



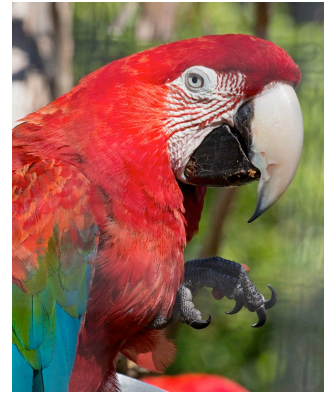
# GREEN-WINGED MACAW

**PSITTACIFORMES**

**Family: Psittacidae**

**Genus: *Ara***

**Species: *chloroptera***



**Range:** Eastern Panama south to northern Argentina, east of Andes

**Habitat:** Interior tropical forests and hill country, not found along coasts

**Niche:** Arboreal, herbivorous, diurnal

**Diet:** Wild: seeds, nuts, fruits, and berries

Zoo: Parrot chow, fruit, nuts, seeds, and berries

**Life Span:** up to 65 years (wild)

up to 100 years (captivity)

**Sexual Dimorphism:** None

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

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## APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

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A head is red; the wings are red, yellow, green and blue. The back is red while the tail is dark blue, light blue and red. These birds have a large bill, naked facial area is white with lines of tiny red feathers, and yellow eyes. The upper mandible is horn-colored with grey-black on lower sides of base; the lower mandible is grey-black. The legs are dark grey. Immature birds are similar to adults, but with a shorter tail; the lower mandible and markings at base of upper mandible are paler grey; brown iris; and zygodactylous feet.

The Red-and-green Macaw has a very powerful hooked beak, which can generate a pressure of 2000 psi and can snap a broomstick in half. This powerful beak has evolved to crush or open even the hardest nuts and seeds.

<b>Weight:</b> 2.8 – 3.8 lbs
<b>Length:</b> 35 in
<b>Wingspan:</b> M 15 – 16 in F 18 – 20 in
<b>Tail Length:</b> 14 – 17 in

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## STATUS AND CONSERVATION:

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The green-winged macaw currently is not classified as endangered. However, they have disappeared from part of their former range in Panama. Five other species of macaws are listed by the IUCN as either Endangered or Vulnerable. They are under pressure due to habitat loss and illegal capture for the parrot trade. CITES Appendix II.

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## COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR:

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They have a deep, raucous call, "raw---awk" (in captivity). It is a true forest bird and spends much of the day feeding in treetops. It is usually seen in pairs or small parties, not flocks. The Red-and-green Macaw generally mates for life.

In the wild, macaws often flock to mountains of clay known as "macaw licks". Such licks contain minerals and salts essential to the bird's diet.

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## COURTSHIP AND YOUNG:

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The nest is generally high up in a hollow high tree trunk or palm. In some areas, the birds have been seen digging burrows, presumably for nesting, in the cliff face in a river canyon. One to five elliptical eggs are laid which the female incubates for five weeks. The chicks leave the nest approximately 100 days after hatching. Female closely broods the chicks until they're about five weeks old. Both the male and female share the responsibility of raising the young for 90 to 100 days after hatching.

Incubation:	28 days	Sexual Maturity:	4 – 5 yrs
# of Eggs:	1-5 (ave 3)	Fledging:	90 days

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## MISCELLANEOUS:

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This species is the second largest type of parrot, second in size only to the Hyacinth macaw, an endangered species.

Flight is direct and comprises steady, shallow wingbeats. Macaws are able to reach speeds of up to 35 miles per hour.

### SOURCES:

The Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol IV © 1996, Lynx Edicions  
Parrots of the World © 1978, Joseph Forshaw  
Grizimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia, Vol 8, Birds II; © 1972

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