the Koi lake and a rocky backdrop presided over by tall palm trees.

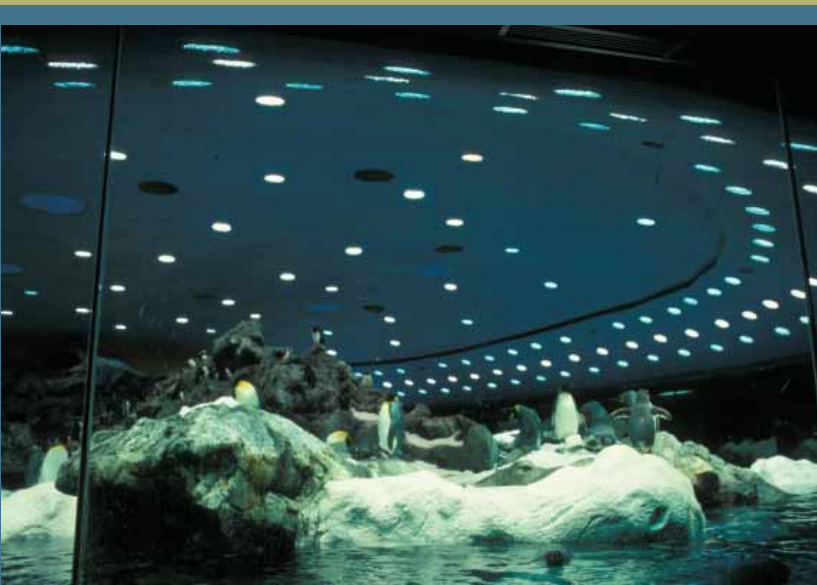


A Crowned Crane in the grove of Kentia palms.

At once the impression of botanical gardens, rather than a theme park, is gained. Although the planting dates back only to 1972, the rapid growth in this perfect climate gives the impression of much greater maturity. It is lush, beautifully landscaped and immaculately maintained. The plant lover will find as much of interest here as the bird lover.

The very first aviary holds a pair of the endangered St. Vincent Parrot (*Amazona guildingii*), one of the largest and the rarest of the Amazons. (The studbook for the species is kept at Loro Parque and the Foundation assists with its conservation). Their fine aviary, containing sturdy natural perches, ropes and fresh-cut branches, gives a hint of the standard of the aviaries

and their furnishing to be found within the park. You might need to search for the parrots but their happy chortlings will probably lead your eye to these handsome, colourful birds.



Planet Penguin – the largest reproduction of the Antarctic ever built.



New on exhibit – a gorgeous pair of Collared Lories.

The path leads past the impressive gorilla enclosure, probably the most natural and pleasing in existence, and covering 3,500 sq metres. Close by is the penguinarium, a spectacular exhibit where the Antarctic has been reproduced behind laminated glass panels.

Visitors step on to a moving belt that transports them past King Penguins and others that reside on a rocky peninsula surrounded by seawater, where 12 tons of snow falls daily. A gallery with seats (and an excellent educational film on penguins) offers more relaxed viewing.

Loro Parque has a number of small areas that you might not see if you keep to the main path. You could miss the six aviaries (each one housing a different sub-species) for Eclectus Parrots unless you continue upwards and to the left from Planet Penguin. Immediately past the latter are the aviaries for Amazon Parrots. Again, you could miss some species unless you leave the main path and walk towards the food outlet called “Casa Pepe”. The Amazon aviaries continue past the sealion show arena. A very impressive number of species and sub-species are on show: more than 30.

The most loquacious are undoubtedly the Festives (*Amazona f.festiva*); they attract much attention with their friendly calls and vivacious personalities. It would be difficult to suggest which was the most beautiful but a contender must surely be a very handsome *Amazona ochrocephala* described as the sub-species *caribae* (like a Yellow-naped with yellow also on the crown and extensive yellow on the nape). At the other end of the size scale, I have always had a very soft spot for one of the smallest of the Amazons, and that showing most sexual dimorphism, the little Yellow-lored (*Amazona xantholora*). Its diminutiveness is so appealing!

The path leads past Chimpland (another beautifully landscaped enclosure, with viewing through large glass windows) and over a bridge. One looks down onto the lory aviaries on the right and the cockatoo aviaries on the left. The central area consists of a lawn, on which walks a pair of Stanley Cranes, overlooked by very tall palm trees.

The unique curving range for lories was the last set of aviaries to be replaced – in 2002. When they were demolished, no vestige of any original aviaries remained in the park. The new aviaries still follow the curving path, with a low hedge in front of them. But these aviaries are all planted and – amazingly – most of the plants survive. The back of each aviary is a simulated rock face with an inconspicuous entrance into the area where each pair of lories feeds and roosts.

