



## THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL PARROT CONVENTION

– Tenerife September 1990

by Rosemary Low

The event of the year for parrot enthusiasts will undoubtedly prove to be the convention in Tenerife to be hosted by Loro Parque from September 13 to 16. It will be a truly international affair, with speakers from Australia, the Canary Islands, Dominica, Germany, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Switzerland, the UK and the United States. Parrot breeders, field workers and veterinarians will be converging on Tenerife from almost every point on the globe. All those attending will have a unique opportunity to speak with the world's leading experts on every aspect of Psittacines. It is certain to be a meeting which will long be remembered and talked about just as many still recall the first Convention held in October 1986.

Few need reminding that Loro Parque holds the most comprehensive collection of parrots in the world – about 220 species and many more sub-species. Among those held are rarities which can be seen in few other locations. Participants will have the rare opportunity to see all three of the off-exhibit breeding areas. Here are housed more than half of the 1,600 parrots in this extraordinary collection. Many would consider that this bonus alone would be worth the cost of registration.

"Species-starved" Australians, for example, will be able to see in one fell swoop all the parrots in



Massena's Parrot – hand-reared at Loro Parque in 1988. (Photograph: Rosemary Low).

aviculture, something which they could hitherto do only by enviously perusing the pages of Forshaw and Cooper's *Parrots of the World*. Loro Parque is this classic book come to life!

It is hoped that the new hand-rearing facility will be completed by the time of the convention. Here one can see how the rarities are reared.

Those not fortunate enough to be able to attend need not fear that they will miss the valuable information which will be presented to participants. The Proceedings of the Convention will be published in English, German and Spanish and will be available at the meeting. Likewise, there will be simultaneous translation of all lectures in these three languages.

Registration costs \$175. This does not include hotel accommo-

modation but it does include social events, such as an excursion to the top of the extraordinary Mount Teide and a gala dinner. The convention hotel is the Semiramis where rooms have been reserved at special convention rates.

Registration forms are available from Loro Parque, 38400 Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain, telephone 34 22 383012, fax number 34 22 387321. The forms should be returned by June 15.

Further information, including other hotels, can be obtained from Loro Parque.

A comprehensive report of the Convention will appear in **PsittaScene**, issue number 4 for 1990. If you attend the Convention, please speak to Rosemary Low, the editor, if you have any suggestions, comments or copy for **PsittaScene**.

## SECOND INTERNATIONAL PARROT CONVENTION – SPEAKERS

Gloria Allen (USA)  
*Hand Rearing*

Paul Butler (Dominica)  
*Endangered Caribbean Amazons – conservation through education*

Antonio De Dios (Philippines)  
*Managing the World's Largest Parrot Breeding Sanctuary*

Joseph Forshaw (Australia)  
*Why oppose aviculture but accept duck hunting?*

Prof Dr Helga Gerlach (Germany)  
*Repulsion of Enterobacteria with the use of Lactobacilli*

Dr David Graham (USA)  
*New developments in avian medicine*

Prof D. Horn (Germany)  
*Subject to be advised*

Dr Christoph Imboden (ICBP) (UK)  
*How valuable is captive breeding for conservation?*

Dr G. Kaal (Netherlands)  
*Venereal disease in parrots*

Prof Kaleta (Germany)  
*Health hazards due to infectious diseases in breeding stations.*

Rosemary Low (Canary Islands)  
*Macaws – captive breeding for conservation.*

Dr Obdulio Menghi (Switzerland)  
*The role of CITES*

Kees Schouten (Netherlands)  
*EEC Regulations and how they affect aviculture*

Tony Silva (Canary Islands)  
*Subject to be advised*

John Stoodley (UK)  
*The Way Forward*

Jorgen Thomsen (USA)  
*Subject to be advised*

Roland Wirth (Germany)  
*Spix's Macaw – history and future of an endangered species*

“psittacine  
(sit'á sīn) Belonging  
or allied to the  
parrots; parrot-like”





# ECHO PARAKEET PROJECT

## INTRODUCTION

As keen PsittaScene readers will know, the project on Mauritius to try to save the highly endangered Echo Parakeet was the first to be assisted by the World Parrot Trust. Since the launch of the trust last October a total of £5000 has been sent to Mauritius for the use of Carl G. Jones and his team. Carl recently visited Paradise Park, Cornwall, UK, the home base of the trust, and while there he met this Golden Eagle whose flying displays raised

substantial funds to help the Echo Parakeet last summer. A rare case of a large bird of prey coming to the aid of a small parakeet.

We asked Carl Jones what was the single most helpful thing the trust could do to further his work, and his answer was very specific: they need a replacement four wheel drive vehicle. The cost of this is about £10000, whereas the trust can only be certain of supplying £5000 during 1990. We have contacted

another charity working in this field and invited them to join us in providing the vehicle. We'll let you know if this is successful.

We receive monthly reports of the work on Mauritius, and have decided to publish the November 1989 report in full; this gives a good impression of the dogged demanding work and commitment involved.

Ed.



*Carl Jones meets Zara the Golden Eagle at Paradise Park.*

## NOVEMBER 1989 REPORT

On the first of November Jean Michel Probst climbed the large Makak tree, at the lower end of Brouard's path, to check the parakeet nest. The female was sitting on a clutch of three eggs and did not attempt to escape from the nest. She growled and spread her wings when J. M. Probst tried to put his hand into the cavity. After some 15 minutes the female moved back in the nest hole and pulled one of the eggs with her.

The cavity was roughly oval in shape, with a diameter of 30 centimetres approximately. The entrance to the nest hole was 10cm wide, but too small for a hand to go in. The height of the entrance was 15 metres from the ground (45-50 feet). The eggs were taken to the Black River Aviaries and placed under a Ring-necked Parakeet. One of the eggs contained a dead embryo, and another was slightly dented. The dented egg was

repaired with nail varnish and was found to be lighter than the other viable egg (9.85g compared with 11.3g). It was estimated that the eggs had been incubated for about two weeks (10-14 days).

