

### Avian Models for 3D Applications by Ken Gilliland

### **Songbird ReMix Parrots** VOLUME 6: AMAZONS of the WORLD 2

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### **Songbird ReMix Parrots** VOLUME 6: AMAZONS of the WORLD 2

### Introduction

Amazon parrots are medium-sized, short-tailed parrots native to the Americas, with their range extending from South America to Mexico and the Caribbean. "*Amazona*" is one of the 92 types that make up the Parrot family and contains about thirty species. Most Amazon Parrots are predominantly green, with accenting colors that depend on the species, and can be very vivid. They feed primarily on seeds, nuts, and fruits, supplemented by leafy matter.

Many Amazons have the ability to mimic human speech and other sounds. Partly because of this, they have become popular pets, and a marketplace has developed in breeding Amazons in captivity for this market. This popularity has led to many parrots being taken from the wild to the extent that many species have now become endangered. Most countries have made the capture of wild parrots for the pet trade illegal in an attempt to help protect wild populations. Feral populations of Amazons can be found in different parts of the world, including in South Africa, Europe, and major cities in the Americas.

This set (and its companion "*Volume 6: Amazons of the World 1*") include all remaining Amazon Parrots not already in Songbird ReMix format (<u>see list</u>). There are two versions of this set for native support in Poser and DAZ Studio. Materials have been tuned to support Iray, 3Delight, Superfly and Firefly renderers.

### **Overview and Use**

The set is located within the **Animals : Songbird ReMix** folder. Here is where you will find a number of folders, such as **Bird Library**, **Manuals** and **Resources**. Let's look at what is contained in these folders:

- Bird Library: This folder holds the actual species and poses for the "premade" birds. Birds are placed into a "type" folder (such as "Birds of Prey (Order Falconiformes)" which for example would hold falcons, hawks and eagles). The birds for this set can be found in the following folder(s):
  - Parrots and Cockatoos (Order Psittaciformes)
- Manuals: Contains a link to the online manual for the set.
- **Props:** Contains any props that might be included in the set
- **Resources:** Items in this folder are for creating and customizing your birds

Bird Base Models: This folder has the blank, untextured model(s) used in this set. These models are primarily for users who wish to experiment with poses or customize their own species of bird. When using physical renderers such as Iray and Superfly, SubD should be turned to at least "3". For DAZ Studios 3Delight renders, the SubD must be turned from the "High Resolution" setting to the "Base" setting (otherwise some areas will render incorrectly transparent).

### **Poser Use**

Select **Figures** in the **Runtime** Folder and go to the **Animals : Songbird ReMix** folder. Select the bird from the renderer *Firefly or Superfly*) folder you want and simply click it to load. Some birds in the Songbird ReMix series may load with attached parts (*Conformers*) such as tail or crest extensions. Some of these parts have specific morphs. You will need to click on the attached part to access those controls. Associated poses can be found in the same folder- **Bird Library : (Type) : Poses**.

### **DAZ Studio Use**

Go to the **Animals : Songbird ReMix** folder. Select the bird from the renderer (*3Delight or Iray*) folder you want and simply click it to load. Some birds in the Songbird ReMix series may load with attached parts (*Conformers*) such as tail or crest extensions. Some of these parts have specific morphs. You will need to click on the attached part to access those controls. Associated poses can be found in the same folder- **Bird Library :** (**Type**) : **Poses**. <u>Note:</u> Using the "Apply this Character to the currently selected Figure(s)" option **will not** properly apply the correct scaling to the bird selected. It is better to delete the existing character first and load the one you want to use.

### **Physical-based Rendering**

**Iray** and **Superfly** requires more CPU and memory horsepower than the legacy renderers because of ray-trace bounces and higher resolution meshes needed for displacement. Poser's **Superfly** renderer will require that the "Min Transparent Bounces" be set to **at least 16** and that the "Max Transparent Bounces" be set to **at least 16** and that the "Max Transparent Bounces" be set to **at least 32** in render settings. Superfly renders may show artifacts in the head area. This is a known Poser issue and may be addressed in the future. Increasing the SubD may minimize this issue.

### Where to find your birds

Type Folder	Bird Species
Parrots and Cockatoos (Order Psittaciformes)	All Parrots

### Where to find your poses

Type Folder	For what species?
Parrots and Cockatoos (Order Psittaciformes)	All Parrots

### **Posing & Shaping Considerations**

This volume has various species, so when using generic poses not every pose will work perfectly with every bird. You may find that some minor alteration on the stock poses may be warranted.

Here are some of the most common alterations you may need to make:

• Birds will not be flat on the zero plane due to leg size and overall scale.

#### Specific Bird Controls

There are several controls with the *Action Controls* section of the model that are specific to certain species of bird.

- Under *Fluff Controls (in Creation Controls):* 
  - These controls move the feathers on each side of the cheek towards the bill.
- Raise Upper Beak (in Action Controls):
  - This morph is a "one size fits all" control. Because of the variety of beak shapes. It may not work with all birds.

#### **IK Concerns**

Some poses may go askew when IK is turned on. By default, Poser's IK feature is turned off when loading a bird. To turn it on, select the "Figure" category from the main tool bar and "Use Inverse Kinematics" from the submenu.

By default, DAZ Studio's IK feature is turned on when loading a bird. This will cause the thigh and shin rotations change when the character is moved. The **CTRL K** keypress will turn IK on and off in DAZ Studio. IK doesn't work that well in Studio, so I suggest selecting the character in the **Scene tab** and simply deleting the two IK body parts to remove IK.

### **Songbird ReMix Parrots** VOLUME 6: AMAZONS of the WORLD 2

# **Field Guide**

Turquoise-fronted Parrot Black-billed Parrot White-fronted Parrot Yellow-lored Parrot Yellow-billed Parrot Cuban Parrot Hispaniolan Parrot Hispaniolan Parrot Puerto Rican Parrot Mealy Parrot Kawall's Parrot Imperial Parrot Red-tailed Parrot St. Vincent Parrot Orange-winged Parrot Scaly-naped Parrot

## **Common Name:** Turquoise-fronted Parrot **Scientific Name:** *Amazona aestiva*

**Size**: 14.6 inches (37 cm)

**Habitat:** South America; found from northeast Brazil south to Bolivia, Paraguay, and northern Argentina.

It prefers Cerrado and Chaco scrub, savanna, palm groves, gallery forest, subtropical woodland. It is closely tied to old-growth areas with large trees that provide nest-cavities. In the winter in Argentina, it occupies yungas forest; particularly stands of *Anadenanthera macrocarpa*.

**Status:** Near Threatened. **Global Population:** 1,000,000 to 10,000,000 mature adults with a significantly decreasing population trend. One of the most abundant of the South American Amazons, benefiting from agriculture and despoiling maize and sunflower crops, and causing some damage to fruit (especially citrus) crops during winter. It is very heavily trapped for caged bird trade, but impact on populations not clear; minimum net exports rose from 10,644 in 1981 to 58,464 in 1988, thereafter declining, most of these birds coming from Argentina, which exported 244,774 in the period 1985–1990. The selective cutting of mature *Schinopsis* trees, overgrazing by domestic livestock and oil exploration activities are all affecting parts of the Chaco in Argentina, but very substantial tracts of habitat still remain.

