



STEPHANIE'S BIG CAT CONSERVATION QUEST



About Us

WHO WE ARE:

FOUNDED BY MOTHER-DAUGHTER DUO, ANGY AND STEPHANIE, ALONG WITH STEPHANIE'S MENTOR, KATIE. IT WAS FOUNDED IN 2013, AFTER THEIR TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA, THEY BEGAN THEIR NON-FOR-PROFIT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ORGANISATION CALLED "STEPHANIE'S BIG CAT CONSERVATION QUEST" TO SAVE AND APPRECIATE WILDLIFE FOR THEIR BEAUTY AND IMPORTANCE.

OUR VISION:

WE HAVE A VISION TO RESPECT THE FREEDOM OF ALL EARTH'S INHABITANTS. TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING ABOUT AND APPRECIATING THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP AS HUMANS WITH ANIMALS AND THE PROFOUND IMPACT OF THAT RELATIONSHIP ON THE SUSTAINABILITY OF LIFE ON EARTH.

OUR MISSION:

TO EDUCATE ALL THOSE INDIVIDUALS PASSIONATE AND DEDICATED TO CONSERVING WILDLIFE AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT IN AN INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE WAY.

OUR VALUES:

INTEGRITY, RESPECT, CREATIVITY, COLLABORATION, AND AUTHENTICITY.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ANGY, KATIE AND
STEPHANIE

