

The Rainbow Lorikeet

Rainbow Lorikeets were introduced to Perth in the 1960's. Their population has increased rapidly since then and this has been detrimental to locally native fauna. An estimated 40,000+ Rainbow Lorikeets are now believed to be living in the greater Perth area.



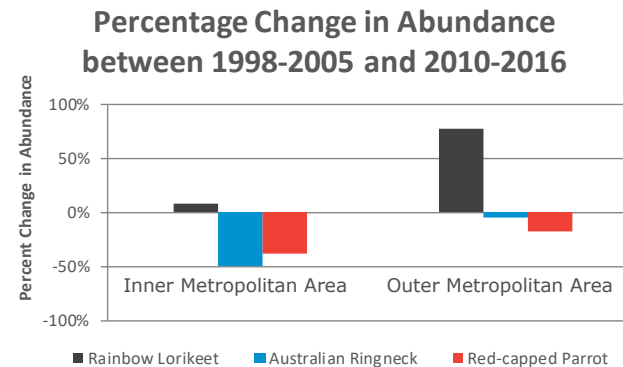
Impacts of the Rainbow Lorikeet

The introduction of Rainbow Lorikeets to Perth has resulted in many impacts. These include:

- A threat to the locally declining Red-capped Parrot, Western Rosella and Australian Ringneck from nesting hollows competition. They are known to kill the nestlings of other species.
- Threats to nectar feeding birds and other animals due to food competition.
- Potential to spread bird diseases including psittacine beak and feather disease to native bird species.
- Damage to private and commercial fruit crops. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development estimates Rainbow Lorikeets damage approximately \$3 million of commercial fruit crops each year in south west Australia.
- Damage to infrastructure, fouling and damage to private and public amenities.
- The large roost of over 1000 birds at Perth airport may also pose a risk of bird-strike to aircraft.

As Rainbow Lorikeets have increased, local native parrots have decreased.

BirdLife compared data collected in the Perth Metropolitan Area between 1998 to 2005 against data collected from 2010 to 2016 to determine if any changes in abundance of birds had occurred. The graph below shows that local native parrot species like the Australian Ringneck and Red-capped Parrot are declining, particularly in the inner metropolitan areas where Rainbow Lorikeets dominate. In the outer Metropolitan areas lorikeets are increasing rapidly.



The Australian Ringneck (top) and Red-capped Parrot (above) are declining in the Perth area, while Rainbow Lorikeets (left) have increased in numbers.

Rainbow Lorikeets are a declared pest south of Carnarvon

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has declared the Rainbow Lorikeet to be a pest species south of the 20th parallel. In this area the Rainbow Lorikeet should be excluded but within the Perth metropolitan area it should have management applied that will reduce its harmful impact, reduce the numbers or distribution or prevent the spread of the species.

One of the measures is that anyone who keeps a pet Rainbow Lorikeet must have a licence.

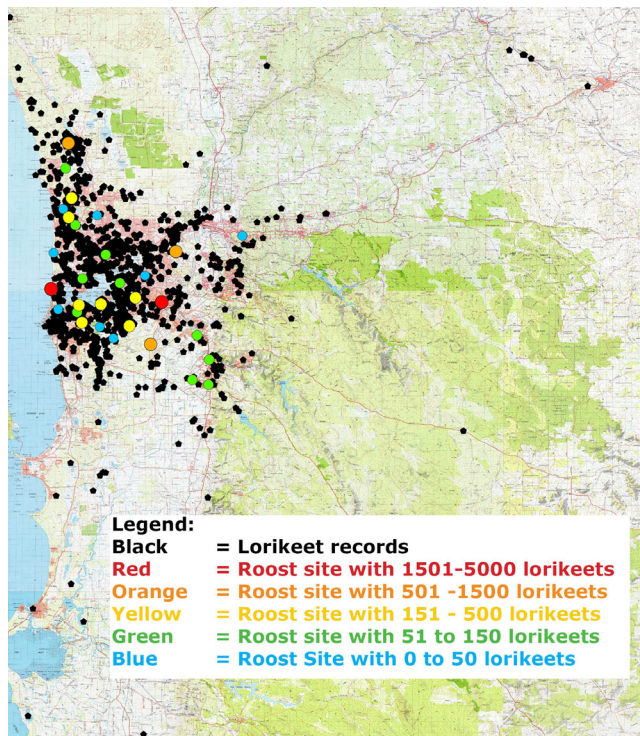


Operation Rainbow Roost

BirdLife is working with State Natural Resource Management, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to find out more about Rainbow Lorikeets. BirdLife members record Rainbow Lorikeets that they see in the Greater Perth Area on a phone app called Birdata or website birdata.birdlife.org.au. They also record details about the number of lorikeets they see and what the lorikeets are doing.

BirdLife is finding lorikeet night time roosts and conducting roost counts each February. This assists in determining the numbers of lorikeets in Perth and how far they have spread across the region.

BirdLife is also investigating the viability of nonlethal control measures that may be used in the future.



Roost Sites

BirdLife and our volunteers have already found a number of lorikeet night time roosts and are conducting roost counts each February. The map above shows the records of Rainbow Lorikeets and different sized roost sites that have been recorded in the Perth Metropolitan Area by BirdLife members. We are trying to find more Rainbow Lorikeet roosts. Please contact BirdLife Western Australia if you know where there is a Rainbow Lorikeet roost site.

Contact us

Please contact Birdlife Western Australia's Operation Rainbow Roost Project at:

T 9383 7749

E rainbowroost@birdlife.org.au

W <http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/operation-rainbow-roost>

Photographs kindly supplied by: Bill Betts, Ken Glasson, Maris Lauva and Robyn Pickering.

What can you do?

Everyone in the Greater Perth Area can assist with reducing the numbers of lorikeets in Perth by:

- Not feeding wild Rainbow Lorikeets.
- Never releasing a caged Rainbow Lorikeet.
- Reporting any night time roosts to BirdLife Western Australia.
- Maintaining Cotton Palms and Date Palms. Lorikeets often nest in the dead leaf bases of Date Palms and the dead leaves of Cotton Palms. See the "Introduced Rainbow Lorikeet Control" fauna note at www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/animals/living-with-wildlife for more information.
- Removing Cotton Palms or Date Palms from your garden. BirdLife Australia recommends growing local native plant species in your garden.

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BirdLife Australia is dedicated to achieving outstanding conservation results for our native birds and their habitats. With our specialised knowledge and the commitment of an Australia-wide network of volunteers and supporters, we are creating a bright future for Australia's birds.

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Rainbow Lorikeet: A Pretty Powerful Pest!



birds are in our nature


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