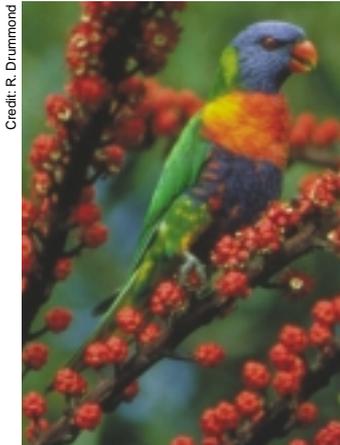


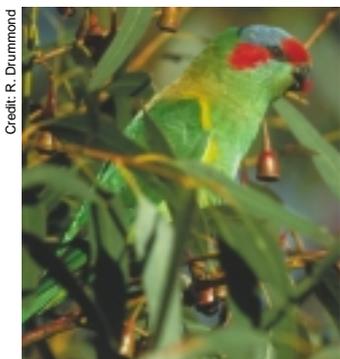


# Controlling Birds on Commercial Orchards and Vineyards in South Australia



Credit: R. Drummond

Rainbow lorikeet



Credit: R. Drummond

Musk lorikeet



Credit: Lynn Peeler

Adelaide rosella

Australians recognise that native birds are a unique part of this country and value the positive impacts they have on our environment and lifestyle. However, native birds can become pests in a variety of ways and for various reasons. Almost every rural region and a number of urban areas in Australia experience some sort of problem with abundant native birds. Problems differ according to the bird species and its population dynamics, type of industrial, horticultural, agricultural or residential land use and the natural features of a region. The pest potential of native birds is linked to the behaviour of the species and their local distribution and abundance. As wildlife managers, we have a responsibility to ensure the ongoing survival of our wildlife whilst also minimising the negative impacts of abundant populations in specific areas or land uses.

Adelaide rosellas, musk lorikeets and rainbow lorikeets are common native birds, which feed on pollen and nectar from eucalypts, seeds, fruits and flower buds, and some insects. These birds regularly cause damage to commercial crops. Food sources for these birds have increased in parts of their range, due to the establishment of grapes, fruit crops, the planting of flowering trees in backyards, streets and parks, and revegetation programs. Over the past decade, commercial growers have experienced increasing problems of fruit damage by these birds. While some people enjoy the company of these colourful and active birds, the cost to the community of increased populations must be addressed.

These species are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 and destruction of these birds to prevent damage to commercial crops can only be carried out if a destruction permit under section 53 has been issued by National Parks and Wildlife SA (NPWSA). However, the need for permits has been waived for the period between 14 December 2000 and 30 June 2001 in specified regions of the State. Conditions, means and types of person to whom this applies are shown below.

Exemption from permit does not alter legal protection for that species. Nor does it represent an open season approach. Rather, it allows those persons with a valid need to reduce damage to their commercial crops with a legal means of doing so.

There is no single solution able to address the pest impacts caused by abundant birds. However, destruction of birds by shooting can improve the effectiveness of other control methods, particularly when integrated with the use of specialist scaring devices. Control methods such as exclusion netting may also be

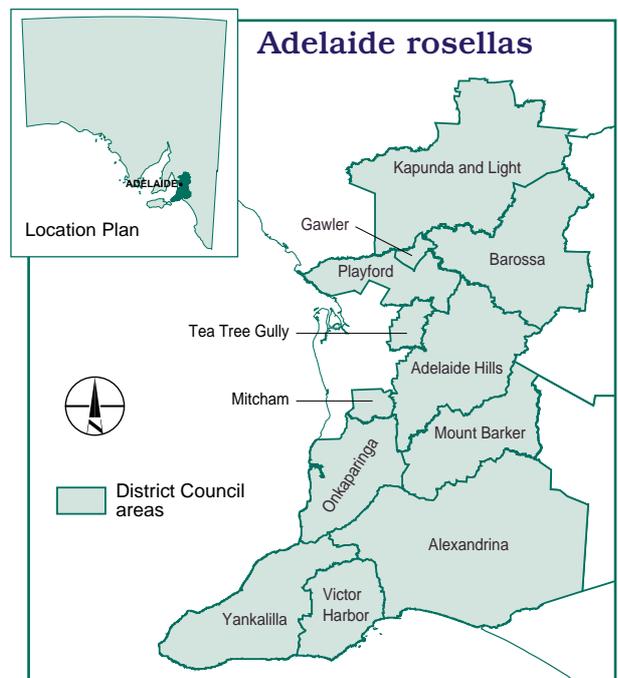
effective. Landowners would be well advised to investigate integrated management programs.

For the period between 14 December 2000 and 30 June 2001, Adelaide rosellas, musk lorikeets and rainbow lorikeets may be humanely destroyed **by commercial orchardists and vineyard owners, their employees or agents, in the following council districts** (see shaded areas of maps).

