



Amazing Animals Fact sheets

Exotic Parrots

Parrots are characterized by their curved beak shape and for having four toes on each foot - two facing the front and two facing the back. This gives them the dexterity that they are well known for and often utilize their feet to hold food items. Parrots are found world wide, although most are distributed throughout the warmer parts of the world, including India, South-east Asia and West Africa. The majority of the species live in Australasia, South America and Central America. Parrots are also emotionally and intellectually advanced and most species are said to have the intelligence of at least a two year old child. For this reason they are typically not good pets and require specific care and constant stimuli to ensure they remain healthy in mind and body.



Blue-and-gold Macaw

The Blue-and-gold Macaw (*Ara ararauna*) is not a species of bird which is native to the Australian country side. The Blue and Gold Macaw is very easily recognised by its stunning golden chest, large white cheek patch and its beautiful blue back and tail. One of seven species inhabiting the Amazon Basin, the Blue and Gold Macaw is definitely one of the worlds more stunning parrots.

Unfortunately this species is suffering a great deal in the wilds of South America. Habitat destruction and collection for the illegal pet trade are the two major problems facing macaws with thousands of acres of territory being cleared and almost one million parrots being caught out of the wild annually. This means that these truly stunning birds are definitely going to need as much help as possible from us if they are going to survive for future generations to see.

Belonging to the parrot family, the Blue-and-gold Macaw will quite often be seen in very large flocks, even mixing with a range of other species with no conflict at all. Each individual has a unique pattern of feathers on the bare patch of skin on its face. This can almost be used as a fingerprint to identify individual birds.

Habitat

Like all of the macaws this particular species can be found inhabiting a vast range of the forests in and around the central northern regions of South America.

Diet

Like all of the macaws, this particular species is very adept at utilising its rather large beak to break into even the toughest nut and delicately remove fruits and berries from the jungles of South America to survive.

Australia Zoo Blue-and-gold Macaw profiles



Queto

Being a macaw, Queto is not a species that you would find in the wilds of Australia. Macaws are exotic to this country, coming from parts of Central and South America where they inhabit a range of different habitat types. Macaws have two features that everyone notices; the first is their very large and powerful beak that is used to crack nuts and berries, and the other is their very long and colourful tail which they use as a rudder and a brake when flying through the forest canopy.

Queto is still only pretty young, considering macaws can live to around 70 years of age. He is probably the quietest of all the macaws here at the Zoo and has a very laid back

nature.

Endangered Species!

Very low numbers are left in the wild. Exotic Parrots are at risk of extinction within the next ten years.

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