

Blue Fronted Amazons

There are a couple of types of Blue Fronts

Amazona aestiva aestiva (Brazilian Blue Front). Length: 14 inches
Weight: 300 grams to 420 grams.

Range: Eastern Brazil. Brazil stopped exporting them in the 70's. There are more *aestiva xanthopteryx* and intermediates than *aestiva aestivas* due in part to the early stopping of exportation of this type of Blue Front and domestic breeders crossing *xanthopteryx* and *aestiva* because of the difficulty in finding readily available *aestivas*.

Coloration: Blue cast to the green feathers. Red at the bend of the wing. Some may have a few yellow flecks mixed in the red. These birds generally show more blue on the face and head and can have the blue extend down into the chest as well.

This picture of Azure shows the smaller type Amazon. *A. a. aestiva*. Notice the red at the bend of the wing. She is Kodiak's mother and one of the smartest animals I have ever known. She died from papilloma.



Amazona aestiva xanthopteryx (Yellow Wing) Length: 15 inches
Weight: 450 grams to 520 grams. Range: Larger range than *aestiva aestiva*. Northern and eastern Bolivia, Paraguay and northern Argentina. Paraguayan Blue Fronts have less yellow on the head and may have only blue. They are smaller than other *xanthopteryx*. Birds from the Chaco (known as Chaco Blue Fronts) are larger and lighter and have lots of yellow on the head and wings. These birds also have longer tails than the *aestiva* or *xanthopteryxs* from other areas.

Coloration: Yellow cast to green feathers. Have large yellow patches at the top of the wings. Head shows a lot of yellow and may or may not have blue on their forehead. They may have yellow spots on the nape, back and chest area as well.



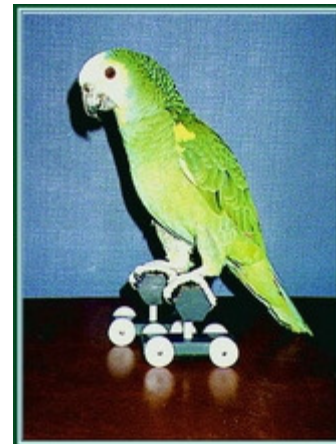
Kenai (Kodiak's father) grooming his mother Azure. Kodiak's father is the **A. a. xanthopteryx** (Yellow Wing). This photo shows the difference in coloration and size of the two types.

Intermediates are the result of a **cross between the aestiva and xanthopteryx**. They are not hybrids as this is a true subspecies of the **A. a. aestiva**. This cross takes place naturally in the wild, especially where their territories meet.

Coloration and size: The offspring may take their coloration from both showing yellow and red in the bend of the wing or coloration of either type. They may have the coloration of an **aestiva** and the size of the **xanthopteryx** or the size of the **aestiva** and the coloration of the **xanthopteryx**. These birds can be small like the **aestiva** or large like the **xanthopteryx** or be a little smaller than the **xanthopteryx** or a little larger than the **aestiva**.



Kodiak is an **Intermediate** or cross between the two types). This photo shows him as a baby.



Kodiak is one of Joanie's performing troupe, "The Amazing Amazons." He is very intelligent and roller skating is just one of the many learned behaviors he knows.

Not all Blue Fronts keep their coloration. Notice how the blue on Kodiak's forehead disappeared as he matured.

There are also mutations of Blue Fronts. There are all yellow (lutino), all blue (with white markings where there would be yellow), all blue (with pale yellow markings where there would be yellow) cinnamon and pied. These birds are very rare and few are being bred. Three albino Blue Fronts were taken from northeastern Brazil in 1988. Since exportation of Blue Fronts from Brazil was in effect in the 1970's, none of the albinos were known to be exported.