Beautiful and Friendly

The Scarlet Macaw

The scarlet macaw's feathers are very colorful and beautiful. It is an intelligent bird and is commonly kept as a pet. Most of its body is red, its back and wings are bright blue, and the tip of its tail is dark blue.

Its tail is long, accounting for more than half of its body length. Each scarlet macaw's tail is unique, which makes it a helpful way of distinguishing one bird from another.

The scarlet macaw lives in savannas and mangrove forests and near rivers in the tropical forests of southern Mexico, Central America, and Brazil.

The scarlet macaw likes hard-shell seeds, nuts, and fruit. It often eats mud to neutralize poisonous elements contained in seeds or unripe fruit.

The Scarlet Macaws Eats Soil

The scarlet macaw eats soil or soft stones to detoxify the poison in the seeds it eats and to supplement minerals in its diet.

The Scarlet Macaw Nests in Tree Holes

The scarlet macaw makes nests in tree holes high above the ground. It needs tall, old trees in tropical rain forests to survive.

Large, Strong Beak

The scarlet macaw's large, strong beak is good for breaking open hard shells. It uses it like a hand.

Claws Facing Front and Back

Two of the scarlet macaw's claws face forwards and two face backwards, which helps it grip branches tightly.

Long Tail Feathers

When the scarlet macaw flies, its long tail feathers help it change direction and keep its balance.

- Scientific name: *Ara macao*
- Biological classification: Family Arinae
- Conservation status: IUCN Red List - LC (Least Concern)
- Diet: Mixed diet (fruit, seeds, nuts, honey, budding flowers, and small bugs)
- Habitats: Savannas, mangroves, river edges in rain forests of southern Mexico, Central America, and Brazil