

A PARROT HYBRID

(By David Churches, Keith, South
Australia.)

This is a record of a cross between a male Eastern Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*) and a female Ringneck Parrot (*Barnardius barnardi*). The birds mated voluntarily in captivity when there were other birds, of both sexes, in the aviary. I first noticed the pair together when the male rosella was feeding the female ringneck. This occurred on several occasions. The first inkling we had that hybrid young had been produced was when four fully-fledged birds came out of a nesting

hollow. They had a bright red forehead and crown, white cheeks, green back (paler than that of the female parent) and abdomen, blue wings and tail, and a faint yellow ring around the neck. At all times the male Eastern Rosella would protect the female Mallee Ringneck quite fiercely and there were many fights with others of the latter's own kind.

This cross is not mentioned in A. P. Gray's "Bird Hybrids" (C.A.B., England, 1958).