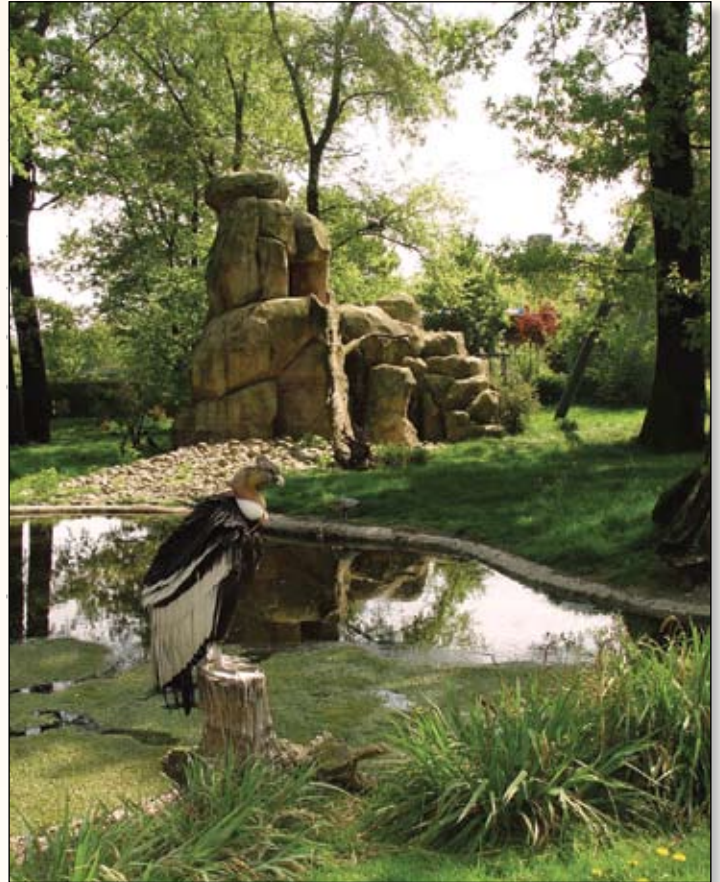


# PART III: BIRDS IN

Nine zoos in 13 days, or,



In addition to several types of pheasants, a Java Green Peafowl (*Pavo muticus*), above, presents the colorful side of Tierpark Berlin.



Zoologischer Garten Berlin's breeding pair of Andean Condors (*Vultur gryphus*) share their aviary with a variety of other South American birds.

*Editor's note: Josef Lindholm made his first trip to Germany, for 13 days, in April and May 2008. He was accompanied by his wife, Natalie, who had been there once 10 years before. Among the nine zoos they visited, they saw more than 800 species and subspecies of birds, perhaps closer to 1,000, of which at least 110 were birds he had never seen in captivity before. This is the third and final installment of his report on their trip.*

## Zoologischer Garten Berlin

THE SEVERE ATTACK OF SENSORY OVERLOAD brought on by three days at Walsrode was only aggravated by six days in Berlin. Since 2007, Berlin's two zoos have been under one Director, Dr. Bernhard Blaszkewitz. He told me that each includes

*By Josef Lindholm, III  
Senior Aviculturist, The Dallas World Aquarium  
Photography by Natalie Mashburn Lindholm*

over four hundred species and subspecies of birds, about half of which can be seen at either collection. Thus the combined total comes to slightly more than six hundred—a collection larger than Walsrode's.

Established in 1844, Zoologischer Garten Berlin is Germany's oldest existing zoo, and generally reckoned the ninth oldest zoo in the world. It has also been famed as The Largest Zoo in the World for a long time. Occupying 86 acres, it has displayed enormous numbers of species for most of its history. In August, 1901, 894 forms of birds and 402 of mammals were inventoried (Kloes, 1969), though it is likely domestic breeds were included in this total. At the outbreak of the First World War, in 1914, there were a thousand sorts of birds, and five hundred of

# GERMAN ZOOS

## If this is Monday, it must be Berlin!

mammals (Kloes, 1969). Near the end of 1938, shortly before World War II began, there were 2,519 birds of 926 forms, 1,196 mammals of 385 forms (Kloes, 1969), and 750 species of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates (Fraedrich, 2002). At War's End, in 1945, there were 91 individual animals left alive (Kloes, 1969). These included ancestors of Hippos and Hamadryas Baboons living there today, as well as a Shoebill, an Australian Bustard, a Kagu, a Ground Hornbill, an unnamed Touraco, and an Oriental White Stork which lived into the 1960's.

Despite the marooning of West Berlin by the Soviets, and other difficulties involved in post-war reconstruction, the recovery of the bird collection progressed through the 1950's. According to the International Zoo Yearbook, there were 1,534 birds of 386 species in the collection at the end of 1959. A year later there were 473 taxa, and a year after that 584. At the end of 1965 there were 702 species and subspecies. The highest year-end statistic recorded by the IZY was for 31 December, 1970 (when San Diego Zoo inventoried 1,097 taxa of birds).

There were then 742 avian taxa at Zoologischer Garten Berlin (with a total animal inventory of 2,410 taxa, and 11,92 specimens). In contrast

to San Diego, where the collection had fallen to 441 taxa at the end of 1980, the West Berlin bird collection was remarkably stable for more than a decade. The IZY statistics from 31 December 1974 through 31 December 1982, are of a bird collection that only fluctuated between 708 and 729 taxa! At the end of 1984 the collection was at 688 taxa, rising to 693 at the end of 1986. At the end of 1989 the collection was down to 580 taxa. The final IZY statistics, for 31 December 1996, showed the collection at 500 taxa, 89 more than San Diego.

As of 31 December 2007, out of a total animal inventory of 13,726 specimens of 1,386 taxa, there were 2,680 birds of 407 species and subspecies at Zoologischer Garten Berlin, more than any zoo collection in North America.

