

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

Have you seen a Western Ground Parrot?

Unusual: The western ground parrot (*Pezoporus flaviventris*), known as *Kyloring* by the Noongar Aboriginal people, is a medium-sized, slim and mostly green parrot found in low, mid-dense heathlands in coastal areas of the South Coast of Western Australia. It spends the majority of its time on the ground and is one of only a few parrots in the world that does not nest in a hole or cavity. It is one of the first and last calls heard of the daytime birds.

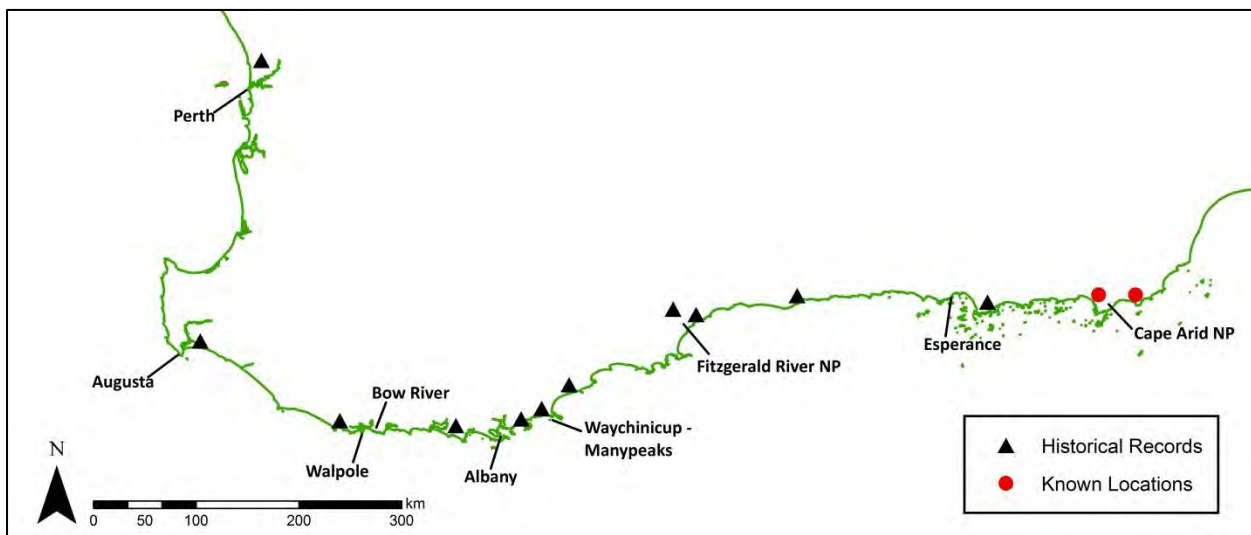
Secretive: Western ground parrots are almost impossible to see, not only because there are so few of them left, but also because they spend the majority of their time feeding, resting and nesting on the ground in dense vegetation. They are seldom seen on open ground, and when flushed will fly low over vegetation before flying back down into low ground cover. During the daytime they feed amongst dense plant cover. They generally only fly and call when the light is low in the hour before sunrise and the hour after sunset.

Critically Endangered: Threats from fires, feral cat and fox predation and historical land clearing have caused major declines in the species' range and population size.



Photo: Abby Berryman/DPaW

Where? Low coastal heathlands on the South Coast **How many?** Fewer than 150 – but are there more?



Having trouble figuring out if the bird you saw fits the description of the western ground parrot? Work through the key below – if you answer **yes** to more than one of the questions, you may have seen a western ground parrot. You should also check the descriptions on the next page of other green-feathered parrots commonly seen on the South Coast that can be confused with the western ground parrot.

	YES	MAYBE	DEFINITELY NOT
Where (South Coast)	Low heathland, usually with low open mallee or swamps	Dunes, beach, dense mallee	Woodland, forest, farmland or gardens
First sighting	On the ground	Flushed from low vegetation	Perched in a tree or shrub, or on a fence or powerline
Flight	Flies low over vegetation before landing on the ground	-	Flies up and out of sight into trees
Size	Similar size to a rock parrot, elegant parrot or western rosella	-	As big as a 28 parrot or as small as a budgie
Colours	Mostly green, with brown or black flecks and bars	-	Any blue colouring at all
	Red band above beak	-	Any other red feathers
Number of birds in group	One or two	Three or four	More than four



RED band above beak

Only **GREEN**, **YELLOW** and **BLACK** feathers on body. **NO** blue or red feathers

Photo: Brent Barrett/DPaW

Still believe you saw a western ground parrot? Contact the Department of Parks and Wildlife using the details below:

- Albany District Office: (08) 9842 4500
- Sarah Comer, South Coast Regional Ecologist: (08) 9842 4513, mob: 0418 912 280 or email: sarah.comer@dpaw.wa.gov.au
- Fill out a fauna report form www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/threatened-species-and-communities and email it to fauna@dpaw.wa.gov.au.

The western ground parrot can be confused with other green-feathered parrots that are also found on the South Coast: Take note of the bird's feather colours, its activity and flight pattern as well as the type of vegetation – these are the details that help us determine if you have seen a western ground parrot.

Western ground parrot *Pezoporus flaviventris*



Photo: Abby Berryman/DPaW
Photo (Inset): Brent Barret/DPaW

- **Colouring:** mottled green back, green and yellow underside, red forehead
- **Tail:** long with green, yellow and black barring
- **Activity:** seen alone or rarely in pairs on ground, call heard before sunrise and after sunset
- **Flight:** when flushed (disturbed), flies low over vegetation before landing back on ground
- **Location:** found on South Coast in low heathland, usually with low open mallee (a clumping eucalyptus tree) or swamps

Rock parrot *Neophema petrophila* (pictured) & elegant parrot *Neophema elegans* (inset)



Photo: Joan Bush
Photo (Inset): Kimberley Page/DPaW

- **Colouring:** plain olive-green back, yellow underside, blue forehead, blue wing stripe
- **Tail:** short and slender with no barring, blue above and yellow below
- **Activity:** often seen on ground in pairs or small groups, usually feeding quietly
- **Flight:** when flushed, often flies high while making alarm calls, may land in trees or shrubs
- **Location:** found along coastal areas in dunes, swamps, granite outcrop, grasslands, roadsides near paddocks or grass lawns

Western rosella (female) *Platycercus icterotis*



Photo: Brent Barrett/DPaW
Photo (Inset): Kimberley Page/DPaW

- **Colouring:** mottled green back, red and green underside, some blue on wings, red head, yellow cheeks
- **Tail:** long and mottled green
- **Activity:** seen in pairs or small groups feeding on the ground or in trees, calls are usually quiet/soft
- **Flight:** when flushed, usually flies up to nearest tree, flight is light and fluttery
- **Location:** found in the south-west in a variety of native habitats as well as farmlands, roadsides and gardens

Australian ringneck (twenty-eight) parrot *Platycercus zonarius*



Photo: Kimberley Page/DPaW

- **Colouring:** dark green with blackish head, red forehead and yellow collar, some blue on wings
- **Tail:** long and green
- **Activity:** often seen in pairs or small groups near water, quietly feeding on the ground or in trees
- **Flight:** when flushed, flies strongly while making loud and harsh alarm calls
- **Location:** found in the south-west in a variety of native habitats as well as farmlands, roadsides and gardens