The heavier egg was the first to pip (on the 10th), it's weight was then 10.8g. It hatched two days later, on the 12th, in the early afternoon. The second egg pipped on the 14th and hatched on the 16th, early in the morning, it's weight was then 7.35g.

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It will of course consider articles or letters from any contributor on their merits.



Since the second chick was much smaller and weaker than the first, it was placed with a different foster parent. The chicks have been examined daily for maggots which infest the nostrils of the nestlings. On the 23rd the eyes of chick A were beginning to open; those of chick B on the 25th.

Greyish green downy feathers started erupting on the lower back of chick A on the 25th.

The nest site from which the eggs were taken has been checked on three occasions since the beginning of the month. On the 7th a single parakeet flew into the nest tree; this was a young male bird. On subsequent visits two birds have been heard in the area, but no sign that the parakeets were occupying the nest cavity was observed.

A second pair of birds have been watched during November, in the area referred to as the new site in previous reports. As before, two males accompanied the pair for much of the time, one chasing the other in the nest tree (a *Labourdonnaisia glauca* to the north of the artificial nest boxes). The male of the pair went into the cavity on most of the days when the nest site was observed. Although the female was rarely seen during the early stages, it was assumed that she was inside the cavity with the male. It was evident that one of the pair had been excavating the nest hole, as chips fell from the entrance, especially when a bird emerged from the nest.

Mynah birds were heard in the vicinity of the nest tree, one individual went to the cavity entrance on the 22nd. Monkeys have also been heard in the area on several days.

The female of the pair was perched in the nest tree on the 20th. The male mounted the female but did not copulate. There were five



*Echo Parakeet.* This is about the only usable photograph of this species currently available. We have asked Carl Jones to come up with a new shot of what is arguably the rarest parrot in the world.

parakeets in the tree at one point, including another female with shorter, worn tail feathers. The paired female crouched on the branch (soliciting), the male touched her nape and again attempted to mount. A successful copulation lasting one minute 30 seconds was recorded later on the same date.

On the 23rd the cavity was checked, confirming that the

interior had been excavated, to a horizontal depth of 64 centimetres. The entrance was 8.5 centimetres in diameter. A few feathers were seen in the nest scrape. Two males and a female flew into the tree while J. M. Probst was checking the nest, they did not seem alarmed by his presence however. Another copulation (2 min. 30 secs.) was observed on the morning of the 23rd.

Food passing (from male to female) was recorded twice in the nest tree on the 29th. Only four passes were counted in the morning, and twelve in the evening. The female went into the cavity after she had been fed.

#### Feeding

Three Echo Parakeets were seen feeding on *Bertiera zaluzania* flowers near the nest tree, at the new site, on the 11th. A total of 129 *Tabernaemontana mauritiana* leaves with parakeet beakmarks have been collected at the new site, 17 on the path to the nest tree and 112 near nest box 17 tree. *Gaertnera sp.* flowers were found with the *T. mauritiana* leaves on the path, although these could have been picked by other animals.

On the 25th a female parakeet landed near the road at the Macchabée kiosk. It perched in a *Stillingia lineata* tree and foraged among the branches, eating small round fruits. The female was

watched for 30 minutes, as it searched through five different *S. lineata* trees; it was noticed that this bird had short, worn feathers.

#### Nest Boxes

Two of the nest boxes had Mynah bird nests in them, when checked (No. 1 and 2). Rats nests were found in No. 3 and 7. Nest box No. 9 contained four Ring-necked Parakeet chicks, when inspected on the 28th. Two boxes near the kiosk (No. 12 and 14) had bees in them. There was no sign of occupation in the other boxes.

Sightings of Echo Parakeets have been made in the gorges below the first layby in Macchabée, on the 7th, 8th and 14th. A single bird has been observed flying at the lower end of the Black River Gorges, near Morne Seche on several occasions. A male Echo Parakeet was spotted in low scrubby vegetation at Pétrin on the 20th. One or two parakeets have been recorded flying over the Pink Pigeon release site near Brise Fer, on many days. A single bird was seen at Alexandra Falls at midday on the 30th.

Jacky Mills arrived in Mauritius on the 8th of November and has been working on the Parakeet Project since the 15th. Thanks again to Laurent Duverge, Carl Jones, Jean Michel Probst and Wendy Strahm.

### ECHO PARAKEET CHICK WEIGHTS

Date	Chick A	Chick B
12.11.89	Hatched	-
16.11.89	24.5g	7.9h (hatched)
17.11.89	30.0g	9.3g
18.11.89	36.0g	12.0g
19.11.89	43.0g	13.4g
20.11.89	50.8g	16.7g
21.11.89	55.8g	20.3g
23.11.89	71.4g	29.0g
24.11.89	79.2g	35.4g
25.11.89	85.8g	39.2g
29.11.89	89.0g	67.6g
30.11.89	87.0g	74.8g



# APPENDIX 1 PROFILES

## No. 1 The Hyacinthine Macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*)

by Rosemary Low

If one species, above all others, could be said to symbolise the need for The World Parrot Trust, it must surely be the Hyacinthine Macaw. The largest in length (not weight) of all parrots, and arguably the most magnificent, it has fared very badly at the hand of man. Always in demand by native people for food and for feathers for ornamentation, these were minor threats to its existence which it was able to tolerate. As far as we know, they made little impact on its existence for thousands of years.

But the additional threats it has faced during the past two or three decades have reduced its numbers and its range to the point where it is declining at an alarming rate and is now seriously endangered. It is hardly necessary to enumerate the factors responsible – the same old story of excessive trade and habitat destruction or disturbance. However, in the case of this spectacular macaw, and unlike that of nearly all other endangered parrots, excessive trade is the major factor in its decline.