The long, rather low building known as the Pheasantry displays more species than most U.S. zoo's entire bird collections. Opened in 1962, it allows viewing of both the indoor and outdoor facilities of most of its inhabitants. Beautifully crafted wood and glass doors allow the birds access to landscaped outdoor runs. The indoor area is decorated with wonderful wooden ornaments from the Wading Bird House, which was demolished in WWII, as well as a fine old metal sculpture of a

Reeve's Pheasant. Because of the luxurious indoor quarters, Dr. Rudolf Reinhart, Curator of Birds, at the zoo since 1977, decided to emphasize species that do better with warmth in the winter. Thus, since the city of Berlin was unified, most species of pheasants have been displayed at Tierpark Berlin, in the former Eastern Sector.

There are some pheasants in the Pheasantry. A pair of Siamese Firebacks are a memorial to the Dr. Hans Fraedrich, who was Director from 1991 to 2002. There are none in ISIS-listed US zoos at present, although this gorgeous bird is not rare in aviculture. The same is true for the Gray Peacock Pheasant, which can only be seen in two U.S. zoos now. It was especially pleasing to see a male Bronze-tailed Peacock Pheasant at Berlin, as there have not been any in American zoos for years. ("It's nice to see them now" remarked Jean Delacour, as we were looking at some Bronze-tails at San Diego in 1979, "But they won't be here long—They're too dull!") In contrast, Palawan Peacock Pheasants are one of the more well-represented pheasants in U.S. zoos. It was nice to see this species on display near the other two peacock pheasants.

The Pheasantry houses a bewildering array of birds: Pearl-spotted Owlets, Nocturnal and Bare-faced Curassows,

Ocellated Turkeys, Kagus (which have bred), Black Francolins, California Quail, Black-winged (Fire-crowned) Bishops, White-shouldered Starlings (*Sturnus sinensis*), Red-rumped Caciques, and a female European Golden Oriole come readily to mind. For me, a particular surprise were Little Bitterns, bred by an Austrian private aviculturist. A pair of Bearded Reedlings, which have bred repeatedly, had a little outdoor aviary to themselves. I was not immediately able to identify a large, dark bird with purplish iridescence, which initially reminded me of a New World Jay. This turned out to be a Bird of Paradise—A Trumpetbird (*Phonygamus keraudrenii*). Other odd birds from New Guinea were Channel-billed Cuckoos (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*), which looked like some sort of strange hornbill. Like some other rare birds at Berlin, as well as some other German zoos, these came from the Swiss celebrity band-leader Pepe Lienhard, who has remarkable taste in aviary birds. As I had mentioned in Part I, I failed to see Cologne's pair, the only others in a European Zoo. Like Cologne's in the past, this pair is kept with White-backed Australian Magpies, whose melodious calls could be heard from quite a distance. Their aviary is very large, so perhaps a breeding of



Goldie's Lorikeets (*Psitteuteles goldiei*) at Zoologischer Garten Berlin.

the world's largest brood-parasite may someday take place here.

The most celebrated birds in the Pheasantry are not literally on public display. At my visit, there was a video monitor revealing the inhabitant of a wooden shelter in a glass fronted room—the eighth surviving North Island Brown Kiwi chick hatched at Zoologischer Garten Berlin. Dr. Reinhard attributes Berlin's success with this species to their being kept out of doors, since there is much similarity between the climates of Germany and New Zealand. With Head Bird Keeper Thomas Lenzner, he took us behind scenes, first to the simple looking chest-like wooden structures, several feet tall, which were the kiwi's indoor shelters.

We then stepped outdoors to see the planted aviaries, where these nocturnal birds can forage in the dark. We did not stay long however, as it developed we were standing in the Cassowary yard. Herr Lenzner seemed unconcerned, though we noted Dr. Reinhard stood in the doorway. When a Double-wattled Cassowary came around the corner, we all went back in. This exhibit, where cassowaries have been bred, is one of a series of yards, including one for Maguari Storks, which, along with an enclosure for Waldrapps, front on the famous Nineteenth Century canal that runs along one side of the zoo. Boats full of sight-seers and pedestrians on the banks thus get a "shop window" view of some of the zoo's inhabitants.



# CRITTER-CAGES.COM







Your one stop Internet Shop

- Bird Nest Boxes	- Cage Screens	- Coops & Aviaries	- Starter Kits
- Supplements	- Wire Mesh	- Hardware Parts	- Hutches Parts

**We stock a wide selection of supplies and equipment for your feathered friends. You will love our selection of quality products and you will love our low prices!**

**for questions call: 310.832.9981**

**AND MUCH MORE!!**

Online Store

[www.critter-cages.com](http://www.critter-cages.com)

A few steps from the Pheasantry are aviaries where James' and Andean Flamingos have both bred. (Not long after my visit, Dr. Reinhard informed me that one chick of each of these rarely propagated species had hatched in 2008 as well). All six taxa of flamingos can be seen at this zoo. Chilean and Greater Flamingos share one open display, while Caribbean Flamingos are in another. Lesser Flamingos share an outdoor aviary with Long-toed Lapwings, and other African birds, near one of the entrances to the Bird House.

Almost anywhere else, the Pheasantry would more than suffice as a zoo bird house, but at Zoologischer Garten Berlin, a Bird House was built about the same time as the Pheasantry, and both have been

carefully maintained in the succeeding four decades. The Bird House replaced a famous old structure destroyed in the Allied air raids of 1943, where, along with spacious aviaries, there were banks and banks of small cages arranged in tiers, with one or two birds in each one. When the new bird house was opened in 1962, it was considered state of the art (Kloes, 1963). One thing I found most surprising is the percentage of indoor exhibits with access to outdoor aviaries. I have not seen anything to this extent elsewhere. Most U.S. bird houses, many built, or remodeled after Berlin's, keep most or all of their birds entirely indoors.

