

Blue and Yellow Macaw

Ara ararauna

Class: *Aves*

Order: *Psittaciformes*

Family: *Psittacidae*

Characteristics:

Also known as blue and gold macaws, these large members of the parrot family get their name from their bright blue and yellow plumage. They have green plumage of their forehead, a blackish chin strap and white skin on the cheeks. Their body size is in between the military macaw and the scarlet macaw.

Behavior:

Large families of macaws will roost together at night and leave together in the morning to forage for food. They have a characteristic silhouette when flying as they splay out their tail. Like the scarlet macaws, blue and yellow macaws will seek out clay deposits to eat, often known as “macaw licks” ([IAATE](#)).

Reproduction:

Similar to most macaws, blue and yellows are monogamous, mating for life. They also feed and groom each other. When ready to nest, a pair will leave the flock and search for a cavity, usually in a dead palm tree. The female stays with the nest to incubate 2 to 4 eggs while the male goes in search of food for the pair ([National Geographic](#)).

Diet:

Wild: Fruits, vegetable matter and nuts

Zoo: Parrot pellets, seeds, apples, carrots, greens, oranges

Conservation:

As they rely even more on forests than other macaws, blue and yellow macaws’ largest conservation threat is deforestation/habitat loss; however, they are also victims of illegal pet trade ([Bird Life](#)). Their distribution is large enough they are listed as Least Concern by IUCN.

FYI:

If you are considering a macaw as a pet, there are several points to contemplate. They are definitely a lifetime investment, often living over 60-80 years. They have extremely loud, raucous calls, require fresh fruit daily, need large areas to move around, are incredibly intelligent so need constant enrichment to keep them active, they are quite messy, and they may not get along with other pets.



Range & Habitat:

Forests and swamps



Lifespan: up to 80 years in captivity and in the wild.

Special Adaptations: Macaws have extremely powerful beaks capable of cracking open nuts and your fingers!

IUCN Conservation Status:

Least Concern

