

Eclectus Parrot

Eclectus roratus

Bird

Scientific Name:

Eclectus roratus

Other Names:

None

Range:

Eastern Indonesia, Palau Islands, Australia, New Guinea and its offshore islands

Habitat:

Rain forests, lowland forests, tree clumps in the savanna and woodlands

Average Size:

Length: 13 - 14 in.

Weight: 14 - 15 oz.

Wingspan: 8 - 10 in.

Lifespan:

Estimated at 40 years

Diet:

In the wild: Fruits, seeds, nuts, berries, leaf buds, blossoms and nectar

In the zoo: Fruits, vegetables, Zupreem biscuits, seeds and nuts

Incubation:

26 days

Fledging Period:

12 weeks

Clutch Size:

1 - 2 eggs

Plumage:

Male: A stocky bird with a short neck and a short, square tail. Brilliant green body with blue, mauve and red under wings. Sides of body are red and the beak is yellow and orange. Legs and feet are dark grey.

Female: A red and purple body with a crimson head and back. Beak is black and legs and feet are dark grey.

Predators:

Birds of prey, wild dogs and possums

Population Status:

Not Threatened

**Conservation**

Eclectus parrots are not considered threatened in any of their range. They are adaptable birds and deal well with the human encroachment and deforestation in their habitat. The pet trade has not been a problem for these birds, as they breed readily in captivity. Many zoos worldwide exhibit this colorful species.

Behavior

Eclectus parrots are a very conspicuous bird because of their spectacular coloration. In the early morning, pairs and small flocks leave their roosting trees to forage for food in the surrounding forest. Larger flocks may congregate if abundant fruit trees are found. Most of the day is spent feeding, with few periods of rest. At dusk, they return to their roosting trees with the males generally flying ahead of the females. As each group returns, they join the others in screeching and squawking. This loud raucous calling continues until nightfall.

Reproduction and Breeding

Eclectus parrots do not mate for life and often get new mates. A tall tree near the edge of the forest makes the perfect nesting site for these birds. The female incubates the eggs herself, only venturing out to be fed by the male a short distance away. Both parents help care for and feed the chicks. Because of their differently colored feathers (sexual dimorphism), the young can be sexed at three and a half weeks of age.

Amazing Facts

Eclectus parrots are one of the few parrots that are sexually dimorphic!

There are seven different sub-species of eclectus parrots!

When explorers encountered these parrots, the extreme color difference between males and female birds led many to believe they were two species!!



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