

Frith has noted Pink-ears diving when attacked by a Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*). In my earlier paper (*loc. cit.*) I recorded frequent diving of the Pink-ear on the approach of a boat and implied that such action was a form of distraction display to draw attention from young. Possibly that is so, but I think a more correct interpretation would have been that the birds, accompanied by their young and reluctant to leave them, yet increasingly alarmed, dived only as an escape reaction.

At Wentworth, I witnessed a flock of ducks, alarmed at the approach of a car, fly to a position where they had to pass close to a person alighting from the car to regain their former resting spot. They were not willing to swim or fly past the cause of their alarm but at the same time were curious as to its identity. They therefore gradually approached it to satisfy their curiosity, at the same time threatening it. The threatening was undoubtedly bravado, as immediately one member, unable to control its fear, gave way to its escape reaction and dived, the whole flock followed suit. Thus the display stemmed from a combination of curiosity, threat and alarm. They approached with the fighting urge slightly superior to the fleeing urge until they almost reached me, when the fleeing urge started to dominate, causing a moment of indecision. It then immediately took complete control and away they flew.

Crimson x Eastern Rosella Hybrid in the Wild State.—The paper by John Le Gay Brereton and Charles Sourry 'Some Observations on the Distribution and Abundance of Closely-related Parrots of the New England District of New South Wales' (*Emu*, vol. 59, pp. 93-100) has prompted me to place a much-belated Crimson x Eastern Rosella hybrid occurrence on record. In November 1955, when visiting Lorne, Vic., I was informed by Mr. D. Mathews, a local aviculturist, that he had observed an Eastern Rosella and a Crimson Rosella attending a nest in the hollow of a tree in open forest country, approximately seven miles north of Lorne. On my next visit to Lorne I learnt from Mr. Mathews that the pair had hatched two young hybrids which were eventually collected by him for his aviary. One of the youngsters died, the other, an obvious hybrid, was seen by the writer on January 10 and May 20, 1956. The fact that the nesting took place in open forest country is interesting, especially as the Crimson Rosella normally nests in denser forest. Several avicultural books consulted state that both species readily interbreed in captivity and that the hybrid is fertile.—JOHN L. McKEAN, Hampton, Vic., 4/6/59.