

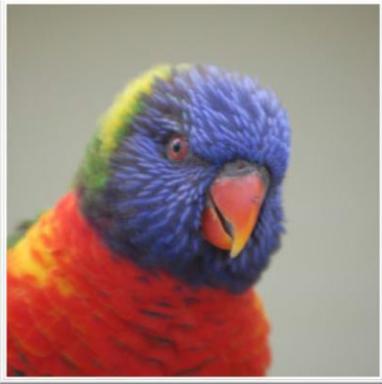
Australian Rainbow Lorikeet

Scientific Name: *Trichoglossus haematodus moluccanus*

Class: Aves

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae



Overall length ranges from 10 to 12 inches, and weight from 2.5 to 5.5 ounces. Coloration is as follows: Bill, orange to red; Head, blue to deep brown lightly flecked with pale violet; Collar, yellow; Upperparts & Tail, green. The sexes are similar, with the female having a slightly smaller body and a smaller head. They are considered nomadic, their presence being governed by flowering shrubs, particularly in southern parts of the range. Daily movement to offshore islands occurs. They are arboreal and gregarious. The feet are strong, with sharp claws which enable them to climb among clusters of blossoms to seek food. Their tongue is specially adapted for the extraction of nectar from flowers. They move in flocks, often of large size, and are a colorful sight when feeding. Flight is rapid, and they are noisy, constantly screeching and chattering.

Range

Coastal areas of northern, eastern and southeastern Australia

Habitat

Lowland wooded country, including rainforest, mangroves, riparian woodland, freshwater swamp forest

Gestation

Incubation: About 25 days

Litter

1 to 3 eggs

Behavior

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Reproduction

Breeding season is August to January in Australia. The nest is a deep unlined hole in a limb or trunk of a large tree. Young birds leave the nest in from 7 to 8 weeks.

Wild Diet

Nectar and pollen, fruits and seeds