

PARROT POACHING IN MEXICO

Explore what characteristics of a certain parrot species are putting it in more danger.

Pet Parrot and Illegal Poaching



Keeping parrot as pet can trace back to ancient Egyptian, Chinese, and Indian cultures.

Throughout the history, with their comic and energetic characteristics, parrots appeared in royal palaces, pirate ships, and finally common households.

Unfortunately, illegal poaching and trading are pushing multiple parrot species to the edge of extinction today.

Parrot Poaching in Mexico

20
out of 22

parrot species in Mexico are at risk.

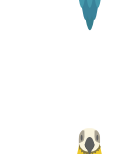
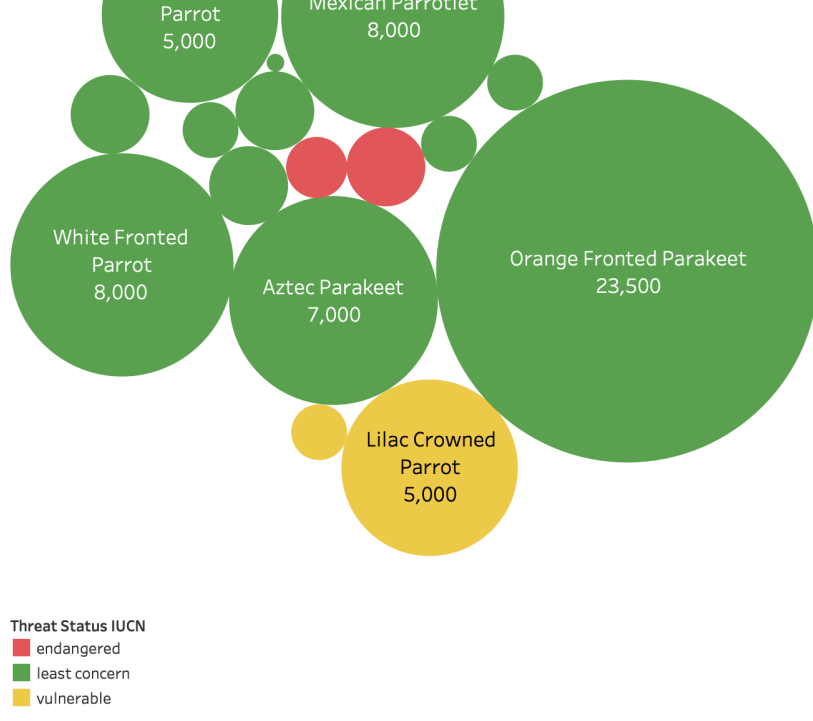
Before the 2008 Mexican ban on parrot trade

65,000 to 78,500

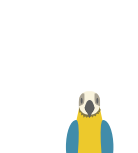
parrots were taken every year.

Which species are captured more? Why?

Poaching and Threat Status



Size of the bubble indicates the estimated poaching count of the species. Poaching counts are also provided for selected species.

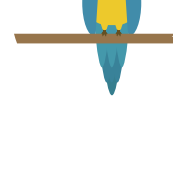
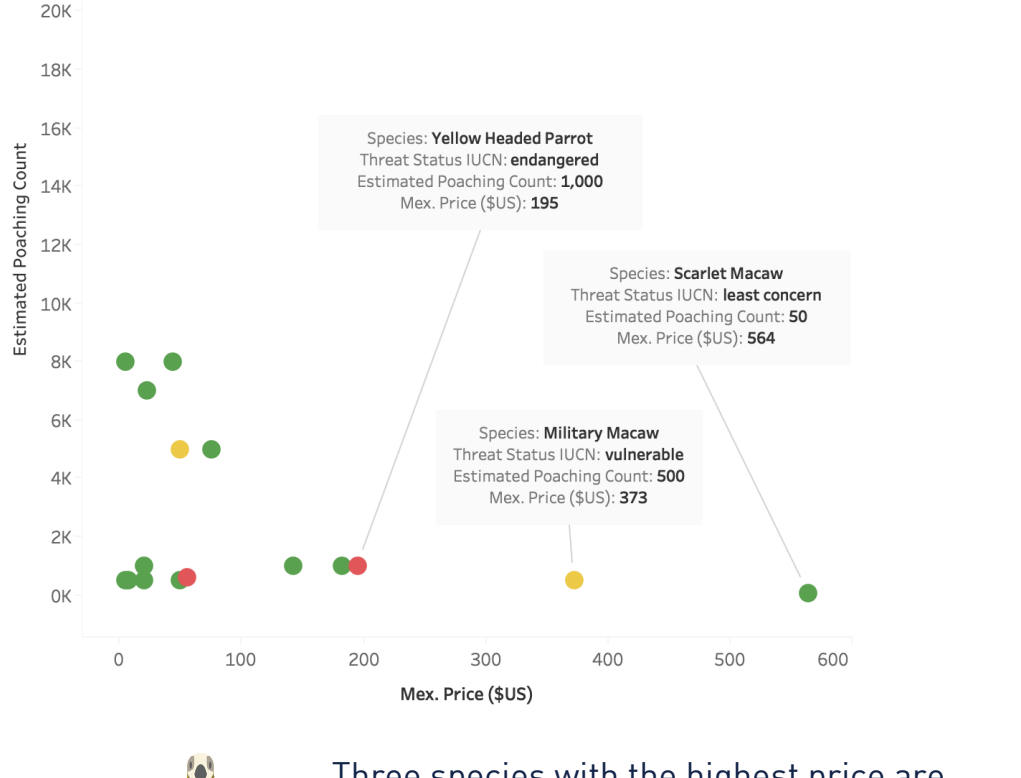


The endangered species are not popular poaching choices.