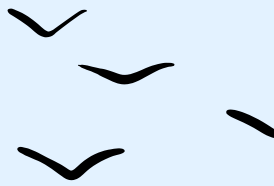


Table of contents

AZURE KINGFISHER

BLACK-NECKED STORK

BRUSH-TAILED BETTON

CRESTED BELLBIRD

DARWIN CARPET PYTHON

EMU

FRESHWATER CROCODILE

FRILLED-NECK LIZARD

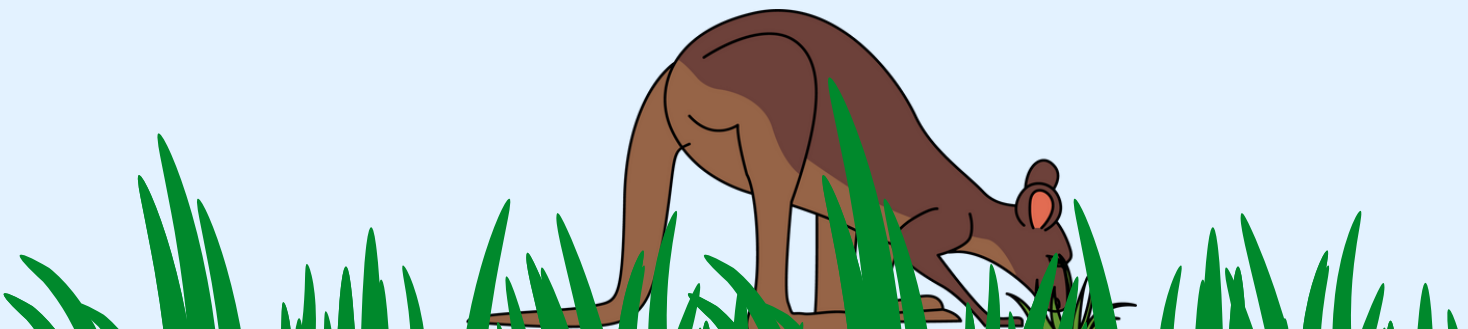
GANG-GANG COCKATOO

GOULDIAN FINCH

GREAT BOWERBIRD

KOALA

LONG-NOSED BANDICOOT



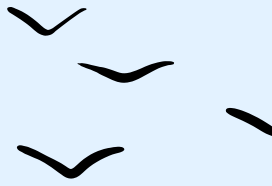


Table of contents

LUMHOLTZ'S TREE KANGAROO

NOBBI LASHTAIL

ORANGE MUD CRAB

RED FOX

RED KANGAROO

SALTWATER CROCODILE

SHIELD-SNOURED BROWN SNAKE

SHORT-BEAKED ECHIDNA

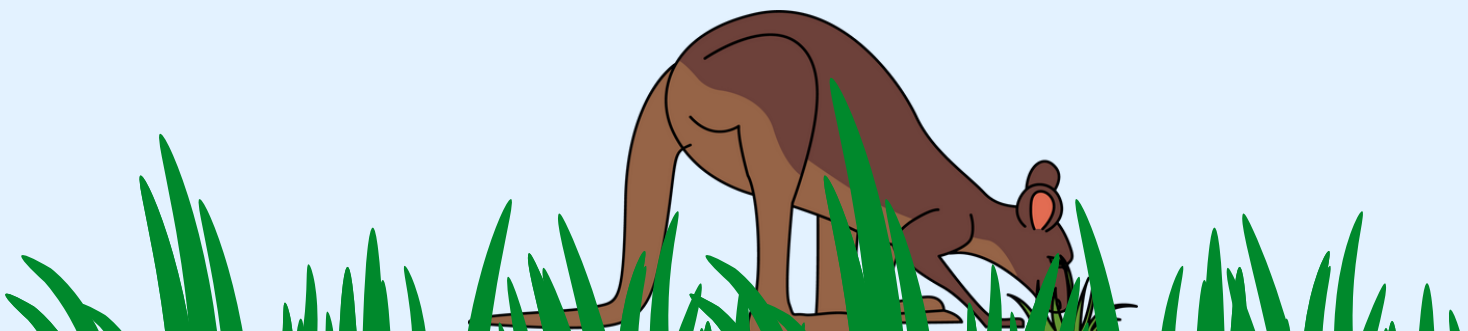
STINGLESS BEES

WESTERN GREY KANGAROO

WESTERN RAINBOWFISH

WHITE-FACED HERON

YELLOW-SPOTTED MONITOR



AZURE KINGFISHER

HABITAT

The Azure Kingfisher lives amongst shady vegetation overhanging freshwater. They are native to the northern reaches of Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and Queensland, and down the east coast of New South Wales, as well as Victoria and Tasmania.

DIET

They dive from overhanging branches into water to catch their prey, including aquatic insects, fish, crustaceans, frogs, and various invertebrates. They fly above platypuses that are searching for prey underwater to steal the disturbed food sources. They kill their prey against a perch before they swallow it headfirst.

REPRODUCTION

They breed between September and January, laying 4 to 7 eggs per clutch. The eggs then hatch after 21 days, and the chicks remain in the nest for 28 days. Both parents care for the eggs and feed the young.

THREATS

The vegetation surrounding waterways that are damaged by livestock affects their environment, and artificial flooding because of human activity can drown their nests. They also must compete with others in their species for the limited food sources available.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Queensland, and Victoria without a permit.



DESCRIPTION

They are 17 to 19cm long, with long, slim black bills, short tails, and red legs and feet. Their upper bodies are blue, and their underbellies are orange, with orange stripes on both sides of their necks and a small orange spot under both of their eyes.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Ceyx azureus

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern

CLASS

Birds

LIFESPAN

Up to 9 years

POPULATION SIZE

Unknown

FUN FACT

The Tasmanian Azure Kingfisher (*Ceyx azureus diemenensis*) sub-species is listed as Endangered.



BLACK-NECKED STORK

HABITAT

The Black-necked Stork lives in deeper permanent bodies of water and floodplains of rivers with large shallow pools. They also often spread into flooded areas. They are native to the northern reaches of Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and Queensland, down the east coast of New South Wales, and scattered across Victoria.

DIET

Their diet consists of prey such as fish, amphibians, and small crustaceans. Some of their prey is caught by taking a long stride or leaping up and grabbing or stabbing it with their large bills.

REPRODUCTION

The male and females both bond for several years and sometimes even for life. They build large nests that are located high up in tall trees by the water's edge to lay their eggs, which also doubles as a lookout point for their surroundings. They breed from March to May, in which 2 to 4 eggs are laid in each clutch and nest for 115 days. Both parents provide care for their eggs and the young.

THREATS

Their population range across New South Wales has been restricted due to habitat destruction from agriculture, mining, and human settlement.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Queensland, and Victoria without a permit.



DESCRIPTION

They are around 1.3m tall and have a wingspan of around 2m. They have large black bills, black feathers on their backs and wings, with a green-purple sheen on their necks, white feathers on their undersides, and long, red legs. Females have yellow eyes, and males have dark brown eyes.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus

CONSERVATION STATUS

Near Threatened

CLASS

Birds

LIFESPAN

Up to 29 years

POPULATION SIZE

Unknown

FUN FACT

They are the only species of Stork that can be found in Australia.





CRESTED BELLBIRD



HABITAT

The Crested Bellbird lives amongst acacia shrublands, eucalypt woodlands, spinifex, and saltbush plains or dunes.

They are native to mainland Australia, the south of tropical northern Australia, the west of the Great Dividing Range, and from South Australia to the west coast of Western Australia.

DIET

They feed on invertebrates and some seeds, foraging in low bushes or on the ground. They sometimes mix with Chestnut-rumped Thornbills and Red-capped Robins in feeding flocks.

