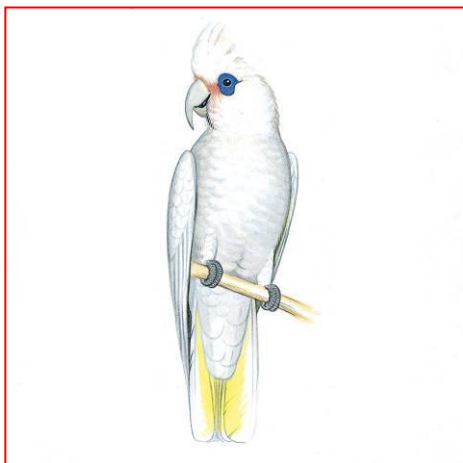


Information Sheet

Western Long-billed Corella

Muir's Corella *Cacatua pastinator pastinator*

Butler's Corella *Cacatua pastinator butleri*



Muir's Corella

Muir's Corella

Named after Lake Muir in the south-west, an important historical breeding site.

Threatened Status:

"Specially Protected Fauna: Schedule 4 – Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act".

"Vulnerable: under Federal *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*".

Description:

Length 43–48 cm. Weight 560–815 g.

Mostly white, underparts often stained or dirty, except for orange lores (space between eye and bill) and more or less concealed orange bases of head, neck, breast and belly feathers and for much pale yellow on under wings and tail; bare skin around eye bluish grey.

Breeding:

Nesting in hollows of large trees, especially Marri, Jarrah, Flooded Gum and Yate; dead or living (preferred). Eggs laid from September to November; clutch 1–4. Incubation 26–29 days.

Distribution:

Muir's Corella is now confined to small areas from Boyup Brook and Qualeup south to the Perup River, Lake Muir and Perillup. Formerly north to the Swan and Avon River, west to Augusta and east to Broomehill – see map overleaf. At present it is locally common in farmlands, but generally uncommon and patchily distributed. Usually small flocks, sometimes large flocks up to 1,000. Total population 12,000–15,000 and increasing. Exterminated on the Swan and Vasse Rivers in the colonial times and in Broomehill and Northam districts around 1900. Endemic to Western Australia.

Habitat and food:

Farmland and river valleys, mainly partly cleared eucalypt forests. Food consists mainly of corms, especially Guildford Grass (*Romulea rosea*), and seeds of exotic plants e.g. Doublegee (*Emex australis*), wheat, oats, Cape Weed (*Arctotheca calendula*) and pumpkin.

Threats to the species:

Suffered significant reduction in range in early half of the last century due to clearing of habitat, poisoning and shooting. Main threats are killing by illegal shooting and poisoning, habitat loss, changes in land use (e.g. large areas now used for Blue Gum plantations), shortage of breeding hollows.

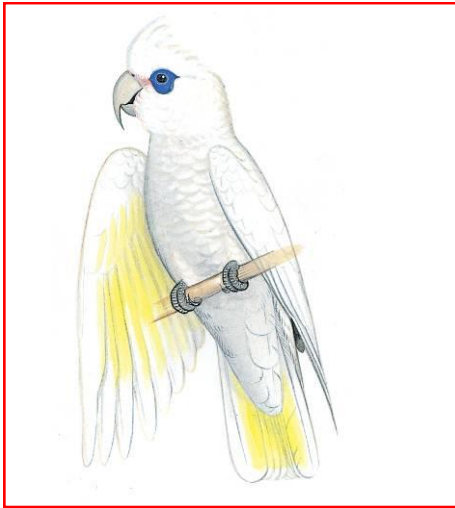
Call (for both subspecies):

Noisy chuckling cries and harsh shrieks.

Life span (for both subspecies): over 25 years.



Muir's Corella



Butler's Corella



Butler's Corella at nest



Marri nuts chewed by Butler's Corella

Butler's Corella

Named after Western Australian naturalist W.H. (Harry) Butler.

Status:

A declared pest of agriculture under the provisions of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.

Description:

Length 40–47.5 cm. Weight 600–750 g.

Similar to Muir's Corella but differs in its generally smaller size.

Breeding:

Nesting in hollows of large eucalypts, mainly Salmon Gum, Wandoo and Marri. Eggs laid from August to October; clutch 1–4 (mostly 2 or 3). Incubation period 24–29 days.

Distribution:

Butler's Corella, in contrast to Muir's Corella, has expanded its range south in the past 40 years due to the establishment of farm dams and the cultivation of cereal crops – see map below. Endemic to Western Australia.

Habitat and food:

Lightly wooded country and farmlands near drinkable water and tall trees. Food consists mainly of corms, including Guildford Grass (*Romulea rosea*), and seeds of exotic plants e.g. Doublegee (*Emex australis*), fallen wheat and oats and sprouting shoots of crops, seeds of Cape Weed (*Arctotheca calendula*) and in some areas Marri seeds.

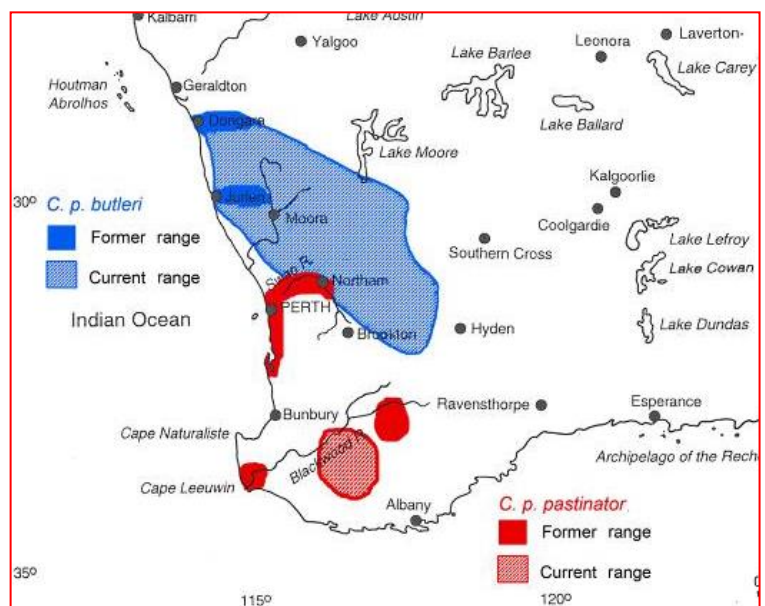
Impact:

It is a declared pest in the northern Wheatbelt damaging grain crops and storage facilities, trees, ovals, lawns, power lines and television aerials.

References:

Johnstone, R.E. and Storr, G.M. (1998). *Handbook of Western Australian Birds*. Volume 1 – Non-passerines (Emu to Dollarbird). Western Australian Museum pp. 284–285.

Images: Tony Kirkby & Claire Stevenson Layout design: Kim Sarti



Former and current distribution in south-west Western Australia