

**Songbird  
ReMix**

# Parrots

OF THE  
WORLD



**VOLUME 7: PARROTTLETS of the WORLD**

**Avian Models for 3D Applications**  
by Ken Gilliland

# Songbird ReMix Parrots

## Volume 7: Parrotlets of the World

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# Songbird ReMix Parrots

## Volume 7: Parrotlets of the World

### Introduction

Parrotlets are a group of the smallest New World parrot species, comprising several genera, namely *Forpus*, *Nannopsittaca*, and *Touit*. They have stocky builds and short tails and are endemic to Middle and South America. They resemble the lovebirds of Africa in size, body shape and behavior and have sometimes been referred to as South American lovebirds, but are not closely related.

In the wild, parrotlets travel in flocks ranging in size from a few to over a hundred birds. They form lifelong, tight pair bonds with their chosen mates. They are feisty birds for their size and have no trouble standing up to intruders much larger than them, including humans.

This set includes all the species of Parrotlets in all three genera; *Forpus*, *Nannopsittaca*, and *Touit* (19 nominate species with male and female markings). There are two versions of this set for native support in Poser and DAZ Studio. Materials have been tuned to support Iray, 3Delight, Superfly and Firefly renderers.

### Overview and Use

The set is located within the **Animals : Songbird ReMix** folder. Here is where you will find a number of folders, such as **Bird Library**, **Manuals** and **Resources**. Let's look at what is contained in these folders:

- **Bird Library:** This folder holds the actual species and poses for the "premade" birds. Birds are placed into a "type" folder (such as "Birds of Prey (Order Falconiformes)" which for example would hold falcons, hawks and eagles). The birds for this set can be found in the following folder(s):
  - **Parrots and Cockatoos (Order Psittaciformes)**
- **Manuals:** Contains a link to the online manual for the set.
- **Props:** Contains any props that might be included in the set
- **Resources:** Items in this folder are for creating and customizing your birds
  - **Bird Base Models:** This folder has the blank, untextured model(s) used in this set. These models are primarily for users who wish to experiment with poses or customize their own species of bird. When using physical renderers such as Iray and Superfly, SubD should be turned to at least "3". For DAZ Studios 3Delight renders, the SubD must be turned from the "High Resolution" setting to the "Base" setting (otherwise some areas will render incorrectly transparent).



## Poser Use

Select **Figures** in the **Runtime** Folder and go to the **Animals : Songbird ReMix** folder. Select the bird from the renderer *Firefly or Superfly* folder you want and simply click it to load. Some birds in the Songbird ReMix series may load with attached parts (*Conformers*) such as tail or crest extensions. Some of these parts have specific morphs. You will need to click on the attached part to access those controls. Associated poses can be found in the same folder- **Bird Library : (Type) : Poses**.

## DAZ Studio Use

Go to the **Animals : Songbird ReMix** folder. Select the bird from the renderer (*3Delight or Iray*) folder you want and simply click it to load. Some birds in the Songbird ReMix series may load with attached parts (*Conformers*) such as tail or crest extensions. Some of these parts have specific morphs. You will need to click on the attached part to access those controls. Associated poses can be found in the same folder- **Bird Library : (Type) : Poses**. **Note:** Using the "Apply this Character to the currently selected Figure(s)" option **will not** properly apply the correct scaling to the bird selected. It is better to delete the existing character first and load the one you want to use.

## Physical-based Rendering

**Iray** and **Superfly** requires more CPU and memory horsepower than the legacy renderers because of ray-trace bounces and higher resolution meshes needed for displacement. Poser's **Superfly** renderer will require that the "Min Transparent Bounces" be set to **at least 16** and that the "Max Transparent Bounces" be set to **at least 32** in render settings. Superfly renders may show artifacts in the head area. This is a known Poser issue and may be addressed in the future. Increasing the SubD may minimize this issue. Using the Physical Renderer Fix morphs (in the **Corrective Actions** folder) may also help.

**Iray renders** with certain poses can cause black artifacts to appear (especial in the head area). This is caused by the Iray renderer dislike of very close geometry planes being bunched which are common in the birds "Fluff" feathers. A series of "**Hide Fluff**" morphs have been added to the DAZ Studio version (in the **Corrective Actions** folder) to minimize this issue. You can either use the "Hide All Fluff" dial which removes all Fluff Transparency layers on the bird or selectively pick the dials that will turn off just certain areas.

## Users of Other "Parrots of the World" Volumes

Beginning with Volume 5, the **Parrots and Cockatoos (Order Psittaciformes)** folders were re-arranged to accommodate additional volume of parrots from new sets. The included file, "**SBRM\_Parrot\_Library\_Changes.pdf**" goes over these changes.

For purchasers of "**Parrots of the World v1**", the "**Yellow-faced Parrotlet**" has been improved with this volume and split into m/f versions. Delete the old Volume 1 file.

## Where to find your birds

Type Folder	Bird Species
Parrots and Cockatoos (Order Psittaciformes)	All Parrots

## Where to find your poses

Type Folder	For what species?
Parrots and Cockatoos (Order Psittaciformes)	All Parrots

## Posing & Shaping Considerations

This volume has various species, so when using generic poses not every pose will work perfectly with every bird. You may find that some minor alteration on the stock poses may be warranted.

Here are some of the most common alterations you may need to make:

- Birds will not be flat on the zero plane due to leg size and overall scale.

### Specific Bird Controls

There are several controls with the **Action Controls** section of the model that are specific to certain species of bird.

- Under **Fluff Controls** (*in Creation Controls*):
  - These controls move the feathers on each side of the cheek towards the bill.
- **Raise Upper Beak** (*in Action Controls*):
  - This morph is a “one size fits all” control. Because of the variety of beak shapes. It may not work with all birds.

### IK Concerns

Some poses may go askew when IK is turned on. By default, Poser’s IK feature is turned off when loading a bird. To turn it on, select the “Figure” category from the main tool bar and “Use Inverse Kinematics” from the submenu.

By default, DAZ Studio’s IK feature is turned on when loading a bird. This will cause the thigh and shin rotations change when the character is moved. The **CTRL K** keypress will turn IK on and off in DAZ Studio. IK doesn’t work that well in Studio, so I suggest selecting the character in the **Scene tab** and simply deleting the two IK body parts to remove IK.

# **Songbird ReMix Parrots**

## **Volume 7: Parrotlets of the World**

# **Field Guide**

### ***Forpus***

*Mexican Parrotlet*  
*Green-rumped Parrotlet*  
*Cobalt-rumped Parrotlet*  
*Turquoise-winged Parrotlet*  
*Riparian Parrotlet*  
*Spectacled Parrotlet*  
*Dusky-billed Parrotlet*  
*Pacific Parrotlet*  
*Yellow-faced Parrotlet*

### ***Touit***

*Lilac-tailed Parrotlet*  
*Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet*  
*Red-fronted Parrotlet*  
*Blue-fronted Parrotlet*  
*Sapphire-rumped Parrotlet*  
*Brown-backed Parrotlet*  
*Golden-tailed Parrotlet*  
*Spot-winged Parrotlet*

### ***Nannopsittaca***

*Tepui Parrotlet*  
*Manu Parrotlet*

**Common Name:** Mexican Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Forpus cyanopygius*

**Size:** 5.1-5.5 inches (13-14 cm)

**Habitat:** North and Central America; endemic to western Mexico. Their range extends from southern Sonora to Colima. This species is the northernmost member of the genus *Forpus*. Though they are non-migratory, they wander throughout their range to follow the blooming and growth patterns of the plants they prefer to feed on.

Their natural habitats are subtropical or tropical dry scrublands, deciduous forests, open grasslands with scattered trees, heavily degraded former forest, plantations, and woodlands along watercourses. They are not found at altitudes higher than 1,300 m (4,300 ft) above sea level.



**Status:** Near Threatened. **Global Population:** >50,000 mature adults with a decreasing population trend. It is decreasing due to a combination of the illegal hunting and trapping of wild individuals and habitat loss. Based on records created before 1995, there were approximately 208,000 individuals in Mexico. According to records from 1996 to 2013, around 107,000 remain, which represents a 48.4% drop in population. It is estimated that up to 8,000 individuals are illegally captured for the pet trade every year. There are no current conservation measures in place, but many areas across the Mexican parrotlet's range are already protected. Because of their protections, they cannot legally be captured from the wild and sold as pets, so the captive population relies on breeding programs.

**Diet:** Seeds, grass seeds, berries, and Ficus (fig) fruits, which may be ripe or half-ripe.

They forage both on the ground and in trees and shrubs. They are known to wander frequently in search of food, making regional population estimates difficult. They are highly social and gregarious birds, most often found in flocks of 4–30 individuals made up of pairs and family groups. When flying in these flocks, they fly quickly and in

relatively tight formations. They create a variety of squeaky, excited-sounding chirps while perched or in flight. While feeding, they make occasional squawks.

**Breeding:** Parrotlets exhibit sexual dimorphism: males have light turquoise feathers along the leading edges of their wings and on their rumps and primaries, secondaries, and coverts; females are entirely yellow-green and slightly duller. Some male individuals have faint turquoise feathers behind their eyes and around their heads. Juveniles look like adults, though young males have green feathers mixed in with their blue ones.

They usually nest in tree cavities, cacti, and other similar structures. They typically breed between May and July, and lay clutches of up to 3 small, white eggs. They are typically incubated for at least 19 days, and chicks fledge 4–5 weeks after hatching. Mexican parrotlets can live to be over 20 years old.

**Cool Facts:** It is also known as the turquoise-rumped parrotlet or the Mexican blue-rumped parrotlet.

There are two subspecies:

- *F. c. aestiva*. The nominate subspecies is found in eastern Brazil from western Pernambuco and southern Piauí southward to southeastern Mato Grosso and western Paraná.
- *F. c. insularis*. This race is called “Grayson’s” or the “Tres Marias” parrotlet. Compared to the nominate species, males have darker green upperparts and bluer underparts. Their turquoise markings are darker. Females are darker green. Individuals are usually slightly larger than those of the nominate species.



**Common Name:** Green-rumped Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Forpus passerinus*

**Size:** 4.7-5.1 inches (12–13 cm)

**Habitat:** South America; found in northern Colombia, the Netherlands Antilles and from northern Venezuela east to Brazil.

