

Common Name/Scientific name: Rose-crowned Fruit Dove / *Ptilinopus regina*

Sometimes Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves congregate in large groups in rainforest trees bearing abundant fruit, but they are usually seen singly or in twos. Sometimes they associate with other species of fruit-eating species of birds. They usually forage in the canopy of rainforest trees, clambering about among the leaves of the outer branches to pluck ripe fruit, sometimes hanging upside down to reach it. They prefer to eat black-purple fruits. This species is also known as Pink Cap Fruit-Pigeon, Rose-crowned Fruit-Pigeon or Red-crowned Fruit-Pigeon.



Description: The Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove is a small, compact dove, with a short tail and rounded wings. Its name comes from the deep pink cap or forehead, which is bordered behind by a narrow yellow stripe. The upper body is bright green and the under-body orange and yellow with a rose-coloured patch. The throat and upper breast is rough grey. In flight, dark underwings contrast with the yellow body and band on the end of the tail. The female is similar, but lighter. Despite their bright plumage, when foraging they are often surprisingly difficult to see among the foliage.

Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens: Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves feed in the canopy of rainforest, mainly in the morning or late afternoon. They swallow fruit whole and particularly like figs and the fruit of other species of rainforest trees, palms and vines. They also use exotic Camphor Laurels as a food source (yes we do have a few rogue CLs in the gardens and adjacent reserves, but we clean them out whenever we see them!). They feed singly or in pairs or small parties and take water from leaves or from dew, not from the ground.

Breeding and Nesting: Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves breed in rainforests with a dense growth of vines. Courting is the typical bowing display of pigeons, tucking in the head and displaying the pink cap. The nest is a frail loosely woven cup of twigs and tendrils. Both birds incubate, but predators often take the single egg.

Similar species seen in the gardens: