

## KĀ-KĀ-PŌ



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The railway track run through the Hanoi market, with vendors and sellers stationed on either side of the lane, offering various goods such as vegetables, fish, baskets, and more. Venturing a little deeper into the market, a man was sitting on the ground with numerous bird cages displayed in front of him.

*“Ey! ¿Como te llamas hermano? ¿De donde es usted?”* – someone said. (“Hey! What is your name brother? Where are you from?”)

Luca looked around to see if someone was calling him?

*“Ey! Estoy aquí.”* (“Hey! I’m here.”)

Turning around, Luca saw someone behind him saying these words.

“Hello. Are you talking to me?” – Luca asked.

*“Sí, Sí.”* (“Yes Yes.”) He replied. - *“¿De donde es usted?”* (“Where are you from?”)

“Sorry but I can’t speak Spanish.”- Luca said.

*“Oho, lo siento”* (“Oh, I’m sorry”)– He apologized.

A laugh emanated from the side. "Ha! Ha! Miguel, you should ask him in English. Maybe he doesn't understand Spanish you

boy! I've been telling you to learn English," someone spoke from behind. “Hey brother! I'm Jack, a Spix's Macaw. And this is Miguel, a Blue-throated Macaw. What about you? What's your name?” Jack inquired.

“I am Luca. Nice to meet you guys.”

“Where are you from?” – Jack asked.

“I am from New Zealand. And you guys?”

“I'm from the Brazilian side of the Amazon, and Miguel is from the Bolivian side,” Jack explained. “By the way, I've never come across your species before. What species are you, brother?”

“A fat chicken!” – Miguel said jokingly and laughed.

“Hey! Don't you call me a fat chicken! I'm a very rare species of New Zealand as well as the whole world.”

“What species are you?” - Jack enquired again.

“I am a KAKAPO”. – Luca said proudly.

“Oh God! A KAKAPO! How did you get here?” – Jack exclaimed half-astonished.

“A bird poacher captured me on Raikura Island and sold me here,” Luca said with a tinge of sadness.



“Jack, ¿Cuáles la importancia del kakapo?” (“Jack, what is the importance of kakapo?”) – Miguel asked.

Jacks told him “Don’t you know Kakapos are a critically endangered bird species. Kakapos (*Strigopshabroptilus*) are big, nocturnal, flightless parrot which are the only lek-breeding parrot species in the world. Kakapo means 'night parrot' in the Māori Language.

Kakapos, primarily native to New Zealand. Their habitat are mainly grasslands, scrublands, and coastal areas. But their population has reduced significantly, leading to their presence being restricted to protected offshore islands. In the past, Kakapos were widespread throughout in New Zealand. but their numbers began reducing with the arrival of the Maori, an indigenous people of New Zealand.

Kakapos are exclusively found on forested islands, despite previously inhabiting a range of vegetation types.”

In a tone of surprise, Luca exclaimed, “Wow, Jack! You're quite knowledgeable about us. And yes, we're also strictly herbivorous. Our diet consists of leaves, buds, flowers, fern fronds, bark, roots, rhizomes, bulbs, fruit, and seeds.”

Luca said that “We engage in lek breeding. Typically, male kakapo bird emit a booming call (“booming”) and a wheezing call (“chinging”) to entice mates to their leks. Both males and females kakapo generate a loud, high-pitched skraak call (“skraaking”). Nests are located on beneath the ground. Approximately 1-4 we can lay eggs. Typically, our breeding season occurs during summer and autumn.”

“As adults, we become vulnerable to predation by cats and stoats. While rats

pose a threat to our eggs and chicks. Only females of us undertake the duty of incubating eggs and caring for our offspring. When the nest is unprotected, eggs and chicks become particularly vulnerable to predation since we need to spend extended periods away from it in search of food. Raising chicks takes a lot of time, and when they are older, nests start to smell bad and are obvious to predators.”, Luca said

“As of June 2023, we have a total of 247 birds known. Sadly, our genetic diversity is quite limited, resulting in reduced fertility,” Luca expressed with sadness. “That's why recent conservation efforts have focused on managing mating and employing artificial insemination to mitigate further declines in breeding success. Presently, we are confined to three islands: Whenua Hou, Anchor Island, and Hauturu. In 2016, breeding efforts on all three islands resulted in the survival of 32 chicks.”

“Why can't people comprehend our anguish? They fail to grasp that we are gradually vanishing from this world,” Jack lamented. “If this neglect persists, and if people continue to disregard our plight, then in the future, they will only encounter our images within the pages of history books.”

“*Muy triste.*”, sighed Miguel. (“Very sad.”)

Suddenly, the trio heard the bird seller shouting, “Step right up, sir! Step right up! Here's your chance to own a Blue-throated Macaw for just six thousand! Or how about a Spix's Macaw, an incredibly rare species from Brazil, for only seven thousand? And don't miss out on the

Kakapo, a highly sought-after and critically-endangered species from New Zealand, available for just nine thousand!

Special discount if you buy now! Step right up, ladies and gentlemen!”

