

PARROTS' PERCH

There are over 300 species of parrots in the world and ALL parrots have several common characteristics:

- A short, rounded beak that acts like a nutcracker
- Zygodactyl foot configuration: two middle toes facing forward and two outside toes facing backward. This helps parrots hold their food and climb tree branches.

The ability to copy or mimic sounds: most parrots have the ability to mimic or copy sounds they hear in their environment, including human speech if they live around people. However, parrots do not understand the sounds they mimic, and some may never mimic a sound in their whole life!

"Benito" our hyacinth macaw:

- Hyacinth macaws are one of the largest parrot species in the world.
- They are found in the palm savannahs of Brazil and eat palm nuts, fruits, and seeds in the wild.
- Like many species of parrots, hyacinth macaws are endangered due to increased pressure from human populations, specifically habitat loss and the illegal pet trade.

"Killer" our green-winged macaw:

- Green-winged macaws are found in tropical rainforests from Panama to Bolivia where they eat nuts and fruit.
- Like hyacinth macaws, they face increasing pressure from habitat loss and the illegal pet trade.
- Killer was named for his 'killer' good looks

"Rupert" and "Richard" our black parrots:

- Black parrots are native to the mangrove swamps and evergreen forests of Madagascar and the Seychelles Islands.
- Their diet in the wild consists of seeds, blossoms and fruit, especially berries and mangos.
- Black parrots are not yet endangered but are still vulnerable due to habitat loss.

DID YOU KNOW? Parrots like Benito can live up to 80 years!



NATIONAL AVIARY