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Cyanoptera
Scarlet Macaws



You Saved an Endangered Baby Macaw from Poachers!

Last spring, for the first time in four years, an *Ara macao cyanoptera* macaw chick fledged its nest! This was thanks to your support! Your donation helped the Paso Pacífico team to keep the growing baby safe for *ninety days* until it was old enough to fly — and too old for poachers.

This chick needed to stay in the wild. With fewer than 20 individuals in northwestern Nicaragua and only scattered populations elsewhere, this macaw’s local population and entire subspecies are nearing extinction. Yet, poachers and buyers still heavily pursue wild-born cyanoptera macaws. Without donations like yours, the chick would have been stolen and sold into captivity.

But you ensured that rangers guarded the macaw day and night, warding off poachers and collecting data valuable for science! With your support, even the turtle rangers traveled north and pitched in.

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Your gift provided round-the-clock guards to save this chick from lifelong captivity!



You Enriched the Lives of Kids Who Live Near Macaws

People who live near the remote macaw habitat were not aware of their importance to the world as guardians of these critically endangered birds. But thanks to your help, children and local leaders learned more and were celebrated as macaw protectors! Through your support, we held Junior Ranger workshops about the macaws. The kids were inspired, and shared what they learned with their families. And at the end of the macaw season, your gift helped celebrate the chick and the communities with games, a family meal, and a macaw piñata. Because of your investment in these Junior Rangers and in their communities, the macaws' future is brighter. Thank you!

Director's Note to You

Dear Friend,

Your support helped save critical wildlife for our future. As the world feels the weight of the pandemic and the war in Europe, we hold on to our belief that we should never stop doing what we can to help communities and the planet.

In this spring news bulletin, we share with you the hopeful story of the cyanoptera macaw in the Gulf of Fonseca, Central America. When the program began in 2014, we counted less than 15 birds. This number was likely all that was left in Central America's Pacific dry forests. But you helped us earn the support of local villages and enabled us to save baby macaws from poachers. **You made a difference!**

These birds are important because they spread seeds from large trees around their forest, helping it regrow. Just as important, their beauty is a source of inspiration and pride for local people, who for too long have suffered from negative storytelling about their communities.

Now, local pride in the bird is driving the recovery of the species in the Gulf. Thank you for doing simple but powerful things to save macaws and change our world for the better.

*"I told my parents that they should protect the macaws because they're important for the forests and are very beautiful."
— Alejandro, age 10*



With gratitude,

Sarah M. Otterstrom, Ph.D.
Founder & Executive Director





***“The macaw unites us to protect it. No one else does this great work.”
— Oswaldo, macaw field coordinator***

Continued from front

One morning in June, our rangers saw that the nest was empty. The anxious ranger leaders trekked for hours through the sweltering forest to try to locate the young bird and its family. Finally, the rangers spotted the macaws! Some rangers even wept with joy and relief.

Thank you for your gift that helped this chick survive! Partners such as Loro Parque Fundación, Patagonia, and the Brandywine Zoo also helped make this wonderful achievement possible.

Since last June, the bird has traveled around the forest with its parents, discovering new fruits and learning to lead the wild life it was meant to live. It will be fully independent this summer, and be old enough to reproduce in three or four years. **Thank you.** Because of you, there is still hope for the last group of cyanoptera macaws in western Nicaragua!

Here is the chick with its parents when we first spotted it flying outside of its nest. Thank you for giving this bird a life of freedom in the forest!

You Gave Safe Homes for Macaws to Nest In!

Because of deforestation, the macaws' forest does not have enough towering trees with cavities for these large birds to nest. That is where you stepped in. Using ideas from the innovative cement nests now enjoyed by yellow-naped Amazon parrots, your support designed and supplied new nesting spaces for the macaws!

Five nests were made over two weeks. They have chicken wire inside for the macaws to use as a ladder,

and mud cement to keep the interior cool. They also have repellent to keep away invasive bees, which can kill macaw chicks. The nests are so large that the truck could carry just two at a time. Installing them was also challenging, but with climbing ropes and makeshift stretchers, provided through your support, they are now high up in tall trees. **Thank you for providing a home for a macaw family!**





SAVE THEIR BABY!

Protect a baby macaw from poachers, predators and fires through round-the-clock care

Fewer than 20 cyanoptera macaws remain in northwestern Central America! For decades, these birds have been poached and preyed upon in a dwindling dry forest.

This year could be the same. If chicks are not saved from now on, this group of macaws will die out.

As of press time, our team is carefully watching one *precious* baby macaw (inset). *Now* is when the chick is most in danger. **But you could make the donation that helps this chick fly free!**

Your gift is needed to provide round-the-clock monitoring to protect it from poachers, predators, and even wildfires. **And the local communities need your help** to put out the wildfires and meet basic needs without resorting to poaching macaws.

Time is ticking. Your gift will give round-the-clock protection, and help strengthen communities so they can stay in the fight to save these birds from local extinction! *Will you please make a gift to save this baby macaw?*

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YES! I WANT TO SAVE THE BABY MACAW!

Yes! Please use my gift to help **save the cyanoptera macaw** from poachers, predators and wildfires, and to support all the work of Paso Pacifico.

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$25 to guard the baby macaw for one day
- \$50 to guard the baby macaw for two days
- \$75 to guard the baby macaw for three days
- \$_____ to watch over the baby macaw as much as I can!



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