

Common Name/*Scientific name*: **Australian King Parrot/*Aesterus Scapularis***

The red and green Australian King Parrot is seldom seen flying above the tree tops of the dense forests which it inhabits — it prefers to fly below tree level, weaving in and out through the tree trunks instead. When they are disturbed, they usually fly off with a harsh screech, and often do not land until they are lost to view. Their flight is swift and strong, characterised by deep, rhythmic wing beats and regularly punctuated with rapid twists and turns.



Description: Male Australian King Parrots are the only Australian parrots with a completely red head. Females are similar to males except that they have a completely green head and breast. Both sexes have a red belly and a green back, with green wings and a long green tail. King parrots are normally encountered in pairs or family groups.

Where seen in the gardens: King Parrots are usually found in rainforests or wet sclerophyll forests. In the gardens, this would be all forested areas. They have occasionally been spotted near the Tallowwood Shelter, near the car park.

Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens: King Parrots mostly forage in trees for seeds, berries, nuts, nectar, blossom and fruit; occasionally they go to the ground to pick up fallen seed.

Nesting: King Parrots lay their eggs on a bed of decayed wood dust at the bottom of a deep hollow in the trunk of a tree. Often the entrance is high in the tree (10 m) but the eggs are near the ground (0.5 m).

Similar Species in the gardens: There are no similar birds in the gardens