

Red-and-yellow Barbet

(*Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*)



Class: *Aves*

Order: *Piciformes*

Family: *Lybiidae*

Characteristics:

Red-and-yellow barbets have a very distinctive color pattern. The males have very bright orange, yellow, and red on the face with a black crown atop the head. They have a yellow lower belly with a black and white spotted band across the chest. The back is black with white spots that give the tail a banded appearance. The females and juveniles have similar coloring but in duller tones. All individuals have a long, red bill and gray-blue legs and feet ([Beauty of Birds](#)). Red-and-yellow barbets are 8-9 inches in length ([Animal Facts](#)).

Behavior:

Red-and-yellow barbets are reported to live in small groups with one breeding pair and several "helpers." They will build their [nests](#) inside of termite mounds by drilling a hole through the side. All of the group members will greet each other in [song](#) when one arrives. Many people have said that this is a fairly tame bird species, having been known to approach humans for food scraps.

Reproduction:

Females will lay 2-4 eggs in the termite mound or other burrow structure. All members of the group share in incubation and parenting responsibilities. The eggs are generally incubated for 13-15 days ([Beauty of Birds](#)). The chicks are fed mostly insects because of the high protein content. When the chicks are old enough, they will often stay with the parents to be the next generation of "helpers." ([Animal Facts](#))

Diet:

Wild: Seeds, fruits, and invertebrates.

Zoo: Fruits, vegetables, greens, mealworms, seeds, and parrot pellet.

Conservation:

The red-and-yellow barbet has an expansive range and no known threats to the population. Their numbers are believed to be stable, but there is not much research about the species specifically. ([IUCN](#))

FYI:

Maasai people use the feathers from the red-and-yellow barbet in traditional clothing decorations and ceremonies.



Range & Habitat:

This species is native to Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. They usually prefer dry savannah, desert, and scrublands.



Lifespan: unknown

IUCN Conservation Status:

Least Concern

