



NDF WORKSHOP CASE STUDIES
WG 6 – Birds
CASE STUDY 3

Platycercus eximius

Country – **NEW ZEALAND**
Original language – English

EASTERN ROSELLA *PLATYCERCUS EXIMIUS*, EXPORTS FROM NEW ZEALAND, CASE STUDY

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I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE TAXA

1. BIOLOGICAL DATA

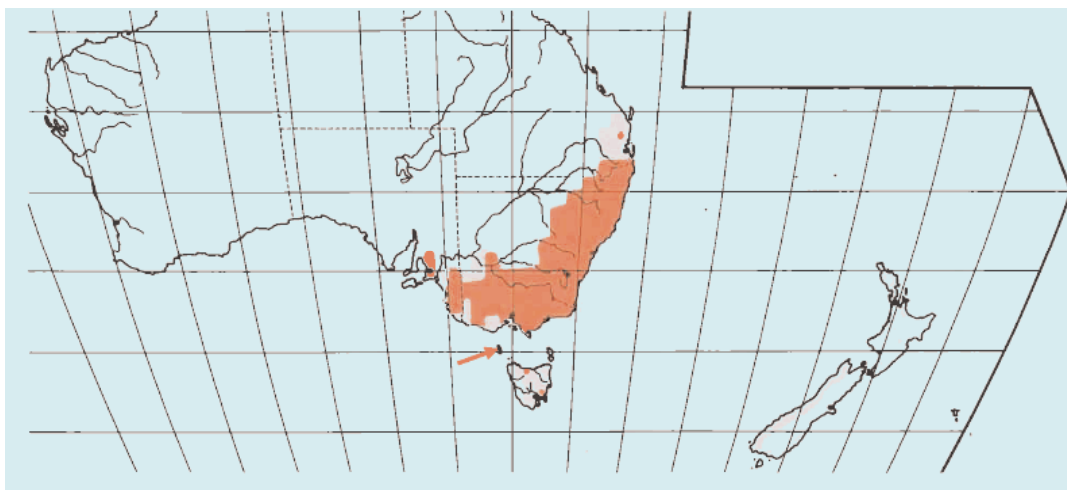
1.1. Scientific and common names:

Platycercus eximius

Eastern Rosella; Common, Red, Red-headed, Golden-mantled, Rose Hill or White-cheeked Rosella; Nonpareil or Rosella Parrot; Golden-mantled, Rosehill or Rosella Parrot; Joey; Pretty Joey

1.2 Distribution

From Higgins (Ed.) 1999.



South-eastern Australia from southern Queensland south to Tasmania, including Bass Strait islands, and west to eastern South Australia.

Introduced to New Zealand through cage-escapes. Very common in the northern North Island, south to the Waikato and Bay of Plenty and also in the Wairarapa and Wellington in the southern North Island. Otherwise scattered throughout the rest of the island. In the South Island, mostly in Otago around Dunedin, with scattered records more widely in the south and east of the island (Robertson *et.al.* 2007).

1.3 Biological characteristics

1.3.1 General biology and life history:

A gregarious species, seen in pairs or flocks up to 50, though sometimes also occurring singly.

1.3.2 Habitat types:

In Australia, open woodland and grassland and often in suburban areas. Similar habitat in New Zealand, though also found within forest.

1.3.3 Role of the species in its ecosystem

Feeds on seeds of grasses, shrubs and trees, and also fruits, buds flowers, nectar and insects and their larvae

1.4 Population

1.4.1 Global population size

Not assessed but with a population range of up to 1,000,000 km², and a high density over much of that range, considered to be abundant

1.4.2 Current global population trends:

Increasing in both the natural and feral range.

increasing decreasing stable unknown

1.5 Conservation status

1.5.1 Global conservation status:

<input type="checkbox"/> Critically endangered	<input type="checkbox"/> Near Threatened
<input type="checkbox"/> Endangered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Least concern
<input type="checkbox"/> Vulnerable	<input type="checkbox"/> Data deficient

1.5.2 *National conservation status for the case study country*
Not threatened, increasing in range and population and classed as a pest in some areas.

1.5.3 *Main threats within case study country*

- No Threats
- Habitat Loss/Degradation (human induced)
- Invasive alien species (directly affecting the species)
- Harvesting [hunting/gathering]
- Accidental mortality (e.g. Bycatch)
- Persecution (e.g. Pest control)
- Pollution (affecting habitat and/or species)
- Other _____
- Unknown

2. SPECIES MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY FOR WHICH CASE STUDY IS BEING PRESENTED

2.1 Management measures

2.1.1 *Management history*

As an introduced species, with the potential to have damaging effects on agricultural production or on native species they are, in a number of regions of the country, included in statutory Pest Management Strategies. There is significant concern about competitive influence on New Zealand *Cyanorhamphus* parakeets and other native birds, particularly hole-nesting species.

2.1.2 *Purpose of the management plan in place*

Regional pest management strategies in New Zealand are established under the Biosecurity Act 1996 to monitor populations of the species and, where necessary, to regulate or control them in order ensure they do not reach serious pest status.