REPRODUCTION

They usually breed from August to December, laying about 1 to 4 eggs per clutch. They make cup-shaped nests of twigs, bark or leaves, often placed in the fork of trees. They form pairs during breeding season, with both sexes taking care of the eggs. The eggs then hatch after 16 days, and the chicks remain in the nest for 12 days.

THREATS

Their population range has been reduced because of habitat destruction due to land clearance. Cats and foxes also pose a threat to them as natural predators.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

Their conservation status varies from states in Australia. In Victoria, they are classified as threatened. Despite their decreasing numbers, their decline is not rapid enough to meet the Vulnerable category criteria.



DESCRIPTION

They are 19 to 23cm long. Males have grey heads, black crests and chests, and grey or olive brown bodies. Females and juveniles have duller colours without black chests. Their calls are distinct with bell-like sounds.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Oreoica gutturalis

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern

CLASS

Birds

LIFESPAN

7 to 8 years

POPULATION SIZE

Unknown

FUN FACT

They often place live, hairy caterpillars around nests, most probably to serve as food or defensive barriers for the chicks.





DARWIN CARPET PYTHON

HABITAT

The Black-necked Stork lives in deeper permanent bodies of water and floodplains of rivers with large shallow pools. They also often spread into flooded areas. They are native to the northern reaches of Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and Queensland, down the east coast of New South Wales, and scattered across Victoria.

DIET

Their diet consists of prey such as fish, amphibians, and small crustaceans. Some of their prey is caught by taking a long stride or leaping up and grabbing or stabbing it with their large bills.

REPRODUCTION

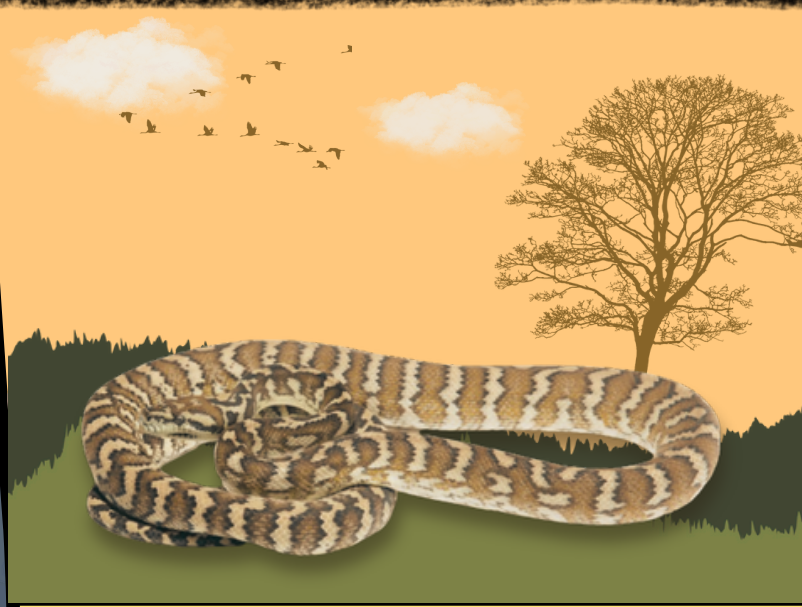
The male and females both bond for several years and sometimes even for life. They build large nests that are located high up in tall trees by the water's edge to lay their eggs, which also doubles as a lookout point for their surroundings. They breed from March to May, in which 2 to 4 eggs are laid in each clutch and nest for 115 days. Both parents provide care for their eggs and the young.

THREATS

Their population range across New South Wales has been restricted due to habitat destruction from agriculture, mining, and human settlement.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Queensland, and Victoria without a permit.



DESCRIPTION

They grow from 2 to 4m, have medium builds and broad heads, wider than their necks. They have strong brown, black, and dull gold banded markings, which allows them to camouflage among nature, including logs, leaves, and rocky crevices.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Morelia spilota variegata

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not Listed

CLASS

Reptiles

LIFESPAN

Between 20 and 30 years

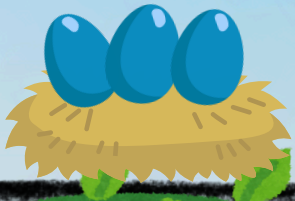
POPULATION SIZE

Unknown

FUN FACT

They got their name because the colours of their scales look like woven carpets.





EMU



HABITAT

The Emu lives in sclerophyll forests, savannah woodlands and grasslands, avoiding extremely dry areas or rainforests. They are native to Australia.

DIET

They feed on fruits, seeds, growing shoots of plants, insects, other small animals, and animal droppings. They also eat stones, pebbles and charcoal to aid in plant digestion. They travel large distances to find abundant feeding areas.

