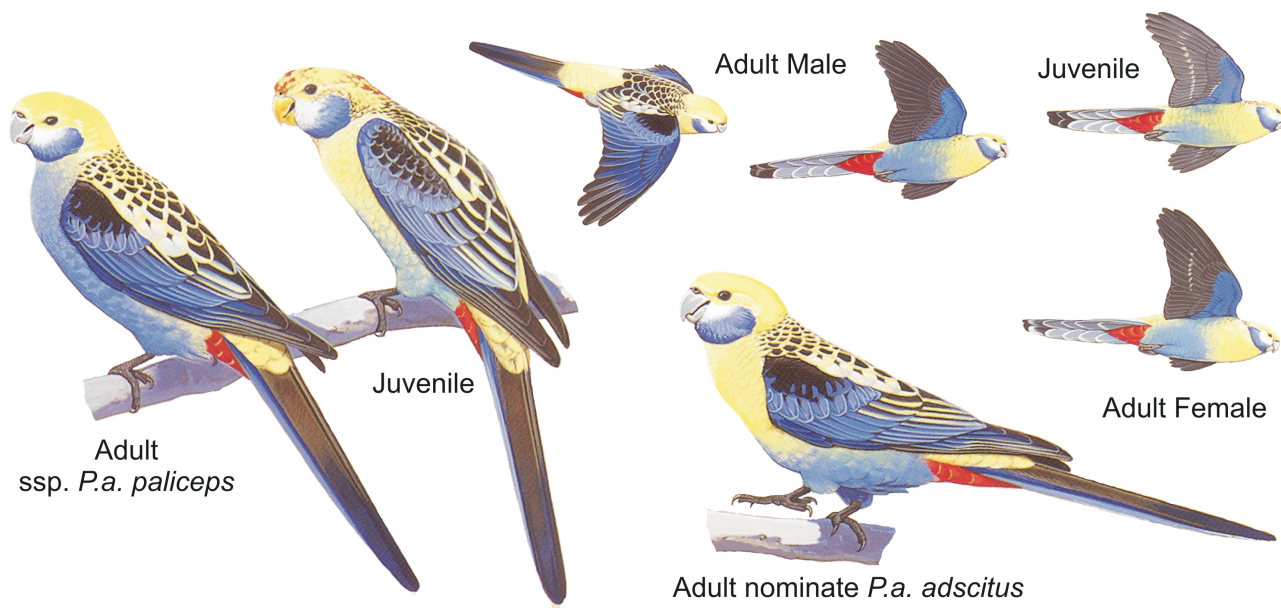


Pale-headed Rosella *Platycercus adscitus* **Species No.: 286** **Band size: 24**



Morphometrics:

Nominate *P.a. adscitus* – Cape York s. to Cooktown; ssp. *P.a. paliceps* from about Mackay, Qld south to northern NSW. The most obvious difference in plumage is the extent of blue underparts (see illustrations). There is a broad hybrid zone between Cooktown and Mackay:

	<i>P.a. adscitus</i>		<i>P.a. paliceps</i>	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	143 – 162 mm	143 – 155 mm	147 – 168 mm	147 – 160 mm
Tail:	141 – 162 mm	140 – 153 mm	155 – 171 mm	150 – 175 mm
Bill:	15.0 – 17.4 mm	14.7 – 16.6 mm	15.4 – 18.2 mm	14.7 – 17.7 mm
Bill width:	11.5 – 12.5 mm	11.2 – 11.8 mm	11.7 – 13.3 mm	10.9 – 12.9 mm
Weight:	86 – 110 g	90 – 101 g	100 – 120 g	95 – 115 g

Ageing:

	Adult (2+)	Juvenile/immature
Bill:	bluish pearl-grey;	yellow-brown, orange or yellow, changes to adult colour within a few months;
Cere:	grey;	yellow-brown when fledging soon changes to brownish grey

Juveniles (see illustrations) moult to an adult female-like immature plumage within 6 months of fledging, but retain juvenile wing coverts, primaries and rectrices;
 Juveniles and immatures often have scattered orange-rufous, orange-red or peach-red feathers on the forehead, crown and nape;
 Adult plumage is attained early in their second year in a moult coinciding with adult post-breeding moult. Thus adults are aged (2+);
 Adult females retain an underwing bar, but not as prominent as Juveniles/immatures.

Sexing :

Adult males and females can be reliably sexed on plumage – see above;
 Incubation is by the female alone.

Hybrids:

While there is a wide subspecies hybridisation zone in n-e Qld, the Pale-headed Rosella also frequently hybridises with the Eastern Rosella *P. eximius* in s-e Qld and n-e NSW.