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Canary-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris versicolurus*

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet *Brotogeris chiriri*

While the Canary-winged Parakeet is not the most widespread parrot introduced into Florida, it is found in large numbers where it occurs. The species was first noted in Florida in the late 1960s and was breeding by 1973 (Owre 1973). It has also been reported at scattered localities throughout Florida, but the only substantial population and the only confirmed breeding records, appear to be in the Miami area. It is not established in Pinellas County (contra AOU 1983.)

The Canary-winged Parakeet presents a taxonomic puzzle. Three races occur and form 2 easily recognizable groups. The typical Canary-winged Parakeet is *B. v. versicolurus*, and this is the race illustrated in the standard North American field guides (Peterson 1980, Robbins et al. 1983, Scott 1987). The other 2 races, *chiriri* and *benhi*, compose the second group, and Forshaw (1973) suggested that they may be 2 races of a distinct species. Sibley and Monroe (1990) agreed and list them as distinct, calling *Brotogeris chiriri* the Yellow-chevroned Parakeet. This group lacks the large white secondary patch of *versicolurus*, and there are other differences in soft part coloration and voice. The photograph in Farrand (1983) appears to be of *chiriri*. Both species of the Canary-winged Parakeet are numerous in the Miami area, but apparently only *versicolurus* has been recorded outside Dade County.



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The Atlas map does not differentiate *versicolurus* records from those of *chiriri*.

Canary-winged Parakeets are native to northern Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and French Guiana. Yellow-chevroned Parakeets are native to central Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, and Bolivia. Both species are gregarious and form large communal roosts in South America and Florida. Little is otherwise known about their habits in South America, although they are said to be "a common inhabitant of most types of wooded country" (Forshaw 1973). In Florida the birds are exclusively suburban. They feed on a wide variety of fruits, seeds, and flowers, many of them ornamentals, and they are also regular visitors to feeders in some areas. The species are highly arboreal and can be difficult to see among the leaves.

During the summer, when flocks tend to break up, the birds frequently travel in pairs. Even where the 2 species flock together, mixed pairs have never been observed (B. Neville, pers. obs.). Breeding in South America is known to occur from January to July (Forshaw 1973, Long 1981). In South America the birds nest in hollow limbs or in cavities in trees or termite mounds (Terres 1980). Fifteen nests monitored in Dade County in the early 1970s were all in exotic palms, where the birds burrow into the grass at the base of the dead leaf stalks (Owre 1973). Reported clutch sizes range from 4 to 6 white eggs (Forshaw 1973, Long 1981). In 1 recorded captive breeding, incubation lasted 26 days after the laying of the second egg, and the young left the nest 8 weeks after hatching. The male did not assist with incubation (Vane in Forshaw 1973). Immature Canary-winged Parakeets show less white in the wing; immature Yellow-chevroned Parakeets are similar to adults (Forshaw 1973).

Canary-winged Parakeet