The wastage of life involved in large-scale trade in live birds is very sad – but it is especially so in the case of this macaw. It is unique. It is special. Even those who know it well find it difficult to put into words what it is about the Hyacinthine that is different. Its nature is so different to an *Ara* macaw. Docile. Unwary in the wild. A Scarlet Macaw, for example, is difficult to trap, suspicious and extremely intelligent. It is almost as though, in contrast, the Hyacinthine evolved in a world without predators. Like the Dodo, it

knew no fear and no suspicion and this has almost led to it being trapped into oblivion. As Jorgen Thompsen wrote in a recent article (*Watchbird*, December/January 1990, When Prohibition isn't enough): it could be "A macaw designed by bird trappers" ...

Today, everyone interested in aviculture has seen a Hyacinthine or knows someone who has one. This was not the case 30 years ago. The species was extremely rare in captivity, represented in collections of the mainstream zoos such as London and almost non-existent in private collections. Alas, this macaw is well-known, although expensive today, not because breeders are highly successful, but because at least 90% of captive birds are wild-caught. There are some highly successful breeders, especially in the United States. In the UK Harry Sissen has bred 11 in the past two years alone. The problem is the same as that described so graphically by Peter Bennett and David Woolcock in the last issue of **PsittaScene** in respect of Scarlet Macaws: only a small percentage of wild-caught birds breed successfully. They survive in non breeding situations or do not live long enough to breed, they are paired incorrectly – perhaps with their own sex, or incompatibility is a problem. Whatever the reason, only a small percentage of wild caught birds will pass on their genes to found another generation.

Genes are more precious than jewels. Once lost they can never be recreated. Everyone who owns a parrot of a species which is

threatened has a responsibility to breed from it. There can be no other justification for ownership. It is a living creature. It must not be coveted for its beauty alone. But it MUST be given the opportunity to breed.

Before discussing breeding the Hyacinthine, let me quote again from Jorgen Thomsen's most informative article:

"In all likelihood, Hyacinth Macaws originally ranged from just south of the Amazon in Para to the drainage of the Parana and Paraguai Rivers in Paraguay and southern Brazil. Despite the futility of estimating the species' total population size prior to human interference, available information indicates that it may well have numbered several hundred thousand individuals. In the early part of this century, explorers reported flocks of hundreds of Hyacinths at localities in Piaui in northeastern Brazil. Today there are no Hyacinths in this region."

It is believed that this macaw once lived in many parts of Goias, Maranhao and Mato Grosso. Today few or none survive. Almost certainly due to trapping, the three viable populations are now so isolated from one another that each must be managed as a separate biological unit.

The foregoing should make it very clear why captive breeding of the Hyacinthine Macaw should have high priority among aviculturists. If the wild populations are to survive there must be no more trapping. This is, of course, illegal. The Hyacinthine was placed on Appendix 1 of CITES in 1987. Unfortunately, this seemed to have the effect of increasing trade, a trade which decimated entire large populations in some areas. Thousands have been exported during the past two decades, a fact which must rest heavily on the conscience of all responsible aviculturists. WE owe the species a tremendous debt; by breeding it and placing the young with responsible breeders – **not selling the young as pets** – we can partly repay this debt.

There is not space here to discuss the basics of macaw keeping and accommodation, only to provide information which relates

only to this species. Unfortunately, most breeders incubate the eggs artificially or remove the young for hand-rearing when a few days old, to increase production and to produce tame young for pets. I will not comment on this practice here, except to say that the result is that very little is known about parent-rearing in captivity. We do know, however, that more often than not, only one chick hatches. If two hatch, the smallest is likely to be neglected and will not survive unless removed for hand-rearing. There are very, very few instances of two chicks being reared to independence by the parents in captivity.

In the Breeding Centre at Palmitos Park last year, our pair hatched their first chicks. They had laid on several occasions before I became curator. The female produced two infertile eggs at the beginning of June 1989. These were removed two weeks later. Shortly afterwards routine testing revealed that the pair was positive for psittacosis. (This is nothing unusual; probably the majority of captive parrots carry psittacosis, or chlamydia as it is now more correctly called, but they shed it only intermittently.) The pair had three weekly injections of VibraVet.

The female laid two more eggs, almost certainly on July 26 and 29. After a couple of weeks these eggs appeared rather soiled; they were therefore placed in an incubator and chickens' eggs were substituted in the nest. In both cases the first pip mark was made 48 hours before hatching but there was no further progress for about 40 hours. When it was obvious that hatching was imminent, the egg was replaced in the nest and a chicken's egg removed.

Nest-boxes in all aviaries in the breeding centre can be inspected easily from the service passage of the next block of aviaries. I therefore decided to leave the young in the nest and weigh them daily.

They would be removed for hand-rearing only if absolutely necessary. It was planned to retain the young for breeding purposes; because hand-reared birds easily become imprinted on the rearer (although unless totally

### BREEDING BIOLOGY

Age at sexual maturity:  
four to six years  
Clutch size:  
normally two, rarely three,  
one recorded instance of four  
Incubation period:  
usually 28 or 29 days  
Weight of newly hatched  
chicks: about 25g

Length of time in nest:  
about 100 days  
Weaning weight:  
1,100 to 1,200g  
Appearance of young:  
differ from adults only in  
shorter tail and whitish not  
yellow stripe on the tongue.



The eldest chick, aged 21 days. Four days later, the parents had removed all the grey (second) down.



The youngest at 31 days, the day after her removal from the nest.

Photos: Rosemary Low



mismanaged this does not mean they are of no use for breeding) I cherished the dream of two young sitting on the perches with their parents. Also, in truth, I knew that if I hand-reared them it would be impossible for me not to form a very close relationship with them – which would not be wholly desirable!

The chicks were weighed every morning about 9am, and the weights were recorded in grams:

The chicks were well fed and their weight gains seemed excellent. The parents were eating fresh corn on the cob, also sprouted sunflower seed, in preference to other foods, also tomatoes, walnuts and oranges. When the youngest chick was only eight days old, I noted that its crop was full of hard seed. When the chicks were 16 and 13 days the edges of their lower mandibles seemed soft and jagged so I started to give a liquid calcium preparation into the mouth: Necthar-Cal (Laborio-Level) suspension. Between 20 and 40 ius were given on six occasions during the next two weeks. They took this readily from a small syringe.