**Diet:** Fruit or seeds of a wide variety of plants, notably (in Argentina) fruits of *Melia, Aspidosperma, Prosopis, Schinopsis* and *Ziziphus*, and seeds of Citrus, *Anadenanthera, Bulnesia* and *Cercidium*. It will also feed on cactus fruit and palm seeds. It forages on the flowers of *Erythrina* and *Morus* in late August and the immature fruits of *Cedrela* from



September to November. At Emas National Park (in Goiás State, Brazil), it damages *Eriotheca gracilipes* fruit crops.

**Breeding**: Sexes are alike. A medium-sized green Amazon parrot with a blue fore-crown and its mid-crown, face, chin and throat being yellow (sometimes blue or green). The hindcrown, posterior ear-coverts, the sides of the neck, the nape and mantle are green, heavily edged blackish, producing a scaled effect. This is less pronounced on the wings and under sides. The shoulder and speculum are red with the primaries tipped dark blue. The tail is green tipped yellowish, with lateral feathers basally barred with red. The immature has blue and yellow on the head reduced.

Breeding season occurs from October to March. They nest in holes in a tree, generally around 9 m high. More rarely, in a cliff face or arboreal termitarium. The preferred trees in Argentina include *Schinopsis, Aspidosperma, Chlorisia* and *Calycophyllum*. Normally three eggs are laid and incubated for 23–25 days; the nestling period is 58–60 days.

**Cool Facts:** An expert opinion of six studied populations indicated that the main threats to the species are agro-industry farming, wood and pulp plantations, agro-industry grazing, capture for the pet trade (local and international), large-scale and selective logging and climate change.

There are two subspecies:

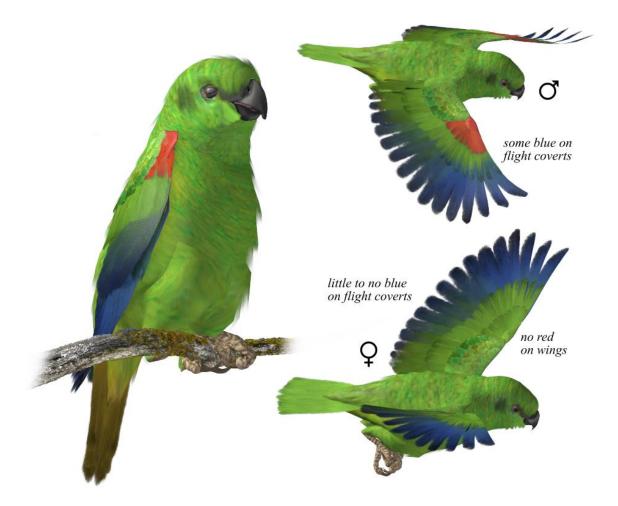
- *A. a. aestiva.* The nominate subspecies is found in eastern Brazil from western Pernambuco and southern Piauí southward to southeastern Mato Grosso and western Paraná.
- *A. a. xanthopteryx.* This race is found in northern and eastern Bolivia and southwestern Brazil (southwestern Mato Grosso) southward through Paraguay to northern Argentina (Córdoba). Race xanthopteryxphoto has yellow (instead on red) on the shoulders, although often variably intermixed with some red.

## **Common Name:** Black-billed Parrot **Scientific Name:** *Amazona agilis*

Size: 9.8-10.2 inches (25-26 cm)

**Habitat:** North America; endemic to the island of Jamaica and can be found from Cockpit Country eastwards to Mt. Diablo and the eastern slopes of the John Crow Mountains.

It prefers wet, mid-level limestone forests generally between elevations of 100–1400 m.



**Status: Endangered. Global Population:** <10,000 mature adults with a decreasing population trend. Forest clearance and fragmentation, hurricane damage to habitat, poaching for food and trapping for the local pet trade are causing the decline in a population.

**Diet:** Mostly fruit and ocassionally seeds, nuts, berries, blossoms and leaf buds. Plant species including *Cecropia*, *Ficus*, *Annona*, *Nectandra*, *Bryophyllum*, *Pithecellobium*,

*Melia* and *Blighia*. It will also forage cultivated plants such as papaya, mango, cucumber and maize.

**Breeding**: A small green Amazon parrot which is paler on the under parts and yellowish green on the under tail coverts. It sometimes can have a few red flecks on forehead. Its feather edges on the nape are dark, giving it a slight scaled effect. The primary coverts are red with primaries being a soft blue that are darker at the tips. The secondaries are green and distally dark blue. The tail is green with the outer feathers red basally and margined blue. Female has some primary-coverts that are green. The immature has all of its primary coverts green.

Breeding season occurs from March to July. The nest is built at least 18 m up in hollow limbs or holes in trees. They sometimes will use old woodpecker holes or nest in the bases of bromeliads. Females lay two to four eggs but usually only two young being reared. The incubation is done entirely by the female and usually lasts 26–28 days. The nestling period is around eight weeks.

**Cool Facts:** The Black-billed Parrot is the smaller and rarer of the two parrots endemic to the island of Jamaica (the other being than the Yellow-billed Amazon (*A. collaria*)).

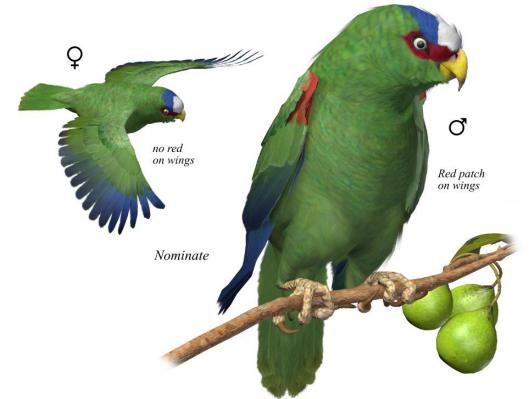
## **Common Name:** White-fronted Parrot **Scientific Name:** *Amazona albifrons*

Size: 9.8-11.4 inches (25-29 cm)

**Habitat**: North America; it has a disjunct range, with one population in northwest Mexico, and another in southern Mexico, where it is found on both the Caribbean and Pacific slopes, south, almost exclusively on the latter side of the isthmus, to western Costa Rica.

It prefers drier, deciduous forests, advanced second growth forests, scrubby woodlands, thornbush, coastal palm-fig thickets, semi-open areas with scattered trees and giant cacti. It has been seen in woodlots in savanna, mangroves and agricultural land. Where it is sympatric with the Yellow-lored Parrot (*A. xantholora*), it inhabits wetter and more closed vegetation.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 500,000-4,999,999 mature adults with a stable to increasing population trend. It is considered "frequent to abundant", and along with the Orange-fronted parakeet (*Eupsittula canicularis*), it is considered the most numerous parrot on Pacific slope of Middle America. With no obvious decline, they may indeed actually be benefiting from habitat fragmentation. They are possibly considered a crop pest in parts of their range and are fairly heavily traded (at least in Mexico) as pets.



