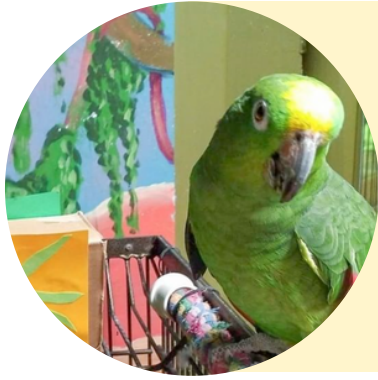




Yellow-Crowned Amazon

Amazona ochrocephala ochrocephala



Buster

I was born on July 1st, 1986.

You can find me in the Vanishing Kingdom next to the African cape porcupines! I love to have visitors, and will often welcome guests into the building with a loud "Hi Buster!"

I am **curious** and **observant**; I am always eager for an audience to "talk to."

AMAZON PARROTS AT A GLANCE



- The most obvious features of this predominantly green parrot are its yellow head and a red patch, or speculum, on each wing.

Adult Size:

Up to 1 ft in length;
up to 1 lb;
wingspan is about 1 ft

- In the wild, I eat seeds, nuts, fruits, berries, blossoms and leaf buds.
- At the zoo, I eat parrot chow, seeds, fruits, and nuts.
- The yellow-headed Amazon's stout, hooked beak is used not only for cracking nuts and seeds, but also for grasping, exploring and climbing.

- Parrots are zygodactyl, meaning they have two toes pointed forward and two toes backward. This is especially helpful for grabbing onto branches and climbing in the trees!



Avg. life expectancy in native habitats: 20-30 years
Avg. life expectancy in human care: 60+ years

WHERE ARE NATIVE AMAZON PARROT HABITATS LOCATED?



Yellow-crowned amazons reside in a variety of habitats throughout the Central Mexico to central South America range including: the humid lowlands, tropical forests, deciduous woodlands, tall scrubland, pine forest, and agricultural areas.

Yellow-Crowned Amazon Behaviors

TALKING

These parrots made a wide variety of vocalizations, including whistles, squawks, and shrieks. They can also imitate human speech.

You can often hear me making noise or repeating phrases I've heard from my keepers! My favorite phrase is "Hi Buster!"



CLIMBING

Flying isn't the only method of transportation for these birds! Amazon parrots use their beaks and feet like hands, and are terrific climbers!

I like to climb around my habitat to explore and greet people!



FLYING

Being strong fliers, they fly high to cover long distances. They use shallow wing beats with little to no gliding.

I don't often fly in my habitat, but I can be seen ruffling my feathers or stretching my wings to make myself more comfortable!



FORAGING

Yellow-crowned amazons are herbivores, primarily eating fruits, nuts and seeds. To obtain their food, they spend a large majority of their morning and evenings foraging.

Sometimes I drop my food when I'm eating, so you may see me climb to the floor to retrieve my snacks!



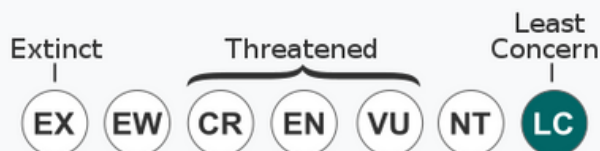
- Yellow-crowned parrots are monogamous; they mate with the same individual for many years.
- Unlike most tropical birds, Amazons are not sexually dimorphic; the male and female look identical.
- Amazons commonly spend time in larger groups, joining large flocks of up to 30 birds in roosts during the night and groups of ten during the day while feeding.
- Many parrots eat clay because of its high sodium content, which absorbs toxic compounds in the intestines.
- The nest is in a hollow of a tree, palm or termite mound where they lay two to three eggs. The incubation time is about 26 days and the chicks leave the nest about 60 days from hatching.

Yellow-Crowned Amazon Conservation

As a rainforest species, Amazons are threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation. They are also often caught for use in the pet trade.

Yellow-crowned amazons are currently of **least concern** due to habitat loss and the pet trade.

Conservation status



Least Concern (IUCN 3.1)^[1]

How can we help?

Logging, farming, and human development take away from the natural forest in which these birds live. By purchasing products that are certified by programs like Rainforest Alliance or Forest Stewardship Council, you are promoting sustainable farming and forestry practices.

Do research before buying any exotic pets as they often require specialized care and are a life-long commitment as they can live 80 years. Ensure your bird comes from a reputable breeder and is not caught from the wild.