

Palm Cockatoo

Probosciger aterrimus



Range: New Guinea and Australia

Size: 55-60 cm in)

Wingspan: 30-39 cm

71-90 in

Weight: ♂ 0.9-1.2 kg (2-2.6lb)

♀ 3.5-7.5kg (7.7-16.5 lb)

Diet: Fruits and nuts

Habitat: Coast, rivers, lakes

Eggs: 2-3

Nest: tree cavity

Incubation :28-31 days

Fledging: 100-10days

Sexual maturity: 2 yrs

Breeding monogamous

Subspecies: 4

Longevity: Captivity: 50 yrs

Wild: unknown

IUCN: Least Concern

Order: Psittaciniformes Family: Cacauidae

The Palm Cockatoo is the largest member of the family. With red cheek patches and a striking crest this species is unmistakable. There are four subspecies that vary in size and appearance of the crest.

Palm cockatoos use a variety of both visual and auditory communications. The red patches change intensity according to stress or excitement. In addition posture and election of the crest is used to display towards other individuals. The palm Cockatoo also has a variety of vocalizations ranging from whistling contact calls to a screeching alarm call. This species also exhibits a unique drumming behavior. The male will grasp a large branch and beat a hollow tree trunk with it. The exact reason for this behavior still unknown.

The IUCN lists the palm Cockatoo as Least Concern due to its large range. However it is listed as Appendix I by CITES and is protected by the Wild Bird Conservation Act (WBCA).