



White Umbrella Cockatoo

Cacatua alba



Miranda

I was born on June 28th, 1991 in Racine, WI.

I live in the Discovery Center, and during the warm summer months you can see me through my window up by the main entrance gate! When I get excited I like to talk, and you can often hear me saying phrases like "Hi Miranda!" and "Go Packers!"

COCKATOOS AT A GLANCE



- White umbrella cockatoos use their crest feathers to communicate, raising them when agitated or excited and laying them flat when submissive or moving around.



- Cockatoos are **zygodactyl**, meaning they have two toes pointed forward and two toes backward. This is especially helpful for grabbing onto branches and climbing in the trees!



- Strong pincer-like beaks aid them in piercing through tough seed shells. They also use their beaks to stabilize themselves when climbing through the trees.
- At the zoo, our cockatoo eats various fruits and parrot pellets.
- In the wild, white umbrella cockatoos will eat crickets, maize, and various fruits.

Up to 18 inches long;
wingspan of 9-12 inches
Up to 1.3 lbs



Avg. life expectancy in native habitats:
up to 30 years
Avg. life expectancy in human care:
up to 60 years

WHERE ARE NATIVE COCKATOO HABITATS LOCATED?



White umbrella cockatoos can be found throughout several islands of Indonesia and Australia. They reside in the canopy of forests and open woodlands, occasionally they will inhabit mangroves, swamps, and agricultural areas.

Cockatoo Behaviors

RAISED CREST

The crest feathers of the white umbrella cockatoo are used as one of its main forms of communication.

I will raise my crest feathers when I am excited or nervous. When I am feeling calm, they will lay flat on my head.



COMMUNICATION

Cockatoos often scream and make noise to communicate with group members. In the wild, they will have a screaming session before going to sleep.

I love attention, and will often make lots of noise so people don't forget to come visit me!



CLIMBING

Cockatoos use their beaks and feet like hands, and are terrific climbers!

I like to climb around the branches in my habitat to explore all of the new enrichment my keepers give me!



MIMICRY

They are very inquisitive and intelligent birds and will mimic repetitive sounds they hear in their environment.

My favorite phrase to greet my keepers and visitors with is "Hi Miranda!" I also like to wave with one of my feet!

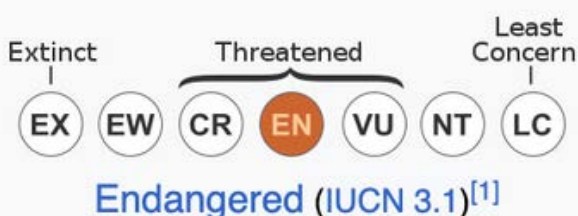


- Cockatoos usually lay two eggs. Both parents incubate the eggs. Usually they only raise one chick. If the first hatches and appears healthy, that is the chick they care for. If it is deformed or unhealthy, they raise the second chick.
- Cockatoos are intelligent, sometimes banging branches to indicate danger to other birds or using them to scratch their heads.
- Their feathers produce dust that can sometimes be quite heavy. Preening distributes this dust throughout their plumage, providing important waterproofing to cope with a tropical, wet climate.

White Umbrella Cockatoo Conservation

Unsustainable levels of trapping for the pet trade pose the greatest threat. Exploitation by logging companies has become intensive, and some areas have been cleared for agriculture and mining.

White cockatoos are currently listed as **endangered** due to a number of human-wildlife conflict issues. Its numbers in the wild have declined owing to capture for the pet trade and habitat loss.



How can we help?

We can buy household paper products made with recycled paper. Purchasing products certified by programs like the Rainforest Alliance or Forest Stewardship Council help to promote sustainable forestry and farming practices.

If you are thinking of obtaining any exotic bird as a pet, do lots of research! Birds require significant specialized care. Research and visit legitimate breeders before purchasing or consider adopting from a bird rescue.