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Crimson rosella: pp 229-230.

**Crimson Rosella** *Platycercus elegans* (Gmelin 1788)

1963 Wellington

1838 Norfolk Island

In Otago, they apparently escaped or were released at the same time with Eastern Rosellas in 1910, but were never common. They have now died out or been hybridised with Eastern Rosellas. A small population was present around the Wellington Botanic Gardens between 1963 to at least 1993. Two birds were seen near Eketahuna, 100km north of Wellington in 1971. A pair prospected in Whitby, Porirua in October 2001. These were probably originally cage escapes. The Wellington population has now probably been extirpated, as there have been no records for some time. It was recorded in two squares in the Atlas (Robertson et al. 2007), but these appear to have been isolated escapes (Taranaki and East Cape).

It had been introduced to Norfolk Island by 1838 (Backhouse 1838). It is now a common and widespread resident (Schodde et al 1983).

