

# BLUE & GOLD MACAW

*(Ara ararauna)*

**Class:** *Aves*  
**Order:** *Psittaciformes*  
**Family:** *Psittacidae*  
**Genus:** *Ara*  
**Species:** *ararauna*



The Blue and Gold Macaw is striking in its appearance due to its beautiful coloration. Its back and upper tail feathers are brilliant blue while the underside of the tail is olive yellow. The forehead feathers are green. The wing feathers are blue with green tips, and the underwing coverts and breast are yellow-orange. The bare facial area is creamy white with several lines made of small black feathers. The beak is gray-black, and the throat is black. The eyes of an adult bird are yellow and its legs are gray.

Blue and Gold Macaws are commonly found throughout Mexico, as well as Central America, and the northern parts of South America. They live in rainforests, high in trees especially along swamps and rivers.

Blue and Gold Macaws are extremely intelligent and adaptable and can be taught to do tricks as well as to mimic words. They are very expressive and will show their emotions or intentions by cocking their heads, vocalizing, flashing their eyes (voluntary constriction of the pupils), and blushing. They also use fluffing of the feathers, raising the wings, prancing, bowing, shaking their tail feathers, and head bobbing as forms of communication.