

YELLOW-NAPED AMAZON PARROT

updated March 2017



Range	Central America to northern South America
Habitat	Open woodlands and adjacent meadows, thickets and gardens; often near shallow ponds, swamps or streams
Diet (wild)	Fruit and/or seeds and flowers of trees. Flocks also take cultivated crops such as corn, green bananas, mangoes, lemons, avocados and alfalfa
Diet (captivity)	Apples, bananas, grapes, oranges, whole grain bread, carrots, greens, parrot food
Description	Length: 13–15 inches. Green, more yellowish below; forehead and crown green; variable yellow band across lower nape and hind neck. Bill is dark gray, paler towards base of upper mandible.
Lifespan	Wild: 30 years. Captivity: 80 years
Reproduction	The female lays 2–3 eggs that are incubated for 25–26 days. Breeding season is February–May in Mexico and northeast Venezuela; December–January in Columbia; and January in Surinam.
Behavior	These colorful, loud, noisy, early risers often do not take to new owners. Yellow-naped Amazons are known as one of the three best mimics of all parrots. Males are more aggressive to handlers during breeding season.
Our animals	1 female (Tucker). Born: January 10, 1994, at PPZ
Cool stuff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The upper bill is not fused to the skull, allowing it to move independently and giving parrots tremendous biting pressure. Touch receptors along the inner edges of the bill aid in parrots' highly dexterous manipulation. • Studies show that parrots exhibit “handedness,” with regards to which foot they prefer. • Wild populations of Amazon parrots are declining due to deforestation and illegal removal of young for the pet trade. • Parrots are extremely intelligent, social birds. Many of them are very long-lived and need good memories to remember nesting places, different food sources, mates, and even how to best cope with droughts and/or floods that they may experience several times over a lifetime. • A variety of parrot species have shown the ability understand abstract concepts like bigger, smaller, more fewer, and even zero. Many researchers believe they even have a sense of humor. • Almost all parrots live in flocks and need to know how to maneuver the social complexities dealing with the particularities of each flock member. In some species, a mated pair will create a certain song that they sing as a duet, each filling in special notes. Parrots also have different call dialects that change depending on the social setting. They may use one dialect when interacting with a familiar flock member, another when dealing with their mate, and yet another with a member of an unknown flock. • Several parrot species are known to use tools. • The philosopher Aristotle had a pet parrot, although the exact species is unknown. However, her name lives on: It was Psittace, from which scientists derive the name for the scientific order of parrots, Psittaciformes.

Phylum
ChordataClass
AvesOrder
PsittaciformesFamily
PsittacidaeGenus
Amazonaspecies
A. ochrocephala auropalliata