



Draft Code of Practice for Keeping Native Birds

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

© 2018 State of NSW and Office of Environment and Heritage

With the exception of photographs, the State of NSW and Office of Environment and Heritage are pleased to allow this material to be reproduced in whole or in part for educational and non-commercial use, provided the meaning is unchanged and its source, publisher and authorship are acknowledged. Specific permission is required for the reproduction of photographs.

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has compiled this report in good faith, exercising all due care and attention. No representation is made about the accuracy, completeness or suitability of the information in this publication for any particular purpose. OEH shall not be liable for any damage which may occur to any person or organisation taking action or not on the basis of this publication. Readers should seek appropriate advice when applying the information to their specific needs.

All content in this publication is owned by OEH and is protected by Crown Copyright, unless credited otherwise. It is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0), subject to the exemptions contained in the licence. The legal code for the licence is available at Creative Commons.

OEH asserts the right to be attributed as author of the original material in the following manner: © State of New South Wales and Office of Environment and Heritage 2018.

Published by:

Office of Environment and Heritage
59 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232
Phone: +61 2 9995 5000 (switchboard)
Phone: 131 555 (environment information and publications requests)
Phone: 1300 361 967 (national parks, general environmental enquiries, and publications requests)
Fax: +61 2 9995 5999
TTY users: phone 133 677, then ask for 131 555
Speak and listen users: phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 131 555
Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Report pollution and environmental incidents
Environment Line: 131 555 (NSW only) or info@environment.nsw.gov.au
See also www.environment.nsw.gov.au

ISBN 978-1-76039-899-6
OEH 2017/0455
May 2018

Find out more about your environment at:
www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Contents

Preface	1
1. Introduction	2
2. Interpretations and definitions	2
2.1 Interpretations	2
2.2 Definitions	2
3. Acquisition and disposal	3
3.1 Standards	3
4. Record keeping	4
4.1 Standards	4
4.2 Guidelines	4
5. Welfare	5
Schedule	6

Preface

The Code of Practice for Keeping Native Birds (the Code) is:

- Approved as a code of practice under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* for keeping the species of lower risk native birds listed in the Schedule to this Code.
- Incorporated as a condition of a licence granted under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* for the keeping of species of higher risk native birds for which a keeper licence is required.

The species of native birds that may only be kept by a licensed keeper, are listed in the NSW Native Animal Keepers' Species List published on the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) website.

The Code contains both mandatory standards and supporting advisory guidelines for the care of pet native birds.

Failure to comply with the Code means a person may not have a defence to offences under Division 1 of Part 2 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and may result in a Penalty Notice being issued or the commencement of a prosecution.

Compliance with this Code does not remove the need to comply with the requirements of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (POCTA Act) and any other laws and regulations, such as the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Keepers should be aware that:

- They must follow the standards in the Code, unless advised by a veterinarian that a native bird should be housed or managed in a different way to treat a particular problem – keepers who follow such advice will not be considered to be in breach of the Code.
- Native birds held under a licence for public exhibition, rehabilitation, education, conservation or scientific purposes are not subject to the Code.
- All native birds are protected under NSW law. It is an offence under Division 1 of Part 2 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* to harm, injure, buy, sell, possess, import, export, remove from the wild or release into the wild a native bird unless authorised by a licence or a code of practice.
- The importation of birds from overseas for inclusion in private collections is prohibited under Commonwealth law. The possession of illegally imported birds, or their offspring, is an offence under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

This Code incorporates the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 4 – Keeping and Trading of Birds, which is made under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Code is an approved code of practice under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* for the keeping of the species of native birds listed in the Schedule to this Code.
- 1.2. Compliance with this Code is also a condition of a licence granted under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* for the keeping of species of native birds for which a keeper licence is required.
- 1.3. This Code comprises both enforceable provisions and guidelines. Enforceable provisions are identified by the word 'standards' and they must be followed.

