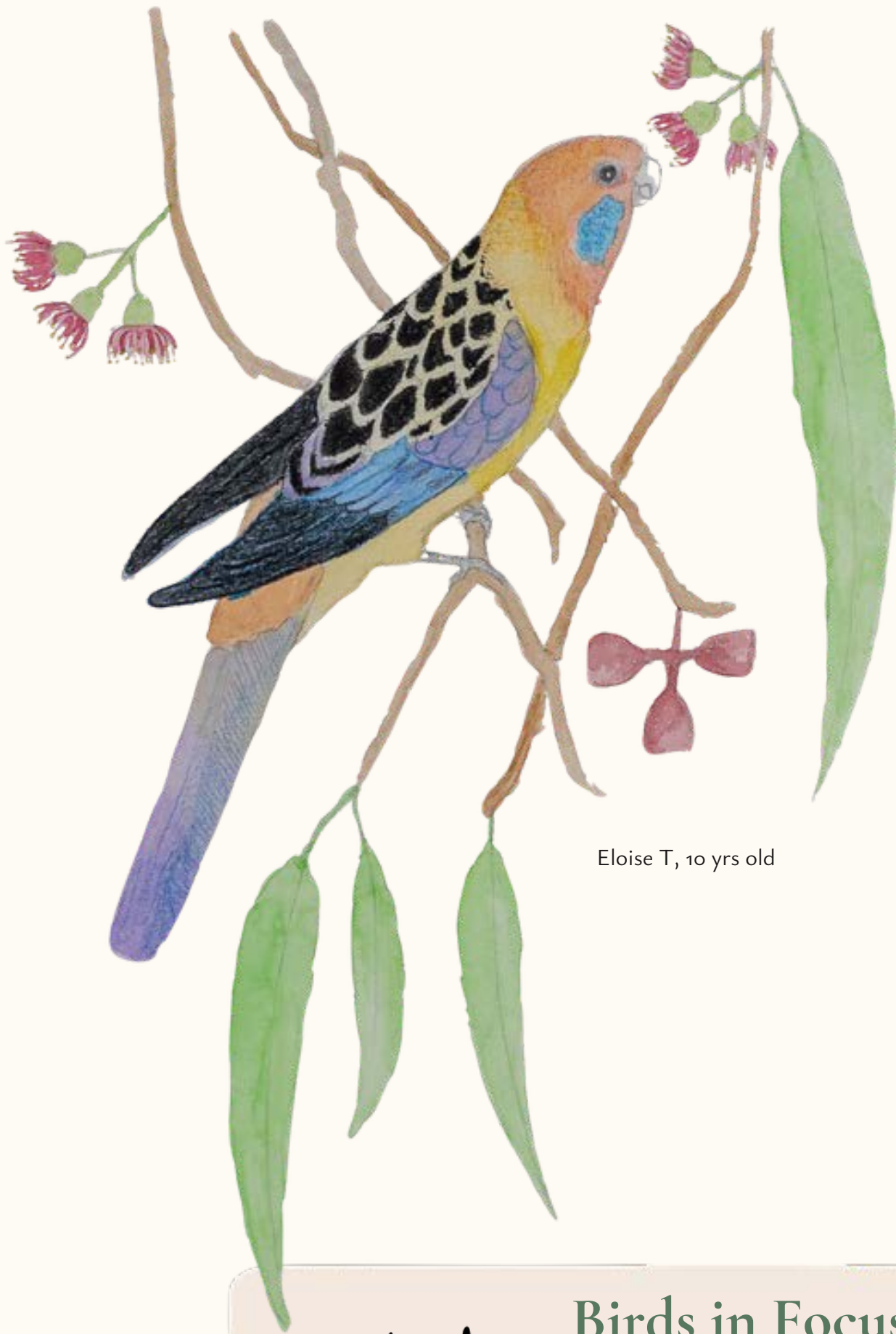




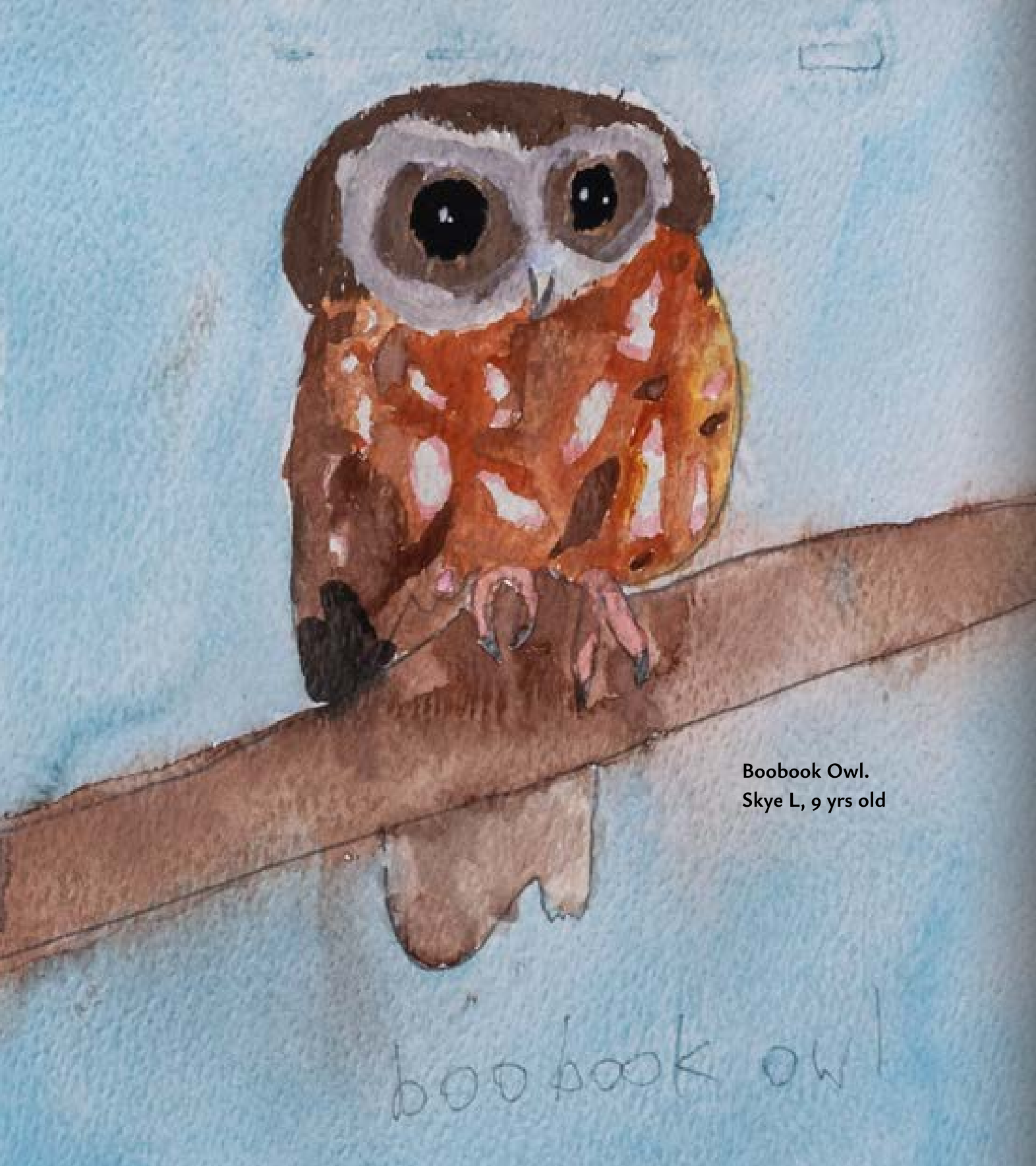
Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Birds in Focus

Celebrating birds of the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges.

Illustrated by children and young people.



Boobook Owl.
Skye L, 9 yrs old

‘All children are artists. They continually express themselves through movement, stories, ideas, illustration, play, and a hundred other ways.’



All children are artists



Willie Wagtail
Xavier S, 6 yrs old

All children are artists. They continually express themselves through movement, stories, ideas, illustration, play, and a hundred other ways. How we, as adults, provide opportunities for this expression is one of our most important roles.

Birds in Focus is a special project designed and facilitated by Nature Play SA that brought together art, birds, and wellbeing. These three elements were woven together to create a term-long program that saw students across five South Australian schools from ages 5 to 12 connect with local birds in creative and meaningful ways.

‘I loved when I saw one of my birds in real life. I feel like I had a connection’

Young artist, Hallett Cove South Primary School

Twenty five birds were selected and their personalities and dispositions were determined. Students then aligned their own personalities and dispositions with birds that best reflected them. These included traits such as resilience, creativity, playfulness, and curiosity along with several others. The birds that most reflected them became their Birds in Focus.

Stories of birds were shared using various props and creative approaches. We wanted to make birds part of a child’s identity. To feel connected to something special. Perhaps in ten years when they look back on their schooling years they will remember the feelings they felt when exploring the world of birds.