There is an entirely indoor walk through aviary in the Zoologischer Garten's Bird

**EXOTIC BIRD SPECIALTY SHOP & ONLINE RETAILER**

 **Bird Supply**  
of New Hampshire

SHOP ONLINE at [www.birdsupplynh.com](http://www.birdsupplynh.com)  
 \* Great Prices and Personal Service \*  
 \* Breeder & Wholesale Pricing Available \*  
 Mastercard - Visa - Discover - Amex - Paypal

Abba Seed ~ Avico ~ Cede ~ Harrisons ~ Higgins ~ Goldenfeast  
 Kaytee ~ Lafeber ~ L'Avian Plus ~ Nemeth Farms ~ Orlux  
 Pretty Bird ~ Roudybush ~ Versele-Laga ~ Vetafarm Au ~ Zupreem

522 Amherst St. Nashua, NH • 888-319-0136 • 603-882-4737

Shop Online

 **JOS**  
EXOTIC BIRDS, Ltd.

Hand-Fed Babies  
 Cages • Toys • Avian Supplies

7534 Sheridan Rd.  
 Kenosha, WI 53143 262 654 1609  
[www.jos-exoticbirds.com](http://www.jos-exoticbirds.com)

**Looking For The Best Lory Diet?**  
**You Just Found It!**  
**LORY LIFE™**  
**POWDER & NECTAR**

 **AVICO**

Sugarglider Nectar, Universal Insectivore Diet,  
 Gecko Gourmet, Sunbird Nectar, Mynah Pellets,  
 Poop Off™ ~No Work~ Cage Cleaner  
 Finest Cuttlebone and the Best Prices Available  
 Featuring Pellet Diets and Bulk Seed Mixes

From **all** of the **top** Manufacturers  
 KAYTEE • ZUPREEM • GOLD CUP • LEACH • MAZURI  
 Soak & Cook, California Spray Millet, Vitamin Supplements,  
 Hand Feeding, Nest Boxes, Breeder Mixes, Speciality Diets  
 Breeder discounts are available

**CUTTLEBONEPLUS**  
**AVICO™ SPECIALTY DIETS**

810 North Twin Oaks Valley Road, #131, San Marcos, CA 92069  
**Order Desk (800) 747-9878**  
 Dick Schroeder (760) 591-4951 • Fax (760) 591-4556  
[www.cuttleboneplus.com](http://www.cuttleboneplus.com) • Email: [cuttleboneplus@aol.com](mailto:cuttleboneplus@aol.com) Owner: Dick Schroeder, Breeder/Authority on Softbills, Lories & Pet Parrots

 **Graham's Parrot Toy Creations**

Safe and affordable  
 handmade parrot toys  
 for parrots of all sizes!

Also available are parrot  
 pinatas, treats, cages  
 and much much more!

Esther Graham  
 Phone: 717-424-2318  
 Fax: 877-808-9676  
[www.grahamsparrottoycreations.com](http://www.grahamsparrottoycreations.com)

**BIRDTYOYOUTLET**

As breeders you care about your birds!

We provide all types of  
 bird care resources  
 to help keep  
 birds healthy and happy!

Remind new bird owners to

Visit [www.BirdToyOutlet.com](http://www.BirdToyOutlet.com)

Fast Shipping! Great Prices!

House, one of the earliest of what is now a standard sort of exhibit everywhere. As it happened, I did not get to spend much time in here, but White-eared Catbirds and Malay Glossy Starlings, both of which have bred there for years, were memorable. Not long after my visit a Freckled Duck was hatched in this exhibit, and was the first of its species to be parent-raised in Germany. There is a separate hall for toucans and small and medium-sized hornbills. An African White-crested (or Long-tailed) Hornbill and Channel-billed Toucans stand out in my mind. Von der Decken's Hornbills have produced several chicks in recent years. There is also a parrot wing. I was especially pleased to see Illiger's Macaws, which have bred repeatedly, as have two pairs of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos, and Greater Vasa Parrots. Hyacinth and Military Macaws, Galahs, and Citron-crested and Umbrella Cockatoos have also reproduced recently. In a planted aviary in the middle of this hall, a pair of Great Leafbirds were exhibited with Green-naped Rainbow Lorikeets.

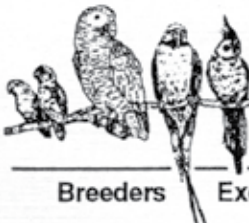
Dr. Reinhard has always been fond of seed-eating birds. As commercial importation of birds to Europe came to an end in 2007, quite a number were added to the collection. I was pleased to see a single pair of Orange-cheeked Waxbills occupying a rather large glass-fronted aviary, alongside displays for Bronze-winged Mannikins, Red-backed Mannikins (*Lonchura bicolor nigriceps*), Five-colored Munias (*Lonchura quincolor*), Gouldian Finches, and Parson Finches kept with Chestnut-breasted Finches. Among the birds in aviaries connected to outdoor flights were Purple Grenadiers, Fischer's Whydahs, the rarely-exhibited Speckle-fronted Weaver (*Sporopipes frontalis*), Red-collared Whydahs (*Euplectes ardens*), the uncommon Lemon-



Philippine Ducks (*Anas luzonica*) in the Vicuña yard at Zoologischer Garten Berlin. Many native species nest or stop through the zoo while migrating.

breasted Canary (*Serinus citrinipectus*), and North American Cardinals. In some terrarium-like small exhibits set in planted areas, were Cuban Melodious Finches, a Black-and-White Seed-eater (*Sporophila luctuosa*), Scaly-crowned Weavers (*Sporopipes squamifrons*), and Golden-breasted Waxbills. Java Sparrows and Pekin Robins were in a glass-fronted aviary of their own, near the indoor walk-through.

Among the plethora of other birds in this building was a Copper Sunbird, several pairs of Bearded Barbets (which have bred), prolific Red-fronted Barbets (*Tricholaema diadematum*), Blue-winged Kookaburras, Goldie's Lorikeets (in a row with the



## MYERS MENAGERIE of BIRDS

Breeders    Exotic Birds • Hand Fed Babies

SEEDS & SUPPLIES REASONABLY PRICED


Bob, Joyce & Rob                      Ramona, CA 92065  
M • W • F 10 am - 4 pm              B: (760) 788-5848  
OR call for appointment            H: (760) 789-3815

## 2 LuvBirds Flock

The Cyber home of  
flock friendly folks

Join us at:  
[2luvbirds@yahoo.com](mailto:2luvbirds@yahoo.com)

Proud supporters of the AFA and NPRPF



**2 LuvBirds**

## The Parrotlet Ranch

Specializing in Rare Species/Subspecies/Color Mutations  
Hand Raised Parrotlets




Sandee and  
Robert Molenda  
P.O. Box 2547  
Santa Cruz, CA 95063  
Phone (831) 688-5560  
Fax (831) 689-9534

VISA & M/C Accepted  
[www.parrotleteranch.com](http://www.parrotleteranch.com)

MAP Certification # 182



Greater Vasa  
Parrots

### FEATHERLUST FARM BIRD STORE

188 Main St.  
Old Saybrook, CT. 06475  
Tel: (860) 388-3297  
Fax: (860) 388-3461  
[www.featherlustfarm.com](http://www.featherlustfarm.com)

finches), Shining Starlings, Scarlet-headed Marsh Birds, an array of Ptilinopus Doves (including the Orange-bellied), Ecuadorian Collared (or Pale-mandibled) Aracaris, and Spotted Mourning Warblers (*Cichladusa guttata*) (actually a small East African relative of Robin-Chats and Shamas, which I had never seen before).

