



CURL-CRESTED ARACARI

PICIFORMES

Family: Ramphastidae

Genus: *Pteroglossus*

Species: *beauharnaesii*



Range: Western Brazil and into SE Peru and NE Bolivia

Habitat: tropical moist lowland forests

Niche: Arboreal, primarily frugivorous, diurnal

Diet: Wild: fruits but will eggs and young birds

Zoo:

Life Span: Wild: 18 years

Zoo:

Sexual Dimorphism: female has shorter bill

Location in SF Zoo: South American Tropical Rainforest and Aviary

APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

The Curl-crested Aracari is part of the toucan family. They are a beautifully colored, glossy-feathered bird with curled feathers on its crown. These modified head feathers are unlike any other aracari, and resemble shiny black pieces of plastic. It is from these modified feathers that this species gets its name. It has a red back with yellow underparts, a single red breast band and a quite ornately patterned, multicolored bill. They have a long tail, are zygodactylous and have relatively small wings, suitable only for short distance flights.

Weight: 6.7–9.9 oz
Length: 16–18 in
Wingspan:
Tail Length:

Toucans are easily recognized birds with their over-sized and colorful bill, which allows them to pluck fruit from vegetation as well as drink water from the crevices of trees. The last three vertebrae are fused, joined to the spine with a ball and socket joint, which allows toucans to flip their tails above their bodies to touch their heads. This is the posture used for sleeping; their bills are protected and turned, resting on their backs causing them to resemble a ball of feathers. This compact posture allows many to roost together at night in even smaller hollows.

The thin, feather-like grey tongue extends to the end of the bill. The feathering effect exposes more taste-buds, enhancing the importance of taste to the toucan. The bill has serrations along the bills' edges.

STATUS AND CONSERVATION:

Due to its extensive range, it is considered to be of least concern by BirdLife International and consequently the IUCN. Despite the fact that the population trend appears to be decreasing, the decline is not believed to be sufficiently rapid to approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population trend criterion.

CURL-CRESTED ARACARI

COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR:

Toucans are generally gregarious and fly in small flocks (3-12) or pairs through the canopy, foraging in fruiting trees. During the breeding season pairs will separate out for nesting. Frequents forest edges where it forages in the mid-level and canopy. Will also go to small bushes in clearings to feed and has been seen on the ground presumably feeding with other bird species. Moves about calling frequently; calls are different from other aracarids (a loud rising "eeee-yak.").

COURTSHIP AND YOUNG:

Breeding season is May – August. Curl-crested Aracarids nest in tree cavities and probably in groups. Both parents incubate the eggs. Courtship may consist of bill slapping and perhaps allopreening. Males tend to modify the nest site and coax the female to it for her approval.

The chicks are altricial. Each parent broods and feeds the offspring, which develop quite slowly. They also share in nest cleaning duties. Fledging occurs in 43-50 days. In some species the young sleep in the nest hole; in others they do so in the cover of foliage. They may form small family groups that can last until the next season or until they are chased from the area.

Incubation: 16 days	Sexual Maturity:
# of Eggs: 3 - 6	Fledging: 43 – 50 days

MISCELLANEOUS:

SOURCES:

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The Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol VII © 1996, Lynx Edicions, p. 266

<http://www.nashvillezoo.org/piciformes/ramphastidae.htm>

<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=854>

<http://www.avianweb.com/toucans.htm>

http://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/portal/species/overview?p_p_spp=301656