



## Australian Ringneck

<b>Name</b>	<b>Scientific</b>	<i>Barnardius zonarius</i>
	<b>Common</b>	Australian Ringneck.
<b>Description</b>	Ringneck parrots are easily recognised by the bright green feathers on the body, black head and bright yellow band of feathers on the back of the neck. They also have blue cheeks and some have yellow on their lower belly. They are up to 38cm long and can often be heard chattering high up in the trees.	
<b>Habitat</b>	Eucalypt woodland, forest and <u>mallee</u> .	
<b>What it feeds on</b>	They have a varied diet eating seeds, such as those of the jarrah tree, fruit, blossom, leaf buds and sometimes insects.	
<b>Where it feeds</b>	High in the tree canopy, in the shrub layer and on the ground in amongst grasses.	
<b>Breeding</b>	Breeding takes place between July-February. Males try to attract a female's attention by showing off the colour of their wings while constantly chattering and swaying their tails from side to side. Up to 5 eggs are laid in a nest in a tree hollow up to 15m above the ground. The female <u>incubates</u> the round white eggs for around 20 days. While she is brooding in the nest, the male brings her food. The young leave the nest after 5-6 weeks.	
<b>Threats to species</b>	Lack of old trees suitable for nesting hollows.	
<b>Did you know?</b>	Ornithologists (people who study birds) believe that once ringnecks find a mate they may pair for life. It has also been noted that they do not move far from the place where they were born, even though they are strong fliers. They are often called 28 parrots because when in flight their call sounds like they are saying "twenty eight".	