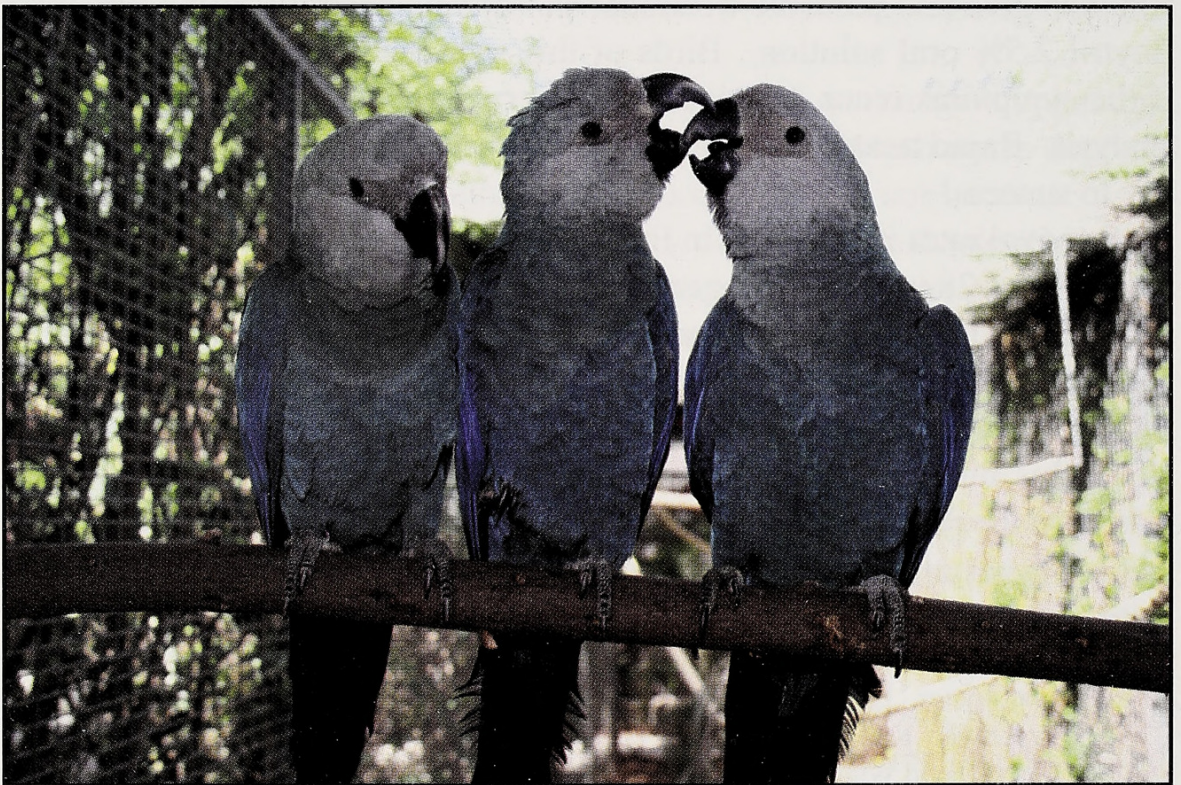


LORO PARQUE FUNDACIÓN REPATRIATES FOUR MORE SPIX'S MACAWS TO BRAZIL

by Dr. David Waugh

In April of 2013, four more Spix's Macaws *Cyanopsitta spixii* were transferred from the specialized breeding centre at Loro Parque Fundación in Tenerife, Spain to their native country of Brazil, in a repatriation that contributes to the recovery of this iconic parrot species. Officials from the competent Brazilian Government agency, the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio), accompanied the specimens on their journey to Brazil and all four specimens have subsequently passed successfully through quarantine and are now accommodated in the facilities of NEST, another centre authorized to keep this species. Spix's Macaws



Young Spix's Macaws at Loro Parque.

transferred from the Loro Parque Fundación (LPF) include specimens that were bred in its breeding centre, and all of the specimens are owned by the Government of Brazil, which oversees the official recovery programme. The Loro Parque Fundación returned the ownership of all its Spix's Macaws to Brazil in 1997, and is the only organization outside Brazil to have done so.

This latest repatriation is very significant because the Spix's Macaw is almost certainly extinct in the wild, and can only be recovered by captive breeding and subsequent release of macaws to the wild. The managed captive

population within the official programme numbers 79 individuals, which is a very small number with which to work for its recovery. Endemic to the region of the very dry north of Bahia State, the original wild population occupied specialized habitat limited to the basin of the São Francisco river, which is now greatly reduced in area. The wild Spix's Macaw population, never thought to be large, declined due to habitat loss and then the removal of birds for trade. The last wild specimen, a male paired with a female Blue-winged Macaw *Primolius maracana*, disappeared in the year 2000.

