

(name)

# **MY GUIDE TO WILDLIFE OF THE CAROLINA BACKCOUNTRY**

Use this booklet to document your favorite fauna (aka animals) documented by John Lawson, John James Audubon, and Mark Catesby, some of the first people to create written accounts of the wildlife of North Carolina

# A GUIDE TO

The Carolina Parakeet or Parrot

NAME OF ANIMAL

SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Conuropsis carolinensis*

PICTURE

HABITAT

Eastern North America

FOOD OR  
PREY

Fruits, seeds, and any  
of the farmer's crops he  
can get his beak on.



The Carolina Parrot

## SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE ANIMAL

Unfortunately, we did not protect this bird and the last of the Carolina Parakeets was spotted in the wild in 1910 and went extinct in 1918. John James Audubon shared the following story about these birds in *Birds of America*. While it sounds like they may have been a bit rambunctious, we encourage you to help protect all our Carolina animals!

“The Parrot ... eats or destroys almost every kind of fruit indiscriminately, and on this account is always an unwelcome visitor to the planter, the farmer, or the gardener. The stacks of grain put up in the field are resorted to by flocks of these birds, which frequently cover them so entirely, that they present to the eye the same effect as if a brilliantly coloured carpet had been thrown over them. They cling around the whole stack, pull out the straws, and destroy twice as much of the grain as would suffice to satisfy their hunger...As on the stalks of corn, they alight on the apple-trees of our orchards, or the pear-trees in the gardens, in great numbers; and, as if through mere mischief, pluck off the fruits, open them up to the core, and, disappointed at the sight of the seeds, which are yet soft and of a milky consistence, drop the apple or pear, and pluck another, passing from branch to branch, until the trees which were before so promising, are left completely stripped, like the ship water-logged and abandoned by its crew, floating on the yet agitated waves, after the tempest has ceased. They visit the mulberries, pecan-nuts, grapes, and even the seeds of the dog-wood, before they are ripe, and on all commit similar depredations. The maize alone never attracts their notice.”

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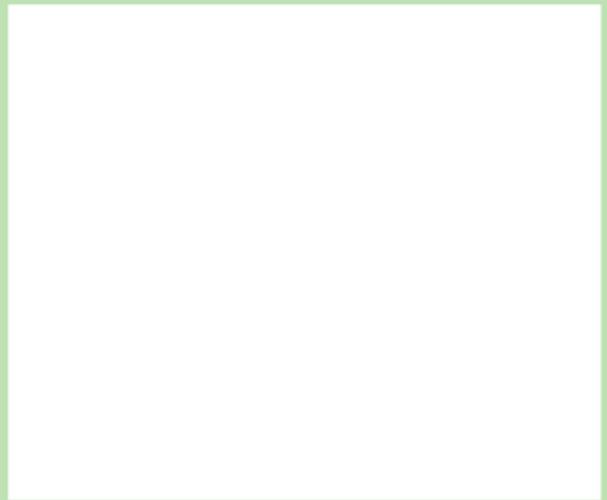
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*The*  
CHARLOTTE MUSEUM  
*of* HISTORY

