

## RED-CROWNED PARROT

*Amazona viridigenalis*

Other: Red-crowned Amazon, Green-cheeked Parrot (Amazon)

monotypic

### **naturalized (non-native) resident, recently established**

Red-crowned Parrot 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, in the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, on O'ahu 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 in 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 and possibly Momilani (Kalodimos 2013) until 1986, when 33+ birds were reported being accompanied by a single [Blue-crowned Parakeet](#). One or two [Red-lored 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, where 32 were noted accompanied by presumably the same, single Blue-crowned Parakeet (*E* 47:94, Kalodimos 2013). The Pearl City flock continued to increase through the mid-2010s (despite occasional reports that some were being shot by farmers), with high counts of 26-40 birds in 1987-1993, 80-110 birds in 2001-2006, over 200 in Dec 2008, and consistent counts of 130-150 through 2016. Based on this sustained and increasing flock, the species was added to the Hawaii Checklist by Pyle (2002). Red-crowned Parrots roosted primarily in *Eucalyptus* trees along Manana and Wiamano ridges above Pearl City (*E* 48:114), and the foraging range for these birds included Pacific Palisades, mangroves at the Waiawa unit of Pearl Harbor NWR, Aiea, Schofield Barracks, Waipahu, Mililani, and nearby valleys of the Ko'olau range (Kalodimos 2013; [HRBP](#) 5875-5876, 6741). Following the distributional shift in the late 1980s, observations around Kapiolani dropped, with 2-6 birds observed there in Mar-Jul 1999 and one to a few observed sporadically here and elsewhere in e. Honolulu through the mid 2010s; it is unknown whether or not these had dispersed from the Pearl City flock or were separate escapes. Other records that may have involved recent escapes were from Waimanalo 14 Jul 1990 and Turtle Bay 12 Feb 2012 (3 birds). The only other observations of free-flying birds in Hawaii were of escapes perched in a residential area of Kula, Maui 9 Oct 1977 and in Kalaheo, Kaua'i 16 Sep 2004.

### [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/>