Thirty-eight species and sub-species of lories are found here, plus three species of Hanging Parrots and the Swift Parakeets. Several lory species, including Iris and Striated, and sub-species (e.g., *insignis*, and the nominate forms of *flavoviridis* and *lory*) are cur-

rently held in the breeding centre. The lory collection is just too large to exhibit them all.

The day prior to my visit a very beautiful species had gone on show for the first time ever: the Collared or Solitary Lory (*Phigys solitarius*) from Fiji. They were reared in the breeding centre. These little gems are among the most vibrantly coloured of any bird in the world, with their intense grass green nuchal ruff, scarlet underparts and green tail and wings, with a yellow spot on the tail. They epitomise the charm of lorries, with their constant activity and eye-catching colours.

Another fairly recent addition is the Blue-crowned Lory (*Vini australis*) from various islands of the Pacific. Still rare in aviculture, it is proving very prolific in the breeding centre. The only member of this genus of rare small lorries kept, it is bright green with blue crown and red throat.

A rare lorikeet from New Guinea is the tiny Whiskered (*Oreopsittacus arfaki*). It is not an easy subject in captivity, was unknown until just over a decade ago, and remains rare. In the breeding centre a special food mixture is made up for it, producing excellent breeding results in recent years. It is good to know that some species are singled out for a special diet in order to ensure their survival in the collection.



Whiskered Lorkeets (O. arfaki)

From the Pesquet's the path leads downwards past aviaries for Australian parakeets. At this point one can turn right to see the rest of these species (don't miss the rare Timor Crimson-winged Parakeet – (*Aprosmictus e.jonquillaceus*) or open a little gate and go down the steps to the large Kea aviary – perhaps the highlight of the park for many parrot lovers. The pond, logs, swinging ring of tree trunk, ropes and simulated rock faces, give plenty of scope for their inventive playfulness.

The Kea (*Nestor notabilis*) is the mountain parrot from New Zealand famed for its mischievous behaviour. I watched 11 Keas, all young from one pair in the breeding centre, bounding about with their characteristic gait – more like cartoon characters than parrots! They often run with amazing speed, the head held to one side at right angles to the body. No one who passes this aviary fails to stop in his tracks at this unusual sight.

One afternoon I watched them bathing in the pond. They love water – and I could have sworn one of them was swimming! They like to roll over in the pond and fluff out their thick plumage to reveal the orange-red feathers of the rump. Sometimes they let out their eerie call (which I remember, when I lived in the park, echoing through the darkness at night). I believe that the Kea is the most intelligent of all parrots.

At the Kea aviary one can either continue to the left to see the cockatoos, or turn right to visit the macaws. Among the most appealing sights in the cockatoo aviaries are two young Gang Gangs (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*), about two years old. In excellent feather, the male's delicate and unusually



A wonderful male Pesquet's Parrot.

Continuing a tour of the park, at the end of the lory aviaries one finds the larger aviary for a pair of Pesquet's Parrots (*Psitttrichas fulgidus*). These magnificent large red and black parrots from New Guinea (my very favourite parrot species!) are rare in aviculture. They have been bred at Loro Parque on a number of occasions since the late 1980s. The plan is to build them a large new enclosure.

Continued on page 37.



American Federation of Aviculture 2005 Annual Convention



THE DIVERSITY OF AVICULTURE

August 3-6, 2005

Miami, Florida

You are invited to join AFA for a Convention to remember! We have a great line up of speakers scheduled to entertain and educate. Once again, the Vendor Hall will be spectacular and the raffles, unrivaled. Our off site tour this year will be to the "Last Chance Farm," the breeding facility for Parrot Jungle. We have also made arrangements for our attendees to receive discount admission to Parrot Jungle.

Please visit our website, www.AFABirds.org, to take advantage of our online registration. It has never been easier. "Early Bird" registration ends June 25th and you don't want to miss that deadline. We are happy to announce that this year there is an "Early Bird" registration for DELEGATES. The website and AFA in Brief will have a detailed list of speakers, schedules, and events, as they become available.

The New Radisson Hotel Miami

1601 Biscayne Boulevard • Miami, FL 33132 • Phone: (305) 374-0000

AFA Room Rates: Single/Double \$85.00 • Addition Person N/C • Suites \$350.00 and up

Reservations: Call (800) 333-3333 or the Hotel direct (305) 374-0000 for reservations. Be sure to mention the American federation of Aviculture to ensure the discounted rates.

Transportation: There is an airport shuttle and it is the responsibility of each attendee to make arrangements for transportation from the airport to the hotel. If you are driving, AFA has arranged discounted parking rates of \$9 per day.

