

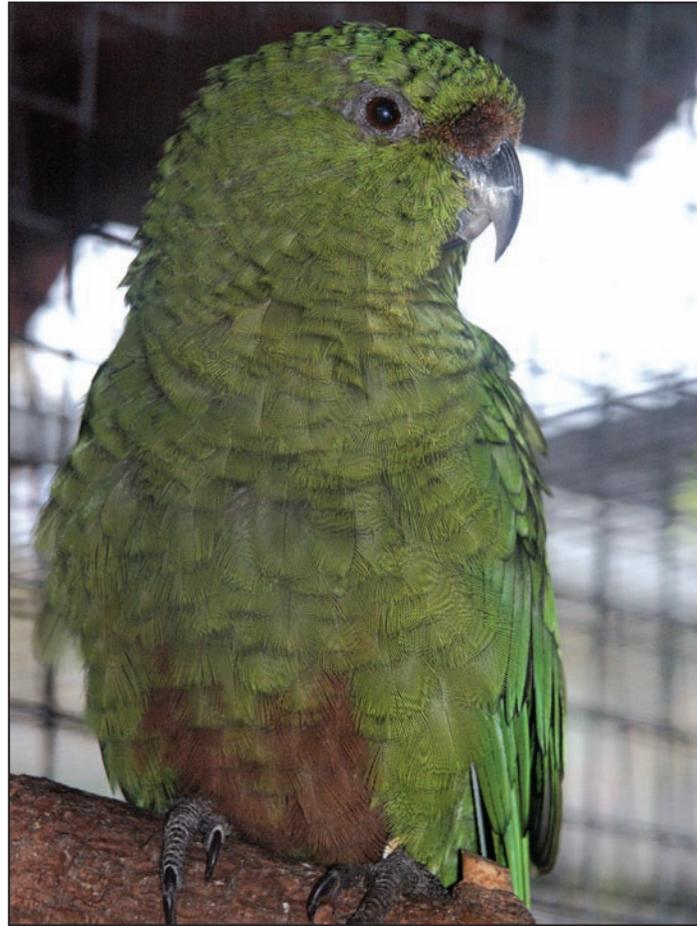
Loro Parque, Tenerife

July 2008

The little Lear's Macaw (*Anodorhynchus leari*) which is being hand-reared is still developing very well, and is ready to leave the nest. The breeding pair had one more clutch, and now the next chick has hatched out. Because the parents appear to frequently break their eggs, they were given an infertile egg laid by a Blue-and-yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*). A Blue-throated Macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*) hatchling with the same weight of 21g was put into the Lear's Macaw empty eggshell and placed the nest of the Lear's Macaws. At the same time the infertile egg of the *Ara ararauna* was removed from the nest. After 4 days, with the weight at 55g the foster chick was changed for the Lear's Macaw chick. This shows once again that the Lear's Macaws are best for the rearing.

Furthermore another pair of the Lear's Macaw started breeding, and two eggs have already hatched in the nest of the Green-winged Macaw (*Ara chloroptera*) adoptive parents. One chick is still being reared by its adoptive parents, and the other is being reared by hand.

However, we have not yet finished breeding for this year. If we have luck we will get two more chicks, because the parents are already occupied with their next two eggs. This time we leave the eggs in the nest with their parents, and hope to



Adult Austral Conure (*Enicognathus ferrugineus*)

see these as real parents, too.

After a break of many years we were able to stimulate our Austral Parakeets (*Enicognathus ferrugineus*) to breed again. After several unsuccessful changes of aviaries for pairing, in spring we put the birds into a communal aviary, with one additional male Austral Parakeet. From the outset, three birds formed their own group and distanced themselves constantly from the other birds there, from the pair of Eclectus Parrots (*Eclectus roratus vosmaeri*) and from Red-vented Cockatoos (*Cacatua haematuropygia*). Suddenly one pair of the Austral Parakeets showed interest in nesting, and the third bird had to

distance itself from them. The aviary, with its size of 10m x 10m and height of 3.5m offers enough space for this. Three eggs were laid in the nest, two of them fertile. To avoid any risk, one of the fertile eggs was put into the incubator. Now the chick has hatched and it is still growing well in the baby station. From the other fertile egg the hatched chick is being reared by its parents in the communal aviary.

