

Military Macaw

Ara militaris

Class: *Aves*

Order: *Psittaciformes*

Family: *Psittacidae*

Characteristics:

Also known as green macaw or blue-green macaw, military macaws are large, colorful members of the parrot family. Of the large parrots, they are the smallest macaw. They have bright green plumage with red head feathers, and blue and red primary and tail feathers ([Arkive](#)). The skin on the face appears white and will deepen to pink or red when they bird gets excited. The cheeks have small brownish feathers.

Behavior:

Military macaws are social and are often found in small groups of around 10 birds. They are considered fair “talkers” and excellent at learning tricks ([Animal World](#)).

Reproduction:

In captivity, birds should be kept with the same species as they will readily hybridize. The female lays 2 to 4 eggs in a tree cavity, old woodpecker hole or high cliff face. Little is known about the chicks in the wild as they don't emerge from the cavities until able to fend for themselves.

Diet:

Wild: Fruits, vegetable matter and nuts

Zoo: Parrot pellets, seeds, apples, carrots, greens, oranges

Conservation:

Population is rapidly diminishing due to the illegal pet trade and habitat loss. The number of birds being smuggled out of the native habitat outweighs the number of wild hatches. Military macaws are protected by law in Venezuela and trade is permitted in only extreme cases ([Arkive](#)).

FYI:

Macaws are sometimes called “flying primates” as biologists believe they are the most intelligent of the birds ([Cougar Mountain Zoo](#)).

Some sources say they are named “military” for their green feather coloring, referring to a soldier's uniform; whereas, other sources said they were named for the European soldiers who brought them back with them following deployment to South America.



Range & Habitat:

Humid forests, wooded foothills and canyons



Lifespan: up to 60 years in captivity and in the wild.

Special Adaptations: They have a loud, raucous call that can be heard over great distances ([Encyclopedia of Parrots](#)).

IUCN Conservation Status:

Vulnerable

