

# Scarlet Macaw

*Ara macao*

Found in Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia, Venezuela, the Guianas, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. They live in humid Evergreen Forests and Woodlands near rivers.

The Scarlet Macaw is still common over most of its range away from human habitation. In the Manu National Park in Peru, there is 1 pair every km<sup>2</sup>. A conservation initiative in the Carara Biological Reserve in Costa Rica, involves education programmes for local communities, visitors and guards, community development with ecotourism promotion, and ongoing intensive biological study. Provision of nest-boxes made from palm stems has been highly successful in improving the reproductive output of the Scarlet Macaw in Peru, where the main problem is nest-site availability.

They are often found nesting in palm trees with the nest being between 7 and 40m up in the tree. Major competition for nest sites is with the Green-wing Macaw.



**Lifespan:** 60 Years

**Weight:** 900 - 1490 g

**Size:** 84 - 89 cm

**Breeding Season:** October - April

**Incubation Period:** 24 - 28 Days

**Number of Chicks:** 1 - 4

**Diet:** Seeds, Fruit, Fruit Pulp, Leaves, Bark and Flowers

**Problems They Face:** Habitat destruction, trapping for pet trade, persecution for feathers by indigenous people.

**Conservation Status:** Not Globally Threatened - CITES App. 1