



PHOTOS BY MERY JUIÑA / Above, Golden-plumed Parakeet chicks showing the dense down feathers of a high elevation species. Below, an adult White-necked Parakeet near the nest site.

## Loro Parque Fundación

### Rare parakeets in southern Ecuador

Great news has just arrived from Ecuadorean researcher Mery Juiña about aspects of the breeding of two threatened species of parakeets in the Tapichalaca Reserve in southern Ecuador. With support from the Loro Parque Fundación and Fundación Jocotoco, Mery has captured unique images of White-necked Parakeets (*Pyrrhura albipectus*) and Golden-plumed Parakeets (*Leptosittaca branickii*) and, working tirelessly in steep and forested terrain, she has advanced our knowledge of their reproduction.

For two years Mery has installed nest-boxes in the 3,500 ha reserve, located on the south-eastern slopes of the



Andes. Two of the nest-boxes this year have successful breeding of White-necked Parakeets. At an elevation of 1,800 m, this is in the lower part of the reserve, but is the highest breeding elevation recorded for this species. In the first box a group of six individuals had a total of 13 eggs, of which eight hatched and are developing well. In the second box, four eggs have more recently been laid by a group of

five individuals. This phenomenon of breeding in groups, or cooperatively, has also been recorded in other species of parakeets, especially of the genus *Pyrrhura*.

The breeding success of the Golden-plumed Parakeets is even more remarkable. In 2008, 17 nest-boxes were installed at an elevation of 2,600 m, and eleven of them are occupied, mainly by pairs. However, two boxes are frequented by a

group of 14 adults, although until now it has not been determined how many of them are actually using the boxes for breeding. Primary forests are vital for the conservation of these species, which are threatened by deforestation and illegal trade within Ecuador. Mery's work is an important contribution to help improve their conservation.

~ David Waugh,  
Loro Parque Fundación

### Spix's Macaw arrives

A very special newcomer from Brazil arrived in the middle of March. The director of Loro Parque Fundación participated at this year's meeting for conservation programs for Spix's and Lear's Macaws at the Sao Paulo Zoo in Brazil.

On his way back he brought with him another Spix's Macaw (*Cyanopsitta spixii*) male for



Thick-billed Parrots at Loro Parque.

mating within the new Spix's Macaw breeding facilities.

With that new arrival the number of Spix's Macaws maintained increases to 8 animals: three males and five females. All of these birds are being kept exclusively for

reproduction and advancement of the international breeding programme for the Spix's Macaw, which is already

extinct in the wild.

For six weeks the new male has to stay in quarantine and afterwards we hope that he will settle well and will fulfill our hopes for more breeding.

The first time in a European Zoo, Loro Parque is exhibiting the Maroon-fronted Parrot (*Rhynchopsitta terrisi*). A few weeks ago Loro Parque Fundación was able to acquire three pairs of this rare parrot species from a Mexican breeder.

They have now successfully completed their quarantine period. From now on two pairs will be maintained in the breeding centre in La Vera and the third pair is in the public area of Loro Parque for all the guests to see. To allow a better comparison with the slightly smaller sister species the Thick-billed Parrot (*R. pachyrhyncha*) both kinds have been placed in

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This year's breeding season seems to have started very well. Although we had a relatively cold and long winter a lot of parrots have already started their egg-laying.

We are especially delighted by the repeated start of the breeding season of the Pesquet's Parrot (*Psittichas fulgidus*). They have laid two eggs, one of them fertile, which is being incubated artificially in an incubator in our baby station.

Among the cockatoos, the breeding season is in full activity, and four pairs of Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (*Cacatua leadbeateri*) have begun their egg laying, while the first two Ducorps' Cockatoos (*Cacatua Ducorpsi*) and additionally three Galahs (*Eolophus roseicapillus*) have already hatched and are being raised by hand in the baby station of Loro Parque.

Also the first amazons have started laying eggs. Worth mentioning here is the clutch of four eggs of the Red-crowned Amazon (*Amazona rhodocorytha*) and the clutches of the Yellow-shouldered Amazon (*A. barbadensis*), Vinaceous Amazon (*A. vinacea*) as well as the Panama Amazon (*A. o. panamensis*).

After a long breeding pause, the Yellow-collared Macaws (*Ara auricollis*) are again sitting on a fertile clutch of three eggs. During recent years this species has become very rare in the aviaries of breeders and it is necessary to direct more of our attention to this small macaw species to conserve it on a long-term basis.