At first the parents had been tolerant of the handling of their young for weighing purposes. As the days went by they became extremely impatient to enter the nest during this procedure, which took only a few seconds. When the eldest chick was 30 days old, the parents started to pick at the feathers erupting on the crown – a possible sign of stress. When the youngest chick was 30 days old it suffered a serious bite on the bend of the wing. Unable to direct their increasing aggression at us, the parents had bitten the unfortunate chick.

Both young were therefore removed immediately for hand-rearing. On that day they were ringed with 18mm (internal dimension) aluminium rings which are 8mm wide and – this is the important dimension – 3mm thick. This is the minimum thickness which can be used for this species in aluminium. Alternatively one can use 16mm narrow stainless steel rings (very narrow).

The young Hyacinthines were reared on a mixture containing one

quarter fruit (usually banana, but papaya during the early part of the rearing period) and three quarters cereal. The latter consisted of approximately half wheat germ cereal (25% protein) and half Nolgald baby cereal (a Spanish brand, approximately 13% protein, containing some milk).

By the age of 11 weeks they were nibbling at slices of wholegrain bread and at spray millet, and were licking at orange. It was not long before they were eating orange, pieces of fresh corn and walnut halves. At this stage they were still being fed four times daily and taking about 90g to 100 g at each feed. I am a great believer in the weaning procedure being as gradual as possible and never try to force it. This may mean that I feed my chicks a little longer than most people – but the Hyacinthines were such a pleasure to rear! I used a large spoon with sides bent inwards as unless dozens of chicks are being reared and time is at a premium, I can see no advantage in syringe-feeding (but several disadvantages).

They were weaned just before they were six months old. Their favourite foods, in order of preference, were whole walnuts and pecans (no other nuts were fed) which were limited to about seven or eight per day, banana, fresh corn, whole grain bread and dry dog chow; they also ate orange, Swiss chard, cabbage, carrot, apple and a little boiled maize. The female has never shown any interest in sunflower seed and the male consumes very little. He also eats a little boiled maize.

I refer to them as “he” and “she” in spite of the fact that they have not been sexed. There are subtle behavioural differences in macaws which the experienced hand-rearer can pick up when the young are a few weeks old, usually well before three months. The male was quite rough in his behaviour towards the female, so that they were given separate cages before they were four months old. Soon after they were placed in a large outdoor aviary during the day with young Blue and Yellow Macaws and an adult female Hyacinthine. The latter would preen the young male but totally ignored the young female.

### Weight gains of two parent-fed Hyacinthine Macaw chicks

Age in days	Weight No. 1	in grams at 8am	Weight No. 2
Day hatched	-		25
1	26 (est. 3g of food in crop)		28 (full)
2	34 (4g food)		32 (full)
3	38 (empty)		40 (2/3 full)
4	46 (full)		52 (full)
5	51 (full)		59 (2/3 full)
6	66 (full)		72 (full)
7	80 (full, harder food)		88 (full)
8	88 (full)		104
9	106 (full)		120
10	122 (full)		130 (nearly empty)
11	132 (half full)		162 (half full)
12	154		182 (half full)
13	166 (empty)		198 (half full)
14	186 (half full)		230 (half full)
15	222 (half full)		250 (empty)
16	248 (full)		280 (half full)
17	270		302 (half full)
18	282 (empty)		330 (1/3 full)
19	320 (half full)		358
20	336 (half full)		396 (half full)
21	378 (half full)		412
22	400		432
23	434 (half full)		466
24	446		480 (nearly empty)
25	470		520
26	496		514 (empty)
27	522		582
28	546		586
29	570 (empty)		598
30	600 (nearly empty)		550 (empty)
31	604		
32	622		

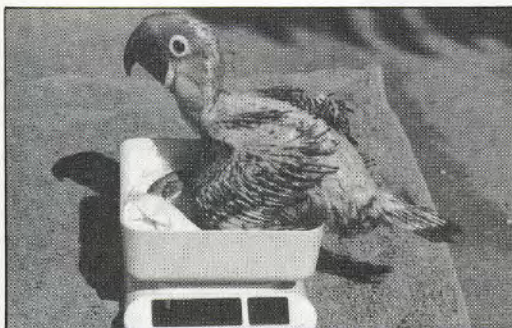
Back in the hand-rearing room the young Hyacinthines would have full of an hour of freedom early every morning along with a couple of young Blue and Yellow Macaws – but the male was not to be trusted with them, so he was often returned to his cage when he started to bully them. The female never did this.

Except for one week while I was in the UK (for the launch of the World Parrot Trust), I was solely responsible for their care and feeding. They were extremely affectionate and responsive towards me and after the age of about four and a half months, would not permit anyone else to touch them. Like all young macaws, they loved to have their heads scratched and the female in particular was not averse to launching herself upside down in my arms during such pleasurable interludes. When tame, Hyacinthines with their enormous liquid

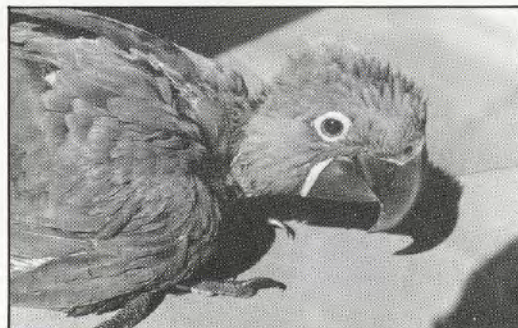
eyes and doleful expressions, are irresistible creatures. It is no wonder people wish to make pets of them ...

Unfortunately, most potential buyers are either unaware of the fact or simply cannot comprehend it, that a tame Hyacinthine demands as much affection and attention as a child. If it does not receive it depression will result, leading perhaps to feather plucking or mutilation.

