

A RECENT RECORD OF LITTLE LORIKEETS IN THE SOUTH-EAST

ANDREW MCINTYRE

The Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla* occurs in eastern and south-eastern Australia from northern Queensland to south-eastern South Australia (Forshaw 1981). In South Australia it has always been the least common lorikeet. It has been recorded breeding in the South-East and is an uncommon and irregular visitor to more northerly areas such as the Mount Lofty Ranges and the Sutherlands district (Parker *et al.*, forthcoming). In this note, I present details of a sighting already briefly reported in Glover (1983).

In the early evening of 7 January 1983, A. F. Lees and the author located a Little Lorikeet in a Red Gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* along a creek in "The Gap" 35 km N of Naracoorte.

Description — a small lorikeet, generally bright green except for a distinct red face, including lores, chin, forehead and anterior half of cheeks. The red did not extend beyond the dark eye, bill black and a suggestion of red brown on the under surface of the rectrices.

The call was the first indication of the bird's presence and while in the tree soft infrequent calls were heard. When on the wing it called louder and more frequently, the call being described by A. F. Lees as similar structurally to the Musk Lorikeet

Glossopsitta concinna, but higher and thinner in pitch. The author thought it similar in pitch to *Neophema* sp.

As the evening progressed more Little Lorikeets were seen and heard along with Rainbow Lorikeets *Trichoglossus haematodus*, Musk and Purple-crowned Lorikeet *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*. It soon became apparent that the Little Lorikeet was the most numerous of the four lorikeets present, with groups of up to 10-15 being seen, along with the more common groups of twos and threes. All of these groups were flying in a NE direction up the creek; this continued until dusk.

The next morning Little Lorikeets were seen flying down the creek. Later we passed through a stand of flowering Blue Gum *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* about four km SW of "The Gap" which was being exploited by numerous lorikeets, again, with Little Lorikeets, by call, appearing the most numerous of all the four species present.

REFERENCE

Glover, B. 1983. Bird notes. S. Aust. Orn. Assoc. Newsletter 105: 9.

3 Atkinson Ave., Rostrevor, S.A. 5073

Received 22 March 1983; accepted 16 June 1983