The completion of our new, walk-through free-flight aviary is being brought on in leaps and bounds. The German company Karl Stahl from Stuttgart is working on the netting and almost daily it is possible to see the progress of this enormous construction. At present the planned date of opening is before the summer vacation.

A few weeks ago Loro Parque was able to celebrate a small anniversary because the 100th broadcasting of "Menschen, Tiere und Doktoren" (People, Animals and Doctors) in cooperation with the



**Bird Curator of Loro Parque, Dr. Matthias Reinschmidt, together with the veterinary team Heiner Müller and Dr. Sara Capelli during the shooting for the program "Menschen, Tiere und Doktoren" for the German TV station VOX.**

Loro Parque and the Loro Parque Fundación was being broadcast.

Primarily the viewers are able to learn about the daily work of the biologists, veterinarians and keepers in the park and occasionally they have the opportunity to see behind the scenes of the park.

For more than two years "Menschen, Tiere und Doktoren" has been broadcast daily at 5 p.m. through the German TV station VOX. The program enjoys great popularity and the next 30 episodes already have been recorded and further broadcasts are being planned.

### **Breeding season in full swing**

The breeding season is now in full swing and up to mid-April we have already been able to ring 276 young parrots and parakeets. Especially with the Lories the season has started very well this year. At present two youngsters of the Mindanao Lory (*Trichoglossus johnstoniae*) are very important. This species is held in Europe only in a few collections and each individual young bird in captivity is vital for survival.

Two young Double-eyed Fig Parrots

(*Cyclopsitta diophthalma*) are currently being reared nicely by their parents. In autumn last year we acquired an older female from Germany. The fast breeding success with the newly created pair shows that the conditions are right.

In particular the clutches of the Scaly-naped Amazon (*Amazona mercenaria*) with four eggs and the clutch of two pairs of Red-crowned Amazon (*Amazona rhodocorytha*), as well as three pairs of the Green-cheeked Amazon (*Amazona viridigenalis*) are to be mentioned.

A few days ago a little Pesquet's Parrot (*Psittichas fulgidus*) hatched in the incubator once again. This 16 g chick will be now raised by hand in the baby station of Loro Parque. This result shows again that the Loro Parque Fundación is currently the sole zoological facility in Europe breeding Pesquet's Parrot continuously. This species is so rare in zoological gardens, as well as in private collections, that the long-term conservation in captivity is very questionable because of the scarce breeding and captive hatching.

A new group experiment has been



The aviary of Salmon-crested Cockatoos and Galahs in LPF breeding centre in La Vera.



Mindanao Lory (*Trichoglossus johnstoniae*)

running since January 2009 in the breeding centre of Loro Parque Fundación in La Vera. Five adult Salmon-crested Cockatoos (*Cacatua moluccensis*), three males and two females, were put together in an aviary measuring 8 m x 8 m, and about 4 m high. Additionally a pair of Galahs (*Eolophus roseicapillus*) was added. A tree is situated in the middle of the aviary and from the sides many plants are growing into the aviary, offering the animals green surroundings which can also be chewed.

Despite these ravenous occupants the aviary has turned out very green even after three months. The two female Salmon-crested Cockatoos have each mated with a male and one of them has already laid her first egg, while the Galahs are also occupied with the nesting. It is very interesting to observe the intensive courtship behaviour of the Salmon-crested Cockatoos, and the use of their voices without becoming aggressive with each other, while they pay almost no attention to the Galahs.

Some interesting new arrivals in recent weeks have contributed to the completion of the great parrot collection. A pair of Yellow-billed Amazons (*Amazona collaria*)

arrived from the Prague zoo in the Czech Republic. From the community interested in Brotogeris in Germany we managed to acquire two more pairs of Tui Parakeets (*Brotogeris sanctithomae*) and a Long-tailed Parakeet (*Psittacula longicauda*) male, to pair with a female of this species who has been held alone for a while. From Holland we were able to acquire for our parrot collection a new parrot sub-species. Three

pairs of Bangs's Black Parrots (*Coracopsis nigra libs*) are sitting currently in the quarantine of Loro Parque.

In March 2009 the German bird breeders association VZE visited Loro Parque and the Loro Parque Fundación with a group of 103 people. We are very pleased that all participants of this visit have become individual members of Loro Parque Fundación, and thus contribute to the protection

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of threatened parrots. Furthermore we received various individual donations totaling approximately 600 euros. Loro Parque Fundación eagerly anticipates every contribution, which can be used for the protection of threatened parrots in the wild, and heartily thanks all the donors.

