

Common Name : The Kakapo
Scientific Name : *Strigops Habrotilus*



KAKAPO FACTS

Other names : owl parrot, night parrot

Origin : New-Zealand

Habitat : can live in any type of environment, now live exclusively in the forests, on protected islands.

Diet : herbivorous (native plants, seeds, fruits, pollen)

Size and Weight : 58 to 64 cm in length, 1 – 4 kg (adult)

Reproduction : start breeding at 5 yo – the female lays 1-4 eggs – hatch after 30 days and chicks fed for > 3 months

Life span : 20 – 65 years

Status : **critically endangered**

Introduction

The kakapo is a bird which lives on the islands of New-Zealand. Its name comes from Maori and it means "night parrot". It is also called "owl parrot" because it looks like an owl.

Appearance, Habitat and Habits

The kakapo has a light green and brown color. It is the only parrot that can not fly and it lives on the ground. It has small wings, with soft feathers and they are not used for flight. The feathers on its head make it look like an owl. It has a big beak and very strong legs. It can walk a lot, and even run. It can also climb trees to reach its food, and jumps back onto the ground, using its wings like a parachute. It is nocturnal, and sleeps most of the day.

Kakapos used to live in different types of habitats on the islands, but now they are isolated on protected island because they are vulnerable to cats and rats, which were introduced by the Europeans settlers.

Kakapos are herbivorous, and they eat native plants, roots, seeds, fruits as well as pollen from flowers.

They can grow up to 60 cm in height, and tend to be round-shaped. They can weight 1 to 4 kilos when they reach their adult size.

Reproduction, Life span and current status

Kakapos start breeding when they are about 5 years old, even 10 years old for females. They mate every year, but only if there is enough food. The female can lay 1 to 4 eggs. The eggs hatch about 30 days later, and the female feeds the chicks on her own for at least 3 months. They can live for 65 years, and some specimen have reached the age of 95.

Today, this species is critically endangered with less than 150 individuals left on 3 protected islands.

Link : [A short documentary about kakapos](#)