



BLUE-FRONTED AMAZON

PSITTACIFORMES
Family: Psittacidae
Genus: *Amazona*
Species: *aestiva*



Range: eastern Bolivia, northern Argentina, Paraguay and eastern Brazil

Habitat: forests (though generally avoids extensive humid forests), woodland, savanna and palm groves

Niche: Arboreal, diurnal, herbivorous

Diet: Wild- primarily fruit, grain and nuts
Zoo -

Life Span: Wild: 27 years
Zoo: 40 – 60 years

Sexual Dimorphism: none

Location in SF Zoo: Children's Zoo – Koret Animal Resource Center

APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

The Blue-fronted Amazon is a green parrot with blue feathers on the forehead above the beak and yellow on the face and crown. Unlike most other *Amazona* parrots, its beak is mostly black. This specie's coloring is variable and each bird will have unique shading and patterns. Juveniles of parrots are duller and have dark irises.

Parrots have zygodactyl feet for exceptional gripping. They also use their beaks for balance and will grab onto a branch before climbing it.

Weight: 275 – 500 g
(.62 – 1.14 oz)

Length: 13 - 15 in

STATUS AND CONSERVATION:

This species' status is evaluated as Least Concern in 2008. However, while it remains common throughout a significant part of its range, there is evidence of a population decline, and this species has been heavily traded: Since 1981 when it was listed on CITES Appendix II.

COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR:

The Amazons have no vocal cords, but whistle their words with exceptional clarity. They can also learn to sing.

In the wild, birds are very gregarious and often travel in large flocks or will often flock with other parrots species. They spend more time climbing up trees than flying through them.

COURTSHIP AND YOUNG:

The Blue-fronted Amazon nests in tree cavities. The male builds the nest and the female incubates the eggs while male feeds her.

Incubation: 23 - 25 days	Sexual Maturity:
# of Eggs: 1 – 5 (normally 3)	Fledging: 58 - 60 days

MISCELLANEOUS:

This species also known as Turquoise-fronted Amazon and Blue-fronted Parrot and is the most common amazon parrot kept in captivity. Blue-fronted Amazons are active, intelligent and playful birds that can bond very closely to their chosen human. They tend to be good mimics of human speech and are capable of amazingly loud vocalizations.

Sources:

created 10/2011

The Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol IV © 1996, Lynx Edicions, p 473.

http://birdboards.com/info/blue_fronted_amazon_72.html

http://www.rossparkzoo.com/animals/amazon_parrot-blue-fronted.htm

<http://www.winghamwildlifepark.co.uk/Article.aspx?ArticleID=422>