

RPS

Ones to watch out for.....



Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Robin Ward, Senior Ecologist - RPS

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Rose-ringed or Ring-necked Parakeet: ID



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Rose-ringed Parakeet: distribution



Natural range:

- (1) Afghanistan & Pakistan to Burma & south to Sri Lanka**
- (2) sub-Saharan Africa north of Equator.**

Credit: BWPI

Rose-ringed Parakeet: UK invasion



Present colonisation episode

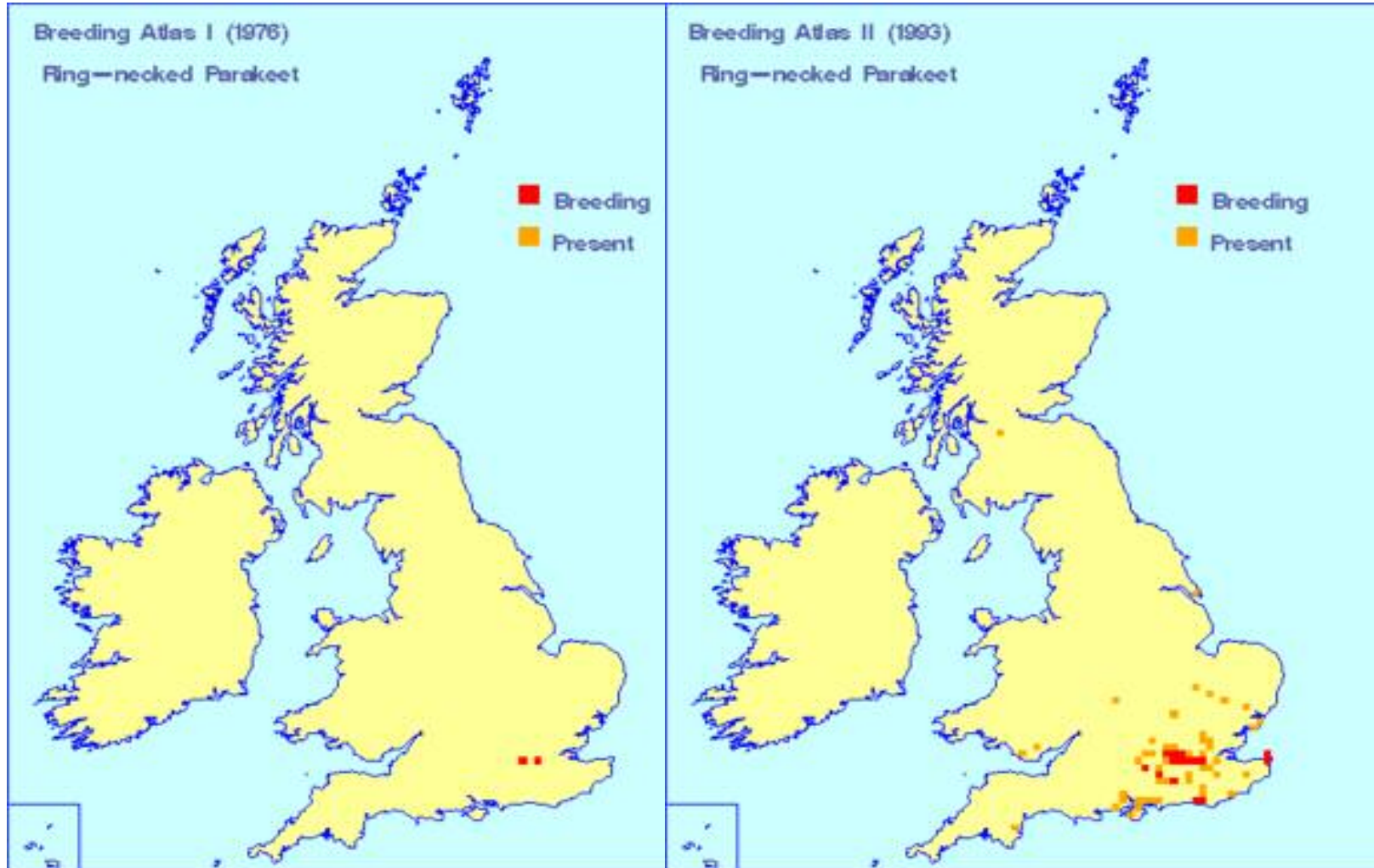
Brought to Britain from the 1960's and sold as pets.

