



Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill

Tockus flavirostris

IUCN Status: Least Concern

Range: Eastern Africa

Habitat: Savannah, forest, scrubland,

Diet: Fruit, insects, small animals

Lifespan: 20 years in captivity

Description: They are famous for their large curved yellow beak. The beak is serrated to break up their food. The hornbill is 16 – 18” long and weighs up to 10 ounces. They have black skin around their eye and the males have a patch of pink skin on their throat.

Breeding: They are generally monogamous.

Behavior/Adaptations: They mainly forage on the ground. They have been found to have a mutualistic relationship with the dwarf mongoose. They will eat the insects the mongoose stirs up from the ground and in return they will alert the mongoose of overhead predators. Scientists have even observed the hornbills waiting in trees near a mongoose den for them to emerge. The mongoose has also been observed waiting to forage until a hornbill appears.

Predators: Birds of prey and primates.

Conservation: They are listed as “Least Concern” due to their large range but their population is declining due to habitat loss.

The Zoo’s Hornbills: Beaker and BamBam are both males born in 2010.

Interesting Facts:

- The hornbill's heavy bill is supported by strong neck muscles and two fused neck vertebrae.
- It uses the tip of its beak to pick up food, then tosses the food into its throat with a jerk of its head.
- The female lays eggs in a tree cavity, then both birds close the entrance with a wall of mud. They leave a small opening only big enough for the male to transfer food to the female and chicks. When the nest becomes too crowded, the female breaks out of the wall and both parents feed the chicks.

Information taken from the following sources:

<http://cincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Yellow-Billed-Hornbill-complete.pdf>

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2FBF00290770?LI=true>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hornbill>



Moluccan Cockatoo

Cacatua moluccensis

Range: Native to Seram and the surrounding islands in the Indonesian archipelago, also known as the Moluccas (where they get their name) or the Spice Islands.

Habitat: Their preferred habitat is lowland forests and wooded mountain slopes.

Diet: Seeds, nuts, young coconuts, berries, insects and their larvae.

Lifespan: Unknown in the wild, 65 or more years in captivity.

Description: The Moluccan cockatoo is the largest of the white cockatoos, with the female being larger than the male. They have pink-white feathers that give them a peachy glow. They have salmon colored feathers on their crest, which is why they are also known as salmon-crested cockatoos.

Breeding: Moluccan cockatoos reach sexual maturity at 5-6 years of age. Their breeding season is typically in May – August. Clutch size is between 1 and 3 eggs, but most commonly it is 2 eggs and both parents will incubate the eggs. Incubation lasts 28-29 days.

Behavior/Adaptations: Moluccan cockatoos live in flocks of about 20 birds. They are highly intelligent which makes them popular pets, however it also makes them one of the most demanding and needy birds and because of this, they need lots of attention. These cockatoos are thought of as very peaceful in the wild, but are also thought of as pests in coconut plantations because they eat young coconuts and their milk.

Predators: They have no wild predators, just humans.

Conservation: Moluccan cockatoos are listed as “vulnerable” due to deforestation and trapping for the pet trade. Even though wild trapping these birds is illegal, it is unfortunately still practiced.

The Zoo’s Moluccan Cockatoo: Alex is a male and was born in the wild in June of 1991. He was owned privately before being donated to the Lake Superior Zoo.

Interesting Facts:

- Cockatoos are often destructive to their habitat, especially wooden items – it’s very important to give them lots of enrichment.
- In addition to also being called salmon-crested cockatoos they are also known as rose-crested cockatoos.
- The oldest Moluccan cockatoo recorded was 125 years old in England.

Information taken from the following sources:

<http://www.iaate.org/companion-parrots/51-content/resource-center/171-moluccan-cockatoo-fact-sheet>
<http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org/assets/uploads/animals/pdf/MoluccanCockatoo.pdf>



Double Yellow-headed Amazon

Amazona oratrix

Range: Native to Mexico and Central America.

Habitat: Double Yellow-headed Amazon parrots prefer to live in mangrove forests or riparian forests (forests near a body of water).

