

PALE-HEADED ROSELLA

Platycercus adscitus

Pale-headed Parakeet, Blue-cheeked Parakeet (Parrot)

P.a. palliceps

naturalized (non-native) resident, formerly established, extirpated

The Pale-headed Rosella is native to e. Australia (Forshaw 1989, Higgins 1999) and has not been reported introduced anywhere except to the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* (Long 1981, Lever 1987), where populations were established on Maui for over 50 years. It has not been listed by the AOU (e.g., 1983, 1998) but was added to the official Hawaii checklist by Pyle (1988).

A pair of Pale-headed Rosellas evidently was imported about 1877 by the whaling captain James Makee and released at his home in Ulupalakua, *Maui* (Caum 1933; *E* 35:65). They remained to raise one chick in his yard, and the three birds disappeared into the forest. They were subsequently found to be "numerous" at 1500-2000 m elevation at the upper edges of the forest above Olinda by early naturalists in 1892-1928 (Henshaw 1902a; Caum 1933; Munro 1944, *in* Gregory 1928), indicating a persistent population over this period. Palmer secured 2 specimens in 1892 (Rothschild 1900, Henshaw 1902a) and Munro (*in* Gregory 1929) collected a male in the Olinda forest 23 Feb 1928 (BPBM 7270, [HRBP](#) 5563-5565 of specimen). Few observers were present on Maui during the mid-20th century, no further reports of these birds are known, and the species is now presumed to be extirpated on the island and in Hawaii. It seems quite possible that they were quietly removed as part of potential damage control for agricultural crops. The specimens have been identified as the subspecies *P.a. palliceps* from nw. Australia (Rothschild 1900, PP examination).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2017. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 2 (1 January 2017) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>