
January 1982

Yellow-collared Macaw in Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Florida Field Naturalist

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Recommended Citation

Florida Field Naturalist (1982) "Yellow-collared Macaw in Fort Lauderdale, Florida," *Florida Field Naturalist*. Vol. 10 : Iss. 3 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/ffn/vol10/iss3/4>

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STEVENSON, H. M. 1962. Florida region. Audubon Field Notes 16: 21-25.

STEVENSON, H. M. 1963. Florida region. Audubon Field Notes 17: 319-323.

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Fla. Field Nat. 10 (3) : 56-59, 1982.

Yellow-collared Macaw in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.—On 18 February 1981, I saw two Yellow-collared Macaws (*Ara auricollis*) in Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida. They were feeding on the “cones” of a *Casuarina* and roosting on a dead *Melaleuca* stub in the garden of “Bonnet House” immediately adjacent to Route A1A, just south of Sunrise Boulevard. The birds have a characteristically high-pitched parrot-like call, making their presence noticeable. I observed them from the sidewalk and beach of A1A as they flew back and forth among *Casuarinas* and perched in the open on the dead stub of the *Melaleuca*. The two birds appeared to be paired, as they preened each other's head and neck feathers and perched closely together. They had been seen in this area by the occupants of the house for more than a month. A single individual of this macaw was also reported to be present at the same locality during February 1982.

The Yellow-collared Macaw is described and figured in Forshaw (1973, *Parrots of the world*, New York). It is a handsome, small-sized macaw, approximately 30 cm long, with the long pointed tail characteristic of the group. The head is dark-crowned, somewhat blackish brown, with a large bare patch of yellow skin around the eye, and a palish, not blackish, bill in life. When the head is turned or tilted forward a noticeable streak of yellow at the nape of the neck is revealed, the yellow collar. The collar is not always visible, unless the head is tilted or turned. The plumage of the bird is basically green, but the wings are noticeably shaded with blue along the primary and secondary edges. The rump is green, but the upper basal area of the tail feathers where they meet the upper tail coverts shows a rusty tone. The underparts are slightly paler green than the back, and there is a noticeably paler olive area on the lower under tail coverts and base of the retrices.

Robert Ridgely informs me (pers. comm.) that the Yellow-collared Macaw is little known in its limited range in the Matto Grosso of Brazil, nearby Bolivia, adjacent Paraguay, and northern Argentina. It has recently come into the bird trade in very considerable numbers. It is a common bird apparently in a previously somewhat inaccessible area of South America, now becoming more accessible. Oscar Owre (pers. comm.) informs me that he is not aware of any record of these birds in a free-flying state in Florida. Thus this observation is, apparently, the first sighting of the species at liberty in the State.—S. DILLON RIPLEY, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560*.

Fla. Field Nat. 10 (3) : 59, 1982.