

This resource is based on the following source:

Kale, H. W., II, B. Pranty, B. M. Stith, and C. W. Biggs. 1992. The atlas of the breeding birds of Florida. Final Report. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.

This resource can be cited as:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 2003, January 6. Florida's breeding bird atlas: A collaborative study of Florida's birdlife. <http://www.myfwc.com/bba/> (Date accessed mm/dd/yyyy).

---

## Rose-ringed Parakeet     *Psittacula krameri*

The Rose-ringed Parakeet is native to a broad band of sub-Saharan Africa and from India to Indochina (Forshaw 1973). It has been introduced into a variety of areas around the world with varying degrees of success (Long 1981). Introduction of the Indian race, *P. k. manilensis*, occurred in Miami perhaps as early as the mid-1960s, and it was breeding in the wild by 1973 (Owre 1973).

At present several populations exist in Florida, with the largest number of birds probably occurring in the Naples area. The population in Miami appears to be stable, although small. The species was confirmed breeding in Crystal River (Citrus County), Largo (Pinellas County), Naples (Collier County), and Miami (Dade County) during the Atlas project, with lesser evidence of breeding in several other coastal areas. It has also been observed flying free on Dauphin Island, Alabama, not far from Pensacola (B. Neville, pers. obs.).

The Rose-ringed Parakeet is a highly adaptable species. In India it is common in a variety of habitats from deciduous woodlands to arid scrub and can be abundant in areas of dense human population (Forshaw 1973). It is equally versatile in its feeding habits, eating fruits, berries, flowers, nectar, seeds, and grains (Forshaw 1973).

In much of its native range it is considered an agricultural pest because it will frequently destroy much more than it actually eats (Long 1981). In India it has been observed tearing open sacks of grain at railroad sidings and getting at the contents (Forshaw 1973). The species is semi-nomadic and follows food sources. It generally occurs in small flocks, but may flock by the thousands when a rich food source is available (Forshaw 1973).

The Rose-ringed Parakeet is equally flexible in its choice of nest sites. Like virtually all other *psittacids*, it is a cavity nester. In Africa the nest is always in a natural cavity; however, in India it will nest in a hole in the wall of a human dwelling (Forshaw 1973). In Florida it has been observed nesting in a hole in a utility pole (C. W. Biggs, pers. commun.). The nest cavity is lined with soft wood chips (Vriends 1984). The breeding season is from August to November in Africa and from December to May in India (Forshaw 1973). On 16 May 1987 recently fledged young were observed in Pinellas County (T. Bryan and B. Pranty, pers. obs.). The clutch size varies from 2 to 6 white eggs, although 3 or 4 eggs are most common. Brooding is by both parents, and lasts for 22 to 24 days. The young remain in the nest for 6 to 7 weeks after hatching (Forshaw 1973). The long central tail feathers are absent in recent fledglings, but are quickly acquired. Adult male plumage is not acquired until the third year although successful breeding has been observed before full adult plumage is acquired (Forshaw 1973).

Bruce Neville

# Rose-ringed Parakeet