Some captive birds subsequently escaped or were released

First recorded & bred in a wild state in Britain in 1969.

A self-supporting population became established in the wild from the 1970s.

Rose-ringed Parakeet: UK distribution



3 sub populations:

- **W of London**
- **SE of London**
- **Thanet, Kent**

Source: Gibbons, D.W., Reid, J.B. & Chapman, R.A. 1993.

Rose-ringed Parakeet: haunts & habits



Habitat - UK: suburban parks, large gardens and orchards.

Native: As UK + deciduous forest, open woodland, secondary growth

Food - Native: wide variety of fruit, berries, nuts, seeds & grain

UK: As native + bird table foods

Nest site - UK: Holes in trees (woodpecker) well above ground

Native: As UK + walls or cliff.

Conflict - Native: Serious pest of agriculture. Gathers in large flocks

UK: agricultural conflict & nest site competition?

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Rose-ringed Parakeet: nocturnal roosts

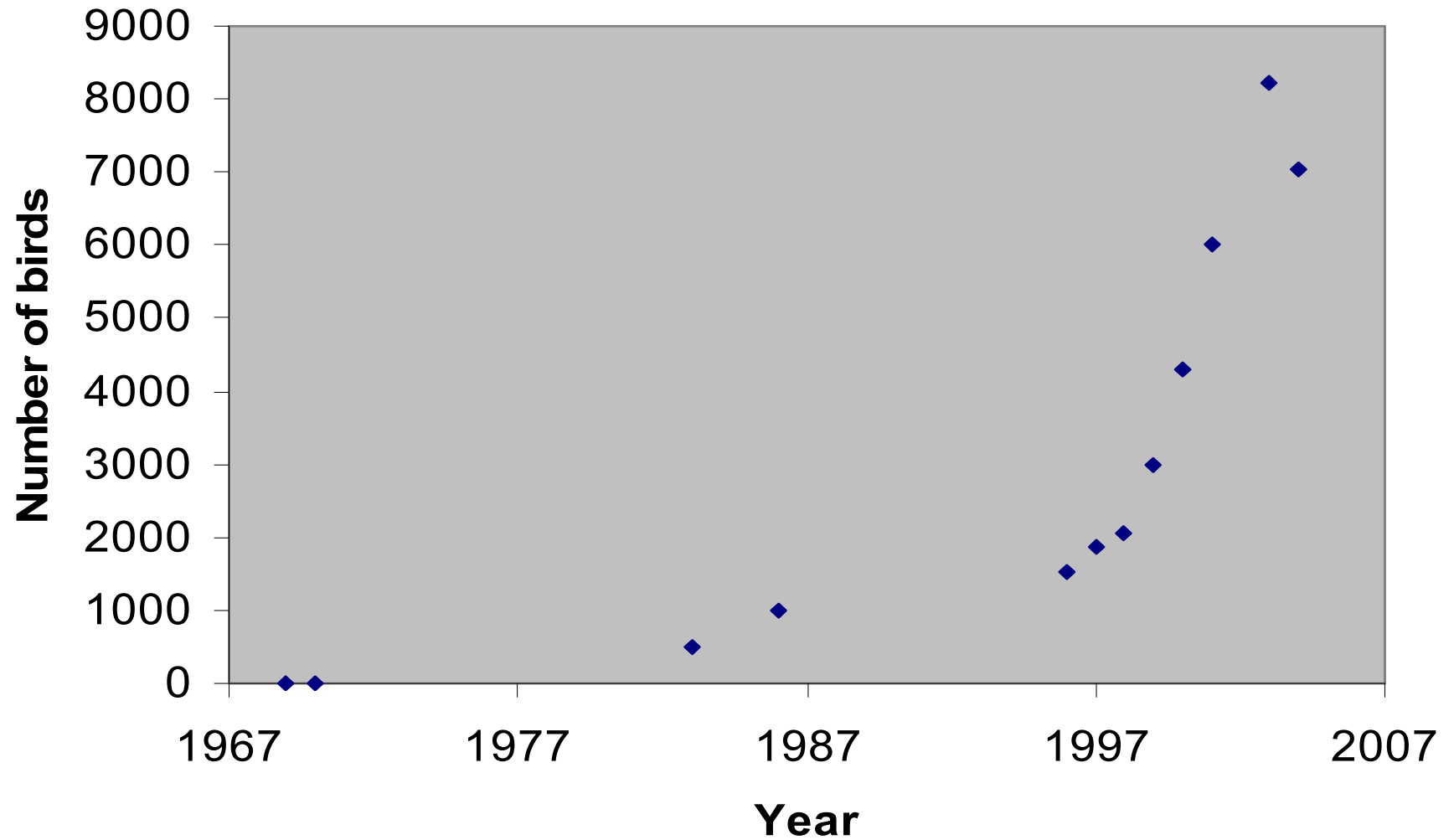


**Communal roost
throughout year**

**Up to 3,000 birds in
autumn e.g. Esher,
West London**



UK Population trend of Rose-ringed Parakeet



UK Population trend of Rose-ringed Parakeet

Population - Expansion phase

- increased at a rate of 25% per year since the mid-1990s
- populations in Greater London have increased by approximately 30% per year, and those in Thanet by 15% per year

Range – ‘static’

- In 2002, 2,300 km² in the Greater London area and 200 km² on the Isle of Thanet
- 1991-2003 range of sightings & breeding expanded by only 0.4 & 0.3 km per year in the Greater London area and not at all in Thanet

Data source: Butler 2002

Rose-ringed Parakeet: Future impacts



Population & range predictions

- Increase in numbers. Range expansion?

Population & range limitations

- Unknown: Breeding sites & winter feeding?

Future impacts:

- Competition for nest holes with native species e.g. Green Woodpecker, Nuthatch
