

**Roseringed Parakeet**

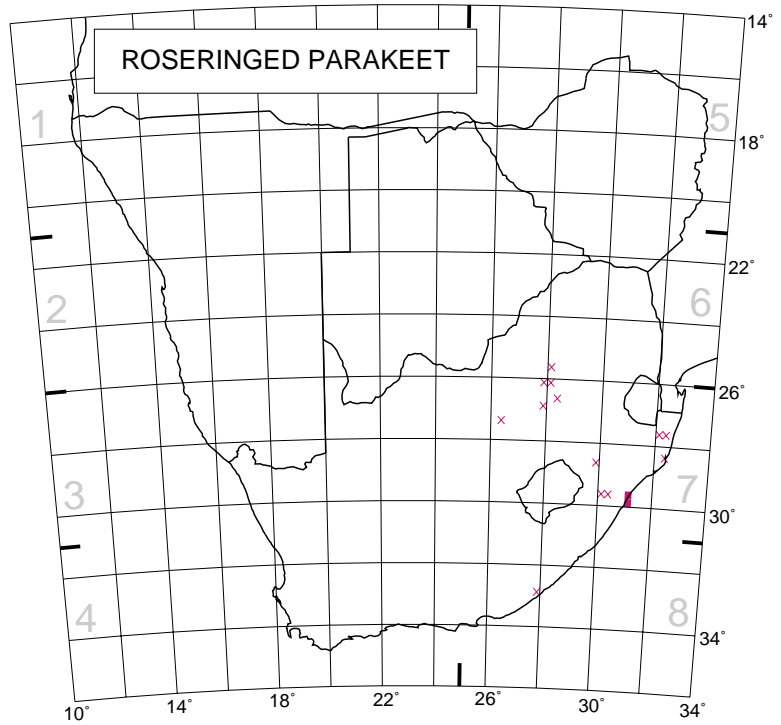
Ringnekparkiet

*Psittacula krameri*

The various populations of the Roseringed Parakeet in South Africa, present or past, are all based on escaped or liberated aviary birds. The natural range stretches from Vietnam, across India and into the northern tropics of Africa from Ethiopia to Senegal, and there are feral populations in many parts of the world (Fry *et al.* 1988). The species poses no identification problems and the atlas records are all acceptable. However, it is not always clear whether it breeds in all the areas in which it is found and, if it breeds, whether it does so regularly.

Breeding took place in the 1850s in Cape Town (3318CD) (Layard 1867), and birds were seen in its suburbs in the 1980s and 1990s (Murray & Murray 1984; L.G. Underhill pers. comm.; pers. obs). Breeding started at Sodwana Bay (2732DA) in well-wooded natural vegetation in the late 1960s (Vincent 1972), at Durban (2931CC) in the 1970s (Clancey 1976b) and just west of Johannesburg (2628AA) in the 1980s (Weissenbacher & Allan 1985).

No other breeding areas are known, but areas where they occur should be surveyed for records of newly fledged young, even if the nests themselves are inaccessible. This is an alien species which, if it became numerous, might pose a serious threat to crops or to indigenous hole-nesting birds (Brooke *et al.* 1986) because it prefers well-wooded areas as a base from which to move out to forage.



Recorded in 15 grid cells, 0.3%  
 Total number of records: 119  
 Mean reporting rate for range: 1.4%

R.K. Brooke

