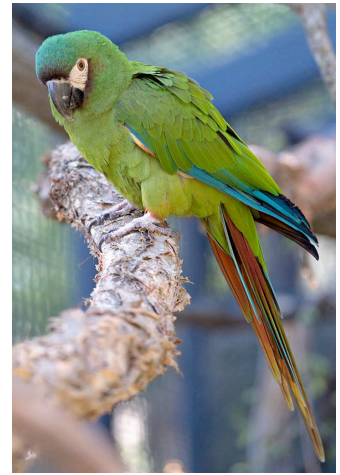




SEVERE MACAW

PSITTACIFORMES
Family: Psittacidae
Genus: *Ara*
Species: *severa*



Range: Northern South America from Panama south to Amazonian Brazil and Northern Bolivia

Habitat: open forests, woodlands, savannah with stands of trees and palms, edges of rainforests up to 5000 feet.

Niche: Arboreal, herbivorous, diurnal

Diet: Wild: seeds, fruits, and flowers

Zoo: Parrot chow, fruit, nuts, seeds, and berries

Life Span: Wild: 40+ years

Zoo:

Sexual Dimorphism: None

Location in SF Zoo: South American Tropical Rainforest and Aviary

APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

The Chestnut-fronted or Severe Macaw's plumage is mostly green with dark, chestnut patches on their foreheads and under their beaks. They have blue feathers on the crown of their head with patches of red and blue on the wings. Their tail feathers are brownish red with blue tips, the underside of the tail is a dull red. Their facial area is creamy white with lines of black feathers and their feet are flesh colored. The beak is grey-black and they exhibit the classic bare macaw facial patch with fine, dark feather lines circling the eyes with orange irises. Macaws are large billed, long tailed and have long pointed wings. Their dark gray feet are zygodactylous.

Weight: 10.6 – 14.5 oz
Length: 18 – 20 in (with tail)
Wingspan: 30 in
Tail Length: ½ of length

Immature Severe Macaws will have blacker colored bands on the foreheads, as the chestnut color develops with maturity, and you may use this indicator to determine the bird's breeding capabilities.

STATUS AND CONSERVATION:

Not globally threatened. CITES II. The greatest threat to these birds is the deforestation of their habitat and local declines have been reported in Cauca Valley in Colombia and western Ecuador. However, they appear to be withstanding, or even benefiting from, selective logging and land clearing. Deforestation and the pet trade have meant that the Chestnut Fronted Macaw are being closely watched to keep them off the endangered species list.

COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR:

These mini-macaws are generally difficult to spot as they are usually roosting quietly in the canopy in pairs or small parties, not flocks, often between the fronds of palm trees. Their loud raucous calls will give them away, as they sound like a braying donkey. Occasionally, they will be seen in flocks with Red-bellied Macaws or Orange-winged Amazons.

In the wild their typically gregarious personality can become more aggressive at puberty giving them the name Severe. Like other macaws, they often flock to mountains of clay known as "macaw licks". Such licks contain minerals and salts essential to the bird's diet.

COURTSHIP AND YOUNG:

The nest is generally high up in cavities of dead or living trees; prefers tall dead palms. Breeding occurs from early Feb through early March. Both the male and female share the responsibility of raising the young. The young fledge when they are about 3 months old, but will remain for their parents for some time afterwards.

Incubation: 28 days	Sexual Maturity: 2 yrs
# of Eggs: 2 - 3	Fledging: 70 days

MISCELLANEOUS:

The Severe Macaw is one of the largest of the mini-macaws and the only one that has a distinctive line of feathers on their otherwise bare facial areas, a characteristic shared by the larger macaws.

SOURCES:

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

<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=1554>

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

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