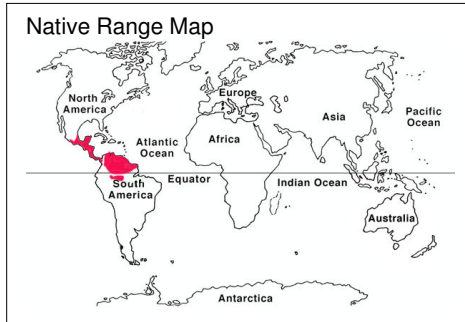


Native Range Map



Double Yellow-Headed Amazon

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Subphylum: Vertebrata
Class: Aves
Order: Psittaciformes
Family: Psittacidae
Genus: *Amazona*
Species: *ochrocephala oratrix*



Photo courtesy of Karen Marzynski

Habitat

- **In the Wild:** This species of parrot is found in open woodlands, forests, and tropical zones of Mexico and Central and South America.
- **Exhibit Location:** Zoo to You Collection

Characteristics

- The double yellow-headed Amazon is one of the larger Amazons. Its length reaches 14-16 inches and can weigh from 445-650 grams (.98-1.43 pounds).
- This bird is yellow at the front, crown, and nape of the neck down to the throat area. The back is dark green and the breast and undersides a lighter green (all Amazon's predominant feather color is green). The bend of the wing is red, fading to yellow. The underside of the tail is heavily marked with red and some blue.
- **Lifespan: In the Wild** 70 years; **In Captivity** 70-80 years

Behaviors

- These are very social birds, living in groups of up to several hundred individuals.
- They are very vocal, arboreal (tree-dwelling) birds who love to climb and play.
- Their beaks and feet are used to climb and hold onto objects and pieces of food.
- When excited, all feathers of the neck and crown are raised, making the head appear double in size. They strongly desire attention and will engage in all sorts of behavior to gain this attention.
- **Enrichments at the Zoo:** bird toys in and out of cage, tree branches with leaves set up in cage, climbing gym, sunflower seeds, steamed yam, pine nuts, daily handling, and demonstrations on and off zoo grounds.

Reproduction

- The double yellow-headed Amazon reaches sexual maturity at 3-4 years of age. They form permanent pairs, mating for life.
- They are cavity nesters (hollow tree limbs) laying 3-4 eggs in the early spring after a courtship period from April to early May. The female sits on the nest incubating the eggs for 26-28 days. The young will leave the nest at 8-12 weeks.
- As with many parrots, the male will eat for both himself and the female while she incubates the eggs and feeds the young. The male regurgitates the food (brings back partly digested food from the stomach back up to the mouth) for the female to eat.

Diet

- **In the Wild:** seeds, nuts, fruits, berries, blossoms, leaf buds, forage in corn fields
- **At the Zoo:** fruit, vegetables, paradise pellets, parrot pellets, monkey biscuits, variety of nuts

Conservation Status

- **IUCN status** not listed; **CITES Appendix II**

- These birds are hunted for food and for their colorful feathers that are used in native ceremonial dances. They are also captured for the illegal pet trade. Their rainforest habitat is being destroyed for lumber and farming.
- The rainforest must be protected in order for all parrot species to survive. These birds are now all protected and commercial trade is regulated.
- Predators: man, monkeys, snakes, raptors

Did You Know?/Fun Facts

- There are 9 subspecies of this genus and species of bird.
- They are quite intelligent and can be easy to train and tame. They quickly mimic sounds and are good talkers. They are very social and enjoy companionship, becoming bonded with their owners.
- They can be noisy first thing in the morning and just before sunset.
- These particular parrots have been popular as pets for several hundred years. In the British Museum, there is a portrait of an English noble woman with her double yellow-headed Amazon parrot next to her --
- painted 300 years ago.

Sources:

- Brough, C. (2005). Yellow-crowned amazon. Retrieved Jul. 27, 2005, from Dr. Jungle's Animal-World Web site: <http://animal-world.com/encyclo/birds/amazons/yellowcrownedamazon.php>.
- Utah's Hogle Zoo, (2004). Yellow-headed amazon parrot. Retrieved Oct. 01, 2005, from Utah's Hogle Zoo Web site: <http://www.hoglezoo.org/animals/printable.php?id=94>.