

## Blue Headed Pionus Parrot Profile

My first impression of the Blue Headed Pionus was Wow!

What a beautiful parrot. The head is so rich with blue with slight pinkish color on the upper portion of the beak. These little beauties always take your breath away!

Deciding to breed the Blue Heads was not a hard decision to make. I had noticed some time back that the Blue head was not very plentiful on the pet market. Now they have moved up quite quickly as being the most popular and requested of all the Pionus Species. As with most of the Pionus species, there needs to be a lot more Pionus Breeders to help populate these beauties, and I'm not alone when I say this. Even my breeding pairs of Blue Heads are somewhat easy going and tend to be friendly towards me but not in the sense that I can handle them or pet them. During the breeding cycle they do not seem to get real aggressive towards me like other species do.

The Blue Headed Pionus are a nice parrot to keep as a pet. With a small vocabulary like the rest of the Pionus species, they are usually sweet with a nice personality. The size of them is not much in difference compared to the Maximilian even though the Maxi is slightly larger. Blue Heads are probably the most wanted in the Pionus Species due to its beauty of color on the head. This is my most requested bird that people ask for. This is the bird that is going to make the Maximilian hard to get eventually because breeders will stop breeding them being that the Blue Head and the others are taking over by popularity.



The Blue Headed hatchling is hatched with hardly any fuzz on the body, the beak is light in color. As babies start to pin feather at nearly 3-1/2 weeks old you will see the slight grayish black coloring coming in on the upper beak (mandible) and the beak does not darken to its full blackish color until a few months old. The pinkish color that is on the upper beak comes in at about 4 months old. The deep blue does not come in on the head and upper chest until along a year old.

Pictured are 5 young siblings. The oldest would be about 10 days older than the last one in the clutch.

Adult Weights ranges from 225 to 260 grams. All birds vary in weight; you should weigh your bird weekly.

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### Technical Descriptions



**Description:** generally green; head and upper breast deep blue, red base to feathers of neck, which show through partially; black patch to ear-coverts; under tail-coverts red; bill blackish, reddish on sides; skin to periophthalmic ring grey; iris dark brown; feet grey.

**Off Springs:** with reddish frontal band, head greenish-blue.

Length: 28 cm (11 ins)

**Distribution:** Colombia (east of Andes), eastern Ecuador, eastern Peru south to central Brazil and northern Bolivia; Trinidad.

**Habitat:** forest and terrain with trees of tropical zone to 600 m (2,000 ft), occasionally up to 1,500 m (5,000 ft); only sighted in open country and cultivated areas when foraging.

**Status:** menstruus and rubrigularis common, but threatened with extinction.

**Habits:** in small groups or noisy flocks of up to 100 individuals outside breeding season; mostly remains in canopy of tall trees or palms.

**Natural diet:** fruits, berries, seeds and tree flowers; occasionally raids grain fields and banana plantations; regularly visits "barreiros" for mineral-rich soil.

**Breeding behavior:** breeding season in Central America from February to April, in Colombia as early as November/December and in Surinam from September/October; nests in tree holes or hollow branches; clutch 3 to 4 eggs; egg measures 31.5 x 25.1 mm (1.24 x 1.00 ins).

**Aviculture:** medium-noisy parrot with usually little chewing requirement; initially shy, later still reticent; fairly susceptible to stress as most Pionus species; many birds do not bathe, but enjoy being rained on.

**Accommodation:** Ideally aviary of at least 2.5 x 1 x 2 m (8.5 x 3 x 6 ft); in winter between 5° (41°F) and 10°C (50°F); double wiring necessary as can be aggressive to birds in neighboring flights.

**Diet:** various fruit and vegetables; variable seed mix, in spring/summer sprouted food; fresh branches with buds; regular mineral supplements; rearing food or dog chow, soft or cottage cheese before and during breeding period.

**Breeding in aviculture:** regularly achieved; breeding begins in May; 3 to 4 eggs; brooding mostly starts with second egg; incubation 26 days; fledging period 70 days; young independent at 90 days; nest box size 25 x 25 x 50 cm (10 x 10 x 20 ins).