

**Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans* Species No.: 282 Band size: 24 SS**

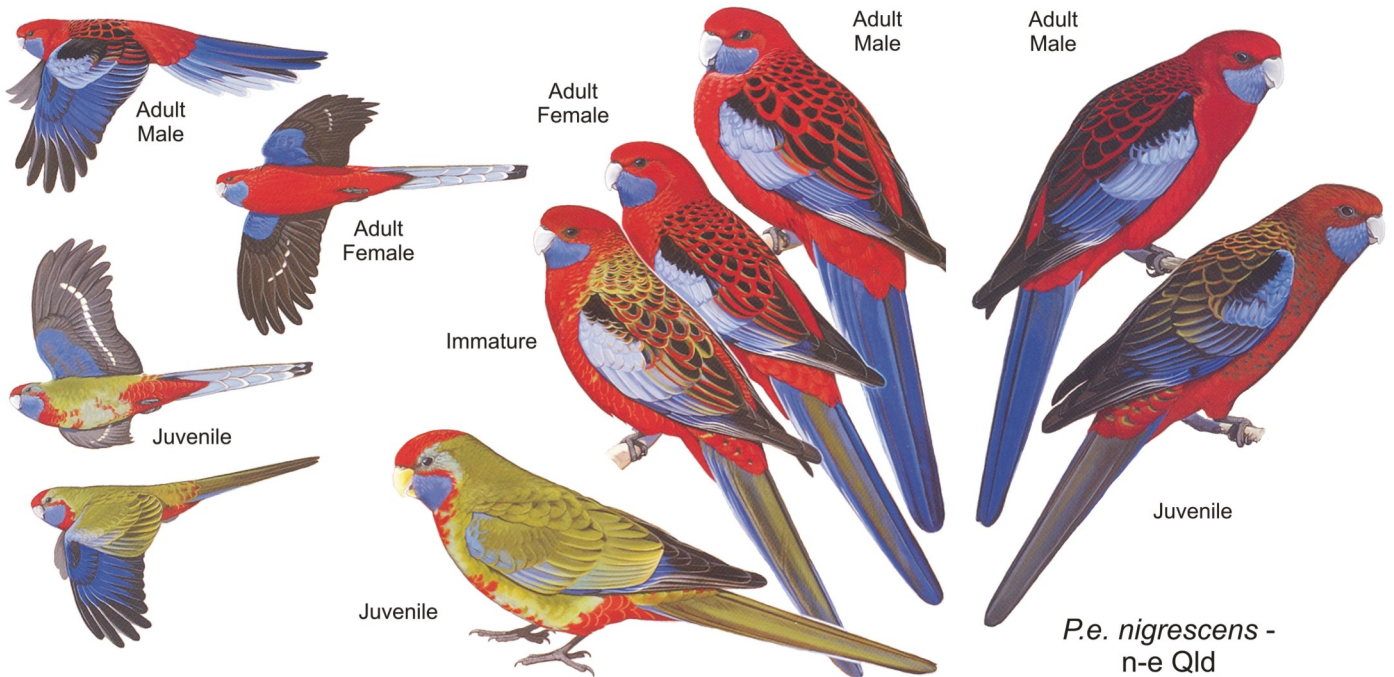
**Sheet 1 of 4**

**Status:**

Seven subspecies are presently recognised and these are grouped into three basic plumage types:

- Crimson Rosella plumaged types (three subspecies) – see pages 1 & 2;
- Yellow Rosella plumaged types (one subspecies) – see page 3; and
- Adelaide Rosella plumaged types (three subspecies) – see page 4.

