

LORIES AND FRIENDS

Brush-tongued parrots?

- Lories and lorikeets are also known as “brush-tongued parrots” because of their most unique adaptation – their tongues!
- Lories have a distinctive tongue with bristles, called papillae, on the tip that allows them to sip up their liquid nectar diet like a paintbrush.
- The terms “lories” and “lorikeets” are often used interchangeably. In general, “lories” are larger and have a shorter, rounded tail while “lorikeets” are smaller and have a longer pointed tail. However, both names can be used.

Rainbow lorikeets

- Rainbow lorikeets are native to Australia. Other species of lorikeets and lories can be found throughout the South Pacific.
- Lorikeets can be found in forests, mangroves and eucalyptus groves.
- Lorikeets are social birds and usually travel from tree to tree in large, noisy flocks in search of flowers and nectar, chattering excitedly as they feed.
- Although rainbow lorikeets are not endangered and are found in a large area, other species of lorikeets in the South Pacific are extremely vulnerable due to their small island ranges.

The National Aviary has two subspecies of rainbow lorikeets:

Swainson’s lorikeets have a purple head and lime green feathers on their neck.

Edward’s lorikeets have a bluish-green head and lime green feathers on their neck.

Can you spot them both?



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