

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Yellow-crowned parakeet: pp 215-216.



YELLOW-CROWNED PARAKEET

Family Platycercidae

Species *Cyanoramphus auriceps*

Common names Yellow-crowned Parakeet, Kakariki

Status Endemic

Abundance Common in selected areas

Size 250 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Red-crowned Parakeet 280 mm)

Habitat A bird of mature forests. On offshore islands it penetrates lower secondary type forests.

New Zealand range Found in northern Northland and the central North Island.

Well-spread through the forests of the South Island and particularly common in the tall beech trees of Fiordland and in the Catlins and Chaslands forests of Southland. Common on Stewart Island and its offshore islands.

Discussion This species has stabilised in the old forests of the North Island and is more often encountered than its close relative the Red-crowned Parakeet. It occupies a higher canopy niche in the trees than the Red-crowned and does not feed on or near the ground.

Description

Forehead Yellow to above the eye. **Upperparts** Green. **Wings** Green with violet-blue on the primaries. **Underparts** Yellowish-green.

Conspicuous features

- Smaller than the Red-crowned Parakeet.
- Yellow crown on head.

Conspicuous characteristics

- Rattled song in the treetops indicates a parakeet.
- Birds usually land on the heavy upper branches.
- Long tail and fast flying habit.

Call Similar to the Red-crowned Parakeet, a constant chatter of “chit chit chit” notes, but when alarmed, such as when a Long-tailed Cuckoo strays into its territory, notes become rattled and agitated.

Nest In holes in old trees up to six metres. Up to 7 white eggs are laid.

Where to find – North Island

Northland – Puketi Forest in the Bay of Islands. P. 281.

North Auckland – Not on Tiri Tiri Matangi but on Little Barrier Island, the Hen and Chicken Islands and the Poor Knights Islands.

King Country – Pureora Forest in the Bismarck Road area. P. 314.

Taupo – Lake Rotopounamu near Tokaanu. P. 316.

Urewera – Whirinaki Forest near Minginui. P.327.

Urewera – Lake Waikaremoana and the Waikareiti Track. P. 327, 328.

Where to find – South Island

Fiordland – Eglinton Valley at Cascade Creek. P. 370.

West Coast – Lake Brunner near Greymouth. P. 374.

Where to find – Stewart Island

Oban – In taller forests around the town. P. 367.

Ulva Island – From tracks on island. P. 367.