Throughout the grounds of Zoologischer Garten Berlin are a bewildering multitude of bird displays. In the Meerkat exhibit in the Carnivore House, are male Taveta and Jackson's Weavers. Hartlaub's Ducks live inside the grand domed Hippopotamus House, while in a smaller twin to this modernistic buildings are King Penguins, not far from the outdoor exhibit for Humboldt's and South African Penguins. In a large outdoor walkthrough aviary, I saw my first Purple Heron. The walk-through display for shorebirds includes not only the expected flocks of Inca terns and European Avocets, but Common and Arctic Terns, collected in Berlin's State of Brandenburg. The only major bird exhibit to survive WWII is the 1908 Pigeon and Dove house, showcasing many obscure, if beautiful, domestic breeds. A huge recently constructed aviary features a breeding pair of Andean Condors, sharing their exhibit with Puna and Puff-necked Ibises, and various South American Waterfowl.

Birds of prey are concentrated in a series of large aviaries, where one may also see both species of Ground Hornbills. Among the species of Falconiformes are Pondicherry, Palm-nut, Egyptian, White-headed (which have bred here in the past), and Hooded Vultures (which raise chicks on exhibit), Lanner Falcons, American Kestrels, South American Common Caracaras, African Fish Eagles, and Lammergeiers. Ever since Robert Kennedy brought

a Bald Eagle to the zoo in the Cold War days, the American National Bird has always been on display. The current female was hatched in Berlin in 1998, and is named "Monica." Owls are well represented as well. The pair of Great Gray Owls have been very prolific. Ural Owls, which I had never seen before, also have bred repeatedly. There are also Sri Lankan Forest Eagle Owls, which bred in the past, and an African Wood Owl.

Dalmatian and Australian Pelicans breed in one of the many water features. The colony of Great Cormorants near the Primate House was started with several specimens whose descendants are allowed to fly free. There is a very extensive collection of ducks, geese, and swans, with many reared each year. I was especially pleased to see Philippine Ducks in the Vicuna exhibit and African Black Ducks in the outdoor Pygmy Hippo display. In the lake by the restaurant, I was fascinated to see large numbers of "fly-in" European Coots, which, with a much more extensive bare white area above their beaks than their North American relatives, I found attractive. Zoologischer Garten Berlin is an urban oasis, where all sorts of native species choose to nest or stop through while migrating. At least one of the oaks predates Columbus' discovery of America. While I did not see the Marsh Warblers that nest in the reeds outside the Hippo House, I did see and hear one of the five or six Nightingales which hold territories on the grounds each year (Lange, 2007). Hooded Crows were everywhere. Like cormorants, Gray Herons (almost identical to Great Blue Herons) had become rare in many parts of Germany, in the days when fishermen and fish farmers were allowed to shoot them. When a few showed up at the zoo in the 1990's, everyone was delighted. More than fifty pairs now nest on the

**www.FlockStockandBarrel.com**  
*TRJ Enterprises*

**David & Terri Jones**  
*Supplies for Your Pet Bird*

Freehold, NJ 07728  
 Ph: (732) 462-0625  
 Fax: (732) 462-0377  
 Dave@FlockStockandBarrel.com




**K&K Parrots**

*We sell hand-fed babies, Cockatiels to Macaws!*

- Toys • Food
- Cages • Grooming
- Boarding and more!

**Call today!**  
**302-354-4843**

Visit our Website  
**kandkparrots.com**

**Lineolated Parakeet Society**

*The NEW lid on the block*



*Come learn with us all about this new "STAR" of the bird world*

*Visit us at **www.linniesociety.com***



**PARROT FESTIVAL**

**January 22,23,24**  
**www.parrotfestival.org**

Houston, Texas  
 713-557-BIRD (2473)  
 FestivalInfo@parrotfestival.com

- \* Great Speakers
- \* Super Vendors
- \* Texas size Raffle
- \* Live Auction
- \* Silent Auction
- And much more!*



**PARROTS. PARROTS. PARROTS**  
Your Birds Will Thank You for It!

**Shop Our Online Store Today**  
**ParrotsParrotsParrots.com**  
or (214) 797-0742

- ✓ **Top Quality Cages**
- ✓ **Safe Toys and Toy Parts**
- ✓ **Breeder Supplies**
- ✓ **Supplements**
- ✓ **Premium Bird Food**
- ✓ **Air Filters**
- ✓ **Full Spectrum Lighting**
- ✓ **And Much, Much More**

**One Stop Shopping**  
**Great Prices**  
**Weekly Sales**  
**Fast Shipping**  
**Secure Payments**

Voted **BEST PET SHOP** of the East Bay 1989 & 2006  
 Featured on *Evening Magazine*  
 & *Pets Part of the Family*

- Hand-fed, Healthy Birds
- Raised by us in our nursery
- Quality toys & supplies

Including: Harrisons, Hagen,  
Goldenfeast, Birdie Bread

**Feathered Follies™**  
Serving birds since 1993

**925\*299\*9466**

Visit us at: [www.feathered-follies.com](http://www.feathered-follies.com)  
**LAURIE E. BAKER**

1820 Arnold Industrial Way, #N Concord, CA 94520



**AFA Members:**  
**Receive 10% OFF of**  
**our regular website**  
**price on ALL items by**  
**entering the following**  
**Promotion Code:**

**A0712A**

**www.parrotbonanza.com**



**Parrot Bonanza**

**PARROTDISE PERCH**  
**EVERYTHING FOR YOUR PARROT**  
**BUDGIES TO MACAWS...**  
**WE'VE GOT IT ALL!**  
**(888) 243-2194**  
**www.PARROTDISEPERCh.com**



grounds, to a somewhat less enthusiastic reception. A species that is always welcome are the feral Mandarin and Wood Ducks that appear to be descendents of zoo birds from before WWII. It's inspiring that these beautiful animals have survived through some of the most tumultuous periods of history into our present time.

