



the
mauritian dodo



Extinct 1681 A.D.

The Mauritius dodo is a relative of the pigeon, and is one of the most well known examples of human-caused extinction. Hunting and introduced species from Portuguese and Dutch settlers had such an effect on the island of Mauritius that the dodo, once common on the island, died out within 100 years since its first contact with humans. Its extinction also resulted in many other birds and trees going extinct.

Diet

Dodos nested on the ground and ate fallen fruits from trees. Native trees relied on the dodo to help disperse their seeds by passing them through the bird's digestive tract.

Habitat

The dodo had lived in a safe and stable ecosystem on Mauritius for so long that it had lost the ability to fly. No mammals were found on the island, which allowed it to thrive in the forests.

Features

Dodos grew up to one metre tall and are often described as having a brownish-grey plumage, yellow feet, and a black, yellow, or green beak. Although its extinction is well documented only fragments of the species remain preserved.