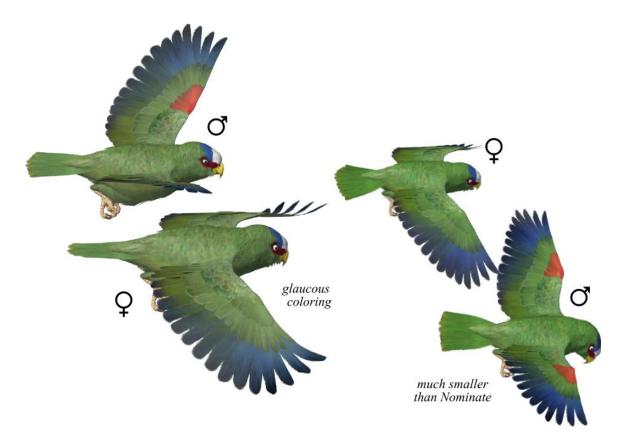
**Diet:** Mostly seeds, including from the *Inga* tree and other legumes, *Croton*, *Terminalia*, plus blossoms, berries and fruits (notably Ficus and cacti). It cultivated lands, it forages on corn, mangoes and other crops.

**Breeding:** The most distinctive feature is that it's fore crown is white. It has a large facial patch around eye that is red. Its mid-to-hind crown is a dull blue with dark feather edges that create a scaled effect. The lower cheeks are emerald green, shading to a yellower green on the under parts. This is some dark scaling on the breast fading out on belly. The upper parts are green with dark scaling. There is a large red patch on leading edge of wing, with a dark blue speculum and blue tips to flight-feathers. Its tail is green with yellow tips and red bases to the outer rectrices. The female is similar but lacks the red edging on the wing. The immature also lacks the red edge and has reduced red on face.

Breeding season starts in January and goes until May in Mexico and Guatemala. The nest is made in natural cavities within trees or using old woodpecker holes. The female lays three to five eggs and incubates them for 24 days.

**Cool Facts:** There are three subspecies.

- *A. a. saltuensis*. This race is found on the Pacific slope of northwestern Mexico (southern Sonora, Sinaloa, and western Durango). This subspecies is washed glaucous (gray to sea-green).
- *A. a. albifrons.* The nominate race is found on the Pacific slope of western Mexico in Nayarit southward to southern Guatemala.
- *A. a. nana*. This race is found in eastern Mexico (from southeastern Veracruz and the Yucatán Peninsula) to Belize and northern Guatemala and southward to western Costa Rica. It looks like the nominate but is significantly smaller in size (25-26 cm as oppose to 28-29 cm).

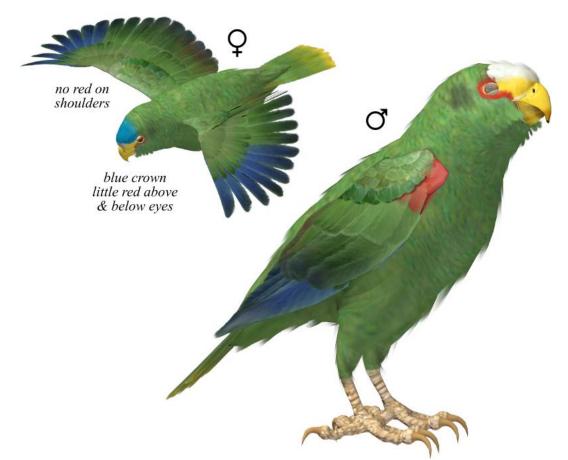


## **Common Name:** Yellow-lored Parrot **Scientific Name:** *Amazona xantholora*

**Size**: 12.2 inches (31 cm)

**Habitat**: Central America; endemic to the Yucatán Peninsula in eastern Mexico and northern Belize. It occurs on the nearshore Mexican island of Cozumel, and perhaps formerly was present on Roatán Island, off Honduras.

The species inhabits dry, deciduous woodland and open pine forests, always in lowland areas.



**Status:** Least Concern to Threatened. **Global Population:** 20,000-49,999 mature adults with a decreasing population trend. While, worldwide it is has a "Least Concern" status, it is considered Threatened under Mexican law (NOM-059 SEMARNAT 2010) due to its restricted range and threats, such as habitat loss. It is estimated that 15-49% of its population has been lost in Mexico during the last century.

It faces heightened risk because of its specialization on threatened tropical deciduous forest habitats. The primary threat to this species is loss of this habitat type due to unsustainable logging, wood harvesting, and urbanization. In addition to threats of habitat loss, it is threatened by trapping for the bird trade, which although illegal in

Mexico, remains a threat. Large-scale development of vacation properties also threatens to destroy and fragment remaining tropical deciduous forests along Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

Diet: Feeds on a variety of seeds, fruits, blossoms, nuts, legumes, and crops.

It is a highly social species that rarely is seen as solitary individuals. They fly in big groups of more than 30 individuals, composed of pairs and family groups. Groups can be detected easily due to their very loud calls. They roost and sleep in big groups (in some cases of more than 1,500 individuals) at elevated sites and in large tree tops.

**Breeding**: Sexes are dimorphic. It is a small amazon, but otherwise is a typical member of the genus. It is a small bright green parrot with yellow lores and a dark brown auricular spot. The male also has a red eye mask, a white fore crown, and a red shoulder patch. The female has little red on the face, the fore crown is bluish (not white), and lacks the red shoulder patch. The secondaries are blue violet; the primaries are similar, but with green bases. The tail is green, with some red (mostly concealed) at the base.

There is very little information on the reproductive biology. It is believed their breeding habitats are similar to the White-fronted Parrot with breeding season starting in January and going until May. The nest is made in natural cavities within trees or using old woodpecker holes. The female lays three to five eggs and incubates them for 22-28 days.

**Cool Facts:** It is sometimes called the "Yucatán Parrot". Yellow-lored Parrots produce loud, raucous calls, which are much like those of White-fronted Parrots (*Amazona albifrons*) but are more expressive and trumpet-like.

## **Common Name:** Yellow-billed Parrot **Scientific Name:** *Amazona collaria*

Size: 11 inches (28 cm)

**Habitat**: North America; endemic to the interior of Jamaica. It can be seen in Cockpit country, as well as in the Blue and John Crow mountains.

It is seen in wet limestone forests, perched high in a fruiting trees or flying overhead in small groups, or, outside the breeding season, in large roosts.

**Status:** Vulnerable. **Global Population:** 6,000–15,000 mature adults with a decreasing population trend. It was previously considered "Near Threatened" due to it being a "restricted-range" species. It has slowly been decreasing in population as habitat has been steadily cleared, but it is still in reasonable numbers to be considered "Vulnerable".



**Diet:** Fruits, seeds, blossoms and leaf buds, species including *Cecropia*, *Ficus*, *Annona*, Citrus and *Rubus*, plus cultivated fruit crops.

**Breeding**: Sexes are alike. It is similar to the Cuban Amazon (*A. leucocephala*) but with its scaled effect confined to head and nape, and with the white of mid-crown replaced

with dull blue. The ear-coverts are grayish blue. The immature looks very similar to the adult.

Breeding season occurs March to May. The nest is placed in hole in a tree (often breadnut (*Brosimum*)). They also nest in old woodpecker cavities but rarely below 18 m. Three to four eggs are laid and incubated by the female for 24–25 days. The nestling period lasts about 10 weeks.