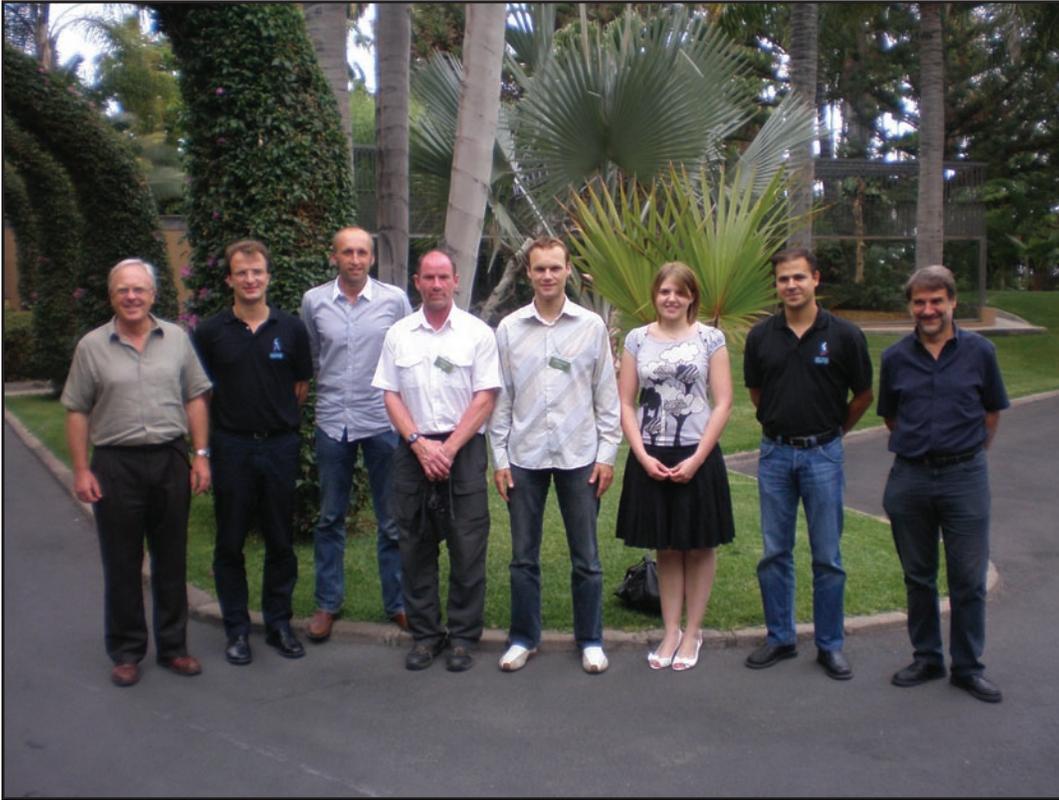
On three days in June, the EAZA Parrot Meeting took place, hosted by Loro Parque Fundación. Eight international parrot specialists from the association for all scientific-based European zoos came together to palm a common

future strategy on the holding of parrots in all zoos of the European region.

Loro Parque Fundación is grateful time and again for all donations given to protect endangered parrots. Mrs Ruth Kühbänder, the public illustrator of the national zoological collection in Munich, made a donation of 650 euros. She took as an example the type specimen collected by Baptist Ritter of Spix on the Rio San Francisco in Brazil, which gave the first description of the Spix's Macaw (*Cyanopsitta spixii*). Herr Heinz Weschenfelder, producer of the professional incubators, presented to the Loro Parque Fundación a high precision machine for breeding rare parrots and made by his firm. Many thanks to all the donors!

August 2008

Our four young Lear's Macaws (*Anodorhynchus leari*) are developing very well and have been ringed already. While the first, who was hand-raised, is already fledged and is trying its first flying exercises, the other three chicks are now 4 weeks old. Two are being raised in the nest, one by its own parents and the other by foster parents (a pair of Green-winged Macaws—*Ara chloroptera*), and another chick is in the Baby Station of Loro Parque being raised by hand. After having received the two Lear's Macaw pairs in October 2006 from the Sao Paulo Zoo in Brazil by the Brazilian conservation authority (Chico Mendes Institute of



International group of parrot specialists of the EAZA Meeting in the Loro Parque Fundación, Tenerife

Biodiversity Conservation) that oversees breeding community, the population has grown, through the last year's and this year's breeding successes, in less than two years to eleven animals in the Loro Parque Fundación. This is an excellent contribution to the conservation of endangered parrot species and motivates the staff of the Loro Parque Fundación to redouble its efforts.

Following that the young Pesquet's Parrot (*Psittichas fulgidus*) hatched in the spring is now independent, another chick has hatched some days ago, and will be also raised by hand. Presently Loro Parque is possibly the only zoo Europe-wide that is constantly rearing these parrots which have become very rare. We would like to try to build up over the long term a self-sustaining breeding group with several

pairs.

A very good breeding year has taken place for our Purple-bellied Parrots (*Triclaria malachitacea*), with four pairs successful in breeding again.

While our Lesser Vasa Parrots (*Coracopsis nigra*) still haven't started to breed, our breeding group of Greater Vasa Parrots (*Coracopsis vasa*) is firmly established. Four pairs raised their youngsters

by themselves, whilst the other two young birds were successfully hand-raised in the Baby-Station of Loro Parque. This nearly black parrot from Madagascar is not very common in captivity, which is wrong! Their interesting reproduction, but also their melodious, almost singing sounds provide sufficiently interesting feature to keep these parrots, and through captive breeding to stabilise the breeding population.