2.1.3 *General elements of the management plan*

Environment Waikato, the regional authority for that part of the country, has declared Rosellas as "Nuisance Animal Pests", which do not justify region-wide control programmes but for which individual land-holders are encouraged to maintain control along with the Authority in key sites. In the Bay of Plenty Region, amidst concerns about damage to orchards, the species is classified as a "surveillance pest".

2.1.4 *Restoration or alleviation measures*

No restoration or alleviation measures are in place in NZ.

2.2 **Monitoring system**

2.2.1 *Methods used to monitor harvest*

The only monitoring carried out in New Zealand is in the context of the pest or potential pest programmes referred to above.

2.2.2 *Confidence in the use of monitoring*

While the populations are classified as non-protected, the requirement for robust monitoring programmes is determined according to the species' pest status. While there is a potential for cockatoos to become significant pests in parts of NZ, they have not yet done so to any great degree. The low level surveillance activities that are undertaken are therefore appropriate.

2.3 **Legal framework and law enforcement**

Rosellas are not protected in New Zealand. They are listed in the 5th Schedule of the Wildlife Act 1953 as "Wildlife not Protected". The Biosecurity Act 1993 enables Pest Management Strategies (PMSs) to be developed for each of the important pests. These PMSs are to be developed at the regional level (RPMSs) or at the national level (NPMSs).

Under the Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989, which implements CITES in New Zealand, a permit is required for each consignment exported from the country.

3. **UTILIZATION AND TRADE FOR STATE**

3.1 **Type of use and destinations**

Commercial use of this species in NZ is almost exclusively for the pet trade. A proportion is traded domestically and the rest (probably more than half) are exported.

3.2 **Harvest**

3.2.1 *Harvesting regime*

Forty per cent of exported Rosellas were bred in captivity, the remainder being captured in the wild, either as adults, juveniles or, less frequently, nestlings.

3.2.2 *Harvest management/control*

Given the unprotected and potential pest status of this species in NZ, there is little regulation of harvest, except where it is undertaken on public conservation land (government managed reserves), in which case the operator requires a concession and permit.

3.3 **Legal and illegal trade levels**

Of the 2900 live Eastern Rosellas exported from New Zealand between 1981 and 2006, most went to the USA and Japan, with significant numbers also being sent to Mexico and Malta. To place this in context, the total trade in this species between all Parties over the same period was over 100,000 individuals. The majority of this trade comprises captive-bred birds exported from European countries.

TRADE FROM OTHER RANGE STATES

Australia is the only native range-state for the species. While a very small number of birds was exported from that country over the last 25 years, most were scientific specimens or for zoos.

II. NON-DETRIMENT FINDING PROCEDURE (NDFs)

1. **IS THE METHODOLOGY BASED ON THE IUCN CHECKLIST FOR NDFs?**

No it is not. Given that the species is introduced into New Zealand (and is in some regions regarded as a pest), trade in wild-caught and captive-bred birds is regarded as non-detrimental to the populations of the species in the range state (Australia).

2. **CRITERIA, PARAMETERS AND/OR INDICATORS USED.**

In order to minimise the chances of parrots being smuggled from Australia or elsewhere, and being declared as captive-bred or wild-caught in New Zealand, each export application for parrots is assessed by both the Scientific and Management Authorities of NZ.

3. **MAIN SOURCES OF DATA, INCLUDING FIELD EVALUATION OR SAMPLING METHODOLOGIES AND ANALYSIS USED.**

Each export application must be accompanied by a declaration on the part of the breeder or supplier to the exporter. In the case of captive-bred birds, the identity and location of the parents must be provided in the event that the DNA tests are requested. If, on the advice of the Scientific Authority, the Management Authority requires validation by way of a DNA test, the applicant bears reasonable costs.

In the case of wild-caught birds, the applicant must provide detailed location information so that the capture site may be verified. In both cases, the information is provided as a legal statutory declaration, witnessed by a Justice of the Peace.

4. EVALUATION OF DATA QUANTITY AND QUALITY FOR THE ASSESSMENT

In practice, given the relative ease of breeding this species in captivity or capturing it in the wild, DNA tests and field inspections are not undertaken, though breeding facilities may be inspected to ensure that their productivity figures are realistic. In the case of less abundant and higher value species, including Appendix I parrots, DNA tests are more frequently required.

5. MAIN PROBLEMS, CHALLENGES OR DIFFICULTIES FOUND ON THE ELABORATION OF THE NDF

The process for elaborating the NDF for species such as this is cost-effective and is designed to practically negate the chances of any impact on the populations within the range states. Indeed, the availability of captive or feral populations suitable for trade can reduce the chances of illegal trade from the range countries.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The definition of Range State needs clarification where a species is being traded from a population that is well outside its natural range.

REFERENCES

- HIGGINS, P.J. (Ed.) 1999. *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Volume 4. Parrots to Dollarbird*. Oxford University Press. Melbourne.
- ROBERTSON, C.J.R., P. Hyvonen, M.J. Fraser and C.R. Pickard. 2007. *Atlas of Bird Distribution in New Zealand 1999-2004*. The Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc. Wellington.