

Amazon Blue-fronted Parrot

Amazona aestiva

Class: Aves - the birds

Order: Psittaciformes - the parrot-like birds

Family: Psittacidae - the true parrots

Genus: *Amazona* - from South America

Species: *Amazona aestiva* -the summer parrot



This green and yellow coloured parrot gets its name from the bright blue feathers on its forehead.

The Amazon Blue-fronted Parrot is found in the drier tropical forests and savanna of Bolivia, northern Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil. Its diet consists of fruits, berries, seeds, nuts, and flowers. Because of its seed-eating habit it is considered an agricultural pest in parts of its range.

Female Amazon Blue-fronted parrots nest in tree cavities. Normally they lay 3 to 5 eggs around October each year.

This is a common parrot in captivity as pet. They are in high demand as they are among the best talkers and can learn a large vocabulary. The Blue-fronted is still a common bird throughout its range, however the population is declining due to the large number of birds being live-caught for the pet trade.

The life span is 40 to 80 years. The oldest on record (captive bird) is 117 years.

The Amazon Blue-fronted Parrot at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo is named "Twiggy". Twiggy lives in the Kinsmen Children's Zoo and enjoys using her words to speak to visitors.