

BIG4 GOLD COAST
HOLIDAY
PARK

Birdlife



★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★
MAGIC IN EVERY STAY
★ ★ ★ ★

Feathered Friends: Nurturing Bird Conservation

Birdlife at the BIG4 Gold Coast Holiday Park is a fascinating and integral part of the park's natural ambiance. Nestled within the stunning Gold Coast region of Australia, this holiday park offers a unique opportunity to observe a diverse array of bird species in their natural habitat. Whether you're an avid birdwatcher or just someone looking to appreciate the beauty of nature, the birdlife at this park is sure to captivate your senses.

The park is located in a lush and verdant setting, featuring well-maintained gardens, trees, and a variety of natural landscapes. This environment provides an ideal habitat for numerous bird species to thrive. As you explore the park, you'll encounter a wide range of avian residents, from small songbirds to majestic waterfowl and the laughing Kookaburra, making it a haven for bird enthusiasts and wildlife lovers alike.

Observing the birdlife at the park can be a tranquil and educational experience. You can take leisurely walks through the park's gardens, sit by the water, or simply relax at your campsite or cabin while enjoying the melodies and sights of these feathered residents. To make the most of your birdwatching experience, consider bringing binoculars and a field guide to identify the different species you encounter.

Whether you're a seasoned birder or simply looking to reconnect with nature, the birdlife at the BIG4 Gold Coast Holiday Park adds an extra layer of beauty and serenity to your stay, making it a memorable part of your Gold Coast adventure.

Water Hens: Purple Swampheens (Porphyrio porphyrio)

Water-dwelling birds found in, Australia, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Inhabiting wetlands, marshes, and areas with dense vegetation near water bodies. Known for their striking appearance, with vibrant blue-purple plumage, red bills, and long legs with large feet. They primarily feed on aquatic plants, seeds, insects, small invertebrates, and occasionally small vertebrates. Territorial birds that can be quite aggressive in defending their nesting sites and food resources. Also known for their loud and distinctive calls.



Plover: (Charadriinae)

Including species like the Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) and Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*), can be found in various parts of the world, including grasslands, wetlands, and coastal areas. Plovers are known for their distinctive calls and striking plumage. They primarily feed on insects, small invertebrates, and crustaceans. Plovers are known for their nesting behaviors, often building shallow nests on the ground. They engage in various social behaviors, including courtship displays and territorial defense.



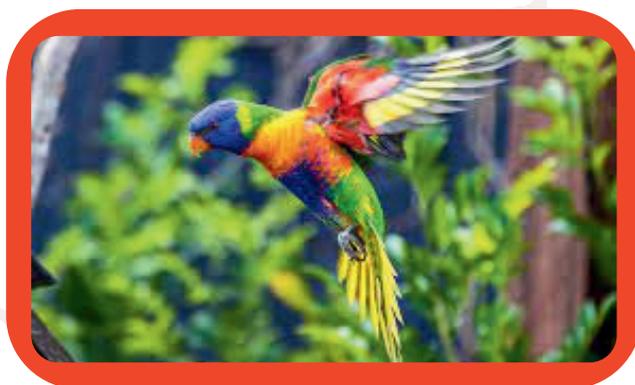
Ibis: (Threskiornithinae)

Are wading birds that can be found in various parts of the world, including Africa, the Americas, and Australia. They inhabit wetlands, marshes, and coastal areas. Ibis have long bills that they use to probe the mud and shallow waters for small aquatic creatures, insects, and crustaceans. They often gather in large flocks, especially during nesting and roosting. Some species, like the Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*), have cultural and religious significance in certain regions.



Lorikeets: (Trichoglossus moluccanus)

Colourful parrots known for their vibrant plumage and playful nature. They are found in various parts of the world, with different species inhabiting different regions. Lorikeets primarily feed on nectar, pollen, and soft fruits. They have specialized brush-tipped tongues for extracting nectar from flowers. Lorikeets are highly social birds that form large flocks and engage in communal roosting. Their acrobatic flight and noisy calls are characteristic of their interactions.



Topknot Pigeons: (*Lopholaimus antarcticus*)

Are native to eastern Australia and primarily inhabit rainforests, wet sclerophyll forests, and coastal areas. They have a distinctive crest on their head. Topknot Pigeons primarily feed on fruits and berries found in the canopy of trees. They often gather in large flocks to feed and interact with each other during breeding and foraging.



