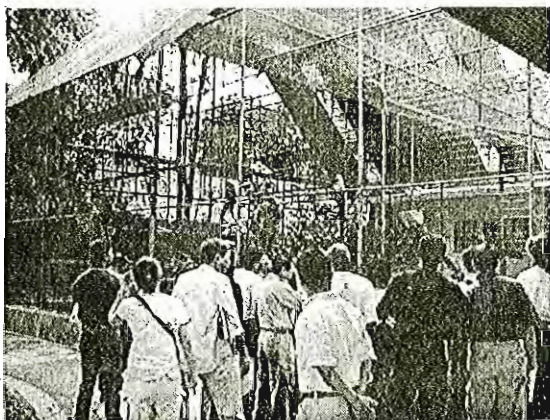


Birds International, Inc.



Birds International Inc. (BII) is a successful commercial parrot breeding farm located in Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines. Birds International, Inc. (BII), describes itself as a world-class facility dedicated to the preservation of endangered birds. It's capacity, if not it's claim, to be on the cutting edge of bird conservation, is not unbelievable after touring the large, well-managed facility. Birds International has been committed to saving the world's endangered bird species for over two decades, by striving to : i) conserve and protect rare birds by successfully breeding them in captivity; and ii) help prevent bird poaching and smuggling through legal means



SEAZA members visit the Birds International Inc. breeding facility

As they state in their literature "numerous species of our Earth's wildlife are dwindling to near extinction, including exotic, and increasingly rare birds". This belief led to the founding in 1973 of BII, which has consistently endeavoured to achieve these objectives.



Row upon row of breeding cages of rare macaws at BII

BII utilizes the latest advances in breeding technology and pioneering in research to achieve its objectives, having cared for, bred, and preserved thousands of rare, exotic birds at their modern, six-hectare facility. BII is the largest breeding center of its kind in the world. According to its brochure, BII has achieved breakthroughs in aviculture, and serves a leader in research and development of new breeding techniques.

BII is not a zoo in any sense, since it does not permit visitors except by very special arrangement and is not set up for viewing. Even the South East Asian Zoo Association visit was restricted to Directors under a certain limit because it was breeding season for some of the birds. Birds are kept in cages, some of them quite small by zoo standards. The purpose here is breeding and research, not exhibition, entertainment, or even education. BII claims, nonetheless, to be dedicated the protection and survival of threatened birds, to seek the best possible homes for their birds with their health and well-being the primary concern.



Birds International Inc. breeds and sells birds, serving the needs of the world's "serious aviculturalists" -- North and South America, Europe and Asia. BII screens their clients to ascertain their conditions are safe and supportive and their motives supportive of the goals of conservation and protection. Through their high standards to service and professional excellence BII believes they are improving the numbers and rate of survival of endangered birds throughout the world.



Medical facilities, incubation chambers, are all top of the line. Nothing is too good for the denizens of BII

In touring the facility, one does not find any reason to think otherwise. The Director and his wife and daughter are all involved in the business and clearly knowledgeable and dedicated to excellence.

The first thing that strikes you in going around the facility is the sheer number of birds which one normally sees in 2's and 3's only -- dozens and even hundreds of macaws, parrots, hornbills, rare pigeons, etc. BII

holds as many as 6,000 birds, 2,000 of them breeding pairs. Their "production" rate is 2,500 birds per year, a number which increases by 20% every year. Every aspect of the facility is engineered to this end -- propagation of numbers of threatened birds.



Research is also a high priority at this facility where keeping current with the most recent science of aviculture is the objective. Birds International Inc. maintains an extensive network with other of the world's best aviculturists.

Even the location is important as the tropical climate of Philippines is important for breeding of these tropical species. Food is carefully selected to be of a high standard and absolutely fresh which is not a problem in the luxuriant Philippines -- such foods are available in the market and are also gathered from the wild. Special vitamin supplements are imported so that the specific nutritional needs of each species is met. Extensive and strict preventative measures are taken to insure that birds are not exposed to harmful bacteria. The facility is noticeably clean and set up for implementation of rigorous sanitation. The staff of 167 college-educated technicians are highly trained and sent for supplementary training frequently.



Director/
Owner of
BII
shows
SEAZA
members
around
his
facility,
describing
problems
with
different
birds.

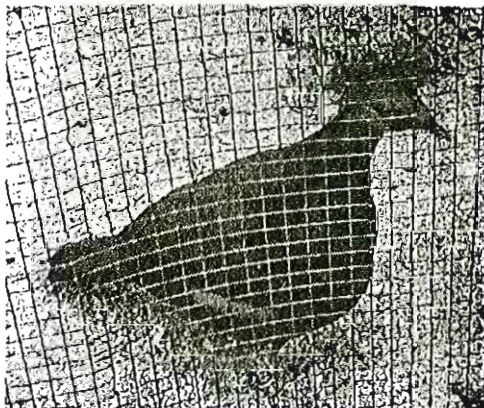
BII claims to provide a natural habitat environment for its birds which involves simulating natural conditions rather than re-creating naturalistic habitat such as zoos. BII's birds are destined for other breeding situations so human contact is kept to a minimum. The facility provides large flight cages where the birds can have social interactions with their conspecifics.

BII has achieved several notable breakthroughs, including the successful breeding of rare species, heretofore thought impossible to breed in captivity. BII has bred through the fourth generation the Golden Conure, the Hyacinth Macaw, the Moluccan Cockatoo, the Nicobar

Pigeon and the Scarlet Macaw.

They have also bred through first and second generation : Buffon's Macaw, Caninde Macaw, Cuban Amazon, Golden-Mantled Racket-Tailed Parrot, Guibero Parrot, Illiger's Macaw, Palm Cockatoo, Pesquet's Parrot, Philippine Racket -Tailed Parrot, Philippines' Palawan Peacock, Red Crowned Amazon, Red Vented Cockatoo

Birds International deserves a special mention for breeding of the Spix's Macaw (*Cyanopsitta spixii*) of which only thirty two remain in existence -- in captivity and eighteen of which are held by BII. The survival of this species is entirely dependent on captive breeding.



Many dozens
of Crowned
pigeons, an
attractive and
valuable
exhibit for any
zoo, are bred
at BII

Birds International has many secret techniques which it does not part with easily. Competition in the bird market, which consists of an enormous number of private breeders and facilities, is very stiff.

It was a pleasure to see this unique facility and witness the excellence with which it was managed. One doesn't just think of all that is involved in keeping 6000 birds. A simple visit to the dishwashing house told the story as dramatically as any other -- 6000 birds mean 6000 dishes minimum, all of which have to be carefully washed to prevent the carrying and spread of disease !

For more information about this facility write to :
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