



Agapornis Nigrigenis

Didier Mervilde

The Black-cheeked Lovebird (*Agapornis nigrigenis*) is a small parrot species of the lovebird genus. It is mainly green and has a brown head, red beak, orange bib below the throat which fades to yellowish-green, grey feet and a white eyering. The rump is green which is a typical characteristic for the pure wild type. The bird is found in a small range in southwest Zambia (1904), where it is vulnerable to habitat loss.

The Black-cheeked Lovebird inhabits deciduous woodland where permanent supplies of water exist, as it needs daily access to water. They congregate in large flocks.

It feeds at ground level on grass seeds but also on insect larvae, sorghum, millet and corn.



The Black-cheeked Lovebird is imported in Europe in 1930 and relatively easy to breed in aviculture. They are closely related with the *Agapornis lilliana* of which many hybrids are circulating. The hybrids you can recognize to the red on the head and in the mask. There was little interest in breeding him during the first half of the twentieth century at a time when imports were numerous. Now they are infrequent in some countries but in Europe you can find them easily even in different mutations. Some of the mutations are Dilute, Misty, Pied, Blue, Violet, Darkgreen, Lutino, Pastel, Dark eyed clear. Most of them are transmutations.

