

Have you seen a night parrot?



STEVE MURPHY

Night parrot roosting habitat



NICK LESEBERG

Open grassy feeding habitat



NICK LESEBERG

Roosting habitat in old spinifex



NICK LESEBERG

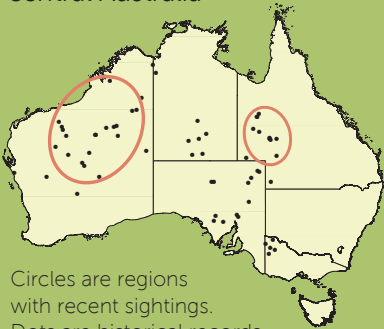
Roosting habitat in old spinifex



NICK LESEBERG

Distribution

- Formerly found across arid and semi-arid central Australia
- Recent records from scattered locations across northern central Australia



Circles are regions with recent sightings. Dots are historical records.

Habitat and habits

- Spends day roosting in a tunnel in patches of long unburnt spinifex
- Spinifex may be extensive or patchy
- Very shy, rarely seen during the day unless flushed from their roost
- If flushed, the bird will fly a short distance low over the spinifex before diving back to the ground and hiding again
- At night the parrot feeds in open areas with grasses and succulent plants and will visit water, especially in hot weather

How to find them

- To find a night parrot stand quietly near areas of old spinifex and listen for them calling during their regular calling periods at dusk or dawn
- The dusk calling period starts about 30 minutes after sunset, and usually lasts for only a few minutes
- The dawn calling period starts around 30-90 minutes before sunrise, and lasts for 10-15 minutes
- After rain and during breeding, calling periods are longer, and the birds will call more throughout the night around their roosting areas

Calls

- Night parrots have many different calls
- You can hear examples of calls at: **nightparrot.com.au**
- Common calls in Queensland:
 - Sounds like a bell ringing ('dink-dink' or 'ding-de-ding')
 - Soft multi-syllable whistles ('dee-de' or 'dee-de dee-de')
- Common calls in Western Australia:
 - A long hollow sounding whistle
 - A quick two-syllable call ('didit')
 - Soft 1 and 2-syllable whistles

Night parrots



BRUCE GREATWICH

Adults

Small parrots with long wings and a short tail. Bright green with a yellow belly. Covered in black and yellow patterning.



NICK LESEBERG

Juveniles

Young night parrots are grey, and become green as they get older

Similar arid zone parrots



ROBIN ASHFORD

Bourke's parrot

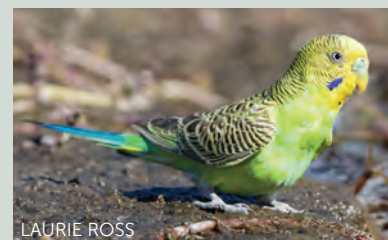
Small, dull greyish with some pink and blue and black patterning on wings. Active late into the evening, occasionally coming to drink after dark.



TONY PALLISER

Elegant parrot and blue-winged parrots

Small, green parrots, but with blue tails and blue wing edges.



LAURIE ROSS

Budgerigar

Yellow and green with black markings. Smaller than the night parrot and usually seen during the day in flocks.

Seen a night parrot?

If you think you have seen or heard a night parrot or have any questions about night parrots. Please contact:

Nick Leseberg: n.leseberg@uq.edu.au
Tegan Douglas: tegan.douglas@birdlife.org.au

For more information visit:
www.nightparrot.com.au