

AWI PARROTS

worldwide



**Sun Conures:
a challenge
to save
the species**

ROSEMARY LOW

FIRST LADY of aviculture & parrot conservation

With Helmut Sedlmeier about feeding Galahs

Breeding Vernal Hanging-Parrots

A MONTHLY DIGITAL MAGAZINE FOR PARROT BREEDERS AND FRIENDS



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Contact

WhatsApp/Mobile: +420 602 275 299

E-mail: info@awiparrots.com

Company advertising

E-mail: info@awiparrots.com

Digital subscription

online orders on the web

www.awiparrots.com

Editorial team

Alena Winner

publisher & editor in chief

Rosemary Low

honorary member & professional consultant

Christof Götz

general parrot breeding

MVDr. Helena Vaidlová

avian medicine

Ing. Martin Rašek

general parrot breeding & mutations

Mgr. Hana Ash & Christopher Ash

translations & language corrections



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ROSEMARY LOW

FIRST LADY OF

AVICULTURE & PARROT CONSERVATION

By AWIPARROTS

The British author of more than 33 books on birds, published between 1969 and 2022.



The editorial staff of the AWIPARROTS magazine wish Rosemary Low a very happy 80th April birthday. As you can read in the text below, this first lady of worldwide importance in the field of parrot breeding has already fulfilled many dreams. We would like to wish her plenty of health and enthusiasm for many more years to come, and many more articles, travels, photographs and successes.

Sun Conures: a challenge to save the species

By Rosemary Low



◀ The outstanding beauty of the Sun Conure has nearly caused its extinction in the wild

I recently read an article about Sun Conures (*Aratinga solstitialis*) in an Australian magazine that set me thinking. The author, a well-known breeder, Jade Welch, wrote that they appear to have fallen from favour due to their loud calls and the many mutations available in other species. Their calls have always been loud! I think he is right about the availability of mutations, especially in Green-cheeked Conures (*Pyrrhura molinae*). This species has the temperament to make a wonderful companion bird and, perhaps, even more importantly, they are readily available in a wide range of mutations.

VERNAL *(Loriculus vernalis)* HANGING-PARROT

Words by Dr. Slobodan Ivič & **photos by** Jaap Stelder



The Vernal hanging Parrot (*Loriculus vernalis*) is a parrot that inhabits the area of southwestern India to the eastern parts of Southeast Asia. This means that we could see it in India, the eastern part of Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Bangladesh, Thailand, Cambodia, as far as south Vietnam, but also in the Andaman Islands. If we consider this area as a complete unit, then the only place where Vernal hanging Parrots do not occur in this area would be Sri Lanka, as they have been replaced by the endemic Sri Lanka hanging Parrot (*Loriculus beryllinus*). The habitats in which these birds live are characterised by the presence of woody plants and a dry climate; they also inhabit medium-sized forests, clearings, thickets, and even cultivated fields. They can be found up to 1,800 m above sea level.

Keepers who want to enjoy the sight of these feathered creatures in their aviaries must take into account the above-mentioned climatic conditions. In the wild, this species also migrates seasonally, depending on the food sources currently available. Outside the pairing time, Hanging Parrots move in small flocks. In addition, they are difficult to observe in the wild, as the different shades of green colouration offer them an excellent opportunity to blend in with green foliage. They are energetic and adroit as they

move through dense brushes. They can even be spotted hanging from branches like bats.

When observing the male, we find that it is dominated by an emerald green colour. The front of his neck has a light blue patch. The upper wing is a darker shade of green. On the inside of the wing, the plumage is green, while the flight feathers are light blue. The parts above the tail and tailbone are red.

The females are similar to the males, but with the exception that the blue colour on the front of the neck

9 questions for Helmut Sedlmeier on feeding Galahs



By AWIPARROTS

Helmut Sedlmeier narrowly specialises in the breeding of galahs. He is one of Germany's leading experts in breeding this beautiful species. With several decades of experience, he has already mastered a feeding system that is closely related to rearing success.

Galahs are prone to obesity, which can adversely affect their health and consequently their breeding performance. What is your experience?

