



Which Bird are you?

Get to know your local birds

'wiriynwil' in Dja Dja Wurrung Language

	Bird	Personality traits - anthropomorphic for kids to identify themselves in	Blurb factual - for teachers to dispense to kids	Bird info and video links
1	Galah	Playful, silly, cheeky. Loyal to their mates. Affectionate.	The Galah is a playful pink and grey bird, often seen near human environments due to its love of eating grass seed in lawns and parks. The galah mainly feeds on the ground, but can be seen playing and having fun, sometimes in trees and on telegraph poles. The galah is usually seen in pairs or larger groups. They stay in a loyal partnership for life and nest in hollows in trees. The males and females look very similar except the females have red eyes and the males have black eyes.	https://backyardbuddies.org.au/backyard-buddies/galahs/ https://connectingcountry.org.au/bird-of-the-month-galah/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wuO2Pjg--U0

2	Bronzewing Pigeon	Hard to sneak up on. Make very caring friends. A little bit shiny/sparkly.	Bronzewing Pigeons take to the air quickly when startled and make a loud sound with their wings. This acts as a warning of potential danger to other pigeon friends nearby. You might see them in your backyard eating your chicken's food, because they love to eat seeds. They have shiny rainbow patches on their wings. They, like other pigeons, make a milk-like substance from a pouch in their throat- which they feed to their babies, which is very unique. These pigeons make an untidy nest of twigs in a tree or shrub.	https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Phaps-chalcoptera. https://connectingcountry.org.au/bird-of-the-month-common-bronzewing/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PHzrqcbSlw
3	New Holland Honeyeater	Find it hard to sit still. Sugar obsessed! A big fan of flowers.	There are many kinds of honeyeater in Australia. These birds actually eat the nectar from flowers rather than honey from bees. This sweet nectar makes them full of energy!	https://backyardbuddies.org.au/backyard-buddies/new-holland-honeyeater/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ox-h4zJeOLl

			Red Wattlebirds are a type of honeyeater, the largest that we have in the area. The New Holland Honeyeater is much smaller than the Wattlebird. It is a mostly black and white bird, with bright yellow patches on the wings and tail. They have a distinctive white coloured eye. They can be found in gardens as well as forests and woodlands. They are curious and will sometimes approach you. These birds make a lovely cup-shaped nest of bark and grasses, bound together with spider web.	
4	Powerful Owl wirmal	Loves to stay up late. Always wins staring competitions.	The Powerful Owl is Australia's largest Owl. They have huge talons that they use for hunting prey such as possums, at night, because they are nocturnal. These owls can be found in forests, woodlands and	https://birdlife.org.au/bird-profiles/powerful-owl/ https://connectingcountry.org.au/bird-of-the-month-powerful-owl/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2Lbpo6SzbE

			sometimes urban areas like parks, including the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens. If you look up in a large tree sometimes you can see them staring down at you. They nest in very large tree hollows that take a long time to develop.	
5	Grey Fantail	Loves chatting with their friends. Small but determined! Very active and agile and curious.	The Grey Fantail is a mostly grey bird with a beautiful long fan-shaped tail. They have a distinctive white coloured eyebrow which makes them look a bit grumpy, but they are just very determined little birds. They have lots of aerial skills! You can see them flying in twists and turns from the trees. They chase insects and catch them in the air. These birds have whiskers like a cat. These whiskers help the birds locate their insect prey in the air. If you call to the Grey Fantail, they will sometimes call back.	https://backyardbuddies.org.au/backyard-buddies/grey-fantail/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77-GowzTyQM

6	Brown Treecreeper	Acrobatic. Good at climbing trees. Always looking for food.	The Brown Treecreeper is a small grey-brown bird with stripes on the chest. You can spy them walking up tree trunks or along the ground looking for food. They nest in tree hollows and need a variety of logs and leaf litter in the bush for foraging. They are decreasing in number due to habitat destruction so seeing one in the wild is a real treat!	https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Climacteris-picumnus https://connectingcountry.org.au/bird-of-the-month-brown-treecreeper/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Z8eAo6e3hg
7	Magpie gurruk	Like to sing. Great at remembering faces. Very friendly. Stands up for family.	Most people know the Australian Magpie and their lovely singing voice in the morning. They are black and white with large strong grey beaks for eating a variety of prey. They live in big family groups wherever there are tall trees and nearby open areas like parks and fields. Only a very small number of male magpies swoop, and only during the breeding	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYEC8Ge3nw https://connectingcountry.org.au/bird-of-the-month-australian-magpie/ https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Cracticus-tibicen

			season when you get too close to their nests. If you are nice to magpies they will remember you for next time, if you are not so nice they will remember that too!	
8	Diamond Firetail	Brave. Likes playing in the grass and dancing. Good at keeping secrets.	Diamond Firetails are tiny brightly coloured birds that live in open grassy woodland and farmland. They can be hard to see as there are not very many of them left. Although they are decreasing in number due to habitat destruction, we are lucky that they can still be spotted in our local area. They build their nests in prickly plants for protection and will even nest at the bottom of a larger nest made by a bird of prey, like an eagle - for extra protection. Clever! Native grass is very important as their main food, and also because the male birds like to hold grass seed heads in their	https://birdlife.org.au/bird-profiles/diamond-firetail/ https://connectingcountry.org.au/bird-of-the-month-diamond-firetail/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqbUEnk5cMI

