

From egg to friend

Psittaciformes

Psittaciformes: An order of birds including parrots and macaws.

The order consists of:

Parrots of the Old World (Psittaculidae).

Parrots of Africa and the New World (Psittacidae).

For more about Psittacidae & Psittaculidae, see the book "From egg to friend: Psittacidae & Psittaculidae".

For more about Cacatuidae, see the book "From egg to friend: Cacatuidae".

For more about Ramphastidae, see the book "From egg to friend: Ramphastidae".

For more about Amazona, see the book "From egg to friend: Amazona".

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Index

1. Interlude
2. General
3. Choosing your friend
 - Macaws
 - Dwarf macaws
 - Macaw hybrids
 - Ara mutations
 - Parrots
 - Eclectus parrot
 - Eclectus parrot mutations
 - African grey parrot
 - African grey mutations
 - Red-fan parrot
 - White bellied -& Black headed parrot
 - Amazons
 - Amazon mutations
 - Cockatoos
 - Black cockatoos
 - Cockatoo mutations
 - Toukan
 - Toukan mutations
4. Choosing the breeding bird
5. Housing
6. The nest box
7. Breeding
8. The egg
9. Rotate the egg
10. Candling
11. Hatch
12. Need help hatching
13. The baby
14. Feeding the bird
15. Nutrition
16. Illness
17. Becoming an adult bird
18. Behavior
19. Freeflight
20. Did you know

Interlude

Keeping pets has always been around, but keeping exotic animals has gained momentum in recent decades.

From George Washington to Thomas Jefferson. From Theodore Roosevelt to John F. Kennedy. Many had a predilection for exotic pets, especially exotic birds.

With their beautiful colors and outspoken characters, they make themselves loved by young and old. Unfortunately, several species are already extinct or can only be found in captivity.

In the current climate, with changes in our living environment, we will have to treat our fauna and flora with the utmost care for the coming decades.

With this book the writer tries to share his knowledge with other enthusiasts. This way we can enjoy our colorful friends with young and old for years to come.

The keepers and hobby growers of Psittaciformes do their necessary bit to conserve ever more endangered species.

Both aviculturist and hobby keeper, in this book you will find the necessary basic information about keeping and breeding Psittaciformes.



General

Keeping (exotic) birds comes with a certain responsibility.

Many simply become a blessed age, you as a caregiver have the responsibility for that. So keep this in mind when choosing the strain.

Each species has its own specific properties, character and needs.

By reading this book, you have already taken on a certain responsibility to keep yourself informed.

Something you can never do enough when keeping conure species.



Choosing your friend

Deciding which bird to bring home will depend on certain choices.

This chapter will discuss various characteristics of macaws and other parrots in general.

Know that each parrot, like humans, has its own character. So be sure to be guided by the grower where you want to buy a friend and see what best suits your situation. For example, there are birds that belong better to every situation than the other. Inform yourself well about this and make the best choice. Not only on appearance, but also on character.

Macaws

Blue-and-yellow macaws, Green-winged macaws, hybrids or dwarf macaws. One by one beautiful animals, each with its unique plumage. Their colors are very different, but so are their characters.

The feather pattern around the eyes is unique per bird, you can compare it with the fingerprint of a human.

Macaws can live up to 80 years in captivity, but there are also some exceptions that sometimes live to over 80 years old.

There are different types of macaws, some of which are already extinct themselves. In this chapter we will discuss the most common in captivity.

In general we can observe this:



Blue and yellow/gold macaw

Ara Ararauna. South America.

Pet

The blue and yellow macaw is the most commonly kept pet macaw. Goes easily with several family members and in most cases has the easiest character among the macaw species.

Breeding around December to April.

Ready for breeding from 3 years, but most only breed from 5-6 years.

2-5 eggs per clutch. Multiple clutches per year possible.

Incubation time 28 days.

Independent from 20 weeks.

Characteristics

Length: 81 - 91 cm.

Weight: 1 kg.

Wingspan: 104-115 cm.



Scarlet macaw

Ara macao. South and Central America.

Pet

This macaw has a more distinct character than the other species. Which is not to say they can be very sweet. Sometimes they have rather short-tempered moments. Not called the pit bull among macaws for nothing. They are known to exhibit rapid biting and feather-picking behavior. They also appear to be easier to grow. So rather an aviary bird than a living room bird.

Breeding around October to April.

Ready to breed from 4-5 years.

2-5 eggs per clutch.

Incubation time 26 days.

Independent from 24 weeks.



Characteristics

Length: 89 cm.

Weight: 1 kg.

Wingspan: 110-120 cm.

Green wing macaw

Ara chloropterus. South America.

Pet

The green-winged macaw, like the blue-and-yellow macaw, is a very loving bird that can make a good pet. As they get older it can happen that they attach themselves to 1 person.

Breeding *in the south from November, in the north from February.*

Ready to breed from 6-8 years.

2-4 eggs per clutch.

Incubation time 28 days.

Independent from 20 weeks.

Characteristics

Length: 90 - 95 cm.

Weight: 1 kg.

Wingspan: 110-120 cm.



Hyacinth macaw

Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus. South America.

The largest of the macaws and an endangered species.

Critically endangered in the wild, breeding this is certainly responsible. However, keeping this species is not a responsible choice for everyone.

Pet

Despite its size and fearsome beak, a very sweet bird. The price tag makes him a little seen bird at the hobby keeper, although these birds certainly have a lovely character that has a place in the living room. The keepers of this will agree that they are the sweetest of macaws.

Breeding around November to April.

When the bird is ready to breed depends very much from bird to bird. Some from 6-8 years old, others 10-12 years old.

1-3 eggs per clutch, although some more experienced flocks have already laid more eggs.

Incubation time 28-30 days.

“Independent” from 20 weeks, but can be fed up to 30 weeks.

Characteristics

Length: 100 cm.

Weight: 1.2 - 1.7 kg.

Wingspan: 120-140 cm.



Military macaw

Ara militaris. South and Central America.

Pet

The Military macaw is known for being a temperamental bird that does not always like to cuddle. Still, they can make good pets because they are one of the easiest macaws to train.

Breeding, very different when.

Ready to breed from 5-7 years.

2-3 eggs per clutch.

Incubation time 26 days.

Independent from 20 weeks.

Characteristics

Length: 70 cm.

Weight: 1.1 kg.

Wingspan: 99-110 cm.

