

Rose-ringed Parakeet

Species Description

Scientific name: *Psittacula krameri*

AKA: Ring-necked Parakeet, Paracit Torchog (Welsh)

Native to: South Asia, Central Africa

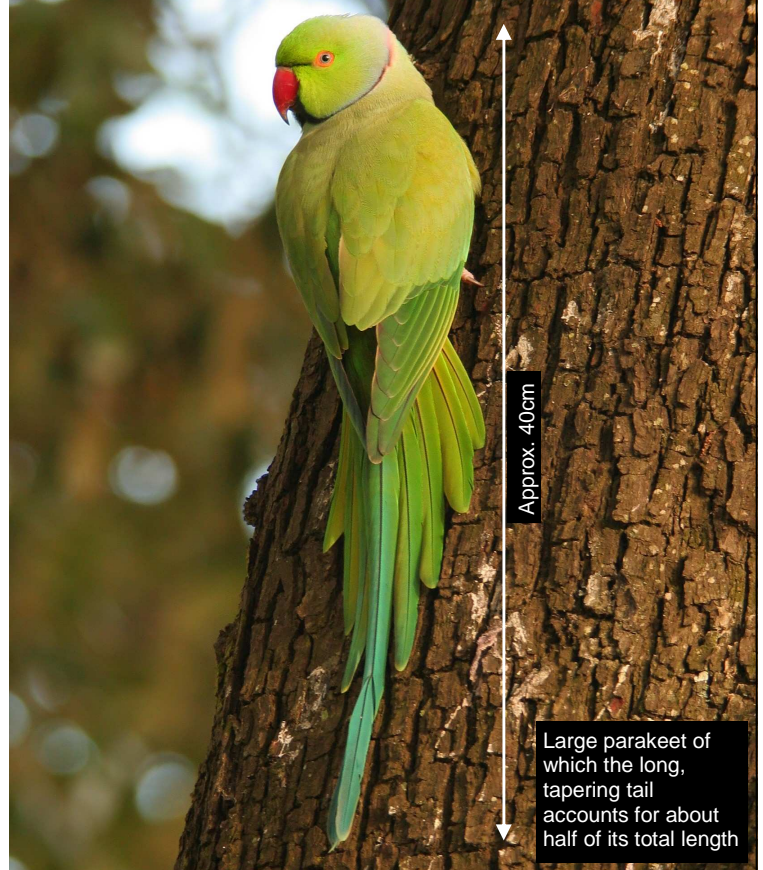
Habitat: Frequents suburban parks, gardens, and orchards

A very obvious bird in appearance, flight and call. A large all-green parakeet with a bright red bill and long tapering tail. Black chin-strap joining pink hind collar on males. Female is all green in plumage with indistinct pale green collar. Call is a loud squawk. There are other parakeet species that have been introduced into the UK that could be confused with this species, but these are relatively rare.

