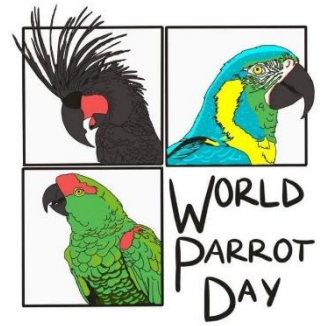


# Let's Go Birding!

**Birding** is the act of looking for birds in their natural habitats and observing their behavior. While you can expect to see a variety of endemic species when you visit local nature reserves or parks, you may spot the occasional exotic species as well. Parrots, known for their intelligence and beautiful plumage are often observed outside of their home ranges. There are 390 different species of parrots in the world, and they live on every continent on Earth except for Antarctica. Almost 45% of parrot species are threatened with extinction.



**Birding** is one of the ways you can help all bird species! The data collected from various “birders” across the world can be used by scientists to study the geographic ranges and migratory patterns of various species. Celebrate **World Parrot Day** every year by **birding** at your local park or nature reserve. Depending on where you live, you may even be able to see some parrot species. Unscramble the words to find out what you should take with you on your adventure! (Answers below)

etawr \_\_\_\_\_

unsrncee \_\_\_\_\_

ekonobto \_\_\_\_\_

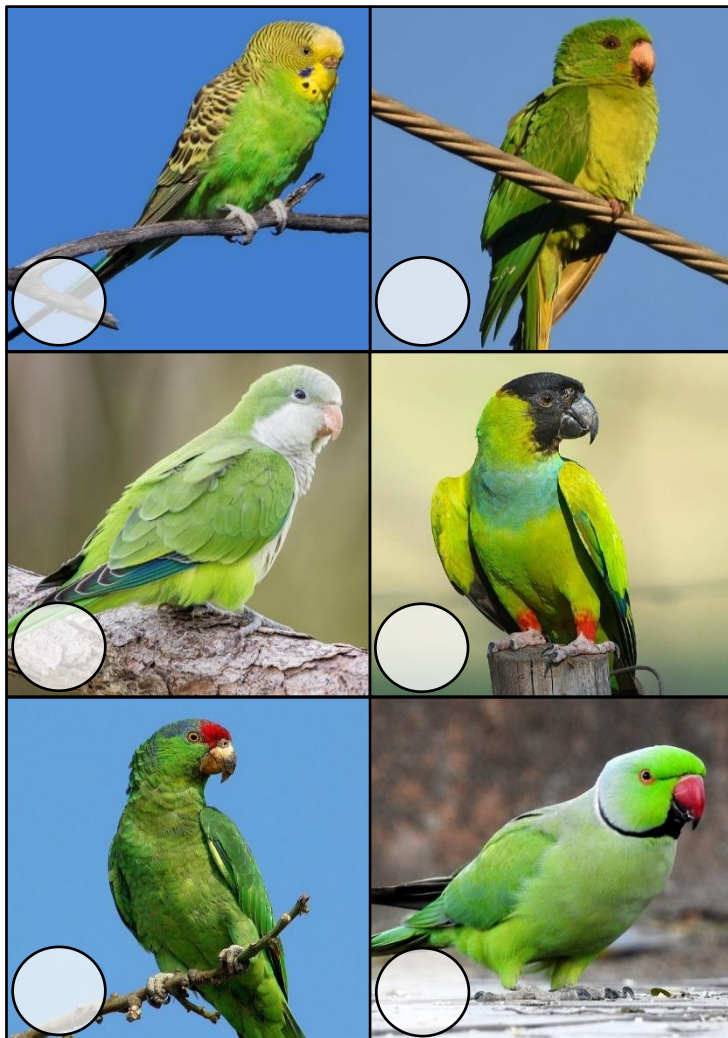
aecram \_\_\_\_\_

rbulicnosa \_\_\_\_\_

eedldugifi \_\_\_\_\_

ygbapusr \_\_\_\_\_

oisht gikbno \_\_\_\_\_



## North American Parrot ID

Can you identify these exotic parrot species commonly seen in North America? Write the number next to the species name in the bubble on the corresponding picture to the left.

