



Hyacinth Macaw

Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus

Characteristics:

Hyacinth (also known as hyacinthia) macaw is the largest species of parrot. Average size is a body length of 100 cm. They are easily recognizable by their brilliant cobalt blue feathers and yellow circling the eye and lower beak.

Behavior:

Like all macaws, hyacinths have loud, raucous calls that allow them to communicate with each other over long distances, although it has been said to be “less harsh” than the calls of other macaws ([IUCN](#)). They prefer to live in dry forests or even in trees in savannah grasslands.

Reproduction:

They nest primarily in pre-existing holes in trees or occasionally cave faces in July and December and lay a clutch of two to three eggs which incubates for a month. Usually only a single chick will make it to maturity. The chicks will fledge (leave the nest) at around 3 months old but will remain with the parents until around 6 months old ([National Aquarium](#)), ([Archive](#)).

Diet:

Wild: Predominately seeds from native palms

Zoo: A variety of nuts, primate biscuits and parrot pellets, assorted fruits and vegetables

Conservation:

Hyacinths are currently classified as vulnerable by the IUCN. Their declining numbers are due to habitat fragmentation and the illegal pet trade. Throughout the 2000s they were classified as endangered but have been downlisted to vulnerable as their decline has not been as rapid as previously thought.

FYI:

This is a new species at the zoo. The pair are over 30 years old and have been together since the 1990s. They came from a private owner who, as a result of age-related health issues, was no longer able to care for them. When considering ownership of a psittacine, their long life spans should be a major consideration.



Range & Habitat:

Lightly forested areas of Brazil, eastern Bolivia and northern Paraguay.



Lifespan: up to 60-75 years in captivity, 50 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations: Their beaks can crack some of the hardest nuts in the world and can break open something as large as a coconut.

IUCN Conservation Status:

Vulnerable

