

Avian Models for 3D Applications
Characters and Procedural Maps by Ken Gilliland

Songbird ReMix

Parrots of the World

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Songbird ReMix Parrots of the World

Manual & Field Guide

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Introduction


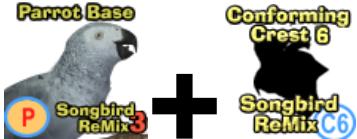

Parrots of the World adds 15 new unique parrots to the Songbird ReMix library. Using the powerful morphs from the Songbird ReMix Parrot model, texture maps and versatile conforming crests and tails, the represented birds are portrayed more accurately and with a stronger degree of realism. These fifteen parrots span the globe covering all five continents the parrots are endemic to. The species range from the very popular African Grey and Yellow Amazon Parrots to the endangered Thick-billed and the elusive and probably extinct Night Parrots. Whether you're creating household environments, lush jungle scenes or buccaneer tales, Parrots of the World is the perfect addition to any rendered imagery.

Overview and Use

Select **Figures** in Runtime Folder and go to the **Songbird ReMix** folder. Here you'll find an assortment of files that are easily broken into 2 groups: **Conforming Parts** and **Bird Base models**. Let's look at what they are and how you use them:

- **Bird Base Models**
 - **Songbird ReMix Parrots Base** – This model is used with all Parrots and Cockatoos and is identified with the “**P**” icon
- **Conforming Parts** (All Conforming Crests have alphabetical Icons in the lower right corners such as “C”, “C4” or “T3”. This corresponds with characters in the Pose folders. All MAT/MOR files with the same icon use that particular Conforming Part. **Be sure to read this:** Most conforming parts are Crest which covers the head part. When posing the Base Model, the Conforming Part will follow any Bend, Twist or Rotate Commands. It will not obey any **SCALE** or **MORPH** commands you give the Base Model. You must manually scale the Conforming Part and with morphs such as “OpenBeak” you must also set it's counterpart in the head part of the Conforming Crest. So Now let's look at what's included in Conforming Parts:
 - **Crest 06.** This model is used for low crested Cockatoos mostly. It contains several crest shaping morphs in the HEAD section. It is identified with the “**C6**” icon.
 - **Conforming Racquet Tail.** For use with the Golden-mantled Racquet Tail Parrot. Look in the “**Tail Feathers**” Section for morphs. It is identified with the “**T3**” icon

Conforming Crest Quick Reference

Load Model(s)	To Create... (apply MAT/MOR files)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-cheeked Lovebird • Cape Parrot • Congo African Grey • Crimson Rosella • Double Yellow Amazon • Long-tailed Parakeet • Night Parrot • Patagonian Conure • Plum-headed Parakeet • Red and Blue Lory • Thick-billed Parrot • Yellow-faced Parrotlet
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galah Cockatoo • Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden-mantled Racquet Tail



Creating a Songbird ReMix Bird with Poser

Here's a step by step to create a bird in POSER:

1. Choose what you want to load. For this example, we'll create an "American Robin".
2. Load Poser and select **FIGURES** and the Songbird ReMix folder. Because the "American Robin" uses the basic "Songbird" base model we'll load that.
3. Go to the **POSES** folder and select the appropriate Songbird Remix library. In this case, we'll select the "American Robin" pose and apply it to our loaded Songbird ReMix base model. This pose contains morph and texture settings to turn the generic model into an "American Robin". As explained earlier in the Character Base Section, the Alphabet letter appearing on the base of a bird's Icon refers to what model it expects to adhere to. Thus the "Parrot" character is going to want the <P> Parrot Base Songbird ReMix Model. Birds with no icon usually want the Songbird Base.

Scaling and Square Shadows in Poser

All the birds in this package have to scaled proportionally to DAZ 3D's Victoria and Michael models. The smallest of the included birds (such as the Robins) **MAY** render with a Square shadow or improper lighting. This is a bug in Poser. Poser can't figure out how to render a shadow for something really small, so it creates a square shadow. The solution is to put a larger item that casts a normal Poser shadow in the scene (even if it is off camera) and the square shadows will be fixed or BODY scale the bird to a larger size.

