

ADELAIDE ZOO BIRD DEPARTMENT

October 2006

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The current breeding season has been a “mixed bag” so far the early onset of the season initially caught us by surprise but however of late the hectic pace set early has waned and we’ve been able to “catch our breath”.

Species so far that have or are reproducing include Bush-thick knee, Black-winged Stilt, Green Peafowl (eggs) and Golden Pheasant, White headed and Torres Strait Pigeons, Diamond Doves, Peaceful Doves, a trio of White-eyed Ducks has produced two clutches so far. Crimson Chats (fledged today) and Chiming Wedgebills along with Laughing Kookaburras and the Owl-let Nightjars with chicks. As well as Purple-crowned and Red-collared lorikeets, Budgies, Swift and Eclectus Parrots. Many of our finch species are reproducing well.

The Grenadier Weavers which arrived late last year as a new addition to the Adelaide Zoo collection have all “coloured-up” and looking good in the African Grey aviary with many nests, some containing eggs.

Earlier this year we received a Kangaroo Island Glossy Black Cockatoo Chick. The bird was retrieved from a nest by a member of the recovery team as they were concerned that “miss-mothering” could be occurring. During a routine nest inspection it was noted that the bird had sustained a broken leg due to a suspected bite from one of the parents.

Months on the bird is doing quite well and was DNA sexed as a hen, has had a close to full recovery and is now close to being weaned with only one feed per day being required.

Trena Carney, Senior keeper on the Bird Department is currently on a two month secondment to Fleay’s Fauna Centre at Burleigh Heads assisting them with their Eastern Bristlebird project. Her primary role is the collection of eggs from wild birds and subsequent incubation and hand-raising along with managing several captive birds from earlier years. We wish her every success as this population has experienced a severe population decline over recent years with less than fifty individuals in existence.

Murray Guy has returned after nearly a year with the Reptile Department and we welcome Malcolm (Mal) Norman as the successful candidate for our most recently advertised position. Mal came to us from Western Plains Zoo and prior to that the Taronga Zoo Bird Department.

Thanks to all who attended the October New members meeting at the zoo, I apologize for not being able to attend but I was required at my daughters 5th birthday party.

I must apologize for the lack of contributions of late but with both the on-set of the breeding season and the recent internal re-structure life has been very busy around the zoo.

Perhaps in up-coming issues I will outline the re-structure in a little detail and also discuss some very exciting conservation initiatives that the Zoological Society of SA (now known as Zoos SA) is getting involved in.