‘I like doing art, it helps me connect with myself and nature’

Young artist, Upper Sturt Primary School

Throughout the program students experimented with various art forms including lead pencil, coloured pencil, watercolour pencil and paint, acrylic, and clay. There were no step-by-step approaches. The key message for all students was it is not about the final piece of art, rather, it is the way you feel when you create. Over 70 students participated in the first iteration of Birds in Focus and their artwork is represented throughout this resource. We hope to continue and expand on this incredible project.

The team at Nature Play SA are so proud of all the young artists who participated in the Birds in Focus program. It was an absolute pleasure to work and create alongside them.

A big thank you to all the teachers and staff who provided our team with the opportunity to create with their young people. Participating schools were Upper Sturt Primary School, Hallett Cove South Primary School, O’Sullivan Beach Primary School, Southern Montessori School, and McAuley Community School.

And finally, this incredible project was funded by Green Adelaide and couldn’t have been undertaken without their support.

Jason Tyndall
CEO Nature Play SA



Galah
Sheridan M, 11 yrs old





Laughing Kookaburra
Skye L, 9 yrs old

‘Drawing birds helps me appreciate them more.’

Young artist, Southern Montessori.



Oscar T, 9 yrs old

‘I love that we get to express our feelings
into drawings’

Young artist, O’Sullivan Beach Primary School.



Adelaide Rosella

Patient, Friendly, Adaptable.



Sara P, 12 yrs old

Adelaide Rosellas are colourful parrots that vary from red and blue to more yellow, orange and blue. Their key identifiable feature is their blue cheek which separates them from the Eastern Rosella (white cheek). They are often seen in parks, gardens, and schools feeding on seeds, fruits, and flowers.

Patient Foragers

Adelaide Rosellas quietly go about their lives without too much fuss. They are patient and mindful as they take their time when feeding on nectar as they explore their environment. Their strong, curved beaks help them crack open tough seeds, nuts, and fruits.

Social and Friendly

These rosellas are often seen in pairs or small groups, communicating with a mix of whistles and chattering calls. They are friendly and accepting in the way they share space with other birds.

Adaptable Birds

Adelaide Rosellas thrive in a variety of habitats, from national parks to urban areas, even visiting backyards that have lots of nectar. Although they have adapted well to live in developed areas they still need tree hollows to nest in where both parents help raise the chicks.

How can you help?

- Plant native flowering trees and shrubs that provide seeds, nectar, and fruit
- Install bird boxes suitable for rosellas (medium-sized parrots)
- Protect old trees with hollows suitable for nesting

Did you know?

- Rosellas form strong lifelong bonds, staying in pairs or small family groups
- The different colours of Adelaide Rosellas come from a mix of genetics and breeding between different species of rosella such as the Crimson and Yellow Rosella.



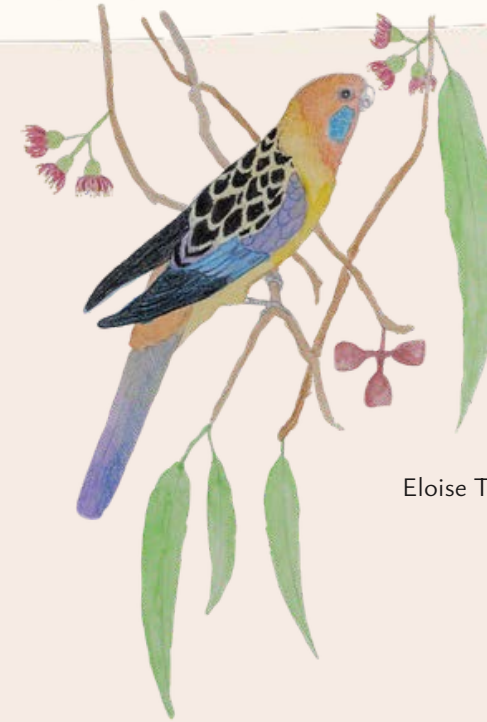
Siena P, 12 years old

Adelaide Rosella

Patient, Friendly, Adaptable.



Will M, 11 yrs old



Eloise T, 10 yrs old

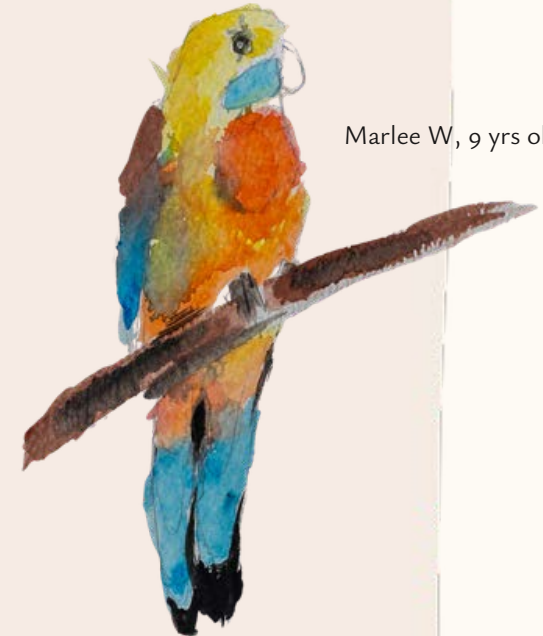


Noureen T, 11 yrs old

Sofia C, 11 yrs old



Marlee W, 9 yrs old



Aleirah S, 10 yrs old



Alarah B, 11 yrs old



Sara P, 12 yrs old



Australian White Ibis

Calm, Adaptive, Collaborative.



The Australian White Ibis is a large white bird with a bare black head and neck, and long curved bill. They are common in urban parks including those in cities, ovals, golf courses, wetlands, and rubbish dumps.

Calm Foragers

When searching for food Ibises walk quietly and calmly in groups as they forage in grass and muddy areas. Their diet includes insects, frogs, yabbies and sometimes food scraps left by humans. This adaptability has allowed them to thrive despite loss of their natural habitat.

Adaptive and Focused

The Australian White Ibis is one of the most adaptive and resilient of all birds. These birds once lived a quiet life in wetlands and mud flats but much of their habitat was cleared for housing and development. Now they live in cities, urban areas and are often seen at rubbish tips. They found a way to survive unlike many other birds who either declined or became extinct.

Collaborative Survivors

Ibis live in large social groups honking at one another as a way of communicating to support each other or warn of danger. They build nests in colonies, often in tall trees near water but can be very adaptable and can share spaces with other birds like spoonbills. Both parents build bulky stick nests and take turns incubating eggs and caring for chicks.

How can you help?

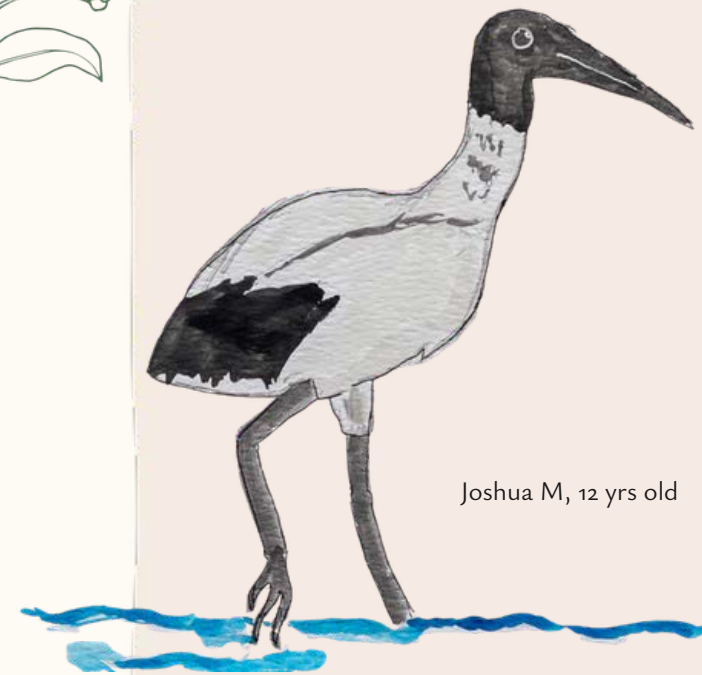
- Keep parks and schools clean and free from litter
- Don't chase or feed Ibis
- Instead of calling these birds Bin Chickens we should talk about their superpowers like being resilient and adaptive

Did you know?

- The other two Ibis species that once occurred around Adelaide were the Glossy Black and White Straw-necked Ibis. They weren't able to adapt like the Australian White Ibis and are now rarely seen.
- The Ibis is a key part of a Kurna Dreaming Story titled Tjilbruke.

Australian White Ibis

Calm, Adaptive, Collaborative.



Joshua M, 12 yrs old



Hamish S, 9 yrs old



Juliet H, 11 yrs old



Peppi F, 11 yrs old



Crested Pigeon

Alert, Affectionate, Resilient.



Nani , 8 yrs old

Crested Pigeons have soft grey-brown plumage that becomes more pinkish on its chest and belly. Its wings have black bars decorated with glossy patches of green and purple that shimmer in the sunlight. They have a black crest on their head with bright orange-red eyes. They are very common in backyards, parks and schools often huddling on fences and branches or searching for food on the ground.

