

ADELAIDE ZOO BIRD DEPARTMENT UPDATE FOR MAY 2005

By Tim Nielsen

All is going well at the zoo with preparations well under way for the upcoming 05/06 breeding season. Lots of cleaning and painting of nest boxes, placing brush in aviaries for both nesting and winter shelter purposes.

As expected the new colony of Gouldian Finches we received in December have settled in and are breeding quite well with at least 15 youngsters fledged already. Other species currently nesting include Cattle Egrets and Black-capped Lories.

The recently stocked African Grasslands Aviary has proved quite successful with the continual movement, nest building and vocalizations proving quite popular amongst zoo visitors.

One new species to recently be displayed is 9 Royal Spoonbills in the Wetlands Walk-through aviary, they are quite spectacular.

As I am writing this, demolition has started on the new South East Asian Stage II development, no birds are involved at this stage as the aviary was constructed in stage I. Stage II is Tigers, Orang Utans and Otters among others.