**More breeding news**

By the end of April, 387 young parrots of 86 species and subspecies had already been ringed in Loro Parque Fundación, definitely more than last year's breeding number.

The month of May rested under very good stars, because we could report a first breeding in Europe. As we reported not so long ago, we managed



**Young Gustav's Parakeets.**

to import captive bred individuals of three new parrot species from Mexico at the end of last year. There were Maroon-fronted Parrots (*Rhynchopsitta terrisi*), White-headed Parrots (*Pionus seniloides*) and six

Gustav's Parakeets (*Brotogeris cyanopectera gustavi*), that for the first time entered Europe.

After the successful quarantine period the Gustav's Parakeets were endoscoped and the result was two males and four

females. Two pairs were placed in suitable breeding enclosures and in April this year one of the pairs started with a clutch of four eggs, which turned out to be fertile.

Now three chicks have hatched, and have been growing very well until now. These are the first chicks of this parrot species reared in Europe. It makes us all the more happy that in the meantime the second pair has also laid four eggs and is incubating them well. We hope with these captive breeding successes, of parrot species currently only held in Loro Parque Fundación they can be established in our aviaries for the long term.

The clutch of our Scaly-naped Amazon pair (*Amazona mercenaria*) was successful. Three




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Participants in the 11th Parrot Workshop.

chicks have hatched and two of them are being raised by hand in the Baby-Station of Loro Parque. Another chick is being raised very well as an adoptee of an experienced breeding pair of White-fronted Amazons (*Amazona albifrons*). Meanwhile the Scaly-naped Amazon pair has again laid a clutch and is at present incubating three eggs.

The Spix's Macaw male (*Cyanopsitta spixii*) who arrived from Brazil has recently ended his quarantine period and is now in the Spix's Macaw breeding centre. Three single females from the captive breeding of 2004 until 2007 are waiting for the male. The male has been placed in the neighbouring enclosure to the three ladies to get him used to his new environment.

Both enclosures can connect to each other through a metal mesh tunnel, but first the birds are separated by a "smooch

fence," through which they can establish their first contacts before they are definitely put together to give the male free choice.

Because the three females are sisters, for genetic purposes there is no special wish from our side about which female will be chosen by the male. However, it would be preferable that the male chooses one of the older females, given that after the endoscopy evaluation both are mature for breeding. Therefore, the hope exists that we can soon report about the establishment of a third Spix's Macaw pair in the installations of LPF.

The 11th German Parrot Workshop took place in collaboration with the magazines PAPAGEIEN and WP-Magazin from the end of April until the beginning of May in Loro Parque and in the Hotel Botanico in Puerto de la Cruz,

Tenerife.

Never before has the number of participants been as high as this year—56 parrot holders and breeders came to Tenerife, and experienced with the biologists and veterinarians of Loro Parque, as well as some guest speakers from Germany, an interesting and informative week with many glimpses behind the scenes of the park and the LPF parrot breeding centre in La Vera. Along the way, many parrot friends were met/made, with whom day-and night-long discussions about parrots were held. The positive resonance of the workshop has motivated the organizers to offer the 12th Parrot Workshop in spring next year again.

### Hundreds of parrots ringed

Nearly 600 young parrots of 116 different species and

subspecies had been ringed by the beginning of June.

We are especially happy about the hatch of five young Plum-crowned Parrots (*Pionus tumultuosus*)—a subspecies of *Pionus* that is hardly found in captivity. All youngsters have been taken into the Baby Station to be hand-raised. These rare chicks seem to be doing their best not to help us, but our team is doing a great job rearing them, and they are all developing well so far. This breeding success has been an important step toward raising the number of specimens in Europe and maintaining this parrot species in captivity.

Finally, although with a little bit of delay in comparison to last year, our Lear's Macaws (*Anodorhynchus leari*) have laid eggs. Our most successful breeding pair so far, which produced five of the previous seven young, began to produce eggs at the beginning of June. Because this year the nests have been supplied with cameras during the non-breeding season, the eggs could be seen shortly after they had been laid, and were taken to a more experienced pair of Green-winged Macaws (*Ara chloroptera*). The same pair of Lear's Macaws has been very restless and has damaged, we don't know whether on purpose or not, some eggs of the clutch. This is why we had to take the precautions to install the cameras and to take away the eggs immediately. As we could see on screen, the behavior of the parents in the nest box has not been so careful. The material used as nest-

litter first was eagerly chewed, and then taken out of the nest cavity as dogs like to do until the ground was visibly white. Both parents feed each other, and play, including lying on their backs and rolling around, so it would not have been a big surprise if one or other of the eggs were broken. Now we hope that with the new camera system the breeding output in 2009 will increase in comparison with 2008, when two pairs produced four youngsters.