REPRODUCTION

They breed between April and June, laying 5 to 15 eggs per clutch. The eggs have thick, dark green shells and weigh up to 450g each. Chicks hatch after 55 days, remaining in the nest for 7 days. Only males take care of them.

THREATS

They are vulnerable to habitat loss from native vegetation clearing, disease, and being hunted for their oil, leather and meat. Some isolated populations in NSW are listed as Endangered due to vehicle collisions, habitat loss, and an increase in feral dogs and pigs.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

They are protected under Australian law, with populations being managed through humane methods. The NSW Government leads a coastal Emu conservation project through conservation actions like Emu-friendly fencing, and spreading awareness of conservation measures through community events



DESCRIPTION

They are 1.6 to 2m tall, with shaggy grey-brown feathers except for their necks and heads, which are mostly naked and bluish-black. They have small wings but long powerful legs.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Dromaius novaehollandiae

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern

CLASS

Birds

LIFESPAN

Up to 35 years in captivity/10 to 20 years in the wild

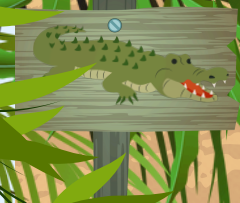
POPULATION SIZE

Approximately 725,000

FUN FACT

In many Aboriginal Dreaming stories, Emus are central figures and are often associated with creation, fertility, and spirituality.





FRESHWATER CROCODILE

HABITAT

The Freshwater Crocodile lives in and around bodies of freshwater in warmer tropical regions well upstream and away from the coast. They are native to the northern reaches of Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and Queensland.

DIET

They wait just below the surface of the water for their prey to come close enough so they can grab it and pull it back in. They hunt more actively in shallow water, chasing down frogs and small crustaceans. They also eat bats, fish, lizards, small mammals, and turtles.

REPRODUCTION

They start breeding at around 15 to 20 years old. Females lay 4 to 20 eggs throughout August and September in holes that they dig in the dirt or sand next to the water. The parents then leave the eggs to develop for 65 to 90 days until they hatch at the start of the rainy season.

THREATS

They have been known to eat Cane Toads, which are highly toxic when consumed. Feral cattle also trample their eggs when drinking at the edge of a body of water.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to harvest, farm, and trade crocodiles and their eggs in the Northern Territory, Queensland, and Western Australia without a permit.



DESCRIPTION

The males grow up to 2.5m long and weigh up to 60kg, while the females grow up to 1.8m long and weigh up to 30kg. They are grey or olive brown and have bony ridges along their backs.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Crocodylus Johnstoni

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern

CLASS

Reptiles

LIFESPAN

Up to 60 years

POPULATION SIZE

Around 100,000

FUN FACT

When they are out of the water, they can run up to 18km/h, but this tires them out very quickly.



FRILLED-NECK LIZARD

HABITAT

The Frilled-neck Lizard lives in woodlands, grasslands, and tropical rainforests in the northern parts of South Australia, the Kimberley in Western Australia, and across the Northern Territory and Queensland. They prefer a warm, drier climate and can be found on the trunks of trees throughout most of the day.

DIET

They eat most kinds of insects and other arthropods, as well as small lizards and small mammals. They wait in trees, watching the ground for their prey, striking quickly when they spot something to eat.

REPRODUCTION

Around September, before the beginning of the wet season, the males perform an elaborate mating dance to attract a female mate. After mating, the female lays 8 to 14 eggs in one clutch. The eggs are then buried to keep them warm. Eggs hatch after 8 to 12 weeks, in which the young are then forced to take care of themselves.

THREATS

Cane Toads are a threat as they are highly poisonous, especially to an animal of that size. If they were to eat one, they would most likely die. Fires are also a threat, especially as the regularity and intensity of bushfires increase.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in the Northern Territory and Queensland without a permit.



DESCRIPTION

They can grow anywhere between 45cm to 90cm long, with males growing much larger than females. Their colours vary across shades of brown and grey, with orange and yellow frills. They also have two lower teeth that can cause a painful bite.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Chlamydosaurus Kingii

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern

CLASS

Reptiles

LIFESPAN

Between 10 and 20 years in captivity

POPULATION SIZE

Unknown

FUN FACT

They open their frill and mouth when they feel threatened, so they appear larger and more intimidating in order to try and scare away predators.



GANG-GANG COCKATOO

HABITAT

The Gang-gang Cockatoo lives in eucalypt woodland forests, moving to higher mountain forests in summer and lower woodland forests in winter to avoid the colder temperatures. They are native to Southeast Australia across the southern coast of New South Wales and throughout Victoria.

DIET

They eat in tree canopies, feeding on insect larvae, seeds, nuts, and berries. They are usually found in small groups but form larger groups when searching for food.

