The incubation of the eggs is very erratic, lasting from ten to twelve days. The female sits during the daytime; the male at night together with the hen.

The young are not fed until they are 24 hours old, probably to await the development of the iridescent turquoise beaks (glands), two on each side at the base of the bill. It is remarkable that nature should provide light in this way and by it the number of birds in the nests can be counted. In this way the old birds are enabled to feed the babies in rotation, even when they fill the narrow entrance hole and their bodies shut out any possible light.

Similar iridescent glands are found in the bills of the baby Finches of the Northern Territory, including Gouldian Finches (Poephila gouldiae), Star Finches (Bathilda ruficauda) and Blood Finches (Neochmia phaeton), whereas the southern species such as the Sydney Wax-bill (Aegithalos temporalis) and Diamond Sparrow (Zonaequisnis guttatus) do not possess these luminous beaks, which disappear a few days after the babies leave the nest and they are of no further use. Young Violet-eared Finches from Africa show the same characteristics.

In captivity Parrot-finches prefer nesting boxes, which they line with coconut fibre and feathers. They bring up the young easily on ordinary millet seed and soaked bread and cake, but it is also essential that they should have some live food at that time, such as meal-worms and gentle or their cocoons. The colour of the young is dullish green.

In conclusion, I want to draw attention to the remarkable individual smell of these birds, specially strong in E. trickrea and E. peelat, but similar in all no matter from what island they come.

The Yellow Rosella (Platycercus flavus) in Monaro, N.S.W.

—Although somewhat out of its usual latitude, and probably driven thence owing to scarcity of food, I have twice met with the Yellow Parrot, or "Murray Smoker" (Platycercus flavus), on the Monaro, New South Wales, plains, but in both instances only odd birds appeared.

These beautiful wanderers, attired in chaste liveries of canary yellow and pale blue, flew and fed on the most amicable terms with flocks of the Common Rosella (P. eximius), which they somewhat dwarfed in the matter of size, so that the strangers were easily singled out as being of a species differing from that of their gorgeous companions.

Locally, these Parrots were often known as "White Rosellas," and held to be albino variations of the Rosella. They appeared on Monaro in very good seasons when the supply of grass and thistle seed on the plains was unusually plentiful; and, I think, too, their customary habitat on the Murray River and in its vicinity was at the time more or less drought stricken. These handsome Parrots have since been seen by other observers on the Monaro Plains, but never in any number, so that they may be considered as being mere casual visitors, like the King Parrots (Aprosmictus scapularis), which occasionally leave their coastal fastnesses and feed on hawthorn and elder berries in Monaro gardens.—H. V. Edwards, R.A.O.U., Bega, N. S. Wales.