

RED-CROWNED PARROT

Amazona viridigenalis

Other: Green-cheeked Parrot (Amazon)

monotypic

naturalized (non-native) resident, recently established

This species is native to the slopes of e. Mexico from e. Nuevo Leon to ne. Veracruz (Forshaw 1989, AOU 1998). It is a popular cage bird; escapes and releases are reported uncommonly but widely, and populations have become established in Puerto Rico, s. Florida, s. Texas, s. California, and on O'ahu in the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* since the late 1960s (Long 1981, Lever 1987, Garrett 1997, AOU 2002, CBRC 2007). Due to habitat loss and threats from the aviculture trade, Red-crowned Parrot is listed as Endangered by BirdLife International (BLI 2009).

On *O'ahu*, three free-flying Red-crowned Parrots were first sighted about 1969 in Kapiolani Park, near and on the grounds of the Honolulu Zoo. Numbers increased to 5 in Dec 1970, 10 in Dec 1971 and 14 in Dec 1972 (*E* 31:76, 32:74, 33:82), and a small flock of adults tending a recently fledged chick was reported there in the early 1970s. The flock gradually increased near the park, around Diamond Head, and occasionally to Makiki (*E* 44:89) and Manoa valleys until 1986, when 33+ birds were reported being accompanied by a single [Blue-crowned Parakeet](#). One or two [Red-lore Parrots](#) were also occasionally reported and may have accompanied this flock. Meanwhile, when Hurricane Iwa struck 23-24 Nov 1982, 3 or 4 pairs of Red-crowned Parrots escaped from a small aviary in Aiea. They settled in a nearby valley above Pearl City and began nesting. By Nov 1986 the Kapiolani Park flock had departed (*E* 47:42) and by May 1987 had relocated to the Pearl City area, when 32 were noted there accompanied by presumably the same, single Blue-crowned Parakeet (*E* 47:94). Observations around Kapiolani ceased, except for 2-6 birds observed there in Mar-Jul 1999. The Pearl City flock continued to increase through the 2000s (despite occasional reports that some were being shot by farmers), with high counts of 26-40 birds in 1987-1993 and 80-110 birds in 2001-2006, and over 200 in Dec 2008. Flocks were larger in fall-winter and smaller in spring-summer when birds evidently dispersed for nesting. They roosted primarily in *Eucalyptus* trees along Manana and Wiamano ridges above Pearl City (*E* 48:114), and the foraging range for this flock apparently included Pacific Palisades, mangroves at the Waiawa unit of Pearl Harbor NWR, Waipahu, and Mililani (e.g., [HRBP](#) 5875-5876). It is unknown whether or not the 2-6 birds seen at Kapiolani Park in 1999 or one observed in Waimanalo 14 Jul 1990 had dispersed from this flock or were separate escapes. Based on this sustained and increasing flock, Red-crowned Parrot was added to the Hawaii Checklist by Pyle (2002). The only other observation of a free-flying bird in Hawaii is of a single escape perched in a residential area of Kula, Maui 9 Oct 1977.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2009. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 1 (31 December 2009) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>