

# Black Pine Animal Sanctuary

## Animal Facts

Breeds / Type of Animals: AVIARY & LARGE CAGED BIRDS

Blue & Gold Macaw	“Hagar” – housed with “Buster” “Buster” – housed with “Hagar” “Bonnie” – housed in aviary, summer with cavy “Sammy” – housed alone, suffers belly molting habit
Military Macaw	“Jose” - green with red brow, hangs with “Blue”
Green Winged Macaw	“Blue”- red with green on wings, hangs with “Jose”
Amazon Parrots	“Ol Yeller” – Double yellow headed Amazon (yellow head) “Ricky” – Yellow Naped Amazon (yellow on back of head) “Elliot” – Blue fronted Amazon (blue eyebrow) “Rico” – hybrid, “alpha” among the group “Mose” – Yellow Naped Amazon (housed in office/commissary)

Ages: Ol’ Yeller is presumed the eldest, at 55-65 years of age. Other ages are unknown, but probably range from a few years to over twenty-five years.

Previous Home: All but Bonnie were adopted from private homes for a variety of reasons. Some passed through multiple homes. Bonnie was adopted from a park in Illinois and was a ‘performer’ in a rainforest education program. Elliot as a former pet that was wild caught. Jose may have been, too. Rico’s former owner is among a handful of previous owners who maintains contact with Black Pine and routinely sends treats and toys, and makes financial contributions to support his care. Mose’s owner developed life-threatening allergies that forced relocation of a beloved pet.

Diet: Commercial feed, fruits, nuts, vegetables, and seeds.

### Facts:

- Tropical birds are the second largest illegal export from South America (behind cocaine).
- Centuries ago, tropical birds were introduced into Europe as pets because of their vibrant colors, which brightened up the dreary, gray surroundings of Britain
- Most parrots are sexually monomorphic, meaning they look the same whether male or female
- Most parrots have to be DNA tested to determine their sex
- Ultimately we do not know the sex of the parrots in our keep, though several have seemed to pair up, indicating there is likely a male and female in those pairs; Macaws mate for life
- Parrots raised by humans mimic, but those in the wild do not
- Macaws can live between 80-100 years
- Amazon parrots can live to be over 120 years old.
- Nearly 8 million baby macaws are stolen from nests in South America annually.
- Parrots are considered one of the smartest animals on earth
- Parrots and rabbits are the only animals that can see behind themselves w/o moving their head

- Macaws rely on very specific fruits in their wild diets, and will remember one tree among 40 acres and continually return to those fruit-bearing trees to eat.
- The pet trade value of each of the large macaws is from \$800 to \$1600 each.

### Personal Histories:

Hagar originally was adopted along with another blue and gold macaw named “Sudsy”. Sudsy later left Black Pine to pursue a new career as a performer in an educational show. Hagar then paired up with “Sassy”, a scarlet macaw. She passed away in 2007. Hagar’s vocabulary includes a number of phrases, including “Hagar is a bad, bad bird”. He also mimics laughter.

Buster was adopted largely to provide another “mate” for Hagar, though it appears they may be the same sex. He was adopted from a private home.

Bonnie (and Clyde, now deceased) were adopted when a park in Illinois closed down. They had been used in the park in a rainforest educational show and traveled into schools as well. Though didn’t seem to be a “pair”, and could have both been the same sex, though we aren’t sure. Clyde passed away in early 2009 from unknown causes. Bonnie will display her wings if commanded “wings!!”.

Sammy was adopted from a private home. After his primary owner and caregiver passed away Sammy endured changes in the family’s home the bird suffered from diminished time and attention and began plucking his own feathers out. This is habit-forming and so he still plucks some today, though he is much better than he was upon arrival. Sammy’s vocabulary is the best of all the birds. “Hi Sammy”, “Hello”, “How are you?” “Look what I got!” “Up, step up.” “Good bird”. “Pretty bird”. He sometimes seems to have complete conversations with himself, as he did with his former owner.

Jose was adopted from a private home. He later paired up with Blue at the park.

Blue was adopted from a private home and later paired up with Jose.

Ol’ Yeller was adopted from a private home. She is thought to be the eldest of all the birds living at the park, and perhaps of all the animals.

Ricky was at one time the “alpha male” in the aviary, but was knocked down a few notches with the arrival of Rico. Ricky will still try to bite on occasion. He loves to whistle and can sing like an opera singer.

Elliott was a wild-caught bird adopted by friends of Black Pine when they lived in California. When Elliott developed a dislike for the man, Black Pine adopted the bird into the aviary. Living with other birds he is far less aggressive than he was alone.

Rico was adopted from a private home, though he was much loved. His unusual color and markings have thus far been unidentified as any one particular species of Amazon parrot, so he is referred to as a hybrid.

Mose was originally named "Moses", but as the bird matured veterinarians suggested the bird was female, so her owner began calling her "Mose" or "Mosie". This beloved pet was forced out of her home when her devoted owner developed very bad allergies and physicians ordered the bird "out". Mose arrived in early 2011.