Ravens: (*Corvus corax*)

Large, intelligent birds found in various parts of the world. They inhabit diverse habitats, including forests, mountains, and coastal areas. Ravens are known for their sharp beaks and impressive vocalizations. They are omnivorous, feeding on a wide range of food, including carrion, insects, small mammals, fruits, and grains. Ravens are highly social birds, often seen in pairs or small family groups. They exhibit complex behaviors, including tool use and problem-solving abilities.



Butcher Birds:

Australian Pied Butcherbird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*) and Grey Butcherbird (*Cracticus torquatus*), are native to Australia. They inhabit a range of habitats, including woodlands, forests, and urban areas. They have a distinctive black and white plumage, strong hooked bills, and powerful voices. They are carnivorous birds, feeding on a variety of prey such as insects, small reptiles, birds, and mammals. Butcher Birds are known for their unique hunting behavior, impaling their prey on thorns or spikes to consume later. They have melodious and complex calls, often heard during territorial displays or to communicate with other members of their family group.



Magpies: Such as Australian (Cracticus tibicen)

Are iconic birds in Australia and are known for their melodious songs and complex vocalizations. They inhabit a variety of habitats, including urban areas, woodlands, and parks. Magpies have a diverse diet that includes insects, fruits, seeds, and small vertebrates. They are social birds that form cooperative groups, especially during breeding season, and are known for their strong territorial behavior.



Australian Minors: (*Manorina melanocephala*)

Also known as Australian Magpie Miners or simply Miners, are social birds native to Australia. They inhabit a variety of habitats, including woodlands, open forests, and shrublands, throughout different regions of the country. These adaptable birds have also successfully adapted to urban environments. Australian Minors have a diverse diet, feeding on nectar, fruits, seeds, insects, and small vertebrates. They are known for their cooperative breeding behavior, with dominant breeding pairs being assisted by other group members in nest building and raising young. These birds construct large, domed nests made of sticks and grass. They are highly vocal, communicating through melodious calls and mimicry. While they can be aggressive towards intruders, Australian Minors also form mixed-species groups with other birds, showcasing their cooperative nature. Preserving their habitats and educating the public about their conservation is crucial to the long-term survival of these fascinating birds.



Kookaburras: Dacelo

Kookaburras are iconic birds of Australia, with the Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*) being the most well-known species. They are found in a wide range of habitats, including forests, woodlands, and urban areas across the country. Kookaburras are known for their distinct laughing call, which echoes through the bush. They have a stout body, large head, and a strong beak. Kookaburras are carnivorous birds, feeding primarily on small vertebrates such as insects, reptiles, birds, and even small mammals. They are known to perch on branches or power lines, patiently waiting to swoop down on their prey. Kookaburras are highly territorial birds and often live in family groups. Their cooperative breeding behavior involves offspring from previous years assisting in raising the current year's young. Kookaburras are known for their cooperative behavior within family groups and may interact with other Kookaburras during territorial disputes or feeding.



Caring for birds and educating children about bird conservation is crucial for the preservation of these beautiful creatures. Here are some ways we can care for birds and educate children about their importance:

- **Provide Food, Water, and Shelter:** Set up bird feeders, bird baths, and birdhouses in your backyard to provide food, water, and shelter for birds. Ensure the feeders and baths are regularly cleaned and the water is fresh.
- **Create Bird-Friendly Gardens:** Plant native trees, shrubs, and flowers that provide food sources, nesting materials, and shelter for birds. Avoid using pesticides and chemicals that may harm birds and their habitats.
- **Reduce Collisions:** Make windows visible to birds by using window decals, curtains, or screens to prevent collisions. Birds often fly into windows, causing injuries or fatalities.
- **Support Conservation Organizations:** Get involved with local or national bird conservation organizations. Support their efforts through donations, volunteering, or participating in citizen science projects.



