

GRASSLANDS

"Zane" and "Earl" our African grey parrots:

- African grey parrots are found in forested habitats in sub-Saharan Africa but they, like many species, often use grassland habitats to find food.
- African grey parrots primarily eat fruits, nuts, and seeds.
- African grey parrots are capable of mimicking a variety of sounds – Zane and Earl make sounds ranging from the sound of a person sniffing to the sound of the fire alarm going off. If you spend a few minutes in the Grasslands, you never know what you'll hear!
- Our African grey parrots are siblings and were hatched here at the National Aviary in 2001.

Paradise whydahs:

- Paradise whydahs are a species of finch found in the grasslands of Africa.
- During the breeding season, the male whydah grows long, glossy, black tail feathers which he uses to display and attract a mate – once the breeding season is over, he loses the feathers and looks much like a female whydah.
- Paradise whydahs engage in "nest parasitism" – the female whydah lays her eggs in the nest of another bird, often a melba finch (*also found in our Grasslands exhibit*). Then the whydah leaves the other bird to raise her chicks!

DID YOU KNOW? Gouldian finches are an endangered species – fewer than 2500 birds may remain in the grasslands of Australia. Look for their brilliant rainbow colors in our Grasslands exhibit.



NATIONAL AVIARY