## Tierpark Berlin

THE MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF THE COLD WAR did have some positive effects. America probably got to the Moon a few years earlier than we otherwise might have. As a corollary, science education in the 1950's and '60's was taken far more seriously in U.S. public schools. And Berlin has two zoos.

Between the end of the Soviet Blockade in 1949, and the erection of the Berlin Wall in 1961, a stream of East Germans crossed the border into West Berlin, never to return. According to the late great zoo historian Marvin Jones, when border guards asked these people their business, they often replied that they wanted to visit the zoo. As Marvin told it, this was at least part of the motivation for building a big zoo in East Berlin, so defectors would not have that excuse.

Be that as it may, Tierpark Berlin opened in 1955 (Sgt. Jones, then in the U.S. Army, was its first American visitor). Friedrichsfelde, its 395 acre site (more than four times the size of Zoologischer Garten) was formerly the estate of a titled family. From its beginnings it was intended to serve as a

reflection of the magnificence of the East German "Worker's Paradise." Tierpark, which translates as Animal Park, was meant to be no mere zoo. In 1959, construction began on "The Largest Animal House in the World," the Alfred-Brehm-Haus, which took almost four years to complete. While, in the 1950's, the focus was on building the mammal collection, the bird collection was not ignored. According to the International Zoo Yearbook, at the end of 1959, the Tierpark bird collection stood at 277 species and subspecies. At the end of 1964, there were 408 taxa. And, quite amazingly, to the present time, it has not diverged far from this figure! From the IZY figures I have available, through 1989, the collection was never larger than 453 taxa, or less than 370. At present, there are around 400 taxa. Part of this stability is due to the fact that only three people have directed this collection, and until the 1990's, there was only one Curator of Birds. From 1954, until his death in 1991, Dr. Heinrich Dathe was in charge. In 1991, Dr. Bernhard Blaszkiewicz, formerly a Mammal Curator at Zoologischer Garten became Director. For five months in 1991, the Acting Director was Dr. Wolfgang Grummt, who had served as Curator of Birds and Assistant Director since 1955. His current title is Assistant Director Emeritus, and he also serves as an Honorary Vice President at Loro Parque. During Dr. Grummt's years as Curator, Tierpark was renowned for sustained breedings of a wide

array of birds, some of which are reviewed in a paper he presented at the Third Delacour Symposium on Breeding Birds in Captivity, in Los Angeles (Grummt, 1987). Dr. Grummt will be fondly remembered by many aviculturists as about the only delegate from "The Communist Bloc" who regularly attended international zoo and avicultural conferences, and was always cordial in discussing his work. I was delighted to see him on this 2008 visit.

Following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and the Reunification of Germany in 1990, there was some brief discussion as to what to do with Tierpark, but it was quickly decided that the policy would be "One City, Two Zoos." Now that Dr. Blaszkiewicz has assumed the directorship of both of them in 2007, the future progress of these magnificent collections should be most interesting to observe. A recognized zoo historian, Dr. Blaszkiewicz (2005) authored a nicely illustrated review of Tierpark's first half century, with an emphasis on avicultural achievements. He has also written several editions of an amazingly detailed zoo guidebook, which I found necessary for sorting out an overload of impressions from two days of exploring (including several hours in his enthusiastic and erudite company).

In contrast to the magnificent reconstructions of ornately decorated gates, destroyed in WWII, which now serve as the entrances to Zoologischer Garten Berlin, Tierpark's socialist roots are



A Western Siberian Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo sibericus*), the world's largest owl, sleeps at Tierpark Berlin.

reflected in a rather unassuming modernist entrance, which belies the grandness of what one finds there. Throughout the hundreds of acres, birds are everywhere. Natalie told me she would not have imagined that anyone would exhibit so many kinds of owls. Near the children's zoo (with its cheerful exhibits of Canaries, Budgies, Zebra Finches, and Cockatiels) were the granite-colored Siberian subspecies of the Great Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo sibericus*) as well the tawny Turkomen subspecies (*B. bubo omisus*), which has been regularly produced at Tierpark since 1970. On the other side of the park, near displays of exotic cattle, were the pale Bengal Eagle Owl (*B. bubo bengalensis*) and three sorts of African Eagle Owls: the Vermiculated

(*B. cinerascens*), the Spotted (which reminded me very much of a Great Horned Owl), and the Kenyan subspecies of the Cape Eagle Owl (*B. capensis mackenderi*), which has bred repeatedly. Nearby were European Little Owls, and two South American relatives of the Barred Owl, neither of which I had seen before: the Chaco Owl (*Strix chacoensis*), whose chicks I admired off exhibit, and the near-threatened Rusty-barred Owl (*S. hylophila*), which bred for the first time in captivity at Tierpark, in 1972.

A breeding pair of their Eurasian relative, the Ural Owl (*S. uralensis*) was exhibited in the Mountain Animal Habitat, built from rubble from WWII. Nearby were Snowy Owls. Another distance across

the park, I was surprised to find California Screech Owls, near the Wild Boar.

Falconiform birds of prey are similarly spread everywhere. On the "Mountain" was a wonderful pair of Lammmergeiers, raising in clear public view, a chick destined for an Austrian release program. Nearby were Steller's Sea Eagles, for which Tierpark has long been famous. In the area where the African eagle owls are exhibited is a pair of magnificent Martial Eagles, which bred for the first time in captivity at Tierpark, in 2003. Their neighbors include Andean and Falkland Island Caracaras (which have bred for years), Harpy and Imperial Eagles, and North American Ferruginous Hawks (called "King Buzzards" in German). Near the main entrance, by the beautiful yards for Wisent and Plains Bison, is an aviary for a reliable breeding pair of Golden Eagles. Secretary Birds have a spacious aviary near the camels. And, of course, there is the famous aviary, built in 1965, along a wing of the Alfred-Brehm-Haus, 60 meters long, 27 meters wide and nine meters high (Dathe, 1967). We viewed this in the company of Dr. Martin Kaiser, Tierpark's Curator of Birds. European, Himalayan, and breeding Rueppel's Griffon Vultures could be compared and contrasted, along with their smaller relative, the African White-backed Vulture. Despite having all sorts of places to nest, a Cinereous-Vulture steadfastly chooses a spot on the ground, a few feet from an admiring public.



