

Indian ring-necked parakeet

Psittacula krameri

What does it look like?

Indian ring-neck parakeets are 38-42 cm in length (head to tail), typically with a green body. Colour variations are available due to selective breeding/mutation. Colours other than green usually cost more to buy. The neck is encircled by a black band (males) or a indistinct emerald band (females). Sub-adult males are difficult to distinguish from females. Males become sexually mature and develop the neck ring at 2-3 years old. Life-span in captivity is approximately 20 years (in some cases up to 34 years).

Indian ring-neck parakeets have a broad climatic tolerance from cool and wet to hot and dry. They are naturalised in at least 35 countries and are therefore also likely to acclimatise to New Zealand's climatic conditions.



Why is it a problem?

They are gregarious birds, feeding and breeding in groups, enabling domination of food sources. They have a relatively early breeding season overseas resulting in pre-emptive cavity occupancy. This is followed by aggressive and often successful defence of cavities against other species, and some reports of eviction of other species from cavities. Therefore, potential to competitively exclude other cavity nesting species from the nest habitat. They appear to defend only the nest cavity rather than the entire tree, therefore may have lesser impact on non-cavity nesting species. Indian ring-neck parakeets are more likely to be aggressive with smaller body-mass bird species and will aggressively attack potential nest predators such as rats, often successfully, sometimes killing the predator.

Clutch size ranges from 1-7 eggs. Number of eggs per clutch may be influenced by cavity type. Populations in some regions produce two clutches per year, others only one. New Zealand breeders indicate two broods per year are unlikely here. Nestlings fledge at around 7 weeks of age. Rapid rate of population increase documented in overseas invasions. Establishment of breeding populations overseas is positively correlated with human populations, that is, there are greater numbers where people live.

Control methods

Indian ring-neck parakeets are not known to have established populations in the wild in the Southland Region.

If you see these birds in the wild or outside of captivity then contact MPI immediately.

Please refer to the MPI website link below.

Related links

World Parrot Trust <https://www.parrots.org/encyclopedia/ringneck-parakeet>

MPI <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/biosecurity-and-your-pets/>

Management programme

Organisms of interest

Request info

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityRFS/step/1?Subject=AnimalPests&Species=602>