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

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Orange-fronted parakeet: pp 216-217.



ORANGE-FRONTED PARAKEET

Family Platycercidae

Species *Cyanoramphus malherbi*

Common name Orange-fronted Parakeet

Size 280 mm (House Sparrow 145 mm, Red-crowned Parakeet 280 mm)

Abundance Rare in selected areas

Status Endemic

Habitat Forests.

Range Hawdon Valley near Arthurs Pass and Hurunui Valley near Lake Sumner, North Canterbury. Has been introduced to Maud Island in the Marlborough Sounds.

Note Now confirmed as a separate species after DNA testing and habitat observation. Originally it was grouped with the Yellow-crowned Parakeet (*Cyanoramphus auriceps*), following cross-breeding experiments carried out in captivity. It is now known to be a close relative of the Red-crowned Parakeet.

Description

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

Conspicuous features

- Orange crown on head.
- Pale green colouring.

Conspicuous characteristics

- Rattled song in the tree-tops.
- Occupies a higher niche in the trees than does the Red-crowned Parakeet which often feeds on or near the ground.

Call Chit chit chit sounds.

Nest In holes similar to Red-crowned.

Where to find – South Island

Marlborough Sounds – A boat trip from Havelock to Maud Island could be a way to see this bird. Excursions go on an irregular basis and permits are required. P. 342.

Canterbury – Hawdon Valley, Arthurs Pass near Lake Hawdon. Walk up to East Stream and follow that for 1 km. P. 348.