Overfeeding galahs is very bad in any case. The birds accumulate fat in their bodies, fly poorly, and in most cases are also infertile. This usually happens with cockatoos that are overfed with a high amount of sunflower seeds and do not have a spacious enough aviary to build up muscle mass. The overall nutritional care is also related to the furnishing of the aviary. It is almost a necessity for cockatoos to have plenty of branches to gnaw on and a permanent opportunity to nibble on bark and leaves.

How do you feed galahs in the non-breeding season?

The quiet season for my parrots is from November to December. The parrots only get low-calorie grains at around 30 g per day. Each day they must shuck every



By Jordan Lewis

Easy way of feeding lories & lorikeets



Goldie's lorikeet (*Glossoptilus goldiei*)

In the last issue I introduced my parrot breeding in Australia to you. I specialize in lories and lorikeets, and since the editorial office has received several questions and requests to clarify my feeding method, I am including this short article. My method of feeding lories and lorikeets is actually very simple.

Lories and lorikeets are a special group of parrots that feed on sweet flower nectar in the wild. They have the tip of their tongue adapted to function as a kind of brush which they use to pick up the nectar. In the wild, the Lories and Lorikeets also feed on flowers, buds, sweet fruit, and they ingest the mentioned nectar including pollen. Therefore, they are also important pollinators. Although it may not seem easy at first, feeding lories and lorikeets in human care is not difficult at all. At present there are many good

quality commercial blends on the market which are ready to serve when mixed with water. I personally use the VetaFarm brand, which has proven effective in my breeding. On days when the weather is cold here in Australia, I serve the nectar hot.

All year round, the lories and lorikeets have a variety of very sweet fruit, but also twigs of local trees containing buds or flowers. The endemic flora is a great advantage for us - breeders living in parrot homelands. However, in European conditions it is

Breeding facility from PUR PANELS



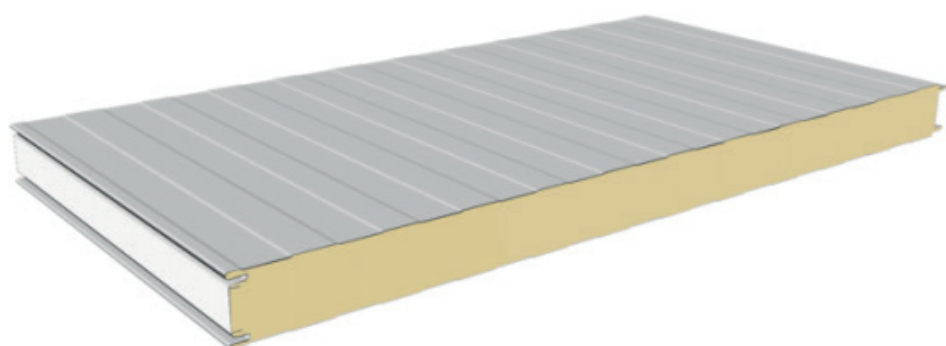
Words by Antonin Zeleny & son
Photos by Alena Winner



In the autumn of 2018, we decided to expand our existing breeding facility, which has approximately 100 aviaries. The plan was to build a total of 16 new aviaries and to start in spring 2019. Since we visit a lot of breeders with whom we discuss new trends, using PUR panels for the construction was an obvious choice.

We hadn't planned any large-scale project. We knew how big aviaries we wanted and made a simple little paper plan. Accordingly, we calculated how many PUR panels and other material we would need. We had the PUR panels (60 mm) cut to the required dimensions and ordered them from an internet shop. The company brought them to our home.

First we started with a concrete slab, which we recommend as a base. Of course, you could also build the facility on boards, but mice could get into these over time. If you make a good quality concrete base slab, rodents don't stand a chance. We battened the



Composed of polyol and isocyanurate, Polyurethane (PUR) is a rigid foam that is created by using special materials and under the specific production conditions. It provides an outstanding thermal insulation as it has closed cell structure. PUR insulation core is the great choice for perfect thermal insulation on the wall panels of aviaries.

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