

The Black-billed Parrot (*Amazona agilis*)

The parrot is smaller and less colourful than the Yellow-billed parrot (26.7cm to 29.2cm in length). It has a black bill, a green body, black ear feathers and distinguishing red feathers on both wings. It is found mostly in the Blue Mountains, Cockpit Country and rural St. Catherine and likes tall trees where it nests. It feeds on a wide variety of fruits, blossoms, nuts and berries but corn has become one of its favourite foods. Apart from its beauty it is a very important seed disperser in the wild which contributes to the distribution of plants and trees. The Black-billed parrots are often captured illegally for the pet trade.



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Managing & Protecting
Jamaica's land, wood & water

For more information on Jamaica's Protected Species and the laws protecting them contact:

The National Environment
and Planning Agency (NEPA)
10 & 11 Caledonia Avenue,
Kingston 5

Telephone:
754-7540

Fax:
754-7595/6

Email:
pubed@nepa.gov.jm

Toll Free:
1-888-991-5005

Website:
www.nepa.gov.jm



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THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING AGENCY

Jamaica's Protected Species Animals that fly



Giant Swallowtail
butterfly



Black-billed Parrot



Yellow-billed Parrot



The Blue Swallowtail
Butterfly

What do we mean when we say an animal is protected?

This means that Jamaica has passed a law to prevent any further depletion in the population so that the animal can survive. This law is called the Wild Life Protection Act. It was passed in 1945 and last amended in 1998. When an animal is protected under this law, no one should have in his/her possession any whole or part of these protected animals or birds. The maximum penalty for breaking this law is \$100,000.00 or 12 months imprisonment.

Which of Jamaica's flying animals are protected?

All of Jamaica's birds are protected except for game birds (during the hunting season); domesticated animals such as chickens and geese; and introduced species such as the Shiny Cowbird and Saffron Finch. Two of Jamaica's butterflies are also protected, the Giant Swallowtail Butterfly and the Blue Swallowtail Butterfly .

The Blue Swallowtail Butterfly (*Eurytides marcellinus*)



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The Blue Swallowtail also known as the Jamaican Kite is threatened with extinction. It is found only in Jamaica in very few places mainly during the months of June to September. Deforestation has reduced the number of places where this butterfly may be found. Roselle in St Thomas is the largest known colony in the island. They feed on the Black Lancewood and may be found close to these trees. The Butterfly has long, slender tails with stripes of black and blue-green on its wings .

The Giant Swallowtail Butterfly

(*Pterourus homerus* -formerly called *Papilio homerus*)



© Brandon Hay

This butterfly is black and gold (or dark brown) with gold patches from top centre of wings curving inwards. A series of dark blue circular spots decorate lower wings, which taper off into separate tail-like features. The wing span of adults is 15 cm (6 inches) wide. It is found mostly in the Cockpit Country and Blue & John Crow Mountains where it flies at elevations between 150m and 550m making a vertical drop to feed, mate and lay eggs. The butterfly likes sunny days where it can hop & skip from plant to plant sucking nectar.

Hibiscus and Spanish Needle are among the many species of flowering plants from which it feeds. Habitat loss results from agriculture and predation by birds and lizards are its greatest threats. The Jamaican Giant Swallowtail is a proud symbol of Jamaica's heritage and represents the beauty and distinction of our rain forest. It is the largest butterfly species in the Americas.

The Yellow-billed Parrot (*Amazon collaria*)

This parrot has a yellow bill, a mostly green body and bluish crown with maroon neck and tail and ranges in length from 27.94 cm to 30.48 cm. The Yellow-billed parrot is found mostly in the Blue Mountains, Cockpit Country and rural St. Catherine in tall trees where it nests. It feeds on a wide variety of fruits, blossoms, nuts and berries but corn has become one of its favourite foods. Apart from its beauty it is a very important seed disperser in the wild which contributes to the distribution of plants and trees. The Yellow-billed parrots are often captured illegally for the pet trade.