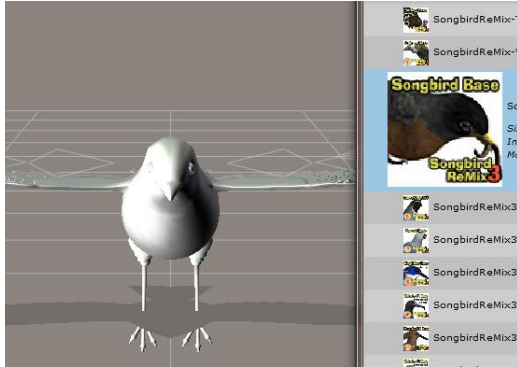


without prop off screen

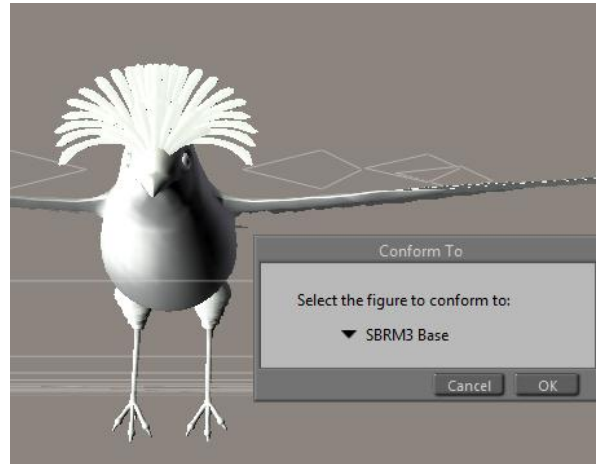


with prop off screen, lights/shadows will properly render

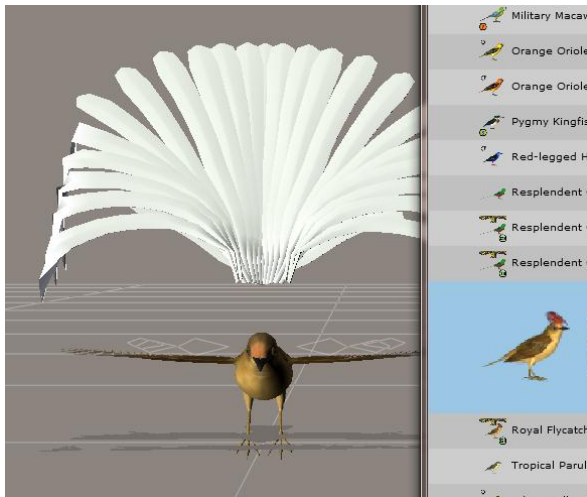
How to build a Songbird ReMix Character with a Conforming Crest in Poser



1. In the Figures section, load a Bird base Model. Then load the appropriate conforming part for the bird you're trying to create.
2. **Conform it** to the bird base model.



3. Select the Base Model and go to **POSES**. Select and apply the appropriate Character/Material pose setting for the bird you're creating.



4. The Conforming part will look wrong. That's okay—we're going to fix that now. Select the conforming part and apply appropriate Character/Material pose for the part.

5. Voila! Your bird is done. Just remember to select the bird base when posing and often there are additional morphs in the conforming part you can use.



Creating a Songbird ReMix Bird with Studio

Here's a step by step to create a bird in DAZ Studio:

1. Choose what you want to load. For this example, we'll create an "American Robin".
2. Load DAZ Studio and in Studio's **Runtime** Folder, select **FIGURES** and the Songbird ReMix folder. Because the "American Robin" uses the basic "Songbird" base model we'll load that.
3. Now, select the Studio **Content** Folder and go to the **Animals : SBRM : !CreateYour Own : Characters** folder and select the appropriate Songbird Remix library. In this case, we'll select the "American Robin" pose and apply it to our loaded Songbird ReMix base model. This pose contains morph and texture settings to turn the generic model into an "American Robin". As explained earlier in the Character Base Section, the Alphabet letter appearing on the base of a bird's Icon refers to what model it expects to adhere to. Thus the "Parrot" character is going to want the **<P>** Parrot Base Songbird ReMix Model. Birds with no icon usually want the Songbird Base,

Known Issues with DAZ|Studio

Propagating Scale Issues

Some versions of DAZ|Studio have problems with the Propagating Scale of the Feet in Songbird ReMix. Unfortunately, the only current solution is to manually scale all the digits on each foot. To determine if manual scaling is needed, look at the SCALE settings on rFoot or lFoot parts in DAZ|Studio. If the amount is more than 100%, then all the digits (rPinky1, rPinky2, rMid1, etc.) will need to be scaled accordingly. The " ! Scale Feet" folder will automatically correct this for you.

All the characters in this product have already been corrected.

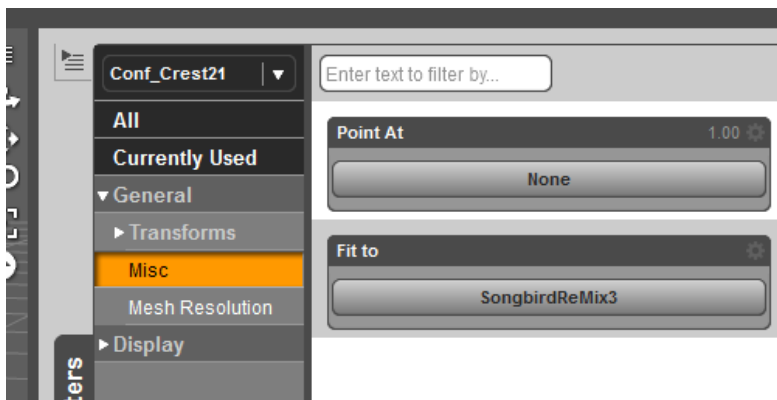
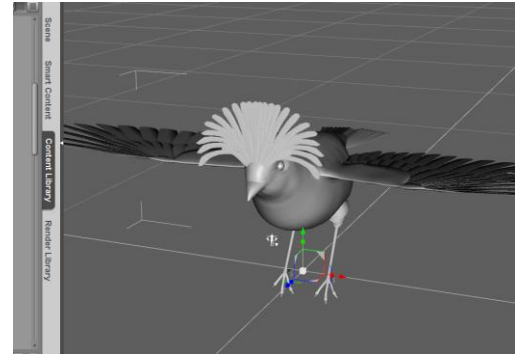
Earlier DAZ Studio versions of this product used Studio's scene files (.daz) to create pre-built birds. Unfortunately the programmers of Studio decided not to support "backwards compatibility" so older pre-built birds saved in .daz may no longer work. It is best to delete the older version of this product.

