

Hispaniolan Amazon - BirdLife Species Factsheet

VU Hispaniolan Amazon *Amazona ventralis*

2007 IUCN Red List Category (as evaluated by BirdLife International - the official Red List Authority for birds for IUCN): **Vulnerable**

Justification This species is considered Vulnerable because anecdotal evidence suggests that there has been a rapid population reduction. The size of the population and the exact extent of the decline are unclear, and clarification may lead to the species being reclassified as Near Threatened.

Family/Sub-family Psittacidae

Species name author (Müller, 1776)

Taxonomic source(s) AOU checklist (1998 + supplements), Sibley and Monroe (1990, 1993), Stotz *et al.* (1996)

Identification 28-31 cm. Bright green parrot with white forehead, blue flight feathers, maroon belly-patch and red in tail. **Similar spp.** Only *Amazona* parrot on Hispaniola. Introduced in Puerto Rico where more common than Puerto Rican Parrot *A. vittata*. **Voice** Noisy. Wide variety of squawks and screeches. Bugling flight call.



Population estimate	Population trend	Range estimate (breeding/resident)	Country endemic?
10,000-19,999	decreasing	14,300 km ²	No

Range & population *Amazona ventralis* is endemic to Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) and associated islands of Grande Cayemite, Gonâve, Beata and Saona¹. Introduced populations are established in Puerto

Rico (to USA), and St Croix and St Thomas in the Virgin Islands (to USA)¹. It was common on Hispaniola, but declined seriously during the 20th century. By the 1930s, it was mainly restricted to the interior mountains, where it remains locally common in suitable habitat, particularly within several major forest reserves^{4,5}. Elsewhere, it is now uncommon, rare or absent⁴. The introduced population in Puerto Rico numbers several hundred and is apparently increasing⁴.



Ecology It inhabits a variety of wooded habitats, from arid palm-savanna to pine and montane humid forest, up to and slightly above 1,500 m⁴. It frequently forages in cultivated lands¹, such as banana plantations and maize fields². Breeding is known from February to May, but prospecting pairs have been seen in mid-April, suggesting that the season may extend further into the year^{2,3,4}. Nests are situated in tree-cavities, and sometimes dead tree-stumps^{2,3,4}.

Threats Agricultural conversion and charcoal production have destroyed most suitable habitat⁴. It has also been persecuted as a crop-pest, hunted for food and trapped for the local and international cage-bird trade⁴.

Conservation measures underway CITES Appendix II. An education strategy with community participation has been launched to protect the species⁷. In 1997-1998, 49 captive-reared birds were released and radio-tracked in Parque del Este, Dominican Republic⁸.

Conservation measures proposed Assess the current size of the population. Establish a comprehensive monitoring programme. Determine the extent of remaining habitat. Determine the impact of the various threats. Enforce the laws and regulations protecting this species and its habitat⁶.

References 1. AOU (1998). 2. Collar (1997a). 3. G. M. Kirwan *in litt.* (1998). 4. Juniper and Parr (1998). 5. Raffaele *et al.* (1998). 6. Snyder *et al.* (2000). 7. Vásquez *et al.* (1995). 8. Vilella *et al.* (1999).

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