

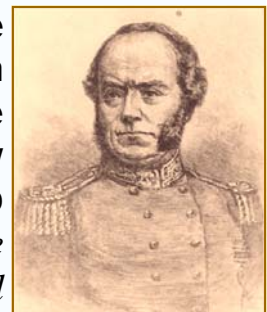
MAJOR MITCHELL'S COCKATOO



MAJOR MITCHELL'S COCKATOO
BOWRA QUEENSLAND
Photo: "Aviceda"

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, *Lophocroa leadbeateri*, also known as the Pink Cockatoo or Leadbeater's Cockatoo is a medium-sized cockatoo restricted to arid and semi-arid inland areas of Australia. It was usually placed in the genus *Cacatua*. But recent research suggests this species should be placed in a monotypic genus, *Lophocroa*, (Brown & Toft, 1999).

Their scientific name commemorates the British Naturalist, Benjamin Leadbeater (1760 - 1837). The common name honours Sir Thomas Mitchell, an early explorer and surveyor of south-eastern Australia, who wrote: "*Few birds more enliven the monotonous hues of the Australian forest than this beautiful species whose pink-coloured wings and flowing crest might have embellished the air of a more voluptuous region*". In parts of southern central Australia the aboriginal name of the species is "*kakalyalya*".



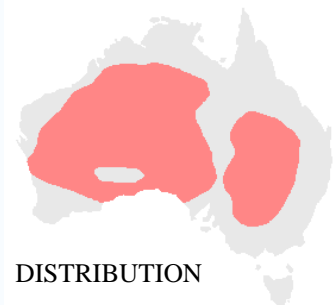
Sir Thomas Mitchell
(1792– 1855)

Unlike the Galah, *Eolophus roseicapilla*, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo has not benefited from man-made



Photo: "Aviceda"

changes to the arid interior of Australia. Where Galahs willingly occupy cleared and part-cleared land, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo requires extensive woodlands, particularly favouring *Callitris*, *Allocasuarina* and *Eucalyptus*. In contrast to other cockatoos, they



will not nest close to one another; as a consequence, they do not tolerate fragmented, partly-cleared habitats, and their range is contracting.

Reference: Wikipedia