

Chestnut-fronted Macaw

Ara severus

Kingdom Animalia
Phylum Chordata
Class Aves
Order Psittaciformes
Family Psittacinae



Native to: Northern South America, from Panama south to northern Brazil and Bolivia.

Status: Least Concern

The Chestnut-fronted Macaw is fairly common in most of their area of distribution. In Bolivia, the international parrot trade has caused significant problems in the past but since the early 1980s parrot trade has been banned.

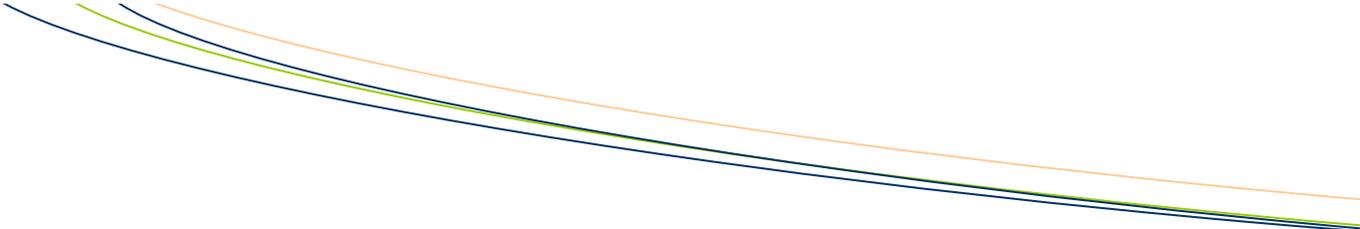
Appearance & Lifespan

The Chestnut-fronted Macaw is one of the largest of the Mini-Macaws. It reaches a size of around 18 inches in length, half being the tail. It weighs up to 400 grams.

The plumage of the Chestnut Fronted Macaw is mostly green. Their head is a dull blue and has a chestnut brown patch just above the black beak. The bend of their wings and their under side are a dull red. 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 small black feathers and their feet are flesh coloured.

The lifespan of the Chestnut-fronted Macaw can be up to 40 years of age in captivity, but is suspected to be much lower in the wild.





Behavior & Reproduction

During breeding season Chestnut-fronted Macaws are normally seen flying in pairs but the rest of the year they can be seen in small groups of 3-20 birds. Often they can be found with other Macaw species roosting in feeding trees as well as visiting clay licks by the riverside with all different species of parrots. They are difficult to see in the trees, their plumage provides them with excellent camouflage but their loud calls usually give them away.

Chestnut-fronted macaws usually nest in hollows in trees. The female incubates the eggs for about 28 days a normal clutch is 2-4 white eggs. The young leave the nest at about 10 weeks old but they will fly with their parents for several weeks, who will continue to feed them until they can feed for themselves. This is an important stage in their development, where they learn from their parents the survival techniques they will need throughout their lives. Their main predators are boa constrictors and, unfortunately, humans.

Ecology & Habitat

Chestnut Fronted Macaws inhabit open forests, woodlands, savannah with stands of trees and palms and the edges of rainforests up to 5000 feet. Their range extends from Panama down the Pacific slope of the Andes to Ecuador. Range also extends east of the Andes in the upland slopes of the Amazon basin to Bolivia and the Pantanal and northeast to Surinam.

Their diet consists of seeds, fruits and flowers, they will often fly long distances in search of fruit trees. They are considered pests in the local villages where they will raid the maize crops.

At the zoo the macaws eat a parrot mix consisting of pellets and dried fruit as well as a variety of fruits, vegetables, seeds, and nuts. They also like to eat eggs and cheese.

Did You Know?

1. The Chestnut-fronted Macaw is sometimes called the Severe Macaw.
2. Chestnut-fronted Macaws can be taught tricks which they love performing.
3. It has been said that their calls sound like a braying donkey.



<http://www.parrotlink.com/cms//index.php?page=chestnut-fronted-macaw---new>
<http://www.susanclubb.com/pdfs/msev.pdf>



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