Schedule

Wednesday, August 3 rd :	HOD Meeting, Exhibits, and Tour of "Last Chance Farm"
Thursday, August 4 th :	General Sessions, Exhibits, and Specialty Meetings
Friday, August 5 th :	General Sessions, Exhibits, and Specialty Meetings
Saturday, August 6 th :	General Sessions, Exhibits, Reception, Silent Auction and Banquet

Miami

Miami is America's most exotic city Americans can visit without a passport. Newsweek called the city "America's Casablanca," and it may be right. In addition to populations from Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and of course Cuba, there are also representatives from China, Germany, Greece, Iran, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malaysia, Russia, and Sweden -- all speaking a veritable Babel of tongues. and Miami is home to 118 nationalities and, it now celebrates this cultural diversity through languages, festivals, world-beat music, and a wealth of fantastic restaurants.

For more Convention information, please contact the AFA: P.O. Box 159, Rossville, TN 38066

E-mail: ConventionCentral@idealbirds.com or visit the AFA website: www.AFABirds.org

Phone: (901) 853-6079 • Fax: (901) 853-8452

AFA 31st Annual Convention
Radisson Hotel Miami Downtown • 1601 Biscayne Blvd. Miami, FL
August 3-6, 2005

Duplicate this form as necessary. Use one form per person.

Date: _____ Mbr Number: _____ Email: _____
 Name: _____ Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Club Delegate or Name of AFA Office Held: _____ Check here if you have special needs: _____

Qty	Description	AMOUNT	TOTAL
	Special Registration for House of Delegates Includes Banquet: ___ Vegetarian ___ Nonvegetarian		
	Full Registration (AFA Member) Includes Banquet: ___ Vegetarian ___ Nonvegetarian		
	Full Registration (Nonmember) Includes Banquet: ___ Vegetarian ___ Nonvegetarian		
	Daily Registration		
	Wednesday Off-Site Breeding Facility Tour		
	Extra Banquet Ticket Enter Quantity: _____ Vegetarian _____ Nonvegetarian		
	Convention Proceedings		
	T-Shirt Enter Quantity: ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL		
	Polo Shirt Enter Quantity: ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL		
	AFA Membership Membership Level: _____		

Include Check Payable to AFA or Provide Credit Card Information: TOTAL: \$ _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Credit Card # _____ MC Visa AMEX V-Code _____

Expiration Date: _____ Authorized Signature: _____

<p>House of Delegate Registration: Includes lectures, exhibits, Specialty meetings, and a banquet ticket. 1 Copy of Convention Proceedings is included if HOD meeting is attended. Full Registration: Includes lectures, exhibits, Specialty meetings, and a banquet ticket. Daily Registration: Include lectures, exhibits, and Specialty meetings for a specific day only.</p>				
<p>Refunds Full refund if postmarked on or before June 25th, 2005. 50% refund if postmarked by July 14, 2005. All refund requests must be in writing and mailed or emailed to the address below. Early Bird Registration MUST be postmarked by June 25, 2005.</p>				
<p>Hotel Information The Convention will be held at the Radisson Hotel Miami Downtown. Hotel accommodations are <u>not</u> included in registration fees. Call 1-305-374-0000 for reservations. Mention AFA when making reservations to secure convention rates of \$85.00 per night for single/double/triple or \$350.00 and up per night for suites.</p>				
<p>All minors attending the convention must be accompanied at all times by a registered adult participant. AFA is not responsible for minors who attend the convention without proper adult supervision.</p>	EARLY BIRD RATES		NORMAL RATES	
	AFA Member	Non-member	AFA Member	Non-member
SPECIAL REGISTRATION FEE FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES	\$180.00	\$235.00	\$200.00	\$275.00
FULL REGISTRATION	\$205.00	\$235.00	\$245.00	\$275.00
DAILY REGISTRATION (Per Day)			\$75.00	\$100.00
WEDNESDAY OFF-SITE TOUR "Last Chance Farm" breeding facility for Parrot Jungle			\$45.00	
EXTRA BANQUET TICKETS (Each) Indicate (V)egetarian or (N)on-Vegetarian			\$50.00	
CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS - Pre-Convention: \$25.00 / At Convention: \$35.00				
T-Shirts / Polo Shirts – Sizes M – XXL – To be picked up at the convention - T-Shirts: \$25.00 / Polo Shirts: \$35.00				
<p>If You Are Not Yet an AFA Member, Join Now for Full Privileges! Individual: \$40.00 Family: \$45.00 Supporting: \$75.00 Commercial: \$125.00</p>				

SEND COMPLETED FORM & PAYMENT TO:

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A F A S U P E R 8 P R I Z E S

Prize #1: Accommodations for 7 days/6 nights+ in Belize
Ambergris Caye, Belize - Executive - Two Bedroom Oceanfront Condominium
Approximate value: \$1,700+



The middle picture is the condominium building. The condo is the one on the top floor, right hand side, which is oceanfront. The trip must be taken between May 1, 2006 and October 31, 2006. It can be for 7 days and 6 nights, or for 8 days and 7 nights. Also, please note that this condominium is NOT on the mainland of Belize, and there is a \$100 per person cost for twin-engine commuter plane from Belize to the island. This prize includes accommodations only and no airfare. For more information go to <http://www.belizepalms.com/>. The donors of the Belize trip are Tim and Vickie Weaver of Madison, Mississippi.