For more troubleshooting, visit the [Songbird ReMix FAQ](#)

How to build a Songbird ReMix Character with a Conforming Crest in DAZ Studio

In the **Runtime** folder, select **Figures** and load the Songbird ReMix Model and the appropriate Conforming Crest in Studio. Select the Conforming Crest by selecting on the screen or in the **Scene** Tab.

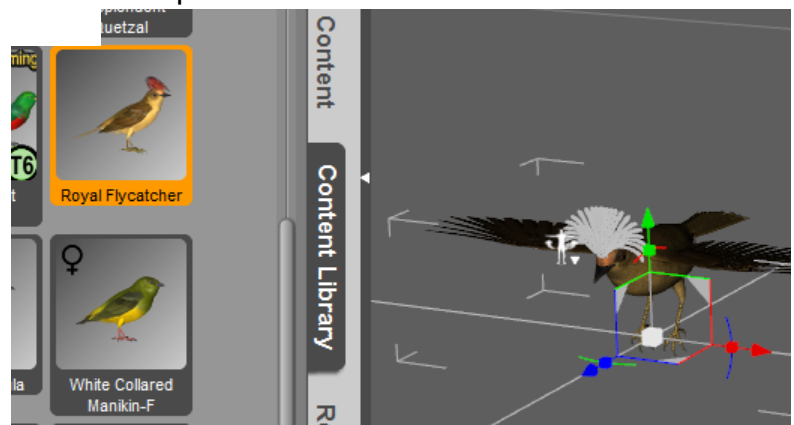
Now, using the "FIT TO" command in the Parameters Tab, Select the Songbird ReMix Model. Go back to the **Scene** Tab and select the Songbird ReMix Model.



Select the Studio **Content** Folder and go to the **Animals : SBRM : !CreateYour Own : Characters** folder and select the appropriate Songbird Remix library. Apply the Character setting to the bird base. It will probably reduce the size significantly and change the shape of the bird.

Now that the bird is sized, select the conforming part and apply the conforming part character settings.

Voila! Your bird is done. Just remember to select the bird base when posing and often there are additional morphs in the conforming part you can use.



Parrots of the World

Field Guide

Africa

Black-cheeked Lovebird
Cape Parrot
Congo African Grey Parrot

The Americas

Double Yellow-headed Amazon Parrot
Patagonian Conure
Thick-billed Parrot
Yellow-faced Parrotlet

Australia

Crimson Rosella
Galah
Night Parrot
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo

Indonesia & Asia

Golden-mantled Racquet-tail Parrot
Long-tailed Parakeet
Plum-headed Parakeet
Red and Blue Lory

Common Name: Black-cheeked Lovebird
Scientific Name: *Agapornis nigrigenis*

Size: 5 to 5 ½ inches (13-14cm)

Habitat: Africa; Zambia. Found in deciduous forests.

Status: Vulnerable. **Global Population:** 2,500-9,999 mature adults. With a small population to begin with, the population loss from the 20th century pet trade, being considered a crop pest and the loss of available water due to human uses has brought this species toward extinction in the wild.

Diet: Food largely consists of crop seeds (sorghum, millet, maize etc), wild tree fruits and seeds.

Breeding: It breeds in holes in mature *Mopane* (*Colophospermum*) trees near roosting sites during January-April



Cool Facts: Juveniles of the species are similar but with a more orange bill. Vocalizations are loud, piercing shrieks, which are very similar to those of other lovebirds. It needs daily access to water, in the dry season, congregating in large flocks to search for available water. Lovebirds will drink at the same water-point in the early morning and late afternoon. Flock sizes of birds at drinking sites range from 1 to 175 individuals. Birds from one locale all drink at the same waterhole. Black-cheeked Lovebirds are vigilant and highly cautious drinkers and won't drink at waterholes that have been disturbed by humans or livestock.

Common Name: The Cape Parrot

Scientific Name: *Poicephalus robustus robustus*

Size: 13 inches (33cm)

Habitat: Africa; South Africa. Lives in Afro-montane forests (dominated by *Podocarpus* species that occur at 1000-1500m altitude, on steep, south-facing slopes on dolerite ridges that receive frequent mist in the summer), but are not confined to it

Status: Endangered. **Global Population:** unknown. Loss of habitat, mostly due to logging of African Yellowwood trees, and the fatal outbreaks of Psittacine beak and feather disease (PBFD) have brought this parrot close to extinction in the wild.

Diet: Yellowwood fruits are a major component of the parrots' diet.

Breeding: Nests in Yellowwood, particularly *Podocarpus falcatus* snags. Generally 3-4 eggs are laid in early August. Incubation period is estimated at 30–32 days. Fledging period is estimated at 80 days.