2. Interpretations and definitions

2.1 Interpretations

Objectives

The intended outcome(s) for each section of this Code.

Standards

Standards describe minimum standards that must be met. They are identified in the text by the heading 'Standards' and use the word 'must'.

Guidelines

Guidelines describe the best practice agreed at a particular time following consideration of scientific information and accumulated experience.

Notes

Where appropriate, notes describe practical procedures to achieve the minimum standards and guidelines. They may also refer to relevant legislation.

2.2 Definitions

In this Code:

- **Bird** means any native bird that may be legally kept in New South Wales under this Code or an animal keeper's licence.
- **Keeper** means the owner of the bird.
- **OEH** means the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

3. Acquisition and disposal

Objectives

To ensure that birds are lawfully acquired and disposed.

The standards set out below apply to birds of a species that may be kept in accordance with this Code without the need for a licence, as listed in the Schedule to this Code.

For birds that may only be kept under a licence, the licensed keeper may only acquire or dispose of birds as specified in their licence conditions.

3.1 Standards

- 3.1.1 Birds of the species listed in the Schedule to this Code, must only be acquired by:
- persons that are at least 16 years old
 - persons under the age of 16 years, but only with the knowledge and approval of their parent or legal guardian.
- 3.1.2 Birds of the species listed in the Schedule to this Code, may be imported from, or exported to, another state or territory.
- 3.1.3 Persons must only acquire birds of species listed in the Schedule to this Code from:
- a person in NSW over the age of 16 years, or persons under the age of 16 years, but only with the knowledge and approval of their parent or legal guardian
 - the holder of a current dealer licence issued by OEH that authorises the buying and selling of birds
 - a person from another state or territory that has lawfully acquired the bird and, if required under the laws of their state or territory, has obtained a licence to export the bird to New South Wales.
- 3.1.4 Keepers must only dispose of birds of species listed in the Schedule to this Code by giving, trading or selling the birds to:
- a person in NSW that is over the age of 16 years, or a person in NSW that is under the age of 16 years but only with the knowledge and approval of their parent or legal guardian
 - a person in another state or territory that may lawfully acquire the bird, and if required under the laws of their state or territory, has obtained a licence to import the bird from New South Wales.
- 3.1.5 Keepers of species listed in the Schedule to this Code must only advertise the disposal or acquisition of birds in a specialist publication, journal or internet site related to the keeping of birds or native animals.
- 3.1.6 Keepers of species listed in the Schedule to this Code must not buy, sell or trade in native birds as a business.

Notes

A dealer licence issued by OEH is required to buy and sell birds as a business.

Birds of species that are not listed in the Schedule to this Code may not be imported into New South Wales or exported from New South Wales without an import or export licence issued by OEH.

Persons from other states and territories may need a keeper licence and/or an import licence issued by the environment agency in their state or territory to acquire native birds from New South Wales.

4. Record keeping

Objectives

To maintain accurate records of birds. This will provide a valuable tool in proving birds have been lawfully acquired, and identifying sources of health problems.

The standards set out below apply to birds that may be kept in accordance with this Code without the need for a licence.

For birds that may only be kept under a licence, the licensed keeper must keep records as specified in their licence conditions.

4.1 Standards

- 4.1.1 Keepers must retain records of the acquisition and disposal of birds of species listed in the Schedule to this Code, such as signed and dated receipts indicating the number and species of birds acquired or disposed and the name and address of the person or business from whom birds are acquired or to whom birds are disposed.

4.2 Guidelines

- 4.2.1 The keeper should keep records for each bird covering the following matters, as these can be of significant help when diagnosing health problems:
- feeding and refusal of food
 - veterinary treatment, medication and observations on health issue (e.g. diarrhoea and regurgitation)
 - unusual behaviour.
- 4.2.2 A bird should be micro chipped by a veterinarian with relevant experience, as this enables ownership of the bird to be established. In the event of the bird being stolen or escaping, a micro-chip can be used to ensure the bird is returned to its rightful owner. Micro chipping is not recommended for juveniles and very small species.

