

Red-lored Amazon Parrot



Photo courtesy of Karen Marzynski

Native Range Map



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

Habitat

- **In the Wild:** The Red-lored Amazon parrot species is found in the canopy of the forests and jungles of Central and South America, with most found in Panama, preferring to live in unsettled areas.
- **Exhibit Location:** Zoo to You Collection

Characteristics

- This species of Amazon parrot weighs between 350-400 grams (12.4-14.2 ounces). Its length is 13 ½ inches and grows to be 8-21 inches high.
- Plumage is generally green, with the forehead and lore (area above the beak) red. The upper cheeks and ear coverts are yellow, as are the tips of the largest wing feathers. The green tail is tipped with yellowish-green and blue.
- **Lifespan: In the Wild** 30-50 years ; **In Captivity** 70-80 years

Behaviors

- Parrots are vocal, gregarious, arboreal (tree-dwelling) birds, often flocking together to harass other animals. They are good mimics, though not in the wild. They are considered highly intelligent with average talking ability and are known to be quite gentle. Their calls are screeching and loud unless resting or eating.
- Their beaks and feet are used to climb and to husk seeds. They will test new surfaces by touching them with their beaks.
- They are often sedentary, living in the same place all year long.
- **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

- Red-lored Amazon parrots reach sexual maturity at 3-4 years of age.
- Pairs are monogamous (have one mate) during the breeding season. Along with mating, pairs participate in mutual preening (cleaning each other's feathers) and partner feeding.
- Incubation is 18-30 days, with 2-8 glossy, white eggs laid in the hollow of a tree or on a ledge. The female incubates the eggs for the first 10 days, and then the male helps her. The young hatch blind and naked and fledge (leave the nest) after 1 month. Pairs may raise more than 1 brood a year.

Diet

- **In the Wild:** seeds, fruit, nuts, berries, greens, blossoms, buds
- **At the Zoo:** fruit, vegetables, paradise pellets, parrot pellets, monkey biscuits, variety of nuts

Conservation Status

- **IUCN status** none; **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. They are now all protected and commercial trade is regulated.
- Predators: man, monkeys, snakes, raptors

Did You Know?/Fun Facts

- There are approximately 50 species of Amazon parrots.
- This species is also known as the Yellow Cheek Amazon.
- It was Christopher Columbus who apparently gave the name “Amazon” to a green, short-winged parrot that he brought back to Europe after his first voyage to the New World.

Sources:

- CentralPets.com, (n.d.). Amazon -- red-lored. Retrieved March 28, 2004, from CentralPets.com Web site: www.centralpets.com/.
- Utah's Hogle Zoo, (2004). Red-lored amazon parrot. Retrieved March 28, 2004, from Utah's Hogle Zoo Web site: www.hoglezoo.org.