

PALE-HEADED ROSELLA

Platycercus adscitus

Description : The Pale-headed Rosella is a medium-sized, broad-tailed parrot, with a pale head and all white, or blue and white cheek patches. The underbelly is mainly blue, with red under the tail. The back is yellow with dark flecks. The female is similar, though slightly duller, with an off-white underwing stripe. Immature birds resemble adults, but with duller plumage and adult plumage is attained at 16 months.

Length: 32 cm. There is marked geographical variation, with differences in the depth of colour and the facial patch.

Distribution : The Pale-headed Rosella is found in north-eastern and eastern Australia, specifically Northern Queensland, South of Cairns and Mitchell River to Southern New South Wales.

Habitat : Pale-headed Rosellas are found in savannah woodlands, lightly timbered woodlands with a grassy understorey, tree-lined watercourses and agricultural lands. Considered to be resident.



Feeding : Pale-headed Rosellas feed mainly on the ground, but also in trees and shrubs. They mainly eat seeds and fruits of grasses, shrubs and trees, as well as flowers, insects and their larvae. They feed more often in shade than in sunlight.

In aviculture Pale-headed Rosellas should be fed a commercial seed mix supplemented with green food and fruits, mealworms, nuts, dog chow, bread, and minerals.

Breeding : Pale-headed Rosellas make their nests in the hollows of either dead or living trees, usually in eucalypts, or hollow stumps and posts. The nest is often near water. The eggs are laid on wood dust. The female lays 5 to 6 eggs that she incubates alone for about 21 days. During the incubation period she is fed by her mate and the male helps to feed the young.

Rosellas are easy to breed; they are robust, do not fear cold but need a dry shelter. The breeding season extends from September through January. In captivity Pale-headed Rosellas prefer nest high above the ground, filled with wood-chips.

In keeping with most rosellas, the Pale-headed Rosella may be aggressive and so is best kept as one pair per aviary. It is also advisable not to house rosellas in adjacent aviaries as they may fight through the wire.

References: <http://birdsinbackyards.net>
<http://www.avianweb.com/paleheadedrosellas.html>