

Umbrella Cockatoo

Cacatua alba



Physical Characteristics

- The majority of the bird is covered in white feathers with the exception of the underside of the wings and tail feathers which are yellow in color.
- The legs, beak, and claws of the cockatoo are grey.
- When excited, the crest on the top of its head will raise. The appearance of this raised crest looks like an umbrella, which is where they get their name from.
- Their beak is strong and large, allowing it to climb, break nuts, and peel fruit.
- Their feet, like all parrots, are zygodactyl, meaning that there are two toes in the forward position and two in the rear position. This aids the parrot in climbing.

Size

- Length: 18 inches (46 cm)
- Wingspan: 2 feet (62 cm)

Lifespan

- Wild: Unknown
- Zoos: Up to 70 years

Behaviors

- The umbrella cockatoo is one of the largest parrots in the cockatoo family
- Like other parrots, umbrella cockatoos can mimic sound.
- The crest on the head of the cockatoo will be raised when it is excited.

Diet

- Wild: fruit, vegetables, nuts/seeds
- Zoo: parrot kibble, fruits, vegetables, nuts/seeds

Reproduction

- Incubation Period: 1 month
- Fledging/Parenting: When born, the offspring are featherless and their eyes are closed. The male and the female will take care of the offspring until they are around 3 months of age.
- Clutch Size: 2 eggs

Habitat and Range

- Habitat: tropical forests, mangroves, farming fields
- Range: Indonesia, most commonly found on the island of Maluku Utara which is just southeast of the Philippines

Conservation

- IUCN Status: Endangered
- Contributing factors: The greatest threat to them is the unsustainable levels of trapping for the pet trade. While limits are in place for the capture of these birds, they are often not followed. For example, in 2007 the catch limit was for 10 pairs of the birds for breeding purposes only. It is thought that upwards of 200 individuals were caught that year, far exceeding the 10 pair limit.

Classification

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Class: Aves
- Order: Psittaciformes
- Family: Cacatuidae
- Genus: *Cacatua*
- Species: *C. alba*

