

AWI PARROTS

worldwide



GERHARD HINZ:

Blue-crowned Lorikeets

Breeding Grey Parrots in Greece

Port Lincoln Parakeets

Listening for Great Green Macaws and cows



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84

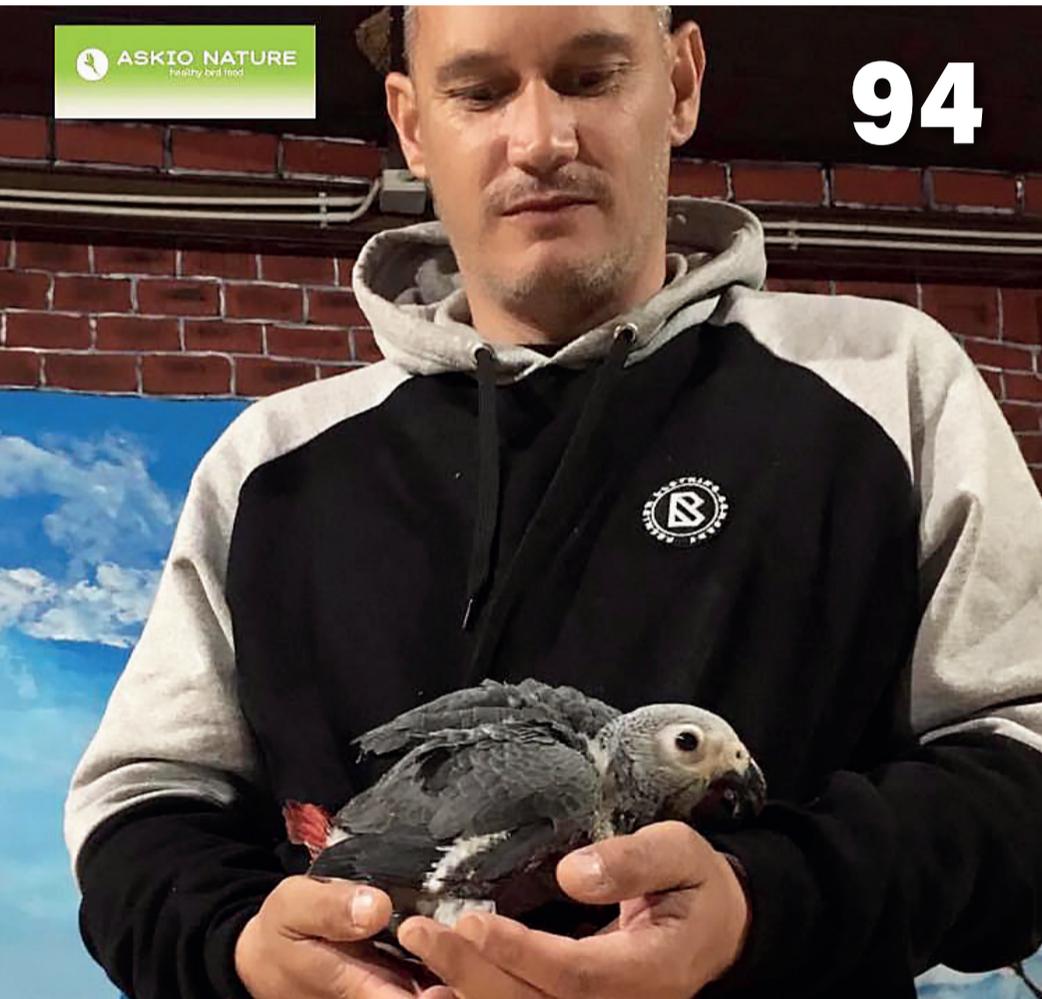


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Blue-crowned Lorikeets

Vini australis



By Gerhard Hinz

The Blue-crowned Lorikeet (*Vini australis*) is a 19 cm long, fast-flying parrot that belongs to the small lorikeet group. It has bright blue head plumage that appears to be made up of individual tiny bristles. The throat and abdomen are coloured red and the rest of the body is green. Sexual dimorphism is not apparent in these Vini lorikeets. In my experience, females may have a lighter coloured throat and the red patch is smaller.

However, to be on the safe side, I recommend taking a sample and having a DNA analysis of the blood. Young birds have a black bill and legs. Their plumage colouration is generally duller. Its natural range in the wild is Samoa, the eastern islands of Fiji and French Polynesia. Here, these small, active lorikeets are most often found in solitary trees, seeking out the edges of forests, but they also fly into coconut plantations.