Mindful but Alert

Crested Pigeons are very mindful and calm as they watch the world go by. They are always quick to spot danger, taking off in loud wing whistles to warn others. Their watchfulness helps them stay safe from predators.

Affectionate Birds

Crested Pigeons show strong social bonds and physical closeness in their flocks. They often engage in mutual preening, gently grooming each other's feathers, which helps build trust and maintain feather health. When resting or roosting, they huddle closely together, sharing warmth and protection.

Resilient and Adaptive

Crested Pigeons are very resilient birds that have adapted well to live across cities, farmland and urban areas. They are often mistaken for introduced pigeons such as Spotted Turtle Doves and Feral Rock Pigeons which can be seen as a nuisance.

How can you help?

- Leave patches of bare ground and fallen seeds for feeding.
- Plant native shrubs like Ruby Saltbush that Crested Pigeons eat.

Did you know?

- Male Crested Pigeons put on a spectacular courtship display by bobbing their heads, fanning their wings and tail, and showing off their feathers that shimmer in the sunlight. This display, combined with low cooing sounds, helps attract females.
- Crested Pigeons mainly eat seeds, leaves and fruits like Ruby Saltbush berries, and occasionally insects.

Crested Pigeon

Alert, Affectionate, Resilient.



Aurora F, 12 yrs old



Violet T, 6 yrs old



Nani, 8 yrs old



Nani, 8 yrs old



Eloise T, 10 yrs old





Eastern Rosella

Inquisitive, Friendly, Persistent

Eastern Rosellas are parrots known for their bright and bold colours. They have a white cheek patch, which is a key way to tell them apart from the Adelaide Rosella's blue cheeks. With vibrant red heads, yellow chest, and a mix of green, blue, and black on their wings and back, they are a beautiful sight in gardens, parks, and schools.

Inquisitive and Lively

Eastern Rosellas are lively and inquisitive birds. They are curious, always exploring their surroundings in search of seeds, fruits, and insects. Their strong curved beak is ideal for breaking open seedpods to get the seeds inside.

Friendly and Alert

Eastern Rosellas have a loud, melodic call and soft chattering sounds. Usually spotted in pairs or small groups, they communicate constantly while feeding or flying. They enjoy each other's company and are always alert, quickly moving on if there is any sign of danger.

Adaptable and Persistent

Eastern Rosellas thrive in a variety of habitats from national parks to urban areas. Even though there may be plenty of food in these places, their survival is dependent on finding tree hollows which occur in old trees. Once they find a tree hollow, the male will feed the female while she incubates the eggs. From there they raise their chicks together. To do this with only few tree hollows remaining shows great persistence.

How can you help?

- Plant native flowering trees and shrubs that provide seeds, nectar, and fruit.
- Install bird boxes suitable for rosellas (medium-sized parrots).
- Protect old trees with hollows suitable for nesting.

Did you know?

- Rosellas form strong lifelong bonds, staying in pairs or small family groups.
- They are found from Queensland through New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.
- Eastern Rosellas were introduced in New Zealand in the early 1900s and can be seen on both the North and South island.

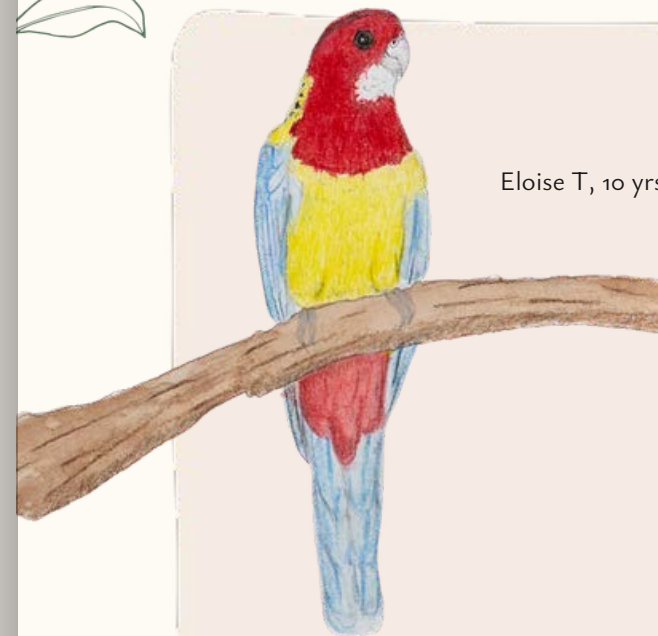


Beau J, 12 yrs old



Eastern Rosella

Inquisitive, Friendly, Persistent



Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Hunter A, 12 yrs old



Archie B, 10 yrs old



Skye S, 12 yrs old



Aria M, 8 yrs old



Beau J, 12 yrs old



River L, 11 yrs old



Eastern Spinebill

Curious, Quick, Resourceful.

Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Eastern Spinebills are small birds with long, thin, curved bills perfectly shaped to sip nectar from small, tubular, or bell-shaped flowers like Correas, Grevilleas and Banksias. You'll often see these busy birds darting through gardens and woodlands.

Hummingbirds of Australia

Curious and adventurous, these birds sometimes hover like tiny hummingbirds when they feed on nectar. Their wings make a soft "prrip" sound as they flutter between flowers.

Lightning-fast Nectar Collector

Eastern Spinebills move quickly using their long, brush-tipped tongues, like a little paintbrush, to sip nectar from flowers.

Thoughtful Feeders

Eastern Spinebills choose their feeding areas carefully, selecting flowers with nectar hidden deep inside. With their long, curved bills, they can reach nectar that many other birds cannot. They often join other small or clever pollinators like native bees, butterflies, moths, flies, and beetles. Together, these animals help pollinate many native plants.

How can you help?

- Plant native flowers such as Correas, Banksias, Common Heath, and Grevilleas.
- Avoid using pesticides in your garden to protect the insects that pollinators rely on.

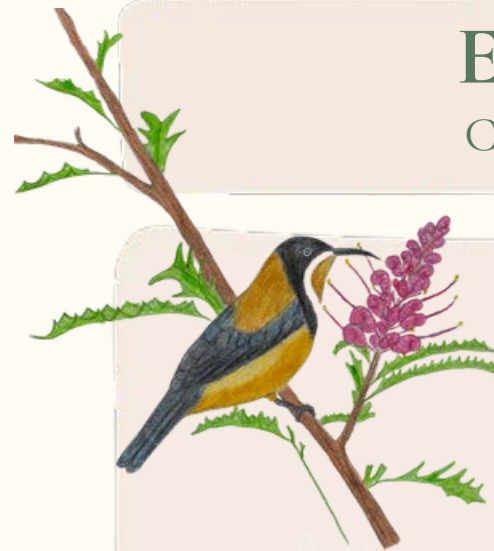
Did you know?

- Their forehead feathers often get dusted with pollen which helps with pollination (to enable flowers to produce seeds).
- Males have black heads, white throats, and a bright reddish-brown patch; females are grey and brown.
- They defend favourite flowers by puffing feathers, fanning tails, and making loud whistling calls.

Eastern Spinebill

Curious, Quick, Resourceful.

Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Max M, 9 yrs old



Peppi F, 11 yrs old



Beau J, 12 yrs old



Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Violet T, 6 yrs old



Pippin, 8 yrs old



Olivia D, 6 yrs old



Pippin, 8 yrs old



Pippin, 8 yrs old





Galah

Adaptable, Social, Affectionate.

Olivia D, 6 yrs old



Galaks are pink and grey cockatoos commonly seen across Australia. Their soft pink chest, face, and white crest set them apart from other cockatoos, along with their grey wings and back. They are common in parks, farmland, and urban areas, often on the ground feeding on grass seeds.

Adaptable and Resilient

Galaks have adapted well to farming regions and urban areas feeding on seeds and grains, including cereal crops like wheat, barley, and oats, as well as grass seeds, fruits, nuts, berries, green shoots, leaves, and bark from trees. They need tree hollows to nest in where both parents share duties to raise their chicks.

Social Birds

These cockatoos are highly social and outgoing often performing aerial acrobatics as they fly. They are usually found in pairs or large groups. Their loud calls help keep the flock together and warn each other of danger. Despite being friendly, playful and curious, galaks will fiercely defend their feeding and nesting sites from other birds.

Affectionate Cockatoos

Galaks engage in preening each other which strengthens their social bonds and promotes trust within pairs and flocks. Preening helps with feather health and is also an important way for galaks to communicate affection and reinforce their close connections.

How can you help?

- Plant native grasses and plants that provide seeds
- Conserve old trees with hollows for nesting
- Avoid feeding galaks and other wild birds as it can change their feeding behaviours

Did you know?

- Galaks mate for life
- Their flocks can sometimes be thousands of birds
- If you see a nest box and it has been chewed, it is usually done by Galaks



Sheridan M,
11 yrs old

Nature Play
SA

Galah

Adaptable, Social, Affectionate.