Cool Facts: “The Cape Parrot” has now been classified as a distinct species separate from the closely related *Poicephalus fuscicollis*, which is called the “Un-Cape Parrot” by the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The Un-Cape Parrot species has two subspecies, the Brown-necked Parrot (*P. f. fuscicollis*) and the Grey-headed Parrot (*P. f. suahelicus*).

With the Cape parrot being an endangered species, hundreds of volunteers do an annual count in May which they have called the "Cape Parrot Big Birding Day". The populations are difficult to count because the birds' habitats have become fragmented and they often fly long distances for food. The wild population appears to have increased from 500 individuals to over a 1,000 from 2000 to 2006. Over one hundred Cape Parrots are in captive breeding programs and the species survival may rest in its success. It is unusual as a pet parrot. Trade and export of wild-caught Cape Parrots has been made illegal by the international CITES agreement and by South African law.



Common Name: Congo African Grey Parrot
Scientific Name: *Psittacus erithacus erithacus*



Size: 13 inches (33cm)

Habitat: West and Central Africa. Found in rainforests, cultivated land, mangroves, wooded savannas, and gardens.

Status: Least Concern. Global Population: 680,000 - 13,000,000 mature individuals with a decreasing trend.

Diet: Seeds, nuts, berries, fruit, supplemented by leafy matter.

Breeding: Females will lay between 2 and 4 eggs. The male does not tend to the eggs, but provides food for the female while she sits on them. Once the chicks are hatched, both parents tend to them.

Cool Facts: The African Grey is one of the smartest of parrots and is known for its vocal abilities. Irene Pepperberg's extensive research with captive African Greys, especially the one known as Alex, has shown that these parrots are capable of associating human words with their meanings, at least to some extent. Another African Grey, N'kisi, is said to have a vocabulary of over one thousand words and speaks in sentences. African Greys in the wild mimic creatures found in their surroundings. There is a great deal of scientific debate over the cognitive abilities vs trained abilities of parrots, but one thing is certain; parrots, ravens and jays are the smartest in the bird world.

African Grey parrots are extremely social birds and thousands will form communal nesting areas. Natural predators of the African Grey parrot include a variety of hawks and falcons. Monkeys and other tree-dwelling mammals often steal the parrot's eggs. As a defensive strategy, a flock of parrots will fall silent and then burst from the treetops while shrieking. The chaos and noise deter most predators.

The African Grey is among the most popular choices for "pet" parrots.

Common Name: Double Yellow-headed Amazon Parrot
Scientific Name: *Amazona oratrix*

Size: 13 ¾ inches (35cm)

Habitat: North and Central America. Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and northern Honduras. Found in riparian forest and areas with scattered trees, as well as evergreen forest in Belize and mangroves in Guatemala.

Status: Endangered. **Global Population:** 7,000. Their numbers in the wild have been reduced by 90% from 70,000 to 7,000 (mid 1970s to 1994) and to 4,000 by 2004 because of capture for the blackmarket pet trade and habitat destruction. Poachers usually hack at the nest site with a machete to steal parrots, which is especially destructive because habitat is lost at the same time that the wild parrot population is reduced. An estimated 90% of poached Amazons die before they are sold.

Diet: Fruits, seeds, nuts, berries, blossoms, and leaf buds.

Breeding: Yellow-headed Parrots nest in holes in tree trunks or fallen branches. They form communal roosts and nest in an unlined hollow in either a living or dead tree. They lay 2 - 4 oval, glossy eggs. Incubation lasts for approximately 29 days and fledging occurs approximately 2 months later.

Cool Facts: Amazons are widely available and their personalities make them highly desirable pets. Their vocal abilities are generally considered to be bested only by the African Grey.



Common Name: Patagonian or Burrowing Conure
Scientific Name: *Cyanoliseus patagonus*

Size: 13 ¾ inches (35cm)

Habitat: South America. Argentina. Found in arid lowland and montane grassy shrub land, open dry woodland savanna, open Chaco plains along watercourses, and thorny scrub or columnar cacti, often with a sandy substrate, at elevations up to 2000 m.

Status: Least Concern. **Global Population:** unknown. Some sources consider this parrot “Threatened” because habitat destruction affects its’ breeding abilities. This species has declined due to increasing persecution as a crop pest. Even though they

do not cause intense damage, lethal methods of control are used such as poisoning and shooting. Also, conversion of grassland to arable crop production and trapping for the live bird trade are big threats. Another increasing threat is growing through unsympathetic tourism, with four-wheeled vehicles being allowed on beaches; this can result in the death of chicks.

Diet: Seeds and fruits.

Breeding: The species may only breed successfully in fairly large, dense colonies. They will only tunnel into vertical limestone or sandstone cliffs to make their nests, and have specific height requirements.

Cool Facts: Also known as the “Burrowing Parakeet”, the Patagonian Conure nests and roosts underground. They are some of the largest conures, they tend to look more similar to macaws than to other Conure species, and they have an unusual brown coloring.

These birds are very social and love companionship; their natural behavior is

to live in very large groups and to nest closely to one another. They do have mimicry abilities though have a harsh voice and can get loud.



Common Name: Thick-billed Parrot

Scientific Name: *Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*

Size: 15 inches (38cm)

Habitat: North America. Once found in the high elevation pine forests of southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. It is now only found in highland forests, pine forests and foothills of northern and central Mexico.