Parrotlets prefer semi-open lowland areas such as gallery forest edge, second growth, thornbush and cactus scrub, and mangroves.



**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown mature adults with a declining population trend. Although these birds are heavily traded in Venezuela, their population remains stable and may possibly even be increasing in response to the continued clearance of forest throughout its range.

**Diet:** Mainly grass seeds, as well as berries, fruit, leafbuds and blossoms.

Grass seeds are obtained by settling on grass stems and allowing weight to bend seedhead to ground.

**Breeding:** They are sexual dimorphic. It is overall green, lighter on forehead, cheeks, under-parts, back and rump (this last brightest, but sometimes washed blue. It has a gray tinge on hind-neck. The primary coverts and under wing-coverts are dark blue, secondaries blue; greater coverts pale blue. Female replaces blue markings with green, forehead more yellowish. Immature like adult.

Green-rumped Parrotlets nest in hollows in stumps, tree trunks, and arboreal termitariums.

**Cool Facts:** There are five subspecies:

- *F. p. passerinus*. The nominate subspecies is found in the Guianas, mainly near coast.
- *F. p. viridissimus*. This race is endemic to northern Colombia (Norte de Santander), northern Venezuela and Trinidad. It is darker green throughout than the nominate.
- *F. p. cyanophanes*. This race is endemic to northern Colombia (Guajira and northern Cesar). It has more blue on its closed wing than the nominate.
- *F. p. cyanochlorus*. This race is endemic to the upper Branco River, in Roraima, northwestern Brazil. It is like Race *passerinus* but the female is more yellowish.
- *F. p. deliciosus*. This race is endemic to the lower Amazon (eastern from Madeira River) and Amapá, in northern Brazil. It has a pale blue tinge on rump, darker blue on secondaries, and the female has a strong yellow tinge on its forehead.

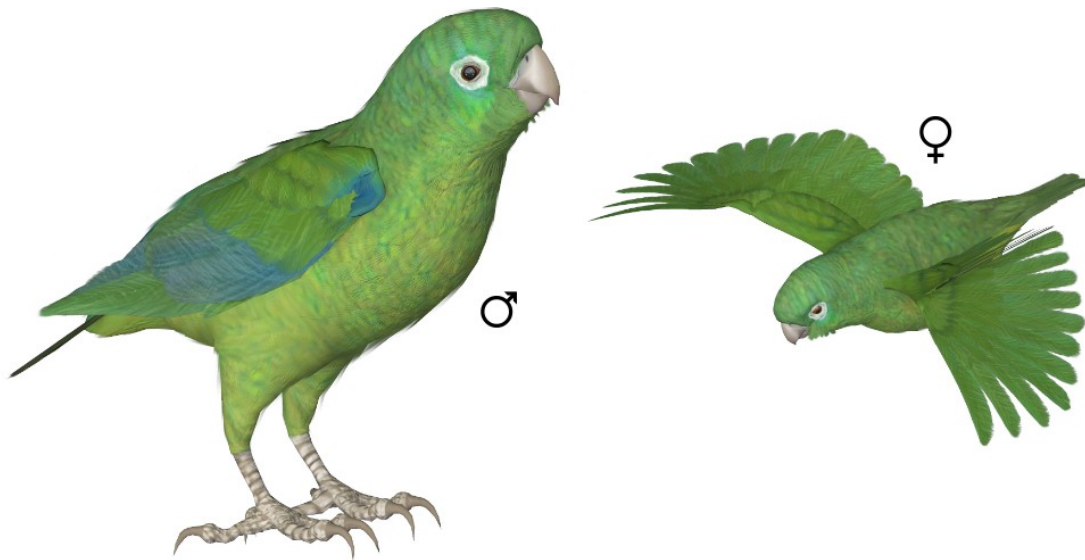
**Common Name:** Cobalt-rumped Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Forpus xanthopterygius*

**Size:** 4.7-5.1 inches (12–13 cm)

**Habitat:** South America; it is found from northeastern Brazil, southward and westward, through Paraguay and northeastern Argentina, to southeastern Peru and eastern Bolivia.

It frequents the center of range gallery forests, light riparian growth, matorral (patchy, varied riverine thickets), lowland rainforest edge and secondary growth, but at edges of range it also occupies savanna, palm groves and semi-arid scrub as well as pastures, parkland and suburbs. It ranges up to 1200 m in SE Brazil

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown mature adults with a declining population trend. It is considered common over most of range, and possibly expanding numbers with fragmentation of Amazonian forest. It is considered locally abundant in northern Bahia and uncommon (and perhaps declining) in northwestern Colombia, sparse in southeastern Peru and Bolivia. It is possibly declining in Paraguay, where it was reported common at start of century and is now generally considered uncommon to rare. Pet trade appears low, except in Bolivia where, despite being illegal, potentially large numbers appear to be taken.



**Diet:** Mainly fruit and seeds of plants in secondary vegetation, including grass seed taken from ground; specific items include seeds of *Mikania*, *Cecropia glazoui*, *Trema micrantha*, flowers of *Ambrosia polystacha*, *Marcgravia polyantha*, and fruits of *Cereus jamacaru*.

It occasionally forages on ground, regularly in open. It has been observed ingesting clay on external walls of Rufous Hornero (*Furnarius rufus*) nests. The reason for which is unknown, but is presumably either to take minerals or to test the suitability of the nest for their own use. It sometimes forms flocks of up to 50 individuals.

**Breeding:** It is principally a green parrotlet, that is slightly lighter and yellower below. There is bright emerald green around eye. At the bend of wing, primary- and secondary-coverts, under-wing-coverts, lower back and rump there is blue coloring. Female replaces all blue with green.

Active nests in October and January, southeastern Brazil, and in March, northeastern Brazil. They nest in holes in tree (e.g. *Cecropia*), in termite nest, fence-post or in disused nest of Rufous Hornero (*Furnarius rufus*), with grass stems used to provide flooring. It lays 4–7 eggs. Incubation is only performed by the female and lasts about 18 days. The nestling period lasts about 4 weeks.

**Cool Facts:** There are three subspecies.

- *F. x. flavescens*. This race is found from Southeast Peru to east-central Bolivia. This subspecies has a yellowish tinge, and the male has the blue areas paler.
- *F. x. flavissimus*. It is found from Northeast Brazil, from Maranhão to Rio Grande do Norte and northern Bahia. It has the forehead, cheeks, and throat lemon-yellow (male), and a yellowish face (female).
- *F. x. xanthopterygius*. This nominate race is found in Eastern Brazil (from Tocantins and northern Bahia south to Santa Catarina), eastern Paraguay, and northeastern Argentina.

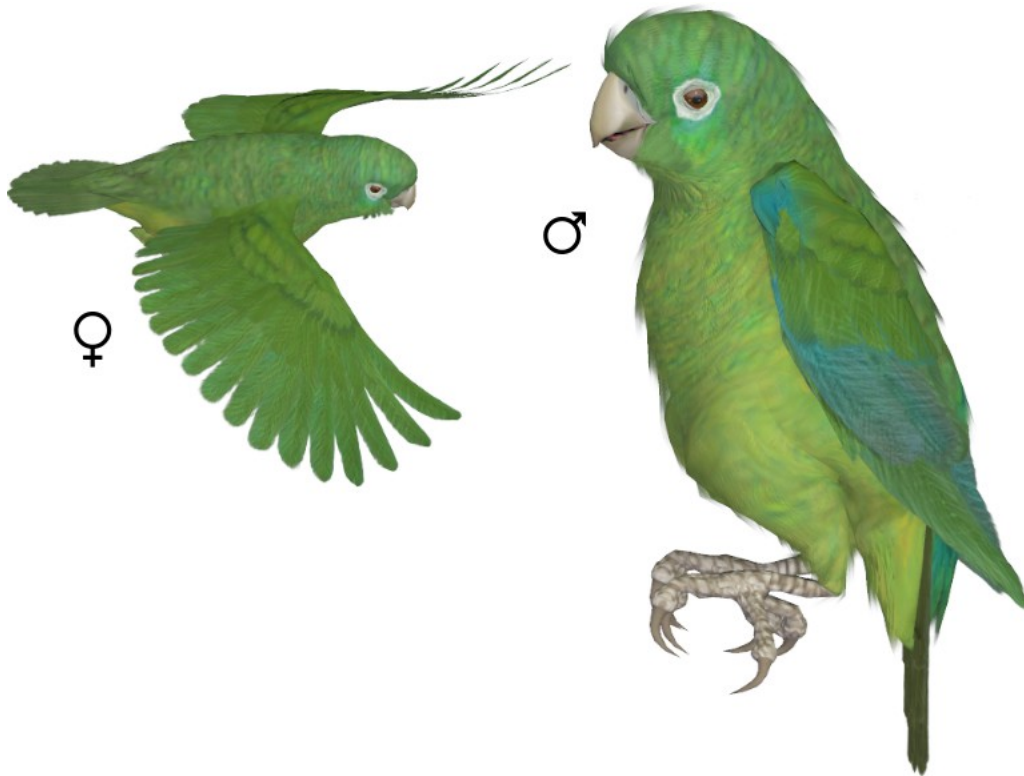
**Common Name:** Turquoise-winged Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Forpus spengeli*

**Size:** 4.7-5.1 inches (12–13 cm)

**Habitat:** Central America; endemic to northern Colombia from Sucre across lower Magdalena Valley to the western and southern base of the Santa Marta Mountains.

The species generally inhabits semi-arid country, with second growth, scrub and scattered trees, principally in the lowlands.

**Status:** Least Concern to Threatened. **Global Population:** Unknown mature adults with a decreasing population trend. Overall range is comparatively small, and numbers have perhaps declined but no estimate of population size or knowledge of specific threats, although the species is presumably trapped in relatively small numbers like *F. xanthopterygius*.



**Diet:** Mainly fruit and seeds of plants in secondary vegetation, including grass seed taken from ground; specific items include seeds of *Mikania*, *Cecropia glazioui*, *Trema micrantha*, flowers of *Ambrosia polystacha*, *Marcgravia polyantha*, and fruits of *Cereus jamacaru*.

It occasionally forages on ground, regularly in open. It has been observed ingesting clay on external walls of Rufous Hornero (*Furnarius rufus*) nests. The reason for which is unknown, but is presumably either to take minerals or to test the suitability of the nest for their own use. It sometimes forms flocks of up to 50 individuals.