REPRODUCTION

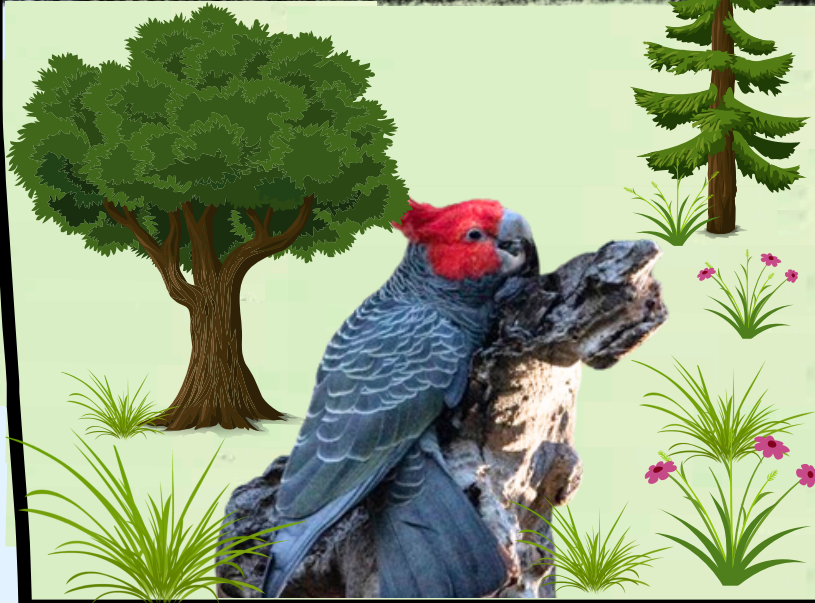
They breed between October and January, with only one individual for life. They nest between 2 to 3 eggs in hollow eucalyptus tree trunks, usually near the water. Both parents care for the young for up to 6 weeks until they have developed feathers to be able to fly.

THREATS

As forests are cleared, both by human interference and by bushfires, they not only have fewer places to live but also have a reduced food supply. They compete with others in their species for the limited food available. As they only live in cool, temperature areas, climate change could be deadly for the species as global temperature averages rise.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in New South Wales and Victoria without a permit.



DESCRIPTION

They are 32 to 37cm tall and weigh around 250g. They have dark grey bodies with dull white edges on their feathers and short square tails. The males have easily recognisable bright red feathers on their heads, while the females have dark grey.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Callocephalon Fimbriatum

CONSERVATION STATUS

Vulnerable

CLASS

Birds

LIFESPAN

Up to 17 years

POPULATION SIZE

Between 17,600 and 35,200

FUN FACT

The males have a distinctive call that sounds like a "rusty hinge" or "creaky door".



GOULDIAN FINCH



HABITAT

The Gouldian Finch lives in open woodlands and grasslands at the edges of mangroves and savannahs close to water sources, which they drink from multiple times a day. They are scattered throughout northern sub-coastal areas in the Northern Territory, Queensland, and Western Australia but are most common in the North and North-western parts of its range.

DIET

During their breeding season, they feed on mostly insects to increase their protein intake and give them more energy to care for their young. At other times, they feed on ripe grass seeds. They can search for food in small to large groups on the ground or in flight.

REPRODUCTION

They breed between January and April, producing 2 to 3 clutches of 4 to 8 eggs per season in tree hollows. The pairs will mate for generally no longer than 1 season. Both parents care for the eggs for about 13 days and then feed the young for 21 days until they leave the nest.

THREATS

The changes to their habitat from the effects of fires and predation have rapidly reduced their population. Due to their bright colours, they are also often targeted, trapped, and used for illegal bird trading.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in the Northern Territory and Queensland without a permit.



DESCRIPTION

They are 14 to 15cm tall, brightly coloured, with green wings, yellow bellies, purple chests, blue rears, and black tails. Their facial colour is usually black and less commonly red. Their upper bill is black, and their lower bill is pink-white.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Chloebeia Gouldiae

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern

CLASS

Birds

LIFESPAN

Up to 7 years

POPULATION SIZE

Between 5,000 and 50,000

FUN FACT

It was once believed that they were different species if they had different coloured feathers on their heads, but it is genetic variation.



GREAT BOWERBIRD

HABITAT

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

DIET

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

REPRODUCTION

The males attract the females by making a "bower", 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. Once they have mated, a female will then nest alone to raise the young. Mating occurs during the months of July to March, in which only one young is born at a time. The chick is able to leave the nest 3 weeks after hatching but is fed for up to 11 weeks before becoming completely independent.

