

Editorial Comment on the 1990 Macaw Census Information

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The first time any sufficient data was done on the captive breeding of macaws and other psittacine species in the U.S. was in the 1990 Psittacine Captive Breeding Survey and Census by TRAFFIC (USA). There are 183 species and subspecies of parrots recorded in this census. The figures on the macaw group appears below.

Blue & Gold Macaw

The most notable figure in this census is the total number of Blue and Gold Macaws hatched (630) and weaned (581). This is the fourth highest hatched total in this census behind Peachfaced Lovebirds (4,049), African Grey Parrots (799), and Monk Parakeets (634). Of greater interest to me is the ratio of the number hatched vs. the number of pairs of Blue and Gold Macaws set up for breeding (397). This figure is 1.46 babies hatched per pair set up. A remarkable figure indeed. Even though this census does not come close to the total numbers of Blue and Gold Macaws kept and bred in the U.S., it does, however, give an indication of how readily and successfully this species of macaw can be reproduced by the American aviculturist. Of all the large macaws, the Blue and Gold is generally rated number one in pet quality. With the number of Blue and Gold Macaws bred and hand reared in captivity, the need by the pet trade for this species should be filled. The price of hand-fed Blue and Gold Macaws has dropped significantly over the past two years due to the increased numbers bred and this should hopefully replace the need long-term for any wild-caught birds being used by the pet trade.

Scarlet Macaw

I feel the Scarlet Macaw will quickly follow the example of the Blue and Gold Macaw in its ability to reproduce in captivity. Since the Scarlet Macaw has been listed on the Appendix I list (CITES), wild-caught birds will not be imported into the U.S. for commercial purposes. The Scarlet Macaw should hold its own in the breeder market as babies of this species are often retained by

aviculturists for future breeding stock. Many babies are also sold into the pet trade. This species has wrongly received a reputation as not being a desirable pet. When ignored during and/or after being handfed, this species can be nippy, but so can other avian species when not attended to or played with. Many scarlet macaw breeders put out excellent hand-fed pets. I feel the American aviculturist will maintain this species for both the breeder and the pet market as is now being done with

the Blue and Gold Macaw.

Green-winged Macaw

This species of macaw over the past two decades has not been reproduced in the numbers as the Blue and Gold and Scarlet Macaws. Only recently in the past few years has this changed. Likewise, the number of babies reared vs. the number of Green-winged Macaws set up for breeding has been very low in the past. This also is changing. As a preliminary indication, this census shows great improvement occurring in this area.

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Commercial Members



About Birds, Hebron, IL
American Bird Company,
Falls Church, VA
Animal Care Products, Norco, CA
Animal Environments, Carlsbad, CA
Animal Exchange, Rockville, MD
Animal Kingdom, Inc., Chicago, IL
Animal Kingdom, Dallas, TX
Avian & Animal Hospital, Largo, FL
Avian Publications, Altoona, WI
Avian Specialties, Plantation, FL
Avi-Sci, Inc., Okemos, WI
B & R Bird Ranch, Apache Junction, AZ
Barb's Bird Bags, Bath, PA
Bassett's Cricket Ranch, Inc., Visalia, CA
Bay-Mor Pet Feeds, Cressona, PA
Bayshore Pets, Anchorage, AK
Better Birds Avian Products, West Park, NY
Biomune, Inc., Lenexa, KS
Bird Cage, Inc., The, Richmond, VA
Bird Expo, Laguna Niguel, CA
Bird Talk Magazine, St. Paul, MN
Birds of Distinction, Monroe, NC
Birds of Distinction, Lake Oswego, OR
Birds of Paradise, Houston, TX
Carlson Specialty Seed Inc., Plainfield, WI
Citrus Park Animal Hospital, Tampa, FL
Comers Ltd., Inc., Kalamazoo, MI
Country Critters, Ltd., Medford, NY
Cresenzi Bird Importers Inc., Pelham Manor, NY
Crofton Animal Hospital, Gambriels, MD
D & M Bird Farm, San Diego, CA
Deep South Aviaries, Naples, FL
Dehesa Valley Bird Farm, El Cajon, CA
Devon Enterprises, Brookfield, WI
Di Vinci Ltd., Las Vegas, NV
Dignan Enterprises, Dunedin, FL
Docktor Pet Center #450, Watertown, MA
DRB Bird Ranch, Deming, NM
Drs. Katen & Stanley Turner, Hilton Head Island, SC
Eight In One Pet Products, Inc.,
Hauppauge, NY
Elite Aviaries, Bronxville, NY
Eric H. Peake, United Kingdom
Fancy Feathers, New York, NY
Feathers Aviary, San Francisco, CA
Francodex Laboratories, Ft. Worth, TX
FTD Aviaries, Nokesville, VA
Hagen Avicultural Research Institute,
Rigaud, Quebec, Canada
Hilltop Bird Farm, Hendersonville, TN
House of Tropicals, Inc., Glen Burnie, MD
I M SHARPE III, Plant City, FL
InFlight Aviaries, Boynton Beach, FL
John Stoodley, England
Kaytee Products, Inc., Chilton, WI
Kellogg, Inc., Milwaukee, WI
Kings Aviary, Inc., Rosedale, NY
L M Animal Farms, Pleasant Plain, OH

