

PARROTS...THE PAMPERED WAY

By Lonarae Harner with Kris Carter

Hey, to all you parrot lovers out there. Lonarae here from the USA! Thought you might enjoy hearing about the flock (my babies) that we share our home with. We currently have two Amazon Parrots. Pahlee (pronounced paulie) is a seven year old male Double Yellow-headed Amazon, *Amazona oratrix*, native to Mexico and northern Central America. Anjl (pronounced angel) is a five year old White-fronted Amazon, *Amazona albifrons*, native to southern Mexico and Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and Nicaragua).



Their personalities are so different. Pahlee is outgoing, loves to talk...a lot, and likes when friends visit. He has to know what is going on if he isn't in the same room when someone comes! So he'll check them out and ends up on the shoulder that he feels most comfortable with. I call him "my little love man". I spend a lot of time with the parrots and of course they look forward to it. Right now he is sitting on my desk while I write this, so content he is.

It is breeding season here now (February- June) so they've been a little restless! Pahlee dearly loves his Daddy (my husband Craig) and looks forward to him coming home from work. He does not like children; I think it's because of their energy level and their squeaky voices. He will chase them, given the opportunity. So I guess you've figured out, we don't have any children. Our parrots are our children and our lives!!

Then we have our little girl Anjl, she is more of a one person parrot. She is always with me (like my shadow), and I wouldn't have it any other way. However, she really enjoys time with Craig, likes to be where the action is and will do tricks and whistle for attention, a real HAM. Doesn't like anyone else to pick her up. Did I mention that Anjl is potty trained? That's right she poops in the toilet, doesn't like to get her living quarters messy! Her daddy gave her the nickname "pretty", fits her perfectly.



My flock is somewhat inseparable, they like to be in sight of one another or they will let me know about it. Check out the photos of how they live. They have their own TV, it's on all day goes off at bedtime which is



10:00pm. They have various play stands and different areas. We built one off the kitchen, with lots of fun things to do and toys. I spend a lot of time there, a great place for us to interact with them when I have to be in there preparing meals. We are getting ready for warm weather now the summer months (May-September) are here, so we spend a lot of time



outside by the pool and they love just hanging out.

All photos by the authors



FREE ENTRY TO THE GORGE WILDLIFE PARK

Our Co-patron, Yvonne McKechnie, has kindly granted free entry to the park for members and their families. Also, a special discount will apply for accompanying friends. To gain this privilege all that is required is production of your **current** Membership Card when entering.

We thank Yvonne for her generous gesture.

