

Nicobar Pigeon

Caloenas nicobarica

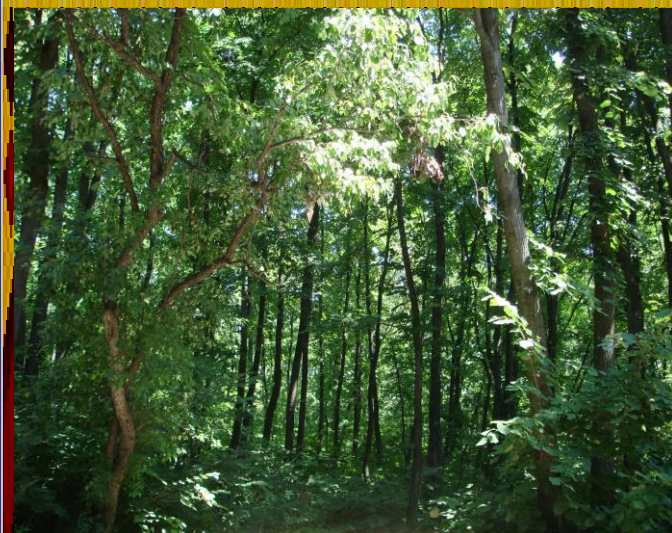


The Nicobar Pigeon is the closest living relative of the extinct Dodo. Found through Indonesia, Philippines, New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

They occur only on small wooded islands, typically off larger landmasses. Found in Mangroves, Bushes, Lowland and Foothill Forests up to at least 700m above sea level. In places they live in secondary forests and will tolerate selectively logged forest.

The Nicobar Pigeon is a colony breeder, usually on small islands. Undisturbed colonies may number thousands of pairs. The nest is an untidy platform of twigs and can be as low as 2m above the ground in undisturbed colonies, or just below the canopy (12m) in disturbed sites and several nests may be placed in a single tree. The youngsters typically leave the nest at around 1 month of age.

Nicobar Pigeons are highly prized in the illegal trade and have had CITES App. 1 protection since the early 1980's.



Lifespan: 20 Years
Weight: 460 - 600 g
Size: 32 - 35 cm
Breeding Season: Varies according to area
Incubation Period: 15 - 18 Days
Number of Chicks: 1
Diet: Feeds on fallen Fruits and Seeds; thick-walled muscular gizzard is lined with horny plates to break up Nuts
Problems They Face: Habitat destruction, trapping for trade and food.
Conservation Status: Not Globally Threatened - CITES App. 1