

Loro Parque Fundación

Pesquet's Parrots hatch

As the parrot breeding high season is coming to its end, we have registered a higher number of ringed chicks than at this time last year.

We are especially happy to announce the repeated hatch of two young Pesquet's Parrots (*Psittichas fulgidus*). They are now growing together with their two siblings in the Baby-Station of Loro Parque. Thus, we are very proud to have produced four youngsters of this zoological rarity in this year, given that this particular parrot species is held in very few zoos worldwide and is very rarely bred.

Some days ago, the first Thick-billed Parrot (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*) of the season hatched, after the pair had unfortunately broken the first egg by throwing it



Two young Pesquet's Parrots (*Psittichas fulgidus*)

onto the floor. The second egg was taken out of the nest immediately after it had been laid and artificially incubated, and now this youngster is also growing in the

Baby-Station. The female laid a third egg which we left her to incubate, in order to allow her to practice and to prove her natural rearing methods and abilities.



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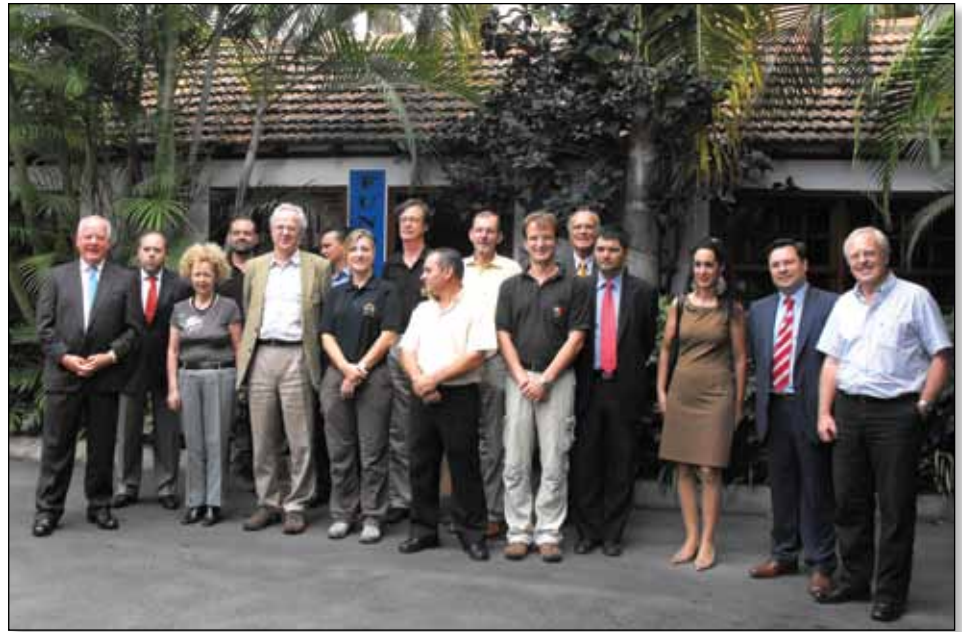
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We have registered a very interesting entry from the USA. In the framework of the international breeding programme, we received from “Busch Gardens” in Tampa, Florida two adult Lear’s Macaws (*Anodorhynchus leari*). At the beginning of the 1980s, Busch Gardens was successful in breeding this species for the first time ever and two young females were raised, and have remained living in Tampa. However, as a partner for each of them has never been found, it was decided to hand them over to Loro Parque Fundación (and at the same time give the ownership to the Government of Brazil), which has been very successful in the breeding programme and will do its best with them within this program. The LPF President himself, Mr. Wolfgang Kiessling, brought them on his recent journey from America to Tenerife, and both macaws are at present in quarantine. After that it is foreseen to pair them with young males bred by the Loro Parque



Participants at the Loro Parque Fundación Board Meeting 2009

Fundación. With these two new specimens the number of Lear’s Macaws held in the Loro Parque Fundación goes up to 17.

At the moment, Loro Parque is excitedly

looking forward to its next big event: at the end of September the new attraction “Katandra Treetops” will be opened after two years of hard work. “Katandra

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Treetops” is a visitor-friendly accessible jungle in which they can experience at first hand free-flying parrots and other birds from Australia and Asia. A suspension bridge at the same height as the treetops will offer wonderful views to the visitors into the habitat of these spectacular birds. More about this in the next edition.

Budget exceeds that of 2009

The annual Board Meeting of the Loro Parque Fundación took place in October 2009. Despite the worldwide economic crisis, LPF is very proud to announce that the budget of 850,000 euros for the conservation projects 2010 will exceed that of last year. This way LPF will be able to help where help is needed in order to assure the conservation of threatened animal species in their natural habitats.

One of the field projects supported by LPF deals with the conservation of the Grey-breasted Parakeet (*Pyrrhura griseipectus*), previously considered as a subspecies of the White-eared Parakeet (*Pyrrhura leucotis griseipectus*). This is why it is even more important to protect this small population, which lives in a tiny area of Ceará State, North Brazil, in order to protect and recuperate it.

Together with other organizations the LPF supports this project, which includes the installation of artificial nests, educational activities in the local communities and schools, and awareness campaigns including poster distribution to make clear to people the uniqueness of this bird species.