I can offer only one word of advice to anyone considering the purchase of this majestic macaw as a pet: DON'T. If you have sufficient resources and space, buy two unrelated young ones. Hopefully, you will after five or six years, become a producer of Hyacinthines. The owner of a single pet bird of an endangered species is the worst kind of consumer ... Do **not** join their ranks.



The eldest, weighing in, aged 43 days.



The youngest at 72 days, just after being moved to an all-wire cage.



The youngest aged 116 days enjoying the freedom of a large aviary during the day.



## AUSTRALIAN COCKATOOS

# BOOK REVIEWS

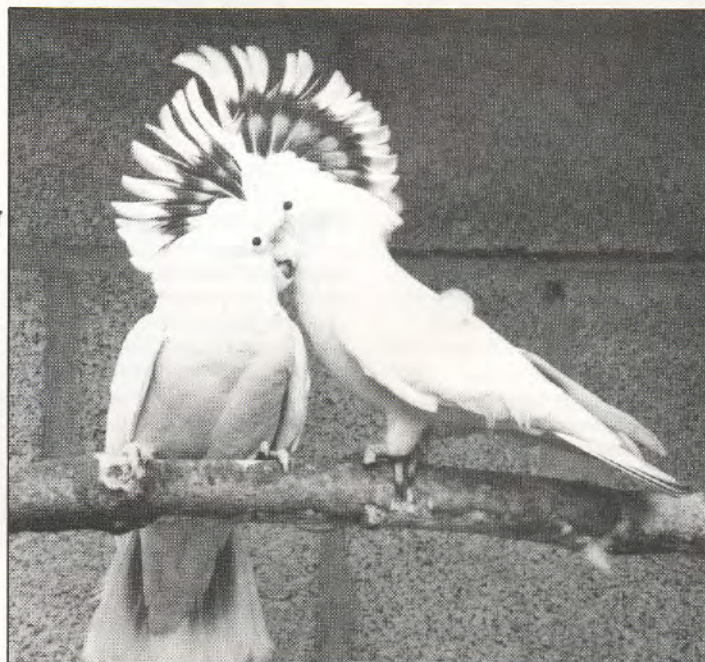
Several years ago one of Australia's most experienced aviculturists decided to launch his own publishing company with Jim Gill, an avian veterinarian. Stan Sindel and James Gill founded Singil Press, the first product of which was an excellent title, *Australian Lorikeets*. The second book in the series is *Australian Cockatoos* by Stan Sindel and Robert Lynn. Sadly, Bob Lynn, perhaps the world's leading authority on black cockatoos in aviculture, died before the book was published. But there could be no more fitting tribute to his memory. In my opinion, *Australian Cockatoos* is an avicultural classic, written by aviculturists who can impart exactly the information required by cockatoo keepers and breeders.

Although the book is co-authored, it is written in the first person, the senior author being Stan Sindel. Stan is a wonderful character, whose aviaries just outside Sydney, I had the pleasure to visit last year. His irresistible personality shines through the pages throughout, so that sometimes it is like listening to him

birds allows them to recognise subspecific differences and appreciate them."

This book commences with a practical chapter on Housing. I would emphasise the word *practical* as it is the hallmark of the book. The myth that parrots feel more secure in suspended aviaries has been repeated so often many people probably accept it as fact. Stan writes: "My observations suggest that cockatoos housed in this system do not feel as secure as when housed in secluded conventional aviaries." I agree. Most cockatoos are much too nervous to enjoy this type of environment, unlike many Amazons, for example, who positively relish them.

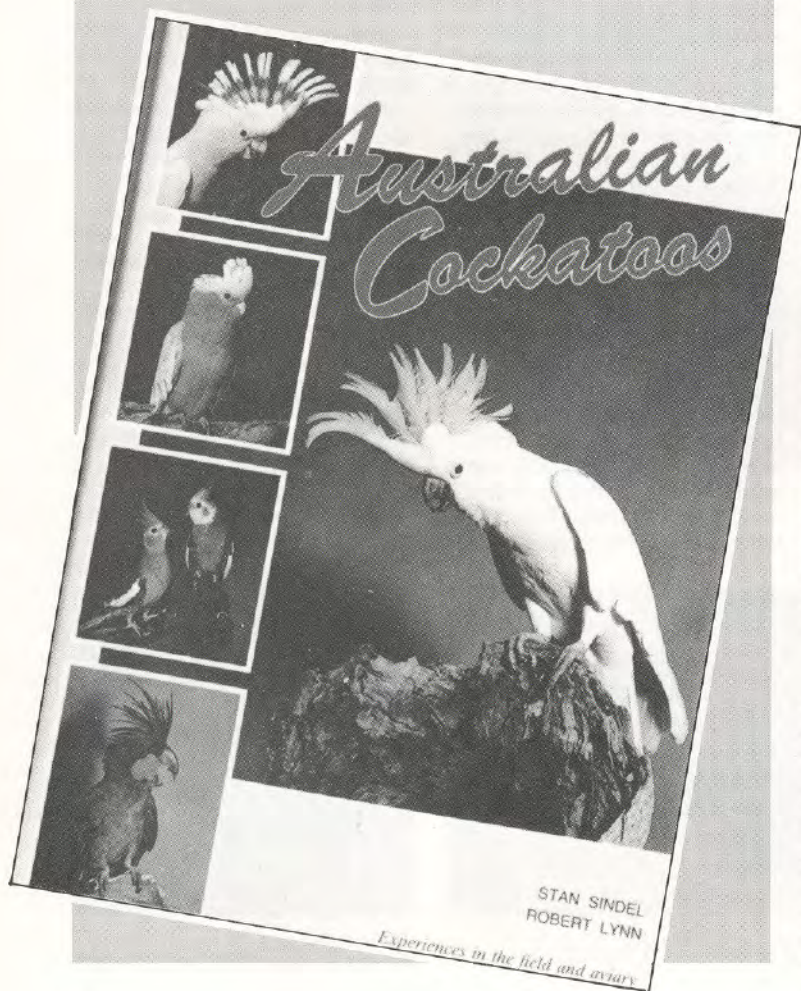
In the chapter on Diet there is useful information on the preferences of the various species, including the native foods of the Black Cockatoos. Hand-rearing diets are also described. Management, including hand rearing, is covered in the next chapter, followed by Diseases by James Gill (seven pages). This includes a page on the importance of quarantine.



