

TROPICAL RAINFOREST FACTS

Amazon Rainforest Birds Facts



Introduction

The Amazon Rainforest is where some 3,800 species are found, 1,300 of which are bird species. When one thinks of the typical rainforest bird, it is usually the iconic Toucan, with its colorful bill and unique look. However, Macaws, Parrots, Hummingbirds, Harpy Eagles and many other popular birds live there as well.

Amazon Rainforest Bird General Facts

- Of the four layers of the Amazon Rainforest, the majority of birds live in the Canopy Layer.
- The many colors of life in the rainforest are reflected in the many species of birds, from small to large, that are brightly colored.
- Common foods for Amazon Rainforest birds include leaves, fruits, nuts and insects, but their diets do vary quite a bit depending on the type of bird and the layer of the rainforest in which they live.
- Many birds are found solely in the rainforest and others, such as songbirds, will migrate each year. They spend their summers in the United States, far north of the Amazon, and fly south to the Amazon to spend their winters in warmer weather.
- With the high rate of deforestation taking place, some estimates predict the end of rainforests as we know them in forty years. Since most Amazon Rainforest birds live high in the treetops, they will lose their homes and face serious consequences to their populations.

- Sadly, of the 18 species of Macaws in the Amazon Rainforest, several are currently on the endangered list and some species may already be extinct. Deforestation and illegal trapping of these beautiful birds to sell as pets are the primary reasons.

Amazon Rainforest Bird Adaptation Facts

- In order to survive in the rainforest, the Hummingbird has adapted, through evolution, a simple yet plentiful diet. They are the only rainforest birds that can survive mainly on flower nectar, but must consume 50% of their body weight in food each day.
- Bird sounds or calls can be heard echoing throughout the dense rainforest. Different birds have adapted distinct vocal sounds to communicate to others that they are present. Each call has a purpose which may include a call for mating, a call to protect a territory or to sound a danger alarm.
- The Harpy Eagle, one of the world's most powerful and majestic eagles has adapted to life in the rainforest. In order to see prey in rainforest conditions no higher than the Canopy Layer, it has adapted very keen eyesight. Its short wingspan helps it to quickly maneuver through the dense trees and branches.
- The Toucan's bill has been adapted to crush and saw the food it eats such as fruits and nuts. The Parrot uses its beak as an additional hand to aid it in climbing up trees so it can locate hard to reach food.

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