**Cool Facts:** It is the commoner and more widespread of the two Jamaican endemic Parrots.

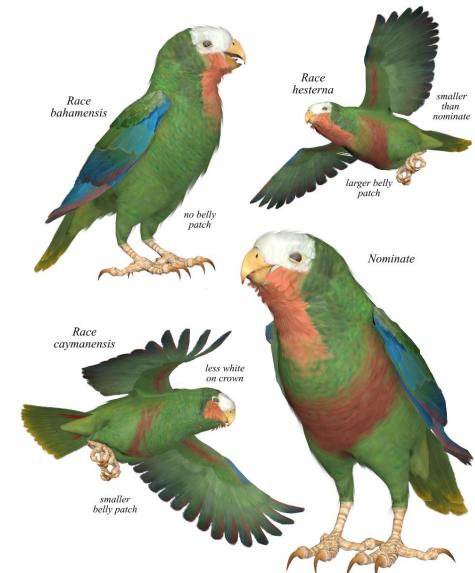
#### Common Name: Cuban Parrot Scientific Name: Amazona leucocephala

**Size**: 12.6 inches (32 cm)

**Habitat**: North America; it is not actually endemic to Cuba. Rather, the four recognized subspecies, some of which are sometimes raised to species status (although such proposals have yet to acquire much critical support), range over Great Inagua, Abaco and formerly other islands in the Bahamas, all three of the Cayman Islands, as well as

the main island of Cuba and its most important satellite, the Isle of Youth. Those populations away from Cuba are unquestionably rather small, but probably no longer declining due to more effective conservation measures than have to date been possible in Cuba.

It habitat includes limestone forests, dry mixed broadleaf woodlands, savanna with stands of pine and palms, mangroves, plantations and gardens.



#### Status: Near

Threatened.

**Global Population:** 2,000-4,300 mature adults with a decreasing population trend. Originally much more numerous throughout; now extirpated from parts of former range due to habitat loss and capture for bird trade. In Cuba, The nominate race has undergone widespread population decline, but still locally common in remoter forested areas of the island; found at very low density in C Cuba. Cuban population estimated at 5000 in 1988; now stable and even increasing on the Isle of Pines (to 1384 in December 1995). Population rise of Race *caymanensis* on Grand Cayman from 1500 in 1992 to 1900 in 1995, possibly owing to protection from hunting, but habitat still under pressure. Races *bahamensis* formerly present on several islands in Bahamas, but now restricted to Abaco and Great Inagua, with stronghold in former. Abaco population 830–1082 in 1989, with 1578 estimated in southern Abaco in 2002. The population of Race *hesterna* on Cayman Brac was between 299–430 in 1991; extirpated on Little Cayman through unknown causes.

The nominate race occurs in more than 20 protected areas in Cuba. The Great Inagua population of Race *bahamensis* receives some protection from 743 km<sup>2</sup> Bahamas National Trust Park. It is threatened by domestic cat predation, trade, poaching and habitat loss, though these recently the target of controls.

**Diet:** Fruits and seeds from a wide variety of plants, notably unripe *Pinus caribaea*, plus Bursera, Ficus, Petitia, Smilex, Sabal, Duranta, Exothea, Ernodia, Ilex, Zamia, Tabebuia, Acacia, Metopium, Tetrazygia, Myrceanthes, Coccolobavideo, Conocarpus, Swietenia, Manilkara, Cupania, Lysiloma, and several palms. It has also been seen foraging on the stems of Cassytha vines, aned eating Avicennia and Bucida blossoms, and buds. It will raid orchards and eat cultivated fruit such as mango and papaya.

**Breeding**: It is a medium-sized green Amazona parrot. Its forehead, crown and area round eyes are white, including bare white periorbital ring. The lores, cheeks and throat are a pinkish red with the ear-coverts being blackish. There is a purplish patch on belly while the remainder of body is green with dark fringes which produce scaled effect (also on belly patch). The flight-feathers are soft blue and the tail is green, tipped yellowish, with the outer feathers with red basally and fringed blue. The immature is less strongly scaled with less purple on its belly.

Breeding occurs from March through June. They nest in holes in trees, such as *Avicennia* mangrove and various palms. On Abaco, they nest in limestone holes in ground. Usually two to six eggs 2–6 are laid and the incubation time is 26–28 days. The nestling period is 56–60 days.

Cool Facts: This Amazon has four subspecies:

- A. I. leucocephala. The "Cuban" Amazon is endemic to Cuba and the Isle of Pines.
- *A. I. bahamensis*. Great Abaco and Great Inagua, in the Bahamas. This race often has no belly patch, and the white of the crown is more extensive below and behind eye.
- A. I. caymanensis. Grand Cayman Island (Western Cayman Islands). Race caymanensis has white on mid-crown, pinkish red on moustachial area and belly patch all reduced
- *A. I. hesterna.* Cayman Brac and formerly Little Cayman (Eastern Cayman Islands). It is smaller than the nominate, with a larger belly patch.

### **Common Name:** Hispaniolan Parrot **Scientific Name:** *Amazona finschi*

Size: 11-12.2 inches (28-31 cm)

**Habitat**: North America; endemic to the island of Hispaniola, where it is mainly confined to the Dominican Republic in the present-day. It has been introduced to Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

In its native range, the Hispaniolan Parrot occurs in lowland palm savannas and montane forest.



**Status:** Vulnerable. **Global Population:** 10,000-19,999 mature adults with a rapidly decreasing population trend. It is a "restricted-range" species, found only on the island of Hispaniola. Reports on status vary, but has certainly undergone a decline throughout Hispaniola owing to habitat clearance, poaching for food, trapping for the pet trade and shooting as a crop pest. It is locally common in the Dominican Republic, but is uncommon or rare over much of its former range. It was formerly considered "Near Threatened", but uplisted in 2000 to reflect suspected rapid population decline. The main threat now appears to be capture for the domestic caged bird market, an activity which also destroys nest sites.

**Diet:** Fruits and seeds of palms, cacti, *Caesalpinia* and guava (*Psidium*), with cultivated plants such as bananas and maize commonly also taken.

**Breeding**: A medium-sized Amazon parrot. Sexes are alike. It is a largely bright green parrot with a white forehead and dark ear coverts. The white is restricted to forecrown and lores, bordered by blue. It has a maroon lower belly/rump patch with some maroon on the thighs. It has blue flight feathers and red in the tail. The immature lacks blue suffusion on the crown and cheeks, and the belly patch is paler.

It breeds between February and May, in a hole in a tree. Most commonly it nests in an abandoned woodpecker hole in palm trunk, or sometimes in cactus. Two to four eggs are laid with the incubation time being about 25 days, and nestling period about 8 weeks.

**Cool Facts:** With the decline on Hispaniola continuing, the result of habitat destruction and illegal trade, the increase in numbers on Puerto Rico is welcome news.

Its call is a variety of screeches, mostly rather high-pitched. Also, it calls out a chattering series of notes "*chachachachacha*". In flight, there are typically bi-syllabic calls, including a barking "*wi-chah*" or a higher pitched reedy "*wi-chih*".