*Leadbeater's Cockatoo – surely the most beautiful of all Cockatoos. This endangered species has been bred on many occasions at Paradise Park, Hayle, Cornwall.*

talk. I enjoyed reading such asides as: "I have always been amazed how the ornithological community accepts without question the often unwarranted classification changes inflicted on them by taxonomic specialists in their midst. The avicultural community does not accept these changes so readily, obviously because the close association they have with their

The following pages, nearly 200, are devoted to accounts of the species. Each is treated under the following headings: Classification, Range, Habitat and Field Notes, Diet in the Wild, Breeding in the Wild, Sexing, Display, Nests, Nesting and Hatching, Mutations. The field notes are extensive. In addition to being an aviculturist, Stan Sindel has spent hours in the field. His interest





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## KAKADUS – UND IHRE WELT

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in mutations is well known and this aspect is also thoroughly covered.

I was extremely impressed by this book – by its very readable style, by the authors' love of their subjects, their deep knowledge and Stan Sindel's thoroughness in delving into past avicultural literature to present a complete picture of the Australian Cockatoos.

Talking of pictures, the colour photographs (40 pages of colour) are outstanding for their quality and for their interest. Some very pleasing uncluttered portraits from the camera of Cyril Laubscher grace the pages and, equally appealing to me, were the pages that contained five or six small photographs illustrating chick development. (One advantage of a book published by the author is that he can do exactly as he pleases and he knows what his readers want. His pictures are not selected by a picture editor with only a vague understanding of the subject!) Identification of subspecies, as in the Galah, for example, is made easy with the help of photographs.

I repeat that this is an avicultural classic – a model for other authors to follow. In his introduction, Stan wrote: "I personally find all psittacines rewarding avicultural subjects but I must confess that the individualism and distinctive, if not always pleasing, personalities of cockatoos make them my favourite aviary family..." For those of you who agree with this assessment, *Australian Cockatoos* is an essential addition to your bookshelves.

It costs A\$ 49.95 plus postage and is available from Singil Press Pty Ltd, P.O.Box 9, Austral, NSW 2171, Australia or from Andrew Isles Bookshop, P.O.Box 358, Prahran 3181, Australia (the latter accepts Mastercard, Visa, American Express and Diners Club cards). The page size is 13.5 x 21.5cm, pages 252, 121 colour photographs.

ROSEMARY LOW

A very different book on Cockatoos, designed to delight the eye rather than impart a wealth of detail, is *Kakadus – und Ihre Welt* by Hans Strunden. One of the most lavishly illustrated books on Parrots available, the fact that the text is in German need be no deterrent to Cockatoo lovers who do not read this language. The wealth and quality of the photographs make it worth the purchase price.

This book is different. There is no introduction. It launches straight into a section depicting a photograph and distribution map for each species. The chapters follow. The first is on the origin of the name Kaka tua. Next come chapters devoted to each region – Australia, Indonesia, Melanesia and the Philippines. Each species found in the region is discussed and superbly illustrated. For example, there are 15 photographs of Roseate Cockatoos in the pages devoted to that species and 12 of Greater Sulphur-crests. The photograph that took my eye more than any other was not the most colourful – but I envied the expertise of the photographer, Claus Nielsen. It depicts a flock of Cockatiels in flight. Every bird is sharply in focus!

*Greater Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. This Australian cockatoo is regarded as a pest species in many areas.*



More space is devoted to the illustrations than to the text, but that is not to say the information is not good. It mainly covers natural history aspects.

The chapters on the Cockatoos of each region form by far the largest part of the book. They are followed by chapters on Nutzung und Kult (Uses and Cults), such as the uses to which feathers are put by some tribes, a chapter on Cockatoos in captivity and one on history, including cockatoos depicted in art and porcelain and, finally, the origin of the scientific names.

### **Kakadus – und ihre Welt**

(Cockatoos and their World) costs DM128 and is obtainable from the publisher, Verlag Horst Muller, Walsrode, An der Warnau 33, 3036 Bromlitz, W. Germany. The page size is 21.5 x 30cm, 144 pages, over 200 colour photographs.

ROSEMARY LOW

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### EDITOR'S NOTE

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We would be pleased to receive brief reviews from members of new parrot books published in languages other than English. We are well aware that English is not the first language of many of our members and we would like to draw to their attention new books so that recently published information on parrots is disseminated as widely as possible.

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# INTERNATIONAL NEWS ROUND-UP

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## Support from avicultural societies

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Information on The World Parrot Trust has been circulated to more than 30 avicultural societies throughout the world – in Europe, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. The response has been most encouraging with some societies publishing an appeal for support in their journal.

These include:

**Australian Aviculture**, February 1990:

"As a result of the article 'Introducing the Parrot Trust (AA January 1990, pp1-2) by Rosemary Low the committee decided to send a worthwhile donation to the Trust to indicate the society's concern for, and support of, the conservation of the parrots of the world. If you skipped the article then we suggest you take the time to read it carefully – it is about an important new development in the world of aviculture."

**Pionus Breeders Association Newsletter**, September-October 1989:

"... a new organization designed to aid in the preservation of parrots. It's called the World Parrot Trust organized and headed by Mike Reynolds creator of Paradise Park, a breeding preserve for rare and endangered species in Hayle, Cornwall, England. Membership costs US\$25 per year and Rosemary Low will be editing the quarterly newsletter **PsittaScene**. This is the type of organization we should all be able to contribute to from our hearts and our pocket-books... I have just received my first copy of **PsittaScene**... a first rate publication and I highly recommend that you become a member of this noteworthy organization whose goals we should all support ... I would join with groups such as the World Parrot Trust and support their efforts to end what they term the 'Parrot Holocaust ...'"