<https://birdsqueensland.org.au/>

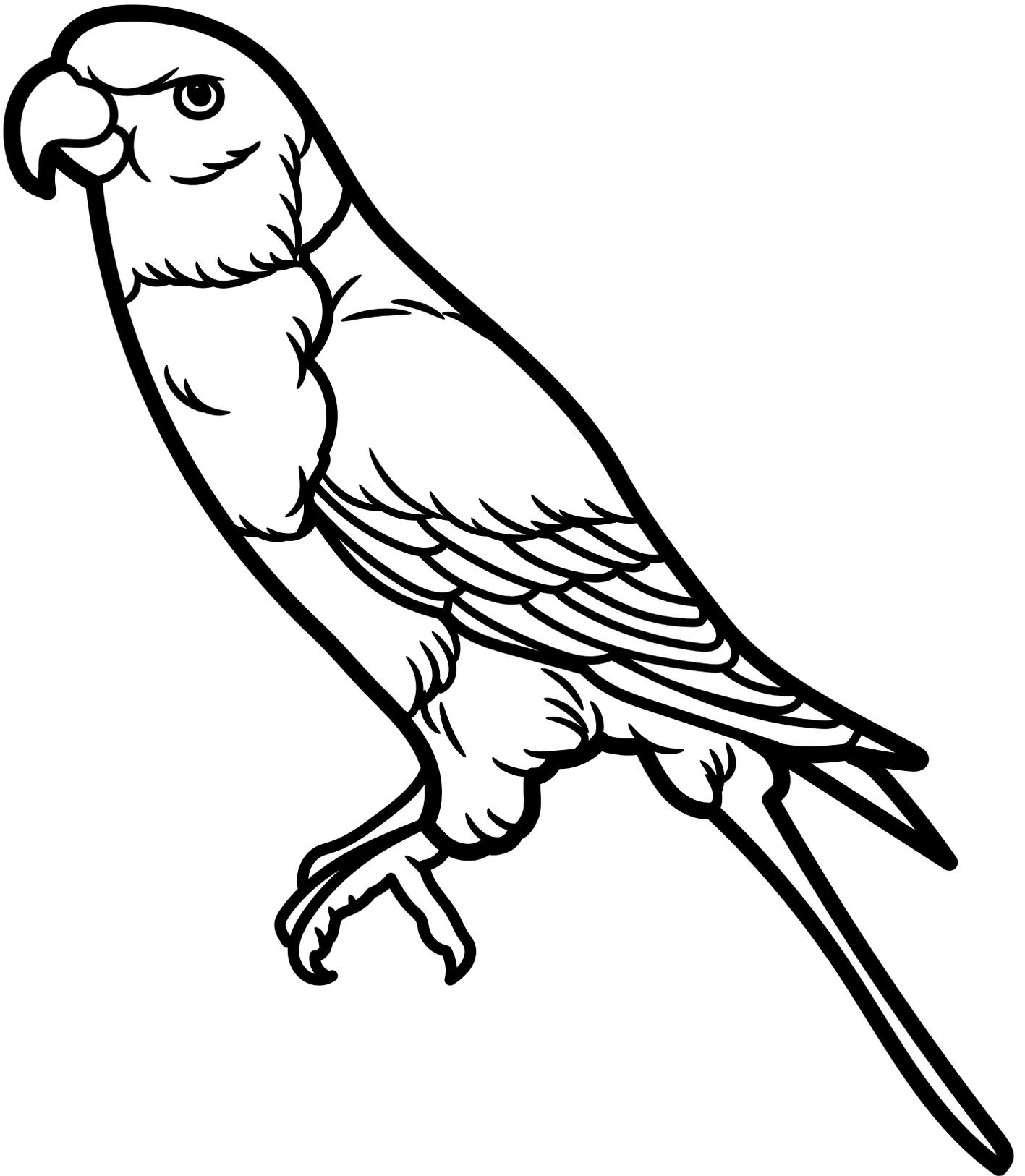
- **Educate Children:** Teach children about different bird species, their behaviors, and the importance of conservation. Encourage them to observe birds, keep a bird journal, and participate in bird-related activities.
- **Promote Responsible Pet Ownership:** Educate children about responsible pet ownership, especially for outdoor cats. Cats can pose a significant threat to bird populations.
- **Advocate for Habitat Protection:** Support initiatives and policies that protect bird habitats, such as wetlands, forests, and grasslands. Participate in community activities and raise awareness about the importance of preserving these habitats.

By caring for birds and instilling a sense of appreciation and respect for them in children, we can contribute to their conservation and ensure their survival for future generations to enjoy.



<https://birdlife.org.au>

Colouring In



Egg Cup Bird

Materials:

- 1 egg “cup” cut out from an egg carton
- 1-inch size pom pom or styrofoam ball
- wiggly eyes
- paint
- glue
- feathers
- orange pipe cleaner or orange construction paper

Instructions

1. Paint egg cup or styrofoam ball. Let dry.
2. Glue the pom pom or styrofoam ball onto the top of the egg cup.
3. Glue feathers onto the back of the egg cup.
4. Glue two wiggly eyes onto the pom pom or styrofoam ball.
5. Cut a one-1/2 inch piece of pipe cleaner and bend it in half. Glue this onto the bird’s head for an open beak.

