

GREEN ARACARI (TOUCAN)

updated March 2017



Range	South America: Brazil, Venezuela, and Guianas
Habitat	Rain forests, woody lowland forests
Diet (wild)	Primarily fruit, but also insects, an occasional lizard, and eggs/nestlings of smaller birds
Diet (captivity)	Whole wheat bread, apples, carrot and red seedless grapes with greens every three days. They are given distilled water with tea added.
Description	Length: 10 inches; weight: 8 ounces. One of the few species of toucans that is sexually dimorphic. The male has a black head, dark green feathers coloring their back, and a yellow chest. The female's head is reddish-brown and they have dark green on the back. They have an enormous beak with serrated edges. The pattern of the bill varies according to species and this distinction may help birds recognize each other.
Lifespan	20–25 years
Reproduction	Parents take turns sitting on 2–4 eggs and caring for the young. Incubation typically lasts 16 days. The young fly from the nest at 43–50 days and are sexually mature at 1½ years, although they may remain and help out with the next clutch. Toucans nest in natural tree cavities, hollowing them out together.
Behavior	Aracaris are extremely active birds often found in small flocks. Their exaggerated beak allows them to reach berries or seeds from twigs too thin to bear their weight. Aracaris prefer the ripest fruits and eat it by snipping off the fruit with the tip of their large bill then tossing the fruit backward into their throats, gulping it down whole. Aracaris also use their bills to fence with each other and bills may be used during courtship. Because they eat the fruit whole, aracaris are important seed dispersers in the rain forest. They prefer to remain high in the trees and hop from branch to branch. When sleeping, they turns their head over their back and bring the tail forward to cover it.
Our animals	1 female. Born: 2005. Hatched in captivity
Cool stuff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The serrated edges of aracaris large bills help the birds grip and gather fruit • In captivity, this species the most frequently bred member of the toucan family and is the most popular as a tame hand-fed pet. It requires a large cage and toys to prevent boredom due to its active nature, and a high-fruit diet. When all these requirements are met, it can be an affectionate companion for many years. • Green aracaris are the smallest of the toucans • Aracaris are members of the order Piciformes, which includes woodpeckers. Piciformes do not have down feathers at any age and have parrot-like zygodactyl feet (two toes forward and two back), an arrangement that has obvious advantages for birds that spend much of their time on tree trunks.

Phylum
ChordataClass
AvesOrder
PiciformesFamily
RamphastidaeGenus
Pteroglossusspecies
P. viridis