

AWIPARROTS

worldwide

A monthly
magazine
for parrot
breeders
and friends



Roberto
Arango



Orange-chinned Parakeets
at the Del Istmo Conservation Center PANAMA

GÜNTER BALLON on Amazon Parrots
and their fascinating colours

Thermal comfort for parrots
OSTEOSYNTHESIS IN THE RED-FRONTED MACAW



AWIPARROTS worldwide

Editorial *May*

*With two very good friends,
parrot breeders Janice Fletcher
and Jez Kingman from Great Britain*



Dear friends!

The month of May is called the "TIME OF LOVE" in Europe. Although we would like it to reflect its name at all times, the current situation is not easy. I need not mention in detail what is currently happening and how much we wish that the Russian-Ukrainian conflict would be reconciled. Kindness, understanding and love are perhaps needed now more than ever before. However, we cannot affect justice of the world on the pages of this magazine. What we can influence, though, is earnestness, decency and honesty in our field – the breeding of parrots in human care. Throughout my many years of practice, I continue to encounter all sorts of breeding stories, whether happy or unhappy. One of the current problems that has been on a persistent - albeit creeping - increase, is the sale of unweaned (non-independent) baby parrots. Unfortunately, the tendency of sales has been rising and consequently the problems related to hand rearing, which many inexperienced breeders do not know how to deal with, have been multiplying. The reason for this is nothing else than the vision of quick financial profit for the sellers. Such activity has nothing to do with breeding and with what it should be about in the first place. The objective of responsible parrot breeding is mainly to try to preserve a particular species, since given the current events on the planet, there will probably come a day when many species, not just parrots, will need our help. Breeding is about work

in the sense of finding out the needs of the species and learning how to breed and ideally rear them naturally. If someone is offering partially hand-fed and unweaned chicks, it does not provide a good picture of breeding as a whole and it should be realised that these practices unfortunately attract the attention of various pseudo-conservation organisations, which then tar all exotic bird breeders with the same brush. As a result, certain groups often try to ban artificial incubation or parrot breeding altogether. We aim to promote responsible breeding in the pages of our magazine in order to help the development of a field that may be very important in the future in relation to endangered species. I believe that by regularly educating the public we will persuade buyers to avoid purchasing unweaned baby parrots.

Nevertheless, given the daily activity in the parrot world, I can optimistically say that there are fortunately still enough responsible breeders in the world. These include, for example, Jez Kingman and Janice Fletcher from the UK. We have been in contact for many years and I was privileged to spend a few days with them at the Del Istmo Conservation Center in Panama, where the photograph for the May editorial was taken. Talking to them always gives me the drive and energy to continue my journalistic work promoting sound principles of exotic bird breeding in human care.

Alena Winner
AWIPARROTS publisher



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GÜNTER BALLON

on Amazon parrots and their fascinating colours

By Alena Winner & Günter Ballon



The first leaps out of the nest

Loro Parque

Fundación



By Rafael Zamora Padrón, Scientific Director of the Loro Parque Fundación
Photos M. José & M. Weinzettl/LPF



The time to evaluate the results of the first clutches is now. At breeders' meetings the first question usually asked at this time is: *"How are you doing with the breeding, many fertile eggs?"* The answer can be positive or negative and there are even predictions of a bad or good season if the majority agree on a high infertility rate or a low birth rate or vice versa.

◀ A chick of Slender-billed Corella
(*Cacatua tenuirostris*) Photo: M. José/LPF

Orange-chinned Parakeets

Brotogeris jugularis

at the Del Istmo Conservation Center

Panama

By Alena Winner & Jacobo Lacs



It's 5 a.m. and the countryside on the hilly Caribbean coast of Panama surrounding the Del Istmo Conservation Center is slowly waking up to a new day. The short, shrill and insistent sound of Orange-chinned Parakeets (*Brotogeris jugularis*) ring out through the surroundings. These small green parrots can be heard from the crowns of the mango trees (*Mangifera*). They arrive in a flock on the indented branches and spread around the tree crown depending on where they discover the juicy mango fruits. They fervently gnaw on them, chirping softly.

Galah
(*Eolophus roseicapilla*)



Thermal comfort for parrots

By MVDr. Veronika Trhonova & Ing. Vojtech Trhon

The temperature inside a breeding facility should be adapted to the particular parrot species, taking into account the temperatures that occur in the habitat of the particular parrot species in the wild. However, we still see situations where, e.g. Amazon parrots, which originally come from tropical rainforest areas, are kept in unheated aviaries in winter at temperatures of around 5 °C. We should realise that not every cockatoo is the same.

Why teflon is harmful TO PARROTS



By MVDr. Helena Vaidlová

Most owners of pet parrots know the basic dangers of parrot poisoning – avocados and Teflon. Is Teflon really that dangerous? I mean, a lot of people at home fry in Teflon pans, bake in Teflon dishes in ovens and use toasters with Teflon surfaces. Information on the dangers of Teflon for parrots and other birds is abundant on the Internet and in literature. Yet, birds are still dying unnecessarily, therefore it's worth reminding ourselves again. Hopefully it will save at least one bird's life.

Osteosynthesis in the Red-fronted Macaw

By MVC. Pavol Kováčik & MVC. Klaudia Mičková
Veterinary clinic Žilina, Slovakia



Every parrot breeder is most satisfied if his/her breeding stock is doing well both health-wise and breeding-wise. However, there are days when everything does not go quite according to plan. This was the case with our patient, the Red-fronted Macaw (*Ara rubrogenys*). The owner came to our Veterinary Clinic in Žilina (Slovakia) informing us that he found his parrot hanging from a perch, with the macaw stuck by its ring. The keeper immediately freed the parrot, but noticed that the bird was not putting any strain on one of its limbs, hanging freely on the perch.

Fires and poisoning in the Pantanal: Hyacinth Macaws slow to recover



By Dr. David Waugh, Loro Parque Fundación

Even with the Covid pandemic underway, the world's attention in 2020 was drawn to the gigantic wildfires that raced through the Pantanal wetlands of Brazil. The fires burned between January and November of that year, by some estimates affecting 120,000 square kilometres and killing almost 17 million vertebrate animals. Those most impacted were smaller vertebrates, including small lizards, birds and rodents, and the damage to the functionality of the wetland ecosystem has been severe.

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