

GREAT BOWERBIRD

HABITAT

The Great Bowerbird lives in savannah and river woodlands, as well as parks and gardens.^[1] They can be found in the northernmost parts of Australia, including Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and Queensland.^[2]

DIET

They eat fruits from native fig trees and exotic plants, flowers, nectar, seeds, green vegetables, some types of insects, and other arthropods.^[3]

REPRODUCTION

The males attract the females by making a "bower",^[4] which is in a tunnel shape called an "avenue", and is where the mating occurs. The male then attracts the female with a mating dance, and if the female is impressed by the bower and the dance, they will mate.^[5] Once they have mated, a female will then nest alone to raise the young. Mating occurs during the months of July to March,^[6] in which only one young is born at a time.^[7] The chick is able to leave the nest 3 weeks after hatching but is fed for up to 11 weeks before becoming completely independent.^[8]

THREATS

They are threatened by predation from introduced species such as cats and foxes. Climate change and land clearing are responsible for the degradation of their habitat. Illegal poisoning and shooting by farmers are also threats.^[9]

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in the Northern Territory^[10] and Queensland without a permit.^[11]



"[Chlamydera nuchalis - Great Bowerbird](#)" by Jiří Jech is licenced under [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

DESCRIPTION

They have brown bodies with white highlights. They are the largest of the Bowerbird family and are 33 to 38cm tall. Males are slightly greater in size, and they have small, bright pink feathers on their necks, whereas females do not.^[12]

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Chlamydera nuchalis^[13]

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern^[14]

CLASS

Birds^[15]

LIFESPAN

Up to 5 years^[16]

POPULATION SIZE

Unknown^[17]

FUN FACT

The male Bowerbirds decorate their bowers with small colourful objects that are often green, red, or white to attract the females.^[18]

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- [3] Experience the Wild, 'Wildlife Profile - Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis*', Diet.
- [4] Experience the Wild, 'Wildlife Profile - Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis*', Life cycle.
- [5] Bush Heritage Australia, 'Bowerbirds', *Bush Heritage Australia* (2023), Bowerbird behaviour, <https://www.bushheritage.org.au/species/bowerbirds>, accessed 20 Apr. 2023.
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- [7] World Species, '*Chlamydera nuchalis* (Great Bowerbird)', *World Species* (2022), Attributes, <https://worldspecies.org/ntaxa/906555>, accessed 26 May 2023.
- [8] Birdfact, 'Bowerbird Nesting (All You Need To Know)', *Birdfact* (19 Sep. 2022), para. 3, <https://birdfact.com/articles/bowerbird-nesting>, accessed 26 May 2023.
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- [14] BirdLife International, 'Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis*', *BirdLife International* (2023), Red List Category, <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/22703694>, accessed 20 Apr. 2023.
- [15] DES, 'Species profile—*Chlamydera nuchalis* (great bowerbird)', Class.
- [16] D. Lepage, 'Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis* (Jardine, W; Selby, PJ 1830)', *Avibase: The World Bird Database* (11 Jan. 2023), Maximum age, <https://avibase.bsc-eoc.org/species.jsp?lang=EN&avibaseid=0F4DA8F3F7DEB379&sec=lifehistory>, accessed 19 May 2023.
- [17] BirdLife International, 'Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis*', Population size.
- [18] eBird, 'Great Bowerbird', Identification.