



# RED-LORED AMAZON

**PSITTACIFORMES**  
**Family: Psittacidae**  
**Genus: *Amazona***  
**Species: *autumnalis***



**Range:** Caribbean lowlands of Mexico through Central America to west of Andes in Colombia and Ecuador and north of Andes east into Venezuela. Separate population in Brazilian Amazon between Rios Negro and Amazonas.

**Habitat:** humid evergreen to semi-deciduous forests up to 1,100 m altitude.

**Niche:** Arboreal canopy, herbivorous, diurnal

**Diet:** variety of fruits, including figs, citrus, mangoes and palm fruits, as well as seeds, flowers, buds and nuts. They even eat coffee beans

**Life Span:** Wild 30 – 35 years, Captivity 70 – 80 years

**Sexual Dimorphism:** none

**Location in SF Zoo:** South American Tropical Rainforest and Aviary

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## APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

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The red-lored amazon or yellow-cheek amazon is primarily green, with a red forehead and, in some subspecies, yellow cheeks (sometimes with red spots). The crown is blue. It has a short tail and the tip of the lower beak is gray horn, with the upper beak is light horn-colored. The feet are light to dark grey and are zygodactylous for climbing. Their beaks and feet are used to climb and to husk seeds. They will test new surfaces by touching them with their beaks.

<b>Weight:</b> 11 – 17 oz
<b>Length:</b> 12 – 14 in
<b>Wingspan:</b> 15 – 17 in
<b>Tail Length:</b>

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## STATUS & CONSERVATION:

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Although the Red-Lored Parrot is not endangered, it is on its way to being endangered. This bird's habitat is slowly being destroyed. People also hunt this parrot for a food source and for its colorful feathers that are used in ceremonial dances. The high demand for these animals as pets has also threatened them; it is one of the most common pet parrots here in the United States. This parrot appears to adapt to human-altered habitat to a considerable degree. They are listed on CITES Appendix II.

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## COMMUNICATION & OTHER BEHAVIOR:

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Rod-lore Amazons are very social and quite noisy within its flock. Like all Amazons, they call out an alert first thing in the morning and then again at dusk for about 10 minutes. They make a wide variety of sounds, some high-pitched, trilling and other calls loud, metallic and scolding as well as rippling and short notes. Their calls are screeching and loud unless resting or eating.

They are often sedentary, living in the same place all year long.

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## COURTSHIP & YOUNG:

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The red-lore amazon nests in tree cavities. Pairs are monogamous during the breeding season. Along with mating, pairs participate in mutual preening and partner feeding. The female incubates the eggs for about 26 days and feeds and broods the altricial chicks for the first 10 days. Later the male aids her in the care. After three weeks the young are ready to leave the nest. Some parrots stay with their parents until the following mating season. Pairs may raise more than 1 brood a year.

Incubation: 26 days	Sexual Maturity: 3 – 4 years
# of Eggs: 3 - 4	Fledging: 3 weeks

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## MISCELLANEOUS:

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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:

*created 4/2016*

The Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol IV © 1996, Lynx Edicions, p 469-470

<https://www.parrots.org/encyclopedia/red-lore-amazon/>

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<http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org/assets/uploads/animals/pdf/Red-loreAmazonParrot.pdf>

[http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Amazona\\_autumnalis/](http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Amazona_autumnalis/)