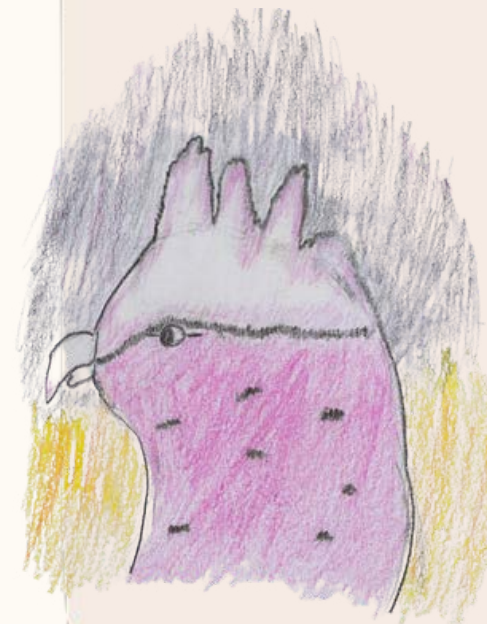
Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Noureen T , 11 yrs old



Sheridan M, 11 yrs old



Maya B, 10 yrs old

Olivia D, 6 yrs old



Nature Play
SA



Grey Currawong

Adaptable, Intelligent, Collaborative .



Violet T, 6 yrs old

The Grey Currawong has grey to black feathers with white patches under the wings and tail, and bright yellow eyes. It is mostly seen in National Parks and areas with lots of trees such as the Adelaide Hills.

Adaptable Forager

Currawongs are very adaptable birds when it comes to feeding. Using their strong, curved bills, currawongs search under bark, leaf litter, and logs to find insects, spiders, small reptiles, and bird eggs. They also eat berries and seeds, adjusting their diet based on seasonal availability and habitat.

Intelligent Communicators

These birds are intelligent and cautious, often observed alone or in pairs. Their loud, calls help maintain contact across dense forests. They also mimic other bird calls occasionally. This communication plays a key role in their social behaviour and territorial defence.

Working as a Team

Grey Currawongs build sturdy, bulky nests high in eucalyptus trees, using twigs, bark strips, and moss. Once eggs are laid, the female will rarely leave the nest as the male will bring her food. Once hatched both parents will feed the chicks and do everything they can do protect the nest. When their young are out of the nest they will then become independent and find their own territory.

How Can You Help

- If you see a nesting Currawong try and stay as far away as possible. It is important not to disturb them as they are trying to raise their families.

Did You Know

- Grey Currawongs cough up pellets made of undigestible seeds, skins, and tough parts from the fruits they eat, along with small bones, insect shells, and other remains from their animal prey.



Grey Currawong

Adaptable, Intelligent, Collaborative.



Violet T, 6 yrs old



Finn M, 8 yrs old



Eloise T, 10 yrs old





Laughing Kookaburra

Positive, Patient, Curiosity.



Deon C, 9 yrs old

The Laughing Kookaburra is a kingfisher with a white to cream-coloured belly and head. It has a brown eye stripe that extends along the top of its head. Their wings and back are brown, often with small blue patches. Its tail feathers are reddish-brown with dark bars and pale tips. They are common in areas with water and tall eucalyptus trees like parks, wetlands and creeks.

A Positive Start to the Day

Kookaburras are known for their laughter. It can make us smile. Their call is a way to defend their territory or to signal the start of a new day, reminding us that we can reset every day. Singing can also be a way for kookaburras to connect with each other.

Patient Hunters

Kookaburras are social birds that live in family groups often singing together. They hunt together using patience and coordinated strategies to catch insects, small reptiles, frogs and rodents, demonstrating their strong teamwork.

A connected family

Laughing Kookaburras nest in natural tree hollows with both parents incubating eggs. Older siblings help their parents feed young chicks and keep a look out for danger. Young kookaburras may stay with their parents for several years before seeking their own territory

How can you help:

- Protect old trees with hollows
- Plant native trees that will one day form tree hollows
- Never feed kookaburras as it's not good their health and they can start swooping in for food

Did you know:

- Kookaburras can live up to 15 years in the wild.
- Their family groups defend their territory fiercely, often chasing away larger predators.
- They have been known to skillfully catch and eat venomous snakes.

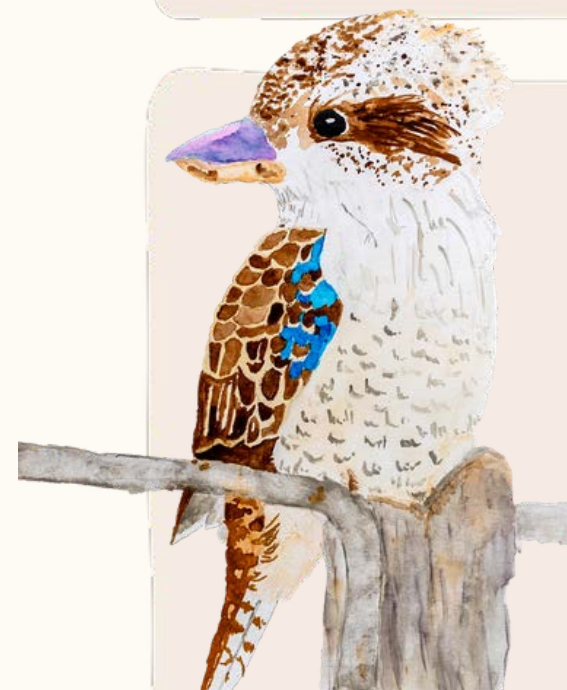


Ella B, 9 yrs old

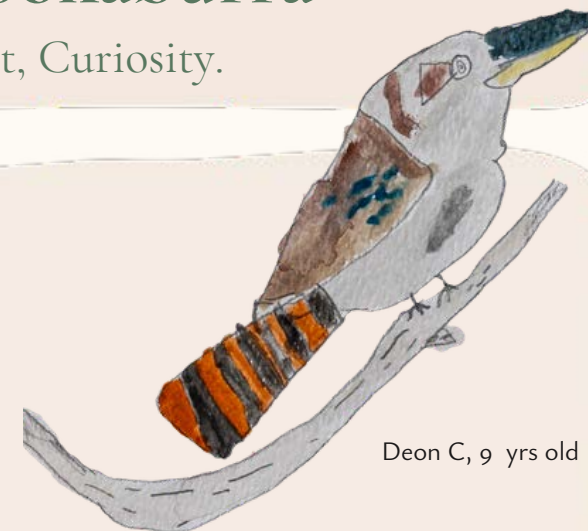
Nature Play
SA

Laughing Kookaburra

Positive, Patient, Curiosity.



Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Deon C, 9 yrs old



Skye L, 9 yrs old



Ella B, 9 yrs old



Max M, 9 yrs old



Silas J, 10 yrs old

Nature Play
SA



Little Corella

Playful, Energetic, Connected.

Little Corellas are white cockatoos with pale blue eye-rings, a sharp curved beak and a touch of yellow under their wings. They are found in a variety of habitats, especially where there are tall eucalypts and shrubs, as they feed on fruits, seeds, and flowers. They also gather in large flocks on ovals and lawns to eat grass seeds, bulbs, and sometimes dig for grass roots.

Cheeky and Playful

Little Corellas are cheeky birds because they are playful, curious, and mischievous. They enjoy interacting with each other hanging upside down from branches or power lines, and are known for their strong and lively personalities.

Energetic and Always on the Move

Little Corellas often travel in large, noisy flocks across cities, towns, and rural areas, moving seasonally between feeding grounds and roost sites depending on where food and water is available. Their foraging behaviour can sometimes be destructive, as they can damage turf on ovals, strip bark from trees, sometimes damage crops, and eat wooden structures.

Close Friendships

These birds live in large, noisy groups and show close social bonds with each other through preening one another's feathers which builds trust and connection. This behaviour keeps the flock strong and connected. They often roost and feed together, alerting each other to danger with sharp calls. Both parents share the work of raising their young inside tree hollows.

How can you help?

- Protect trees and hollows important for nesting
- Plant native grasses and trees that provide food

Did you know?

- Their pale yellow wing patches are visible in flight and can sometimes be found on the ground
- When eating seed pods they can hold them using their feet.
- Little Corellas are similar to Long-billed Corellas who have a longer and thinner bill and orange around their throat.



Little Corella

Playful, Energetic, Connected.



Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Little Raven

Intelligent, Clever, Resourceful.



Little Ravens are black birds with glossy feathers and strong beaks. They are common in urban areas, cities, farmland, and parks and can be seen alone, in pairs or in groups.

Problem Solvers

Little Ravens are highly intelligent birds, often investigating new objects when searching for food. They use their strong, pointed beaks to search for insects, small animals, and seeds. But they can also use tools and figure out how to open things that have food in them.

Clever Communicators

These ravens have a wide range of vocal sounds, from harsh croaks to softer calls used to communicate with other ravens. They use different calls to warn of danger, call mates, or signal food sources. They will often be chased by other birds like noisy miners and willie wagtails but can also be seen chasing away wedge-tailed eagles whilst constantly communicating with each other.

