

# SCARLET CARE SHEET



## Care & Feeding

Like all birds, the scarlet macaw will thrive in a large environment, and will suffer in a cage that's inadequate for its size. This bird is known for self-mutilation when confined, and will not do well with an owner who doesn't plan on allowing it sufficient out-of-cage time. Large swings and toys are a must, too, because the scarlet is an active bird that likes to play and chew. If not given the opportunity to chew, it will become quite unhappy and may turn the chewing onto its feathers.

Scarlet macaw live in small groups in the wild, and a lone scarlet macaw in a household can become lonely if not interacted with regularly. This is not a bird for someone who isn't home a lot, or someone who doesn't understand the intricacies and responsibilities of bird keeping. This is a sensitive, clever bird that can easily become bored and miserable, leading to excessive noise, plucking and biting.

Macaws, including scarlet macaws, thrive on a nutritionally balanced diet, such as Lafeber's Nutri-Berries and Lafeber's Premium Daily Diet Pellets, as well as fresh fruits, vegetables and healthy table foods. If properly fed and cared for a scarlet macaw is reported to have a life span of over 70 years.

The scarlet is a "sassy" bird, filled with energy and personality. It's highly intelligent and is a capable escape artist. It has distinct likes and dislikes, and can become a "one person bird" if care is not taken to train the bird otherwise. The beak is formidable and it can pack a wallop of a bite, so it's not a great bird for children. Even the tamest of these birds can be "nippy" to get its way — it's not a companion for meek or fearful individuals.

This is an easily trainable bird and can be taught complicated "tricks" if done gently and with patience.

## Speech & Sound

The scarlet macaw is not the most competent talker in the macaw family, but with those looks, it doesn't have to talk. It will learn a few words and phrases, though it will do more screaming than talking. This is not a bird for someone living among sensitive neighbors or with an infant, unless there's plenty of space between the bird and those who will be disturbed by its loud screeching.