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.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in the Northern Territory and Queensland without a permit.



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.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Chlamydera nuchalis

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern

CLASS

Birds

LIFESPAN

Up to 5 years

POPULATION SIZE

Unknown

FUN FACT

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





KOALA



HABITAT

The Koala lives in eucalyptus forests in the drier regions of Eastern Australia, across New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, and Victoria. They spend most of their time in eucalyptus trees, where they sleep for up to 20 hours a day.

DIET

They are one of few animals able to eat eucalyptus plants due to the toxins in the leaves that most animals cannot digest safely.

REPRODUCTION

The males begin mating around 3 to 4 years old, and the females start around 2 years old. The joey is born after just 35 days but spends around 6 months in its mother's pouch before spending up to 1 year riding on its mother's back.

THREATS

The clearing of trees leads to the separation of populations, which causes isolation and breeding within the same family. Higher temperatures and long-term drought conditions from climate change cause eucalyptus leaves to hold fewer nutrients, forcing them to travel on the ground between trees more often, making them more at risk of being hit by a car or attacked by predators, such as dingoes, carpet pythons, and domestic dogs.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria without a permit.



DESCRIPTION

They are grey-brown with white undersides and large black noses. Females weigh 5 to 8kg, and males weigh 6 to 12kg.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Phascolarctos cinereus

CONSERVATION STATUS

Endangered

CLASS

Mammal

LIFESPAN

Between 13 and 17 years

POPULATION SIZE

Around 287,830 and 628,010

FUN FACT

When Koalas are born, they must eat their mother's faeces, referred to as "pap", to gain the essential bacteria to break down eucalyptus leaves! They only do this once so that the beneficial bacteria will stay in their stomach for a lifetime.





LUMHOLTZ'S TREE KANGAROO

HABITAT

The Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo is native to Australia and lives in the rainforests of tropical Far North Queensland, most commonly in the Atherton Tablelands. Their original preferred habitat was the coastal lowland forest, however due to the clearing of lowland habitats, it is now more common to find them at greater heights.

DIET

They eat a variety of leaves, fruits, and flowers. In most cases, they will mainly eat the leaf stems due to the higher protein content.

REPRODUCTION

The males begin mating at around 4 years of age, with females beginning mating at the age of 2. The pregnancy period lasts up to 44 days, during which one joey will be born. The joey will remain in the pouch for an estimated 246 to 275 days before emerging and fending for itself.

THREATS

Their isolated habitats often require them to travel on the ground between trees more often to find limited food sources and to mate. This increases their risks of being hit by a car or attacked by predators, such as domestic dogs and cats, dingoes, raptors, and snakes.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in Queensland without a permit.



DESCRIPTION

The males weigh up to 10kg, and females weigh up to 7kg. They have long and muscly forearms, and their back feet are short and wide. Each of their back feet have soft pads for climbing, and the front feet have curved claws and rough, bumpy pads for gripping.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Dendrolagus lumholtzi

CONSERVATION STATUS

Near Threatened

CLASS

Mammals

LIFESPAN

Up to 20 years in captivity

POPULATION SIZE

Between 10,000 and 30,000

FUN FACT

Carl Sofus Lumholtz discovered the species in 1883, which is where they got their name from.



ORANGE MUD CRAB

HABITAT

The Orange Mud Crab lives in mangrove swamps, estuaries, and other sheltered waters. When low tides expose the land, they hide in burrows in the sand. They can be found in the North-western regions of Western Australia.

DIET

They eat both plants and other animal species. In captivity, they are fed fish waste or alternative waste streams. In the wild, however, their diet consists of small fish, crustaceans, molluscs, and algae. They are also known to scavenge for dead animals and plant matter.

REPRODUCTION

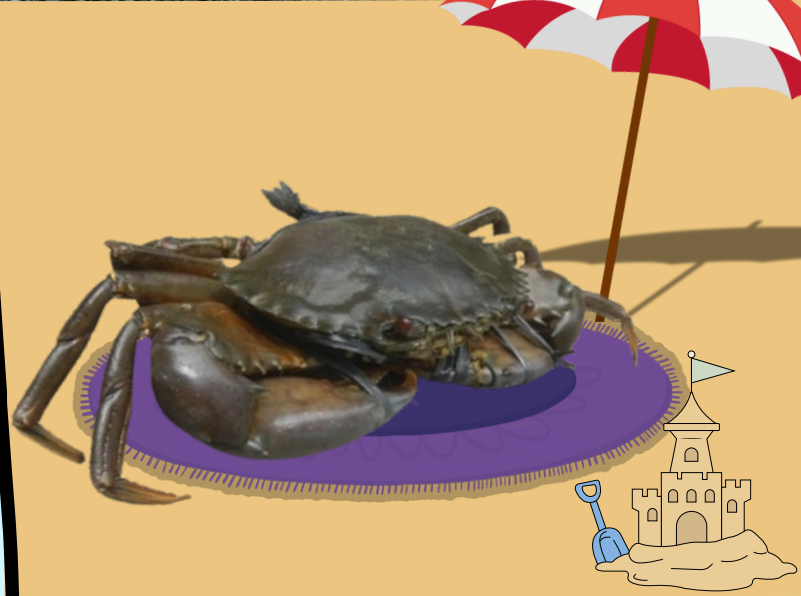
Mating occurs after a female has shed her shell. They breed throughout the year, but optimal breeding occurs from March to April. The females lay about 2 to 5 million eggs which hatch within a 12 to 14-day period. The females then protect the eggs and feed the young.

