

# SCARLET MACAW

*Ara macao*



With their wide strong wings, macaws can reach speeds of 35 miles per hour.

The spraying of pesticides by companies cultivating and selling bananas for export played a significant role in decreasing Scarlet Macaw populations.

It is illegal to take a Scarlet Macaw from the wild without specific special permits. However, like many rarer parrot species today, they are still smuggled out where they can often be seized by the authorities. Unfortunately not all perpetrators are caught and many smuggled parrots will die from stress or suffocation during the journey.



Many birds of any species being smuggled are often kept in horrendous conditions with many crammed into small spaces as shown here (not macaws).



Scarlet Macaws often congregate with Red and Green Macaws, as shown here at a this clay bank.

Scarlet Macaws eat clay from river banks. No one is sure why they do this, but the clay seems to be important to them. One hypothesis is that the clay helps the parrots to digest poisonous chemicals found in the unripe fruit they eat.

FACTS & FIGURES	
Where found	Central and South America
Habitat	Humid evergreen forests, open woodlands, and savannas
Diet	Fruits and seeds including very hard nuts
Average length	75-85cm
Average weight	1kg
Number of eggs	1-2 eggs
Incubation	32-37 days

International Union for Conservation of Nature RED LIST for the Scarlet Macaw



**THE RISK OF EXTINCTION FOR THIS SPECIES HAS CURRENTLY BEEN ASSESSED AS *LEAST CONCERN*** IUCN RED LIST