Secretary Birds (*Sagittarius serpentarius*) have a spacious area near the camels at Tierpark Berlin.



The unique Gull's Aviary at Tierpark Berlin attracts visitors with, among other inhabitants, Chinese Mergansers.

Hooded Vultures also breed here regularly. A pair of North American Turkey Vultures hatched at the Calgary Zoo in 1959, produced chicks in 2008, which we admired in an off-exhibit rearing facility. Compact Bateleurs offer a contrast to all these vultures. In a nearby aviary, a pair of Lesser Yellow-headed Turkey Vultures hatched chicks for the first time in Europe in 2004.

The parrot collection is similarly distributed all over the zoo. Dr. Blaszkiewicz was very pleased to show us some Madagascar Lovebirds, still in quarantine, that were to join Lesser Vasa Parrots in one of a complex of aviaries, near the pheasants, which also included Bodinus' Amazons (*Amazona festiva bodini*), Yellow-bibbed Lorries (hatched at the Cottbus Zoo), and Green-winged Macaws. Blue-headed Macaws and Jamaican Yellow-billed Amazons (from the same confiscation from which Wuppertal received Black-billed Amazons) occupied aviaries on the terrace of one of the zoo cafes, while Vosmer's

Eclectus (which have hatched dozens of chicks at Tierpark since 1965) are on the terrace on the other one. Tierpark has been breeding macaws for more than thirty years, beginning in 1974 with Buffon's and Military Macaws, which were kept in the same aviary. The Buffon's nested in a stump, the Militarys on the ground, and both raised their own chicks (Grummt, 1987). It was the world first captive breeding for Buffon's. Scarlet and Red-fronted Macaws commenced breeding in 1984, and the first Blue-throated (Candide) Macaw hatched in 2000. Hyacinth and Blue-and-Gold Macaws have also been reared. Slender-billed Cockatoos commenced breeding in 2003.

In contrast to the birds of prey and parrots, Tierpark's pheasants are concentrated in a series of aviaries in the southwest corner of the zoo. It has been a long time since I have seen such a collection of pheasants on public exhibit. I think I saw at least eighteen taxa. It was wonderful seeing series of closely related birds,

something that has gone out of fashion in lots of places. There were Cabot's Satyr, and Temminck's Tragopans, Blue, Brown and Tibetan White Eared Pheasants, and the genus *Syrnium* was represented by Elliott's, Reeve's and Ijima's Copper Pheasants. Cabot's Tragopans have bred at Tierpark since 2000. Tierpark's first White-eared Pheasants came from China, through the dealer Van den Brink, in the same shipment as the famous Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust birds, and commenced breeding in 1968. It has been a long time since I'd seen either Cheer Pheasants or Koklass.

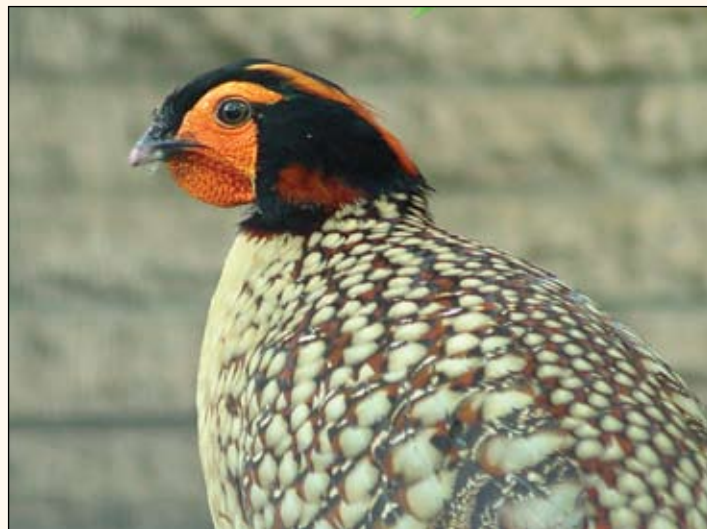
Tierpark was the first German zoo to import Vo Quy's Pheasant, in 1999, nine years after the captive breeding program was started at Hanoi. It was of course interesting to see these birds and Edward's Pheasants, a few steps from each other. Impeyan Monals, Green Peafowl and Amherst Pheasants presented colorful contrasts. Although Bianchi's Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus bianchii*), the Tajikistan

relative of the Ring-necked Pheasant has been imported into the U.S. for experimental release, I had never seen live specimens before. There were also Philby's Partridges (Black-faced relatives of Chukars) as well as Himalayan Snow Partridges.

Along with all the pheasants, Tierpark's Pheasantry features a remarkable collection of Chinese passerine birds. Dr. Martin Kaiser has conducted research on the systematics of Tibetan passerines, and, Dr. Reinhard informed me, has taken a particular interest in the pheasantry birds. There were three species of thrushes all new to me: the Siberian (*Zoothera siberica*), the Gray-backed (*Turdus hortulorum*), and the Black-breasted (*Turdus dissimilis*). The collection of Garrulax laughing thrushes included Elliott's, Ocellated, White-crested, both Greater and Lesser Necklaced, and the Hwamei. I had never before seen the Chinese Babax (*Babax lanceolatus*), a big ground-frequenting babbler, streaked with earth tones.



The European zoo population of Brazilian Tanagers (*Ramphocelus bresilius*) is thriving, with more than 60 specimens. This male is at Tierpark Berlin.



Found only in China, Cabot's Tragopan (*Tragopan caboti*) was the most common tragopan in captivity before the First World War.