Status: Endangered. Global Population: 2,000 - 2,800 mature individuals and decreasing. Habitat loss from the timber and mining industries, as well as poaching for the pet trade in the 20th century have brought this parrot close to extinction.



Diet: Mostly Pine Nuts; acorns, juniper berries, agave flower nectar, cherry fruits and insects. Occasionally tree bark.

Breeding: Nesting females will usually lay clutches of 3 eggs, with intervals of 2-3 days between eggs. The male spends the night in the nest hole with the female. Incubation takes approximately 26 days from the first egg, after which the chicks hatch at 2-3 day

intervals, comparable with the laying timing. The chicks first open their eyes at 6 days, and their eyes are fully open at 16 days. Pinfeathers begin erupting at 16 days and the chicks are well feathered at 36 days and they have their full juvenile plumage by 56 days.

Cool Facts: Thick-billed Parrots and the extinct Carolina Parakeets are the only parrots whose natural ranges included the continental United States. The stronghold of the Thick-billed Parrots has always been the Sierra Madre Occidental of Mexico, but the species was also found in substantial numbers in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico in earlier times. Thick-billed Parrots suffered massively from shooting in the U.S. and were essentially gone from U.S. territory by 1920. Their garrulousness, relatively large size and tame inquisitive behavior, sadly made them easy targets for subsistence-hunting prospectors and other early settlers. Occasional sightings continued until 1938 in Arizona and until 1964 in New Mexico, but no parrots were recorded thereafter until a few captives were released to the wild in the late 1980's.

Thick-billed Parrots have a variety of vocalizations, which they use for alerting flock members to the approach of predators, flock integration, territorial interactions and soliciting food from mates and parents. Under the tutelage of their parents, the chicks begin vocalizations early and appear to have the full complement of vocalizations when they fledge. During flight, a flock will be garrulously calling, sounding like laughing children. Feeding flocks often post sentinels, who scan intently for predators. An alarm call from a sentinel will put the entire flock into instantaneous flight and the birds are normally easily capable of out flying their avian enemies.

The primary predation threats faced by Thick-billed Parrots come from various raptors. Chief amongst such raptors are Red-tailed Hawks, Apache Goshawks and Peregrine Falcons. The parrots are powerful flyers and are rarely taken except when raptors are able to gain close approach undetected by the parrots. Surprised in midair by a Peregrine Falcon, they dive straight for the ground and evade the falcon with agile maneuvers as they dive into trees that the falcon is reluctant to enter. Nocturnal predation comes mainly from ring-tailed cats. Thick-bills appear to be free of severe threats from snake predation faced by Amazona parrots inhabiting lower altitudes.

Common Name: Yellow-faced Parrotlet
Scientific Name: *Forpus xanthops*

Size: 5 ½ inches (14cm)

Habitat: South America. North-Central Peru. Found in arid woodland, riparian thickets and desert scrub at 800-2,750 m, but mostly at 1,000-1,600 m.

Status: Vulnerable. **Global Population:** 250-999 mature individuals. The species suffered a serious decline in the 1980s due to the Pet Trade. In 1988, only 168 individuals were counted during extensive surveys. It appears to be recovering somewhat following a ban on trade; however, there is little evidence of a substantial recovery.

Diet: Feeds on the seeds of balsam trees and cacti.

Breeding: Breeding season begins in March-April, and nesting takes place in natural dirt and rock walls, in colonies of up to 70 birds.

Cool Facts: They are very gregarious as most parrots are. They forage in cactus-dominated savannas, in open landscapes with light forests with deciduous trees. They feed early in the morning or late at night.

The color of the rump is different in the sexes; turquoise blue for the female, light cobalt blue for the male.



Common Name: Crimson Rosella
Scientific Name: *Platycercus elegans*

Size: 12 ½ to 14 ½ inches (32-37cm)

Habitat: Australia; There are several populations of the Crimson Rosella. Red (crimson) birds occur in northern Queensland, in southern Queensland to south-eastern South Australia and on Kangaroo Island. Orange birds are restricted to the Flinders Ranges region of South Australia, while yellow ones are found along the Murray, Murrumbidgee and neighboring rivers (where yellow birds meet red birds they hybridize, producing orange offspring). Red birds have been introduced to Norfolk Island and New Zealand.



Throughout its range, the Crimson Rosella is commonly associated with tall eucalypt and wetter forests.

Status: Least Concern.
Global Population: Unknown.

Diet: Eucalyptus seeds, grasses and shrubs, insects and some tree blossoms.

Breeding: Nests are in tree hollows, located high in a tree, and lined with wood shavings and dust. The female alone incubates the white eggs, but both sexes care for the young.

The chicks remain dependent on their parents for a further 35 days after leaving the nest.