**CRIMSON PLUMAGE TYPES – *P.e. elegans*, *P.e. nigrescens* & *P.e. melanoptera***



*P.e. elegans* - coastal, sub-coastal and western slopes of Great Divide of s-e Qld & NSW. southern Vic and s-e SA

**Morphometrics:**

*Nominate P.e. elegans*

(coastal, sub-coastal and western slopes of the Great Divide in s-e Qld & NSW, southern Vic and s-e SA)

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	167 – 188 mm	166 - 178 mm
Tail:	182 – 216 mm	167 – 199 mm
Bill:	17.0 – 20.0 mm	14.8 – 17.5 mm
Bill width:	11.5 – 14.5 mm	11.3 – 13.4 mm
Weight:	115 – 170 g	99 – 170 g

*P.e. nigrescens*  
(n-e Qld)

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	158 – 169 mm	146 – 157 mm
Tail:	165 – 195 mm	155 - 176 mm
Bill:	17.3 – 20.0 mm	15.0 – 17.6 mm
Bill width:	13.2 – 14.7 mm	11.7 – 13.3 mm
Weight:	105 – 121 g	

*P.e. melanoptera*  
(Kangaroo Island)

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	173 -187 mm	160 – 176 mm
Tail:	181 – 211 mm	167 – 200 mm
Bill:	18.1 – 20.6 mm	16.1 – 17.8 mm
Bill width:	12.7 – 14.4 mm	11.3 – 12.4 mm
Weight:	117 – 153 g	

## Crimson Rosella

### Sheet 2 of 4 – Crimson plumage types (cont.)

The following ageing and sexing characters apply to the three subspecies, but note that *P.e. melanoptera* (not illustrated) is slightly darker and larger than *P.e. elegans*. *P.e. nigrescens* has a base crimson colour that is considerably darker than *elegans* and the juvenile is very dark (see illustration);

#### Ageing:

	Adult (3+)	Immature (2-)	Juvenile
Bill:	pearl-grey;	pearl-grey;	yellow-brown or pale horn with pinkish tinge to lower part of upper mandible;
Cere:	grey-black;	grey-black;	light grey-brown or yellow;
Uppertail:	see below under "Sexing";	mostly dark olive-green tail feathers; t1 may be violet;	almost completely dark olive-green;
Underwing:	see below under "Sexing";	distinct underwing white bar;	distinct white bar;
Mantle & scapulars;	grey-black to black with red to crimson;	grey-black with narrow pale-yellow fringe;	bright olive-green;
Underparts:	wholly red;	wholly red with pale yellow fringes at tips;	pale olive-green with scattered red or red-tipped feathers;

Birds up to 15 months old are separable from adults by the presence of juvenile feathers in plumage which become extremely worn in the second year;

Juvenile primaries and tail feathers are not moulted until the second Summer when a moult results in adult-like, but duller plumage;

Full adult plumage is attained in the third year. Thus adults are aged (3+).

#### Sexing:

Adult males and females in most cases can be positively sexed by examination of the following:

##### Uppertail:

male – t1 mostly dark violet with dark wash near base of inner webs & from some angles appears greenish; t2 dark violet outer web, but black-brown on inner web; t3-t6 light violet with diffuse white tip;

female – similar to adult male but with large greenish area to base of central feathers; t1 basal half to two-thirds dark olive grading to dark violet toward tip;

##### Underwing:

male – white wing bar absent;

female - usually have indistinct off-white underwing bar on central primaries;

##### Bill size:

The bills of males are significantly longer and wider than females in all subspecies and all age classes;

Incubation by female only.

## Crimson Rosella

### Sheet 3 of 4 - YELLOW PLUMAGE TYPE – *P.e. flaveolus*



#### Morphometrics:

The Yellow Rosella *P.e. flaveolus* type plumage birds occur in the riverine inland of southern NSW to the Murray valley in northern Victoria and west to Mannum in SA)

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	163 – 177 mm	151 - 174 mm
Tail:	170 – 196 mm	158 – 186 mm
Bill:	15.3 – 19.3 mm	14.8 -16.9 mm
Bill width:	11.7 – 13.5 mm	10.6 – 13.2 mm
Weight:	112 – 140 g	75 – 113 g

#### Ageing:

Juvenile – see illustration;

Juvenile primaries and rectrices are not moulted until the second Summer when a moult results in adult-like immature, but duller plumage than adults;

Immature – mostly as adult male but retain juvenile olive-green remiges and dirty-yellow outer (t1 & t2) tail feathers;

Full adult plumage is attained in the third year. Thus adults are aged (3+).

