

Common Name/*Scientific name*:

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet/ *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*



Description: The Scaly-breasted Lorikeet's beak and eyes are red, and it is the only lorikeet with an all-green head combined with a red beak. Sexes appear the same, with green upper-wings and body, marked with yellow 'scales' on the breast and neck. In flight, Scaly-breasted Lorikeets have two-tone, red-orange underwings with grey trailing edges.

Where seen in the gardens: The Scaly-breasted Lorikeet lives in lowland eucalypt forests and woodlands but also occurs in heathlands and well-treed urban areas, including parks and gardens. So they can be seen in most areas of the gardens, excepting the thickly forested riparian zones along major creeks.

Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens: Scaly-breasted Lorikeets feed in flocks, sometimes joining flocks of (more numerous) Rainbow Lorikeets. They feed on nectar and pollen that they harvest with their brush-tongues, mostly from eucalypts, but also from shrubs such as melaleucas, callistemons and banksias.

Nesting: Scaly-breasted Lorikeet females lay their eggs on a bed of decayed wood in a hollow limb, or where a branch has broken from the trunk of a eucalypt tree, at a height of between 3 m and 25 m above the ground. Both the male and female modify the nest hollow by chewing off pieces of wood, and this can take six weeks. Only the female incubates the eggs, but the male feeds her on the nest. Both sexes feed the young.

Similar Species in the gardens: The Scaly-breasted Lorikeet is similar in size and shape to the Rainbow Lorikeet, *T. haematodus*, but can be distinguished by its all-green head and body.