

Nicobar Pigeon

Caloenas nicobarica



Class: *Aves*

Order: Columbiformes

Family: *Columbidae*

Characteristics:

Also known as the hackled pigeon, vulturine pigeon and white-tailed pigeon, the nicobar pigeon is medium-sized pigeon with a grey chest and head, metallic back and wings and a white tail. Its long feathers trailing down from the neck give it its distinct look ([Lincoln Park Zoo](#)).

Behavior:

Nicobar pigeons are nomadic, commuting between islands around New Guinea in flocks of up to 85 birds. They will only roost and breed on islands with no humans ([Who Zoo](#)).

Reproduction:

Nicobar pigeon males may spend days courting a female but, if she accepts him in the end, it pays off as they mate for life. The male chooses the nest site and brings twigs and other plant material to the female who builds the nest. One egg is produced per clutch and they usually clutch twice per year. Both parents incubate the egg which hatches after about 30 days. The chicks stay in the nest for about a month ([Rosamond Gifford Zoo](#)).

Diet:

Wild: Hard seeds, fruit, insects, corn

Zoo: Fruits, vegetables, greens, pheasant grains

Conservation:

Nicobar pigeon numbers are declining. They fall victim to the pet trade, logging on islands, and are trapped for food.

FYI:

Unique to pigeons, they drink by sticking their beak in the water but don't have to tip their heads back to swallow like other birds.

Nicobar pigeons are related to the Dodo bird.



Range & Habitat:

Forests on uninhabited islands



Lifespan: up to 15 years in captivity, 8-12 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations: Have a very muscular gizzard that allows them to eat nuts with very hard shells.

IUCN Conservation Status:
Near Threatened

