

# AWIPARROTS

## worldwide



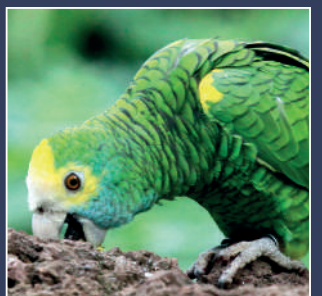
Interview with  
**Anton Vaidl**  
Parrot breeding  
in Prague  
Zoo

Gerhard Hinz's Red-headed Lovebirds  
Rosemary Low: Tips from 50 Years of Parrot Breeding

Loro Parque Fundación breeding tip



Successful breeding of *Chamosyna rubronotata*  
Avian vet advice ► Egg binding in parrots  
Bärbel Köhler: White-bellied Parrots as breeding pets



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**MARCH 2021**

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# Is it difficult to breed RED-HEADED LOVEBIRDS?

**By** Gerhard Hinz



▲  
**Gerhard Hinz from Germany is passionate about all animals in his house and breeding facility.**

**A**fter a very long time, I decided to acquire a 1.5 year old pair in March 2019. I must admit that besides other reasons, my decision was based on the fact that many breeders are literally afraid of this type of lovebird due to the demands, specific conditions, and alleged difficulty of the breeding itself. Thus I thought it would be a challenge.

I had Red-headed Lovebirds (*Agapornis pullarius*) in my aviaries as far back as in the 1980s. However, I then started to specialize in breeding lorries, lorikeets, and large species of parrots, giving up lovebirds for a while. I breed, for example, blue-crowned lorikeet (*Vini australis*), collared lory (*Phigys solitarius*), Major Mitchell's cockatoo (*Lophochroa leadbeateri*) and other species. Nevertheless, thanks to a friend from the Netherlands, red-headed lovebirds have never got out of my sight, fascinating me all these years.





ZOO PRAHA

# INFORMATION SHARING IS IMPORTANT,



## SAYS ANTON VAIDL

### bird curator at the Prague Zoo

# It's

the first Wednesday in June (2020) and I'm walking into the main entrance to the Prague Zoo. Owing to the ubiquitous pandemic, the zoo could not be visited for several weeks, but now knots of happy families and other visitors are forming, here again, eager to see one of the most impressive and well-run gardens in the world. At that time, it never occurred to any of us that the gates would soon close again and would still be shut with the publication of this article (March 2021).

The area of 58 hectares is home to 12 unique pavilions and more than 150 beautifully landscaped exhibits. Zookeepers take care of 4,600 animals belonging to 680 species here. I'm greeting the local bird curator, Anton Vaidl, and we're winding our way along a steep path lined with rocky slopes towards the "Černohouska" café to do an interview for this magazine. I'm immensely honoured to share moments with such a highly respected curator, whose years of breeding activities and Ex situ contribution worldwide are undoubtedly admirable.





**The Red-fronted Lorikeets (*Charmosyna rubronotata*) is one of the rarer lorikeet species in aviculture. In the autumn of 2009, I managed to obtain one young pair to add to our lory collection. It was one of the first pairs in the Czech Republic.**

# Personal experience with the breeding of the Red-fronted Lorikeet

**By** Milena Vaňková

We live in the north of the country, where the winters are sometimes intense. That is why we had to build a proper breeding facility for our birds. It is a temperate house containing a few cage-aviaries. My pair was put into a 1.2m-long x 1m-high x 1m-wide plastic aviary with a wire aviary mesh front wall and a swivel bowl feeder.

The aviary temperature is maintained between 20–25 °C. The Red-fronted Lorikeet and other lorikeet species that we breed, except the Papuan Lorikeet, do not tolerate lower temperatures which seem to have an immediate impact on their physical condition, mood, and activity levels.

For this reason, we maintain the higher temperature range mentioned. Although one can read in the literature that this species can be kept at a lower temperature than 15 °C, I cannot entirely agree with that statement. According to personal experiences,



Crimson-bellied Conures  
with two young ones.



# TIPS – NOT SECRETS FROM 50 YEARS OF PARROT BREEDING

**By** Rosemary Low



I will not apologize for stating the obvious when I say you only get out of something what you put in. This is most certainly the case where breeding parrots is concerned. If you cannot apply love and hard work, don't bother! The more time you spend with your birds, the better you get to know them and to observe what they need or the idiosyncrasies of certain individuals.





**By** MVDr. Helena Vaidlová

# EGG BINDING in parrots

The phrase "egg binding" usually refers to cases where the female has trouble laying eggs. It is not a completely accurate term, but it will be used here for all cases where the female has reproductive problems and needs our help to lay the egg. The problem most frequently occurs at the end of the oviduct, when the egg needs to be expelled from the oviduct through the cloaca out. However, some problems may occur even before that.

