

## RAINBOW LORIKEETS IN METRO AREA

Rainbow Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*) have again been reported in the Metropolitan area.

This is unusual because the accepted range of the bird is eastern Australia from Cape York to Victoria, and eastern and southern South Australia to the Eyre Peninsula. (They are also found in Tasmania.) The bird is most easily distinguished by its brilliant colours: head, blue; underparts and tail, bright green; collar, pale green; breast, orange red; underwings, orange and yellow; bill, coral; and legs, greenish-grey.

Rainbow Lorikeets were first seen in Perth in 1968 by a C.S.I.R.O. officer, and Metropolitan Fauna Warden Mr A. R. Marshall also reported sightings at the same time. Mr Marshall made a further positive identification in 1970 and again in December 1971.

At first it was thought that these birds had escaped from or been released by aviculturists. However, some people consider that the Lorikeets have found their way over from South Australia.

Honorary Wardens can help to solve this puzzle by noting any sightings in their quarterly reports, and informing Dr G. Storr of the W.A. Museum, Beaufort Street, Perth, as soon as possible.