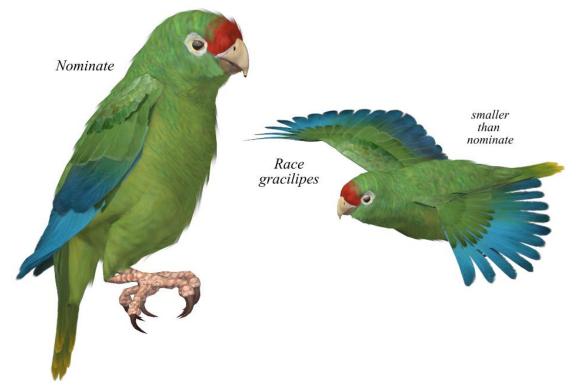
## **Common Name:** Puerto Rican Parrot **Scientific Name:** *Amazona vittata*

Size: 11.6-12 inches (29-30 cm)

Habitat: North America; endemic to Puerto Rico.

It was originally found throughout forests on Puerto Rico ranging from moist montane forest down to littoral scrub forest and mangroves. It is now confined to former, at 200–600 m, consisting of Tabonuco forests (once very important for feeding and breeding but decimated by logging), Palo Colorado zones (important for nesting), Sierra Palm forests, (whose fruiting coincides with breeding), and dwarf forests (used occasionally for food).

**Status: Critically Endangered. Global Population:** <500 mature adults with a decreasing population trend (less than 100 individuals in the wild and a further 400+/-birds in captivity, which are planned for release). Evidence suggests that this parrot was formerly abundant throughout the island, with a conservative population estimate of 84,000 birds in pre-Columbian times. Clearance of forest in 19th century was so intensive that less than 1% of Puerto Rico's forests were virgin by 1912, by which time the species was reduced to a relict population at Luquillo Forest, occupying only around



22.7 km<sup>2</sup>. In addition to habitat loss, collection of birds as pets and persecution for crop depredation greatly reduced numbers in past; the Race *gracilipes* was reportedly wiped out by settlers protecting harvests. The remaining nominate population declined to an estimated 2000 birds in 1937. Ill-founded translocation attempts in 1950s and deliberate radiation exposure of Luquillo Forest in 1960s may have reduced by then already low numbers. Hurricanes have also had their effects. In addition, although rats appear to cause few problems, introduced honeybees occupy nest-sites, bot-flies (*Philornis pici*)

parasitize nestlings, and increasing Pearly-eyed Thrashers (*Margarops fuscatus*) destroy nest contents. As a result the population fell to its nadir of just 13 birds in 1975.

Since then, attempts have been made to mitigate all these factors through a long-term program of intensive management of every aspect of the species' life cycle. The management interventions include control of predators and ectoparasites as well as captive breeding and restocking of known former areas. The wild Luquillo Forest population increased from 21–23 after Hurricane Hugo in 1989 to 42 in late 1994 and about 60 in 1996, possibly related to greater fruit production in the recovering forest, new nest-site availability and the forced discovery of new breeding areas when birds were dispersed by the winds. Nevertheless, even though 55 captive-reared parrots were released in the Luquillo Forest between 2000 and 2010, after more than 40 years this population remains at fewer than 20 individuals. Population growth now seems to be chiefly limited by the effects of rainfall on post-fledging survival and breeding productivity, and predation of adults and juveniles by raptors.

As of 2013, the global population comprised 15–20 wild birds in the Luquillo Forest, and 64–84 individuals together with 16 chicks in the Rio Abajo State Forest, in addition to nearly 400 captive birds. It is hoped that the growing captive population can be used to make further reintroductions into state owned protected areas.

**Diet:** Fruits, seeds, leaves, flowers and bark of up to 60 food-plants (44 tree species, seven shrubs and seven vines have been recorded), with Sierra Palm being the most important and Tabonuco trees second. This Amazon Parrot tends to avoid small fruits, favoring species that show pronounced peaks. It has been considered a crop pest on corn over the past century.

**Breeding**: Sexes are alike. A medium sized Amazon parrot which is overall green, paler on the underparts, with feathers edged blackish to give scaled appearance on the head, mantle and breast. It has a frontal band red that sometimes extending to the lores. It has a whitish bare orbital ring. The belly sometimes tinged with some dull red. The flight-feathers are a soft blue and the tail is green tipped yellowish, with the outer feathers red basally and margined blue. The immature is similar to the adult.

Breeding season occurs from February to April. They nest in natural cavities; usually produced by decay, and almost always in Cyrilla. The nest is optimally at least 4.5 m from ground and at least 60 cm deep, dry and flat-bottomed. It has also used potholes in limestone cliffs. Two to four eggs are laid and incubated by the female for about 26 days. The nestling period averages about nine weeks, but is variable.

**Cool Facts:** Currently, the highly intensive conservation program designed to save this species from extinction is having some success, certainly when compared to the all-time low in the mid-1970s, when just 13 individuals survived in the wild.

There are two subspecies:

- *A. v. vittata.* The nominate race is found in eastern Puerto Rico (in the Caribbean National Forest). A population has recently been established from released birds in Rio Abajo State Forest, in the west-central part of the island.
- *A. v. gracilipes*. This subspecies is endemic to Culebra Island (off eastern Puerto Rico). Race *gracilipes* is smaller than the nominate race.

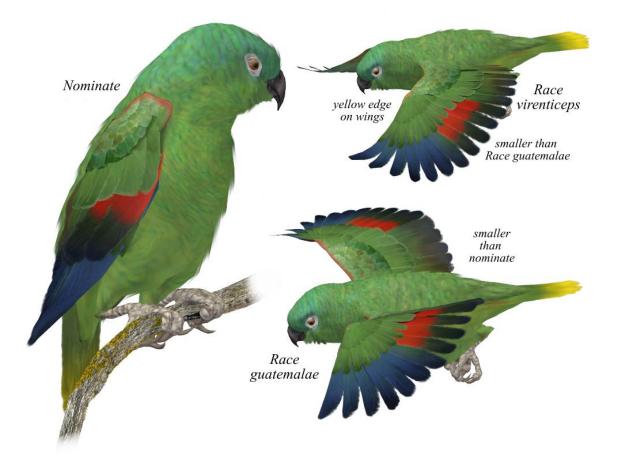
#### Common Name: Mealy Parrot Scientific Name: Amazona farinosa

Size: 15-17 inches (38-43 cm)

**Habitat**: Central and South America; this The widespread Amazon parrot occurs from southern Mexico, through all of Central America and northern South America and the Amazon Basin.

It is principally found in extensive tracts of dense humid lowland tropical evergreen forest usually on dry ground. It also is found in stands of Mauritia palms, deciduous and gallery woodland, sand-ridge forest, semi-open and tall second growth near forest,

**Status:** Least Concern to Near Threatened. **Global Population:** Unknown mature adults with a decreasing population trend. It is considerable "Near Threatened" in Mexico. The population is undergoing a decline caused by habitat loss and the impacts of



hunting and trapping. Rates of deforestation vary between the range but the forest loss is historically more severe in the Atlantic Forest of Brazil, while forests in parts of the Amazon Basin and Guinanan Shield remain largely pristine. The species appears to tolerate some habitat degradation, but it is highly susceptible to Pet Trade trapping. Based on this evidence, population declines are placed in the band 10-19% over three generations (28.8 years).