**Breeding:** Sexes are dimorphic. It is green overall, with slightly more yellow-green tones on the under-parts. Males also have blue on the bend of the wing, under-wing-coverts, lower back and rump. Females lack any blue, and instead are completely green.

The breeding biology and natural history of this attractive little parrotlet remain extremely poorly known..

**Cool Facts:** It was, until recently, lumped with both Riparian Parrotlet (*Forpus crassirostris*) and Cobalt-rumped Parrotlet (*F. xanthopterygius*) as the “Blue-winged Parrotlet”.

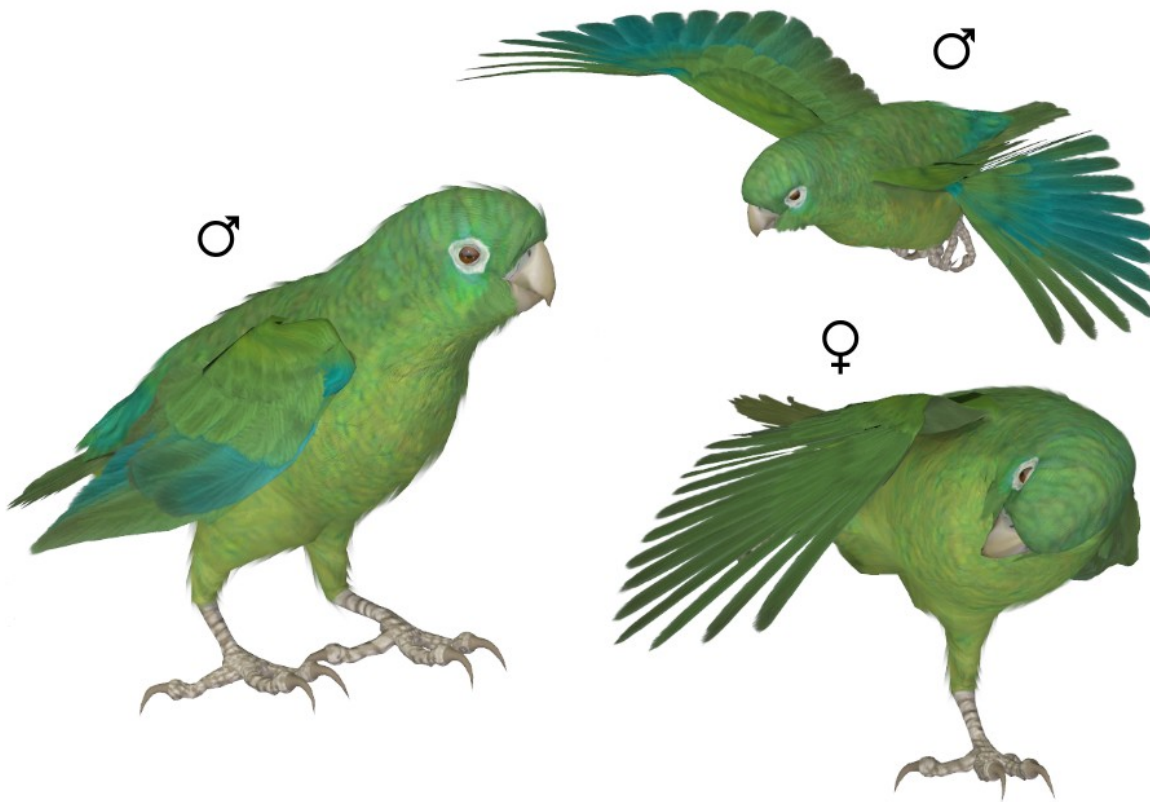
**Common Name:** Riparian Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Forpus crassirostris*

**Size:** 4.7-5.1 inches (12–13 cm)

**Habitat:** North America; endemic to extreme southeastern Colombia, eastern Ecuador and northeastern Peru, to western Brazil, eastward to Rio Madeira.

It is seen in lowland rainforest edges and secondary growth, mostly below 500 m.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown amount mature adults with a decreasing population trend. Some habitat destruction and illegal trade has affected the species.



**Diet:** Fruits, seeds, blossoms and leaf buds, species including *Cecropia*, *Ficus*, *Annona*, Citrus and *Rubus*, plus cultivated fruit crops.

Like all members of the genus *Forpus*, riparian parrotlets are highly gregarious and are often seen in flocks of up to 100 birds.

**Breeding:** Their bodies are mostly yellow-green. Eyes are dark brown and beaks and feet are light peach. They are sexually dimorphic: males have blue rumps and lower backs with blue feathers along the leading edges of their wings and blue secondaries; their primary coverts are blue-gray. Females have no blue feathers and a yellow-green belly.

They nest in tree cavities or similar places. They have been known to use the abandoned nests of rufous horned larks and other unrelated species. Females lay 3-7 small white eggs, which are incubated for approximately 18 days before hatching.

**Cool Facts:** According to most studies, the riparian parrotlet is considered a subspecies of the Cobalt-rumped parrotlet as *Forpus xanthopterygius crassirostris*. However, there are some studies that argue that its morphological differences support the existence of the large-billed parrotlet as its own species, *F. crassirostris*.

There are two subspecies:

- *F.c. crassirostris*. The male has paler blue markings; pale gray/purple primary coverts; dark purple/blue secondary coverts; smaller size. The female has less and less yellow overall.
- *F.c. olallae*: The male appears like the nominate subspecies, but has darker purple/blue wings, rump and lower back. It also has paler under-wing coverts. The female looks exactly like the nominate.

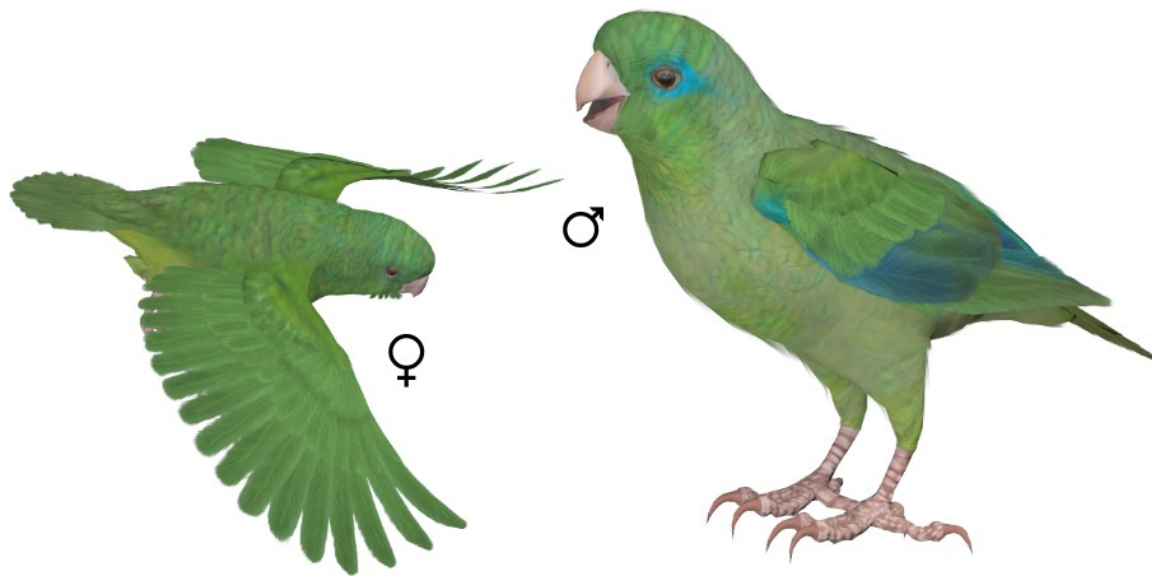
**Common Name:** Spectacled Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Forpus conspicillatus*

**Size:** 4.7-5.1 inches (12–13 cm)

**Habitat:** Central and South America; it is found in eastern Panama and north-central Colombia from northern Antioquia to Cesar and Magdalena Valley through central Colombia (Meta) east to western Venezuela (along Rio Meta, in southern Apure) and western Colombia from the middle Cauca Valley south to southwestern Nariño..

Its habitat includes lowland evergreen forest edges, gallery forests, semi-open deciduous woodlands, llanos, secondary growth, thorn scrub, pastures and clearings at elevations from 100–1800 m, occasionally to 2600 m.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 50,000 - 499,999 mature adults with a decreasing population trend. Some habitat destruction and illegal trade has affected the species in Venezuela and it is fairly uncommon in Panama, but in Colombia it has benefited from forest clearance, increasing its range and becoming abundant in many areas.



**Diet:** Grass seeds taken from ground, berries, fruits, buds and probably blossoms from bushes.

**Breeding:** It is grass green on the forehead, face and throat. It is duller on the back, wings and tail, with deep blue extending on to its lower back, rump and secondaries. It has a paler blue on its shoulders and greater wing-coverts. It has bluish-green on its under-wing-coverts and some bluish around and behind the eye. It is silvery green on its under-sides. The female lacks any blue, and is yellowish green on under-sides. Immatures are like adults, the male with less blue.

Breeding occurs from December to March in Colombia. The nest is a hole in a stump, tree, termite mound, or fence post made of bamboo (*Guadua*), and is often as low as 1–2 m from ground. 1–6 eggs are laid.

**Cool Facts:** This parrotlet has three subspecies:

- *F. c. conspicillatus*. The nominate subspecies is endemic to eastern Panama and north-central Colombia (northern Antioquia to Cesar and Magdalena Valley).
- *F. c. metae*. It is found in central Colombia (Meta) east to western Venezuela (along Rio Meta, in southern Apure). This race is more yellow green below, and the blue round eye is more reduced than the nominate.
- *F. c. caucae*. This race is found in western Colombia (from middle Cauca Valley south to southwestern Nariño).



**Common Name:** Dusky-billed Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Forpus modestus*

**Size:** 5.1 inches (13 cm)

**Habitat:** South America; endemic to eastern Colombia and southeast Venezuela as well as the Amazon Basin from Ecuador and Peru east to Brazil.

Seasonally flooded forest appears to be the most important habitat for Dusky-billed Parrotlets, but they also can be found in clearings, edge and second growth of tropical lowland rainforest.



**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown mature adults with a decreasing population trend. This species is described as 'fairly common'. This species is considered to have a medium dependency on forest habitat, and tree cover is estimated to have declined by 4.4% within its mapped range over the past 10 years. It is tentatively suspected that this loss of cover may have led to a decline of between 1-19% in the species' population size over the same time frame.

