

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET



Photo courtesy: Dr. Raju Kasambe

ILLEGAL
WILDLIFE
TRADE

BEHAVIOUR & BIOLOGY



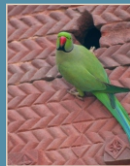
A tropical Afro-Asian parakeet enjoying a large range.



Rose ringed parakeet is a type of parrot, it lives in large social groups that feed and roost as a flock. It is a noisy species with a distinct squawking call.



It has adapted to living in diverse environments around the world, especially urban and agricultural habitats.



In the wild, they feed on buds, fruits, vegetables, nuts, berries, and seeds while flocks fly several kilometres to forage in farmlands and orchards.



Rose ringed parakeets form pairs between September and December, selecting and defending nest sites. From April to June they care for their young who leave the nest before monsoon.



The baby birds, called fledglings, are fed specially selected foods by its parents to gain strength enough to fly away from the nest and be independent. During the nesting season, local distributors raid nests and hoard thousands of these fledglings at once, they collect them from the wild for which they must know the right time to lift the birds (when parents are out foraging).



Schedule IV of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE CATEGORY



LIVE TRADE (sold as exotic pets)



SUPERSTITION

(used by mantravadis and astrologers in a card picking ritual wherein they claim to tell an individual's fortune)



SOURCE TRANSIT CONSUMER

SCENARIO 1: LIVE TRADE



A local dealer identifies the nests of parakeets, marking them as his territory or property

At the right time in the fledglings' development, he raids the nest i.e steals the baby birds



The local dealer will keep the fledglings in his house for a while, until it is time to transport them to the market

The birds are kept in cages in the markets where they are sold



Urban distributor buys the parakeets in bulk

Transports them by train to Delhi or Mumbai, in a cruel and unhygienic manner threatening their safety and health





Captive birds are taken to Chandni Chowk in Delhi where traders from all over the world come to buy the birds, or they are sold to consumers who will keep them in captivity as pets



Birds in Mumbai are bought by international distributors



International distributors transport the captive birds to the Middle East. A designated transporter carries them on an international flight

Local distributor will pick them up from the airport in Dubai



The birds are kept in cages in the markets where they are sold



Consumers buy the bird that they keep as an exotic pet

PEOPLE, PLACES & PROPS

SCENARIO 1: LIVE TRADE



Local dealer



Parakeet nest



Chalk to mark nest



Local dealer's house



Cages



Urban distributor



Train



Chandni Chowk market (Delhi)



International distributor's house (Mumbai)



Flight to Middle East



Local distributor's vehicle



Market in Dubai



Consumer



Consumer's Home



Cage for exotic pet



Money

SOURCE TRANSIT CONSUMER

SCENARIO 2: SUPERSTITION

A local dealer identifies the roosts of flocks



Using nets or bird lime (a powerful glue that poachers paint on branches and tree trunks to trap birds)



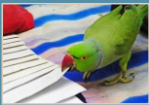
Local dealers have been known to steal and keep in captivity hundreds, even thousands, of parakeets at time



An astrologer will contact the local dealer to buy birds



Astrologers set up their practice on the road side or in railway stations, tricking people into believing the bird can read their future. Parakeets are kept in small cages and trained to lift cards



Astrologers and their parakeet perform the ritual of card picking to read a paying customers future

Consumers pay to have their future read, a superstition with no proof

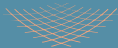


PEOPLE, PLACES & PROPS

SCENARIO 2: SUPERSTITION



Local dealer



Nets



Bird lime



Local dealer's house



Astrologer



Railway Station



Cage



Cards



Consumer



Money