



The Story so Far...

Wendy

Wendy hatched at our breeding centre in April 2006. She was the second of three eggs laid by her mother in this 'clutch' or group of eggs this year. Unfortunately the other eggs were infertile but Wendy's egg was fertile and developed well. Wendy was raised in the nest by her mother and father.

For the first 90 days of Wendy's life she remained in the nest where her mother kept her warm by sitting on her. She fed Wendy by regurgitating food that the male had brought to her or she had eaten herself. Each morning a member of The ARA Project staff would weigh Wendy when her mother left the nest to make sure she was growing and developing properly. During this time Wendy went from being 22g, featherless, soft, tiny and pink to being over 1Kg with all her feathers, a nice hard beak and ready to fly.



Day One

14 Days

45 Days

90 Days

She 'Fledged' or came out of her nest at the beginning of July and spent a few weeks with her parents learning how to eat fruit and how to fly. She was then taken to an aviary with all the other parent-raised Great Green Macaw chicks from that year where she was able to play and socialize with them, while learning valuable life skills she would need later on. When Wendy was nine months old, her and the other chicks she was living with were introduced into the large aviary with the other Great Green Macaws housed at The ARA Project Breeding Centre. The older Great Green Macaws enjoyed teaching the young ones

new skills like how to remove the food trays from the feeding stations and how to break wire with their beaks. Great Green Macaws have the intelligence of a 5-12 year old child so they like to play with and destroy everything. This play also teaches the Great Green Macaws how to manipulate things using their feet, beak and tongue, which has a bone in it making it almost like a finger. They also spend a lot of time chewing the branches put in the aviary as perches. This is a skill they need for making nests later in life.

Over the next five years Wendy and her friends grew and developed into adolescent Great Green Macaws. Because she had been raised by her parents she is very wild and tends to stay away from people when we enter the aviary. This is a good sign, it means that when she is released she will hopefully stay up high in the trees if there are people nearby to avoid being taken or 'poached'.

In April 2011 all of the Juvenile Great Green Macaws who were eligible for release, including Wendy, were separated from the large 'flock' or group. They were put into another large aviary in quarantine procedures and blood samples were taken to be sent away to test for the common diseases of birds. This testing and quarantining is a requirement for release by MINAET, the ministry of the environment in Costa Rica who The ARA Project works closely with to ensure the success of the project and all releases. Wendy is one of the quieter Great Green Macaws in this group of juveniles. She does have some special friends she can usually be seen with but because she has not reached sexual maturity yet, Great Green Macaws sexually mature at 8-9 years, she mainly stays with the flock.



In 2011 The ARA Project began the worldwide first release the Great Green Macaw. This was done on the south Caribbean Coast of Costa Rica. Dolly-Dee will be part of the third group to be released in this area during 2013.

