



### FISCHER'S LOVEBIRD

A small stocky parrot with a vivid orange face, green body and bright blue rump. Highly social and typically seen in pairs or small groups, it feeds on seeds and fruit. In the wild it nests in tree cavities and exhibits strong pair bonds. Free-flying birds recorded in urban areas like the Riviera.

### INDIAN SILVERBILL



A small sandy-brown finch distinguished by its pale conical bill and soft, chattering calls. Gregarious by nature, it forms compact flocks and feeds mainly on grass seeds. It builds a domed nest of fine grasses, often concealed in shrubs or low trees. Its success outside its native range depends largely on mild winters and the availability of open seeding habitats. It is spreading and establishing populations across the region westwards from the Alpes-Maritime.

## JAIL BIRDS ON THE RUN NOW WILD AND FREE

Not all the species found in the PACA region are native. We have an array of plants, animals and sealife that are considered invasive and can disrupt the ecology balance. Others fill a niche and become naturalised very quickly, an example of this is **Collared Doves**. The hot summers and mild winters of our region are supporting a new growing cast of exotic bird species.

## UNTETHERED FEATHERS



### MITRED PARAKEET

Larger and more robust than the Rose-ringed Parakeet, it is predominantly green with irregular red markings on the head and face. Native to South America, it is social and noisy, typically moving in small flocks. It feeds on fruit, seeds and cultivated crops and nests in tree cavities or occasionally cliff faces.

In the region it remains far less widespread than other introduced parrots. The only place to find them is central Aix-en-Provence, around the rotunde is a good spot.



### RED-BILLED LEIOTHRIX

A small, brightly marked passerine with olive-green plumage, a coral-red bill and flashes of yellow and red in the wings. Native to Asia, it inhabits dense understorey where it forages for insects, berries and small fruits. It is more often detected by its rich whistling song than by sight. In areas where it has naturalised, it favours moist woodland and shrubby cover. Found in the Alpes-Maritime, Var and Bouches-de-Rhône

### ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET

A medium-sized bright green parrot with a long graduated tail and a distinctive piercing call. Adult males show a narrow black and rose-coloured neck ring. Highly adaptable and intelligent, it nests in tree cavities and feeds on fruit, seeds and buds. In parts of Europe it has formed self-sustaining populations and can compete with native cavity-nesting birds where densities increase.

Around the etangs de villepey near frejus is a good place to encounter them.