Unlike other species of parrotlet, Dusky-billed Parrotlets are not heavily captured for the pet trade and populations remain stable across most of their range.

**Diet:** Fruits and some seed.

**Breeding:** They are dark green overall with blue on the back, rump and the wings. Females have green instead of blue on the back and wings, and are paler with more yellowish under-parts.

It breeds between July, in a hole in a tree.

**Cool Facts:** There are two subspecies:

- *F. m. modestus*. The nominate subspecies is endemic to eastern Colombia (Guainía) and southern and eastern Venezuela through the Guianas (rare) to northern Brazil.
- *F. m. sclateri*. This subspecies is endemic to southeastern Colombia and northeastern Ecuador southward (including western Brazil) to eastern Peru and northern Bolivia and eastward to northern Brazil, south of Amazon Delta.

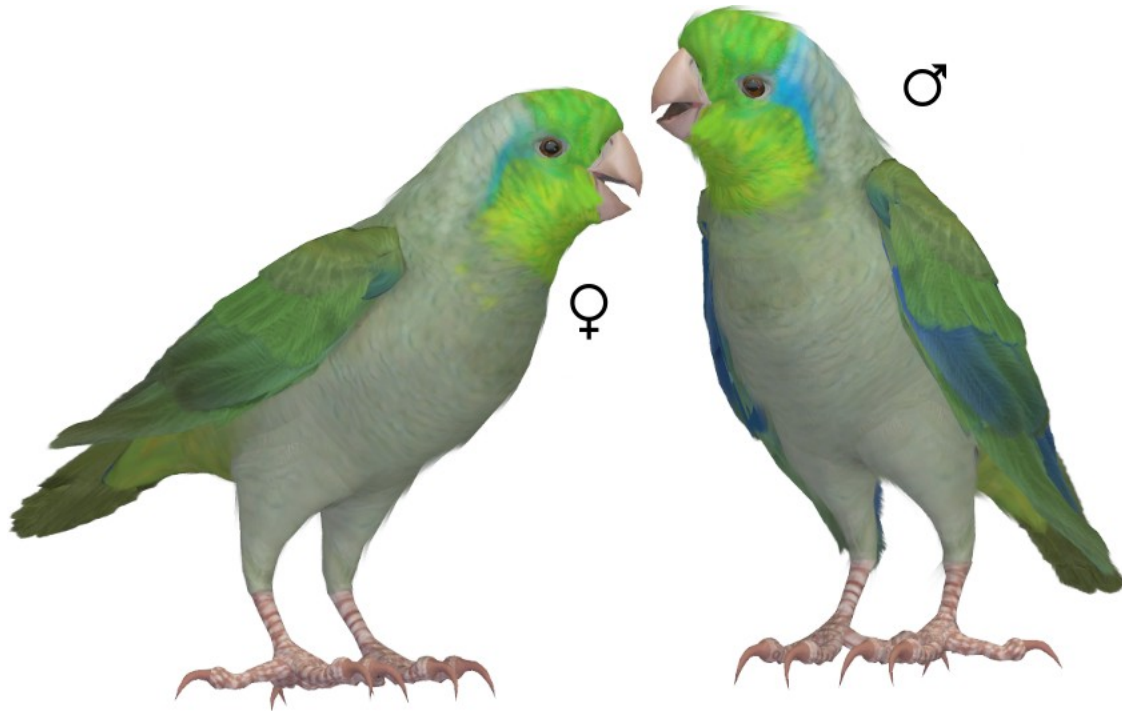
**Common Name:** Pacific Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Forpus coelestis*

**Size:** 5.1 inches (13 cm)

**Habitat:** North America; endemic to western Ecuador (western Esmeraldas) to northwestern Peru (La Libertad, Cajamarca); recently recorded in extreme southwestern Colombia (Nariño).

It is most common in dry habitats such as the desert and deciduous forest, but have spread into humid areas in response to deforestation. Pacific parrotlets are found living in flocks from 40 to 50 birds in size.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown mature adults with a decreasing population trend. It is common to abundant, and apparently able to withstand both moderate levels of pet trade collection and moderate levels of habitat conversion to agriculture, so long as some trees are left.



**Diet:** Berries are taken amid branches, cactus and Tamarindus fruits, seeds are taken from the ground. In captivity, parrotlets eat many fruits, seeds, vegetables, and herbs.

**Breeding:** Sexes are dimorphic. It is overall green with a dusty gray cast over its body. It has a bright green mask and a pinkish beak. The legs and feet are pinkish-gray. Males possess shades of blue on their wings. Blue can vary in intensity from a bright cobalt blue to a pale, almost lavender shade of blue. Male parrotlets also have blue streaks behind the eyes which is often referred to as "eyeshadow;" as well as blue rumps. Female parrotlets have no blue on the wings whatsoever but can have blue eye streaks as well as a blue rump.

Although the “in the wild” color of this parrotlet is green, they also have a rainbow of mutations thanks to hybridization within the pet trade. Those colors include: American Yellow, Green Marbled, American Yellow Marbled, Green Fallow, Green Fallow Marbled, American Yellow Fallow, American Yellow Marbled Fallow, Blue, American White, Blue Marbled, American White Marbled, Blue Fallow, American White Fallow, Blue Marbled Fallow, American White Marbled Fallow, Turquoise, American Turquoise, Turquoise Marbled, American Turquoise Marbled, Turquoise Fallow, American Turquoise Fallow, Turquoise Fallow Marbled, American Turquoise Fallow Marbled, Grey, American Grey, Grey Marbled, American Grey Marbled, Grey Fallow, American Grey Fallow, Grey Fallow Marbled, American Grey Fallow Marbled, Albino, Lutino Creamino, Cinnamon, Misty, Dark Factor, and Pied.

Breeding occurs from January to May in Ecuador. It nests in any natural or artificial cavity, from holes in trees, branches, fence posts and telephone poles to the ends of pipes and bamboo rafters. It has also been seen nesting in old mud nests of Pale-legged Hornero (*Furnarius leucopus*) and large stick nests of Necklaced Spinetail (*Synallaxis stictothorax*) and Fasciated Wren (*Campylorhynchus fasciatus*). Each clutch has 4–6 white eggs, which are incubated for an average of 17-18 days and fledging after 30 days.

**Cool Facts:** Parrotlets, in general are feisty, affectionate, and willful. The Pacific parrotlet, in particular, does not understand that it is a tiny bird, and has no trouble challenging other animals, or even, humans. They can be quite aggressive when in a captive environment.

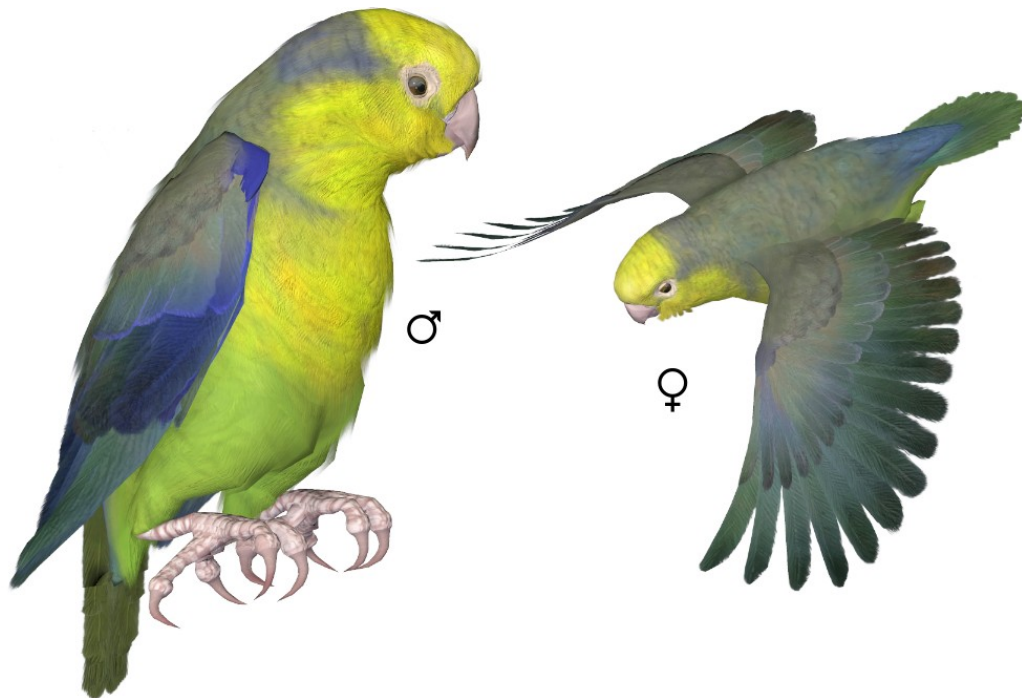
**Common Name:** Yellow-faced Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Forpus xanthops*

**Size:** 5.9 inches (15 cm)

**Habitat:** South America. North-Central Peru.

Found in arid woodland, riparian thickets and desert scrub at 800-2,750 m, but mostly at 1,000-1,600 m.

**Status:** Vulnerable. **Global Population:** 250-999 mature individuals. The species suffered a serious decline in the 1980s due to the Pet Trade. In 1988, only 168 individuals were counted during extensive surveys. It appears to be recovering somewhat following a ban on trade; however, there is little evidence of a substantial recovery.



**Diet:** Feeds on the seeds of balsam trees and cacti. It will feed on ripen wheat.

It has been observed on the ground where was feeding on grass seed and other fallen seed. They are very gregarious as most parrots are. They forage in cactus-dominated savannahs, in open landscapes with light forests with deciduous trees. They feed early in the morning or late at night.

**Breeding:** It has a yellow crown and face with a bluish postocular stripe merging into bluish grey of hindcrown and nape, this in turn, merges into olive gray on sides of neck, back and wings. The lower back, rump, upper tail-coverts and large patch on wing are dark blue and paler on secondary coverts, The under parts are greenish yellow with the



under wing-coverts being dark blue. The tail is green. Females have their backs and rumps a more pale blue and less blue in wings. Immatures are undescribed.

Breeding season begins in March-April, and nesting takes place in natural dirt and rock walls, in colonies of up to 70 birds.

