

## Maximilian Pionus Profile

What specie in the Pionus Parrot family is all green? If you said Maximilian then you are right! With only a purple tinge on the front of the upper chest and red on the underneath the tail otherwise the Maximilian is solid green. The Maximilian Pionus was about the only Pionus that you would come across mostly back in the mid 1980's mainly due to they were the most readily available in the pet trade. It was not very often that you came across like a Blue Headed or other Pionus specie.



Some people say the Maximilian is a bit too plain and not very exciting looking, but on the contrary, they are most magnificent in many ways! The Maximilian has a great personality and is usually the best talkers of the Pionus specie. With not a real large vocabulary they can say many simple words and are great for repeating what you teach them, they are not real clear sounding.

A supply of toys in the cage keeps the Maxi entertained and stimulated as any parrot would be, they love toys. Like other Pionus, the Maximilian need attention and out of the cage time. They don't thrive on continuous attention but do need at least 2 to 3 hours per day. The Maximilian is fairly quite just as

the rest of the species in the Pionus family. The Pionus species are known to be great apartment or condo type pets... but you always must check with your landlord to be sure it is okay to keep a bird as a pet while renting.

The Maximilian is fairly easy to breed. The babies are a lot of fun to raise and with a good start early in life on the right foods will keep them healthy. Many birds end up being a bit finicky due to not properly introduced to foods while young. Sometimes they just have to acquire a taste for a particular food just as we people do. My all time favorite Pionus is the Maximilian and I can recall many years ago when I first saw them I wanted one, but my husband asked why being that they were plain looking. I had said the personality is great, after having our first Maximilian for a short while then my husband began to see what I had meant!



Another Pionus specie that looks similar to the Maximilian is the Coral Billed Pionus which has nearly the same green colored body and purple like tinge on the upper chest but it is clearly obvious with the Coral Bill's red coral like beak. The two species are great to have. Adult Weight Ranges from 225 to 260 grams. All birds vary in weight; you should weigh your bird weekly.

Pictured at top of page is a Maximilian that was raised by us and the center right picture is of one of our pets named Bentley and also Bentley is pictured above at left with a female Coral Bill named Puff which went to another person who breeds Pionus.

### Technical Descriptions



**Description:** green; forehead and lores blackish; feathers on crown and back of head broadly edged with dark grey; cheeks green with narrow bluish-grey tips; violet-blue band across throat and upper breast; breast and abdomen pale green; under tail-coverts red; back and upper wing-coverts dull olive-brown; middle tail feathers green, outer blue with red base; bill horn-colored with black base; skin to periophthalmic ring grey; iris dark brown; feet grey.

**Off Springs:** mostly with reddish frontal band; head pale green with narrow edging; poorly developed violet-blue band to throat and upper

breast.

**Length:** 29 cm (11.5 ins), wing length 165 - 180 mm (6.5 - 7 ins)

**Distribution:** northeast Brazil from Espírito Santo north to Piauí and Ceará.

**Habits:** pairs, small groups or flocks of up to 50 birds outside breeding season; occasionally flocks of several hundred birds when sufficient food available; mostly seen flying as difficult to detect in trees; plumage provides excellent camouflage; very noisy when flying to and from roosting trees; audible for considerable distance; quiet when feeding; shy and unapproachable; call high-pitched and disyllabic; alarm call rapidly repeated cries.

**Natural diet:** fruits (wild figs), nuts, berries and seeds, foraged in trees and bushes.

**Breeding behavior:** breeding season from October to February; nests in tree hollows or hollow branches of dead trees; mostly at height of at least 10 m (35 ft); egg measures 32.2 x 24.4 mm (1.27 x 0.96 ins).

**Aviculture:** very quiet parrot, which seldom screeches; newly imported birds not so anxious as other Pionus species; not hard chewer; hardy once acclimatized; can be housed in communal aviary with other Pionus species.

**Accommodation:** aviary of 2.5 x 1 x 2 m (8.5 x 3 x 6 ft); minimum temperature 5°C (41°F); not less than 20°C (68°F) during acclimatization.

**Diet:** various fruit and vegetables; variety of seed mixes; sprouted food in spring/summer; fresh branches with flowers and buds; regular mineral supplements; rearing food or dog chow, soft or cottage cheese before and during breeding; occasionally conservative in feeding habits and difficult to accustom to new food.

**Breeding in aviculture:** seldom achieved as not often kept; breeding does not seem to be difficult; clutch 3 to 4 eggs; brooded from laying of first egg; incubation 26 days; fledging period 60 days; young independent after 80 days; nest box 25 x 25 x 60 cm (10 x 10 x 24 ins); provide plenty of greenery for breeding.