Hyacinth Macaw

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

The largest of all parrots, this breathtaking species grows up to 40 inches long in its habitat south of the Amazon River. It is covered head to foot in deep, rich Hyacinth blue, with vibrant yellow eye rings and patches of yellow on the lower beak and tongue. "Wow" is the expression most people use to describe them.

Their numbers in the wild are decreasing, and their status is rare to endangered. Breeding them is very difficult, so we recommend they be kept only by expert breeders committed to increasing their population.

Interesting Facts:

Species:	**Hyacinth Macaw**
Family:	Psittacidae
Genus:	*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*
Size:	Up to 40" long
Habitat:	South of the Amazon River
Endangered:	Rare to Endangered species status. Decreasing numbers in the wild.
Behavior:	Hyacinths are playful, intelligent, and avid chewers. They love puzzling toys, interlocking toys, or toys with surprise treats that have to be extracted. However, if they are not properly stimulated, they can become loud and destructive. Regular, supervised playtime outside the cage and human interaction is essential.
Diet:	Hyacinth Macaws consume large amounts of macadamia and Brazil nuts, filberts, walnuts, almonds, pecans, and coconut in their diet. They require more fat and carbohydrates, and less protein, than other parrots, and can be supplemented with small amounts of fruits, vegetables, and pellets formulated for hyacinth macaws. They are specialized feeders in the wild, eating the extremely hard nuts of the Scheelea Palm and the Atalea Palm, a task attributable to their powerful beaks.

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Housing:	With a wingspan of nearly 4 feet, a cage size of 4 ft. x 5 ft. x 5 ft. high is an absolute minimum. Allowing a full wingspan stretch helps prevent muscle atrophy. Since their beaks are stronger than those of any other bird, they are known to chew through the welds on regular metal cages easily. Heavy duty stainless steel cages are the best choice for these birds.
Owner Challenges:	Hyacinth Macaws are sometimes loud, their demanding nature requires patience. Their cost, both upfront and throughout their long lifespan, is another challenge that should be looked at carefully by anyone interested in keeping this species.
Life Span:	Up to 60 years or longer.
Average Cost:	$8,500

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