



A pair of red-tailed Amazons (*Amazona brasiliensis*).

# Breeding the Red-tailed Amazon in Captivity

(*Amazona brasiliensis*)

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In Brazil, red-tailed Amazon (*Amazona brasiliensis*) is known as "purple face parrot." They formerly occurred throughout the littoral forests of southeastern Brazil. Its population is threatened by black market smuggling, and widespread deforestation. The survival risk of the red tailed Amazon is so great it was included in appendix 1 of the schedule specimens protected by CITES

This parrot is about 36 centimeters long, nests in the forest of the Islands of Paranaqua Bay, state of Parana. Mr. Pedro Scherer Neto is conducting extensive studies of the red-tailed Amazon in its natural habitat. Mr. Neto informs us that the period of incubation is approximately 30 days, and the young fledge after 55 days. This parrot nests in high trees which are presently being cut down for wood.

## Cage Breeding

The red-tailed parrot has been cage-

bred in captivity twice in Brazil. The last breeding occurred in Mr. Nelson Kawall's aviary in Sao Paulo.

In November 1986, the hen laid three eggs. Only one egg was fertile. After 30 days of incubation, the baby hatched, and it was removed after 15 days for hand feeding.

In January of 1987, the hen started working the nest box, however, she never laid any eggs.

The breeding cage is 1 meter x 1 meter x 1 meter (approx. 3 x 3 x 3 feet). The sides and bottom are made of wood, and front, top and rear are aviary netting. The floor is covered with pine shavings. The nest box is made of wood (pine) 30 x 30 x 40 cm high (12 x 12 x 16 in. high). Approximately two inches of pine shavings was used on the floor of the nest box, which was replaced periodically.

The bird's diet consists of sunflower

and small mixed seeds: canary, oat, paddy and peanuts. Small amounts of dog-ration is mixed with the seeds. Treats of green maize, sugar cane, several fruits and green corn straw are given frequently.

Daily they are treated with bread soaked with water. Green branches ("chorao" — genera salix) and dry leaves of any plant are supplied to them. Also, sand blocks (grit and lime) are in the cage at all times. Water is changed daily. Once a year deworming medicine is given for three days. During the breeding season, vitamin E is given on the bread soaked in water. ●



A young, hand-fed, red-tailed Amazon in January 1987 reared by Mr. Nelson Kawall in Sao Paulo, Brazil.