**Diet:** A variety of seeds, as well as fruits and blossoms. Major food items include seeds and/or fruit of palms, figs, *Brosimum*, *Inga*, *Dussia*, *Eschweilera ovata*, *Pithecellobium*, *Tetragastris*, *Dialium guianensis*, *Peritassa compta*, *Prionostemma aspera*, *Cochlospermum orinocense*, *Sloanea grandiflora*, *Corima macrocarpa*, *Abuta grandifolia*, *Piptadenia psilostachya*, *Cecropia miparia*, *C. hololeuca*, *Helicostylis tomentosa*, *Diospyros kaki*, *Micropholis*, *Pouteria*, *Protium heptaphyllum*, and *Sterculia speciosa*. It also feeds on buds and flowers, arils of *Casearia* and *Virola*, and nectar of *Tabebuia insignis*. It also raids maize fields.

It is gregarious, and will congregate at salt licks and exposed clay banks. It eats clay as dietary addition that may serve to neutralize plant toxins that are ingested while foraging.

**Breeding**: Sexes are alike. A generally dull green Amazon with its hindcrown, nape and upper parts a glaucous color. Its face and under parts are paler with the forehead to midcrown area variably yellow (sometimes full, patchy or absent), and its hindcrown and napes feathers edged dark, giving scaled effect. The wing has a red to orange carpal edge, red speculum and dark blue tips to flight-feathers. The tail is green with very broad yellowish green terminal band.

Breeding season occurs April through May in Guatemala, November through March in south-central Brazil (Mato Grosso) and December through January in southeastern Peru. They nest in hole in a live tree or dead palm. They have been reported nesting in crevice of a stone wall in Mayan temple. Typically three eggs are laid and incubated by the female for 26 to 27 days.

Cool Facts: Three subspecies recognized.

- *A. f. guatemalae.* Southeastern Mexico in southern Veracruz, Chiapas, and northern Oaxaca, southward to northwestern Honduras. There are no distinguishing features other than location that separates this race from the nominate.
- *A. f. virenticeps.* Northwestern Honduras (Sula Valley), through Nicaragua and Costa Rica, to western Panama in western Chiriquí, and western Bocas del Toro. This race has yellowish-green carpal edge (without any red), bluish-green crown (paler and less extensive than nominate), is on average smaller than Race *guatemalae*, and sometimes has yellow feathers on nape.
- *A. f. farinosa.* The nominate subspecies occurs south from central Panama (from Veraguas and Isla Coiba), through Venezuela, the Guianas, Colombia, and Ecuador, to eastern Peru and Central Bolivia, eastward through the Amazon to southeastern Brazil.

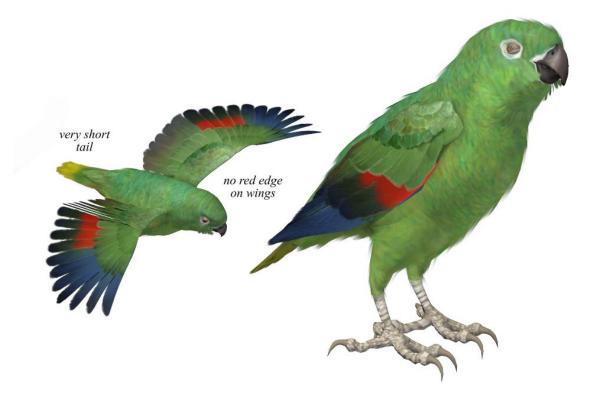
### Common Name: Kawall's Parrot Scientific Name: Amazona kawalli

Size: 13.7-14.2 inches (35-36 cm)

**Habitat**: South America; endemic to the Amazon Basin in Brazil (the Juruá River eastward to the Tapajós River and north-central Mato Grosso). It is also found north of the Amazon River (Jaú National Park, in north-central Amazonas).

It is found in tropical lowland forest, and typically associated with watercourses.

**Status:** Near Threatened. **Global Population:** 2,500–9,999 mature adults with a decreasing population trend. Since it has been recently discovered (mid-1980s), there isn't sufficient data to form solid determinations, however this parrot is considered "rare" and believed to have similar threat to that of the Mealy Amazon so is considered "Near Threatened".



Diet: A variety of seeds, as well as fruits and blossoms.

**Breeding**: Sexes are alike. It is very close to Mealy Amazon (*A. farinosa*) but with a narrow white strip of bare skin bordering base of bill, and its periorbital ring a mid-grey (not white as in the Mealy). The tail shorter than most Amazons with correspondingly reduced yellowish terminal band, with scarlet and some blue on basal half of outermost tail feathers. It also lacks the red on the leading edge of the wing and the glaucous tone to the upper parts that the Mealy amazon has with the exception of the mantle.

It breeding habitats are probably similar to the Mealy Amazon with breeding season occurring from November through March. They nest in hole in a live tree or dead palm. Typically three eggs are laid and incubated by the female for 26 to 27 days.

**Cool Facts:** It is sometimes known as the White-cheeked Parrot. This Brazilian endemic's English name celebrates the important role of the aviculturist Nelson Kawall in determining its specific status. Strange parrots in the area were usually concluded to be just aberrant specimens of Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) which had been known since the very early 1900s. It wasn't until the mid-1980s that sufficient evidence could be gathered to definitively describe this new species, although even then, some doubts as to its status were subsequently expressed. However, with time, knowledge, and increasing fieldwork, we now know Kawall's Parrot (not aberrant Mealy Parrots) to be found across quite large swathes of southern Amazonia.

#### Common Name: Imperial Parrot Scientific Name: Amazona imperialis

**Size**: 17.7-20 inches (45-51 cm)

**Habitat**: North America; It is endemic to only in a very small area of northern Dominica (Lesser Antilles). It is found in the mountain valleys, chiefly in Morne Diablotin area, but also in Northern and Central Forest Reserves, and has been recently re-established a small population in Morne Trois Pitons National Park.

It is a reclusive montane species, living primarily at elevations from 600 to 1300 meters. It may occur at lower elevations in wake of hurricanes that badly effect habitat at higher elevations on the island. These parrots dwell in primary, rainforest canopy, foraging in small groups for fruits, seeds, nuts, berries, blossoms, and shoots.



**Status: Critically Endangered. Global Population:** 40-60 +/- mature adults with a decreasing population trend. The main threats to the Imperial Parrot include habitat loss, illegal trapping for the cage-bird trade, and occasional hurricane-related damage.

It was formerly common to abundant within relatively small, inaccessible range, declining catastrophically in the period 1880–1980, owing to habitat destruction, extensive hunting

for food, trade and hurricanes, two of the latter in 1979 and 1980 reducing the population to 40–100. Natural recovery and a considerable conservation effort since that time has resulted in some upturn, with 80–100 in 1993 and higher numbers judged present in 1994. More recently, the population was estimated at 250–350 individuals, but effects of Hurricane Maria (in late 2017), which have yet to be fully established, potentially reduced numbers to the very low levels of the late 1970s (following Hurricane David); first dedicated survey, in Jan 2018, and anecdotal sightings, revealed 11 reports of parrots at unusually widely scattered localities across the island, the birds probably wandering to unusually lowland sites in response to food shortages in the highlands. This species' population, like that of many others, is presumably cyclical, crashing in the wake of direct hits by hurricanes but then slowly rebuilding in the years that follow; however, of considerable concern is that as a consequence of climate change, hurricanes are likely to become more frequent and if the island was to be hit by two or more storms without sufficient interval for this parrot to cover, then the possibility of extinction would be considerably heightened. There are very few individuals in captivity, and some of these are old.

