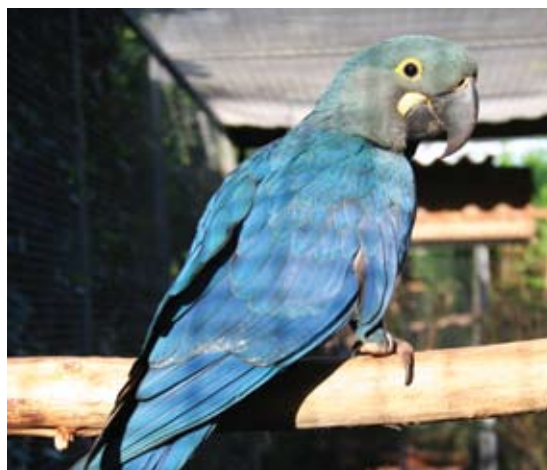


LORO PARQUE, TENERIFE by Dr. Matthias Reinschmidt, Curator, Loro Parque Tenerife

September 2007

We announce a great breeding success with our Plum-crowned Parrots (*Pionus tumultuosus*). Two chicks of this rarely kept parrot species are being raised at the moment in the Baby Station of Loro Parque. This parrot species, with origin of the nominate race in Bolivia to central Peru, doesn't count as an endangered bird species. However, forest clearance in the Andes can be the main cause of a decline and this is why it is important to establish a corresponding safety net and genetic reserve in captivity.



Young Lear's Macaw in its aviary

This year, our Slender-billed Conures (*Enicognathus leptorhynchus*) haven't showed the same success as in the last years. Only one female of the group intended for breeding laid eggs, and only one of the three eggs was a success. This chick is now growing fine with its parents.

After a longer breeding pause, we are currently raising two Green Conures (*Aratinga holochlora*). The parents are undertaking their breeding and rearing activities well, so that help has not been necessary.



Young Lear's Macaw in its aviary together with its foster parents, a pair of Green-winged Macaws

Naturally our three Lear's Macaws (*Anodorhynchus leari*) are giving us very much pleasure. All three of them are growing well,

and in the middle of August the first young fledged, which was being raised by its foster parents, a pair of Green-winged Macaws (*Ara chloroptera*). Now the youngster is flying around in its aviary in an oriented way and shows the typical natural fear which parent-reared chicks exhibit. Again and again the "blue" young bird is seeking protection with its parents, which are taking care of it perfectly, although it looks totally different from them, not least that its size is notably smaller than its foster parents. Also the other chicks are developing well, where one is being raised by a further pair of Green-winged Macaws and the other by its own parents. Now, they both have the first blue feathers. However, they still need some more weeks until they will take their first flight out into the aviaries.

During the first week of September, a team from the German television channel VOX came again to Loro Parque to take footage for the series "Menschen, Tiere, Doktoren" (People, Animals, Doctors). In this daily broadcast series, Loro Parque is a regular subject. High audience rating induced the TV channel to continue this series until at least mid-2008. Until now there have been over 60 broadcastings recorded in Loro Parque for this more than one year-old German series. The biologists and veterinarians of Loro Parque are pleased to introduce



German TV-channel film team together with Loro Parque curator Dr. Matthias Reinschmidt

the audience to the world behind the scenes, and to report on their daily work with the animals. These programmes are naturally focusing on the parrots, the daily work with them in the Baby-Station and the clinic, as well as the monitoring and the peek into the breeding centre of Loro Parque Fundación, normally not open to the public. In this way the spectator is able to see a Spix's or a Lear's Macaw directly, but also useful tricks for their own parrot collection and breeding.

October 2007

Now the second youngster of the three young Lear's Macaws (*Anodorhynchus leari*) has also fledged. All three of them are prospering well. While two of them have been raised by the

foster parents, a pair of Green-winged Macaw (*Ara chloroptera*), the third of the youngsters is still being cared for by its own parents in the nesting cavity. The first youngster is already eating by itself, however still begging from his foster parents for an extra portion of food. The second youngster, which fledged some days ago, is flying around but still dependent on the care and the provisioning of its foster parents. Despite of the different plumage colour of the young Lear's Macaws, the Green-winged Macaws accept their youngsters without any hesitation. Until now, the third youngster didn't show at the entrance to the box. However, we are expecting him to fledge during the next few days, leaving the nesting cavity for the first time.



Two Scarlet Macaws (*Ara macao*) and two Blue-throated Macaws (*Ara glaucogularis*) in their breeding bins in the Baby-station of Loro Parque

After a breeding pause of several years, this year the breeding of a Lesser Vasa Parrot (*Coracopsis nigra*) succeeded. These parrots, which are bred very rarely in captivity, have raised their single youngster by themselves. Now he has fledged and is very difficult to distinguish from the parents. Especially striking was the potent noise during the rearing period. Over and over again a kind of strong "singing" by the adults could be heard; the tones not being the usual parrot vocalization, but rather melodic in their sequence.