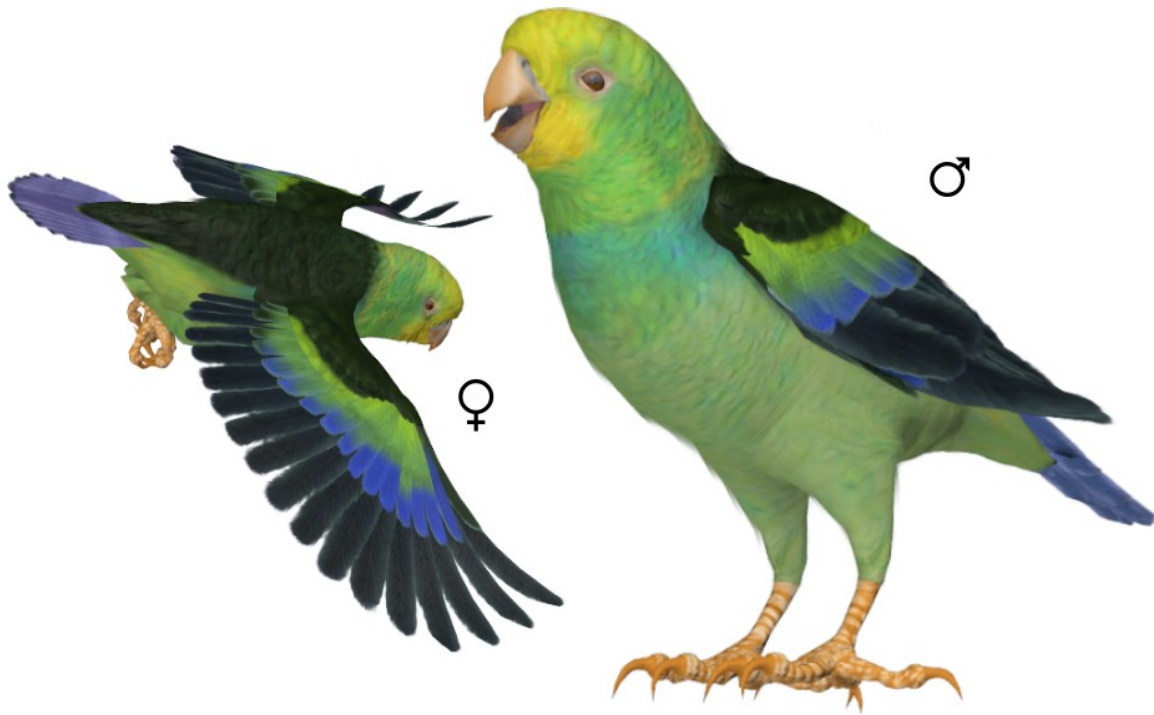
**Cool Facts:** Its call is a passerine-like “zit” or bi-syllabic “zidit”. This call is given both in flight and when perched. Groups in flight call continuously, producing a relatively loud tinkling twittering. When perched, calls are more subdued.

**Common Name:** Lilac-tailed Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Touit batavicus*

**Size:** 5.5 inches (14 cm)

**Habitat:** South America; it is found discontinuously from northern Colombia (Santa Marta Mountains) and northern Venezuela to Trinidad, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana eastward to the border with (and possibly in) Amapá, Brazil. The violet-tailed parrotlet is non-migratory but appears to be somewhat nomadic.

It is found in lowland deciduous forest extending into cloud-forest at 900–1700 m in the western portion of its range; elsewhere in undisturbed and disturbed primary forest, secondary forest, although on Trinidad coming to suburban area to roost in large eucalypt in garden..



**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown amount mature adults with a decreasing population trend. It is relatively common on Trinidad and is considered heavily traded in Venezuela, but another source describes it as little kept in captivity owing to high mortality, perhaps related to diverse natural alimentary regime. It is present in Henri Pittier National Park, Venezuela.

**Diet:** Flowers, nectar, buds, berries, seeds and fruits, apparently mostly taken in the early morning.

**Breeding:** Sexes are dimorphic. Its head is yellow with its ear-coverts and sides of the neck green. The nape is scaled dusky while its back and wings are black with the greater wing-coverts a yellowish green edged in green-blue and carpal red. The tail is purplish rose with a black sub-terminal bar. The throat and belly are green with the

breast a pale blue. The under-wing-coverts are blue. The female has flanks that are duller than the male. The immature is undescribed.

Fledglings have been found in December in Surinam and January–March on Trinidad. It nests in arboreal termitarium or hollow limb, laying 5–6 eggs.

**Cool Facts:** The lilac-tailed parrotlet was described by the French polymath Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon in 1780 in his *Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux*.

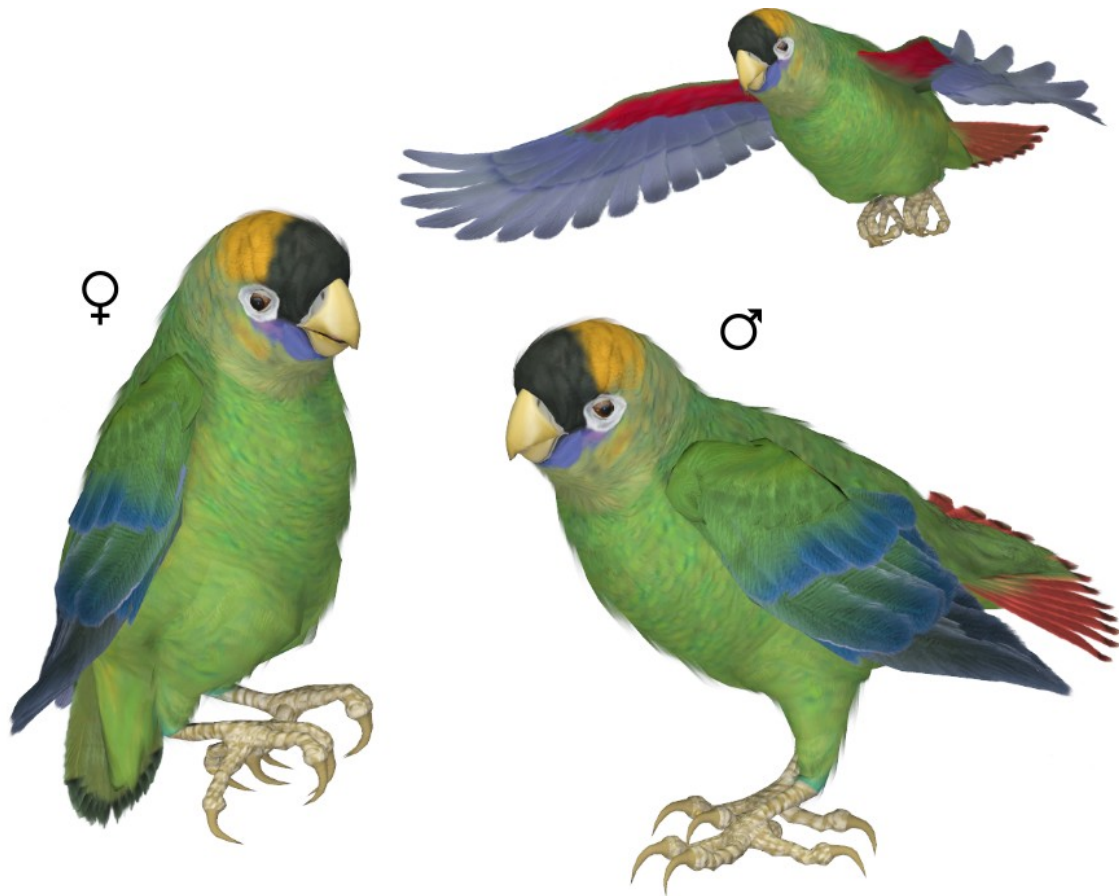
The violet-tailed parrotlets most common calls are a slightly nasal "ryee" or "nee-ryee". Large flocks in flight make a continuous, monotonous, noisy chattering. It also makes a very nasal "naaee" or "rrhaaee" when perched.

**Common Name:** Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Touit huetii*

**Size:** 5.9-6.3 inches (15-16 cm)

**Habitat:** South America; It is endemic to southern and northeastern Venezuela and adjacent northern Guyana, perhaps also Suriname. Disjunctly, it is found in east-central Colombia and eastern Ecuador, and eastern Peru to northern Bolivia; and eastern Amazonian Brazil from the Aripuanã River eastward to the Tocantins River, and in northern Pará, with a single sighting from Manaus.

It is found in humid lowlands, chiefly terra firme forests, but also seasonally flooded várzea forest, extending usually only to 900 m but at least occasionally up to 1300 m, and considered commoner in upper tropical forest, Peru; in Venezuela near rivers.



**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown amount mature adults with a decreasing population trend. Although apparently uncommon to rare, this bird is highly unobtrusive and lives in remote areas, so may be commoner than records indicate; or it may be temporally patchy, reflecting nomadism (which might explain the large flocks reported in Guyana). Recently, it was discovered within two protected areas (Faro State Forest and Maicuru Biological Reserve) in northern Pará, Brazil, where not previously

expected to occur. If it is declining, this is likely to be for natural and not human-related reasons. Little pet trade recorded.

**Diet:** Flowers, nectar, buds, berries, seeds and fruits, apparently mostly taken in the early morning.

**Breeding:** Its body is mostly green, darker above than below. The front of its face is dark with a white eye ring and its crown and nape olive-brown. Its upper wing coverts are dark blue, its primaries black, and its carpal bar, under-wing coverts, and axillaries red. The male's tail has green central feathers and red outer ones with black tips; females' tails are all greenish yellow with black tips. Both sexes' under tail coverts are yellow. Immature birds are like adult females but with a green face.

It breeds in April in southern Venezuela, and in northern Mato Grosso (Rio Aripuanã), Brazil, September through December.

**Cool Facts:** It is also known as the Red-winged parrotlet or Huet's parrotlet. Despite that several highly disjunct populations of the Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet are known, the species is currently considered to be monotypic.



**Common Name:** Red-fronted Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Touit costaricensis*

**Size:** 5.9 to 6.7 inches (15-17 cm)

**Habitat:** Central and South America; it is found from western Costa Rica into western Panama as far as Coclé Province, and is more numerous on the Caribbean slope than the Pacific.

In the dry season it inhabits very wet and cool evergreen montane forest at elevations up to 3,000 m (9,800 ft); in the wet season it moves to lower elevation rainforest.



