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*He's keen, she's considering, in a photographic moment capturing the courting behaviour of red-eyed green tree frogs.*

## Red-eyed green tree frog

**R**ed-eyed green tree frogs (*Litoria chloris*) are the most delightful-looking and incredibly popular frogs. Often immortalised as fridge magnets or plaster figurines, they are also regulars on post cards, calendars and posters. I have always been fond of them, so imagine my delight when I encountered a pond full of frantically courting adults.

I was staying at Lamington National Park in south-east Queensland, doing a bit of spotlighting in the rain one summer night, when I came across an absolute cacophony of calls at one of local ponds. About a dozen male red-eyed green tree frogs were displaying, expanding their throat pouches and vocalising to a couple of females. As soon as I saw this scene I raced back to pick up my camera, lens and flash unit. I also cajoled a friend to come and hold an umbrella over me and my equipment, as it was raining quite heavily by now.

While I was photographing some individuals, this pair sitting

on a nearby rock caught the corner of my eye. The male, on the left, was calling frantically to the female, on the right, but no matter how hard he tried, she simply wasn't interested.

I placed the flash unit on top of my camera, connected a macro lens to my camera and took a few shots. Since the frogs were wet, the light bounced off them quite strongly, so I constructed a 'makeshift' diffuser by wrapping a few tissues (left from a packet in my jacket pocket) around the flash, secured with an elastic band. I waited for the male to expand his throat pouch, manually focused on the pair's eyes and took this shot.

Happy photography!

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