



Crystal Matthews, Curator I / Birds

1. Where did you get your BS degree from and in what major?

University of Maryland, College Park, B.S. zoology

2. Graduate school degree and major?

College of William & Mary - M.S. biology,

3. How long have you been with the Aquarium?

Ten years total, 8 in this position, 2 years as part time staff in the Bird/Quarantine Department.

4. Briefly describe your primary involvement with the *Restless Planet* exhibit.

I was responsible for acquiring and managing care for the 80-plus Indonesian finches for the Komodo dragon exhibit. Also for acquiring and managing care of our female umbrella cockatoo that will be part of the *Restless Planet* Conservation Station. I was responsible for quarantine of the various snakes, lizards, eastern box turtles, frogs, mammals, birds and insects for *Restless Planet* exhibits and its Conservation Station.

5. What has been your biggest challenge?

It was making an exhibit designed for Komodo dragons that will work for finches as well.

6. What are you most excited about guests seeing?

The Komodo dragon/finch exhibit of course! Guests will be looking in the exhibit for the dragons and be delighted to see the finches, our busy little flying jewels, actively carrying out their fast-paced lives.

7. What *Restless Planet* fact would surprise guests if they knew?

Some of our finches really get into their singing behavior! They stand tall on the perch, stretching their necks as if singing an opera and then, for part of the song, you hear no sound at all as it is inaudible.

8. Once *Restless Planet* opens, how will your job differ?

Once the renovation area opens I will have two additional exhibits to oversee.

Date: July 10, 2009