

10 BIRDS YOU MIGHT SEE AROUND DARTMOUTH

The Peregrine Falcon)

The Peregrine Falcon is a raptor. Adults have blue-gray wings, dark brown backs, a buff colored underside with brown spots, and white faces with a black tear stripe on their cheeks. They have a hooked beaks and strong talons. Their name comes from the Latin word *peregrinus*, which means "to wander."

The Peregrine Falcon feeds on small and medium-sized birds, as well as rabbits and other day-active mammals. It swoops down on its prey from above, catching or stunning it with its powerfully hooked talons, before grasping and carrying it off to a perch to pluck and eat it.

They mate for life and breed in the same territory each year. The male courts the female for about one month, using aerial displays. They make a nest, or scrape, on ledges and in small caves located high on a cliff.

Mating season: Late March through May.

Gestation: 29-32 days for egg incubation.

Clutch size: 3-4 eggs.

Both the male and female incubate the eggs for about one month. The chicks start to fly in about 42 days, but are still dependent on their parents to learn how to hunt.



The Peregrine Falcon nests annually on the spillway at Lake Dartmouth.

The New Holland Honey Eater

The New Holland Honeyeater takes nectar from the flowers of banksias, eucalypts, grevilleas and other trees and shrubs. They are always very active, and are seldom seen sitting still. One of their more unusual activities is to conduct 'Corroborrees', where up to a dozen birds congregate and noisily display together, fluttering their wings. Females are slightly smaller in size. Young birds are browner and have a grey eye. The New Holland Honeyeater's cup-shaped nest is made of bark and grasses, bound together with spider web. It is lined with soft material and is placed in a bush or tree.. Both sexes feed the chicks. A pair

of adults may raise two or three broods in a year.



Australian King Parrot

Male King Parrots have a completely red head. Females are similar to males except that they have a completely green head and breast. Both sexes have a red belly and a green back, with green wings and a long green tail. They are found in pairs or family groups, and forages in trees for seeds and fruit. King-Parrots lay their eggs on a bed of decayed wood-dust at the bottom of a deep hollow in the trunk of a tree.



The Satin Bower Bird

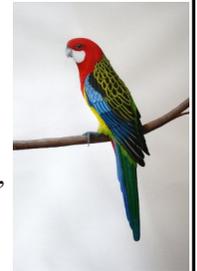


The Satin Bower Bird: Male and female satin bowerbirds are totally different in appearance. Males are iridescent deep satin blue, while females are predominantly olive green, The one thing they do have in common is an electric blue eye. Bowerbirds are omnivorous, meaning that they will eat both plant and animal matter. Includes fruits, berries, new shoots and insects.. Bowerbirds are so-named because of the intricate bower structures built by the males. These display arenas are to attract females, decorated with blue objects.

Eastern Rosella

The Eastern Rosella is found in open woodlands, grasslands, farmlands and remnant bushland.

Often found in urban habitats such as parks, gardens and golf courses. Eastern



Rosellas are medium-sized l parrots with distinctive white cheek patches. It has a red head, neck and breast, with yellowish to greenish upper parts, a yellow underbody and a yellow-green to blue-green rump, with a red undertail. The shoulders are bright blue. Eastern Rosellas mate for life. The female chooses and prepares the nesting site, usually a hollow in a eucalypt tree Eggs are laid on a decayed wood bed and the female incubates the eggs while the male regularly feeds her. The young may be fed for a while after they fledge.

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Crimson Rosella

The Crimson Rosella is mostly crimson (red) plumage and bright blue cheeks. The feathers of the back and wing coverts are black broadly edged with red. Natural foods include seeds of eucalypts, grasses and shrubs, as well as insects and some tree blossoms.

The Crimson Rosella's nest is a tree hollow, located high in a tree, and lined with wood shavings and dust. The female alone incubates the white eggs, but both sexes care for the young. The chicks remain dependent on their parents for a further 35 days after leaving the nest.



White Bellied Sea Eagle on Lake Dartmouth

The sea-eagle is readily distinguished by its contrasting crisp-white and ashy-grey plumage. This eagle is not confined to coastal areas, is regularly recorded at terrestrial wetlands along larger inland rivers and at freshwater swamps and lakes.

Yellow Robin

The Eastern Yellow Robin has a grey back and head, and yellow underparts. Both sexes are similar in plumage colour, but the female is smaller. These Robins are found in a wide range of habitats, from dry woodlands to rainforests. They are also common in parks and gardens, and are usually first seen perched on the side of a tree trunk. Eastern Yellow Robins feed on insects, spiders and other arthropods. Birds normally feed alone, but may also be seen in pairs or small family groups.

During breeding season, breeding pairs of Eastern Robins may lay up to three clutches of eggs. The female builds the nest and incubates the eggs. The nest is a woven cup of bark, grasses and other vegetation, bound together with spider web and lined with finer material and leaves. It is normally built in an upright tree fork. Both parents, and sometimes some other helpers, care for the young birds.



The Red Wattle Bird

The Red Wattlebird is a large, noisy honeyeater, the name refers to the fleshy reddish wattle on its neck. The plumage is grey-brown on the body, with prominent white streaks and yellow on the belly. The face is pale and the tail is long with a white-tip. Young Red Wattlebirds are duller and have a brown, rather than reddish, eye. The Red Wattlebird occurs in forests, woodlands and gardens, where it aggressively protects food-bearing plants from other honeyeater species. They feed on nectar, which it obtains by probing flowers with its thin curved bill. Some insects are also eaten, taken either from foliage or caught in mid-air. Berries and the honeydew produced by some insects add to the bird's diet. Red Wattlebirds raise one or two broods in a season. Both sexes have been recorded sharing incubation duties, and both parents feed the young.



Kookaburra

The Laughing Kookaburra is recognisable in both plumage and voice. It has an off-white underbelly, and brown on the back and wings. The tail is more rufous, broadly barred with black. There is a conspicuous dark brown eye-stripe through the face. It is one of the larger members of the kingfisher family. The Laughing Kookaburra inhabits most areas where there are suitable trees. Kookaburras feed mostly on insects, worms and crustaceans, although small snakes, mammals, frogs and birds may also be eaten. Kookaburras are believed to pair for life. The nest is a bare chamber in a naturally occurring tree hollow. Both sexes share the incubation duties and both care for the young. Other Laughing Kookaburras, usually offspring of the previous one to two years, act as 'helpers' during the breeding season. Every bird in the group shares all parenting duties.