## **Egg yolk peritonitis**

Although this diagnosis does not directly belong to the group of problems with "egg binding," I would like to mention it here as well. The female, which reaches the period of reproduction, is affected by hormones from the pituitary gland, which stimulate the ovary to its activity. The individual follicles begin to enlarge and mature. The small formation, which resembles a miniature bunch of grapes outside the reproductive period, becomes a huge organ that occupies a large part of the female body's cavity.

This huge organ is composed of individual follicles of various sizes, which are the future egg yolks. Each follicle is bound by a membrane that is flexible and strong, but





# White-bellied Parrots

## Clowns among parrots

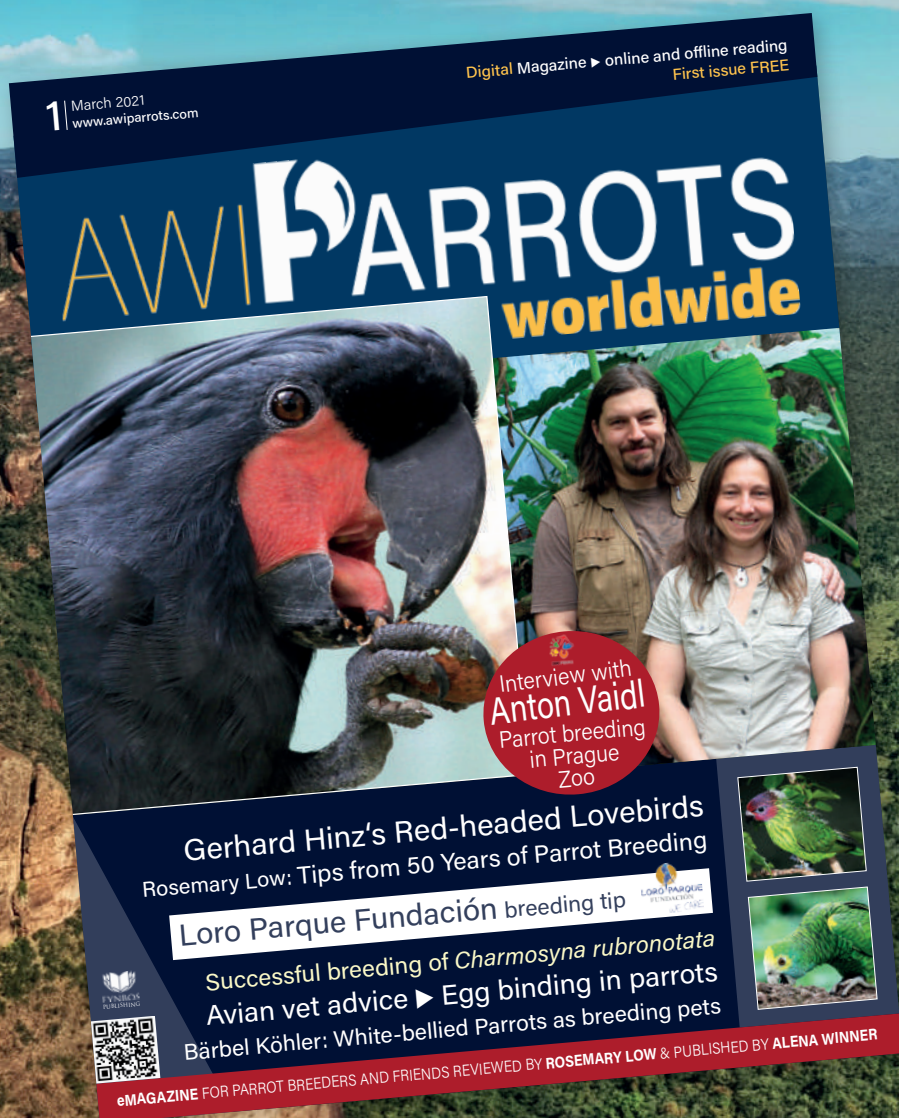
**By** Christof Götz, Bärbel Köhler

Bärbel Köhler from Germany has been breeding White-bellied Parrots (*Pionites leucogaster xanthomerius*) for many years. She wished to have pets that would rear their young ones. The male's name is Clyde, and he is fifteen years old. Unfortunately, his partner, who was fourteen, died very suddenly some time ago. It was clear to Bärbel that Clyde could not stay alone long, and she also didn't want him to get too attached to her. Bärbel agreed with an interview for the **AWIPARROTS worldwide**, and in the following lines, she will reveal how it all continued.



# AWI PARROTS

## worldwide



### About us

We are a new monthly digital magazine providing you with articles from experienced parrot breeders, avian vets, biologists, ethologists and pet owners from all over the world.

### Guarantee of expertise

Our editors are experienced practitioners and experts in the field of parrot breeding.

### Ethic journalism

We do our best to prepare high-quality and trustworthy articles for you that will help you in parrot breeding or taking care of your pets.

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