Apart from the above, the breeding period has waned and there are only some latecomers breeding at present. Thus there are currently growing, among others, three young Chestnut-fronted Macaws (*Ara severa*), some Scarlet Macaws (*Ara macao*) and Blue and Yellow Macaws (*Ara ararauna*) as well as numerous Blue-throated Macaws (*Ara glaucogularis*).

That the Loro Parque Fundación has dedicated itself to share new and little-known knowledge about parrots is not only proven by the numerous publications of its scientific staff every year in several professional journals, books and congresses, but also directly on site

with the training of students and trainees. So far a group of 26 students of the Justus-Liebig-University of Giessen (Germany) spent two weeks as invited guests at Loro Parque.

The prospective veterinarians have been trained during several presentations and discourses held by the biologists and veterinarians in different fields of the zoo biology as well as veterinary medicine. Apart from the hours of theory, the practical part didn't come out too short as the students got the opportunity to participate directly in the separate departments such as the parrot breeding centre and baby-station, the clinic, penguin house, dolphinarium and aquarium. For more than 20 years now, this collaboration has existed between the University of Giessen, always led by Prof. Dr. E. Kaleta, and Loro Parque.

December 2007

This has been a symbolic month of the 35th anniversary of Loro Parque. On the 17th of December 1972 Loro Parque opened its gates for the first time. In those days it only had an area of 13,000 m², and only showed parrots. From the original purely parrot park, today's Loro Parque with its 135,000 m², is one of Europe's leading zoos and a principal magnet for tourism in the Canary Islands, now having received 34 million visitors.



Entrance to the new breeding centre for Spix's Macaws of Loro Parque Fundación

The figurehead of Loro Parque is still the largest and most diverse parrot collection that has ever existed worldwide, with its 3,500 parrots of 350 species and subspecies. However, other zoological highlights have joined them, such as the world's biggest penguin house, Europe's biggest group of gorilla males, an aquarium with a shark tunnel, a dolphinarium, a sea lion show, as well as our youngest attraction, Orca Ocean. For the latter, four orcas born in Seaworld USA have been transferred to the installations in Loro Parque, which provide 3,000 seats for a spectacular show where

the orcas astonish the spectators with their intelligence and power.

A speciality of Loro Parque is certainly, besides the diversity of species, the quality and the infrastructure, as well as the commitment to the conservation of the environment, every department and every detail in the park being developed in harmony with nature. This is the reason why many of the installations of Loro Parque count amongst the best concerning quality, technological innovation or professionalism. Loro Parque has been awarded several times with diverse national and international prizes. Amongst these are the Award of Excellence from the British tour operator Thomson, the "Premio al turismo" from the Chamber of Commerce of Tenerife, as well as the acclaimed "Internationale Umwelt Preis" (International Environmental Prize) from "World of TUI". Additionally, the Ministry of Commerce and Tourism of Spain honoured Loro Parque for its "tourist earnings" with a gold medal, and as only Canarian enterprise for its outstanding business performance with the renowned "Prince Felipe Prize".

Loro Parque also offers an ample botanical experience, and unique attractions and impressive architecture again and again enthuse the visitors. But the most important task of Loro Parque is in familiarizing the visitors with animals, the environment and their habitat. Loro Parque is like a window to nature; a message to contribute to conservation and the beauty of our planet.

Meanwhile, the new breeding centre for the Spix's Macaws (*Cyanopsitta spixii*) located on the grounds of the Loro Parque Fundación has now been put into operation. Four huge aviaries for the keeping and breeding of Spix's Macaws are available. The installation will be accessible by the keepers only through a system for a change of cloths and disinfection before entering the installation. The aviaries are covered with a closed-mesh black net in order to avoid any penetration from outside by the likes of wild pigeons or birds of prey. The trees and bushes planted all around the aviaries offer a diversified and natural-like environment for the macaws. The centre is provided inside and out with video cameras which function, apart from the security of the birds, to gain an insight into the behaviour of the birds. With this new breeding centre, Loro Parque Fundación is creating better conditions for breeding and maintaining the Spix's Macaws, in order to make a further important contribution to the conservation of this parrot species extinct in the wild.

The reliable breeding pair of Palm Cockatoos

(*Probosciger aterrimus*) normally opens the breeding season at the beginning of the year, but this time they already started breeding at the end of November, most probably because of the lasting beautiful autumn in Tenerife.



Aviaries for the Spix's Macaws in the new breeding centre of Loro Parque Fundación

Only one egg is produced in each clutch, and for security reasons, after four days the egg was taken out and put into an incubator for artificial incubation. Several weeks later, (between four and six) the female normally proceeds to lay a second clutch. The egg in the incubator was revealed on examination as fertile, and is developing perfectly.

From the 31st of December 2007 to the 10th of January 2008 at 5 pm every workday, ten new programme about Loro Parque will be shown in the series "People, Animals and Doctors" on the German TV channel VOX. This is the unique chance for the spectators to gain an insight into the daily work of the biologists and veterinarians with the animals. To date, over 60 programmes of the successful series of Loro Parque and Loro Parque Fundación have already been produced, and as the series is continuing until at least the middle of the year 2008, at least further 20 series from the Loro Parque are planned.



Breeding female Palm Cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*)

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