Lake's Minnesota Macaws, Inc.,
St. Paul, MN
Loriidae Production Network, Woodlake, CA
Lowcountry Parrot Jungle, Ravenel, SC
Lu-Chow Aviaries, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Luv Them Birds, Miami, FL
M & D Exotic Birds, Indianapolis, IN
M.D.S., Inc., St. Petersburg, FL
Magnolia Bird Farm, Anaheim, CA
Miramar Animal Hospital Inc.,
Jacksonville, FL
Nekton USA, Clearwater, FL
Pampered Parrot Haven, Inc., Oyster Bay, NY
Parrot Junction, Goochland, VA
Parrot Jungle, Inc., Miami, FL
Parrot River, Richmond, VA
Parrots Plus, Glen Burnie, MD
Parrotville Aviaries, St. Clair, MI
Perry's Aviary, Fiskdale, MA
Pet Farm, Inc., Miami, FL
Pet Supplies Marketing, Deluth, MN
Petables Plus, Hampstead, MD
Petland — White Flint Plaza,
Kensington, MD
Pets Supplies Marketing, Deluth, MN
Phoenix Unlimited, Irving, TX
Picture Perfect Parrot, Walton Hills, OH
Pretty Bird International, Hugo, MN
Purina Mills, Inc., St. Louis, MO
Rain Forest Exotic, Aptos, CA
Ratnavira Wildlife Art Gallery,
Fallbrook, CA
Roudybush, Davis, CA
Santa Barbara Bird Farm,
Santa Barbara, CA
Scarlet Oak Aviaries, Glenwillow, OH
Sharon's Toys, Fairfax, VA
Showbird, Inc., St. Petersburg, FL
Spary Millet America, Wausau, WI
Special Diets Services, Essex, England
Swan Creek Supply—Grumbach
Incubators, Saginaw, MI
Talisman Associates, Inc., Rockville, MD
Tammy's Landing, Kernville, CA
The Bird Shop, Sacramento, CA
The Birdello, Soquel, CA
The Reptile Place, Mahwah, NJ
The Scarlet Macaw, Inc., Houston, TX
Thee Birdie Bordello, El Segundo, CA
Todd Marcus Birds Exotic, Cinnaminson, NJ
Union Street Veterinarian Hospital,
Schenectady, NY
Valley Avicultural Products, Canoga Park, CA
Veterinary Care Clinic, Albuquerque, NM
Vienna Aquarium and Pets, Vienna, VA
World Parrot Trust, United Kingdom
Wyd's Wingdom, Chesapeake, VA
Zeigler Bros. Inc., Gardner, PA
Zoo Avenue, University Park, TX
Zoovival, Inc., Clearwater, FL

This large macaw is highly rated as a handfed pet. Green-winged Macaws are in considerable numbers in the U.S. and, with more reproduction, this species should also begin to fill the needs of the breeder and pet owner.

Hyacinth Macaw

This largest of the macaws is very rare in its natural habitat in South America. This species is an Appendix I bird (CITES) mainly because it was removed from the wild in response to the demand of the exotic bird trade. The Hyacinth Macaw is still in demand as can be seen by its rising price tag. It is the responsibility of aviculturists to keep back captive-reared birds for future breeding stock. The great demand for this bird as a pet has greatly affected this bird's status in aviculture. Many pet Hyacinth Macaws are now being purchased by breeders and hopefully this will continue.

