

SPECIES PROFILE

Blue-fronted Amazon

Amazona aestiva



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(among other species) has been recorded following introduction in Stuttgart, Germany (Martens et al. 2013).

A captive breeding program fed young individuals crushed fruit and vegetables mixed with corn meal, and later provided whole fruit and vegetables and seeds and grains as the birds grew older (Seixas & Mourao 2000).

The species may interact with agriculture, and is noted by del Hoyo et al. 1994 for despoiling maize and sunflower crops, and causing some damage to fruit (especially citrus) crops during winter.

Individuals may have a range of 1ha-1,600ha (Seixas & Mourao 2000).

3.7 SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND GROUPINGS

The species is not known for territorial or aggressive behaviour, and is readily kept as a domestic pet. Amazons are recognised for their intelligence and ability to sing and mimic the human voice, with some trained individuals having a vocabulary of over a hundred words (Thompson 1995).

In the wild, Blue-fronted Amazons tend to fly alone, in pairs, or in small groups. When released, captive-bred individuals tended to fly in groups and roost together (Seixas & Mourao 2000).

3.8 NATURAL PREDATORS AND DISEASE

Blue-fronted Amazons have a variety of predators, including Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) and Toco Toucan (*Ramphastos toco*), and they are vulnerable to attacks from dogs (Seixas & Mourao 2000; Seixas & Mourao 2002).

In Tasmania, potential predators include the Tasmanian Devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*), Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), and large raptors such as the Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*) and White-Bellied Sea-eagles (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*). The species is likely to be predated on by domestic dogs and cats.

In their natural environment, Blue-fronted Amazons are vulnerable to bot-fly (*Pilornis* sp. larvae, Diptera: Muscidae) in the nestling stage (Seixas & Mourao 2003), and ticks and mallophaga (lice) are frequently found in nests (Marini et al. 1996 cited in Seixas & Mourao 2003).

The species may carry Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease (Huff et al. 1988) which a common and potentially deadly disease of parrots and found in Australia (Department of Environment and Heritage 2005). Avian polyomavirus, mycobacterium tuberculosis infection, and avian salmonellosis have also been recorded in the species (Philadelpho et al. 2015; Hoop 2002; Marietto-Goncalves et al. 2010; respectively).

The species may also carry avian chlamydiosis which may transfer to humans ('psittacosis') (NASPHV 2010; Kaleta & Taday 2003).

3.9 THREAT TO HUMAN SAFETY

The species is unlikely to cause physically injury, although some unsubstantiated reports suggest the species can be 'nippy', particularly mature males. The species is unlikely to cause injury requiring hospitalisation.

The species may carry avian chlamydiosis (called 'psittacosis' in humans) (NASPHV 2010).

3.10 HISTORY AS A PEST

The Blue-fronted Amazon is considered an agricultural pest in some parts of South America (Navarro et al. 1991). It is recognised for impacting in agriculture, including maize and sunflower crops, and causing some damage to fruit (especially citrus) crops during winter (del Hoyo et al. 1994). The pest status of this species is thought to have contributed to the Government's high export quotas, although research into actual impacts of the species on citrus trees found that damage was very minor and not economically important (Navarro et al. 1991).

The species is not known to cause modification or major habitat changes, and has not been noted for spreading rapidly following release in new environments.

3.11 POTENTIAL IMPACT IN TASMANIA

If established, the Blue-fronted Amazon could potentially compete with native species for tree hollows. This includes threatened Tasmanian species, such as the Swift Parrot (endangered), Orange-Bellied Parrot (endangered), and Forty-Spotted Pardalote (endangered), and non-threatened native species such as Musk Lorikeet and Blue-winged Parrot.

The species has attributes that suggest it may impact on the timber and agricultural industry within Tasmania, including trees, vegetables, fruit, cereal grains and flowers.

The species may also contribute to the spread of Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease.

4. Risk Assessment

4.1 PREVIOUS RISK ASSESSMENTS

In a previous risk assessment, the Vertebrate Pest Committee assessed the Blue-fronted Amazon as a 'Serious' threat (VPC 2007).

The species is included on the Department of Environment's *2007 Inventory of Exotic (non-native) Bird Species known to be in Australia* and is classified as 'high interest' based on pest and disease risk and the potential for illegal trade in the species (DoE 2007).

The Western Australian Department of Agriculture assessed the Blue-fronted Amazon as representing too high a risk. The species is prohibited and listed as 'no entry, eradicate in the wild, and no keeping' in Western Australia (DoA 2004).

5. References

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