Notes

It may be useful to record reproductive activities and changes in weight and length of the bird.

A card attached to the outside of an enclosure is a convenient way of recording information.

5. Welfare

Keepers must comply with the *NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 4 – Keeping and Trading of Birds*, published by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), and adopted by the Minister for the Environment as an approved code of practice for the purposes of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW).

This Code can be viewed on the DPI website: [NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 4 - Keeping and Trading of Birds](#)

Schedule

This Code is approved as a code of practice under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* for the keeping of the species of native birds listed below.

Common name	Scientific name	Species group
Adelaide rosella	<i>Platycercus elegans adalaidae</i>	Parrot
Bar-shouldered dove	<i>Geopelia humeralis</i>	Pigeon & dove
Black-breasted button quail	<i>Turnix melanogaster</i>	Quail
Black-ringed finch	<i>Taeniopygia bichenovii annulosa</i>	Finch
Black-tailed finch	<i>Poephila cincta atropygialis</i>	Finch
Black-throated finch	<i>Poephila cincta</i>	Finch
Black-throated finch/long-tailed finch hybrid	<i>Poephila cincta x acuticauda</i>	Finch
Blue bonnet	<i>Northiella haematogaster</i>	Parrot
Blue-faced parrot-finch	<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>	Finch
Blue-winged parrot	<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Parrot
Bourke's parrot	<i>Neopsephotus bourkii</i>	Parrot
Brown quail	<i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>	Quail
Brush bronzewing	<i>Phaps elegans</i>	Pigeon & dove
Budgerigar	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	Parrot
Chestnut-breasted mannikin	<i>Lonchura castaneothorax</i>	Finch
Cloncurry parrot	<i>Barnardius zonarius macgillivrayi</i>	Parrot
Cloncurry/Twenty-eight parrot hybrid	<i>Barnardius zonarius macgillivrayi x Barnardius semitorquatus</i>	Parrot
Cockatiel	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	Parrot
Common bronzewing	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>	Pigeon & dove
Crested pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>	Pigeon & dove
Crimson finch	<i>Neochmia phaeton phaeton</i>	Finch
Crimson rosella	<i>Platycercus elegans</i>	Parrot
Diamond dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	Pigeon & dove
Diamond firetail	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Finch
Double-barred finch	<i>Taeniopygia bichenovii</i>	Finch
Double-barred finch / zebra finch hybrid	<i>Taeniopygia bichenovii x Taeniopygia guttata</i>	Finch
Eastern rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>	Parrot
Eastern rosella/mallee ringneck	<i>Parrot hybrid</i>	Parrot
Elegant parrot	<i>Neophema elegans</i>	Parrot
Emerald dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Pigeon & dove

