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

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Eastern rosella: p 212.



### EASTERN ROSELLA

**Family** Platycercidae

**Species** *Platycercus eximius*

**Common name** Eastern Rosella

**Status** Introduced. A cage-bird escape

**Abundance** Common in many areas

**Size** 320 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm)

**Habitat** In New Zealand a bird of both exotic and indigenous forests and of scattered vegetation.

**Worldwide range** A native of Australia where it is to be found in Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and south Queensland.

**New Zealand range** Now wide-spread through much of the North Island. A population is extending around Dunedin in the South Island.

## **Description**

**Head, neck and breast** Bright red. **Lower cheeks and throat** White. **Wings** A mixture of yellow and black with blue primaries. **Underparts** Yellow. **Tail** Blue and green.

## **Conspicuous feature**

- The most brightly coloured of New Zealand's birds.

## **Conspicuous characteristics**

- Usually seen flying in pairs.
- Can be a difficult bird to see once it has landed in a tree as it tends to move among the branches.

**Call** The usual call is a metallic "kwink" heard from high up in the forest. They also have an attractive musical song.

**Nest** Is found in cavities in trees. Up to 6 white eggs are laid.

### **Where to find – North Island**

Expect it in many localities from Northland to Wellington. Populations are increasing and it is now a very common bird in Northland through the Waikato to Taranaki. Also spreading rapidly through the Manawatu towards Wellington.

### **Where to find – South Island**

Expect it in Otago and spreading northwards.