

# THE CORELLAS

GENUS: *Cacatua*

SUBGENUS: *Licmetis*

Continued from the February edition

## #2 THE WESTERN CORELLA



WESTERN CORELLA PAIR

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The Western Corella, *Cacatua pastinator*, is endemic to Western Australia. It was previously considered a subspecies of the Little Corella, *Cacatua sanguine*, but is now recognised a full species in its own right. There are two subspecies, the nominate and *C. p. butleri*. While generally uncommon, it has expanded its range in recent decades, and is therefore listed as “least concern” by BirdLife International. However, the nominate subspecies, popularly known as Muir’s Corella, is relatively rare, with only a total population of around 3000 individuals.

Their range is restricted to two areas in the south-west of Western Australia. Their preferred habitat is along timbered watercourses, and in open forest country where sufficient large trees remain to meet their nesting requirements. Naturally, a permanent water supply is essential in any area they inhabit. The food of the Western Corella consists of a range of seeds (including agricultural species), bulbs and vegetation.



ONION WEED  
*Asphodelus fistulosus*

Like the Long-billed Corella, *C. tenuirostris*, of the east, the bulb of the introduced North American Onion Weed is a staple part of their diet.



They are similar to the Long-billed Corella, with a more pronounced crest and a beak length midway between that of the Long-billed and Little Corellas. At first glance the sexes are alike, but the males are larger and have a broader skull than the females. The flight of the Western Corella consists of a period of strong wing-beats followed by a period of gliding, somewhat similar to that of the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, *C. galerita*.

This species has the ability to mimic the human voice clearly and like the Long-billed Corella bond strongly with their owner. They make ideal pets, but are not as common in captivity as the either the Little or Long-billed Corella.

R.V.C. With help from Wikipedia