The beautiful Omei Shan Liocichla (*Liocichla omeiensis*) is the subject of a European zoo conservation project. Only described to science in 1926, it was unknown in aviculture until the late 1980's. There was much concern that commercial trapping would eliminate it from its small range in Sichuan and Yunan. The Chinese Government's ban on wild bird imports in 2000 appears to have stabilized its situation. There are now more than forty, distributed among at least ten collections in the UK and Continental Europe, and they continue to breed. Chinese Greenfinches (*Carduelis sinica*), Desert Bullfinches (*Rhodospiza obsoleta*) and Red-billed Blue Magpies are displayed here as well.

There are two other concentrations of passerines at Tierpark. The front section of a walk-through conservatory, otherwise devoted to Crocodilians, large lizards, and turtles, features birds of South America. Scarlet-headed Marshbirds and Pompadour Cotingas are two of the birds that can be

found there. Hummingbirds were formerly kept here. From 1988 through 1996, the International Zoo Yearbook documents that 47 Sparkling (Gould's) Violet-ears hatched at Tierpark, of which eighteen were reared. It also indicates that an at least partial second generation hatching occurred in 1992.

Tierpark Berlin was the first zoo in Europe to hatch a hummingbird, in 1970, though it did not survive, and the IZY indicates no further reproductive activity from the parents.

Again, this was a Sparkling Violet-ear. This breeding took place in the Alfred Brehm House, which has always housed an impressive indoor bird collection, along with an encyclopedic collection of large and small cats, and some remarkable small mammals. Interspersed with enormous indoor moated displays and other cat exhibits are a series of glass-fronted aviaries with an overall marvelous collection of softbills. I was most surprised to see a couple of Tropical Kingbirds (*Tyrannus*


*mellancholicus*), which, being found in Arizona and South Texas, are a U.S. native but also occur down to Argentina. Despite this huge range, I had never before seen captive specimens of this bird, which resemble a large Western Kingbird. Another new species for me was the Chestnut-capped Babbler (*Timilia pileata*). From what I understand, this was a rather common species in the bird trade forty years ago, but despite a wide tropical Asian range, has been rarely imported since commercial bird exports from India ceased. Other species in these displays included Brazilian Scarlet Tanagers, Cuban Melodious Finches, Painted Finches, Grand Niltavas, Green-headed Bue-winged Leafbirds, (breeding) Roadrunners, and Red-and-Yellow Barbets.

The center of this building is walk-through conservatory. The most startling inhabitants were Great Indian Flying Foxes, flying around in broad daylight. These giant bats have been here since the

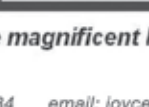
building opened, the first display of this kind, much copied since then. Plans were in place to completely remodel this exhibit, which would entail the removal of its inhabitants. In the brief time we were in it, the birds which formed a particular impression were a number of Crested Oropendolas, Violet Plantain-eaters, Blue Crowned Pigeons, and Pink-eared and Freckled Ducks.

There is a huge waterfowl collection in many beautiful outdoor exhibits. It had been a while since I had seen Northern Spur-winged Geese, exhibited near the South African Ostriches and the giraffes. Chinese Mergansers live in the gull's aviary. All the swans, except for the Jankowski's (of which I saw at least two pairs in Ludger Brehmer's collection) are kept at Tierpark. Dr. Blaszkiewicz pointed out a juvenile Whooper and juvenile Bewick's (rarely hatched in public zoos), in the same exhibit. In one of a series of impressive off exhibit indoor holding facilities, Dr. Kaiser showed us a pair of Coscorobas

**Joyce Howland**  
www.thebirdlady.com



828-349-1337 - phone



828-349-1480 - fax


**Breeder of the magnificent Hyacinth Macaw**

Franklin, NC 28734    email: joyce@thebirdlady.com



To promote the survival  
and humane treatment of  
Quaker Parakeets  
in all environments and habitats.

Join us: <http://www.qp-society.com>



Twin Beaks Aviary's

# Herb Salad®

'Enable your bird's ability to self-medicate'

Member of  
AFA  
NPS  
AOA

P.O. BOX 365  
GRATIOT, WI 53541  
608.868.1311 or 573-573-2999    [www.twinbeaksaviary.com](http://www.twinbeaksaviary.com)    [sales@twinbeaksaviary.com](mailto:sales@twinbeaksaviary.com)



**BITE ME  
BIRD TOYS**

Quality Handmade Toys  
For Birds

**Tony & Edie Riojas**  
13521 Garfield  
Redford, MI 48239  
313.535.3831  
[bitemetoys@hotmail.com](mailto:bitemetoys@hotmail.com)

[www.bitemebirdtoys.com](http://www.bitemebirdtoys.com)




[www.bitemebirdtoys.com](http://www.bitemebirdtoys.com)

on eggs, surrounded by other birds, such as Moluccan Radjah and Australian Shelducks, and Australian Black Ducks. Dr. Blaszkiewitz was particularly pleased to have just received a pair of the remarkable dimorphic Kelp Geese from Ludger Brehmer, in exchange for a number of Pelicans.

Pelicans have a proud history at Tierpark, commencing in 1961, when an Old World White Pelican was hatched (Blaszkiewitz, 2005). Through 1982, 23 pelicans of four species had hatched. (Grummt, 1983). By 1992, when the world first breeding of the Australian Pelican took place, all recognized full species of pelican had bred there (Blaszkiewitz, 2005). The first second generation Old World Whites hatched in 1970 (the first hatching from a captive-bred pelican anywhere) (Grummt, 1983). Third generation birds are breeding now. In warm weather, Tierpark's pelicans are exhibited near Schloss Friedrichsfeld, the beautifully restored palace of the old estate, and often wander up to the ornate steps of this building, as if they were peacocks.

Dr. Kaiser told me only two of the world's crane species are absent from Tierpark: The Whooping Crane and the Hooded Crane. For me, the most memorable species were the Siberian Whites, a pair bugling in duet as we approached Tierpark's first breeding of this crane was in 2001. Most crane species have bred there, including North America's Sandhill, in 2005. There is also a wonderful series of storks, ibises and herons. Between Tierpark and Zoologischer Garten, I would not be surprised if the collective holdings of herons at Berlin are the finest in the world. Two



**Drumming  
Palm  
Cockatoo  
Fine Art  
Print**

This magnificent signed and numbered limited edition print by Steve Hein arrives in an artful sleeve with information about the species and artist. With your donation of \$75, you can add this beautiful print to your collection... a must for any Palm Cockatoo enthusiast. Proceeds benefit in-situ and ex-situ research on this unique and rare species.

