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# Eastern rosella

(*Platycercus eximius*)

**Class:** *Aves*

**Order:** *Psittaciformes*

**Family:** *Psittaculidae*

**Characteristics:** The Eastern rosella averages 30 cm (12 in) in length and 99gm (3.5oz) in weight. With a red head and white cheeks, the upper breast is red and the lower breast is yellow fading to pale green over the abdomen. The feathers of the back and shoulders are black, and have yellowish or greenish margins giving rise to a scalloped appearance that varies slightly between three subspecies and the sexes. The wings and lateral tail feathers are bluish while the tail is dark green.

**Behavior:** Like most parrots, Eastern rosellas are cavity nesters, generally nesting high in older large trees in forested areas. They enjoy bathing in puddles of water in the wild and in captivity and frequently scratch their heads with the foot behind the wing. Typical behavior also includes an undulating flight, strutting by the male, and tail wagging during various displays such as courting, and a high-pitched whistle consisting of sharp notes repeated rapidly in quick succession.

**Reproduction:** Breeding season is influenced by rain and location. Courting male bows while sounding out mating call followed by mutual feeding and then mating. Female alone incubates eggs while male bring food. 2-9 eggs will hatch in 18 - 20 days. Hatchlings are ready to leave the nest in about 5 weeks but may stay with their parents for several months unless there is another mating.

**Diet:**

Wild: Mostly flowers, pulp, and seeds. Possibly insects.

Zoo: Parrot pellets, seed mix, fruit and vegetable mix, greens

**Conservation:** Least Concern at this stage. However, being frequently trapped and sold as caged birds may eventually affect their status.

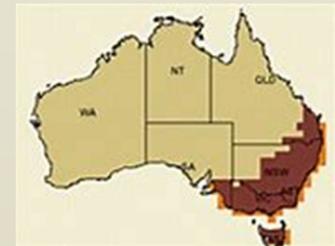
**FYI:** Eastern rosellas make a strikingly beautiful and relatively quiet aviary occupant and have become increasingly popular as a pets

While often kept as pets they may be nippy if not well socialized. Everything is a toy and they have been known to chew on electric wiring potentially causing house fires.

There are six species and nineteen subspecies of rosellas.



**Range & Habitat:**  
Eastern Australia down to Tasmania in wooded country, open forests, woodlands and parks. Nests in tree cavities, stumps or posts.



**Lifespan:** 15-20 years in captivity,  
No data for the wild.

**Special Adaptations:** They have a pleasant whistle and can be taught to whistle tunes from beginning to end.

**IUCN Conservation Status:**  
Least Concern

