

ADELAIDE ZOO – BIRD DEPARTMENT UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 2004

**By Tim Nielsen
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With the onset of the warmer spring weather a number of species are at various stages of reproduction, at present the following birds have eggs/chicks in the nest or fledged young, Chiming Wedgebills, Crimson Chats, Gouldian Finches, African Fire Finches, Australian Pelicans, Blue Penguins, Bush-thick knees, Sacred Kingfishers, Rose-crowned Fruit Doves, Bar-shouldered Doves, Peaceful Doves, Diamond Doves, Eclectus Parrots, Budgerigars, Purple-crowned Lorikeets, Masked Lovebirds, Red-collared Lorikeets, Black-capped and Dusky Lories.

We have added two new species to the collection in recent months, these are two trios of Madagascar Weavers and three pairs of Talpacoti Doves. The Weavers were obtained as uncoloured birds and the males have coloured nicely over the past few weeks with full red fronts and over the rump. They can be seen in the newly renovated African Grasslands aviary. The Doves are currently in quarantine and once cleared they will be housed in the South American aviary in the pheasantry along with the Yellow-crowned Amazons, Sun Conures, Razor-billed Curassow and Brazilian Agouti.

We are about to set up our four pair of Orange-bellied Parrots in their breeding aviaries as we “flocked” the group over the winter months. Last year we set up all new pairs and bred one male and one female. These two birds are to be sent to Tasmania in the next few weeks and one will be paired for breeding at the Tasmanian National Parks facility at Tarooma and the other bird will be released in South West Tasmania in November or December.

Other threatened or managed species we currently have in a breeding situation include Regent Honeyeaters, Striped Honeyeaters, Owlet Nightjars, Rose-crowned Fruit Doves, Swift Parrots, Sacred Kingfishers and Noisy Pittas.

I look forward to meeting with you all on Sunday the 6th of October to view our new African Grasslands aviary, have a barbeque and tour the Bird Collection which has changed significantly over the past few years.