

The Tropics

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I am a zookeeper and that means I take care of animals for the public's enjoyment and education. I do this because I love animals and want to help protect them in the wild. At the end of the day I can go home. Mary & John Bradford take care of animals that they love as well. Unlike me, they don't have the luxury of going home everyday. They have devoted their life to taking care of birds that other people have decided are too much trouble or just a burden. Most of these birds are at the end of the line. They have been passed along their whole lives trying to fit into a world that nature did not create for them. These birds have all been ignored, scared, judged and abandoned. Mary & John give them the constant love and routine that these animals need to survive and more importantly thrive in captivity. With Mary & John, feathers grow back, emotional and physical scars heal and life is worth living again.

When I visited The Tropics I saw birds dancing and playing and just being parrots. Was it one of the loudest places I have ever been? Absolutely! Were the birds happy? Yes! They understand that these birds are wild animals and are entitled to act accordingly. They have the natural ability to interact with parrots on a personal and comfortable level that I professionally admire. They have inspired me to work more closely and intimately with my facility's parrots. The Tropics is a great example of a legitimate animal sanctuary that deserves our support. It is a safe place for these forgotten birds to live happy fulfilling lives. I am deeply moved and impressed with Mary's & John's devotion and understanding of these complex animals.

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