Cool Facts: There are several color forms of the Crimson Rosella. The form it is named for has mostly crimson (red) plumage and bright blue cheeks. The feathers of the back and wing coverts are black broadly edged with red. The flight feathers of the wings have broad blue edges and the tail is blue above and pale blue below and on the outer feathers. Birds from northern Queensland are generally smaller and darker than southern birds. The 'Yellow Rosella' has the crimson areas replaced with light yellow and the tail more greenish. The 'Adelaide Rosella' is intermediate in color, ranging from yellow with a reddish wash to dark orange. Otherwise, all the forms are similar in pattern. Young Crimson Rosellas have the characteristic blue cheeks, but the remainder of the body plumage is green-olive to yellowish olive (occasionally red in some areas). The young bird gradually attains the adult plumage over a period of 15 months

Common Name: Galah

Scientific Name: *Cacatua roseicapilla*

Size: 12 ¼ to 15 inches (31-38cm)

Habitat: Australia; one of the most abundant and familiar of the Australian parrots, occurring over most of Australia, including some offshore islands. Found in large flocks in a variety of timbered habitats, usually near water.

Status: Least Concern. **Global Population:** unknown. The Galah is becoming more abundant around areas of human habitation, with the growth in population largely a result of increasing availability of food and water. Escaped aviary birds have also contributed to these numbers.



Diet: Form huge, noisy flocks, which feed on seeds, mostly from the ground. Seeds of grasses and cultivated crops are eaten, making these birds agricultural pests in some areas. Birds may travel large distances in search of favorable feeding grounds.

Breeding: Galahs form permanent pair bonds, although a bird will take a new partner if the other one dies. The nest is a tree hollow or similar location, lined with leaves. Both sexes incubate the eggs and care for the young. There is high chick mortality in Galahs, with up to 50 % of chicks dying in the first six months. Males have a light brown colored iris; females are pink.

Cool Facts: The Galah is becoming more abundant around areas of human habitation, with the growth in population largely a result of increasing availability of food and water. Escaped aviary birds have also contributed to these numbers.

Galahs have been recorded breeding with other members of the cockatoo family, both in the wild and captivity. These include the Sulfur-crested Cockatoo.

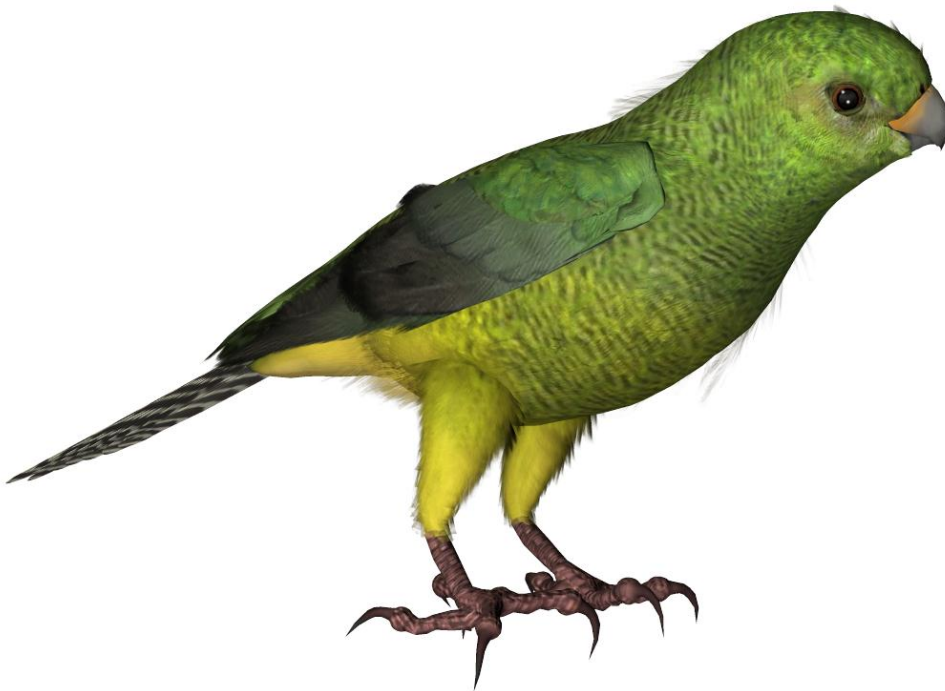
Common Name: Night Parrot
Scientific Name: *Pezoporus occidentalis*

Size: 8 ½ to 10 ¼ inches (22-26cm)

Habitat: Found throughout inland Australia. Arid areas where there is dense, low vegetation, which provides shelter during the day.

Status: **Presumed extinct.** **Global Population:** 0. This species has gone extinct due to habitat loss from land clearance, loss of water and predation.

Diet: Porcupine grass (*Triodia*), saltbush, bluebush, Mitchell grass (*Astrelba*) seeds.



Breeding: Nest is a layer of small sticks in an expanded cavity at the end of a tunnel under a clump of *Triodia* or a samphire bush. A four to six egg clutch has been reported.

Cool Facts: This is one of four ground-dwelling parrots in the world. This species closely resembles the Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus*) of coastal southeastern and

southwestern Australia and Tasmania. It differs by lacking the orange band on the forehead across the base of the upper mandible, a noticeably shorter tail, and shorter, straighter claws on the toes.

The first known specimen of the Night Parrot was collected by John McDouall Stuart in October 1845, north of Coopers Creek, far northern South Australia, as part of an expedition led by Charles Sturt. The Night Parrot was not formally named until 1861, when John Gould described it as *Geopsittacus occidentalis*, based on a bird collected in 1854 near Mount Farmer in Western Australia.