A few years ago we got our Pileated Parrots (*Pionospitta pileata*) to breed successfully for the first time in a bigger group aviary. Today five adult pairs are kept in separated pairs in five side by side enclosures. Certainly the aviaries are separated by visual barriers, so that the birds can hear, but can't see each other and therefore no mutual disturbance can take place. Four of the five pairs have started to breed this year, from which one pair produced infertile eggs. The other three pairs were more successful and each of them reared between three and five chicks by themselves.

After last year's breeding pause our Red-spectacled Amazons (*Amazona pretrei*)

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Five day old Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo chick.

were this year successful again. While two youngsters are being hand-raised up in the Baby Station of Loro Parque, three youngsters are growing-up with their own parents. They are attended very well and have already been ringed.

September 2008

The last month's highlight was without any doubt the hatch of a Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*). This species has been held for many years in the Loro Parque Fundación. In 2002 we managed to exchange one of our two available males with a female. Finally we had a pair, and the birds very quickly got used to each other. However, because the female was only two years old, we couldn't count on breeding.

Eggs were laid for the first time in 2006, not in the nest-box however, but

on the ground. After putting them in the incubator it turned out that both eggs were infertile. Then in 2007 the eggs were laid for the first time in a nest-box, with an open upper part, and they started to incubate. Both clutches of two eggs were again infertile.

The 2008 breeding year started in the same way. As before, a clutch of two was produced, which at first were thought to be infertile. The clutch of two eggs were left initially there for incubation. A nest-check showed the surprising result, that one of the two eggs was for the first time fertile. Nevertheless we left the clutch with the breeding female, but on the 18th day of incubation, the female was no longer sitting on the clutch to incubate. At first we waited, but after noticing that she hadn't returned to the nest-box in the last 2 hours, we decided to put the clutch

in the incubator for further incubation. Now the eggs were cold, however in one of the eggs the embryo was still alive, and there was movement, as we found out several hours later. The 23rd of August a Yellow-eared Cockatoo chick hatched for the first time in the history of Loro Parque, with a hatching weight of 19.8 g.

The chick surprised us with its intensive yellow down, which is very dense, just like chicks of domestic chickens. It is a very lively and active chick, whose shape of face shape is similar to a young Gang Gang Cockatoo. It begs intensively and till now has been growing very well by hand-raising.

The Hyacinth Macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) belong to the parrot species in the Loro Parque Fundación that mostly start to breed in the second part of the year. Altogether five pairs have started

to breed up to now, two pairs having had infertile clutches, and three chicks having hatched and currently growing in the Baby Station of Loro Parque, or with their parents. Another six eggs are at the moment in the incubator or being incubated by their parents. At least two of them have turned out as fertile. And with a little luck, 2008 could be a good breeding year, especially because two pairs of the Hyacinth Macaws that until now haven't had a clutch are very busy with their nest-boxes.

Currently the construction work for our new and over 1,000 m² big walk-through free flight aviary in Loro Parque is going forward at full speed. In this aviary, which will be inaugurated on the 17th of December 2008, a mixed group of birds from the Australian/Asiatic region is planned. Besides the main focus of Lories and other parrot and parakeet species, there will also be pelicans, laughing Kookaburras, Bali starlings, pheasants, egrets and others belonging to the colourful new bird community. With 23 m height, and including the natural trees and bushes growing there, this aviary will be the new highlight in the bird-keeping of Loro Parque, and will set new benchmarks.

In the area of the Parrot Show in Loro Parque, a new sales outlet of the Loro Parque Fundación has been created in the style of a jungle camp, and which promises an eventful shopping. Lots of plants and a terrarium with chameleons give the visitor a feeling of an exotic world. The sales revenue of all products, such as T-shirts, books or even postcards, will be used 100% for the conservation of threatened parrots by the Loro Parque Fundación.

*Dr. Matthias Reinschmidt,
Curator, Loro Parque Tenerife*

Help for the Endemic Parrots of Halmahera, Indonesia

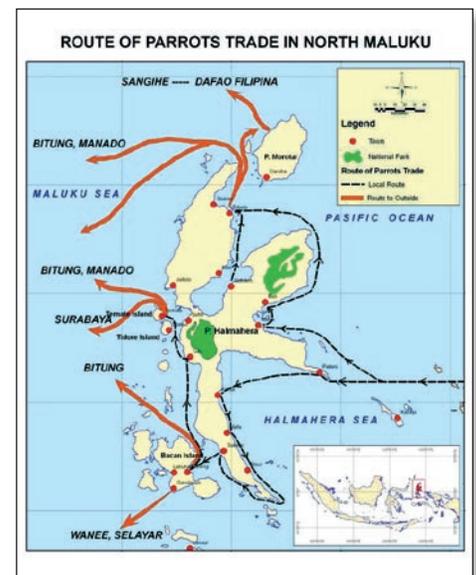
News has just arrived from the island of Halmahera, in North Maluku, Indonesia,