Furthermore, during the last few years we have established a population consisting of five pairs of Grey-breasted Parakeet in the LPF Breeding Centre in La Vera, Tenerife, which have already bred and raised ten chicks successfully. This is the first step towards setting-up a genetic reserve of this species, which should also motivate other breeders to give some more attention to this very rare and attractive *Pyrrhura* species.

The LPF parrot collection has two sensational newcomers. It is increasingly harder to find parrot species and subspecies which are not represented in the LPF collection, and this is why we are especially happy to welcome the Cape Parrot (*Poicephalus robustus robustus*), an African parrot subspecies which is very rarely found in

captivity. In Europe, only the Zoo of Mulhouse in France has had a small breeding group of this species so far.

By means of an exchange for other parrots, we were able to acquire four individuals from this zoo. Together with the Brown-necked Parrot (*Poicephalus r. fuscicollis*) and the Grey-headed Parrot



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(*Poicephalus r. suahelicus*), LPF now maintains the three largest representatives of the genus *Poicephalus*.

A pair of Bolivian Military Macaws (*Ara militaris boliviana*) also gives us very interesting newcomers. This very rarely kept subspecies distinguishes itself from the nominate form (*militaris*) through its distinctive red-brownish bib. Our young breeding pair of this subspecies was acquired from a Spanish breeding station.

A very generous donation for the Loro Parque Fundación came from Mr. Bernd Schneider from Dresden. He recently presented to LPF a cheque for 4.000 € from his company NETZING Solutions AG for the conservation of threatened parrots. This parrot friend has even used a Blue and Gold Macaw for the logo of his company, which is active in the mobile phone sector.

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

Armonía

These notes are produced to provide an update regarding general advances and our conservation actions. You may contact our program coordinators directly regarding more specific information (in Spanish), or Armonía's Executive Director Bennett Hennessey (ahennessey@armonia-bo.org) for specific English reports. U.S. tax-deductible donations designated to Armonía or a specific project can be made through our partner World Land Trust-U.S. at www.worldlandtrust-us.org. Armonía is a partner organization to BirdLife International, American Bird Conservancy and World Land Trust-U.S. We appreciate any comments, suggestions, or opinions that may help us in our work.

Palkachupa Cotinga (*Phibalura boliviana*) conservation

Project Coordinator: William

Ferruffino; wferruffino@armonia-bo.org

Project area: Apolo savannahs and semi-humid forests, Department of La Paz.

The Palkachupa Cotinga is a globally threatened species endemic to a tiny area (c. 1100 miles²) in the cloud forest region of Apolo, La Paz department, where suitable habitat is severely fragmented and in steady decline. We have carried out extensive field surveys to map the species' distribution and monitor its conservation status. Recent census data indicate a total remaining population of 600–800 individuals with the population stronghold located in the area of Aten in the southern sector of its range. We have identified priority sites for conservation actions, including the creation of a reserve near the village of Aten. Our efforts are led by William Ferruffino, a native of Aten who previously worked as a park guard in Madidi National Park. William's leadership of the project has been



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fundamental in gaining acceptance of the project by the local stakeholders.

With the continued support of Gwen Brewer and the Nuttall Ornithological Club-Charles Blake Fund, William is studying nest success in relation to nest site and overall habitat characteristics. World Land Trust-U.S. supported a land evaluation study. Presently, Armonía is negotiating the first 110-acre reserve purchase supported by forPlanet. Armonía plans to expand the protection of this critical habitat for 2010. William continues community outreach activities in Aten; however, a widespread awareness raising campaign is needed to stimulate greater local stakeholder support and participation in the conservation of Palkachupa habitat.

We are seeking \$3500 for the production of education and promotion materials and \$4000 for the purchase of a motorcycle in order that William can work with more

communities and also monitor a greater number of sites (there is no public transportation to remote communities/sites and the high cost of hiring a moto-taxi limits the scope of the project).

Cochabamba Mountain-Finch (Poospiza garleppi) conservation

Project Coordinator: Noemí Huanca; nhuanca@armonia-bo.org

Project area: Montane slopes of the Tunari Cordillera, Department of Cochabamba

The Cochabamba Mountain-Finch is an endangered endemic species restricted nearly exclusively to the montane slopes of the Tunari Cordillera near the city of Cochabamba in central Bolivia. Previously considered an obligate Polylepis specialist, Noemí discovered small breeding populations surviving in agricultural land utilizing non-Polylepis trees for nest support.

Through community outreach and education activities she has raised awareness and built local support for conservation efforts at two key sites. With support from Kilverstone Wildlife Charitable Trust and Conservation Leadership Programme, Noemí is working with an agronomist and environmental educator to develop community action plans to reduce threats to the species and support community development through habitat restoration and the introduction of sustainable agriculture practices. Also, Noemí received a Pamela and Alexander F. Skutch Research Award-Association of Field Ornithologists to study the reproductive ecology of the Cochabamba Mountain-Finch, in order that we might better understand the limiting factors that the species requires to maintain its population. In order to complete the three-person field team research/conservation projects, we need \$6,000 to cover field costs.

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