Resourceful Survivors

Little Ravens are highly adaptable and resourceful, thriving in both natural and urban environments. They make nests high in trees or on cliffs, building bulky stick nests lined with softer material. Both parents share the job of feeding and protecting the young chicks until they are ready to fly.

How can you help?

- Although ravens sometimes eat human scraps, it is not good for them so we should do our best to keep our scraps out of reach!
- Like all birds we should admire ravens from a distance to allow them to be as wild as possible

Did you know?

- Little Ravens can mimic sounds from their environment, including human-made noises
- Ravens are often mistaken for crows and although they are in the same family, there are some key differences. Crows do not occur in Adelaide. They begin from Port Augusta northwards. Little Ravens are smaller with slightly curved beaks, more sociable, and have different calls compared to crows.

Little Raven

Intelligent, Clever, Resourceful.



Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Oscar T, 10 yrs old



Bethanie, 10 yrs old

Callan A, 11 yrs old



Elodie V, 11 yrs old



Australian Magpie

Curious, Cooperative, Resilient.

Magpies thrive in ever-changing environments and are one of Australia's most iconic birds that is encountered almost every day. You'll often see them walking slowly across lawns and parks, hunting for worms and insects like beetle grubs.

Remarkable Memories

Magpies spend time exploring their surroundings and mimicking other birds, animals, and even people. They have a very good memory as they can recognise and remember more than 100 individual human faces for many years. (if they know you they will be curious about you).

A Love for Singing

They hunt, sing, protect their territory, and raise their families together. When they softly chatter it is known as 'warbling' when they sing loudly it known as 'carolling'. Whilst magpies are very social and love company, males will often sing alone at night during spring, often on moonlit nights.

Resilient Birds

Magpies thrive in changing environments and live in many different places, from cities and suburban gardens to farms and open grasslands. They are very socially connected birds who support each other in times of change. During breeding season, magpies fiercely defend their nests, especially the males, another reason why magpies survive and thrive so well.

How can you help?

- Avoid feeding magpies as there is plenty of natural food around.
- If you know an area where Magpies swoop take a different path if possible.
- Get to know magpies by observing their behaviour, you'll soon notice their playful and curious ways.

Did you know?

- Female magpies have grey backs, while males have pure white backs.
- Only a small number of magpies swoop in spring to protect nests, mostly males.
- Their songs vary widely and include mimicry of other birds and sounds.



Luca M, 10 yrs old

Australian Magpie

Curious, Cooperative, and Resilient.



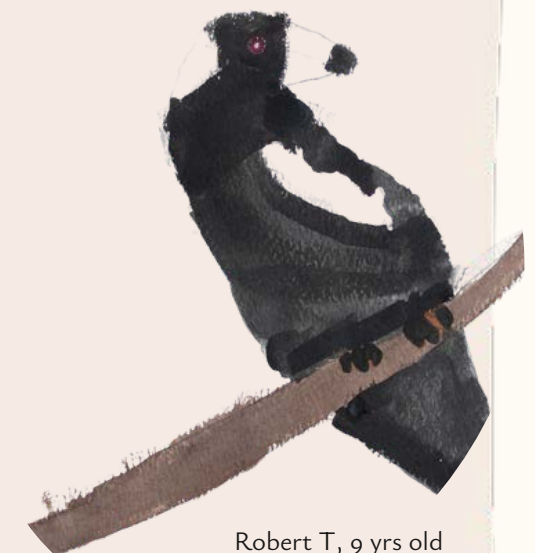
Luca M, 10 yrs old



Luca M, 10 yrs old



Violet T, 6 yrs old



Robert T, 9 yrs old



Magpie-lark

Cooperative, Focussed, Connected.

Magpie-larks have black and white feathers. Males have black stripe across their eye with a black throat, females have a white throat and no stripe. They are common in urban areas where there is access to water including backyards, schools, parks, ovals, golf courses and wetlands.

Cooperative Families

Magpie-larks are well known for teamwork and resilience. Pairs build strong bowl-shaped mud nests together and perform beautiful duet songs to keep their territory safe. Both parents work together as a team to incubate eggs and raise their young.

Focussed Foragers

Magpie-larks are focussed when they are searching for food which is mostly on the ground. These include insects, spiders and occasionally worms, and snails. Once food is detected, they are quick and purposeful to uncover it.

Connected through Song

Pairs sing together, synchronising their calls so closely it sounds like one voice which is a powerful way to defend their territory and signal their connection with one another. Their call is a repeated 'peewee' or 'pee-wit'. Magpie-larks are alert and observant, watching for rivals and ready to protect their young.

How can you help?

- Avoid pesticides that harm insects.
- Leaving some muddy patches around are good for nest building.

Did you know?

- Magpie-larks make strong mud nests attached to branches lined with grass, fur and feathers. Their nests are why they are also called mudlarks.
- Magpie-larks are not related to Magpies.
- Young Magpie-larks join flocks where they watch and learn from older birds learning social skills and developing leadership qualities.



Violet T, 6 yrs old

Magpie-lark

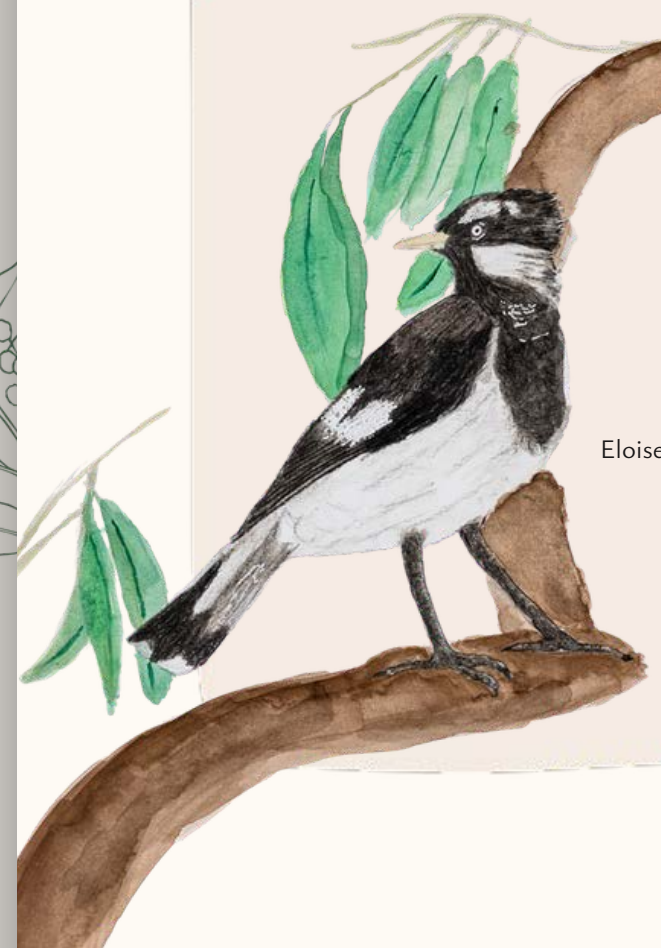
Cooperative, Focussed, Connected.



Violet T, 6 yrs old



Charli, 9 yrs old



Eloise T, 10 yrs old

Masked Lapwing

Adaptive, Resilient, Connected.



Masked Lapwings are large brown and white birds with black heads and bright yellow 'wattles' that hang from their eyes - which looks like a mask. They are commonly seen in open grassy areas such as parks, ovals, and around lawned spaces in suburban areas.

Adaptive Ground Nesters

Masked Lapwings once nested in natural spaces such as grasslands and mudflats but many of these areas have been cleared away for housing and roads. Today the Masked Lapwing has adapted to building simple ground nests in unexpected places such as school ovals, roundabouts, car parks, and urban parks.

Vigilant Defenders

Masked Lapwings fiercely protect their nests. They swoop and call loudly to warn off predators and intruders. They sometimes pretend to have an injury to distract threats away from their nests or chicks. Although some people think these birds should find other places to nest, they are doing their best to raise their families in the best places they can.

Distinctive Callers

You will often hear Masked Lapwings before you see them, as they have a loud and distinctive 'kekekekek' call. These are mostly warning signals to others, especially when defending their nests and during breeding season (late winter to spring). On summer evenings, lapwings can still be heard calling as they fly between feeding or roosting sites, always staying connected.

How can you help?

- Avoid disturbing nesting sites, especially during breeding season.
- These birds can live with us, they just need space and for us to show kindness and respect.

Did you know?

- The bright yellow wattles on their face are used in displays and defence.
- Their wings have sharp spurs (like thorns) that can be used to defend their territories – which is why they are also known as 'Spur-winged Plovers'.
- Masked Lapwings mate for life.



Violet T, 6 yrs old

Masked Lapwing

Adaptive, Resilient, Connected.



Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Will M, 11 yrs old



Evie C, 9 yrs old



Violet T, 6 yrs old



Ella B, 9 yrs old

Musk Lorikeet

Playful, Social, Adaptable.



Musk Lorikeets are mostly bright green with a red band across their forehead that extends behind their eye with blue on top of their head. They love gardens, parks and schoolyards where they feed on nectar from flowers such as eucalyptus trees, bottlebrushes, grevilleas, and wattles.

