

Rainbow Lorikeet
Trichoglossus haematodus



Physical Characteristics

- Bright red beak, blue head and belly, green wings, tail, and back, orange or yellow breast
- Stubby with pointed tails

Size

- Length: about 12 inches
- Weight: 75-157 grams (2.6-5.5 ounces)

Lifespan

- Wild: 10-20 years
- Zoos: 10-20 years

Behaviors

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal. Roost in flocks of thousands at night and travel in flocks of about 20 during the day.
- Mostly sedentary, but will move according to where the plants are flowering or fruiting.
- Very noisy birds, screech loudly even while flying and feeding
- Never seen alone for protection. If one notices a predator, it will make a high squawking noise to warn the other birds and they will all fly away fast to avoid the threat.
- Preening: a method of cleaning and disease prevention where their powder-down feathers will break up and release a powder, which will then spread throughout the feathers to clean them.

Diet

- Wild: Flowers of shrubs or trees but will also eat fruits, seeds, and some insects.
- Zoo: Here, they get a soaked food blend specifically for fruit-eating birds, nectar, and fresh produce. Fruit can include apple, pear, melon, mango, peach, berries, pomegranate, banana, grape, kiwi, and orange. Vegetables can include green bean, pea, celery, bell pepper, carrot, broccoli, cauliflower, squash, zucchini, beet, corn, cooked sweet potato. Greens can include collard, kale, mustard, endive, and romaine.

Reproduction

- Incubation Period: females incubate eggs for 25 days
- Fledging/Parenting: The eggs are laid on old, soft wood in a hollow area of a eucalypt tree. Both males and females will prepare the nest and feed their young but only females incubate.
- Breeding Interval: In the spring in Australia, from September to December. Will breed up to 3 times a year.
- Clutch Size: 1 - 3 eggs
- Breeding Behaviors: Begins with courtship. Male will flap wings and move legs. If female is interested, they will breed.

Habitat and Range

- Habitat: Wide range of tree habitats; rainforest, woodlands, urban areas with a lot of trees. Often considered abundant in areas where they are found.

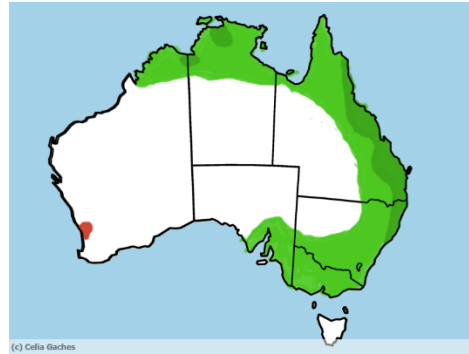
- Range: Coastal regions across northern and eastern Australia. Recently established in Tasmania.

Conservation

- IUCN Status: Least Concern
- Specialized diet contributes to their tendency to receive bacterial and fungal infections in their digestive tracts.
- A concern at the Perth Airport because they pose a hazards to air traffic
- Predators: Hawks and snakes

Classification

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Subphylum: Vertebrata
- Class: Aves
- Order: Psittaciformes
- Family: Psittacidae
- Genus: *Trichoglossus*
- Species: *haematodus*



Interesting Facts

- Can become “nectar drunk” from drinking so much nectar and are unable to fly
- Often referred to as “parrots with attitude”
- There are four sub-species of rainbow lorikeets found in Australia.
- Sometimes mate with other lorikeets to produce a hybrid bird
- They have high agility and energy that resembles a monkey
- Not very tolerant of other species, so encouraged to only cage with other lorikeets when kept as pets