

# Suns rise in Brazil



Nature and all its different shapes and colors were always a passion for me. I love watching birds in their wild habitats. I also enjoy watching the birds that live in the urban environment. Wherever they are, I enjoy trying to identify them by their calls, way of flying and other characteristics.



In January 2008, in the city of Boa Vista, Brazil, a new call caught my attention. To my surprise, it came from a pair of brightly colored birds which impressed me for their astonishing beauty.

Quickly I called my husband to bring his new camera and our urban parrot adventure began. Soon we learned that we had just taken the first known photographs of Sun Conures in the city of Boa Vista. The pictures were uploaded to Flickr ([www.flickr.com/photos/edandradejunior](http://www.flickr.com/photos/edandradejunior)) and were soon rolling around the world.



Researchers believe Sun Conures in an urban environment like Boa Vista are escapees from captivity that have adapted to a feral lifestyle. In urban environments there is less pressure from poaching as rural birds may be killed for food or captured for the illegal trade.

"Home gardens" are common in tropical countries and might also contribute to the bird's success. This bird is eating sprouts from the caimbé flower.



By Larissa M. Diehl  
Photos © Ed Andrade Jr.

This flock of ten conures seems to be composed of one or two adult pairs, some youngsters and juveniles.

In November 2008, after almost a year of intense searching by Ed, we located a nest of 6 conures. To our surprise, the nest was inside a concrete pole.



The Boa Vista flock may have originated from a 2006 confiscation of 10 chicks. In our research we learned of these birds and the fact that their holding cage had been found open.

However, as this flock contains juveniles and new fledglings, it seems clear that the birds are now breeding and enjoying life in the city.