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## AUSTRALIA

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Members of the World Parrot Trust who will be in Australia on September 22 this year are invited to attend a Scientific Day of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union. The topic will be: "Parrots: their research and conservation." During the morning session there will be invited research papers. This

will be followed by updates and new ideas on management options. The meeting will take place in Sydney. Further information can be obtained from Graeme Phipps, Taronga Zoo, P.O.Box 20, Mosman, NSW 2088, Australia.

The formation of the Conservation Research Centre was recently announced by the Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales. It provides a focus for



*Massena's Parrot – in danger of dying out in aviculture. (Photograph: Rosemary Low).*



the research and conservation efforts of zoos and will ensure collaboration with scientific institutes and other zoos - in Australia and overseas. Its centre is located at Taronga Zoo in Sydney. IBM Australia recently donated \$72,000 worth of computer equipment for the analysis of research data. The findings will be applied to wildlife conservation in Australia and overseas.

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## ARGENTINA

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The recent breeding of an Appendix 1 species, the Vinaceous Amazon (*Amazona vinacea*) at Corrientes Loro Parque, is believed to be the first in South America. Three chicks were hatched at this Buenos Aires establishment.

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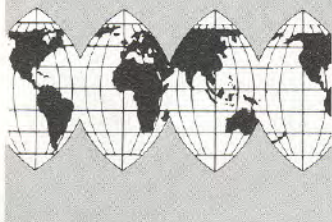
## UNITED STATES

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The Pionus Breeders Association is attempting to locate specimens of Massena's Parrot (*Pionus tumultuosus seniloides*) a species so rare in aviculture that it may soon be unknown there unless all the specimens currently being held can be identified and set up for breeding. Bill Arbon, vice-president of the association, reports that only one pair and two females are known in the USA. Please contact him at P.O. Box 540, Johnson City, Texas 78636, telephone 512 868 4509, if you know of any others.

This Pionus has always been very rare in captivity. Found in the Andes, usually between 2,000 and 3,000m, its numbers are believed to be declining, although there is little recent information on its status. Forshaw (who uses the inappropriate name White-headed Parrot) treats it as a distinct species although, these days, most taxonomists prefer to treat it as a sub-species of the Plum-crowned Parrot and aviculturists familiar with the two will surely agree that this is correct. In appearance, it differs from the Plum-crowned only in lacking the plum coloration on the head.

This is a species for which someone should be keeping a studbook on a world-wide basis. It has probably reared young in only two collections - with Karl Diefenbach in Germany since 1986 and at Loro Parque, Tenerife, in 1988. The female at Loro Parque is an egg-breaker. Success was achieved only by carefully monitoring the nest to remove eggs immediately they were laid and placing them in an incubator. Two proved fertile and were fostered to the nest of a Coral-billed Pionus. The Coral-bills reared the single chick which hatched for eight days and it was then hand-reared.



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# VARIOUS REPORTS

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from Michael Reynolds  
Hon. Director, World Parrot Trust

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## Membership

The trust now has over 700 members from all over the world. Memberships have come in from USA, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Scandinavia, Benelux, West Germany and elsewhere. The majority of members are still from the UK, but it will not be long before overseas members outnumber them.

Many associations and organisations have joined, including, from the USA, the National Parrot Association, the Pionus Breeders Association, and the International Loriidae Society; from Australia we

have received memberships from The Parrot Society and The Victorian Finch and Cage Birds Society. All have sent generous donations, together with extremely kind and encouraging comments and good wishes. It seems clear that many individuals and associations have wanted to see the emergence of an international charity devoted specifically to the psittacines. Our task now is to justify their commitment to the World Parrot Trust, and lose no time in pursuing those projects we judge most helpful to the parrots, subject of course to our ability to afford them.

Parent-reared keas, about 8 weeks old.





## VARIOUS REPORTS

### Sponsorship

Somewhere out there is a major international company which would benefit from being associated over the long term with this trust, and its developing campaign to save the parrots of the world. No other family of birds has anything like the beauty, variety, and charismatic appeal of the parrots, and it will be a fortunate commercial organisation which has the wit to attach itself to them. From our office we are now writing to carefully selected potential sponsors, but we would appreciate any contacts or suggestions from our members, many of whom must be well-connected.

### Aviary Design

A major initiative just started by the trust is to research psittacine aviary design. We will shortly be writing to

many leading aviculturists and associations worldwide to seek their assistance in assembling a compendium of proven aviary plans. Our eventual aim is to make these plans available to all who seek to further parrot aviculture. May we now invite any reader who would like to share a successful aviary design with our members, to send us details?

### Reports from Avicultural Collections

May I, on behalf of our esteemed editor Rosemary Low, invite parrot aviculturists and zoos to keep PsittaScene informed of major developments and achievements. We want our quarterly newsletter to reflect important parrot-related issues, and report significant news items. For example, I heard yesterday from Harry Sissen (we highlighted his work in PsittaScene Vol. 2, No. 1.) that he has just received final CITES approval for the transfer of a male Lears Macaw (*Anodorhynchus leari*) to be paired with his female. The male is coming from South Africa on breeding loan

from Mr. Brian Boswell of Natal. Both gentlemen are to be congratulated on their initiative, and also the CITES authorities for agreeing to this important move. Let us hope that the birds – both of advanced age – appreciate the trouble taken on their behalf. Let's face it, if Harry can't persuade them to breed, nobody can.

### Kea (*Nestor notabilis*)

This rather curious parrot species is sometimes seen in zoos, but is generally a rare avicultural subject. In recent years we have bred about 30 at Paradise Park, Cornwall, UK and have a considerable regard for their weird personalities and characteristics. Our picture shows Linda Peters feeding a clutch of 1990 young.

