



# *The Avicultural Society of New South Wales (ASNSW)*

*(Founding in 1940 as the Parrot & African Lovebird Society of Australia)*

## **Red-winged Parrot (*aprosmictus erythropterus*) (sometimes called Crimson-winged)**

**By Des Dowling**

A beautifully coloured bird, about 32cm in length, bluish-green, underparts yellowish-green, mantle black, broad band of rich crimson red on wing primaries and wing converts. Hen is paler and duller without the black mantle and crimson wing primaries. Young cock birds start to colour a

fter about 18 months and are difficult to sex up to that age. The cock takes up to 3 years to fully colour.

They tend to be a nervous bird. Easily stressed and breeders have found they sometimes die without obvious reason. However more aviary bred birds are settling down to a healthy and longer life.

They inhabit widespread areas of Northern Australia including most of inland Queensland and along the Darling River in N.S.W. They nest in the hollows of the River Red Gum. Eucalypts in preference, although they use other Eucalypts in drier or open scrub areas. They eat seeds and native fruits from Acacias and Mulgas and seeding grasses. Like posting Parrots they eat insects and grubs and enjoy mealworms in captivity.



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Breeders have also found they enjoy most fruits like Apples, Pears, Peas and corn but basically they are seedeaters. In aviaries they need plenty of space as they are fast flyers and enjoy plenty of exercise.

Also like most Parrots they like aviaries at least three metres high so they can roost on high and look down on you whilst you service their area.

Although preferring to nest in logs they will readily accept a solid box.

Breeding occurs from August to December usually three to five eggs and 20-21 days incubation.

Their future seems safe in the wild as they cover a very extensive area. They are also now doing much better in captivity as breeders become more skilled and more successful.

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