On August 17 and 18 Loro Parque in Tenerife hosted a very important meeting. The subject was the preservation through captive breeding of a highly endangered parrot, Spix's macaw (Cyanopsitta spixii). The Parque has the largest collection of parrots open to the public in the world, totalling 1300 birds of over 200 species. These include a pair of Spix’s macaws.

The country of origin of this parrot is Brazil where only three are known to survive in the wild. Eleven exist in captivity within Brazil and only ten outside Brazil. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together owners, or representatives of owners, of these birds, also officials of two international conservation organizations. After a day of discussion a document was drawn up setting out recommendations to aid the survival of Spix’s macaw through a captive breeding program.

It was agreed that young bred in captivity would not be sold but would be retained by the breeder or loaned to another owner of the species for breeding purposes.

In this striking macaw, whose plumage is entirely blue, male and female are alike externally.

It is obviously important that the gender of all the Spix’s macaws in captivity is known so that true pairs can be formed. Wolfgang Kiesling, the owner of Loro Parque, offered to send his veterinarian, Johanna Storm, to Brazil, to sex the birds in captivity there. In Brazil, where only three are known, nearly 200 species with very small captive populations. He represented the Captive Breeding Survival Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Both these organizations will approach the Brazilian Government, as a result of the meeting, to ask for its co-operation. The owners of Spix’s macaws will be asked to give their signature of agreement to the document that was drawn up and thus the consortium will be formed which will be essential for the success of the captive breeding program for Spix’s macaw.

Dr. Seal stated that he was extremely pleased to have been present at this meeting which he hopes will serve as a model for other meetings where highly endangered species are in the hands of private aviculturists as well as zoos and bird parks. That both groups should work together is extremely important.

Another outcome of the meeting is that a studbook is to be kept for this macaw, that is, details of all the specimens held in captivity should be registered with the keeper of the studbook.

Rosemary Low, curator at Loro Parque, has applied to keep the studbook.
A HONEY OF A TREAT

HAGEN HONEY STICKS®

THE COMPLETE LINE OF HONEY STICKS® FOR PARAKEETS, COCKTAILS, PARROTS, CANARIES, AND FINCHES ARE AMERICA'S NO. 1 BIRD TREAT.

ALL HAGEN HONEY STICKS® COMBINE NATURAL NUTRITIOUSLY WHOLESOME INGREDIENTS MOLDED INTO A STICK USING BEE HONEY. EACH INDIVIDUAL STICK CONTAINS ONLY THE FINEST SELECTED INGREDIENTS SUITED TO THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THESE BIRDS AND RELATED SPECIES.

HAGEN HONEY STICKS® ARE MOLDED INTO A STRONG CRISPY HARD STICK THAT ENCOURAGE YOUR BIRD TO DILIGENTLY WORK FOR ITS FOOD. THIS IS THE SAME FEEDING METHOD FOUND IN NATURE, AND PROVIDES THE ADDED BENEFIT OF EXERCISE AND ACTIVITY FOR YOUR PET.

MUCH MORE THAN A TREAT