

# AWIPARROTS

## worldwide



**Ioulios  
Xristoforou**  
Parrot breeding  
in the PAFOS  
ZOO Cyprus

PAFOS  
**ZOO**



**LILAC-CROWNED AMAZON**  
further specification of the subspecies

**Ralf Neumeyer presents  
his breeding of Red-billed Parrots**



# AWIPARROTS

## Editorial worldwide

**German aviculturist Christof Götz has been successfully breeding White-fronted Amazons (*Amazona a. albifrons*) for four years. Besides the Amazons, Christof focuses on various neotropical parrot species such as the popular White-bellied Parrot – (*Pionites leucogaster xanthomerius*) but also less common species like the Red-shouldered Macaw (*Diopsittaca nobilis cumanensis*), Cactus Conures (*Eupsittula cactorum*), and Weddell's conures (*weddellii*). The second part of his hobby relates to the large African Poicephalus species, notably Red-fronted Parrots (*Poicephalus g. gulielmi*) and Grey-headed Parrots (*Poicephalus fuscicollis suahelicus*).**



Dear friends!

With the days unavoidably getting shorter now, the breeding season has basically finished in Europe. It is the time to renovate our aviaries and maybe set up new pairs for the coming breeding season. We can now harvest many crops in gardens and nature. Let's go and collect berries to freeze for an entire year's stock of vitamins for our birds!

With the pandemic still going on, this autumn will again lack our loved bird exhibitions, fairs and conferences so typical for this time of the year and so important for the personal exchange among breeders. Nothing better than to take the time to read more, the time for the new edition of AWIPARROTS!

This month, we are excited to feature the Cyprus-based Pafos Zoo, still unknown to many bird lovers, but a hidden gem with its fantastic collection of birds.

Ralf Neumeyer, an expert in neotropical parrots, gives insights to the breeding of rare *Pionus* species. We take a look at claws from the perspective of aviary medicine and give essential advice on how to correctly take samples from blood and feathers, and the list goes on... yet another edition with pure content.

Month by month, AWIPARROTS entertains and educates both parrot professionals and private enthusiasts all over the world, no matter the Covid restrictions. We as the breeders are grateful to Alena Winner who took the courage to create AWIPARROTS as a competence-based platform for parrot people worldwide.

Christof Götz  
AWIPARROTS editor & breeder of parrots



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# Ralf Neumeyer presents his breeding of Red-billed Parrots

**By** Alena Winner & Ralf Neumeyer | **Photos copyright** AWIPARROTS

The word "sordidus" means "dirty, unclean" in Latin. However, it has nothing to do with the appearance of Red-billed Parrots (*Pionus sordidus sordidus*). This twenty-eight-centimetre parrot looks clean and elegant, and if its nutrition is balanced, its plumage shines beautifully, especially under the glare of the sun's rays. This is exactly what the parrots of Ralf Neumeyer, an experienced breeder from Upper Austria (Europe), look like.



▲  
*Pionus sordidus corallinus*

*Amazona finschi woodi**Amazona finschi finschi*

# LILAC-CROWNED AMAZON

By Christof Götz

## further specification of the subspecies

In the photo above you can clearly see the difference between the subspecies of the Lilac-crowned Amazon – *A. f. finschi* and *A. f. woodi*. As I mentioned in the previous article on White-fronted Amazons, even with this species it is very important to focus on breeding pure subspecies and not to crossbreed them with each other, even if you cannot find a counterpart.

Despite its relatively large area of natural occurrence, the Lilac-crowned Amazon is endangered in the wild – trade by local people is to blame. In Europe, Lilac-crowned Amazons are represented in quite large numbers, however it is often a problem to identify a subspecies. Most parrots are of the *woodi* subspecies. The pure *finschi* subspecies is almost

# CLAWS

*By* MVDr. Helena Vaidlova



The parrot's foot has a typical arrangement: a total of four toes - two pointing backwards and two forwards. This arrangement is professionally called a zygodactyl foot. The second and third toes point forward and the first and fourth toes point backward. There is a clear reason for this - to stay on a branch and be able to climb and stay in terrain that is not horizontal. There are claws on the end of the toes. They tend to be sharp enough to keep the parrot on the base well. The more it uses the legs and claws for this purpose, the more abraded and blunt they become.

to immobilize the bird. All aids for holding the bird must be brought by the breeders themselves. All sampling aids will be provided by our laboratory.

### **Recapitulation of blood sampling principles**

What can a blood sample be taken on/into:

1. Collection cards are ideal, which we can supply on request.
2. Cotton swabs, gauze and cosmetic cotton pads constitute other options, see figure 1.
3. A test tube with EDTA.

### **What to pay attention to when sampling:**

1. Write the identification data on the card in advance.
2. Take each sample with a different needle.
3. Disinfect the injection area only after collection.
4. Allow the blood sample on the card or cotton swab to dry sufficiently - ideally for a few hours at a room temperature on a tissue.
5. Wrap each sample separately. This also applies to test tubes. If the tube breaks during transport, the contents of the bag can also be used for analysis if there is only one tube in it.
6. In the case of sampling using a swab, place the identification data of the bird individual into the bag along with the swab.



### **Examples of blood sampling options**

**– collection card, cotton swab, gauze pad, cosmetic cotton pad.**

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