

THE CORELLAS

GENUS: *Cacatua*

SUBGENUS: *Licmetis*

Continued from the May edition

#4 DUCORPS' CORELLA



Photo: Kathy Lewis

Ducorps' Corella, *Cacatua ducorpsii*, is also known as the Solomon Corella or Broad-crested Corella. The species is endemic to the Solomon Islands. They are a small white cockatoo larger than the Tanimbar Corella, yet smaller than the Umbrella Cockatoo. The species is common across most of the Solomons, only being absent from Makira in the south. They occur in lowland rainforests, secondary forests, cleared areas and gardens.

Ducorps' Corella is about 30cm (12") in length, predominantly white, with a blue eye ring and a recumbent crest which resembles a sail when raised. As with the other members of the subgenus *Licmetis*, the bill is pale.



They have pale yellow undersides to their wings and tails, and the hidden bases of the head and breast feathers sometimes have a carnation-pink base. The feet are grey. Males have dark brownish-black irises, the females have reddish coloured irises.

They nest in tree cavities., laying white eggs, the usual clutch being two. The incubation period is approximately twenty-five days and the chicks fledge about sixty-two days from hatching.

This species is not available in Australia, and is very rare in overseas aviculture. A single bird was recently advertised in America for \$US1600.00 (approximately \$AUD2100.00).

My personal experience of the species is limited to frequent sightings of "Charlotte" a pet Ducorps' belonging to the American CEO of the Papua New Guinea Electricity Authority. Charlotte lived opposite me when I worked in Port Moresby in the 1980s, and would often escape from her cage and fly onto the power lines outside my house. I always knew when she was free, as a very nasal "Yankee" voice would constantly call "Chaarlotte...Chaarlotte", while Charlotte amused herself by screeching back until she decided it was time to return home. Although her wings were uncut, she never seemed to go further than the power lines.



AN ALERT DUCORPS

R.V.C. with help from Wikipedia

This article concludes the series on Corellas