Until the 1870s, sightings appeared to be very occasional. The period between 1870 and 1890 was the most productive known, with numerous sightings and another 20 specimens being collected. Of the 22 museum specimens collected last century, F. W. Andrews, working for the South Australian Museum, collected 16, all during this period. Following this period of abundance, there was a marked decline in confirmed sightings.

Of the few sightings of Night Parrots between 1890 and the 1930s, the only identifiable specimen was one accidentally shot in Western Australia in 1912. There were a number of reported sightings in the 1960s and early 1970s, but none could be confirmed. In 1979, a team from the South Australian Museum saw a several birds in the far northwest of South Australia. In 1990, the last identifiable Night Parrot was found—road kill in southwestern Queensland. Since then, sightings have been claimed, but none substantiated. Publicity campaigns in several states have gathered awareness, but despite organized searches, no birds could be found.

The species was secretive and almost all confirmed sightings of feeding or drinking birds have come after dark. In the 1800s, Aboriginal people familiar with the bird referred to its nocturnal behavior, and early observers reported birds flying to water once night has fallen. A number of reports have been of birds flushed by traveling stock at night. A captive bird in a London zoo was active throughout the night. Sightings during the day almost always have been of birds flushed from hiding places by herds of stock, dogs or fire. A bird would sit tight, flushing only if the disturbance was very close, actually affecting the clump of vegetation in which it was hiding. Early observers stressed the dependence of the parrot upon dense spinifex or samphire for daytime roosting spots and for nesting. Although the Night Parrot is capable of flight, it prefers to spend most of its time on the ground. Some reports indicated that it runs between shelters when possible, in preference to flying. When it flies, it usually goes only a short distance, flying close low, before landing and escaping on foot.

Common Name: Red-tailed Black Cockatoo

Scientific Name: *Calyptorhynchus banksii*

Size: 19 ¾ to 26 ¾ inches (50-68cm)

Habitat: Australia; In Victoria, the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo occurs from Portland in south-east to just north of the Little Desert, while in South Australia it is found from Bangham-Frances to Mt Gambier. Its former distribution may never have been much greater than this, but the extent of occurrence within this range has declined

significantly due to habitat loss (c. 60% of habitat in Victoria and 80% in Southern Australia has been destroyed).



Status: **Endangered.** **Global population:** 250-999. Populations of the south-east region of Australia are threatened by clearing of native habitat. Much of the feeding habitat used by these birds is protected in State Forests. However, nesting habitat on private land is disappearing rapidly as a consequence of tree dieback, felling of potential nest trees for firewood, and the general intensification of farming (i.e. change from grazing to farm forestry, cropping etc).

In Australia they are a protected species and a permit is required to keep them. There is an export ban on live, dead or parts of the bird, including feathers. According to the Action Plan for Australian Birds 2000, the south-eastern subspecies of the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo is endangered.

Diet: Feed on the seeds of Brown Stringybarks (*Eucalyptus baxteri* /*E.arenacea*) and Bulokes (*Allocasuarina leuhmannii*).

Breeding: For nesting, the Cockatoo's require old River Red Gums or Yellow Gums with large hollows. Most nest trees are within 2km of suitable feeding habitat. A clutch consists of 1-2 eggs, though if a second egg is laid the chick is neglected and quickly perishes.

Cool Facts: They are one of the rarest and most expensive cage birds, usually costing over \$20,000 USD.

“Karak”, the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo was the official mascot of the 2006 Commonwealth Games, held in Melbourne, Australia.

Common Name: Golden-mantled Racquet-tail Parrot
Scientific Name: *Prioniturus platurus*

Size: 11 inches (28cm)

Habitat: Indonesia. Celebes, Togian, Lembeh Islands, Siao Island, Peleng Island, Banggai Island, Muna and Buton Island, Indonesia. Found in forested areas, montane forest and occasionally open areas with forest remnants at 2,000 m (6,600 ft); visits cultivated areas and mango trees near villages.

Status: Least Concern. **Global Population:** unknown. Population decreasing due to deforestation; only common in localities.

Diet: Fruits (especially mango), seeds and flowers. It is claimed that it forages in maize-fields at night causing damage to crops.

Breeding: Breeding season probably from October; nests in holes in dead branches or trees.

Cool Facts: Mostly seen flying high in groups of 5 to 10 birds. Very noisy and conspicuous in flight. It has a penetrating “keli-keli” call or sharp “kak kak”.

It is well camouflaged by plumage in foliage and difficult to detect. Often heard rather than seen. If disturbed there they remain motionless and silent and if danger persists they will then suddenly fly up and away screeching loudly. Groups often fly great distances to find fruit trees. Its flight appears deliberate, swift and powerful.



Common Name: Long-tailed Parakeet
Scientific Name: *Psittacula longicauda*

Size: 16 ½ inches (42cm)

Habitat: Asia; Malaysia South of Kedah, Singapore, Borneo, Sumatra, Indonesian island of Nias as well as Bangka and Anambas Islands. Found in coastal and lowland forested areas.



