

THE RAINBOW LORIKEET

The Rainbow Lorikeet, *Trichoglossus haematodus*, has again been reported in the metropolitan area. Daily sightings have been made in the suburbs of Shenton Park, Daglish, Nedlands, Claremont and Floreat Park.

The striking plumage of bluish-purple, orange and green leaves no doubt as to the species, which is widespread in most timbered areas of eastern Australia.

Since their first sighting in Perth suburbs in 1968 Rainbow Lorikeets have maintained a presence in the areas mentioned with their numbers varying from a pair to a total of 9 in one group.

Increased sightings over the past few years indicate a general increase in numbers or a greater awareness of the birds' presence.

The high-altitude flight of this Lorikeet makes identification on the wing almost impossible; however, they have been observed feeding in trees, a few feet from the ground.

At Rosalie Park, Subiaco, in 1973 the species was seen to feed on flame trees and Jarrah blooms which indicates the acceptance of the indigenous Jarrah tree as a food source.

Whilst it is accepted that in times of drought within their Eastern States' habitat, a small flock could stray into W.A., the birds in question are more likely to be surplus aviary bred stocks. This reprehensible action is deplorable as indigenous stocks will eventually suffer because of the continually increasing competition for food and territory.



Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*.