Blue-Fronted Amazon Parrot

- Native to South America, these species can be found in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia in forests, savannas, and palm groves.
- *A. aestiva* are a gregarious species.
- There is no sexual dimorphism within the species however, using spectrometry one can use the feathers to differentiate the sexes.

Nutritional Needs

- In the wild, *A. aestiva* consumes a wide variety of fruits and seeds from various plants and trees.
- In captivity, particularly as pets, many of these dietary requirements are not met leading to nutritional deficiencies.
- These consequences then lead to psychological and behavioral problems.

Psychological Needs

- Considering their popularity as pets due to their vocalization, it is because they are highly social and intelligent birds.
- In the wild, they spend hours grooming each other, vocalizing during dawn and dust and constantly gnawing on tree branches.

Behavioral Problems

- Individual CP4 (for simplicity purposes) was brought into Cema fauna, Caatinga.
- CP4 was malnourished, highly aggressive towards humans and other birds of the same species.
- CP4 hung upside down his cage and was under great distress if anyone walked by the cage.

- After satisfying CP4’s nutritional needs, feathers started growing back however, some of the mental and behavioral characteristics persist, such as aggression and self-mutilation.

Rehabilitation

- Considering the nature of these intelligent creatures some enrichments were provided.
- These enrichments included sticks, foot toys, food-finding toys and hanging-perch toys.
- In addition, CP4 was taken out of the cage. CP4 was able to explore the area under supervision and was able to preen its feathers under the bright warm sun.

- Rehabilitation is an ongoing process that can last months and even years.
- Although much process was achieved, it is imperative that these enrichments continue for the overall health of CP4.

Conclusion

- Through positive reinforcement, patience, and persistence some of CP4’s psychological and behavioral problems diminished or ceased all together:
  - CP4 stopped swinging upside down its cage.
  - Started vocalizing more and appeared less frightful of its environment.
  - Preened its feathers instead of self-mutilating.
  - CP4’s aggressiveness diminished immensely; would let other people go by its cage and be petted.

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