

# Carve a parrot kerchief slide

By BOB REITMEYER

The red-crowned parrot is one of many species of tropical birds that have established themselves in southern parts of Florida, Texas, and California. Those in Texas probably crossed over from Mexico, but the others are mostly escapees from pet cages. Coastal bird watchers have identified more than 75 species of tropical birds that are flourishing in their new-found freedom.

The idea for this pattern came from Herb Cast, my friendly competitor in Kansas. Don Self of Gallion, Ala., researched and re-drew this particular parrot because it is one of the more colorful to be found.

Trace pattern onto a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " piece of basswood or soft pine and cut out.

1. Round off the beak and taper the tip to a dull point. Check top view. Use knife point to cut back the lower beak and separate the beak from head.

2. Detail the cere (the fleshy part at the top of beak), and paint black dot for nostril.

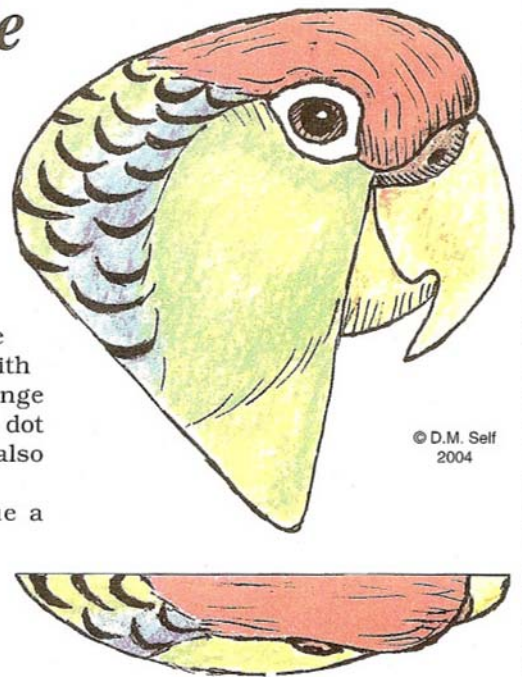
3. Mark the eye and carve eyebrow around it. Round off top of head and brow.

4. Round off front and back of neck as shown in top view.

Sand, then paint [see color scheme at bottom, right]. The neck is lime green, while the back of neck is electric blue with black feather tips. Eye is orange with a black pupil and a white dot highlight. Area around eye is also white.

For a kerchief slide, I glue a piece of wood about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick with a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " hole, square or round. Naturally, a refrigerator magnet, pin, or bolo slide can also be used.

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Red-Crowned Parrot

White — dot in pupil and skin around eye  
Lime green — cheek on rear of nape  
Electric blue — forward part of nape  
Red — crown (over eye to beak)  
Flesh — beak Brown — cere  
Black — pupil of eye