

Kakapo (Owl Parrot)

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About Kakapo (owl parrot):

- It is a large, **nocturnal**, **flightless**, **lek-breeding** parrot.

- **Appearance:**

- It has a pale **owl-like face**.
- It consists moss green mottled with yellow and black above, and similar but more yellow below.
- The bill is grey, and the legs and feet grey with pale soles.

- These are remarkable and unusual birds, **found only in Aotearoa New Zealand**.

- They **only breed every few years**, triggered by the availability of certain forest foods such as the **fruits of the native rimu tree**.

- **Threats:**

- This bird suffers from diseases such as the **fungal infection aspergillosis** and many of their eggs are infertile.

- **Conservation status**

- **IUCN:** Critically Endangered

What is lek-breeding?

- A lek is an **aggregation of males that gather to engage** in competitive displays that may entice visiting females who are surveying prospective partners for copulation.

Q1) What is Aspergillosis?

Aspergillosis is a group of fungal infections caused by the Aspergillus species. These fungi are commonly found in the environment, particularly in soil, decaying vegetation, and compost piles.

Source: [How gene mapping almost all remaining kākāpō will help NZ's rare night parrot survive](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/kakapo/>

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