

SUN CONURE

RANGE:

NE South America including French Guiana, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and NE Brazil.

HABITAT:

Open forest, savanna and palm groves.

SIZE:

Length: 12 inches (30 centimeters) from head to tip of tail.

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

Wild: Unknown

Captivity: 15 – 20 years

REPRODUCTION:

- Sun Conures are usually found in small groups.
- Females lay 3 – 4 eggs and incubate them for four weeks. Parents form a strong pair bond for a breeding season.
- Both parents will feed the chicks which remain in the nest for approximately eight weeks.

DIET:

Wild: Seeds, fruit, nuts, berries, nectar and fungi.

Zoo: A mixture of seeds and chopped fruit (apples, carrots, corn, green beans, grapes, lettuce).

BEHAVIOR:

- Large flocks of a twenty or more may be found congregating in the trees bearing ripened fruit.
- The sun conure is uncommon in the wild, and little is known of its habits.
- It is renowned for the extremely loud and screeching calls it uses for communication.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- These vibrant birds range in color from yellow-orange to fiery orange-red.
- Young have more green on the wings than adults and the abdomen is a pale red. Adults are brightly colored with wings and tail green, shading to blue on the outer sides and tips.
- Bill and legs are gray. Iris is dark brown.
- Sun conures are seldom exported from their native land. The first captive breeding occurred in France in 1883 by Madame de Kerville in Rouen. Aviculture in the U.S. did not begin until the 1930's
- Sun conures were first exhibited in the London Zoo in 1862 but pets were not common in Europe until the 1970's. Always a favorite with the indigenous people of its native habitat, the sun conure is now popular in the pet industry worldwide.
- Prospective pet owners need to remember that the sun conure has a very loud and penetrating voice. Nearby neighbors have been known to complain about the noisy antics of this colorful bird.

STATUS:

Like many other parrot species, this animal's numbers are declining due to deforestation and the pet trade.

theZOO
LOUISVILLE



photo: C. Jerry Abraham

Order:	Psittaciformes
Family:	Psittacidae
Genus:	Aratinga
Species:	solsitalis