Diet: Seeds, nuts, fruits, flowers, berries, and leaf buds.

Lifespan: In the wild, these birds can live to be 70 years old.

Description: Double Yellow-headed Amazons are one of the larger amazon parrots weighing in at between 1-1.5 lbs. Their prominent feather color is green (as with all other Amazon parrots) while their head is mostly yellow with some yellow and red on the wrist joints of their wings and red and blue on the underside of their tail feathers.

Breeding: They become sexually mature at 3-4 years of age and when they find a mate, it is for life. Breeding season is in April-May and the female will lay 3-4 eggs in hollow tree limbs and incubate them for 26-28 days. The young will leave the nest at 8-12 weeks.

Behavior/Adaptations: Double Yellow-headed Amazons are very social birds and can be found living in groups of hundreds of birds. When excited, all feathers of the neck and crown are raised, making the head appear double in size, which is how they got their name. They strongly desire attention and will engage in all sorts of behavior to gain this attention.

Predators: Humans, monkeys, raptors, and snakes.

Conservation: Double Yellow-headed Amazons are listed as "Endangered" due to deforestation and illegal trapping for the pet trade.

The Zoo's Double Yellow-headed Amazon: Korbel is a female and was born in captivity in January of 1973. She often says "hello," "hi Korbel," and "how are you?".

Interesting Facts:

- The popularity for the Double Yellow-headed Amazon as a pet dates back hundreds of years. The British Museum in London has a painting from 300 years ago of an English noble woman with her Double Yellow-headed Amazon by her side.
- These parrots are able to mimic sounds and can learn to talk.

Information taken from the following sources:

<http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org/assets/uploads/animals/pdf/DoubleYellowHeadedAmazon.pdf>

https://www.hoglezoo.org/meet_our_animals/animal_finder/yellow-headed_amazon_parrot/



Black-headed Caique

Pionities melanocephalus

Range: Native to the Amazon Rainforest in the countries of Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.

Habitat: Black-headed Caiques live in the canopy of the Amazon Rainforest.

Diet: In the wild, caiques live high in the tree tops and eat seeds, berries, and fruits.

Lifespan: 30-40 years

Description: Caiques (pronounced ki-eeks) are fairly small, extremely colorful parrots with a solid looking body and short, square tails. They average nine inches in length although the Yellow-thighed Caique does get larger. The Black-headed caique has a mostly black head. The feathers on the cheeks, throat, flanks, and thighs are orange-yellow and there is an orange band across the back of the neck with a border of bluish feathers. The feathers on the wings, back, rump, and upper tail are green. The belly and breast feathers are creamy white and the tail feathers are yellow at the tip. Younger black-headed caiques have more yellow on their underside and their yellow and orange parts are paler than an adults'.

Breeding: Scientists believe that black-headed caiques will mate with other species of caique and create hybrids in the wild. Mating pairs are monogamous and often pair for life. Holes in trees are used for nesting spots. Females lay 2-4 eggs and incubate them for about 27 days. The female's job is to stay on the nest while the male's job is to bring food back for the female. Chicks are born altricial, blind and helpless, and may stay in the nest for up to 3 1/2 months.

Behavior/Adaptations: Caiques have a social system which is slightly unusual for parrots. They tend to live in a clan of 5-10 related families in a single enormous tree. They form long-lasting relationships, positive and negative, with other clan members. They are extremely competitive for status. They may be less exclusive pair bonders than larger parrots. In captivity they may be more likely to have several long-term human "friends" than other parrots, and can be less troublesome in relating to their bonded human's spouse.

Conservation: Black-headed caiques are listed as a species of Least Concern. Caiques are fairly new to the pet trade, but are quickly gaining in popularity due to their beautiful coloring and friendly, playful personalities.

The Zoo's Black-headed Caique: Cricket is a male and was born in captivity in April of 1996. He was owned privately before being donated to the Lake Superior Zoo in 2012.