**Diet:** A wide range of fruits ans seeds (including *Dacryodes, Licania, Richeria, Amanoa, Simarouba, Symphonia, Pouteria, Tapura, Clusia* and several palms). Following hurricanes, observed feeding on fallen grapefruit and guava fruits, probably due to the severe lack of fruits on live trees.

**Breeding**: Sexes are alike. Its head, nape and mantle are a purplish black, shading to purple with dark margins giving a scaled effect on the under sides. The thighs and vent are a dull green. The wings are also dull green with red carpals, a purple speculum and blackish-blue primaries. The tail is a reddish brown tipped greenish blue. The immature is similar but has a green nape and neck.

Breeding season goes from February to June. They in nest in holes in trees, notably *Dacryodes excelsa* and *Sloanea berteriana*. The female lays two eggs and incubates them alone. While two eggs are laid but seldom more than one young reared.

**Cool Facts:** It is featured on the center of the Commonwealth of Dominica's flag and coat of arms.

#### Common Name: Red-tailed Parrot Scientific Name: Amazona brasiliensis

**Size**: 14.5 inches (37 cm)

**Habitat**: South America; it is found in southeastern Brazil in narrow littoral strip, including offshore islands, from São Paulo through Paraná to extreme northeastern Santa Catarina.

It breeds and roosts in littoral forests of three types, seasonally and permanently flooded forest and sand-plain forest, dispersing by day to forage in these habitats. It is also found inland in lowland humid "Atlantic" rain forest; and in mangroves (where also roosts).

**Status:** Near Threatened. **Global Population:** 1,150-1,500 mature adults with a increasing population trend. It is a restricted-range species, endemic to Atlantic Forest Lowlands EBA. It was previously listed as "Endangered" due to massive pressure from Pet Trade trappers, serving the domestic market, who are responsible for almost total annual breeding failure in some populations. "Sport" hunting has also vandalized populations. Capture for the bird trade was made illegal and seemed to help the populations.



The construction of holiday homes at the coast, combined with growth in agriculture and ranching, is causing the rapid loss of most remaining lowland forest, and in the early 1990s total available habitat only covered 3057km<sup>2</sup>. The selective removal of hardwoods and palms for many purposes is reducing feeding and breeding areas.

The total number of birds in São Paulo state, 1993, was 1,550, divided up into 16 distinct subpopulations. The species is present inside several protected areas, but illegal poaching persists in many of them; several new areas have recently been proposed.

Conservation actions in Paraná (Projeto de Conservação do papagaio-de-cara-roxa) include monitoring, provision of artificial nests, and repair of natural nesting cavities. It was considered "Vulnerable" in Brazil until 2014, it is now classed as nationally "Near Threatened".

**Diet:** Main food plants are *Syagrus romanzoffianum* (fruits from February–April), *Psidium cattleianum* (fruits from October–December) and Calophyllum brasiliense (fruits from November–December), but 68 food plants have been identified to date, Seeds, flowers and nectar also taken, and occasionally invertebrates (such as beetle larvae within palm exudate, and small spiders and pupae in old seed capsules).

**Breeding**: Sexes are alike. Its forehead and lores are rose-red shading to pink on midcrown. The rest of face is pale mauve with soft blue flecking around the eye. The upper and under parts are green (paler below). The carpal area is red with the wing-coverts broadly edged yellow. The flight-feathers are tipped dark blue and the tail is centrally green, broadly tipped yellow, and with a broad red subterminal band, basally edged dark blue on lateral feathers.

Breeding season begins September through November, but some pairs, possibly renesting, with nestlings as late as April. They create nests in holes 1–15 m up in usually in a dead tree (mainly *Syagrus* and *Calophyllum*) in a flooded forest. Sometimes, they will nest in arboreal termitarium or petioles of bromeliad, or use a nestbox. The density of nests for this species can be high, with 7 nests/ha in sand-plain forest, 18 nests/ha in seasonally flooded forest and 39 nests/ha in permanently flooded forest (this relating to density of dead trees). Three to four eggs are laid and incubated for 27–28 days. The fledging period lasts about 55 days.

**Cool Facts:** A molecular study suggests that this species is closest to *A. amazonica*. It was previously thought to form a group with *A. dufresniana* and *A. rhodocorytha*, and has been treated as conspecific with either or both of those.

### Common Name: St. Vincent Parrot Scientific Name: Amazona guildingii

Size: 13.8-14.1 inches (40-46 cm)

**Habitat**: North America; it is endemic to St. Vincent Island (in the Lesser Antilles): in rainforest along western and eastern slopes of the central mountain range, mainly in Buccament, Cumberland and Wallilibou Valleys.

This parrot is dependent on mature moist forest, with some preference for lower elevations where larger trees and hence more nest-sites exist. It will occasionally wandering into cultivated areas.

**Status: Endangered. Global Population:** 250-999 birds mature adults with an increasing population trend. Habitat loss and hunting brought the St. Vincent Parrot to a precarious situation by the early 1980s, but determined conservation and law enforcement action since then has led to a steady population increase. With increasing conservation activity thereafter, censuses have suggested a steady population increase,



from 370-470 in 1982, 440-500 in 1988, to around 800 in 1994.

**Diet:** Fruit and/or seeds of *Pouteria* and *Dacryodes* especially, also *Cordia, Krugiodendron, Micropholis, Dussia, Talauma, Inga, Chione, Simaruba, Ixora, Sloanea, Richeria, Psidium, Annona, Calophyllum, Andira, Aiphanes, Cecropia, Meliosma*, various palms and figs.

**Breeding**: Sexes are alike. This Amazon Parrot has two plumage morphs, a yellowbrown variant, which is much the commoner, and a green one. The commoner yellowbrown morph, itself variable, has its head with white shading to a yellowish-orange on the hind crown, cheeks and chin. It has a bluish patch behind the eye and a blue-gray "scaled" nape, shading to scaled bronze on the upper parts and breast, and becoming greenish-yellow on the vent. The wing-coverts are orangish-red to red. The primaries are black with yellow bases, the secondaries are a deep blue with orange bases. The tail is deep blue with a broad yellow terminal band and orange at its base. The immature is similar but duller. The green morph tends to lack much of the orange, with dull green upper parts and whitish-blue face.

The breeding season lasts from January to July, and the species generally lays two eggs, while a successful nesting attempt will last up to 3.5 months.

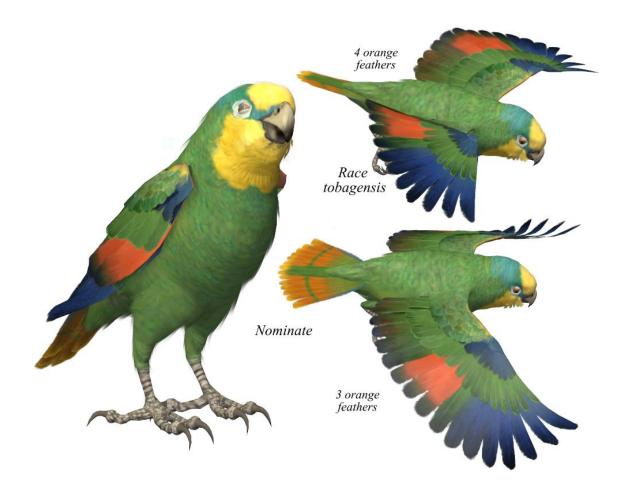
**Cool Facts:** There are several large parrots are endemic to the Lesser Antilles chain, but arguably none is so strikingly as the St. Vincent Amazon.