We intend writing a piece on the Kea in a future PsittaScene, but would like to include information from other collections which have had breeding successes with this species, and information on their status in the wild. Perhaps a reader in New Zealand could help us with this?

### Late News on the Echo Parakeet project

Excellent news! We have just heard from our friends The Parrot Society (address: 108b, Fenlake Rd., Bedford, UK.) that they have decided to contribute £2500 towards the provision of a four-wheel drive vehicle in Mauritius. This leaves us £2500 short – any other ideas where this sum may be found? The Parrot Society have also voted £1000 towards our plan to provide 'Conservation Buses' in the Caribbean. Our thanks and congratulations to them for joining with us to extend help to important parrot projects around the world.

Michael Reynolds  
April 1990



Linda Peters, head parrot keeper at Paradise Park, feeding four young keas.



## PROJECTS, IDEAS, OPPORTUNITIES AND NEWS FOR MEMBERS

### Information boards for zoos

We will soon have ready a number of very attractive boards, 2m x 1m, designed to be displayed at zoos, bird gardens, or any other location visited by large numbers of people. The board explains the need to act quickly to 'Help Save the Parrots of the World', and carries a cash box for donations. For the right locations we can supply these boards worldwide, so please contact me if you can help.

Congratulations are due to Steve Walton and his team at Windsor Safari Park who have already raised a four figure sum using one of the rather basic boards we illustrated in the first issue of *PsittaScene*.

### Membership Badge

We now have some very attractive enamel badges featuring our Palm Cockatoo logo. ONLY £1.50 each, or FREE if you send a completed application form (with payment) for one new member



### 1 MEMBERSHIP FORM

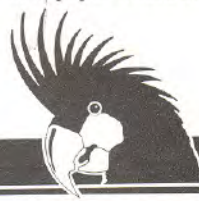
completed with payment

= 1 BADGE FREE

### Place an advertisement for the World Parrot Trust.

If you want to help by placing an ad in your local newspaper, you could use the following layout.

Approximate cost in a typical U.K. local newspaper would be £18.00.



#### HELP SAVE THE PARROTS OF THE WORLD

As rain forests and other habitats are destroyed, over 70 species of parrot face extinction. Please help us preserve these beautiful, intelligent birds in the wild, and work for their welfare in captivity. We are the parrot specialists - we urgently need your support. Send £10 for a membership pack, or a donation, or write for more information to:-

#### WORLD PARROT TRUST

Regd. Charity No. 800944  
Glanmor House, Hayle,  
Cornwall TR27 4HY. U.K.

### Caribbean Posters

The conservation posters for St. Lucia, depicting the St. Lucia parrot are being printed. Copies will be available to members soon.

### Parrot Studbook Keepers

We will be issuing a list of names and addresses of Studbook keepers in the next *PsittaScene*.

### Photographs

Interesting parrot-related photographs are needed for future *PsittaScenes*. Please send to our editor, Rosemary Low.

### T-Shirts

We have a new supply of T-shirts available. They cost £10.00 each including post and packing (Britain and Europe) or 18 U.S. dollars (or equivalent) elsewhere. Please state size required. S, M, L or XL. White only.

### Membership Leaflet

With this issue of *PsittaScene* we have included a copy of our membership leaflet. The very best way in which you can help the trust is by recruiting new members.



HAYLE, CORNWALL, U.K.





# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## *The World Parrot Trust*

1. Please communicate. Let us have your comments on 'Psitta Scene', the objectives of the World Parrot Trust, and any other parrot-related matters. Let us know of any projects we might be able to consider.
2. Articles and news items would be appreciated. Send them to Rosemary Low, Editor, 'Psitta Scene', World Parrot Trust, Glanmor House, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 4HY, U.K.
3. The trust aims to establish support groups worldwide. If you can help with this, write to Michael Reynolds, Hon. Director, World Parrot Trust.
4. Members are very welcome. Please consider joining the trust, and recruiting friends and associates.

## AIMS OF THE WORLD PARROT TRUST

The objective of the trust is to promote the survival of all parrot species and the welfare of individual birds.

This objective will be pursued in the following ways:

- a By educating the general public worldwide about the threat to parrot survival, and seeking their interest, concern and support.
- b By action to protect and preserve the natural habitats of parrots worldwide.
- c By gathering and disseminating information on the status of parrot populations in the wild and in captivity.
- d By advocating effective controls on the international trade in wild-caught parrots, and its replacement by captive-bred birds.
- e By encouraging co-operation in the breeding of parrots by aviculturists and zoological institutions, and better liaison between the captive breeding community and conservation bodies, with the aim of creating self-sustaining populations of endangered species.
- f By promoting high standards in the keeping of parrots as pets.
- g By encouraging research projects, i.e.: the veterinary care of parrots, and the preservation of genetic diversity.
- h By any other means that may be appropriate.

# YES I WANT TO BE A PARROT CONSERVATIONIST

Helping the **SURVIVAL** of all parrot species, and the **WELFARE** of every individual parrot.

Name Mr/Mrs/Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES (please tick)

- Single £10     Family £17.00     Fellow £100     Overseas \$25 US Dollars (or equivalent)
- Additional donation £ \_\_\_\_\_

If you can afford to give more than the basic subscription rate, your money will help us fight harder to save the parrots.

I enclose cheque/P.O. for £ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to or The World Parrot Trust

Please charge my Access/Visa Ac/No.

Card expiry date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount £ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

OR better still, please sign this Banker's Order

### BANKERS ORDER

To: The Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Bank

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Sortcode

Please pay The World Parrot Trust, the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ every month/year, starting on \_\_\_\_\_ (date), and debit my account no. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Pay to The World Parrot Trust, A/C No. 91144022, Midland Bank plc, Exmouth, Devon EX8 1HF.

Please send to The World Parrot Trust, **NOT** to your bank.

The World Parrot Trust, Glanmor House, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 4HY, U.K.

The World Parrot Trust  
Glanmor House, Hayle  
Cornwall TR27 4HY, U.K.