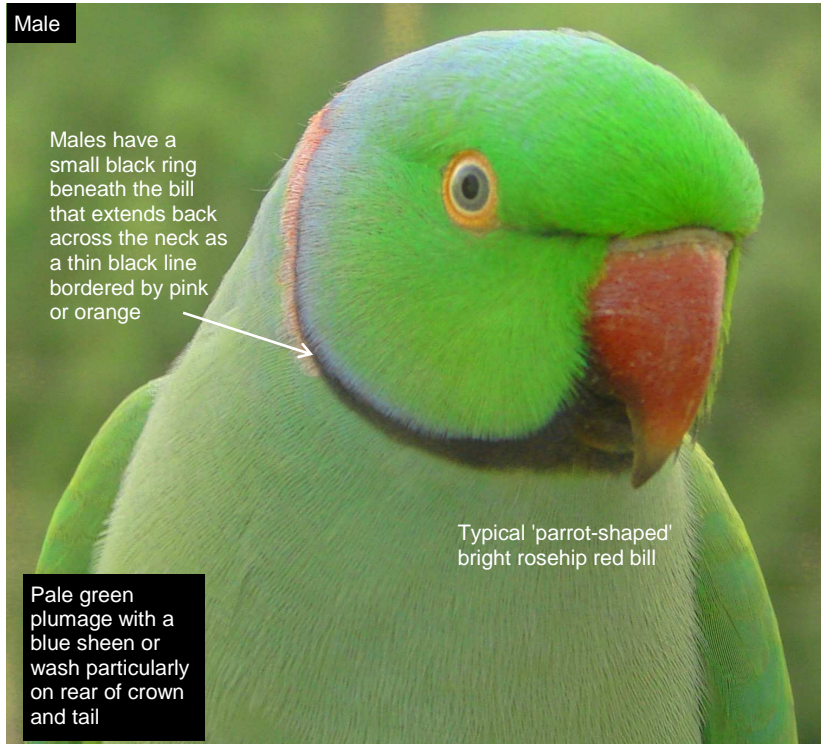
Introduced as a pet, records of rose-ringed parakeet in the UK date from the 19th century, but establishment in the wild was not until the late 1960s / early 1970s. Potential negative impacts include outcompeting native hole-nesting birds for nest sites and as an agricultural pest (the species is already a serious pest of agriculture in Africa and parts of Asia). Current population is relatively small and range expansion is slow, suggesting that agricultural areas are not yet threatened.

The rose-ringed parakeet is listed under Schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with respect to England, Wales and Scotland. As such it is an offence to release or to allow the escape of this species into the wild.

For details of legislation go to www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation.



Key ID Features

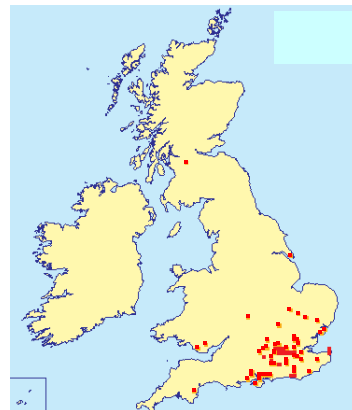


Field signs

- Call - very vocal, the most common call a loud squawking 'kyik ... kyik ... kyik'
- Behaviour - often found in flocks with roost flocks numbering up to several thousands of birds within its main range
- Flight - fast, rapid flickering wing beats, steady and direct, with obvious long tail and pointed wings
- Expert climber, perches easily, waddles on ground
- Nests - made from layers of debris or wood dust, generally in tree holes, sometimes in a roof or wall, usually well above ground, often in old woodpecker holes
- Eggs - smooth not glossy, white, 29 x 24mm, laid in clutches of 3 to 4 anytime between January and June
- Incubation - 22 to 24 days
- Fledging - 40 to 50 days

Distribution

The species regular range in the UK is centred upon south-east England, where the populations are localised in west London, south-east London and north-east Kent. Small numbers of birds are recorded elsewhere in England and Wales.



Source: redrawn from Gibbons, Reid and Chapman 1993

Similar Species



References and further reading:

- BTO Bird Facts <http://www.bto.org/birdfacts>
- Cramp, S, Simmons, K and Perrins, C (1977-1994) "*Handbook of the Birds of Europe the Middle East and North Africa, The Birds of the Western Palearctic*". Oxford University Press
- Gibbons, D, Reid, J and Chapman, R (1993) "*The new atlas of breeding birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991*". T & AD Poyser
- Harrison, C and Castell, P (2002) "*Collins Guide to the Bird Nests, Eggs and Nestlings of Britain and Europe with North Africa and the Middle East*". Harper Collins
- Lever, C (2005) "*Naturalised birds of the world*". T & AB Poyser
- Sample, G (1996) "*Collins Field Guide to Bird Songs and Calls of Britain and Northern Europe*". Harper Collins
- Svensson, L, Mullarney, K, Zetterstrom, D and Grant, P J (2008) "*Collins Bird Guide*". Harper Collins