

# *Psittacula krameri*



Taxon	Family / Order / Class / Phylum
<i>Psittacula krameri</i> (Scopoli, 1769)	Psittacidae / Psittaciformes / Aves / Chordata

## COMMON NAMES (English only)

Rose-ringed Parakeet

## SYNONYMS

*Psittacus krameri* Scopoli, 1769

## SHORT DESCRIPTION

This pale yellow-green parakeet with a distinguishing long tail lives in tropical and subtropical lightly wooded habitats feeding mainly on seeds, fruit, flowers and nectar. Males have a black and rose-red ring encircling their throat.

## BIOLOGY/ECOLOGY

### Dispersal mechanisms

Sedentary, with some local movements for food and seasonal changes in roost sites.

### Reproduction

Breeds singly or in small loose groups in the same tree (4 pairs) from late January to late July. Clutch size 2-6 (mean 3.6), normally single brooded, but known to occasionally have second broods.

### Known predators/herbivores

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Red kite (*Milvus milvus*), Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*), Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*) and snakes may rob eggs and nestlings from the large cavities.

### Resistant stages (seeds, spores etc.)

None

## HABITAT

### Native (EUNIS code)

G: Woodland and forest habitats and other wooded land (Mainly lowland, most abundant in moist and dry deciduous lightly wooded areas, secondary jungle), I: Regularly or recently cultivated agricultural, horticultural and domestic habitats, J: Constructed, industrial and other artificial habitats (Gardens, orchard, cultivated areas and city suburbs).

### Habitat occupied in invaded range (EUNIS code)

I: Regularly or recently cultivated agricultural, horticultural and domestic habitats, J: Constructed, industrial and other artificial habitats. Mainly parks, local gardens and suburban areas, but also cultivated areas with fields and orchards.

### Habitat requirements

Avoids mountainous and arid areas, can be found in a large range of temperatures, precipitation and light regimes in anthropogenic-influenced habitats that provide food resources. In Europe, they depend on bird feeders during winter.



*Psittacula krameri* is a pale yellow-green parakeet with a distinguishing long tail.

Photo: Assaf Shwartz

## DISTRIBUTION

### Native Range

From west- to east-central Africa, Afghanistan, West Pakistan, Indian Subcontinent, Myanmar.

### Known Introduced Range

Introduced to twelve countries in Europe from Belgium and the UK in the west across north-central Europe to Greece and Slovenia.




### Trend

Increasing in population size and distribution in several countries in Western Europe (Belgium, Netherlands, and the UK) as well as Turkey and Israel.

## MAP (European distribution)



### Legend

	Known in country		Known in CGRS square		Known in sea
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## INTRODUCTION PATHWAY

Rose-ringed parakeets were highly traded as a cage bird during the late 1960's and 1970's and have escaped from aviaries. However, spreading has occurred naturally in human-dominated habitats.

## IMPACT

### Prevention

It would be useful to establish baseline information and monitor existing wild and captive populations, improve legislation to prevent deliberate introductions and to limit or remove populations, for example by trapping, and institute strict controls such as licensing to prevent escapes or ban their inclusion in captive collections.

### Ecosystem Impact

It has been suggested that the Rose-ringed Parakeets may have detrimental effects on other cavity-nesters. In many habitats (mainly managed ones), the number of cavities is a major factor regulating population densities of cavity-nesters. Parakeets, which begin breeding prior to most other secondary cavity-nester species, may limit resources available for species such as House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*), European Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) and European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

### Health and Social Impact

Some noise disturbance from loud squawking and screeching at large roost sites.

## **Economic Impact**

Rose-ringed Parakeet is considered by some to be the worst avian pest in its native range. It is a major crop pest in India, damaging grain products and fruits and, in one study, reducing the yield of maize crops by up to 81%. It is also a pest of sunflower, dates and other fruit orchard crops.

## **MANAGEMENT**

### **Prevention**

Unknown.

### **Mechanical**

Trapping has been conducted in Australia to remove individuals from the wild.

### **Chemical**

None.

### **Biological**

None.

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