

Victoria Crowned Pigeon



Scientific Name:

Goura victoria

Range:

Northern New Guinea

Habitat:

Lowland forests

Average Size:

Length: about 30 inches
Weight: about 5.5 pounds

Lifespan:

Between 20-25 years

Diet:

Wild: Fruit of all types

Zoo: Produce such as grapes, sweet potatoes, bananas, lettuce, etc.

Reproduction:

Incubation: 28 days

Clutch size: 1 egg

Appearance:

This is a bluish-grey pigeon with an elegant lacy blue crest, maroon breast and red eyes. This species of crowned pigeon is easily recognized by the white tips on its crest feathers.

Predators:

Mostly humans

Population Status:

Vulnerable



About the Animal

At nearly 30 inches long, Victoria Crowned Pigeons are the largest surviving pigeon in the world. Unlike most pigeons, crowned pigeons do not 'coo'. Instead they make loud, deep booming noises that travel far through the lowland forest they inhabit.

These gregarious birds form large flocks, like all pigeons do. Flocks stay together feeding and roosting in the same tree. Often, the forest echoes with their deep booming calls as flock members 'talk' to one another.

The beautiful crown has made these birds a target for native hunters for centuries. More recently, loggers have hunted the Victoria Crowned Pigeon for food. When frightened, flocks seek the trees, but tend to roost on low-lying branches, making them easy targets for hunters. Strict laws now protect Victoria Crowned-Pigeons.

Mating and Reproduction

Crowned pigeons are monogamous and mate for life. Nest building is a team effort, with the male bringing a steady stream of nest building material offerings that the female may use. Both parents incubate the egg and care for the hatchling. Like all pigeons, hatchlings are fed crop milk until they are able to eat more solid food.

Amazing Information

It is believed that this pigeon species is one of the closest living relatives of the now extinct Dodo.



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