THREATS

In the early stages of their lifecycle, they can be eaten by fish, whereas adults have fewer predators, such as turtles, crocodiles, rays, and sharks. They are also threatened by habitat loss from human destruction, pollution, and overfishing.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

To preserve the population, there are limits to the number you can catch, as well as a ban on catching females carrying eggs in Queensland, the Northern Territory, and Western Australia under law.



DESCRIPTION

They grow up to 15cm wide and weigh up to 1.5kg. Their elbows only have one spine or no spines, and their claws are orange with blunt spines. The bumps between their eyes are rounded instead of pointed.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Scylla Olivacea

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not Listed

CLASS

Crustacean

LIFESPAN

Up to 3 years

POPULATION SIZE

Unknown

FUN FACT

To avoid their predators, they move around and search for food at night and hide in mud pits during the day.





RED KANGAROO



HABITAT

The Red Kangaroo lives in grasslands, shrublands, deserts, woodlands, and open forests. They are mostly found in open savannah woodland across the central arid region of Australia.

DIET

They are herbivores, grazing on grasses and woody leafy shrubs. They can survive off small amounts of water and get most of their water intake from the plants they eat.

REPRODUCTION

Babies are born one at a time into the pouch between spring and summer when they are the size of a jellybean and live there for roughly 33 days. The birth of a new joey can be delayed until the current one has left the pouch. Joeys still use the pouch for safety until 8 months of age. Females can produce 2 different types of milk and raise up to 3 different-aged kangaroos at the same time.

THREATS

Their main threats are introduced predators such as foxes and feral dogs, habitat loss from bushfires and climate change, as well as traffic accidents. A common crop, called Phalaris grass, is toxic when ingested, causing impaired movement and often leading to them being euthanised.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in the Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria without a permit.



DESCRIPTION

Males weigh up to 92kg, and females up to 39kg. They have a body length of up to 1.4m and tails as long as 1m. Males are orange-red, and females are blue-grey.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Osphranter rufus

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern

CLASS

Mammal

LIFESPAN

Up to 25 years in captivity and averaging 8 years in the wild

POPULATION SIZE

Around 42.7 million

FUN FACT

They are the world's largest marsupial. Can reach speeds of over 55km/h, cover almost 8m in one jump, and can jump almost 2m high.



SALTWATER CROCODILE

HABITAT

The Saltwater Crocodile is typically found in areas where they can easily move between saltwater and freshwater, such as river systems, billabongs, and estuaries, along Australia's north coast from Far North Queensland all the way around to Western Australia.

DIET

The young feed on small fish, frogs, insects, small mammals, snakes, and lizards. The adults feed on just about anything that is accessible from the edge of the water, including turtles, kangaroos, monkeys, birds, bats, and humans. They approach their prey by swimming quietly, striking, and dragging it into the water to swallow it whole.