As previously mentioned, a pair of Yellow-collared Macaws (*Ara auricollis*) bred in March for the first time after a long breeding pause. From a fertile clutch of three eggs, two of them hatched, and both chicks have been raised



successfully in the Baby Station and were recently moved into the "Kindergarten Aviary." There they learn to socialize with other young and older chicks of different parrot species, to fly and to eat independently (although they also still

get fed by the hand-rearers). This type of hand-rearing has given very good results, and numerous parrots reared with this method are now parents, too, not only able to lay eggs but also to rear their chicks by themselves.

Thus, the Yellow-collared Macaws are, with the Blue-headed Macaws (*Ara couloni*), among the first smaller macaw species to start breeding. Traditionally, the breeding period of the macaws in Tenerife is in the second half of the year. The Blue-throated Macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*) is one exception amongst the bigger macaw species, with the first youngsters growing in the Baby Station at the moment.

Another nice picture is the plastic container in which five little Major Mitchell Cockatoos (*Cacatua leadbeateri*) are currently developing. Although they still don't have all their feathers, they are proudly raising their crests every time somebody gets near.

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Previous page, three young Blue-throated Macaws, and, above, five young Major Mitchell Cockatoos are being raised in the Baby Station.

### Short-tailed Parrot

Exactly 735 young parrots from 136 species and subspecies had been ringed at Loro Parque Fundación by the beginning of July. This means a very good start for this year's breeding season.

After five years without breeding success, a young Short-tailed Parrot (*Graydidascalus brachyurus*) is being reared in its parents' nest this year. It is worth noting that the breeding male had already gained breeding experience and has been living at Loro Parque Fundación since 1996. The female was foster-reared for three weeks in the nest

of Red-shouldered Macaws (*Diosittaca nobilis*) before being hand-reared in the Baby Station of Loro Parque until she had gained independence.

Now five years old, this female has laid five eggs, of which only one was fertile. We left the eggs in the nest, and the rearing of the resulting chick is going so well that it has already been ringed. This is a very important breeding success for this seldom kept parrot species in Europe, as only a few are reared by some breeders.

Everything should be tried to induce them to breed so as to have a self-perpetuating

breeding population. Precisely for this reason the pair had been moved to a larger aviary with more opportunities for breeding this spring, because they had not made any breeding attempts in their previous aviary. The pair now lives together with a pair of Pileated Parrots (*Pionopsitta pileata*) in the aviary measuring 2 m high, 4 m long and 1.5 m wide. Until now no aggression has occurred between the two parrot species. Thus the redeployment can be considered successful, and we hope more breeding successes will follow.

Breeding stations like the one of Loro Parque Fundación

provide various options for breeding management, especially during the main breeding season. Thus, it occurs from time to time that experienced breeding parrots function as adoptive parents. At the moment we have two couples of Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (*Cacatua leadbeateri*) which rear young Gang-gang Cockatoos (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*). While young Major Mitchell's Cockatoos grow up at Baby Station without any problems, hand-rearing young Gang-gang Cockatoos sometimes causes problems. This is why we prefer the ability of Major Mitchell's Cockatoos to



rear young Gang-gang Cockatoos. This method has been practiced for some years now without any problems. In contrast to other species of white cockatoos, Major Mitchell's Cockatoos can rear up to four young in one clutch.

One couple is rearing four young of two different couples of Gang-gang Cockatoos. The eggs of the Major Mitchell's Cockatoo had been exchanged for Gang-gang Cockatoos early at the egg stage so all four Gang-gang Cockatoo chicks hatched out at the nest of their adoptive parents and are being reared perfectly. Another couple of Major Mitchell's Cockatoos is rearing a single Gang-gang Cockatoo. This one had been importantly elder than the four other chicks so there had not been the opportunity to allocate the number of chicks a bit more fair.

Our couple of Red-capped Parrots (*Purpuricephalus spurius*) we bought last year laid six fertile eggs. Unfortunately, the cock died during the breeding time but the hen did not mind this and kept on breeding. After the hatching of the first three young, which were reared very well, we took the other three fertilized eggs and underlaid them to a breeding couple of our Eastern Rosellas (*Platycercus eximius*) so as not to expect too much from the single hen.