Prize #2 – Yamaha generator



A terrific Yamaha generator: Yamaha EF2600
The EF2600 is the smallest generator that your customers need to efficiently run the basics of a home (separately). Another benefit is that the EF2600 has the same exterior dimensions as the EF1600 yet it delivers 1,000 watts more power. The super-fuel-efficient EF2600 delivers over 11 hours of continuous operation on a tank of gas (at half rated load). There's plenty of power on tap to run tools and appliances like disc sanders, space heaters, even water heaters. It features a maintenance-free T.C.I. ignition, brushless alternator, and auto decompression for easy manual starting. The link to the generator is www.yamaha-motor.com/products/gen/ef2600.html and it include delivery from your local Yamaha dealer. Retail is over \$1500.00. Donated by Joe and Nancy Speed at www.ppatchparrots.com.

Prize #3 – Ultimate Breeder's Prize

The ultimate breeder's prize consists of a nest box camera, a gift certificate for hand-feeding formula, nest box, washcloths, dozens of different size syringes, a formula colored apron, small cotton towels, and numerous other items that every aviculturist needs and wants. Items donated by Wanda Elder, Nancy Speed, Carol Woodson, Audrey Folse of Folse's Feather Farm and Clover Electronics and several other individuals. Additional items are still being added to this wonderful prize, so check the AFA website at www.atabirds.org for updates!

Prize #4 – 2006 AFA Convention Full Registration Package

This prize consists of a full registration for one person to the 2006 AFA convention, hotel accommodations for four nights (Wednesday through Saturday) at the convention hotel, a banquet ticket, 2006 proceedings, a ticket to the off-site event, and a 2006 convention t-shirt. It does not include airfare. This prize has an approximate value of over \$900 + and is donated by AFA.

Prize #5 – Trip to Key West
The resort is comprised of 20 single family octagonal stilt homes. Each villa has 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, living room and a fully equipped kitchen, plus washer and dryer. It has a heated swimming pool and spa, tennis court, boat ramp and dock with space for each unit, bicycles and small boats....all ready for your enjoyment! Located 75 miles north of Key West and 90 miles south of Miami, the resort is a family-oriented location with much peace and serenity. No pets please. For more information go to: <http://www.topsideresort.com/index2.html>. This one week timeshare (September 17th - 24th, 2005) is donated by Dave and Terri Jones, www.flockstockandbarrel.com.

Prize #6 – Avey Brooder

The Chick Chalet II measures 16"x20"x18" and features digital temperature and humidity control. Directly set the temperature and humidity you desire on the alphanumeric display. Hi and Low Temperature alarms, air filter, hinged door with security lock.

ABS plastic and acrylic help make this brooder easy to care for. Two year parts and labor warranty included. \$474.00 value plus optional \$99.00 digital humidity control. Shipping to the winner is included, which brings the value of this prize to over \$600. Contact information: James Avey, Avey Incubator, LLC 8200 Crowfoot Lane, Evergreen CO 80439, 1-877-AVEYINC (1-877-283-9462) www.aveyincubator.com. Email jimavey@aveyinc.com for more information. Donated by Avey Incubator, LLC.



Prize #7 – Fresh Air Purifier

Alpine Air Purification Systems' "Fresh Air" is the top of their line. These "Living Air" purifiers use unique proprietary radio wave-like ionization along with activated oxygen to purify the air, and are designed for an entire house up to 3,000 square feet. For more information, go to www.freshairliving.com/welder and enter the password GUEST. This item is donated by I Deal Purification Systems with an approximate value of \$700 and includes shipping.



Prize #8 – Registration for (2) for Loro Parque Parrot Convention 2006

This will be a free registration for two people to the VI International Parrot Convention at Loro Parque in Tenerife, Canary Islands. We will post specifics as the details become available. The dates are September 27-30, 2006. The venue is Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Canary Islands and the convention theme is "The Pleasure of Parrots"; i.e. something for everyone. Based upon the wonderful experience many of us had at the V Congreso Mundial Sobre Papagayos in 2002, you can bet that this event will be fantastic. For more information on Loro Parque, go to www.loroparque.com. This is registration for the conference only – airfare and accommodations are not included. This prize is worth approximately \$800 US and is donated by the Loro Parque Foundation.

