



Photo credit: Maya Lodhiyal, iNaturalist



Biosecurity alert: Alexandrine parakeets

(*Psittacula eupatria*)

The pest and its impacts

Alexandrine parakeets (*Psittacula eupatria*) are not native to Australia. An aggressive agricultural and environmental pest, the birds raid ripening crops, extensively damage orchards, and compete with native populations of birds and mammals.

Because escaped or released birds have established populations around the world, Alexandrine parakeets are a declared pest in Western Australia.



LOOK for this pest

Alexandrine parakeets are about 600mm long, with a green body, a long reddish patch on the back of the wings, a distinctive red bill and a very long greenish-coloured tail. Adult male parakeets have a distinctive black stripe across their lower cheeks replaced by broad pink band on the back of their neck, and a black chin.

Key points:

- significantly larger than ringneck parakeet
- very vocal with a loud 'gr-aak' call; makes piercing screeches and screams
- native to tropical climates and expanding into subtropical and colder areas
- competes with native species for tree hollows and food.

How you can help: look, act, report

The Alexandrine parakeet is a popular cage bird around the world, and already has pest populations in Europe, the Middle East, and the USA. Because of how highly adaptable this parakeet is, it's an environmental threat and considered an extreme risk of establishment in Western Australia.

Alexandrine parakeets feed on various valuable fruit and grain crops, threatening our agricultural industry, and they are a prohibited declared pests under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*.



Alexandrine parakeets compete with native wildlife for tree hollows.



Look for a large red bill and a distinctive long tail.



REPORT suspected sightings

- Be aware of any new or unusual birds
- Note the date, time and location of the bird
- Take photographs, if possible



Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter
via app or online
mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au

Pest and Disease Information Service
(08) 9368 3080
padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

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