

## **ALEXANDRINE PARROTS: *Psittacula eupatria*.**

**The Alexandrine ringnecked parakeet is a green parrot with a long tail. Many, but not all, parrots with long tails are called parakeets. Its home range includes parts of Afghanistan through Pakistan, India, and Ceylon into Indochina where it is common. Adult males have a rose and black ring on the neck. These birds look alot like the smaller but more widespread Indian ring-necked except for a dark purplish red patch on each shoulder. Alexandrine parakeets were possibly the first talking parrots ever seen by early Europeans when Alexander the Great's generals brought some back from India in 323 BC. It is possible Roman Emperors and Egyptian Pharaohs kept these 23-inch long birds long before the time of European conquest.**

**Alexandrines were highly regarded by ancient people because of their very good talking ability. Nowadays they are considered good pets but are often overlooked in favor of the more popular African gray and amazon parrots. Hand-fed chicks do make nice pets that often are accepting of anyone. Ring-neckeds, as a group, are not as noisy as conures or amazons. Perhaps someday the ring-necked (*Psittacula*) parakeets will gain back the reputation they deserve.**