Playful Feeders

Musk Lorikeets are lively and playful as they move quickly between branches. They use their special brush-tipped tongues to collect nectar and pollen from native flowers. Watch for their noisy flocks feeding together, especially in eucalyptus trees.

Together in Friendship

These lorikeets are social birds that often gather in groups. They stay close, preening each other's feathers to keep clean and build strong bonds. Musk Lorikeets also roost together in large groups at night, helping keep each other safe and warm.

Adaptable Survivors

Musk Lorikeets thrive in a variety of habitats, from national parks, backyards, schools, and urban parks and gardens. They mostly eat nectar and pollen but will also feed on soft fruits and insects. They nest in tree hollows, with both parents sharing care of the chicks.

How can you help?

- Plant native flowering trees and shrubs such as wattles and eucalyptus.
- Protect old trees that provide nesting hollows.
- Spend time watching lorikeets to learn more about their behaviour.

Did you know?

- Musk Lorikeets often feed alongside Rainbow Lorikeets.
- These birds are important pollinators.
- The hollows they need to nest in can take over 100 years to form.

Musk Lorikeet

Playful, Social, Adaptive.



Skye S, 12 yrs old



Louise, 7 yrs old



Skye L, 9 yrs old



Archie B, 10 yrs old



Max M, 9 yrs old



River L, 11 yrs old

Aylah E, 10 yrs old

New Holland Honeyeater

Energetic, Alert, Independent.

New Holland Honeyeaters are small birds with black and white streaked feathers with yellow patches on the wings and tail edges. They have a distinct white patch around their eye. They are encountered in most backyards, reserves and schools especially where nectar producing flowers are abundant.

Nectar Feeders

With their brush-tipped tongue, like a paint brush, these energetic honeyeaters move in flocks or in pairs from flower to flower feeding on nectar from plants such as Grevilleas, Banksias, and Eucalypts. They are also very skilled at catching flying insects.

Working Together

New Holland Honeyeaters are territorial. Working as a team, they noisily defend their feeding areas. When a threat such as cat or bird of prey are close they have a distinctive alarm call that warns their group, and other birds, of danger.

Finding their Own Path

New Holland Honeyeaters form strong pairs and build neat cup-shaped nests of bark and grasses bound with spider webs, hidden in bushes or low trees. Both parents share care of the chicks and when ready, the young birds set off on their own path in search of a social group.

How can you help?

- Plant native flowering shrubs like tea trees and banksias.
- Avoid pesticides to protect nectar and insect food sources.

Did you know?

- New Holland Honeyeaters look similar to Crescent Honeyeaters and White-cheeked Honeyeaters, but are far more abundant in urban areas.
- New Holland Honeyeaters are important for pollination.



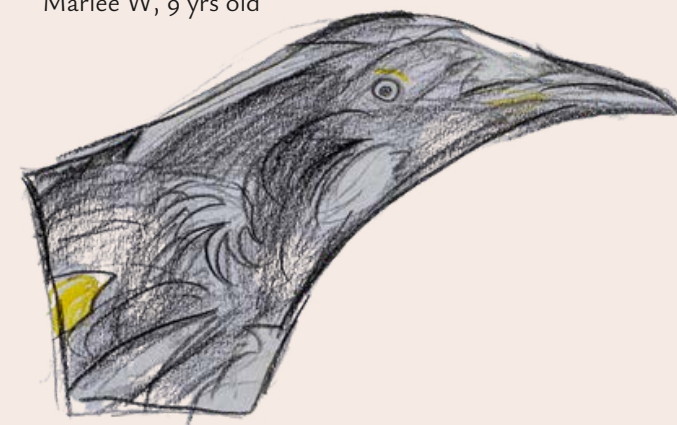
Marlee W, 9 yrs old

New Holland Honeyeater

Energetic, Alert, Independent.



Aurora F, 12 yrs old



Marlee W, 9 yrs old



Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Heidi, 11 yrs old

Noisy Miner

Adaptive, Social, Caring.

Noisy Miners are medium-sized birds with grey bodies, black heads, and bright yellow patches around their eyes. Their loud, persistent calls make them very noticeable in backyards, parks and schools.

Adaptive Urban Birds

Noisy Miners have adapted to thrive in urban areas where there are mostly tall trees and not many shrubs that grow around them (understorey). The shrubs that grow in backyards and schools have more than enough nectar, and attract plenty of insects, for them to feed all year round.

Connected Communities

Noisy Miners live in large social groups with friends and family. They are very protective and territorial chasing away small birds like Eastern Spinebills as well as large birds like Ravens. If a threat is nearby they will become very loud with their 'alarm calls' bringing their colony together to try and scare or chase it away.

Caring Families

Their breeding season is in spring and summer where they make cup-shaped nests in trees and shrubs. Once their chicks hatch other birds from their colony will come together to help feed and protect them. Even when they leave the nest, they are still cared for by siblings until they are able to fend for themselves.

How can I help

- As there is plenty of open habitat for Noisy Miners, if we plant and protect native understorey vegetation in gardens, parks, and schools, we can provide shelter and food for a variety of native birds that would otherwise be chased away - like spinebills and pardalotes.

Did you know?

- Their diet includes nectar, insects, and occasionally small lizards and fruit.
- Their success in urban areas has led to declines in smaller native birds. This highlights the importance of balance.
- Noisy Miners are important pollinators.

Noisy Miner

Adaptive, Social, Caring.

Marlee W, 9 yrs old

Marleigh L, 9 yrs old

Juliet H, 11 yrs old

Aurora F, 12 yrs old

Bethanie, 10 yrs old

Rainbow Lorikeet

Playful, Social, Adaptive.

Rainbow Lorikeets are one of the most common birds you will spot in schools, backyards, and parks across South Australia. They are noisy and often busy chattering away in gum trees or feeding on flowers such as bottlebrushes.

Playful Acrobats

Rainbow Lorikeets are energetic as they dart and twist between branches, sometimes hanging upside down as they use their special brush-tipped tongues to feed on nectar and pollen. You may also see them feeding alongside Musk Lorikeets.

Stronger Together

These birds are very social and loyal, mating for life (known as being 'monogamous'). They often sit close together, preening each other's feathers to stay clean and maintain strong friendships. During the day, they form flocks of up to 50 birds, and at night they will come together to form sleeping communities of hundreds and sometimes thousands of lorikeets keeping each other warm and safe.

Adaptive Birds

Rainbow Lorikeets live in a wide range of habitats from rainforests and coastal areas to urban backyards and parks. They eat mostly nectar and pollen from native flowers like Eucalyptus, Grevillea, and Bottlebrush, and occasionally soft fruits, seeds and insects. They nest in tree hollows, which can take more than a hundred years to form. Both parents share the responsibilities of raising their chicks.

How can you help?

- Plant native flowering trees and shrubs to provide nectar and pollen
- Install bird boxes where natural hollows are scarce.
- Spend time watching lorikeets as you will get to know them better

Did you know?

- Rainbow Lorikeets can live up to 20 years in the wild.
- Their brush-tipped tongues act like tiny paintbrushes to collect nectar and pollen.
- They play an important role as pollinators for many native plants.

Evie T, 12 yrs old

Rainbow Lorikeet

Playful, Social, Adaptive.

Jed N, 7 yrs old

Evie T, 12 yrs old

Estelle L, 6 yrs old

Evie T, 12 yrs old

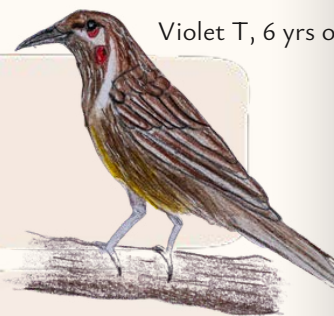
Thea C, 10 yrs old

Clairette, 8 yrs old

Eloise T, 10 yrs old

Red Wattlebird

Bold, Energetic, Loyal.



Red Wattlebirds are large, noisy honeyeaters with a grey-brown body with white streaks, bright yellow belly patch, and red flaps of skin known as 'wattles' hanging from the sides of their necks. A common and loud bird that can be seen and heard across most urban areas including backyards, parks and schools.

Bold Territory Defenders

Red Wattlebirds aggressively defend their feeding areas from other birds, especially Noisy Miners, who often compete strongly for nectar and sometimes push Red Wattlebirds away. Their loud, 'cookey cook' call aims to deter other nectar loving birds and to claim their territory.

Nectar Feeders

Wattlebirds are energetic feeders moving quickly between flowers. In urban areas where plants like Bottlebrush, Grevillea and Eucalyptus grow wattlebirds can thrive. Their long, slightly curved bill and a brush-tipped tongue, make them expert nectar feeders. They also eat insects and spiders, especially when feeding chicks.

Loyal and Protective

Red Wattlebirds form strong, long-lasting partnerships, working closely together to build nests, incubate eggs, and feed their chicks. They fiercely guard their family territory, staying loyal to their mate and protective of their young.

How can you help?

