

Kakapo report

Kakapos are definitely the only flightless parrot today. No one would think that this outstanding and extremely interesting animal is part of the parrot family. Kakapos are much larger and heavier than the average parrot!

Habitat

A kakapo's habitat are the forests of New Zealand. New Zealand's forests are full of the diet of a Kakapo, they also adapt easily to forests. Forests are also a good place for a Kakapo's nest. The places for their nests are: a hollow tree, the base of a tree, very thick and long grass and bushes.

The Body

A Kakapo is very large, they're around 58 to 64 cm long and very rotund. Kakapo males weigh 2Kg, females weigh around 1 and a half Kg. A Kakapo also have extremely soft feathers, no wonder Kakapos cannot get off the ground and fly!

Life Cycle

A Kakapo can live up to 60 years in the wild! These fascinating birds may lack the ability of flight but they defiantly know how to survive. Living 60 years is an advantage when you only have eggs every 5 years. Kakapos also only have 1-4 eggs in those precise 5 years. If the Kakapo hatchlings are born the mother Kakapo has to leave every night to get food. In those few hours, without the mother's protection, the hatchlings can die out of cold or get eaten by certain predators.

Diet

A Kakapos diet includes at least 5 things: sapwood, pollen, fruits, seeds and native plants. Most of their diet is in trees and since Kakapos cannot fly, they climb to their food with excellent skill and their strong, sharp claws.

How can we help the species?

We can help by:

- Controlling the predators.
- Protecting the habitat.
- Checking the Kakapos health.



Did You Know?

- A Kakapo skeleton is very thin but the Kakapo itself is very rotund.
- Kakapos use their beak as an extra claw when climbing.
- Kakapos stay in trees for a long time when hunting for themselves because of the massive amount of food in the trees.