

Cockatoo, Palm

Scientific Name: *Probosciger aterrimus*

Class: Aves

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Cacatuidae



The Palm Cockatoo has an overall length of about 22 inches, with the tail measuring from 8 to 10 inches. Weight can range from 1 to 2 pounds. The general coloration is black, both above and below. The feathers are heavily coated with powder-down, giving a bluish-gray appearance. The prominent backward-curving crest is usually raised immediately after alighting, and also when alarmed or excited. When excited, the red of the cheek patch deepens, and the bird is said to “blush”. The alarm call is a short, harsh screech and they also emit a peculiar hissing noise. Normal flight is heavy and labored, with slow, full wing beats and the bill held down against the breast.

Range

The Palm Cockatoo’s range is Northern Queensland, New Guinea, and the Aru Islands in Indonesia.

Habitat

The habitat of the Palm Cockatoo is the tropical rainforest.

Gestation

Incubation of the egg is 31 to 35 days.

Litter

One egg.

Behavior

They generally roost in the top most branches of tall trees on the edge of the rainforest. They seem to prefer trees with leafless upper branches. They do not stir until well after sunrise. Before leaving the roosting tree, they spend some time preening. About an hour after sunrise, they begin calling to each other, and parties of six or seven congregate in a tall tree.

Reproduction

The breeding season of the Palm Cockatoo is prolonged, and may vary in accordance with climatic conditions. The nest is a hollow limb or a hole in the trunk of a tree. The bottom of the hollow is lined with a layer of splintered twigs. A single egg is laid on the layer of twigs. After hatching, the young bird remains in the nest for 100-110 days. For two weeks after emergence, it is capable of only weak, unsteady flight; and, it is fed by the parents for an additional six weeks.

Wild Diet

Their diet in the wild includes seeds, nuts, fruits, berries, leaf buds, insects and insect larvae.