Draft Code of Practice for Keeping Native Birds

Common name	Scientific name	Species group
Flock bronzewing	<i>Phaps histrionica</i>	Pigeon & dove
Galah	<i>Cacatua roseicapilla</i>	Parrot
Galah/pink cockatoo	<i>Cacatua hybrid</i>	Parrot
Golden-shouldered parrot	<i>Psephotus chrysopterygius</i>	Parrot
Gouldian finch	<i>Erythrura gouldiae</i>	Finch
Green rosella	<i>Platycercus caledonicus</i>	Parrot
Hooded parrot	<i>Psephotus dissimilis</i>	Parrot
King quail	<i>Coturnix chinensis</i>	Quail
Little button quail	<i>Turnix velox</i>	Quail
Little corella	<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>	Parrot
Little lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Parrot
Long-billed corella	<i>Cacatua tenuirostris</i>	Parrot
Long-tailed finch	<i>Poephila acuticauda</i>	Finch
Mallee ringneck	<i>Barnardius zonarius barnardi</i>	Parrot
Masked finch	<i>Poephila personata</i>	Finch
Mulga parrot	<i>Psephotus varius</i>	Parrot
Mulga parrot/golden-shouldered parrot hybrid	<i>Psephotus varius x Psephotus chrysopterygius</i>	Parrot
Mulga parrot/red-rumped parrot hybrid	<i>Psephotus varius x Psephotus haematonotus</i>	Parrot
Musk lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>	Parrot
Northern rosella	<i>Platycercus venustus</i>	Parrot
Northern rosella/Cloncurry ringneck hybrid	<i>Platycercus venustus x Barnardius zonarius macgillivrayi</i>	Parrot
Northern rosella/Pale-headed rosella hybrid	<i>Platycercus venustus x adscitus</i>	Parrot
Painted button quail	<i>Turnix varia</i>	Quail
Painted finch	<i>Emblema pictum</i>	Finch
Pale-headed rosella	<i>Platycercus adscitus</i>	Parrot
Peaceful dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>	Pigeon & dove
Pictorella mannikin	<i>Heteromunia pectoralis</i>	Finch
Plum-headed finch	<i>Neochmia modesta</i>	Finch
Port Lincoln parrot	<i>Barnardius zonarius zonarius</i>	Parrot
Princess parrot	<i>Polytelis alexandrae</i>	Parrot
Purple-crowned lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta porphyrocephala</i>	Parrot
Rainbow lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	Parrot
Red-browed finch	<i>Neochmia temporalis</i>	Finch
Red-capped parrot	<i>Purpureicephalus spurius</i>	Parrot
Red-collared lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus rubritorquis</i>	Parrot

Draft Code of Practice for Keeping Native Birds

Common name	Scientific name	Species group
Red-rumped parrot	<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>	Parrot
Regent parrot (western subspecies)	<i>Polytelis anthopeplus anthopeplus</i>	Parrot
Regent parrot/princess parrot hybrid	<i>Polytelis anthopeplus x Polytelis alexandrae</i>	Parrot
Regent/superb parrot	<i>Polytelis hybrid</i>	Parrot
Rock parrot	<i>Neophema petrophila</i>	Parrot
Scaly-breasted lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus</i>	Parrot
Scarlet-chested parrot	<i>Neophema splendida</i>	Parrot
Scarlet-chested/turquoise parrot	<i>Neophema hybrid</i>	Parrot
Spinifex pigeon	<i>Geophaps plumifera</i>	Pigeon & dove
Squatter pigeon	<i>Geophaps scripta</i>	Pigeon & dove
Star finch	<i>Neochmia ruficauda</i>	Finch
Stubble quail	<i>Coturnix pectoralis</i>	Quail
Sulphur-crested cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	Parrot
Superb parrot	<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	Parrot
Superb parrot/ red-winged parrot hybrid	<i>Polytelis swainsonii x Aprosmictus erythropterus</i>	Parrot
Superb parrot/princess parrot hybrid	<i>Polytelis swainsonii x Polytelis alexandrae</i>	Parrot
Turquoise parrot	<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Parrot
Turquoise parrot/golden- shouldered parrot hybrid	<i>Neophema pulchella x Psephotus chrysopterygius</i>	Parrot
Twenty-eight parrot	<i>Barnardius zonarius semitorquatus</i>	Parrot
Varied lorikeet	<i>Psitteuteles versicolor</i>	Parrot
Varied lorikeet/little lorikeet hybrid	<i>Psitteuteles versicolor x Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Parrot
Western corella	<i>Cacatua pastinator butleri</i>	Parrot
Western rosella	<i>Platycercus icterotis</i>	Parrot
White-eared finch	<i>Poephila personata leucotis</i>	Finch
White-headed pigeon	<i>Columba leucomela</i>	Pigeon & dove
Yellow rosella	<i>Platycercus elegans flaveolus</i>	Parrot
Yellow-rumped mannikin	<i>Lonchura flaviprymna</i>	Finch
Zebra finch	<i>Taeniopygia guttata</i>	Finch