

The Ring-Necked Parakeet



The ring-necked parakeet is the UK's only naturalised parrot. These photos were taken across the street from where I live.

There were around 10 parakeets in the tree.



The ring-necked parakeet has been seen all over the UK but is mostly found in the South East and London (they are resident in the green areas in the map to the left). In the UK there are around 8600 breeding pairs of birds.

The bird is large (around 38-42 cm in length and 42-48cm in wingspan) and is long-tailed with a red beak and a pink and black ring around its face and neck.

The ring-necked parakeet mostly eats fruit berries, nuts and seeds.

There are many urban myths about how the birds came to the UK, including being released by Jimi Hendrix, arriving with Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn when they were filming *The African Queen* in 1951 and escaping from a livestock transportation area at Heathrow.

The earliest recorded sighting was in Dulwich in 1893 but it took until the late 20th Century before a large colony was established.



The ring-necked parakeet is very noisy with a shrill noise

<https://www.garden-birds.co.uk/birds/ring-necked-parakeet.html>