## Adelaide rosellas

### Mt Lofty Ranges/ Barossa/ Fleurieu Peninsula regions:

Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Barossa, Gawler, Kapunda and Light, Mitcham, Mt Barker, Onkaparinga, Playford, Tea Tree Gully, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla.



## Musk lorikeets and rainbow lorikeets

**Mt Lofty Ranges/ Barossa/ Fleurieu Peninsula regions:** Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Barossa, Gawler, Kapunda and Light, Mitcham, Mt Barker, Onkaparinga, Playford, Tea Tree Gully, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla.

**Murraylands region:** Berri Barmera, Loxton Waikerie, Mid Murray, Murray Bridge, Renmark Paringa.



Purple-crowned lorikeet  
**(not to be shot)**



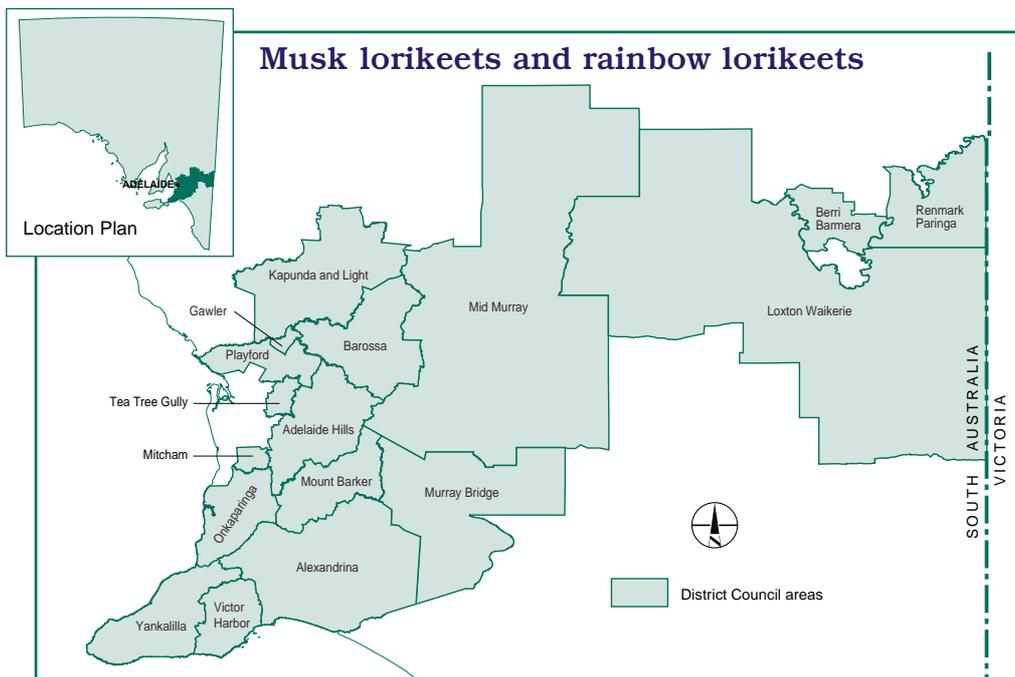
Purple-crowned lorikeet  
**(not to be shot)**



Regent parrot  
**(not to be shot)**



Red-rumped Parrot  
**(not to be shot)**



These birds must be destroyed in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Birds by Shooting in South Australia, which is available from National Parks and Wildlife SA and local council offices.

**For further information contact:** your local NPWSA office or visit [www.biodiversity.sa.gov.au](http://www.biodiversity.sa.gov.au)

**In any other council district or area of the State not specified above, destruction of the three species listed requires a permit from NPWSA.**

The three species are easily identified. The onus is on landowners to ensure that they can identify the species of bird that is damaging their crops. Property owners should obtain further information from one or more of the reference books listed below. Persons who kill or injure other protected species may be liable for prosecution.

**All other parrot and lorikeet species are protected and must not be taken.** Other parrot species that can occur in orchards and vineyards include the purple-crowned lorikeet, regent parrot and red-rumped parrot (see photographs).

Introduced birds such as starlings, blackbirds and sparrows are considered environmental and commercial pests and may be humanely destroyed. A number of native birds are unprotected and can also be taken. These include galahs and little corellas, crows and ravens, silvereyes and red wattlebirds. These species may be destroyed without a permit. Galahs and little corellas can only be taken by a firearm. Any method of destruction other than shooting, such as trapping, requires specific approval under Section 53 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act. This ensures appropriate standards and professionalism are applied where large scale population control is required. Destruction of any animal must be performed in a humane and safe manner and in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, any relevant firearms legislation, Occupational Health and Safety Act and all other pertinent legislation.

### Reference Books

Readers Digest, Complete Book of Australian Birds  
Simpson and Day, Field Guide to the Birds of Australia, Viking O'Neil.  
Pizzey and Knight, Field Guide to the Birds of Australia, Angus and Robertson.  
Slater, Field Guide to the Birds of Australia, Rigby.