

Rose Ringed Parakeet

Psittacula krameri

Order:Psittaciformes

Family:Psittacidae

Genus:*Psittacula*

Species:*krameri*



STATUS

Resident/ Common

MORPHOLOGY

- Size: Slightly larger than the Myna, and with a long pointed tail.
- Field Characters: A smaller replica of the Alexandrine Parakeet, but lacking the maroon shoulder patches.
- In the female the black and rose-pink collar of the male (illustrated) is absent.
- Noisy flocks, in cultivated and lightly wooded country

DISTRIBUTION

- Resident practically throughout the Indian Empire from the Himalayan foothills south.
- Plains, and sparingly up to about 5,000 feet in the hills.
- Two races are recognised on size, and colour of lower mandible, viz., the larger N. India-Assam-Burma race borealis and the smaller S. India-Ceylon manillensis which occurs roughly south of lat. 20 N.

HABITS

- The Rose-ringed Parakeet ranks with the Crow, Sparrow and Myna amongst our commonest and most familiar birds.
- It is as much at home on the countryside as within the precincts of a bustling city.
- It goes about in small parties which hand themselves into huge noisy flocks where food is plentiful, and do considerable damage to ripening grain crops and orchard fruit.
- The birds clamber about the twigs and gnaw at the ripe and semi-ripe fruit, destroying much more than they eat.
- It is a common sight at wayside railway stations to see numbers of Rose-ringed Parakeets clinging to the sacks of grain awaiting entrainment, biting into them and helping themselves to the contents.

NESTING

- The season over the greater part of its range is between February and April.
- The eggs are laid in a hollow in a tree-trunk, usually but not always, excavated by the birds themselves.
- It also nests freely in holes in rock scarps and walls of buildings, both in ruins and occupied, frequently in the midst of the noisiest and most congested parts of a town.
- The eggs—four to six—are pure white and the usual roundish ovals.
- Both sexes share in excavating the hole, incubation and care of the young.
- When the nest is threatened, the owners summon assistance and the neighbourhood is soon seething with a noisy rabble of parakeets intent on shouting aggression down if nothing else.