- reports of isolated incidents of parakeets causing damage to orchard & vineyard crops in SE England e.g. traditional vineyard's output from 3,000 bottles of rosé down to 500 bottles in 2002 (Saines 2002).

Rose-ringed Parakeet: The future?



DEFRA funded study:

The impact of Rose-ringed Parakeets on native birds in the UK

- Examine population dynamics
- Quantify the impact of competition between parakeets and native birds

Outcome to inform:

DEFRA & GB Non-Native Species Secretariat in establishing the need for control measures to protect native biodiversity.

Rose-ringed Parakeet: monitoring

Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP): monitored the establishment & spread of the rarer non-native species in the UK since 1996.

RBBP encourages all observers to report all records of breeding attempts (& roosts) to County Recorders (e.g. via Bird Clubs).

Recommendations: A need for a programme of 'regular' coordinated roost counts following on from those in the late 1990s & 2000-1 = best population estimates



Other invasive Psittacidae?



Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

3 breeding pairs, 40 birds in Herts. (2004)

Blue-crowned Parakeet *Aratinga acuticauda*

1 breeding pair, Kent (2001)



**Alexandrine Parakeet
*Psittacula eupatria***

1 breeding pair (1997-99)

**Photographs****From Wikipedia:****Trabajo Propio (Monk Parakeet)****Charles Lam****Corey Carpenter****Shiva shankar****J.M.Garg****Tanya Dropbear****Maps**

Useful Literature



Identification

Juniper, T. & Parr, M. (2003) *Parrots. A Guide to the Parrots of the World.* Christopher Helm

Svensson, L., Mullarney, K., Zetterstrom, D. and Grant, P.J. (1999) *Collins Bird Guide* Harper Collins

Further information

Lever, C. (2005) *Naturalised Birds of the World*. T & AD Poyser Ltd (A & C Black)

www.nsnuk.org or www.nonnativespecies.org