My check # _____ is enclosed for \$ _____ My money order is enclosed for \$ _____

Charges accepted only on \$10 purchases or more. Please charge my: MasterCard Visa American Express

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2005 AFA Super Drawing
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- Trip To Belize
Tim and Vickie Weaver
 Avey Generator
Joe and Nancy Speed
 Ultimate Breeder's Prize
Several Individuals
 2006 AFA Conv. Reg. For 2
AFA
- Trip To Key West
Dave and Terri Jones
 Avey Brooder
Avey Incubator, LLC
 Fresh Air Purifier
I Deal Purification Systems
 Loro Parque Reg. For 2
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Drawing held during the AFA Convention 2005, August 6,
Radisson Hotel Miami Downtown, Miami, FL

Drawing chairman reserves the right to add or remove any prize.
WINNERS DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT
Winners must claim prizes within 30 days after notification.
Unclaimed or unwanted prizes will be sold with the proceeds going to AFA
DONATIONS: 12 tickets for \$10, or 1 for \$1
Void where prohibited by law.

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2005 AFA Super Drawing

Celebrate the DIVERSITY of aviculture and win one of these great prizes. Drawing donations \$1 per ticket, \$10 for 12 tickets.

Drawing is subject to any rules and regulations that may apply or vary from state to state. Winners are responsible for payment of federal income tax on prizes won. Winners are responsible for payment of shipping charges of their prizes. The American Federation of Aviculture reserves the right to add or remove any prize from this list. Also, we assume no responsibility for any statement about the prizes by anyone other than the drawing chairman.

Please fill out complete name information on each ticket before returning it to AFA. For additional tickets contact:

AFA, P.O. Box 159, Rossville, TN 38066 • Phone: (901) 853-6079 • Fax: (901) 853-8452 • www.afabirds.org
AFA is a non-profit organization. Your donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated

Deadline: Mail-in tickets must be received by the AFA by July 31, 2005 in order to be entered in the drawing.
On-site purchases and hand carried tickets may be deposited any time up to moment of drawing.

My check # _____ is enclosed for \$ _____ My money order is enclosed for \$ _____

Charges accepted only on \$10 purchases or more. Please charge my: MasterCard Visa American Express

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Joe and Nancy Speed
 Ultimate Breeder's Prize
Several Individuals
 2006 AFA Conv. Reg. For 2
AFA
- Trip To Key West
Dave and Terri Jones
 Avey Brooder
Joe and Nancy Speed
 Fresh Air Purifier
Several Individuals
 Loro Parque Reg. For 2
AFA

Drawing held during the AFA Convention 2005, August 6, Radisson Hotel Miami Downtown, Miami, FL

Drawing chairman reserves the right to add or remove any prize.
WINNERS DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT
Winners must claim prizes within 30 days after notification.
Unclaimed or unwanted prizes will be sold with the proceeds going to AFA
DONATIONS: 12 tickets for \$10, or 1 for \$1
Void where prohibited by law.

American Federation of Aviculture
P.O. Box 159, Rossville, TN 38066

2005 AFA Super Drawing
Your Choice • CHECK ONE ✓

- Trip To Belize
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2005 AFA Super Drawing

Celebrate the DIVERSITY of aviculture and win one of these great prizes. Drawing donations \$1 per ticket, \$10 for 12 tickets.

Drawing is subject to any rules and regulations that may apply or vary from state to state. Winners are responsible for payment of federal income tax on prizes won. Winners are responsible for payment of shipping charges of their prizes. The American Federation of Aviculture reserves the right to add or remove any prize from this list. Also, we assume no responsibility for any statement about the prizes by anyone other than the drawing chairman.

Please fill out complete name information on each ticket before returning it to AFA. For additional tickets contact:

AFA, P.O. Box 159, Rossville, TN 38066 • Phone: (901) 853-6079 • Fax: (901) 853-8452 • www.afabirds.org
AFA is a non-profit organization. Your donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

Deadline: Mail-in tickets must be received by the AFA by July 31, 2005 in order to be entered in the drawing.
On-site purchases and hand carried tickets may be deposited any time up to moment of drawing.

A F A S U P E R 8 P R I Z E S

Prize #1: Accommodations for 7 days/6 nights+ in Belize
 Ambergris Caye, Belize - Executive - Two Bedroom Oceanfront Condominium
 Approximate value: \$1,700+



The middle picture is the condominium building. The condo is the one on the top floor, right hand side, which is oceanfront. The trip must be taken between May 1, 2006 and October 31, 2006. It can be for 7 days and 6 nights, or for 8 days and 7 nights. Also, please note that this condominium is NOT on the mainland of Belize, and there is a \$100 per person cost for twin-engine commuter plane from Belize to the island. This prize includes accommodations only and no airfare. For more information go to <http://www.belizepalms.com/>. The donors of the Belize trip are Tim and Vickie Weaver of Madison, Mississippi.

