

# KOOKABURRAS

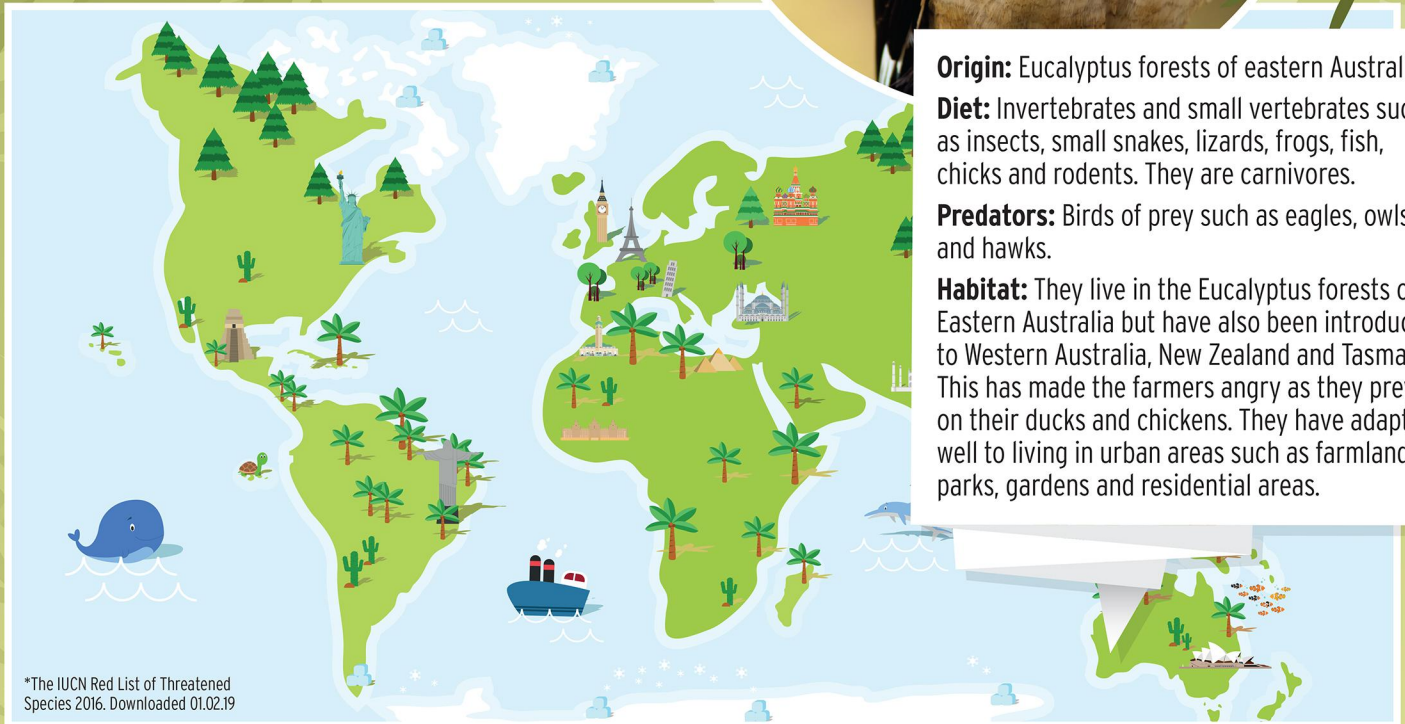
(**DACELO NOVAEGUINEAE**)

**CONSERVATION STATUS: LEAST CONCERN\***



**WE ARE BIRDS**

part of the kingfisher family with a lifespan of 11-12 years in the wild



**Origin:** Eucalyptus forests of eastern Australia.

**Diet:** Invertebrates and small vertebrates such as insects, small snakes, lizards, frogs, fish, chicks and rodents. They are carnivores.

**Predators:** Birds of prey such as eagles, owls and hawks.

**Habitat:** They live in the Eucalyptus forests of Eastern Australia but have also been introduced to Western Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania. This has made the farmers angry as they prey on their ducks and chickens. They have adapted well to living in urban areas such as farmland, parks, gardens and residential areas.

\*The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016. Downloaded 01.02.19



Height

**38-46cm**



Weight

**KG 350-455g**



Top Speed (in flight)

**Slow**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Males use their beaks to determine dominance. They hold onto the branch and try to knock each other off until one falls off or flies away.

The Kookaburra is often known as the 'laughing kookaburra' or 'bushman's clock' due to its cackling chorus that can be heard at dawn and dusk.

They have a 'sit and wait' technique used to catch their prey. Kookaburras perch on a branch or fallen tree trunk and wait for prey. Small prey is crushed in their strong beaks whilst larger animals are beaten against a tree trunk or on the ground.

## ADAPTATIONS

They have long beaks, up to 10cm long to catch their prey. Their long skulls and strong neck muscles help them to bash and kill their prey. They have excellent vision.

## REPRODUCTION

They are territorial birds that nest in tree holes. Kookaburras are monogamous, meaning that the male and female stay together and mate for life. They nest in September-December, which is spring time where they live. The females lay 1-5 eggs, which take 24-26 days to hatch. When the chicks hatch they are nearly the size of an adult kookaburra but are blind with no feathers. By three months the chicks are fully grown and mature after a year, however they don't usually breed straight away. They usually remain with their parents for up to four years so they can help to look after their younger brothers and sisters. Both the males and females share parental roles.

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