			beaks when dancing to impress females.	
9	Spotted Pardalote	You hear them before you see them! Love to dig and make cubbies in the bush.	The Spotted Pardalote is a very small bird with white spots on its head and sides. It has a characteristic call which it often makes when right at the top of a tall tree. They forage on the leaves of trees for insects, especially a type of insect called a psyllid. They dig burrows in earth banks and nest at the end of a long tunnel. Sometimes they find places to nest that remind them of tunnels, such as in nest boxes, small hollows, and even plumbing pipes and in bags.	https://backyardbuddies.org.au/backyard-buddies/spotted-pardalote/ https://connectingcountry.org.au/bird-of-the-month-spotted-and-striated-pardalotes/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCsVis6CnCc
10	Crimson Rosella	Messy eater. Loves a good splash in the bath!	The crimson rosella is a lovely red parrot with blue cheeks and blue wings. They actually start out as green parrots when they are young, changing to red after they are about 1 year old. These birds nest in hollows.	https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Platycercus-elegans https://connectingcountry.org.au/bird-of-the-month-the-chatty-crimson-rosella/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0zVLR-tnn0

			They eat seeds from the bush but often eat seeds from flowers and fruit in the garden as well. Natural foods include seeds of eucalypts, grasses and shrubs, as well as insects and some tree blossoms. When they are feeding in the trees they will call to one another sweetly.	
11	Superb Fairy Wren	Small and bouncy! Happiest when playing with others.	Superb Fairy-wrens live in large groups. Males and females start out with the same brown coloured feathers. Adult males change colour once a year in the breeding season, turning to a beautiful blue and black, and then back to brown when the season is done. Fairy-wrens have long tails that point upwards. They mostly eat insects which they forage for by hopping along the ground.	https://backyardbuddies.org.au/backyard-buddies/superb-fairy-wren/ https://connectingcountry.org.au/bird-of-the-month-superb-fairy-wren/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohc0X4G4WBI

			Fairy-wrens build dome-shaped nests from grasses, usually placed in a low shrub.	
12	Wedge-tailed Eagle werpil	Independent and outgoing. Not afraid of heights.	The wedge-tailed eagle is the largest bird of prey in Australia. They have a very big wingspan of 2.3 metres. They build gigantic nests using dead sticks in tall trees. Their chicks are fluffy and white before growing their brown and black feathers and long wedge-shaped tail. Wedge-tailed eagles use warm currents of air called thermals to help them get very high in the sky. You can see them circling (usually in pairs) high above you during the day, searching for prey. Wedge-tailed Eagles are known as 'werpil' in the Dja Dja Wurrung Language of the Djaara people, traditional owners of the Mt Alexander region. Bunjil is the creator who takes form as a wedgetail eagle.	https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Aquila-audax https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guGi8-3qloQ

13	Crested Shrike-tit	Great hair. Clever! Needs lots of space to thrive.	The Crested Shrike-tit is a striking yellow bird with a black and white head and black feather crest. They tear bark off trees in search of insects and spiders. This way of looking for food is called 'gleaning'. Some have been seen using a stick as a tool to get at hard-to-reach insects. Using tools is the mark of intelligence! Their home ranges are quite large so they need big patches of bush to live in.	https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Falcunculus-frontatus https://connectingcountry.org.au/bird-of-the-month-crested-shrike-tit/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cR4yJvHjhiw
14	Swift Parrot wura wura darak	Moves very fast. Loves to go on trips Sensitive.	Sadly, this bird is one of the world's rarest parrots. It is estimated that there are only 750 of them left in the wild. They live part of the year in Tasmania where they nest in tree hollows and then migrate to the mainland in winter to feed on the flowering eucalyptus trees of the Box Ironbark Forest. Because they need these two kinds of habitat, they are	https://connectingcountry.org.au/bird-of-the-month-swift-parrot/ https://birdlife.org.au/bird-profiles/swift-parrot/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dpu6TI3uB50

			extra sensitive to disturbance and destruction. The Box-Ironbark Forests around Mount Alexander are very important for this bird.	
15	Gang Gang Cockatoo	A little bit shy. Adventurous eater Enjoys the cold weather.	The Gang Gang Cockatoo is a shy and quiet bird. They make quiet calls when feeding that can sound like a rusty creaky gate opening. They can be found feeding on many different kinds of food like seeds and berries, as well as insects. They are one of only a few birds that eat sawfly larvae (AKA spitfires!). They seem to love them! Always a fan of cooler weather, this bird spends its summers in colder places like mountains and wet, shady forests and moves to drier places in the winter.	https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Callocephalon-fimbriatum https://backyardbuddies.org.au/backyard-buddies/gang-gang-cockatoo https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hRsJgVSjQs