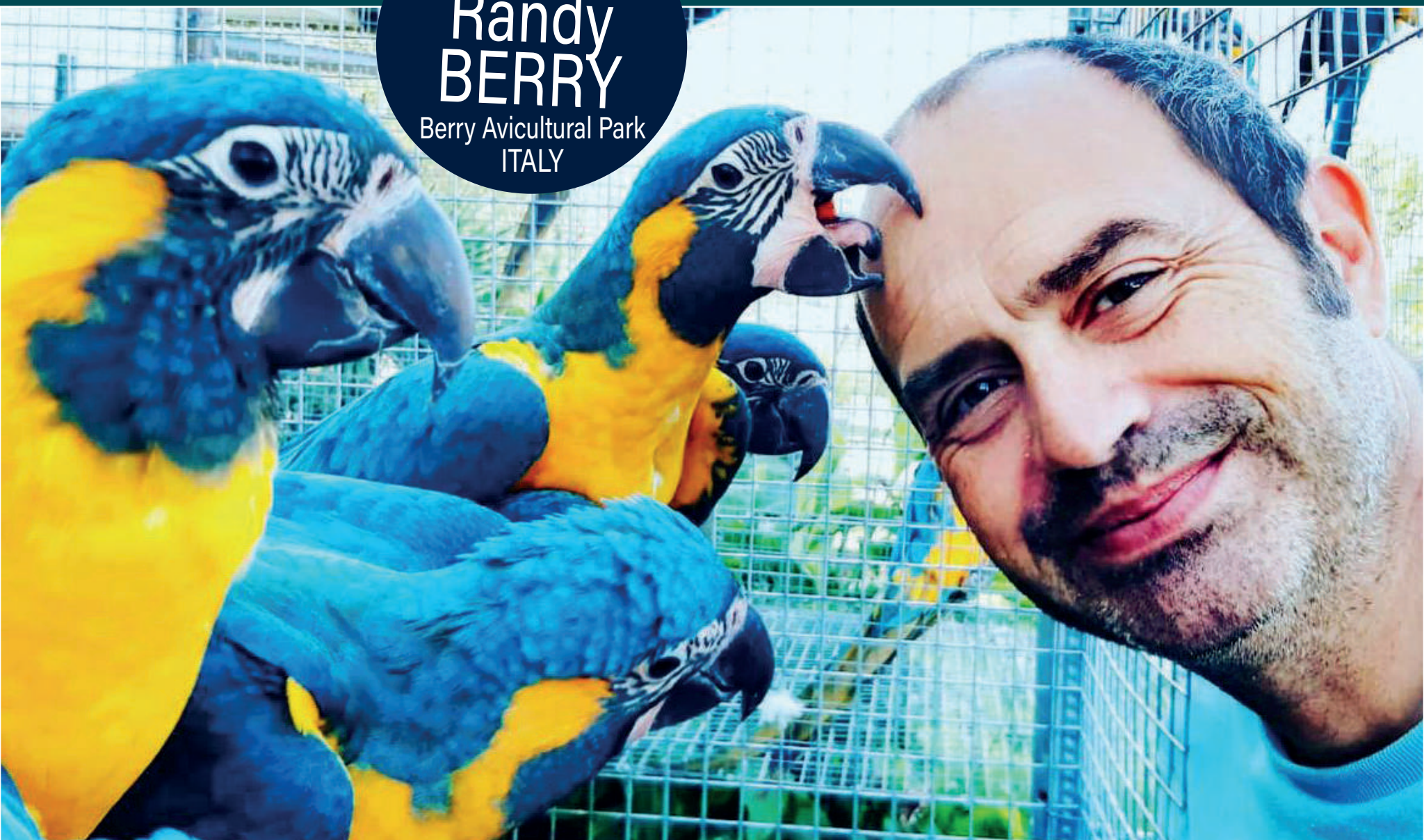


AWIPARROTS

worldwide

Interview
with
**Randy
BERRY**

Berry Avicultural Park
ITALY



Grey-headed Lovebird breeding



Belize Bird Rescue

AMBIGUA BIRD PARK

Revolution in Macaw nestboxes

Aggression in Parrots



A DIGITAL MAGAZINE FOR PARROT BREEDERS AND FRIENDS



JULY
2021

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By Christof Götz



About parrots with RANDY BERRY

Randy Berry's breeding facility is located near Naples in the picturesque town of Caiazzo, where, according to Google, they make the very best pizza in the world. I have known Randy for quite some time, but our personal meeting did not take place until 2018, on the occasion of the International Parrot Convention in Tenerife. Randy has been breeding parrots for several decades, and it is no secret that he is constantly educating himself in the field – not only in the breeding of parrots but also in the knowledge of botany. I could see that for myself on one of our Tenerife's walks, when we went past many endemic plant species where Randy was able to name them all in Latin and describe them. In this way, he studies in detail what parrots feed on in the wild and tries to adapt their diets as much as possible.