Interesting Facts:

- There are 7 different colors on the black-headed caique.
- Caiques are not known for being able to talk, but can whistle and cluck well.
- Caiques are generally very playful, outgoing birds.

Information taken from the following sources:

<http://www.birdtricks.com/black-headed-caique.html>

<http://www.brandywinezoo.org/black-headed-caique.html>

<https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/species/caique/>

Blue and Gold Macaw

Ara ararauna

Range: Native to South America.

Habitat: Blue and Gold Macaws live in forested areas, preferring swampy forests and forests near rivers.

Diet: Fruits, seeds, berries, and nuts.

Lifespan: Up to 50 years in captivity.

Description: Blue and Gold Macaws are a large species of macaw (the largest being the Hyacinth Macaw) and they are around 33 inches in length from their head to the tip of their tail. They have a blue-green body and wings with yellow/gold starting at their ears, going down to their neck and covering their entire underside with green feathers just above their cere (nostrils above the beak).

Breeding: They become sexually mature at 3-4 years of age and form a close relationship with their mate called a pair bond. They typically stay with the same mate until one of them dies. They nest high above the ground in cavities of large, dead trees. They lay two eggs and while the female is thought to do all of the incubating, both parents will aggressively defend the nest. Young will leave the nest at around 10 weeks old.

Behavior/Adaptations: Blue and Gold Macaws live in flocks and are known for their intelligence. They can be trained to talk, but are not good at mimicking. They are also known to be aggressive.

Predators: Humans, snakes, and harpy eagles.

Conservation: Although they are almost extirpated from Peru, they are listed as a species of least concern.

The Zoo's Blue and Gold Macaw: Sammy is a male Blue and Gold Macaw born in captivity in 1991. He was privately owned before being donated to the zoo.

Interesting Facts:

- There are about 18 species of Macaw's.
- The Macaw uses its dry and scaly tongue as a tool to break open and eat food (such as nuts). Their tongue even has a bone inside of it!

Information taken from the following sources:

<http://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/macaw>

<http://www.hhpz.org/files/hhpz//documents/AnimalFactSheets/Blue%20and%20Gold%20Macaw.pdf>





American Robin

Turdus migratorius

Range: American robins are found throughout North America. They live year-round in southern Canada and throughout most of the United States. Some robins do migrate from more northern regions such as Alaska and northern Canada and will travel as far south as southern Mexico and Guatemala.

Habitat: Robins occupy a diverse range of habitats including woodlands, gardens, orchards, lawns, and fields. They prefer areas of open ground or short grass for foraging, with woodland or a few scattered trees and shrubs nearby for nesting and roosting. Suburban and agricultural areas often provide these kinds of habitats so American robins are commonly found near human settlements.

Diet: Robins feed on a mixture of both wild and cultivated fruits, berries, earthworms, and insects such as beetle grubs, caterpillars, and grasshoppers. Robins will turn to whichever food is most readily accessible, although the diet generally consists of approximately 40% invertebrates and 60% fruits and berries.

Lifespan: In the wild, most robins live to be about 2 years old. The oldest wild robin recorded was 14 years old.

Description: American robins are about 9-11 inches long with brown/gray feathers on their backs, and orange-red breast, with white on their lower belly and underneath their tail. Their heads are a darker gray, with males heads being darker than females (some males' heads look almost black). Their beaks are yellow and their legs and feet are a gray-black.

Breeding: Males and females form a pair bond during breeding season and while raising their young. American robins breed in the spring from April through July; they are one of the first birds to begin laying eggs and have 2-3 broods per breeding season. The cup-shaped nest is built by the female, who builds the outer foundation with long coarse grass, twigs, paper, and fibers woven together. She lines the inner bowl with mud, smearing it with her breast and later adding fine grass or other soft material to cushion the eggs. The nest can be located on the ground, or high up in the trees, but most commonly 5-15 feet above ground in a dense bush, in the crotch of trees, or on window ledges or other human structures. Three to five eggs are laid in each clutch and after about 14 days of incubation, the eggs begin to hatch. The female will continue to feed and brood the chicks while they are very young. When the nestlings become older, the female broods them only at night or during bad weather. The baby birds leave the nest about 2 weeks after they have hatched. All babies from a clutch leave the nest within 1 day of each other. The young birds will remain close to their parents for about 2 weeks until they are able to sustain flight and find food on their own.