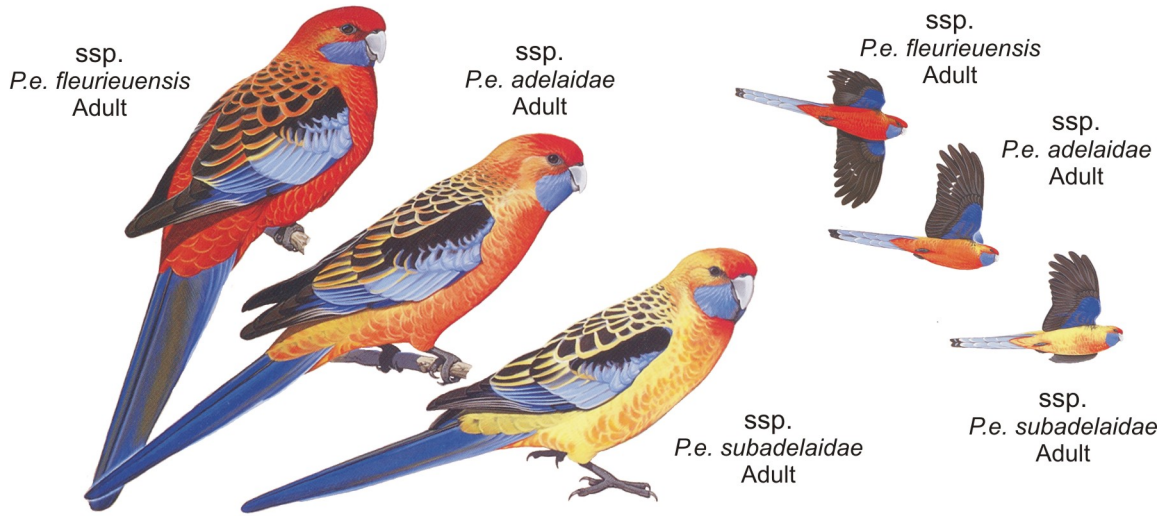
#### Sexing:

Sexually dimorphic on plumage – females have underwing bar; and measurements – females are considerably lighter than males and are smaller in other measurements, especially bill size (see measurements above) which can be used to separate the sexes in all age classes;

Females alone incubate;

## Crimson Rosella

### Sheet 4 of 4 - ADELAIDE PLUMAGE TYPES – *P.e. adelaidae*, *P.e. subadelaidae*, *P.e. fleurieuensis*



#### Morphometrics:

The three subspecies in the Adelaide Rosella type plumage are restricted to South Australia:

	<i>P.e. adelaidae</i> (Mount Lofty Ranges, just south of Adelaide, north to around Clare)		<i>P.e. subadelaidae</i> (Flinders Ranges s. to near Gladstone)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	162 – 178 mm	157 – 178 mm	166 – 182 mm	162 – 175 mm
Tail:	181 – 209 mm	167 – 195 mm	180 – 210 mm	173 – 195 mm
Bill:	16.1 – 18.8 mm	14.9 – 19.4 mm	16.7 – 19.6 mm	14.4 – 17.9 mm
Bill width:	11.6 – 13.4 mm	10.9 – 13.2 mm	12.4 – 13.6 mm	11.0 – 12.6 mm
Weight:	117 - 143 g	107 - 160 g	132 – 155 g	108 – 135 g

	<i>P.e. fleurieuensis</i> (Fleurieu Peninsular n. to Myponga)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	167 – 186 mm	159 – 171 mm
Tail:	180 – 200 mm	169 – 191 mm
Bill:	16.8 – 18.9 mm	14.9 – 16.9 mm
Bill Width:	12.0 – 13.3 mm	10.6 – 12.0 mm
Weight:	120 – 157 g	102 – 135 g

#### Ageing:

Birds up to 15 months old are separable from adults by the presence of juvenile feathers in plumage which become extremely worn in the second year;  
 Juvenile primaries and tail feathers are not moulted until the second Summer when a moult results in adult-like, but duller plumage;  
 Full adult plumage is attained in the third year. Thus adults are aged (3+).

#### Sexing:

Sexually dimorphic on plumage – females have underwing bar; and measurements – females are considerably lighter than males and smaller in other measurements, especially bill size (see measurements above) which can be used to separate the sexes in all age classes;  
 Females alone incubate;