The LPF and Loro Parque have been instrumental in their efforts to save the Spix's Macaw ever since the first meeting organized for this purpose in Tenerife in 1987. The next key meeting took place in 1989 in Lausanne, Switzerland at the time of the 7th Conference of the Parties to CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), and in addition to Loro Parque had representatives from IBAMA (Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources), TRAFFIC South America, the CITES Secretariat and various national CITES authorities. This meeting resulted in the formation of the Permanent Committee for the Recovery of the Spix's Macaw (CPRAA). Presiding over the CPRAA, in 1990 the Brazilian Government agreed to accept as legal, and not to try to confiscate, specimens that holders would agree to manage under the conditions of the official recovery programme (via the CPRRA), which completely excluded commercial trade. Despite other holders wavering in their commitment to these conditions over the years, the LPF has always maintained its obligation and contributed fully to the recovery programme.

This commitment included, from 1990 in partnership with IBAMA, its expertise and financial resources dedicated to protecting the last wild male Spix's Macaw and its remnants of habitat. These many recovery activities, including the release of a female Spix's Macaw (which subsequently disappeared) and a pilot release of a group of Blue-winged Macaws, were possible with more than US\$ 700,000 contributed by the Loro Parque Fundación. Also during all these years, the Loro Parque Fundación has been supporting the costs of maintaining and breeding Spix's Macaws in Tenerife, in a specialized, isolated centre which it constructed uniquely for this species to provide complete physical and biological security for the macaws.

The commitment of the Loro Parque Fundación to the continuing survival of the Spix's Macaw is accompanied by its dedication to protect many other species of threatened parrots around the world. This includes another highly threatened endemic macaw of Brazil, the Lear's Macaw *Anodorhynchus leari*, in partnership with ICMBio. Since its inception the Loro Parque Fundación has financed 96 projects with more than US\$13,750,000, and continues to support 35 projects in 2013 with over US\$1,150,000.

NEWS FROM LORO PARQUE FUNDACIÓN MAY 2013

by Dr. Matthias Reinschmidt

We are currently at the peak of activity in the rearing house as you would expect at this time of year. We are very pleased that we have the first Blue-eyed Cockatoo *Cacatua ophthalmica* of the season, which is growing perfectly under the care of the keepers. This cockatoo species is very rarely kept in captivity and its status in the wild in New Britain and New Ireland is threatened.

Also very important is the rearing of three Salmon-Crested Cockatoos *Cacatua moluccensis*, which are five to six weeks old. They were once common in captivity due to the import of wild caught specimens but they are not often bred and are now scarce in captivity. They are now bred regularly here at Loro Parque.

We had a great first-time breeding success of a young Red-vented Cockatoo *Cacatua haematuropygia* last year, and with three parent-reared young, it seems that it will happen again this year because the pair laid three eggs, all of which have hatched, and the young are being raised in an exemplary way by their parents. Also in the case of this species, breeding success in captivity is extremely important in order to establish a large gene pool as it is critically endangered in the wild.

A 20 day old Golden-collared Macaw *Primolius auricollis* is also being hand reared. Although this species is stable in the wild, in captivity it is becoming more and more unusual, and so it is very important to keep them in our aviaries.

Most of the chicks in the rearing house at this time are cockatoos and lorries. We have two Scaly-breasted Lorikeets *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*, one Rainbow Lorikeet *T. haematodus haematodus*, one Pale-headed Lorikeet *T. h. caeruleiceps*, one Deplanche's Lorikeet *T. h. deplanchii*, one Sunset or Forsten's Lorikeet *T. h. forsteni*, one Marigold Lorikeet *T. h. capistratus*, one Olive-headed Lorikeet *T. euteles*, eight Red-flanked Lorikeets *Charmosyna placentis*, two Black Lories *Chalcopsitta atra*, one Red Lory *Eos bornea*, and two Chattering Lories *Lorius garrulus flavopalliatu*s.

Between the end of April and the beginning of May, the 15th Parrot Workshop organised by *Papageien* magazine and LPF took place. During the week, 52 parrot owners and breeders had the opportunity to listen to an interesting programme of selected top speakers, and got many extraordinary insights behind the scenes of Loro Parque, and gained much new knowledge. All the participants were accommodated in the 5-star Hotel Botánico in Puerto de la Cruz, belonging to the Loro Parque group. The feedback from the participants was very good.



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