## **Common Name:** Orange-winged Amazon **Scientific Name:** *Amazona amazonica*

Size: 12.2-12.6 inches (31-32 cm)

**Habitat**: South America; exclusively found in the lowlands east of the Andes, it is distributed from northern Colombia south to eastern Brazil, including the islands of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Orange-winged Parrot is able to persist virtually wherever there are still tall trees, although it is undoubtedly more numerous in better-forested areas.



**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 7,000. Their numbers in the wild have been reduced by 90% from 70,000 to 7,000. It is still abundant throughout much of its extensive range. In many places, notably in north of range, it is the commonest large parrot, and even classified as a pest in Trinidad and Tobago. Deforestation has caused some declines in eastern Brazil, and "sport" hunting has reduced numbers in Suriname. Hunting in French Guiana is excessive and it is very heavily trapped in parts of its range, with Guyana being the source of the great majority of birds in international trade (66,615

in years 1981–1985). There are probably high levels of domestic consumption also, for example in Venezuela.

Diet: Fruits, seeds, nuts, berries, blossoms, and leaf buds.

**Breeding**: Sexes are alike. It is a medium-sized Amazon with a yellow forecrown and area from the base of bill to below the eye. This area is separated by a blue stripe from the lores, over and behind the eye. The rest of the head is a blue-green shading to green over the rest of the body. The carpal edge is yellow with an orange-red speculum. The tail is green tipped yellowish, with lateral feathers tinged orange-red. There is a central dark green bar across the tail and the outermost feathers are edged blue. The immature is similar to the adult.

Breeding season occurs from January to June on Trinidad; from March to June in northeastern Venezuela; February to March in Surinam; and from December to February in Colombia. They nest in holes in trees which include mangroves in Surinam and cabbage palm stumps in Trinidad. The female lays two to six eggs and incubates them for about 21 days. The nestling period lasts around 2 months.

**Cool Facts:** The orange-winged amazon was formally described in 1766 by the Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus in the twelfth edition of his "Systema Naturae". He placed it with all the other parrots in the genus *Psittacus*. Linnaeus cited the 1760 description by the French zoologist Mathurin Jacques Brisson. Brisson used the French name "*Le Perroquet Amazone*" and the Latin name later used by Linnaeus, *Psittacus amazonicus*. All Amazon Parrots were later moved to their own genus, *Amazona*, by the French naturalist René Lesson in 1830.

Subspecies and Distribution:

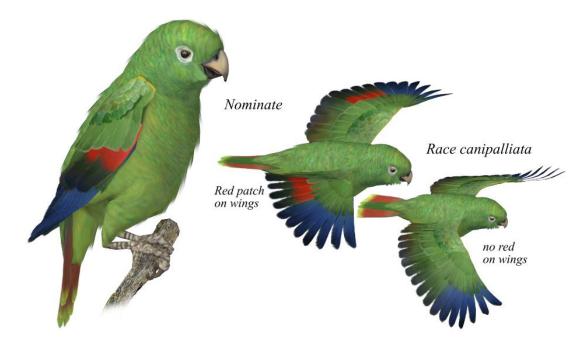
- *A. a. amazonica.* The nominate race is endemic from Colombia to Venezuela, including the Guianas, northern Bolivia and eastern Brazil.
- A. o. tobagensis. It is endemic to Trinidad and Tobago. This race has 4 orange feathers in the speculum as opposed to the three in the nominate race. The validity of this race is in question, as differences from other populations probably attributable to individual variations.

## **Common Name:** Scaly-naped Parrot **Scientific Name:** *Amazona mercenarius*

**Size**: 13-13.4 inches (33-34 cm)

**Habitat**: South America; it is widely distributed, from extreme northwest Venezuela, discontinuously south to Bolivia, with a single record from Argentina.

It mainly inhabits subtropical and temperate forests in the Andes, and this parrot is speculated to perform seasonal or even semi-nomadic movements, presumably in search of suitable food resources



**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown amount of mature adults with a suspected decreasing population trend. It is generally a low-density species and nowhere "common". It has suffered from deforestation in the north of its range, notably in Colombia, although still common on Santa Marta massif and resident in Cueva de los Guácharos National Park. It is highly threatened by habitat loss within its restricted range in Venezuela. There is not much issue from the Pet Trade on this species owing to its confinement to montane forests and low densities.

Diet: Fruits, seeds, nuts, berries, blossoms, and leaf buds.

**Breeding**: Sexes are alike. This amazon is mainly green, darker above, wind its hind crown, nape and mantle all with dark edges to feathers giving slight scaled effect. This is a small whitish bare orbital ring. The tail-coverts are yellowish green. The carpal edge of the wing is yellowish with some orange-red and the speculum is red. The flight-feathers tipped dark blue. The tail is green, tipped yellowish, with lateral feathers having a broad red sub-terminal bar.

Breeding occurs from March to May in Colombia. They nest in holes in trees. The female lays two to four eggs and incubates them for about 25–26 days.

**Cool Facts:** There are two subspecies:

- *A. m. canipalliata.* This race is endemic to the Santa Marta Mountains (in northern Colombia), Sierra de Perijá and Andes of Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador. This race lacks the red speculum of the wing.
- *A. m. mercenarius.* The nominate race is found on the eastern slope of the Andes of Peru and Bolivia (to western Santa Cruz); there is one record from Argentina.

### Special Thanks to my Beta-Testing Team...

### Alisa & FlintHawk

### **Species Accuracy and Reference Materials**

The author has tried to make these species as accurate to their real life counterparts as possible. With the use of one generic model to create dozens of unique bird species, some give and take is bound to occur. The texture maps were created in Painter with as much accuracy as possible.

### **Field Guide Sources:**

- <u>"Parrots: A Guide to Parrots of the World"</u> by Tony Juniper and Mike Parr
- Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive <a href="https://www.hbw.com/">https://www.hbw.com/</a>
- Wikipedia <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\_Page</u>
- BirdLife International <u>https://www.birdlife.org/</u>

### **Amazon Parrots Found in Other Sets**

- Festive Parrot (Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)
- Vinaceous-breasted Parrot (Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)
- **Tucumán Parrot** (Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)
- Red-spectacled Parrot Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5
- **Red-crowned Parrot** (Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)
- Lilac-crowned Parrot (Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)
- **Red-lored Parrot** (Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)
- Blue-cheeked Parrot (Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)
- **Red-browed Parrot** (Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)
- **Red-necked Parrot** (Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)
- St. Lucia Parrot (Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)
- Yellow-naped Parrot (Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)
- Yellow-headed Parrot (Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)
- Yellow-crowned Parrot (Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)
- Yellow-shouldered Parrot (Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)
  Yellow-headed Amazon (Races *oratrix* and *belizensis*. Found in <u>Songbird ReMix</u> Parrots v1) (Races *tresmariae* and *hondurensis*. Found in Found in Songbird ReMix Parrots v5)

