

Common Name: Scarlet Macaw

Scientific Name: *Ara macao*



IUCN Red list Status: Least Concern

AZA Conservation Program: None

Class: Aves
Order: Psittaciformes
Family: Psittacidae
Genus: Ara

Habitat: The scarlet macaw's range includes southern Mexico, Central America, and South America as far south as northeastern Argentina. This species is found high in the canopy of rainforests. Their nests are high within hollowed trees in the upper canopy. Staying higher up in the dense foliage provides camouflage and protection.

Threats in the Wild: Their dependence on trees for shelter and food makes macaws vulnerable to deforestation. The main threat is their popularity in the pet trade. Wild macaw populations are affected dramatically by this due to their slow reproductive rate. Predators in the wild include monkeys, toucans, snakes, and large mammals.

Physical Characteristics: The scarlet macaw has magnificent colors of blues, reds, and yellows. It has a large, powerful beak that it can use to break open nuts and other food. The lower part of the beak is used to file down the shell before cracking it and the tongue moves the food around as the macaw is working on opening it. Their beak can assist with climbing in addition to their zygodactyl feet.

Reproduction: Scarlet macaws form monogamous pair bonds. These breeding pairs mate every one to two years. Macaws don't reach sexual maturity until around 3 or 4 years of age. For these reasons, they have a relatively slow reproductive rate.

Longevity: Can live up to 75 years in captivity, but typically live about 40-50 years.

Diet: Macaw diet consists of a variety of fruits, nuts, and occasionally nectar and flowers. Their beak helps them break through even the toughest nuts and ripe fruit that other animals cannot eat.

Miscellaneous: Scarlet macaws are rarely found alone and can be found in their breeding pair within their nest or off flying together. They show affection toward one another by licking each other or preening. Macaws can fly as fast as 35 miles per hour.

Signs of Stress: Screeching or other noises.

Docent Animal Specifics: Lorojo was born in 1988.

