

Common Name/Scientific name

Rainbow Lorikeet/*Trichoglossus haematodus*



Description: Bright red beak and colourful plumage, with a blue/mauve head and belly, green wings, tail and back, and an orange/yellow breast.

Behaviour in the gardens: They are sometimes seen in loud and fast-moving flocks, or in communal roosts at dusk.

Where seen in the gardens: Rainbow Lorikeets can be seen in dense bushland and more open forest areas and flying across open areas (ie in most areas of the gardens).

Feeding: Mostly forages on the flowers of shrubs or trees to harvest nectar and pollen, but also eats fruits, seeds and some insects.

Nesting: The eggs of Rainbow Lorikeet are laid on chewed, decayed wood, usually in a hollow limb of a eucalypt tree. However because most eucalypts in the gardens are less than 60 years old, very few have hollows, so few Rainbow Lorikeets nest in the gardens. Both sexes prepare the nest cavity and feed the young, but only the female incubates the eggs.

Similar Species: Rainbow Lorikeets are such colourful parrots that it is hard to mistake them for other species. The related Scaly-breasted Lorikeet is similar in size and shape, but can be distinguished by its all-green head and body. Scaly-breasted Lorikeets are also often seen in the gardens, often with Rainbow Lorikeets.