Grey-headed Lovebird

Agapornis canus



By Gabriel Bartalos

This small yet rare parrot comes from Madagascar. It inhabits coastal forests, occurring in colonies. The Grey-headed Lovebird (*Agapornis canus*) is the only *Agapornis* species that does not occur directly in continental Africa. It feeds on small seeds and fruit.



Besides the *Agapornis canus canus* species, there is also one of its subspecies - *Agapornis canus ablectaneus*. This subspecies is smaller and darker than the original. The first written reference of this species dates back to 1788 and came from Johan Friedrich Gmelin. This lovebird reached Europe in 1860 and could be seen by visitors to the London Zoo. In the

19th century it also got to Germany. Nevertheless, its breeding in Europe was not very successful. Captured birds were shy and hated being closed in. They did not receive adequate food either and the local climate did not suit them. The German breeder Dr. Karl Russ reported on the first successful breeding in 1872.

AMBIGUA BIRD PARK



By Mirjam Vogel

By establishing the Ambigua Bird Park in Switzerland, Rolf Lanz fulfilled his dream. A likable smiling man sparkling with energy built a parrot oasis in the small village of Zeihen, which is open to the public. It is a non-profit organization - a rescue centre. There are currently 400 individuals of seventy species. The parrots come from private breeders as well as associations. Many of them were brought here by people who could not take care of them, but sometimes there are individuals seized by the authorities. Since 2020, the park's activities have also included a foundation.



Hhe bird park was opened in May 2015 and has been enjoying growing interest ever since. The founder Rolf always has new and newer ideas, which he has been gradually implementing - practically according to currently available funds. The enthusiasm and big heart he puts in the park is clearly reflected in the look of the environment.

The species bred include various species of cockatoos (including Yellow-tailed black cockatoos), Amazon parrots, caiques and macaws. According to the team, golden parakeets, red-fan parrots and Rueppell's parrots are very popular. The birds live in spacious aviaries with an indoor covered space and outdoor part. The walls are painted in shades of green. The aviaries are planted with plants and



BELIZE BIRD RESCUE

By Christof Götz

Founded in 2004, the Belize Bird Rescue (NGO) operates under license and support from the Government of the Belize Forest Department, and is Belize's only multi-species avian rescue and rehabilitation centre. Over the years, through kind donations and support from volunteers and visitors, funding has grown. The Belize Bird Rescue is grateful for the generosity and support of many local and international companies and individuals, plus the wealth of knowledge brought to the organisation by visiting professionals in avian medicine, rehabilitation, and behaviour. The Belize Bird Rescue is a listed non-governmental organisation and registered in Belize as a non-profit organisation. **Nikki Buxton tells us more in the following lines.**



Director Nikki Buxton carrying out a Yellow-headed Amazon healthy chick (*Amazona oratrix belizensis*).

Tell us about the concept of the Belize Bird Rescue, location, facilities etc. When and how was all this started and which steps did it take to get you where you are today?

The BBR is located in the centre of the country, 3 miles from the capital city of Belmopan.

In 2004 we purchased two baby Red-lored parrots from a young boy selling at the door. We did not know it was illegal to buy, sell or own a captive wild parrot in Belize, as so many people already had them in small cages outside their homes. We did not like to see these birds go into captivity in such a terribly cruel way, so we raised them as free birds, where they eventually flew off to join wild flocks.

People began to bring us more baby birds and also ones that had been in captivity and had all of the issues associated with this – clipped wings, habituation, physical and mental issues – and we managed to find ways to successfully release these too, without really knowing or understanding how we were doing this.

By Christof Götz

The specialized Facebook Group "Südamerikanische Papagien" networking for parrot breeders

I live in Northern Bavaria close to the Czech border. I started with my bird hobby as early as at the age of 12 years with wild-coloured Australian parakeets and have ever since been more interested in birds in aviaries and ornithological questions than in tame pet birds. Today, my bird collection consists of mainly small to mid-sized parrots from South America such as White-fronted Amazons, *Pionites* parrots, Cactus conures and Noble macaws.



White-bellied Parrot
Pionites leucogaster xanthomerus

My philosophy is to regard birds as wild creatures from nature for which we have to grant living conditions which are as close as possible to the conditions in the natural habitat, something which I try to meet with my aviary setup amidst the greenery of my garden. The possibility to fly and exposure to real sunlight are in my eyes the most important factors to keep birds physically and mentally healthy.

The garden provides a continuous supply of fresh twigs for gnawing as well as a wide choice of berries, flowers and nuts for the birds. Many of my birds breed regularly.

It is important to work together to create a positive view of breeding in the public as well as among other breeders. Breeding is more than a production of chicks for commercial purposes - it enables the birds to follow their natural instincts in captivity.

The raising and socialization of young chicks by the parents can be a source of enrichment and satisfaction for the intelligent creatures we care for. Moreover, breeding can help to establish captive populations of both animals critically endangered in the wild as well as birds which have become rare in captivity due to an lack of interest of breeders.

This is why exchange and continuous contact between breeders is so important. With traditional bird clubs becoming less and less important, social media has opened new possibilities for bird breeders across the national borders.



Cactus Parakeet
Eupsittula cactorum