"But far from being silly gimmicks or prosaic decorations, parrots serve a crucial function in several Caribbean texts as metaphors for the process of colonial mimicry. Mimicry, I shall argue, is a strategy by which Caribbean writers of different backgrounds seek to interrogate the European literary and cultural traditions which not only give shape to their own work, but also continue to exert considerable influence over the hybrid societies of the Caribbean region" (Huggan, Graham. A Tale of Two Parrots. 2001)

This quote from the essay A Tale of Two Parrots: Walcott, Rhys, and the Uses of Colonial Mimicry explains that some Caribbean writers utilize parrots as a metaphor for colonial mimicry. Like in Wide Sargasso Sea, Caribbean writing seeks to interrogate the affect Europeans have had on their own writing as well as their culture across time. In Wide Sargasso Sea, this can best be seen in the passage regarding the death of Antoinette's falling parrot, Coco. Earlier in the novel Antoinette's mother married an incoming European, Mr Mason. At his hand, Coco's wings are clipped, preventing it from flying and keeping it tethered down. Birds are often used as symbols of freedom, and Mr Mason's action of clipping Coco's wings serves to emphasize the control Europeans have over natives of the island. Coco can be used as a metaphor for the island and its people; its death serves to represent the takeover by Europeans and their invasion of Caribbean cultures. Later, this inhibition of Coco's freedom later leads to its death, beginning an extended metaphor throughout the book regarding European control and assimilation versus the cultural integrity and independence of the island and its people.

(Huggan, Graham. 'A Tale of Two Parrots: Walcott, Rhys, and the Uses of Colonial Mimicry'. University of Wisconsin Press 2001)