REPRODUCTION

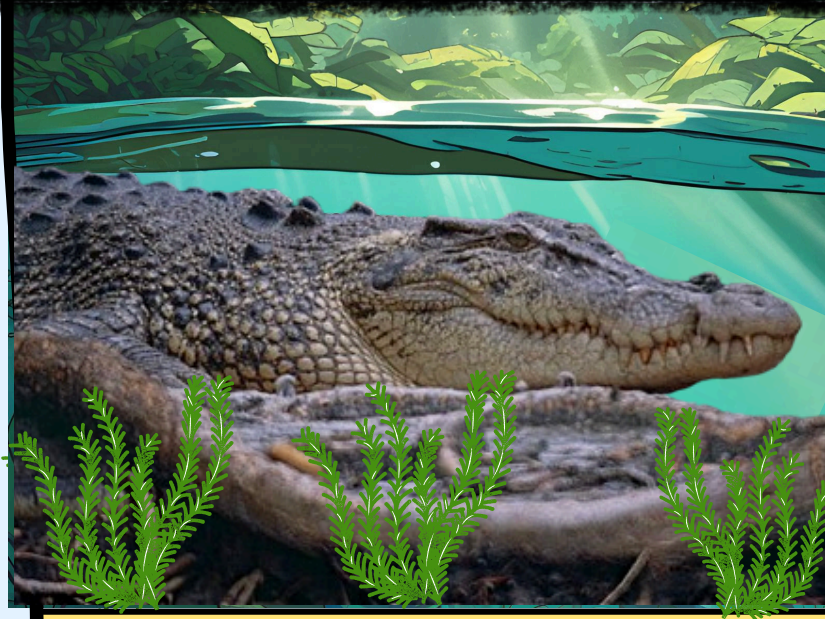
They have long been hunted by humans for their eggs, meat, and especially their skin. Other current threats include habitat destruction by feral buffalo and getting tangled in discarded fishing nets.

THREATS

They mate in the wet season from September to October, when water levels are high. 40 to 60 eggs per clutch are laid into nests made of vegetation and mud between November and March. The females guard the nests for 80 to 98 days and then care for the new hatchlings for around 8 months.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to harvest, farm, and trade crocodiles and their eggs in the Northern Territory, Queensland, and Western Australia without a permit.



DESCRIPTION

They can grow up to 6m long. They are mostly grey, brown, or black on the top of their bodies, with darker markings and yellow or white undersides.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Crocodylus porosus

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern

CLASS

Reptiles

LIFESPAN

Between 20 and 70 years

POPULATION SIZE

Around 500,000 as of 2019

FUN FACT

They were once listed as Vulnerable due to the extensive hunting of their skin but have since recovered.



WESTERN RAINBOWFISH

HABITAT

The Western Rainbowfish lives in bodies of freshwater, including rivers, wetlands, creeks, lakes, reservoirs, and marshy lagoons. They spend most of their time in groups near the surface, where the water meets the bank, either underneath vegetation, submerged logs, or rocks. They are native to Australia and can be found in the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

DIET

They eat both plants and other animals, such as algae, aquatic insects, terrestrial insects, micro-crustaceans, and small invertebrates.

REPRODUCTION

Their eggs are laid between October and May, with matured females producing up to 50 eggs at a time. Younger females only shed between 20 to 30 each time. They scatter their eggs among vegetation and algae, and the eggs hatch 5 to 6 days later. They occasionally crossbreed with the Eastern Rainbowfish (*Melanotaenia splendida*) species.

THREATS

Habitat degradation poses a threat to all fish species, with climate change causing reduced water levels and water quality. As they live in water, droughts cause major threats to their habitat availability.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

Although not specific to them, the Government of Western Australia is committed to protecting the rivers and waterways that make up their habitat.



DESCRIPTION

They are usually around 8cm long but can grow up to 11cm. They are mainly silver, with red fins and blue or red body stripes. The males tend to be more colourful than the females. However, they are also known for their colour pattern variation across different locations.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Melanotaenia australis

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern

CLASS

Fish

LIFESPAN

Up to 5 years

POPULATION SIZE

Unknown

FUN FACT

They are popular aquarium fish due to their distinctive colours.

YELLOW-SPOTTED MONITOR

HABITAT

The Yellow-spotted Monitor lives inside burrows amongst coastal waters and floodplains across northern Australia, which includes Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and Queensland, excluding the central arid zones.

DIET

They have a great sense of smell and chase down anything they can overpower, ranging from crustaceans, fish, insects, rodents, and other monitors. They are also excellent diggers and pull crocodile and turtle eggs out of the ground to feed on.

REPRODUCTION

They breed during the wet season from January to March. Females are also known to be able to reproduce on their own without the help of a male. The females lay around 7 to 16 eggs per clutch and lay up to 2 clutches per year in the wild or over 3 clutches per year in captivity. The eggs can then take anywhere around 7 months to hatch.

THREATS

The introduction of Cane Toads in Northern Australia has caused a significant decline in their population because they have a strong natural tendency to eat them and then die from the ingested toxins. They are also preyed on by cats and foxes in desert areas.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in the Northern Territory and Queensland without a permit.



DESCRIPTION

The males grow up to 1.5m long, while the females only grow up to around 90cm long. They are predominantly brown with rows of dark spots and scattered light spots along their backs.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Varanus panoptes

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern

CLASS

Reptiles

LIFESPAN

Up to 18 years

POPULATION SIZE

Unknown

FUN FACT

When searching for prey and threats, they often stand up on their back legs and balance with their tails so they can see longer distances.

