

## Twenty-Eight Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*)



(Photo copyright G. Chapman)

This brilliantly coloured bird is considered to be Western Australia's commonest and most widespread parrot. It is frequently seen in Perth, particularly in those outer suburbs which adjoin native forest.

The Twenty-eight Parrot takes its name from its well-known call which sounds like that number. However, the familiar call is restricted to the races of the South-West and the North-West and elsewhere the call is a simpler "tweet-tweet".

Although there is considerable colour variation in the species, the form most often seen in Perth and the South-West has all green underparts with a prominent red forehead.

The bird feeds on the pulp of green eucalypt capsules but has also learnt to eat a wide variety of introduced and cultivated plants which occasionally causes it to be a pest.

The Twenty-eight breeds in spring and summer although in northern Australia the parrots are opportunistic and may start nesting as early as May following good rains. The bird nests in tree hollows, laying between four and seven eggs, with five the more common number. They are white and are inclined to be more pointed at one end than is usual with parrots.