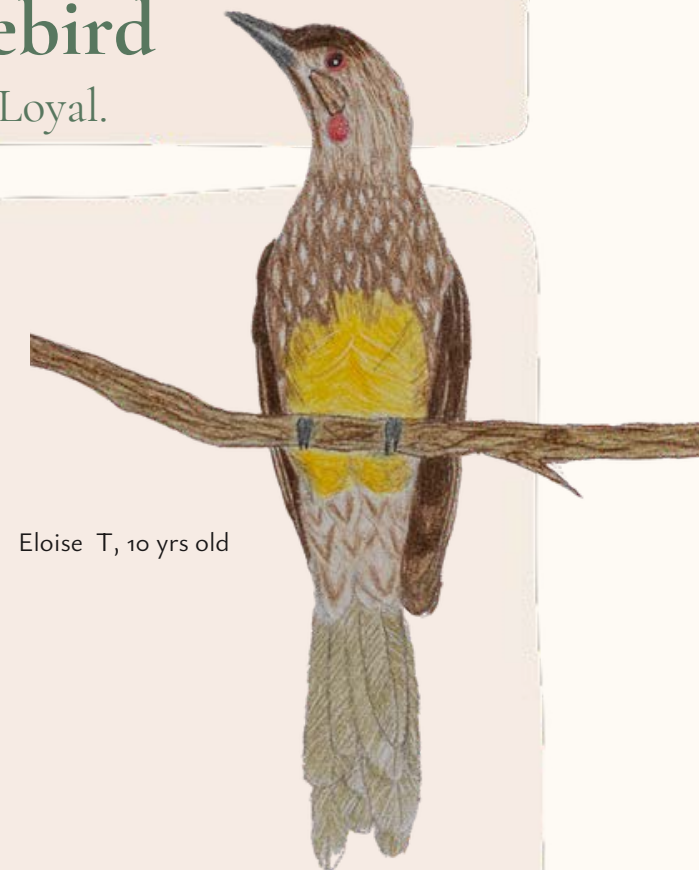
- Plant native nectar-rich trees and shrubs such as bottlebrushes and eucalypts.
- Avoid pesticides that reduce insect populations as they need them to raise their families.

Did you know?

- The Little Wattlebird is very similar to the Red Wattlebird but smaller and darker in colour without the yellow belly and their wattles are not easily seen.
- Red Wattlebirds are one of the largest honeyeaters in Australia and the world.
- They get their name from the small flaps of skin on either side of their necks called wattles that are a sign of health and help attract mates.

Red Wattlebird

Bold, Energetic, Loyal.



Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Aurora F, 12 yrs old



Violet T, 6 yrs old



Southern Boobook

Calm, Patient, Focused.

Evie C, 9 yrs old



Southern Boobooks are silent hunters of the night known for their distinctive 'boo-book' call. They have bright yellow-green eyes and brown feathers with white spots and streaks. You'll often hear them in backyards and parks from winter to spring, usually hidden in the dense canopies of old trees.

Silent Hunter

Unlike many birds, owls have forward-facing eyes like humans, giving them excellent night vision. With soft feathers that allow silent flight and strong talons, Boobooks patiently wait for the right moment to swoop on small mammals or insects such as moths and beetles.

Patient and Focussed

Noisy miners often sit near Boobooks, calling loudly to warn others in hope the owl will leave. But Boobooks remain calm and focused, teaching us the importance of staying steady when distractions surround us.

Curious Observer

Boobooks quietly watch their surroundings, noticing small movements and sounds to find food or keep safe. Their careful attention shows how being curious and watching closely can help us learn more about the world.

How can you help?

- Protect old trees, especially those with hollows for nesting.
- Install owl-specific nest boxes in places where there are no tree hollows.
- Avoid using poisons like rodenticides, which can harm owls if they eat poisoned prey.

Did you know?

- Boobooks rely on trees with hollows to raise their families. These hollows can take hundreds of year to form.
- Owls swallow food whole or in large pieces. Their stomach digests the soft parts and later they cough up pellets containing fur and bones.
- Boobooks can turn their heads about 270 degrees, almost all the way around!



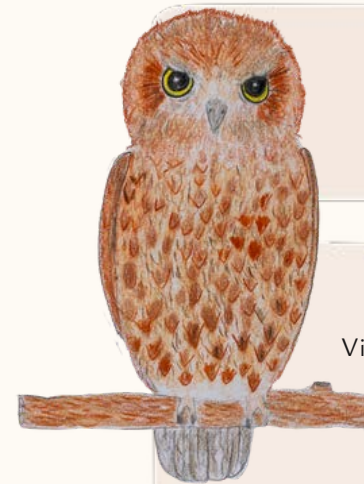
Peppi F, 11 yrs old

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SA

Southern Boobook

Calm, Patient, Focused.

Violet T, 6 yrs old



Archie B, 10 yrs old



Peppi F, 11 yrs old



Skye L, 9 yrs old



Emma L, 9 yrs old



Marleigh L, 9 yrs old



Siena P, 12 yrs old



Olivia D, 6 yrs old



Dylan, 9 yrs old



Evie C, 9 yrs old



Peppi F, 11 yrs old



Trevor W, 9 yrs old

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Striated Pardalote

Diligent, Observant, Caring.

Peppi F, 11 yrs old



Striated Pardalotes are tiny birds with a grey-green body, black, white and yellow head, and black wings with a white stripe. They are commonly seen and heard in the canopies of tall eucalyptus trees in parks, schools, and natural bush spaces.

Insect Hunters

These diligent birds move quickly through eucalyptus canopies, using their sharp bills to pick off insects that are often hidden on or under leaves. One of their favourite foods is the sugary white spots on a leaf that have an insect underneath them – known as a sugar lerp.

Family Teamwork

Striated pardalotes mostly nest in tree hollows but sometimes use tunnels dug in earth banks or crevices in fallen logs. Both parents share nest duties, and occasionally others help feed the young. Their cooperation teaches us how kindness and teamwork build strong families.

Always Connected

Throughout the day, especially on sunny mornings, these pardalotes are busy looking for food whilst communicating with each other with their 'chip chip' call. They are always connected and alert, using their calls to stay in touch as they move quickly through the eucalyptus canopy searching for insects and sugary lerps to eat.

How can you help?

- Plant native eucalyptus trees and shrubs to provide food and shelter.
- Protect old trees with hollows.
- Avoid using pesticides to keep insect food sources safe.

Did you know?

- Striated Pardalotes weigh around 10 grams which is as heavy as a strawberry.
- The name 'striated' refers to streaks on their heads and backs. Another species of pardalote is a Spotted Pardalote that has spots instead of streaks.
- When eating sugar lerps you can hear soft 'click' as their beak removes them.



Violet T, 6 yrs old

Striated Pardalote

Diligent, Observant, Caring.



Peppi F, 11 yrs old



Violet T, 6 yrs old



Velvet, 10 yrs old



Peppi F, 11 yrs old





Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Playful, Social, Adaptable.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoos are large white parrots known for their bright yellow crest. They are common across much of Australia, including parks, cities, suburban areas and even around busy highways.

Loud and Playful

Sulphur-crested Cockatoos are clever, noisy and playful birds. Their curved beaks are perfect for cracking nuts, seeds, and digging into bark for insects. They have a wide range of calls, including loud squawks and whistles used to communicate within their flocks.

Social Birds

These cockatoos are very social and often seen in large groups that work together to find food and protect each other. They show strong family bonds and sometimes perform playful behaviours like hanging upside down or using tools.

Persistent and Adaptable Survivors

Like other common cockatoos these birds have plenty of food in the wild but their challenge is to find a suitable tree hollow to raise their young. Their persistence pays off most of the time. Hollows that Sulphur-crested Cockatoos need usually take around 200 years to develop. Once found, both parents share caring for the chicks.

How can you help?

- Protect large old trees with hollows for nesting.
- Plant native trees that provide food and shelter.

Did you know?

- Sulphur-crested Cockatoos can live over 60 years in the wild.
- Their yellow crest is raised when excited or alarmed.
- They are highly intelligent and can mimic sounds including human speech.



Joshua M, 12 yrs old

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Playful, Social, Adaptable.



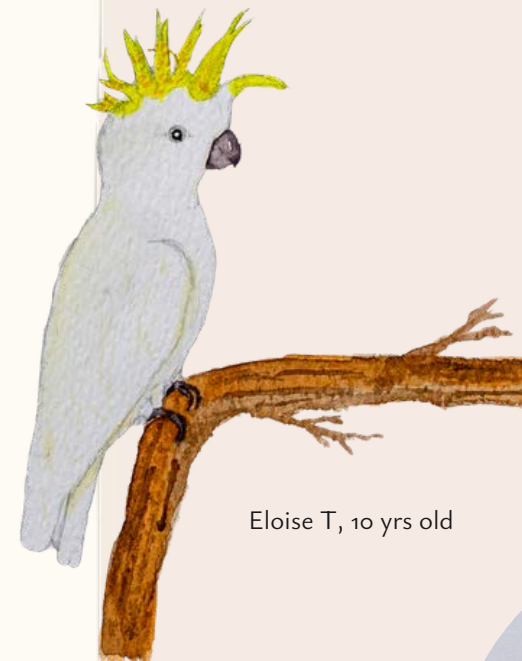
Archie B, 10 yrs old



Joshua M, 12 yrs old



Charli, 9 yrs old



Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Enoch A, 9 yrs old



Ashwin M, 12 yrs old



Marley M, 11 yrs old



Anae, 6 yrs old



Welcome Swallow

Adaptive, Energetic, Flexible.



