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

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Crimson rosella: p 211.



CRIMSON ROSELLA

Family Platycercidae

Species *Platycercus elegans*

Common name Crimson Rosella

Status Introduced

Abundance Rare

Size 350 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Eastern Rosella 320 mm)

Habitat In both native and exotic trees.

New Zealand range Possibly now extinct in the wild.

Description – mature bird

Head and underparts Red. **Face and throat** Blue. **Wings** Black and red with blue primaries. **Tail** Light blue outer feathers and dark blue inner feathers.

Description – immature bird

Head Crimson. **Face and throat** Blue. **Upperparts and underparts** Green. **Wings** Green black-blotched with blue primaries. **Tail** Crimson with blue outer feathers.

Conspicuous feature

- Mature bird is of an all-over red.

Conspicuous characteristic

- Direct, fast-flying flight, with out-stretched tail.

Call A loud “kwink kwink kwink” similar but of deeper notes to that of the Eastern Rosella. It also has a musical song not unlike the Eastern Rosella.

Nest Cavities in trees about five metres up. Up to 6 white eggs are laid.

Where to find

No recent wild sightings have been recorded. It appears to be gone from both the old Dunedin and Wellington localities where small numbers once persisted. It can still be seen in aviaries here and there.