

Black-Cheeked Lovebird

 DOMAIN <i>Eukaryota</i>	 KINGDOM <i>Animalia</i>	 PHYLUM <i>Chordata</i>	 CLASS <i>Aves</i>
 ORDER <i>Psittaciformes</i>	 FAMILY <i>Psittaculidae</i>	 GENUS <i>Agapornis</i>	 SPECIES <i>A. nigrigenis</i>

WHERE DO THEY HANG OUT?

Black-Cheeked lovebirds live in deciduous forests with plenty of water. They are endemic to Zambia, specifically along the Zambezi and Kafue Rivers. They are non-migratory, but may move when food and water sources are scarce.



A LOOK FOR THE SPOTLIGHT!

Black-Cheeked lovebirds are small parrots, measuring about 5.5 inches in length. Their body is mostly green with a brown head and distinctive blackish-brown cheeks. Around their throat and chest they have an orange bib that fades into a yellowish-green. The parrots eyes are circled in white, and their feet are grey. While adults sport a bright red beak, juveniles tend to have a more orange bill.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?



Black-Cheeked lovebirds are foragers that mainly feed on annual grass seeds. They will also eat millet, insect larvae, sorghum, and corn. Unlike other parrot species they need to drink water daily, as they are unable to obtain moisture from food.



Extinct
EX

Threatened
EW CR EN **VU** NT

Least Concern
LC

WHAT'S IN A NAME? "INSEPARABLE" AROUND THE WORLD

In many languages, lovebirds are literally called "inseparables", reflecting their close pair bonds and social nature.

- French: Inséparable
- Spanish: Inseparable
- Portuguese: Inseparável
- Italian: Inseparabile
- German: Unzertrennlliche (meaning "the inseparable ones")

The scientific name *Agapornis* comes from Greek:

Agape = love and Ornis = bird, together, it means "love bird."

SOUL MATES FOR LIFE?

Black-cheeked lovebirds live in flocks, and pairs form strong bonds; hence the name 'lovebirds'. However, they don't necessarily bond for life. Breeding occurs during the rainy season to ensure plenty of food. They nest in tree cavities while building nests made out of twigs and leaves. Three to six eggs are laid and incubated for about 24 days. Chicks leave the nest after approximately 44 days.



THREATS TO THEIR SURVIVAL



Habitat loss through
Agriculture & Livestock



Droughts



Hunting



Diseases



Fishing
Conflict



Did you
know?

5 FUN FACTS ABOUT BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRDS



While the female incubates the eggs, the male brings her food.



Their calls are high-pitched and sharp, similar to other lovebird species



They carry nesting materials by tucking them into their feathers



These birds are highly social and usually seen in pairs or small flocks. Strong pair bonds are common, and individuals often perch close together and preen one another.



Outside of breeding season, Black-cheeked Lovebirds can gather in large groups, sometimes numbering in the hundreds, especially near reliable water sources during the dry season.