Military Macaw

This species of macaw does not

have the popularity of the other large macaws, mainly because it does not have their flashy coloration and, second, because this species is affected by the influx of smuggled birds. Its price is very low in comparison and breeders also fear a poor market. The Military Macaw, however, is not difficult to breed and hopefully this species would be reproduced in such numbers that they would affect the numbers being smuggled into this country.

Great Green (Buffon's), Blue-throated (Caninde), and Red-fronted Macaws

These three species of macaws are either listed on the ESA or Appendix I (CITES) lists or both. All are rare in the wild and in captivity. These species should only be kept for breeding purposes and not placed in the pet trade. A great amount of work must be done by aviculturists to maintain these species in captivity. They are ideal candidates for responsible stud books.

Severe, Noble, Hahn's and Yellow-collared Macaws

These representatives of mini or dwarf macaws are well established in captivity. They are popular with both the aviculturists and pet owners. They are all reproduced in fairly good numbers but not in the numbers that would fill the pet market needs if imports were to be closed today. It is the responsibility of all aviculturists to maintain these species in captivity using good management techniques in hopes that in the near future we will have self-sustaining populations in captivity to satisfy the consumers' needs without the use of wild-caught birds.

Red-bellied Macaw

It is very sad to see the poor success of reproduction in this species of mini macaw. It is not popular with most aviculturists as it is rated as a poor breeder. Its dull coloration has also affected its popularity. This species needs much work by American aviculturists as we may lose this species long term.

Illiger's Macaw

This beautiful mini macaw is still in limited numbers in aviculture. It is still being retained by aviculturists as breeding stock, although a few can be found in the pet trade. This macaw also needs much work to establish it successfully in captivity.

1991 Psittacine

Captive Breeding Survey

Although the numbers collected in the 1990 Captive Breeding Survey are very limited, it is an excellent tool to establish aviculture as a science. Aviculture can affect the reduction of wild-caught birds now being imported for the pet trade. By reproducing our birds in captivity, we can, in effect, supply a renewable resource in exotic birds and thus lessen the demand for removing exotic birds from their natural habitats. The future of aviculture is uncertain and the census will improve the ability to give American aviculture some validity. We can ascertain which species are being maintained in captivity and give some indication which species we are more likely to lose. We can also use this data to give the American aviculturists some status at the upcoming CITES meeting in Japan. I would urge all aviculturists to participate in the upcoming 1991 Psittacine Captive Breeding Survey (and census) put out by TRAFFIC (USA) around June of 1991. ●

1990 Macaw Census Information

(Source: TRAFFIC USA 1990 Psittacine Captive Breeding Survey)

Species	Number of Birds in Census	Rank in Census	Number of Participants With Species	Source of Birds			1989 Breeding Information		
				Wild Caught	Captive Bred	Unknown	Breeding Pairs	Hatched	Weaned
<i>Ara ararauna</i> Blue and Gold	1,217	3	355	731	365	121	397	630	581
<i>Ara macao</i> Scarlet	592	13	154	309	186	99	176	147	113
<i>Ara chloroptera</i> Green-winged	583	14	200	430	91	62	195	119	99
<i>Ara auricollis</i> Yellow-collared	316	27	95	165	125	26	166	123	94
<i>Ara militaris</i> Military	302	28	122	199	65	38	105	75	62
<i>Ara severa</i> Severe	266	36	87	150	77	39	99	125	92
<i>Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus</i> Hyacinth	236	42	64	139	72	23	93	41	39
<i>Ara rubrogenys</i> Red-fronted	163	57	35	80	66	10	60	54	45
<i>Ara n. cumanensis</i> Hahn's	134	60	48	69	55	10	46	84	59
<i>Ara manilata</i> Red-bellied	85	77	33	74	6	5	35	1	0
<i>Ara glaucogularis</i> Caninde	84	80	7	57	27	0	35	10	11
<i>Ara nobilis</i> Red-shouldered	78	84	33	35	35	8	31	26	25
<i>Ara ambigua</i> Buffon's	64	90	11	42	21	1	19	16	8
<i>Ara maracana</i> Illiger's	24	130	14	9	14	1	8	7	0