

NATIVE PARROTS HELD IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* provides for a permit system to keep a large number of native parrots in captivity. Thirteen species of parrot are exempt from the permit system and three species of parrot are unprotected.

There are almost 3,500 permit holders in South Australia who keep a range of parrots, finches, waterfowl, birds of prey as well as reptiles and mammals. Four hundred and twenty six persons hold a permit to keep specialist animals. In addition there are nineteen fauna dealers currently licensed.

Permit holders are required to maintain a record book and submit stock returns to the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH).

An analysis of returns submitted for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 was conducted. The analysis did not include information submitted by fauna dealers.

The accuracy of the figures provided is subject to some error and should be used as a guide only. Error can be caused by permit holders failing to submit returns, permit holders making errors on their return sheets, or data entry errors.

Persons keeping one only parrot (listed as a basic species) are not required to obtain a permit. It is likely that most of these persons do not hold a permit nor submit returns.

The analysis shows that the most popular parrot species kept in South Australia (excluding parrot species categorised as exempt or unprotected) were the Australian King Parrot *Alisterus scapularis* (1240), Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Cacatua leadbeateri* (1177), Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii* (1146) and the Regent Parrot *Polytelis anthopeplus* (1087).

Breeding and deaths rates

The Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius* has the highest record breedings for the year with 284 progeny. This is followed by the Australian King Parrot *Alisterus scapularis* (178), Regent Parrot *Polytelis anthopeplus* (172), Superb

Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii* (162) Blue-winged Parrot *Neophema chrysostoma*(115), Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus* (101), Western Rosella *Platycercus icterotis* (101).

A number of species displayed poor recruitment levels, with the number of deaths surpassing the number of births (see Table 1)

Table 1 – Parrots displaying poor recruitment levels - 2002/2003		
COMMON NAME	BRED	DEATHS
Mulga Parrot	63	73
Crimson Rosella	53	71
Adelaide Rosella	43	65
Major Mitchell’s Cockatoo	64	55
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	9	29
Australian Ringneck	26	29
Red-vented Blue Bonnet	19	22
Golden-shouldered Parrot	18	20
Northern Rosella	15	17
Red-capped Parrot	14	15
Blue-cheeked Rosella	13	14
Little Lorikeet	4	13

A number of species displayed strong recruitment levels, with the number of births surpassing the number of deaths (see Table 2)

Table 2- Parrots displaying strong recruitment levels - 2002/2003		
COMMON NAME	BRED	DEATHS
Superb Parrot	162	104
Eastern Rosella	284	109
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	48	20
Red-collared Lorikeet	65	21
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo	22	3
Blue-winged Parrot	115	45
Red-winged Parrot	101	69

A table showing comprehensive details of all acquisitions and disposals of those parrots listed as basic and specialist can be found on the fauna permit web site.

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/fauna_permits/latest_news.html