Prize #2 – Yamaha generator



A terrific Yamaha generator: Yamaha EF2600
 The EF2600 is the smallest generator that your customers need to efficiently run the basics of a home (separately). Another benefit is that the EF2600 has the same exterior dimensions as the EF1600 yet it delivers 1,000 watts more power. The super-fuel-efficient EF2600 delivers over 11 hours of continuous operation on a tank of gas (at half rated load). There's plenty of power on tap to run tools and appliances like disc sanders, space heaters, even water heaters. It features a maintenance-free T.C.I. ignition, brushless alternator, and auto decompression for easy manual starting. The link to the generator is www.yamaha-motor.com/products/gen/ef2600.html and it include delivery from your local Yamaha dealer. Retail is over \$1500.00. Donated by Joe and Nancy Speed at www.ppatchparrots.com.

Prize #3 – Ultimate Breeder's Prize

The ultimate breeder's prize consists of a nest box camera, a gift certificate for hand-feeding formula, nest box, washcloths, dozens of different size syringes, a formula colored apron, small cotton towels, and numerous other items that every aviculturist needs and wants. Items donated by Wanda Elder, Nancy Speed, Carol Woodson, Audrey Folse of Folse's Feather Farm and Clover Electronics and several other individuals. Additional items are still being added to this wonderful prize, so check the AFA website at www.atabirds.org for updates!

Prize #4 – 2006 AFA Convention Full Registration Package

This prize consists of a full registration for one person to the 2006 AFA convention, hotel accommodations for four nights (Wednesday through Saturday) at the convention hotel, a banquet ticket, 2006 proceedings, a ticket to the off-site event, and a 2006 convention t-shirt. It does not include airfare. This prize has an approximate value of over \$900 + and is donated by AFA.

Prize #5 – Trip to Key West

The resort is comprised of 20 single family octagonal stilt homes. Each villa has 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, living room and a fully equipped kitchen, plus washer and dryer. It has a heated swimming pool and spa, tennis court, boat ramp and dock with space for each unit, bicycles and small boats.....all ready for your enjoyment! Located 75 miles north of Key West and 90 miles south of Miami, the resort is a family-oriented location with much peace and serenity. No pets please. For more information go to: <http://www.topsiderresort.com/index2.html>. This one week timeshare (September 17th - 24th, 2005) is donated by Dave and Terri Jones, www.flockstockandbarrel.com.

Prize #6 – Avey Brooder

The Chick Chalet II measures 16"x20"x18" and features digital temperature and humidity control. Directly set the temperature and humidity you desire on the alphanumeric display. Hi and Low Temperature alarms, air filter, hinged door with security lock. ABS plastic and acrylic help make this brooder easy to care for. Two year parts and labor warranty included. \$474.00 value plus optional \$99.00 digital humidity control. Shipping to the winner is included, which brings the value of this prize to over \$600. Contact information: James Avey, Avey Incubator, LLC 8200 Crowfoot Lane, Evergreen CO 80439, 1-877-AVEYINC (1-877-283-9462) www.aveyincubator.com. Email jimavey@aveyinc.com for more information. Donated by Avey Incubator, LLC.



Prize #7 – Fresh Air Purifier

Alpine Air Purification Systems' "Fresh Air" is the top of their line. These "Living Air" purifiers use unique proprietary radio wave-like ionization along with activated oxygen to purify the air, and are designed for an entire house up to 3,000 square feet. For more information, go to www.freshairliving.com/welder and enter the password GUEST. This item is donated by I Deal Purification Systems with an approximate value of \$700 and includes shipping.



Prize #8 – Registration for (2) for Loro Parque Parrot Convention 2006

This will be a free registration for two people to the VI International Parrot Convention at Loro Parque in Tenerife, Canary Islands. We will post specifics as the details become available. The dates are September 27-30, 2006. The venue is Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Canary Islands and the convention theme is "The Pleasure of Parrots", i.e. something for everyone. Based upon the wonderful experience many of us had at the V Congreso Mundial Sobre Papagayos in 2002, you can bet that this event will be fantastic. For more information on Loro Parque, go to www.loroparque.com. This is registration for the conference only – airfare and accommodations are not included. This prize is worth approximately \$800 US and is donated by the Loro Parque Foundation.



American Federation of Aviculture

Serving Aviculture since 1974

The American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) is a non profit, 501C 3 educational organization established in 1974 whose purpose is to represent all aspects of aviculture and to educate the public about keeping and breeding birds in captivity.

AFA's primary goals are the education and dissemination of information related to aviculture among pet owners, hobbyists, avicultural societies, zoos, veterinarians, research institutions, the pet industry and government officials. In addition, AFA is concerned about the welfare and humane care of all birds and promotes the establishment of high standards of avian care both in the United States and abroad.

The AFA supports your rights to acquire, keep, breed and sell birds in a responsible manner. The organization monitors proposed laws and regulations at the state, federal and international level that effect your future as an aviculturist and the well being of birds.