Halmahera woman with locally traded Chattering Lories

that the illegal trade of its endemic parrots continues, but help is under way. The situation is reported by Burung (Bird-Life) Indonesia, the national NGO which from August 2007 has begun a project for the protection of the 167,300 ha Aketajawe-Lolobata National Park, a vital site for these parrots to survive. Funding for the project, which comes from the Loro Parque Fundación (LPF) of Spain, assisted by the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP) and the Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots (ACTP), both of Germany, has triggered even more funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Halmahera is a high priority for conservation. It has nine parrot species, of which two are threatened with extinction: the White Cockatoo *Cacatua alba* and the Chattering Lory *Lorius garrulus*. These two species are endemic to North Maluku, with their largest populations on Halmahera. The other parrot species are the Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placentis*, Violet-necked Lory *Eos squamata*, Moluccan Hanging Parrot



Loriculus amabilis, Moluccan King Parrot *Alisterus amboinensis*, Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*, Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus* and Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus*. Halmahera also supports 24 of the 26 birds endemic to the region. In the early 1990s, Halmahera was still around 90% forested, but subsequent clearance and fragmentation of forest has accelerated rapidly. As well as facing loss of their habitats, Halmahera's parrots are under severe pressure

from trapping to supply both the domestic and international cage-bird trade. In response to these issues, from 1994 to 1999 the then BirdLife International Indonesia Programme collaborated with the Indonesian Directorate General of Nature Protection and Conservation in a project, also financially supported by the LPF, to identify priority areas for parrot and biodiversity conservation on Halmahera. This led directly to the declaration of Aketajawe-Lolobata National Park in 2004.

However, Aketajawe-Lolobata NP has remained a “paper park,” with very weak management capacity and few management resources, and therefore illegal logging and bird trapping have continued. The current project aims to set up an effectively managed protected area that will secure the long-term future for White Cockatoo, Chattering Lory and the other threatened and endemic biodiversity and ecosystems of Halmahera.

This first period of the project has been important for Burung Indonesia to establish communications and collaboration with the Aketajawe-Lolobata National Park Office and the Ternate Natural Resources Conservation Division (local

district), especially to monitor the current wildlife trade in North Maluku. Field observations and additional data collection have identified parrot trapping and trading locations in North Maluku, as well as the points of exit for the parrot trade. This is happening despite that the authorities have issued no domestic or export trade quotas for parrot species in North Maluku between 1999 and 2008.

Monitoring conducted by the North Maluku Nature Conservation Foundation on the trapping and trade of White Cockatoos between 2002 and 2004 showed fewer individuals of this species were being trapped in the wild each year.

The monitoring will continue, as will raising public awareness and support, but current emphasis has been to determine training priorities and provide training for staff members from the Aketajawe-Lolobata NP Office, the Ternate Natural Resources Conservation Division and related partners in North Maluku. This contributes to the goal of building capacity for effective protected area management, and ultimately to help the parrots.

*David Waugh,
Loro Parque Fundación*

Asociación Armonía

First protected area established for critically endangered Blue-throated Macaw

The Bolivian conservation organization Asociación Armonía, with the support of American Bird Conservancy and World Land Trust-US, has created the world’s first protected area, to be named the Barba Azul Nature Reserve, for the Blue-throated Macaw, a critically endangered species with a population estimated at just 300 birds. The group purchased an 8,785 acre ranch in the grasslands of eastern Bolivia, a site with 20 Blue-throated Macaws during the breeding season.

“This is a huge conservation achievement,” noted George Fenwick, President of American Bird Conservancy. “The main threats to the Blue-throated Macaw are capture for the pet trade and habitat destruction for cattle ranching, and, until now, the species’ habitat was completely unprotected.”

The Blue-throated Macaw is endemic to savannas in the Beni province of Bolivia, and depends on motucu palms for nesting. These palms occur in palm “islands” embedded in the extensive seasonally-flooded grasslands. The entire known population of the species exists on private ranches which undergo yearly burning and heavy grazing by cattle.

“In the face of this development pressure, there is an urgent need to expand the new reserve to conserve a viable population of this spectacular macaw and the many other vulnerable species within it,” said Byron Swift, Executive Director of World Land Trust–U.S.

The Barba Azul Nature Reserve also protects excellent Beni savanna habitat with good populations of vulnerable species, such as the Sharp-tailed Tyrant, Cock-tailed Tyrant, and Black-masked Finch. Healthy populations of the Near Threatened Greater Rhea and Orinoco Goose are common in the area.

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