The Eastern Rosellas had reared young successfully the last years but sat on unfertilized eggs. The remaining three chicks hatched out under the Eastern Rosellas and were

reared perfectly, too. Meanwhile, all six young are flown out and can see each other by sitting next to each other.

We have the third variety of adoption with our Patagonian Conures (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*). We have kept two hens of this species in one hanging aviary since last year because we could not find any suitable cocks. Patagonian Conures like to spend the night in nest boxes, so there were two of them in the aviary. In spring, both hens laid eggs in one of the nest boxes at the same time and bred them together. At the same time, our Greater Patagonian Conure (*Cyanoliseus patagonus bloxami*) had laid three fertilized eggs. We took these from the nest to give the breeding couple the chance for another clutch, and exchanged the unfertilized eggs of the smaller nominate form. All three young have hatched out and reared well.

After approximately three weeks, the smallest chick had to be brought to the Baby Station to be hand-reared because it lagged behind its brothers' development and might have not gotten enough food. The two larger ones are developing very well at the nest of their adoptive mothers, and the little one is developing well at the Baby Station, too. This is another hint: two breed-willing hens can function as fostresses. Every fostress breed should be monitored regularly.

~ Dr. Matthias Reinschmidt,  
Curator, Loro Parque  
Fundación, Tenerife

## United States

### House passes bill to protect migratory birds

In July, the US House of Representatives passed H.R. 2188, the Joint Ventures for Bird Habitat Conservation Act of 2009, which was introduced by Rep. Frank Kratovil, the freshman Democrat representing the 1st district of Maryland. The bill would formally authorize the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Joint Ventures Program, which has been carrying out bird conservation planning and projects since 1987.

"American Bird Conservancy appreciates the effective leadership of Rep. Kratovil to get this bill passed. Joint Ventures are a proven success and have made a huge difference for bird conservation," Darin Schroeder, American Bird Conservancy's vice president for Conservation Advocacy, said in a news release. "By applying science and bringing people together, joint ventures across the U.S. have created a model for solving wildlife management problems and restoring habitats critical to conserving declining species."

Joint ventures are regional partnerships involving federal, state, and local government agencies, corporations, tribes, individuals, and conservation organizations which advance conservation efforts and help identify local land use priorities. There are currently 21 JVs in the United States that provide coordination for conservation planning, and implementing projects to benefit birds and other species. JVs develop science-based goals and strategies, and a non-regulatory approach for achieving conservation.

Maryland is primarily part of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) which is focused on the conservation of habitat for native birds in the Atlantic Flyway of the United States from Maine south to Puerto Rico. The ACJV partnership has protected 158,000 acres in Maryland, and restored another 98,000 acres. The ACJV helps direct funding for the restoration of Chesapeake Bay such as land acquisition and supports projects to plant aquatic vegetation in the Bay benefitting birds and other wildlife.

The western end of Maryland is part of the recently-created Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture which is working to conserve species such as the Kentucky, Worm-eating, Prairie, and Golden-winged Warblers, Wood Thrush, American Woodcock, and American Black Duck. Nationally, Joint Ventures have directed \$4.5 billion in conservation spending from Federal grants and programs, state conservation dollars, and private donations and have protected, restored, or enhanced more than 13 million acres of important habitat for migratory bird species.

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## Gold Sponsor \$5,000 plus:

- Four (4) one-half (1/2) page color ads in Watchbird
- One (1) complimentary booth at AFA convention, nontransferable
- Convention signage "Visit our Gold Corporate Sponsor" (includes sponsor name and booth number)
- One convention registration
- Recognition at convention banquet
- Corporate sponsor plaque
- Recognition in Watchbird, on AFA website and convention program/proceedings
- Individual AFA membership
- Four copies of each issue of Watchbird



## Silver Sponsor \$2,500 plus:

- Four (4) one-quarter (1/4) page color ads in Watchbird
- Discounted booth at AFA convention, nontransferable
- Convention signage "Visit our Silver Corporate Sponsor" (includes sponsor name and booth number)
- Recognition at convention banquet
- Corporate sponsor plaque
- Recognition in Watchbird, on AFA website and convention program/proceedings
- Individual AFA membership
- Two copies of each issue of Watchbird



## Bronze Sponsor \$1,000 plus:

- Four (4) business card color ads in Watchbird
- Corporate sponsor plaque
- Recognition in Watchbird, on AFA website and convention program/proceedings
- One convention banquet ticket
- Recognition at convention banquet
- Individual AFA membership

**Become an  
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Today!**

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