The AFA is primarily a volunteer organization. Our efforts to ensure the future growth and development of aviculture are totally dependent upon people like YOU joining and supporting AFA. The AFA believes that aviculture is a valuable conservation tool and that the care and breeding of birds in captivity is an exciting and fulfilling endeavor.

AFA offers many different services to its members because AFA has so many different types of members.

Membership Services and Benefits include:

- **AFA Watchbird Journal** - the official publication of the AFA, filled with articles covering topics such as: avian health, nutrition, housing and care, breeding, species profile, conservation, legislative updates and more!
- **Classifieds** - nationwide ads for exotic birds, bird related supplies and bird events in each issue of the AFA Watchbird Journal.
- **Traceable AFA Logo Bands** - both open and closed bands available from Canary to Macaw.
- **National Conventions** - combining both fun and education, featuring world-renowned speakers, the latest and newest bird products, exciting behind the scene tours and YOU, the member, making AFA's Convention the MAJOR bird event of the year.
- **Legislative Information and Updates** - provided on laws and regulation that impact avicultural activities.
- **AFA Exotic Bird Registry** - one of the only nonprofit registries for exotic birds in the world.

And Much More!

Annual Membership Application

Individual \$40: _____ Family \$45: _____ Supporting \$75: _____ Commercial \$125: _____

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long and perfect red crest feathers cascade forward over his head. “Quaint” and irresistible are the only words for this unique and beautiful cockatoo. Recent breeding successes have been numerous and, in the breeding centre, I saw young that had fledged with two species of white cockatoos!

Among the white cockatoos on show, the Blue-eyed (*Cacatua ophthalmica*) are worth studying – for their rarity in aviculture, their large size, snowy-white plumage and appealing personalities.

The cockatoo aviaries are perhaps the least satisfactory in the park, due to lack of space. However, big changes will soon come to this area. The clinic behind these aviaries will be torn down, freeing space that will be used to build big new aviaries. Behind the scenes just outside the park boundary a massive and impressive three-story building project is nearing completion. Mr Kiessling showed me around, explaining the purposes of the different areas. They include storage, car parks for staff and, most significantly, a superb new and much larger clinic, with spacious living accommodation for one vet and his family, plus a guest suite for visiting vets.

To continue the tour of the park, from the Kea aviary (past the food outlet called Banalandia) one passes the location of the original entrance right on the main street of Punta Brava, used until 1992. The very first aviary housed a group of enchanting little Orange-

species were in cages on the right. Now the large macaws are on the left, in aviaries, and further along the path are the small aviaries for every species of *Brotogeris*. The area is known as “Macaw Jungle” and I think perhaps the vegetation there is now too



Three young Yellow-naped Amazons intent on reaching a hibiscus flower.

high and too dense, not allowing enough sunlight to penetrate. The area contains an enormous fig tree, so large that it is difficult to believe that it is no older than the park (32 years).

The path meets the park’s external wall where a large window gives a view over the ocean. It then winds up the hill, past aviaries for Patagonian Conures and smaller neotropical parakeets, including the tiny *Bolborhynchus* species such as the Lineolated. On the left are some fine cacti, where large colourful native lizards can sometimes be seen eating cactus flowers.

At the top of the hill one turns left by the original restaurant “Patio del Loro”, past a small waterfall, to the curve in the path where the *Pionus* aviaries are situated. Every species can be seen, including the beautiful Plum-crowned (*P.tumultuosus*). Last year a new exhibit was added opposite these aviaries, an attractive glass-sided one in which basks a handsome rhinoceros iguana and two Galapagos tortoises.

At this point a different sound reaches one’s ears: a cacophony of happy shrieks and chortles from Amazons, macaws, cockatoos, Grey Parrots and others. The sounds come from three new aviaries for young parrots and those at the weaning stage, all playing together in a boisterous and exuberant fashion.



Cockatoo aviaries – soon to be replaced

flanked Parakeets (*Brotogeris pyrrhopterus*) that I had hand-reared. They liked nothing better than to get inside the keeper’s pocket! At that time the macaws were on the left of the path and the various *Brotogeris*

I sympathised with a young Scarlet Macaw on the ground; a Yellow-shouldered Amazon (*A. barbadensis*) insisted on hitching a ride on its tail every time the poor macaw moved! Three Red-fronted Macaws (*Ara rubrogenys*) were playing in a tight group, one on its back with its wings outspread and the other two

spectacular prize-winning film on a big screen, shot in 70mm. It shows wonders of nature in Spain, Tenerife (Mount Teide) and Venezuela (Angel Falls). A few paces away from this building one can find the aviaries for Caiques and Nanday Conures.