Behavior/Adaptations: American robins are active during the day. They are social in the winter time when they gather in large numbers on their winter grounds. They assemble in large flocks at night, often in a secluded swamp or area of vegetation, where they roost in the trees. These winter aggregations break up during the day to feed in smaller flocks on fruits and berries. Robins defend breeding territories during the summer and are less social during that time. Young robins will remain in the area of their nest for the first 4 months of their lives and gather in mixed-age flocks when it becomes time to depart for their winter grounds.

Song/Call: Their song is "Cheer-y-up, Cheer-y-dee, Cheer-y-oh."

Predators: Snakes, hawks, squirrels, blue jays, common grackles, American crows, common ravens, domestic cats.

Conservation: American robins are considered common.

The Zoo's American Robin: Grayson hatched in 2012. He was injured in the wild and can no longer fly well enough to migrate, so the zoo will care for him for the rest of his life.

Interesting Facts:

- When they eat honeysuckle berries exclusively, they sometimes become intoxicated.
- Robin roosts can be huge, at times reaching a quarter of a million birds during winter.
- Robins will eat more earthworms in the morning and more fruit later in the day.
- Because robins forage in lawns, they are vulnerable to pesticide poisoning and can be an important indicator of chemical pollution.

Information taken from the following sources:

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/american_robin/lifehistory

http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/accounts/Turdus_migratorius/



Ring-necked Dove

(Streptopelia risoria)

Range: Originally found in Western Africa, but now domesticated worldwide.

Habitat: Woodlands, savannas, farmlands

Diet: Ring-necked doves feed on the ground and eat a range of different seeds. They will also eat the soft shoots of low-growing plants.

Lifespan: Ring-necked doves can live to be around 12 years old.

Description: Ring-necked dove body feathers are darkest on the upper side with dull tones of gray and brown, with shades of lavender on the nape. It is paler below with a tint of pinkish lavender. They have, as their name suggests, a black stripe on the back of the neck. They grow to be 9.8-10.4 inches in length. They have almost black eyes, a black beak, and dark purple feet. In captivity, they can come in 40 colors and varieties.

Breeding: Males will provide materials for a nest, while females construct the nest. The female will typically lay 2 eggs. Both parents incubate the eggs for two weeks. Once the babies have hatched, they grow quickly and will be the size of an adult in approximately 6 weeks. Both parents will feed the young on crop milk, the sloughed lining of their upper digestive pouch.

Behavior/Adaptations: Ring-necked doves are descended from the African collared dove. Males and females make different sounds for different reasons including alarm calls and mating coos. Their flight is characterized by noisy wing beats when flying upwards and quiet downward gliding with an outstretched tail and wings. Because they are domesticated, they are quite fearless of humans, but they do maintain an instinctive freeze response when startled by a shadow overhead which in the wild could indicate a bird of prey. They will often bathe in shallow water, dust, or sunshine, sometimes lying on their side with a wing outstretched.

Predators: Birds of prey, domestic cats and dogs, humans.

Conservation: Ring-necked doves are a species of Least Concern.

The Zoo's Ring-necked Doves: Both of our ring-necked doves hatched in 2015.

Interesting Facts:

- Ring-necked doves make very homely looking nests. They look like just a pile of twigs! Sometimes the eggs will even roll out of the nest.
- Ring-necked doves have been domesticated for 2,000 years.

Information taken from the following sources:

<http://www.hhpz.org/files/hhpz/documents/AnimalFactSheets/Ring-necked%20Dove.pdf>

<http://www.dovepage.com/species/domestic/Ringneck/ringneckdove.html>

<http://cincinnatizoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Ring-Necked-Dove-complete.pdf>