1. **Monk Parakeet\***  
(*Myiopsitta monachus*)
2. **Budgerigar**  
(*Melopsittacus undulatus*)
3. **Green Parakeet**  
(*Psittacara holochlora*)
4. **Rose-ringed Parakeet**  
(*Psittacula krameri*)
5. **Red-crowned Amazon\***  
(*Amazona viridigenalis*)
6. **Nanday Parakeet\***  
(*Aratinga nenday*)

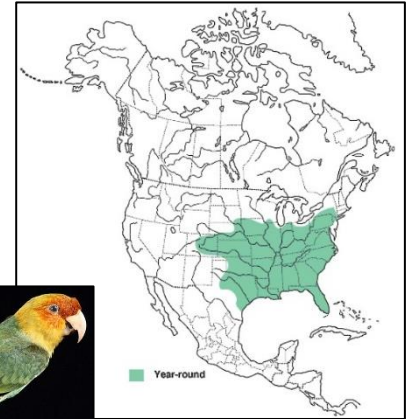
\*According to an article published by Uehling *et. al.*<sup>1</sup>, the Monk Parakeet, Red-crowned Amazon, and Nanday Parakeet accounted for about 61% of exotic parrot sightings in the US over a 15-year period.

<sup>1</sup>Uehling *et. al.*, Status of naturalized parrots in the United States. *J Ornithol* 160, 907-921 (2019)

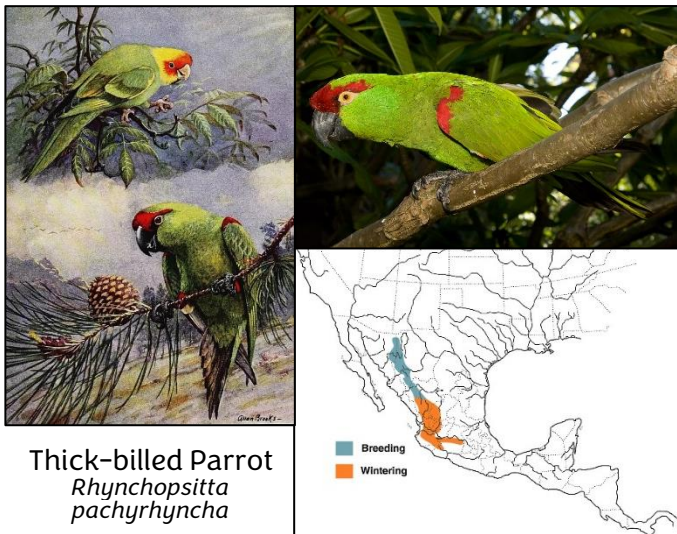
# North American Parrots

## Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*)

Did you know that there used to be parrot species that were endemic to the United States? The Carolina Parakeet used to be found in old growth forests near rivers across the eastern part of the country. Their numbers initially began to decline due to habitat loss, but it wasn't until the 19<sup>th</sup> century "Plume Bloom" that their populations drastically shrank. While some farmers favored their ability to control invasive plants growing around their crops, others viewed them as nuisance animals to be rid of. All these factors contributed to the species' eventual extinction in 1939.



Carolina Parakeet  
*Conuropsis carolinensis*



Thick-billed Parrot  
*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*

## Thick-billed Parrot (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*)

The highly social Thick-billed Parrot used to live in several southwestern states and Mexico but now only resides in the latter. They can be found in temperate, montane forests in and around conifer trees. Reintroduction attempts were conducted in the 1980s to try and bring the species back to the US, but the population did not last. This species is currently endangered due to habitat loss, poaching, and the changing climate that affects where pine trees can grow.

◀ The artwork to the left, painted by Allen Brooks, depicts both North American parrot species – the Carolina Parakeet (top) and the Thick-billed Parrot (bottom).

Need help identifying a bird species?  
Give the Merlin Bird ID app a try!

*Brought to you by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology*



Visit these websites to learn more about...

General Birding Information -> [audubon.org/birding](http://audubon.org/birding)

United States Birding Guides -> [audubon.org/travel](http://audubon.org/travel)

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology -> [eBird.org](http://eBird.org)

American Bird Conservancy -> [abcbirds.org](http://abcbirds.org)