**Status:** Near Threatened. **Global Population:** <12,000 mature adults with a decreasing population trend. The IUCN originally assessed this parrotlet as “Near Threatened”, then in 2000 as “Vulnerable”, and since 2021 again as “Near Threatened”. It has a somewhat restricted range. Habitat loss is low within its range, particularly in the highlands, and isn’t a large focus within the pet trade so the species isn’t currently facing substantial threats.

**Diet:** Fruit; plants of families *Melastomataceae* and *Ericaceae* are known contributors.

It typically forages on trees and epiphytes in the canopy.

**Breeding:** Its body is mostly green, darker above than below. Its forehead ("front") and much of its face are red with a bit of blue on the latter and a white eye ring. Its crown and hindneck are bronze-green and its throat yellowish. It has much red on the wing's "wrist", and its primaries are black with green outer edges. Its underwing coverts are yellow. Its

tail has a square end; the central tail feathers are black and the others yellow with black tips. Males have more red on their face than females and immatures have almost none.

It breeds in the dry season, laying 2–3 eggs.

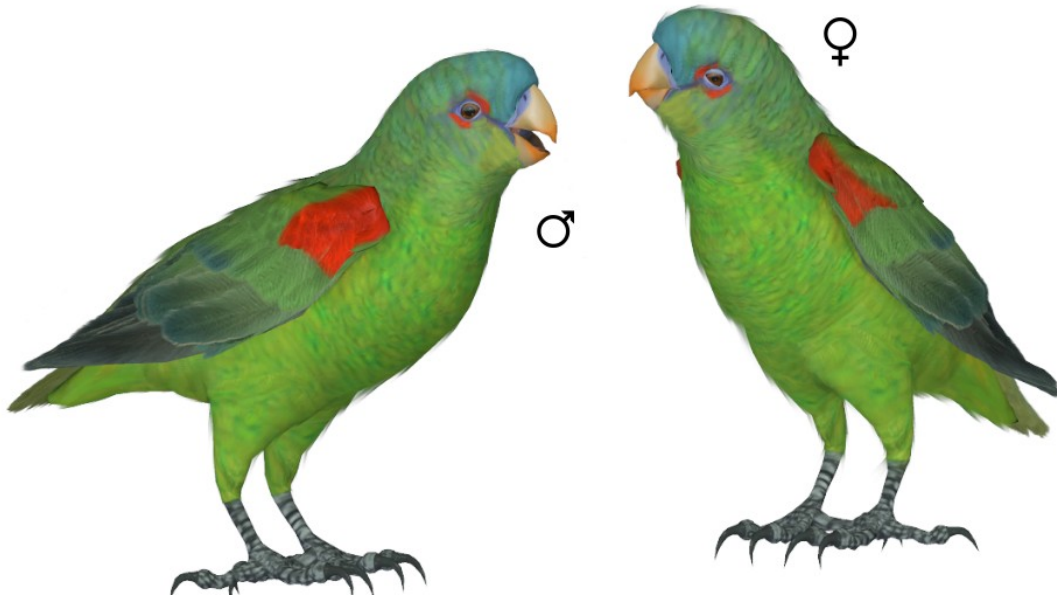
**Cool Facts:** The red-fronted parrotlet has been treated by some authors as a subspecies of the Blue-fronted parrotlet (*T. dilectissimus*), and the two are now considered a superspecies.

**Common Name:** Blue-fronted Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Touit dilectissimus*

**Size:** 6.7 to 7.1 inches (17-18 cm)

**Habitat:** Central and South America; it occurs from eastern Panama to northern Colombia and western Venezuela, and south to southwestern Ecuador; it is the only species of *Touit* parrotlet that occurs in this region.

This parrot is dependent on cloud forests and tall second growth in foothills and lower highlands, extending to lowlands at least seasonally, 100–1700 m, but mostly 500–1400 m in Andes; 1300–1600 m in Venezuela.



**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown amount of mature adults with a decreasing population trend. Uncommon to rare; part of range in northern Colombia now deforested, and suffers from habitat loss within a small range, Venezuela; however, much of its habitat remains with almost no pet trade threats, and it is relatively secure.

**Diet:** Small fruits. Recorded in Ecuador feeding on fruits of *Clusia alata* and *Chrysochlamys macrophylla* (both in family *Clusiaceae*)

**Breeding:** Sexes are dimorphic. A mostly green parrotlet with a crown that is bronze-green except for blue forecrown. Its lores and subocular streak red, both bordered blue below. The eye-ring is grayish. There is a red on patch on the wings, primaries are mostly black with green outer edges. The under-wing-coverts are green-yellowish. The middle tail feathers are black, otherwise green-yellow tipped in black. The female has less red in wing, and a dull green on its head. The immature is like the female with reduced facial pattern.

Breeding begins in June in Colombia and May–June in Panama. They nest in an arboreal termitarium. A nest in Colombia was about 7m above the ground and the building started in December with the eggs hatched in March.

**Cool Facts:** The plumage is similar to that of the Red-fronted Parrotlet (*T. costaricensis*) of Costa Rica and western Panama, and in some earlier classifications these were considered to be two subspecies of a single species. Blue-fronted Parrotlet differs most conspicuously from Red-fronted by having a blue, not red, fore-crown, and by having less red on the sides of the face

**Common Name:** Sapphire-rumped Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Touit purpuratus*

**Size:** 6.7 to 7.1 inches (17-18 cm)

**Habitat:** South America; it occurs from southern Venezuela and the Guianas in the north south to the northeast Brazilian state of Maranhão, and west to southeast Colombia and northeast Peru.

It is found in montane evergreen forests in tepuí region, reaching to 1400 m, otherwise tropical lowland rain forest and, by apparent preference, seasonally flooded várzea forest, but also savanna woodland, forest edge and inselberg borders in Guianas, and isolated woodlots in cleared terrain..

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown amount of mature adults with a decreasing population trend. It is considered uncommon, never in large numbers, but inconspicuous, and therefore, perhaps under recorded. In northeastern Peru, it is considered rare. Several important reserves exist within its range, notably in Brazil, and the species appears never to have been traded. Some habitat loss may have affected numbers, although birds persist in partially cleared land.



**Diet:** Fruit of *Ficus*, *Clusia grandiflora*, *Pouroma guianensis*, *Astrocaryum aculeatum* and *Mauritia flexuosa*, and trees of Sapotaceae and Myrtaceae. In northeastern Peru, it has been recorded feeding on leaves, shoots and bark of *Terminalia catappa* (*Combretaceae*) as well as on dead wood.

**Breeding:** It is principally green with a brown cap and scapulars, a blue wing bend and rump, and red outer tail feather. The Female has paler scapulars and green subterminal band on outer tail. Immature like female but duller with olive rump.

Breeding begins in March in Venezuela; April and November in the Guianas. A female was seen excavating nest in November in Colombia. This nest was a hole in a dead tree in flooded forest; arboreal termitaria are also used. It lays 3–5 eggs.

**Cool Facts:** The sapphire-rumped parrotlet was described in 1781 by the English ornithologist John Latham under the English name "purple-tailed parakeet".

Subspecies and Distribution:

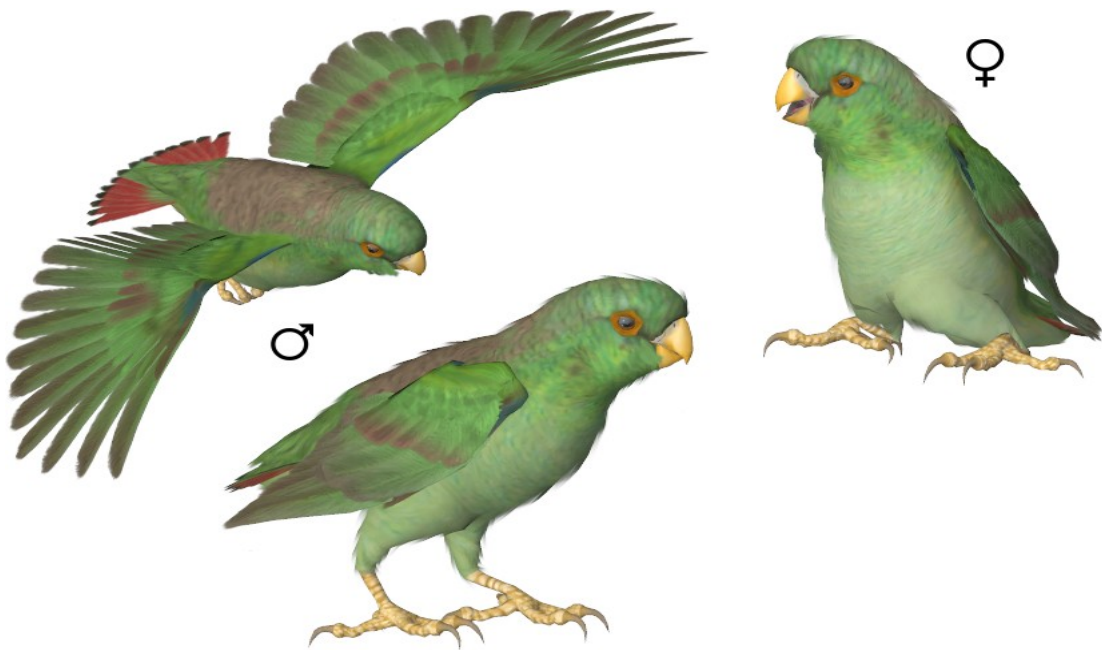
- *T. p. purpuratus*. First reported by Gmelin in 1788. The nominate race is endemic from southern Venezuela (east from Cerro Duida) through the Guianas to northern Brazil (including lower Negro River) eastward as far as Maranhão.
- *T. p. viridiceps*. First reported by Chapman in 1929. It is endemic to southern Venezuela (south from Cerro Duida) into northern Brazil on upper Negro River, and west to southeast Colombia, eastern Ecuador and northeastern Peru. Its crown is green.

**Common Name:** Brown-backed Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Touit melanonotus*

**Size:** 6 inches (15 cm)

**Habitat:** South America; it is confined to south-eastern Brazil (Bahia, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo), but is a vagrant to Rio de Janeiro, and from São Paulo to south to Ilha do Cardoso. They have been resighted in Bahia after a century long absence.

