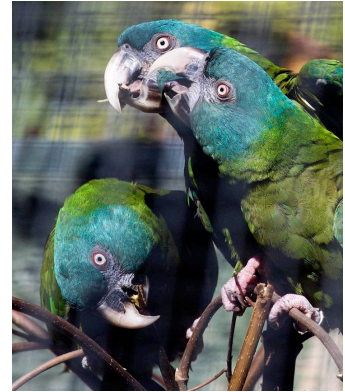




BLUE-HEADED MACAW

PSITTACIFORMES
Family: Psittacidae
Genus: *Primolius*
Species: *couloni*



Range: south-west Amazon and adjacent east Andean foothills; eastern Peru, NW Bolivia, and far W Brazil

Habitat: humid lowland evergreen forest, along rivers and in clearings from lowlands up to 5100 ft

Niche: Arboreal, diurnal, herbivorous

Diet: Wild: unknown

Zoo:

Life Span: Wild:

Zoo:

Sexual Dimorphism:

Location in SF Zoo: South American Tropical Rainforest and Aviary

APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

The Blue-headed Macaw is a mini-macaw of medium size, named for its striking blue head on an otherwise mostly green body. They have a small grey bare face patch extending from bill around eye. The bill is medium-sized. The upper parts of the wing feathers are largely green, but some wing feathers are a vivid blue, and the edge of the wing is aquamarine. By contrast, the upperparts of the tail are a maroon color, while the underparts of both the tail and wings are yellowish.

As in all macaws, its tail is long and pointed and the bill is large and heavy. They have zygodactylous feet for climbing in a forest habitat.

Weight: 7.3 – 10.4 oz
Length: 16 in
Wingspan:
Tail Length:

STATUS AND CONSERVATION:

In some locations within its range it is considered not uncommon, but in other areas it appears to be scarce, or even absent. The blue-headed macaw is classified as Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List and listed on Appendix I of CITES. This species has a small population, which is declining owing to exploitation for the pet trade and deforestation.

BLUE-HEADED MACAW

COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR:

The Blue-headed Macaw is not usually found in flocks, like other parrots but is typically seen in groups of 2-4 individuals outside the breeding season. Its call is higher-pitched and softer than that of most other macaws.

As several other parrots, the Blue-headed Macaw is known to visit clay-licks. (**geophagy**: the intentional consumption of soil). It has been speculated that the soil of these clay licks may provide an important source of sodium and protection against toxins naturally found in the diet of mostly seeds.

COURTSHIP AND YOUNG:

Breeding season occurs from October to April. Little is known about its reproductive behavior in the wild, but a possible nest has been recorded in a bamboo cavity and another in a tree cavity.

Incubation: 1 mos	Sexual Maturity:
# of Eggs: 2 - 4	Fledging: 3 mos

MISCELLANEOUS:

SOURCES:

The Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol IV © 1996, Lynx Edicions

<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=1556>

<http://www.arkive.org/blue-headed-macaw/primolius-couloni/>

http://www.parrots.org/index.php/encyclopedia/profile/blue_headed_macaw/

<http://www.avianweb.com/blueheadedmacaws.html>

created 11/2013