Assistance to breeding pairs at Loro Parque Fundación



By Rafael Zamora Padrón, Scientific Director of the Loro Parque Fundación
Photos by Moises Pérez

This year, in the breeding center of Loro Parque Fundación, has begun with the reproduction of some species that usually start a few months later. This indicator responds to a particularly mild winter in terms of temperature, which on this occasion, have not been very low. The new pairs and those that were being prepared since the end of last summer, have given an immediate response to the stimuli offered.

Eclectus Parrot chick with shiny new feathers indicating that the parents have had a good feed



Frequently in the breeding centers of the world, at the beginning of the breeding season, there are infertile eggs. This can be considered normal if the individuals of each pair have not been able to stimulate each other correctly and in a synchronized way. The macaws for example are already with their first chicks and it is something that augurs good results for those couples that will have time to make their second clutches. Eclectus parrots have feathered chicks that show their vigor from the moment of hatching. This is another detail that indicates that the parents have been fed well and that their conditions are optimal at this time of the year. In the case of the Australian species many are in their second clutch as they start in our Winter. It is now when attention should be paid to the young pairs that have not started so early and are mating in early spring. It is important to distinguish between the support food for the breeders consisting of extra protein feed, easy to consume,

Breeding Grey Parrots in North-western Greece

By Kostas Tzimourtas

I would like to greet all readers of the Awiparrots magazine. It is my pleasure to share with you my experience with breeding African Grey Parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*). This is a topic that is quite often discussed among breeders and, as with other parrot species, there are different ways to go about breeding management. Let me tell you about mine – my own and proven management.



I got my very first pair of Grey Parrots from my father when I was 13 years old. It was also the first parrot species I had the opportunity to study and breed. In the 1990s, the price for Grey Parrots was not high, and this was my dream come true. At that time, I sought information on how to breed exotic birds in books and later on the internet. I was aware that this was not an easy species for a beginner, and I was all the more responsible in my approach to new parrots.

The African Grey Parrots were officially described in 1758 by the Swedish natural scientist Carl Linnaeus in the tenth edition of "Systema Naturae". He placed it in the genus *Psittacus* and named these beautiful birds *Psittacus erithacus*. The genus name "Psittacus" means "parrot" in the Latin language and the species name "erithacus" is derived from the ancient Greek "erithakos", meaning an unknown species of bird that can imitate human sounds.

Port Lincoln Parakeet

in our aviaries for 160 years

By Achim Lutz

As soon as the days get longer in February, you can smell the spring on sunny days in Europe. When the first willow catkins start to appear in March, the concert of voices begins to resound again, not only in the bird world at home but also in my aviaries, where my Port Lincoln Parakeets (*Barnardius zonarius zonarius*) announce the end of winter and the slowly starting breeding season with their unmistakable melodic courtship calls.



ENDOPARASITES

interesting background knowledge
and their detection in a faecal sample

By Achim Lutz



Cloncurry Parakeets (*Barnardius zonarius macgillivrayi*)

To successfully combat the endoparasites *Ascaridia* and *Capillaria*, undoubtedly the most common in Australian Parakeets, I will explain interesting background knowledge to better understand their life cycle and the possible therapeutic measures derived from this.

In discussions with bird lovers, I often encounter controversial opinions about possible damage to the birds by administering medicines against endoparasites. I want

to counter this by saying that there is no need to fear any side effects with the correct dosage and administration of the active ingredient and the mandatory repeated administration at the right time intervals. Instead, the positive impact of the almost endoparasite-free birds is to be named: better condition and, with it, a significantly better feathering and reproductive performance of the birds.

SPLAYED LEGS IN PARROT CHICKS

By Helena Vaidlova

Question from a reader of AWIPARROTS magazine:

One of my pairs of Galahs unfortunately breaks eggs every year. I therefore remove the eggs and place them in a bird brooder. This pair has been nesting for several years. About 60% of the chicks are healthy and 40 % have a problem with a splayed leg. By fixing and placing the chick in a narrow dish, I have always been able to deal the problem and the cockatoo has grown into a healthy individual. This year the chick you see in the photo hatched without any problems. However, from the beginning it had a noticeably darker belly and after about three days there was a huge sprain in the leg at the hip which I can't get straightened out. The Galah is just seven days old, and he has occasional tremors. It is accepting food normally and is growing. Can you advise me on how to proceed and if there is any chance of me helping him?

