

Red Lory (*Eos bornea*) Species Profile: Diet, Personality, and Special Care

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Red Lory

(*Eos bornea*)

There are four subspecies of the Red Lory:

Eos bornea bornea - the nominate subspecies, Red Lory

Eos bornea rothschildi, Rothschild's Red Lory

Eos bornea bernsteini, Bernstein's Red Lory

Eos bornea cyanonothus, Buru Red Lory

The Red Lory is sometimes referred to as the Mollucan Lory.

Lories are popular companion birds and are quite easily bred. They are entertaining birds, with many unique behaviors. Some have been known to wrap up in a wash cloth for sleeping. At times, they will sleep on their back, with feet straight in the air. Very intelligent and trainable, they can be taught tricks and can be trained to eliminate in a certain area, on cue. Playful by nature, lories appreciate many toys, including ropes, bells, balls, and swings with variety being the key. They can, however, become quite possessive of their toys, and are capable of delivering a painful bite if their territory and possessions are not respected.

In the wild, lories feed on nectar, pollen, fruits, and the occasional insect. All lories have a tongue that is specially adapted with a brush-like tip composed of elongated papillae. This feature enables the birds to collect pollen from flowers and compress it into a form suitable for swallowing. They play a major role in the pollinating of trees and flowering plants in their native Indonesia coastal and mountain forests.

On average, a Red Lory will cost \$250-\$300.

Quick Stats: Red Lory

Family: Loriidae

Origin: Islands of Indonesia

Eos bornea bornea - Amboina & Saparua Is.

Eos bornea rothschildi - Ceram Is.

Eos bornea bernsteini - Kai Is.

Eos bornea cyanonothus - Buru Is.

Size: 12"

Coloration: Males & Females: Head and body is vivid red; wings are red with blue and black streaks; primaries are black with blue coverts; blue coverts under the tail; orange beak; orange eyes rimmed in red; dark gray legs.

Diet: Nectar: (commercial or home-made); liquid nectar will need to be replaced several times daily; every 4 hours in warm weather. Lories that eat spoiled nectar will become ill and can die. Fruits and some vegetables: apples, pomegranates, papaya, grapes, cantaloupe, pineapple, figs kiwi corn-on-the-cob Flowers

Compatibility/Disposition: Can get along with other birds (including other Lories), if territory is respected. Best kept singly or as a pair; mated pairs defend their territories vigorously.

Vocalization: Range from loud, piercing whistles and metallic "pings" to soft, high-pitched warbles and chattering.

Playfulness: Affectionate, playful, curious, and extroverted.

Life Span: 28+ years

Age at Maturity: 8 mos. or later

Nesting Sites in the Wild: Tree hollows

Breeding Season: Thought to be Nov. - Feb.

Sexing: Accuracy depends on DNA or endoscopic sexing.

Special: Demanding, both in care requirements (especially diet preparation) and emotional care, requiring a lot of attention. Ardent bathers. Appreciate a daily bath or

age, and, even on the best flowers such as pansies, nasturtiums, roses, hibiscus, marigolds, and dandelions.
Cage Size: Single: 36" H x 48" L x 24" W
Pair: 36" H x 60" L x 36" W
Note: Very active birds - appreciate a cage as large as possible.
Grooming: Beak and nails may need occasional trimming. Trim flight feathers if necessary.

owners. Appreciate a daily bath or visiting the shower with their owner. Acrobatic - they enjoy swinging and hanging upside down, sometimes for hours at a time. Care should be taken in cage design and placement since the birds have a tendency to squirt their waste matter, which is fairly liquid, behind them with some force. May be kept individually or in pairs.