The Welcome Swallow is a small bird with blue-black wings, light greyish belly, and rusty red on the forehead, throat, and chest. It has a long, forked tail. They are agile flyers seen zipping over backyards, school ovals, sports fields, lakes, and open grassy areas whilst catching flying insects.

Adaptive Nesters

Welcome Swallows can adapt to different environments. They breed in colonies, nesting on rock walls, cliffs, tree branches and man-made structures like bridges and buildings. Their nests are cup-shaped and made of mud and grass and lined with feathers and fur.

Acrobatic and Energetic Flyers

Welcome Swallows are energetic flyers as they loop in patterns and glide effortlessly across grass, open fields and water. These aerial displays help them capture flying insects.

Flexible Travellers

Many Welcome Swallows migrate to warmer parts of Australia to escape winter. They return in spring ready to breed. If there are plenty of insects locally there may not be a need to migrate. They are flexible and ready to change their plans if needed.

How can you help?

- Avoid insecticides as it will reduce (or contaminate) their food source.
- Plant plenty of native shrubs that attract insects.

Did you know?

- Welcome Swallows are known as a sign of spring in southern Australia because they arrive when the weather starts warming.
- When you walk through grass and swallows follow you, they are chasing insects that your movement has disturbed.



Khye H, 12 yrs old

Welcome Swallow

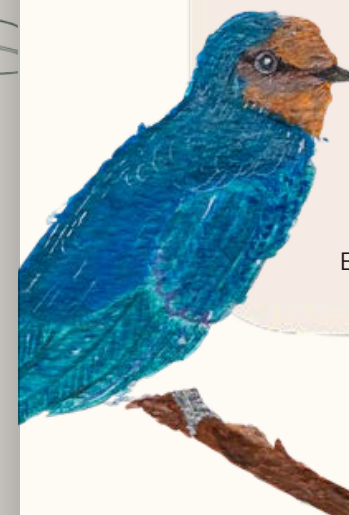
Adaptive, Energetic, Flexible.



Hunter L, 9 yrs old



Sheridan M, 11 yrs old



Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Lylah L, 12 yrs old



Khye H, 12 yrs old

White-plumed Honeyeater

Friendly, Adaptable, Helpful.



White-plumed Honeyeaters have olive-green feathers with bright white stripes on the sides of their necks (known as plumes). They can be seen in urban parks, schools and gardens where native flowering trees such as eucalyptus, tea-trees, and grevilleas provide nectar and insects for food.

Family Teamwork

White-plumed Honeyeaters have cooperative breeding behaviours meaning their older offspring from previous seasons help their parents feed and care for new chicks. They are stronger through teamwork.

Nature's Nectar Collectors

Like many honeyeaters these birds are well-adapted to feed on nectar. They have a brush-tipped tongue that works like a tiny paintbrush to collect nectar from flowers like grevilleas and eucalypts. They are also excellent pollinators.

Lively Communicators

White-plumed Honeyeaters are lively and social, using chatter-like contact calls to stay connected. They have a distinctive alarm call 'cak-ak-ak-ak-ark' to warn their group of danger. They are often the first birds to call in the morning and the last at night. During breeding, males perform song flights to defend territories.

How can you help?

- Plant native flowering trees and shrubs like eucalyptus, tea-trees, and grevilleas.
- Avoid pesticides that can harm the insects they eat.

Did you know?

- They build cup-shaped nests made from grasses and fine bark strips, bound together with spider webs, and lined animal hair, wool, or feathers to keep eggs and chicks safe and warm.
- Although White-plumed Honeyeaters feed mainly on nectar, they also love to eat sugar lerps (found on eucalyptus leaves). Lerps are a sugary dome that a tiny insect called a psyllid makes to protect itself.



Aurora F, 12 yrs old

White-plumed Honeyeater

Friendly, Adaptable, Helpful.



Aurora F, 12 yrs old



Sofia C, 11 yrs old



Emerald, 5 yrs old



Aurora F, 12 yrs old



Noureen T, 11 yrs old

Oscar T, 10 yrs old



Lailah A, 12 yrs old



Estelle L, 6 yrs old



Elodie V, 11 yrs old

Willie Wagtail

Energetic, Expressive, Fearless.



Willie Wagtails are very curious birds known for the way they wag their tails from side to side. They are small black and white birds often seen in gardens, schools, parks, farms, and open areas.

Natural insect controllers

Energetic and inquisitive, Willie Wagtails follow people or animals to catch insects stirred up. They find insects by tail-wagging and wing-flashing, which flushes out insects from grass and shrubs. In gardens they keep insect numbers balanced which helps keep our gardens healthy.

Moonlight Singers

Willie Wagtails have a beautiful song and at night males can be heard singing softly from winter to spring, especially on clear moonlit evenings. It's not fully known why they sing at night but their songs are a known way to defend territory and attract mates.

Fierce Defenders

Despite their small size, Willie Wagtails fiercely defend their nests and territory. They bravely chase away much larger birds such as Currawongs, Ravens and Wedge-tailed Eagles. When males feel threatened they puff up their white eyebrow feathers and flare them angrily to warn off intruders.

How can you help?

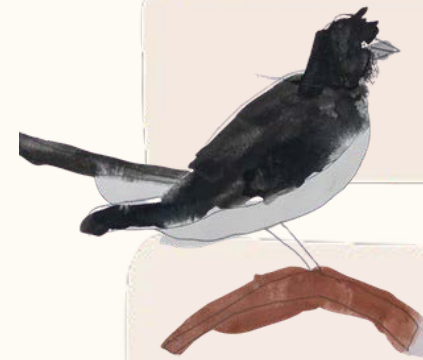
- Planting native plants. They will encourage more insects for Willie Wagtails to eat.
- Avoid pesticides as they can affect insects making it tougher for Willie Wagtails to exist with us.

Did you know?

- Nests are neat cups made from grass, bark, twigs, and spider webs, lined with soft animal fur.
- If you leave a few spider webs around, willie wagtails will often use them for their nests.
- They are closely related to the Grey Fantail.

Willie Wagtail

Energetic, Expressive, Fearless.



Tyson H, 11 yrs old



Olira M, 8 yrs old



Evie C, 9 yrs old



Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Sara P, 12 yrs old



Xavier S, 6 yrs old



Elodie V, 11 yrs old



Mia D, 12 yrs old

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

Resilience, Innovative, Supportive.



The Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo has black feathers with a yellow cheek patch and tail. Males have a pink ring around their eye and a dark grey beak whilst females have a grey eye ring, lighter beak, brighter yellow cheek patch and have more speckles on their tail. Seen in flocks wherever there is a food source nearby.

Resilient Survivors

These cockatoos are one of three species of black cockatoo that once lived around Adelaide. They are the only one remaining and are a threatened species meaning if we don't look after them they may become extinct. Even though their food sources (banksia and hakeas) were largely cleared, they discovered they could eat seeds from pine cones. Their resilience has enabled them to survive.

Innovative Foragers

They are innovative birds using their strong beaks to crack open extremely hard seeds and nuts, enabling them to access a variety of native and introduced foods. They also use their beaks to dig into tree trunks to access moth and beetle grubs.

Working Together

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos are dependent on large trees hollows which can take hundreds of years to develop. Once they have found a hollow they will fiercely defend it. Females will incubate the eggs whilst the male feeds her. Once hatched both parents raise their young who will then stay close until the next breeding season.

How can you help?

- Protect native forest habitats and old trees with hollows.
- Avoid going near nesting sites so they can safely raise the next generation of cockatoos.
- Plant hakeas and banksias as they are their favourite native food source.

Did you know?

- They are one of Australia's largest cockatoos standing at 65cm.
- European honeybees can take up room in old tree hollows.
- They mate for life.



Enoch A, 9 yrs old



Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

Resilience, Innovative, Supportive.



Ocean C, 8 yrs old



Luca, 10 yrs old



Skye S, 12 yrs old



Eloise T, 10 yrs old



Mia D, 12 yrs old



Enoch A, 9 yrs old



Bailey, 9 yrs old





Emerald, 5 yrs old

About Nature Play SA

Nature Play SA is a registered charity and not-for-profit organisation that supports the South Australian community connect deeper with nature, themselves and their communities.

We recognise that exposure to nature at any age has lasting benefits on mental health and wellbeing. More importantly we recognise nature is for everyone and we are committed to ensuring people of all abilities and walks of life feel seen and welcome in the experiences we provide.

We would also like to acknowledge that the Birds in Focus was program was delivered on Kurna Country. We acknowledge and pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Jason Tyndall, CEO Nature Play SA Jason.tyndall@natureplaysa.org.au

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GREEN
ADELAIDE