Weaning aviary for macaws.

sitting on its wings! A Triton Cockatoo was swinging upside down from a rope, with wings open and crest erect, shrieking as only a cockatoo can. Three young Yellow-naped Amazons were busy on the floor in a corner, trying to reach a hibiscus flower growing just outside the aviary. Amazons preened macaws three times their size and little Timneh Greys played with the Amazons. Only two young and beautiful Bronze-winged Pionus remained aloof, and a Purple-capped Lory that had no playmate of its own kind.

The weaning cages are a wonderful innovation, not only because they are a scene of colour and activity, but because it gives visitors a chance to see the older young ones that have been hand-reared in the adjoining "Baby Station". This curved building has large windows through which one can watch chicks being fed. One afternoon my breath was taken away by the sight of a gorgeous young Palm Cockatoo sitting solemnly on the inside window ledge watching the passers-by. It was hatched and reared for several weeks by a pair of Lesser Sulphur-crested Cockatoos!

Look out for the dragon trees (*Dracaena draco*) in this area – unusual and unique to the Canary Islands. A little way past the Baby Station the path divides. Turn right and you will come to the building with a shining mirror dome that houses Naturavision. This is a

If you turn left out of Naturavision, the path leads past the lawn and lake where a flock of Chilean Flamingos reside (against the scenic backdrop of distant Mount Teide). The path is lined with bird of paradise plants with their spiky orange flowers (visited by tiny Chiffchaffs who drink the nectar). Follow the path to the left and you reach the aviaries for lovebirds, and the orchid house with many colourful blooms. It would be easy to miss the parrotlets and some small Aratinga conures here so one needs to turn right before looking at the lovebirds (then retracing one's steps). The most beautiful parrotlets are undoubtedly the Yellow-faced (*Forpus xanthops*) which bred well in my day (but, alas, not since, I believe).

The orchidarium leads to the African parrots (every species except, of course, the Yellow-faced Poicephalus) and the improved glass-fronted exhibit for alligators. An excellent enclosure for jaguars is also in this area. A notable feature of the animal enclosures is that there are no bars: all have glass fronts. Completing the African circle, one comes across the attractive building that houses the parrot show and the Gambian



Lesser Flamingos amid the palm trees.

market where you can buy gifts of every kind. Take the path back to the lovebirds, by more Aratinga aviaries where the larger species, such as the Mitred, are kept, and you will see the signs for the dolphin



A typical aviary with ropes and fir cones.

show. This is spectacular and takes place in an impressive arena with a futuristic roof. However, there are far more than dolphins in this, the highest part of the park. Here are the aviaries for colourful little Fig Parrots and for all the Asiatic *Psittacula* parakeets in a fairly open, less heavily planted area. Look out for the Layard's and Malabar Blue-wings (*Psittacula calthorpeae* and *P.columboides*) – two very beautiful species. Most of the parrots here do not get a glance from the public, in their eagerness to reach what is perhaps the park's biggest attraction.

The area is home to tiger island, where Prince, a beautiful white male, and Saba live. (White tigers are now extinct in the wild.) To watch these animals playing together is a memorable experience.

Opposite the tigers, on the path, are some long aviaries whose occupants are not too easy to see. This is a shame as they hold some unusual species that are worth searching for. The King Parrots include the rare Blue-winged (*Alisterus amboinensis hypophonius*); Shining Parrots (*Prosopieia*) from Fiji and three species of Tanygnathus – Great-bill, Muller's and Blue-backed – can also be seen here.

Conure enthusiasts will wonder where the Pyrrhuras are located. They are in the dolphinarium area – but off exhibit. The number of species and sub-species held (21) is now so great that there is just not room to display them to the public.

After leaving the dolphin show, one can go through the Gambian market towards the exit to view the remaining parrots. They are located along the path by the superb aquarium (with its shark tunnel). Here one can see the two *Enicognathus* conures (Slender-billed and Austral), a small group of beautiful Golden or Queen of Bavaria's Conures, and the small macaws. It was pleasing to see the Noble Macaws (*Ara* or *Diopsittaca nobilis cumanensis*) with four young and the Illiger's (*Ara maracana*) with three young. The Blue-headed Macaws (*Ara couloni*) can also be seen here. Need I add that the Spix's Macaws are not on exhibit? As previously reported, a beautiful young one was reared this year and excitement ran high when the female laid again during my visit.

The last aviary before the exit contains four Thick-billed Parrots (*Rhynchopitta pachyrhyncha*). Their deep red foreheads caught the sun as they dozed in a row on a swing. This endangered Mexican species is dependent on pine trees and has a strong black bill with which to open the nuts.

The high standards maintained at the park have earned it more than 20 gold medals and awards from the tourism industry and others; these include two gold medals from the UK company, Thomson Holidays. To the average holidaymaker Loro Parque is an unforgettable day out. To the parrot enthusiast it is an experience without parallel that cannot be repeated too soon. ■

In her next article Rosemary Low will describe the unique breeding centre and how the young produced there help to fund the conservation work of the Loro Parque Foundation.