**Palm Cockatoo Species  
Survival Plan**

**Farm Zoological Park**  
c/o Amanda Whitaker  
999 Anastasia Blvd. • St. Augustine, FL 32080  
904-824-3337

species I had not seen before were Javan Pond Herons (which are now also bred at Miami Metrozoo) and Australian White-faced Herons.

A unique exhibit is a domed aviary for gulls of the world. While gulls have been kept in captivity for long time, they are not usually the first birds that come to mind when zoo animals are considered. Constructed over a natural rock formation, Tierpark's gull exhibit was opened in 1984. From 1985 through 1996 (the last year breedings were listed by the International Zoo Yearbook), the IZY documents that 72 African Gray-headed Gulls (*Larus cirrhocephalus poicephalus*), 29 Black-tailed Gulls (*L. crassirostris*), 13 Mediterranean Gulls (*L. melanocephalus*), nine Laughing Gulls, and two Black-headed Gulls hatched here. Except for the native German Black-heads, all these species continue to live and breed here, and Gray Gulls (*L. modestus*) have reproduced here since then.

Dr. Kaiser told me the founding stock of the Black-tails (which in German, are "Japan Gulls") came from the zoo in Pyongyang, North Korea. Dr. Reinhard had earlier informed me that the still prolific colony of Gray-headed Gulls are entirely descended from a colony at London Zoo, where over a hundred were hatched from 1975 into the 1990's (Lindholm, 2007). London's birds ceased breeding some years ago. In 2007 eleven of Tierpark's Gray-heads were sent to Walsrode, where they began to nest almost immediately (Brusland Jensen, 2007). In these days when importation of birds to Germany and the other European Union countries has been severely curtailed, it is most encouraging to see this sort of sustained aviculture, and one can only hope these sorts of activities will sustain the remarkable zoo bird collections that exist there today.

## Acknowledgements

My wife Natalie and I most grateful for the courtesy extended to us as zoo professionals, of the comfortable and convenient guest room at Zoologischer Garten Berlin, a European tradition that has yet to catch on with most American zoos.

## Zoologischer Garten Berlin

Our old friend Dr. Rudolf Reinhard, Curator of Birds (and responsible for much of the mammal collection) made sure that we thoroughly enjoyed our six days in Berlin, and shared with us insights that only more than 30 years at one collection could provide. Dr. Bernhard Blaszkiewitz, Director of both Berlin zoos, also showed me things, as only he could, at Zoologischer Garten. Head Keeper of birds Thomas Lenzner was enthusiastic in introducing us to Kiwis.

## Tierpark Berlin

I don't think I have met any Zoo Director who enjoys his job as much as Dr. Blaszkiewitz. Spending a good portion of a day at Tierpark in his company was a joy. On another day, we toured other sections of the park with Dr. Martin Kaiser, Curator of



Tierpark's famous Bird of Prey Aviary opened in 1965.

Birds, whose many years with this collection gave us an excellent perspective. It was a pleasure to meet again with Dr. Wolfgang Grummt, Assistant Director Emeritus.

Blaszkiewitz, B. (2005) 50 Jahre Tierpark Berlin-Friedrichsfelde. H. Heenemann GmbH & Co.

Dathe, H. (1967) Bird of prey aviary at East Berlin Zoo. International Zoo Yearbook 7:69-70.

Fraedrich H. (2002) Guide-book to the Berlin Zoological Garden and its Aquarium, second international edition Zoologischer Garten Berlin.

Grummt, W. (1983) Breeding pelicans at Tierpark Berlin. . Proceedings—Jean Delacour/IFCB Symposium on breeding birds in captivity. 1983:297-302..

\_\_\_\_\_. (1987) Breeding Lesser Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*) and other rare and interesting breeding successes at Tierpark Berlin. Proceedings—Jean Delacour/IFCB Symposium on breeding birds in captivity. 1987:20-25.

Kloes H.-G. (1963) New Bird House at West Berlin Zoo, International Zoo Yearbook 4:153-155.

\_\_\_\_\_. (1969) Von der menagerie zu tierparadies—125 Jahre Zoo Berlin. Haude & Spener.

Lange, J. (2007) The Guide to the Berlin Zoo and its Aquarium, 50th Edition. Zoologischer Garten Berlin.

Lindholm, J.H (2007) Gulls (Larinae) IN Holland, G. (2007) Encyclopedia of Aviculture. Hancock House: 503-509.



Birds R US™

# AUSTRALIA

## MIKE FIDLER'S COMPLETE SOFT FOOD FOR HIGH METABOLISM BIRDS

*including Finches, Budgies, Canaries, Parakeets & Small Parrots*



### CONTAINS:

1. A high protein value consisting of all essential amino acids allowing for the synthesis of over 600 proteins, minimising or eliminating the need for live food in some species.
2. All essential vitamins with emphasis on Vitamin E for fertility and Vitamin D3 for the assimilation of calcium.
3. All essential minerals including trace minerals required for good health & normal egg production.
4. All essential carotenoids required to stimulate breeding, maintain the endocrine system and enhance feather colour.
5. Free radicals & oxidants.

The research grade soft food fed to over 2000 captive Finches at the Save the Gouldian Fund.

### DVD:

AT HOME WITH  
MIKE FIDLER



Fabulous Finch®

877-346-2433

[www.fabulousfinch.com](http://www.fabulousfinch.com)

Save the  
Gouldian  
Fund



product photo by  
[www.studiozavisa.com](http://www.studiozavisa.com)

NOW AVAILABLE IN THE USA AT [WWW.FABULOUSFINCH.COM](http://WWW.FABULOUSFINCH.COM)

Mike Fidler  
has no financial  
interest in Birds R US.  
Donations are made  
to the Save the Gouldian  
Fund as a thank you for Mike's  
assistance in the design &  
formulation of these products.