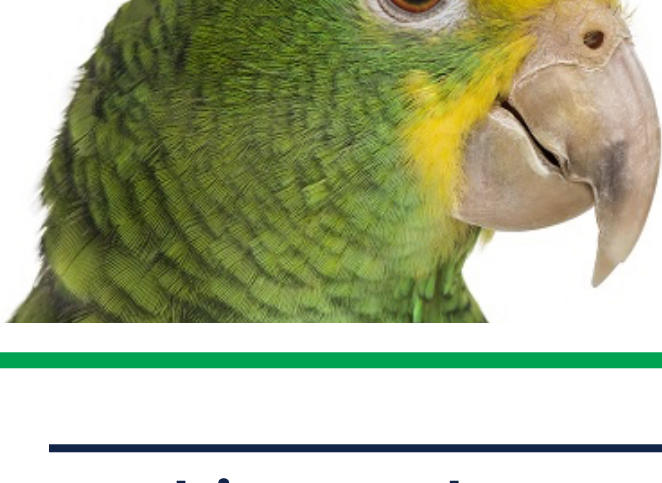
It seems like threat status does not affect poaching choice too much...

Poaching and Price



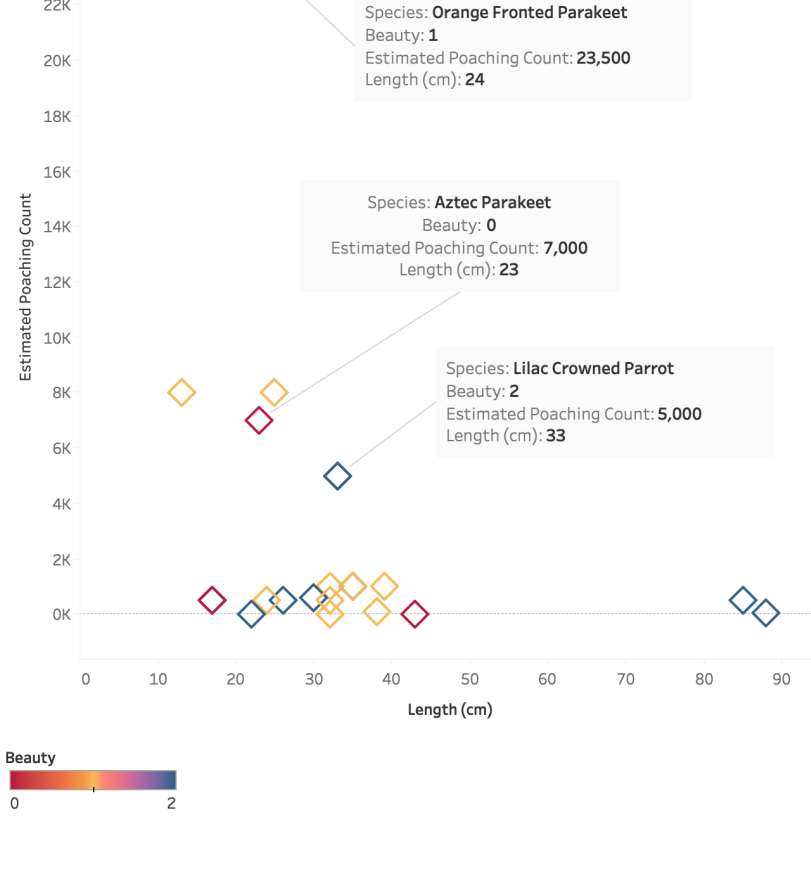
Three species with the highest price are also not the popular poaching choices.

Yikes! Price is also not the answer.



Yellow Headed Parrot, also called Yellow Headed Amazon in pet market. One of the most popular pet parrots. It is critically endangered right now.

Poaching and Appearance

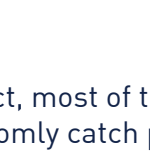


Three species with different beauty level (0/red: the least beautiful; 2/blue: the most beautiful) are all popular choices for poaching. They have one thing in common--they are relatively smaller in size.

So... Who are Poaching Them?



Overall, it seems like popular parrots do not have specific characteristics. Does this mean poacher just catch parrots randomly?



Researchers also find that parrot poaching usually only happens at the border of rainforests and cultivation lands.



In fact, most of the parrot poachers in Mexico are just local farmers who randomly catch parrots to earn some extra income. Several educational programs in Mexico are targeting to solve the problem by introducing the importance of biodiversity.

You can also save these amazing creatures by refusing to purchase wild parrots! Without a market, local poachers will naturally stop the poaching activity.

REFERENCES

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