It is mostly known from lower montane evergreen forest at 500–1,200 m (1,600–3,900 ft), but also up to 1,400 m (4,600 ft) in the Itatiaia National Park. In addition, it is found in near sea-level in Bahia and São Paulo.



**Status:** Near Threatened. **Global Population:** 2,500–10,000 mature adults with a decreasing population trend. They were never deemed common but seen as rather rare, even in the 19th century. Their inconspicuous nature and naturally low densities may contribute to the paucity of records. A resurgence in sightings since the mid-1980s, and their discovery at Espírito Santo, was due to knowledge of their calls. Agricultural conversion and deforestation for mining and plantations have historically threatened its habitats, but current key threats are urbanization, agricultural expansion, colonization, and associated road-building; although the lower montane slopes have suffered comparatively less destruction than adjacent lowlands, they have not been found at such elevations in some parts of the species' range.

**Diet:** Large leguminous seeds, fruit of *Rapanea acuminata*, *Clusia* sp. and mistletoes.



Adults pluck the fruit from the tree snipping the stalk with their bills and carry the fruit to a more secure location on a firmer branch where they open the fruit with their bills wedging it against the branch prying the seeds out with their tongue. They do not use their feet at any time in the feeding process, as some other *psittacids* do. They are mostly found in small flocks of 3–20 birds.

**Breeding:** Sexes are dimorphic. It has a dark brown mantle and back, brown ear coverts, and red outer tail with black tips. The bill is a yellowish-horn distally, grayer towards base and on cere. The iris is gray with distinctive peach-colored orbital ring and its legs are gray. The female has flanks that are duller than the male. Juveniles have paler (whitish-yellow) eye-rings and a paler, pinkish cere.

Breeding is suspected to occur from September to October.

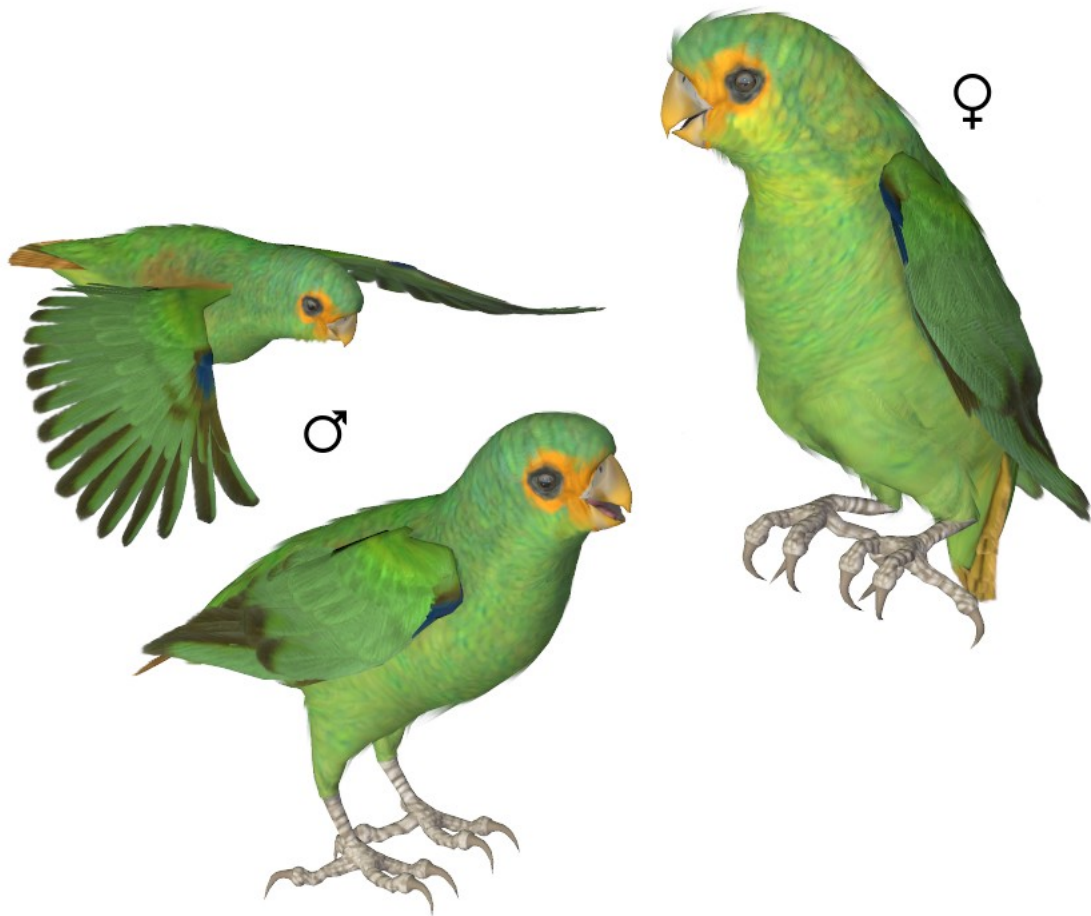
**Cool Facts:** It is also known as the black-backed parrotlet, the black-eared parrotlet, and Wied's parrotlet.

**Common Name:** Golden-tailed Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Touit surdus*

**Size:** 6.2 inches (16 cm)

**Habitat:** South America; it is endemic to coastal northeastern and eastern Brazil (Ceará; Pernambuco to Alagoas; Bahia to São Paulo). It occurs from Ceará discontinuously south to São Paulo, with its stronghold probably being the northeastern forests of Alagoas and Bahia. Seasonal movements may occur in some areas, but the species is probably usually resident in lowland and lower montane forest, as high as 1000 m in the south of its range.

It mainly inhabits subtropical and temperate forests in the Andes, and this parrot is speculated to perform seasonal or even semi-nomadic movements, presumably in search of suitable food resources



**Status:** Vulnerable. **Global Population:** Unknown amount of mature adults with a suspected decreasing population trend. It is generally a low-density species and nowhere “common”. It has suffered from deforestation in the north of its range, notably in Colombia, although still common on Santa Marta massif and resident in Cueva de los

Guácharos National Park. It is highly threatened by habitat loss within its restricted range in Venezuela. There is not much issue from the Pet Trade on this species owing to its confinement to montane forests and low densities.

**Diet:** Unripe fruits of *Spondias lutea* and ripe fruits of *Rapanea schwackeana*, also those of a *Myrtaceous* and *Lauracea* tree.

It is generally recorded in small flocks, mainly of 6–12 birds (which are suspected to be family parties).

**Breeding:** Sexes are dimorphic. A mostly green parrotlet that is brighter on its under-parts, especially the belly and under-tail-coverts. It has yellow on its forehead, lores superciliary region and cheeks; the rest of the head can appear scaly green. Its scapulars and inner tertials are olive-brown and its rump and upper-tail-coverts are slightly brighter than its mantle and back, more emerald-green. The flight-feathers are a dusky brown with green fringes, the primary-coverts a dark brown, contrasting with the rest of its green wing-coverts and blue on its carpal region. The lateral tail-feathers are greenish-yellow very narrowly tipped black (most obvious on its upper-side). The female is duller below, with greener lateral tail-feathers and has green tips and fringes to rectrices. The bill is yellowish-horn, its iris gray, and its legs gray.

Breeding is presumed to commence in September through October at start of rains, like most eastern Brazil endemics. It has been observed nesting in arboreal termitaria.

**Cool Facts:** The northeastern Brazilian population possibly merits subspecific treatment, for which the name *chryseurus* (of which *ruficauda* is a junior synonym) is available.

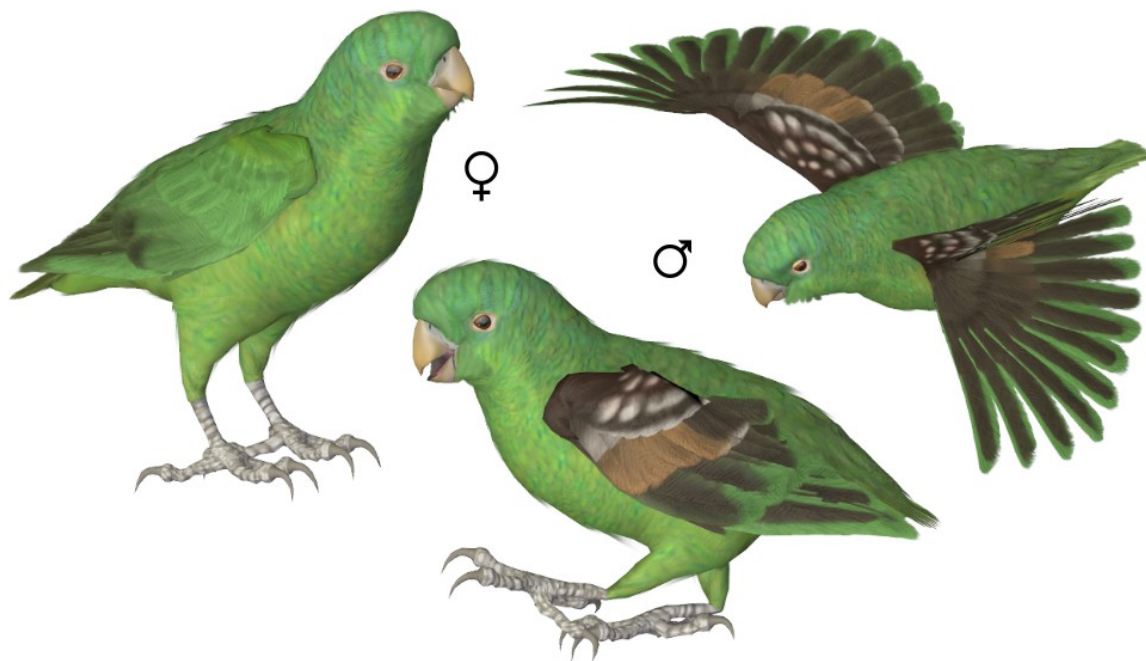
**Common Name:** Spot-winged Parrotlet  
**Scientific Name:** *Touit stictopterus*

**Size:** 6.7 to 7.1 inches (17-18 cm)

**Habitat:** South America; It occurs somewhat disjunctly through southern Colombia, eastern Ecuador, and northern Peru, but is uncommon and local throughout this range, and appears to be already perilously rare in the first-named country.

