

EXTINCT BIRDS OF THE WORLD

#5 THE CUBAN RED MACAW

Ara tricolor



CUBAN RED MACAW
Chromolithograph from
EXTINCT BIRDS
by L. Rothschild, London 1907

The Cuban Red Macaw, formerly occurred on Cuba and the Isla de la Juventud. It was a rather small species of *Ara* Macaw, measuring 45 - 50 cm. It was the last species of Macaw native to the Caribbean Islands to become extinct.

The species was reasonably common around the beginning of the 19th century. But during the early part of the 1800s, the human population in its home range increased dramatically, leading to widespread deforestation. The species was also hunted for food, and nests were plundered, or disturbed, to acquire young birds to keep as pets. Until 1849, the bird seems to have been able to hold its own at least in remote areas, but subsequently, the population crashed, never to recover. The last one being shot in 1864 at La

Vega in the vicinity of the Ciénaga de Zapata swamp, which seems to have been the last stronghold of the species. Unconfirmed records suggest Cuban Red Macaws may have persisted there until 1885. At least nineteen preserved specimens are known to exist in collections around the world.

Reference: *Wikipedia*



If this is your first meeting, please let us know, so we can introduce you to members with similar interests.

AUGUST 2008 GENERAL MEETING ESTONIA HALL, JEFFCOTT STREET, NORTH ADELAIDE

This will be a diverse meeting with professional aviary builder, Terry Wright, speaking on aviary building techniques. Terry has built a number of large aviary complexes, including the latest complex at Cleland Wildlife Park.

This will be followed by Matt Russell and Tim Nielsen launching the Endangered Finch Breeding Programme, this latter segment will feature the record keeping system in operation at the Adelaide Zoo.

This should be a very informative night...don't miss it!!

PLEASE BRING A PRIZE FOR THE RAFFLE TABLE

DID YOU KNOW....that most American aviculturists wont feed grit to their birds for fear of it leading to crop, proventricular or ventricular impactions.