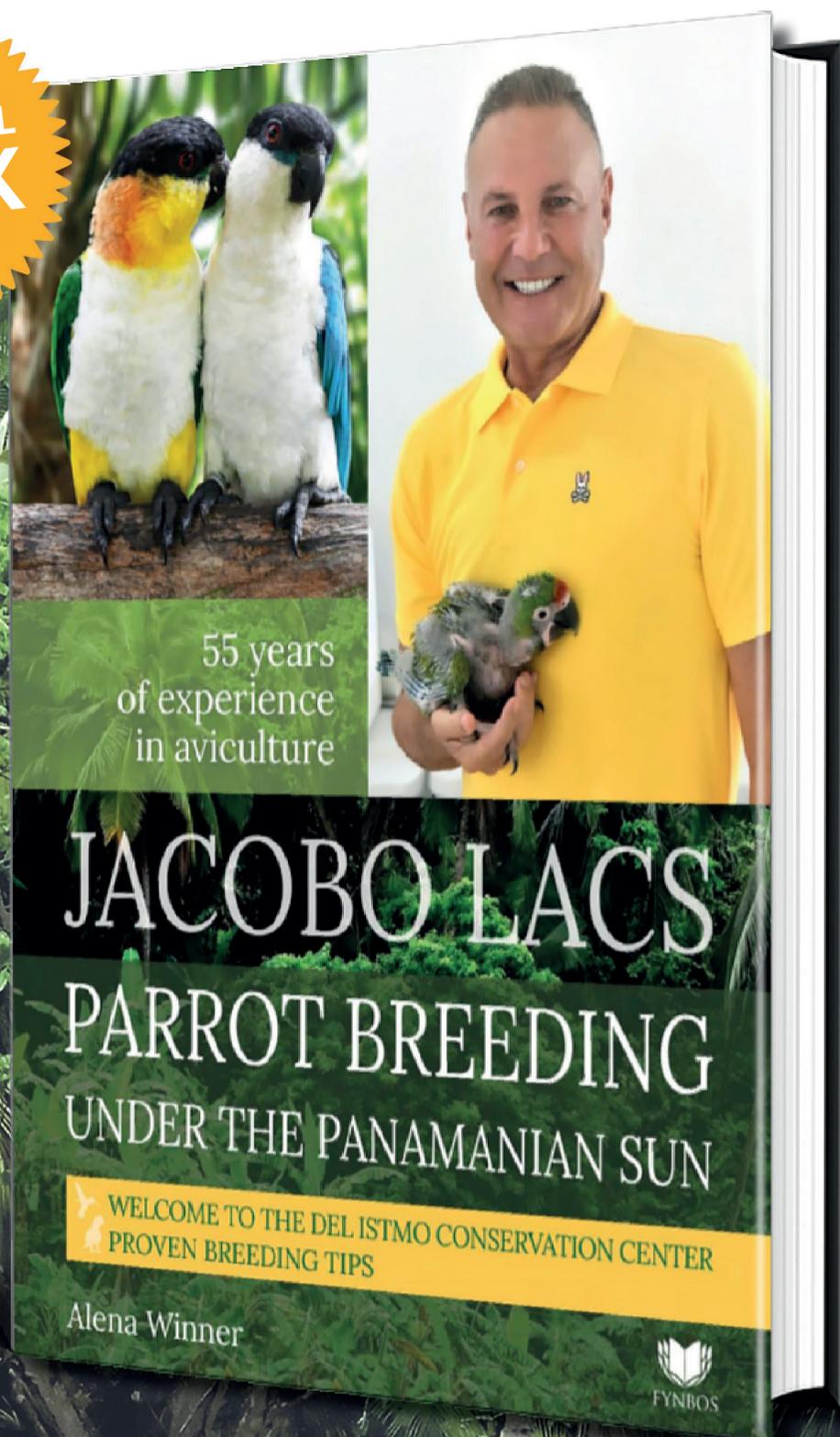
Thank you, Petr H., parrot breeder



▲
A seven days old Galah with the splayed leg



A BEAUTIFUL
BOOK



This publication will take you to the romantic Caribbean coast to Puerto Lindo in Panama. Located here is an extraordinary conservation centre, including a breeding facility and zoo, called the "Del Istmo Conservation Center", where 450 species and subspecies of birds and 50 species of mammals are taken care of. Get a glimpse into the interesting life of its founder, the famous bird expert **Jacobo Lacs**, who shares the best breeding methods as well as many useful practical tips, drawn from his 55 years of experience.

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