The species inhabits the upper tropical and lower subtropical zones, where it favors tall, humid, montane forest, but has occasionally been reported from savanna-like woodland, and from stunted ridge-top forest.

**Status:** Near Threatened. **Global Population:** Unknown amount of mature adults with a decreasing population trend. Uncommon although probably unrecorded. Threatened by habitat destruction within apparently fragmented and disjunct range, especially in Colombia, but exploration of suitable habitat in eastern Ecuador and northeastern Peru needed to clarify its status. It has been sighted in the Serranía de la Macarena National Park (Colombia), and Cayambe-Coca Ecological Reserve, Sumaco and Cordillera de Cutucú Protection Forests, and Sangay National Park (Ecuador).



**Diet:** Fruit and seeds, including mistletoe; reportedly raids maize crops and sometimes feeds in Ficus and Clusia trees. Recorded feeding on termites in Colombia.

**Breeding:** Sexes are dimorphic. A mostly green parrotlet, paler on under-parts and wings dusky brown, with whitish tips to coverts (creating the spotted wings) and two outer median coverts orange. The female has green wing-coverts with black bases. Immature similar.

Very circumstantial evidence for Mar in Ecuador; specimens in Jun and Oct–Nov had undeveloped gonads, and birds were in flocks at these times.

**Cool Facts:** Most common calls are a grating “*chree-kree*” or “*crree-crree*”. In flight, individuals of groups call simultaneously, resulting in a continuous noisy chattering. Also a rapid chattering “*wi-chi-chi*”.

**Common Name:** Tepui Parrotlet□

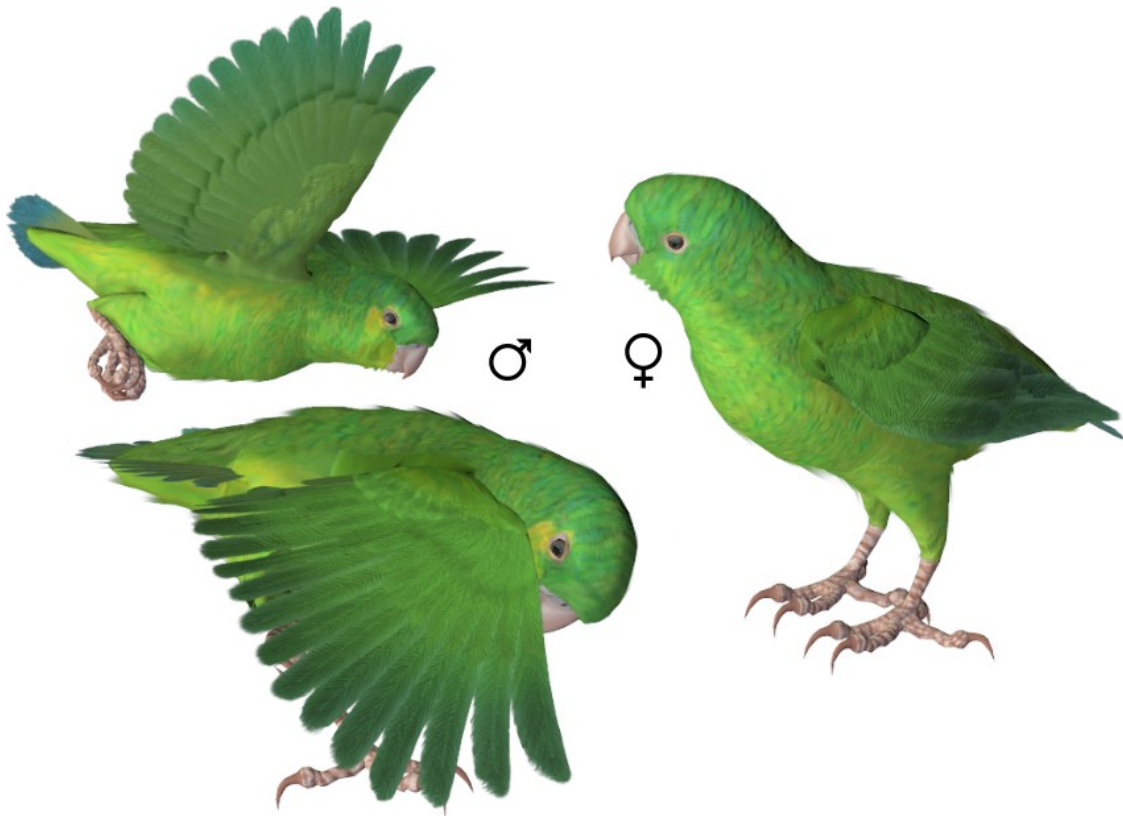
**Scientific Name:** *Nannopsittaca panychlora*

**Size:** 5.5 inches (14 cm)

**Habitat:** South America; it is found in Higher montane isolates in northeastern Venezuela (Sucre), and tepuis of southern and southeastern Venezuela, southern Guyana and extreme northern Brazil.

It mainly inhabits Cool humid subtropical forests ranging up to 2200 m, but also found in the lowlands around the tepuis.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown amount of mature adults with a suspected decreasing population trend. It is fairly common, with little habitat loss within its range, and very little pet trade activity.



**Diet:** Fruiting trees are visited.

They make daily altitudinal flights from higher parts of tepuis to forage in the lowest reaches. They are gregarious and social birds that are usually seen in flocks of 50 or more individuals searching for figs and other fruits.

**Breeding:** Sexes are dimorphic. It is primarily green, paler below. It has a yellow area on its chin, lores, and under and behind the eye. Its under-tail-coverts and carpal are

yellowish. The under-sides of the flight-feathers and tail are bluish-green. The female has less yellow. Immatures are undescribed .

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**Cool Facts:** It is closely related to the Manu or Amazonian Parrotlet.



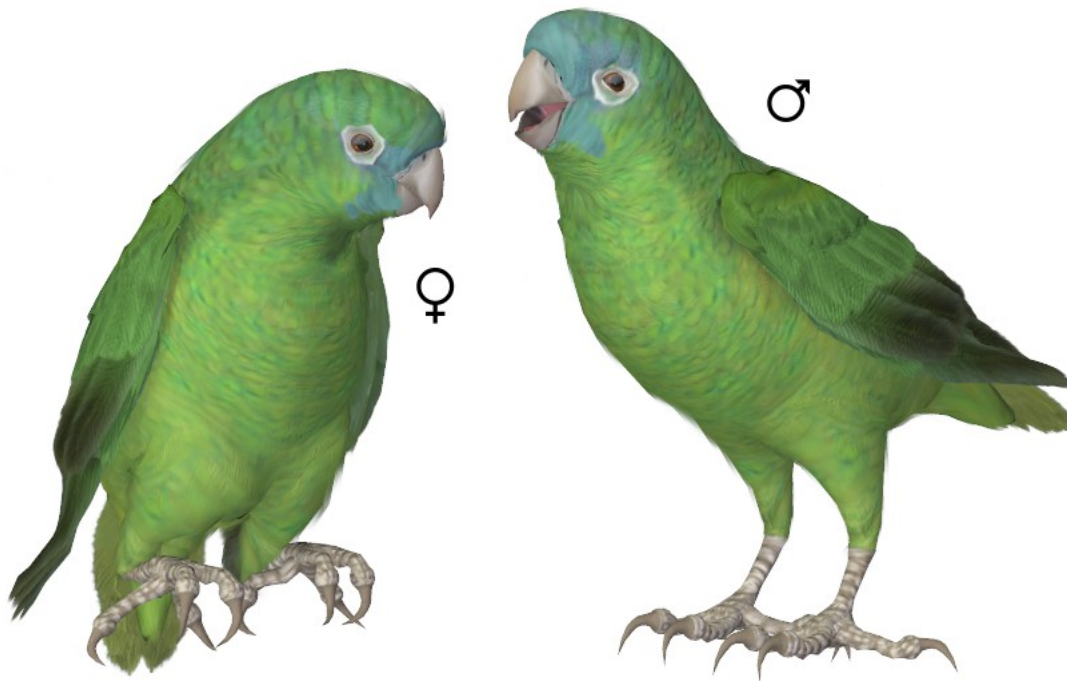
**Common Name:** Manu or Amazonian Parrotlet

**Scientific Name:** *Nannopsittaca dachilleae*

**Size:** 5.5 inches (14 cm)

**Habitat:** South America; it is endemic to the Lowlands of eastern Peru (locally southward from Loreto), northwestern Bolivia (Pando and La Paz) and adjacent western Brazil (Acre).

It mainly is found in trees and natural secondary vegetation along rivers in lowland tropical forest. It is not seen in closed-canopy forest or areas disturbed by man. In Bolivia, it has been seen in river-edge trees including small *Calocophyllum spruceanum* and *Cecropia membranacea* trees.



**Status:** Near Threatened. **Global Population:** Unknown amount of mature adults with a suspected decreasing population trend. It is common to abundant at type locality, and present in Tambopata Reserve and Manu National Park.

**Diet:** Seeds of Guadua bamboo, ripe fruits of a Coussapoa vine, Cecropia catkins, Vernonia seeds and fruits or seeds of an arboreal epiphytic cactus Rhipsalis.

**Breeding:** This parrotlet is mainly green, more yellowish on under-parts. Its forehead, lores and crown are a pale powdery blue. Its chin is a greenish yellow and its flight-feathers are green on outer webs, dusky black on the inner parts. Its bill and feet are pinkish. No sexual dimorphism has been described (as yet), but following characteristics of other parrotlets, the female probably has less powder blue on the crown.

It nests in holes surrounded by clumps of epiphytes near the top of 25 m trees from July to September.

**Cool Facts:** The Manu parrotlet was discovered in 1985 by John P. O'Neill, Charles A. Munn, and Irma Franke while exploring the Manú River in the Manú National Park in eastern Peru.

## ***Special Thanks to my Beta-Testing Team...***

*Alisa & FlintHawk*

## **Species Accuracy and Reference Materials**

The author has tried to make these species as accurate to their real life counterparts as possible. With the use of one generic model to create dozens of unique bird species, some give and take is bound to occur. The texture maps were created in Painter with as much accuracy as possible.

## **Field Guide Sources:**

- "Parrots: A Guide to Parrots of the World" by Tony Juniper and Mike Parr
- Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive <https://www.hbw.com/>
- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)
- BirdLife International <https://www.birdlife.org/>
- World Parrot Trust <https://parrots.org/>

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