Status: Near threatened. **Global Population:** unknown. Rates of forest loss in the Sundaic lowlands have been extremely rapid because of a variety of factors, including the escalation of logging and land conversion, with deliberate targeting of all remaining stands of valuable timber including those inside protected areas, plus forest fires

Diet: Fruits (*Pandanus*, *Carica papaya*, *Dryobalan-ops sp.*), seeds, flowers (*Acacia*) and leaf buds; causes considerable damage to oil palm plantations in some areas.

Breeding: Breeding season is from February to July; mostly nesting in hollow branches or holes in dead trees and very occasionally in living trees, in one case 10m from ground. During courtship display cocks bow before the hen, making regurgitating and circular movements with head and touching bill of hen, He then feeds the hen before mating. The nest is lined with pieces of bark and chewed wood and holds clutches of 2 to 3 eggs.

Cool Facts: Usually in groups of up to 20 birds and in some localities gatherings of 800 or more birds. They are apparently nomadic, probably also seasonal migrations. Restless and constantly on move, they climb quickly

around in branches briefly before flying to next tree. Often seen because of continuous screeching, they feed soon after sunrise and are found during the day in tall trees. In late afternoon, they resume foraging before returning to their roosting trees. Their flight is swift and direct; often flying in groups just above treetops.

Common Name: Plum-headed Parakeet
Scientific Name: *Psittacula cyanocephala*

Size: 13 inches (33cm)

Habitat: Asia. India (widespread), Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan. In Sri Lanka, is common along the foothills in open woodland. In India, is common near cultivated land and in parks and towns. Not as common in Nepal

Status: Least Concern.

Global Population: unknown.

Diet: Seeds, fruits, nuts, blossoms and leaf buds. Damage orchards and rice crops

Breeding: India, December to April. Sri Lanka, February to May and again August to September. Nest: Excavate a hole in a tree or enlarge the holes of other birds. Nest together in the same tree or trees close by. Eggs: 4-6. Rounded. Incubated by the female for 24 days. Chicks: Leave the nest 6 weeks after hatching. After the first molt juveniles have plumage similar to the female. Males have full adult plumage in their third year.

Cool Facts: Parakeets are very noisy in flight but quiet when perched. They are swift in flight. Although, they have been seen in large flocks feeding on grain crops, more commonly they are found in small groups. When they return to roost with the flock in trees or bamboo at dusk, they are very noisy until nightfall.



Common Name: Red and Blue Lory
Scientific Name: *Eos histrio*

Size: 12 ¼ inches (31cm)

Habitat: Asia; Indonesia. Talaud Islands (almost exclusively on Karakelang) off northern Sulawesi. Further populations (some apparently the result of introductions) disappeared during the 20th century from Sangihe, Siau and Tagulandang. Found in forested areas.



Status: Endangered. **Global Population:** 8,200 - 21,400 mature individuals This species has a very small range (being known from few locations), which is declining owing to habitat loss. It has undergone a rapid population decline, largely as a result of trapping for the pet trade. This threat is projected to increase in the future.

Diet: Fruit and insects, but also visits agricultural areas to feed on coconut nectar and various cultivated fruits

Breeding: Breeding period appears to be May-June (although nesting has been suspected in several other months). They nest in cavities of tall trees.

Cool Facts: A strikingly patterned, arboreal parrot with a call of short harsh chattering screeches. Flocks regularly make short seasonal movements, and in some cases roost on offshore islands.

Habitat loss in the past and “Pet Trade” pressures in the present are key threats. It was widely trapped as early as the 19th century. In 1999, research suggested that as many as 1,000-2,000 birds were leaving Karakelang each year, 80% (illegally) to the Philippines. This is

compounded by extensive loss of forest, perhaps the main factor underlying its disappearance from Sangihe. The use of insecticides and the transmission of disease via escaped cage-birds to wild populations have been identified as further potential hazards.

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Species Accuracy and Reference Materials

The author has tried to make these species as accurate to their real life counterparts as possible. With the use of one generic model to create dozens of unique bird species, some give and take is bound to occur. The texture maps were created in Painter with as much accuracy as possible. "**Parrots: A Guide to Parrots of the World**" by Tony Juniper and Mike Parr was used as a reference.

Why are so many Parrots at risk?

As you look through the Field Guide portion of this manual, you notice that three quarters of the parrots represented here are endangered, threatened or at risk. Why? In simple terms, there are three causes.

- **The black-market pet trade.** While most countries prohibit the capture and transfer of "pet" birds, the easy money to be made through the black-market, particularly in third world countries, is exceptionally tempting to some. Smuggling continues in cruel and gruesome ways such as stuffing live birds into PVC tubes and hoping enough live through the smuggling to make a profit. If you purchase a bird, make sure it came from a breeder.
- **Habitat destruction weighs heavily on many species.** Whether it is timber harvesting, mining, farming or urban sprawl, these human activities destroy foraging and nesting areas. Most birds (unlike humans) will not produce offspring if there aren't sufficient resources to care for their young, so populations dwindle.
- **Parrots are gregarious and curious.** They like to travel in crowds. This makes them easy targets for poachers and irate farmers.

Risk assessments found in the Field Guide are rated by **Birdlife International** (birdlife.org)

**Shirts, jerseys, sweatshirts,
prints, cards, posters, pillows,
coffee cups, calendars & more**

