

By the end of the 19th century, it was still possible to enjoy, in the evergreen Cuban countryside, the graceful presence of the tricolor macaw, whose *scientific name is Ara tricolor*. Sadly, due to human rapacity, this species dwindled away over the years until it was totally extinct in the 20th century.



It was an extremely beautiful bird, whose colors rivaled with those of any other species.

Its wings showed a range of shades, from sky blue to a deep Prussian hue.

The feathers of its head, nape, shoulders, back and tail were enhanced by a diversity of colors, from yellow and gold to red sienna, partially interspersed with darker shades that went all the way up to a heavy brown.

When Wilfredo Alcover first painted this bird, there existed only three stuffed specimens: one in the New York Museum, another one in Berlin, and the third one in the Public Secondary School No. 1 in Havana. The latter had been preserved in an excellent condition, in the hall dedicated to Juan Cristóbal Gundlach, and had been mounted by Gundlach himself.

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