

BIRD HOLLOWES

Tree hollows are essential to provide shelter and breeding sites for many native animals. Where old hollow trees no longer exist, artificial nesting boxes may induce hollow-using mammals and birds to return to an area. Since many of these are insect-eating, this encourages the return of natural pest control to revegetation area.

Different Types of Hollows

Animals select hollows according to their own individual needs. Factors such as the size and shape of the entrance hole and the interior cavity, as well as the degree of insulation, affect how and when a hollow is used. Therefore, a range of hollow sizes and shapes is necessary to support a variety of wildlife. Hollows in fallen timber are also very important for animals such as echidnas, numbats, chudich and many reptiles. In stream, hollow logs may be important to aquatic animals for shelter and egg attachment.

The Role of Nest Boxes

If natural hollows are not available, artificial ones (nest boxes) can be created. They may be in suitable bushland or located near a house or other convenient site to encourage animals to a place where a careful observer can enjoy watching their behaviour.



Which birds use hollows?

Of the 89 Australian species below, 52 (58%) are named in Grant & Crowley (2000) as having their whole species, one or more subspecies, or regional populations listed as Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened.

Anatidae: The Ducks (some species sometimes)

Australian and Radjah Shelducks
Australian Wood Duck
Cotton and Green Pygmy-geese
Pink-eared Duck (some nests)
Pacific Black Duck (some nests)
Australasian Shoveler (some nests)
Grey and Chestnut Teal (some nests)

Falconidae: The Falcons

Peregrine Falcon, Nankeen Kestrel (sometimes)

Cacatuidae: The Cockatoos (all species)

Palm Cockatoo
Red-tailed, Glossy, Yellow-tailed, Short-billed and Long-billed Black-Cockatoos
Gang-gang Cockatoo
Galah
Long-billed, Western and Little Corellas
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Cockatiel

Psittacidae: The Parrots

Lorikeets (All species): Rainbow (includes Red-collared), Scaly-breasted, Varied, Musk, Little, and Purple-crowned Lorikeets
Eclectus Parrot
Red-cheeked Parrot
Double-eyed Fig-Parrot
Australian King-Parrot
Red-winged Parrot
Superb Parrot
Regent Parrot
Princess Parrot
Green, Crimson, Eastern, Pale-headed, Northern and Western Rosellas
Australian Ringneck
Red-capped Parrot
Blue Bonnet
Swift Parrot
Red-rumped and Mulga Parrots
Budgerigar

Bourke's, Blue-winged, Elegant, Orange-bellied, Turquoise and Scarlet-chested Parrots

Strigidae: Hawk Owls

Powerful, Rufous, and Barking Owls, and Southern Boobook

Tytonidae: Barn Owls

Sooty and Lesser Sooty Owls
Masked Owl (some nests)
Barn Owl (some nests)

Aegothelidae: Owlet-nightjars

Australian Owlet-nightjar

Halcyonidae: Tree Kingfishers

Laughing Kookaburra (some nests)
Blue-winged Kookaburra
Forest Kingfisher
Sacred and Collared Kingfishers (some nests)

Coraciidae: Rollers

Dollarbird

Climacteridae: Treecreepers

White-throated, White-browed, Red-browed, Brown, Black-tailed and Rufous Treecreepers

Pardalotidae: Scrubwrens,

Gerygones, Thornbills and allies

Forty-spotted Pardalote (some nests)
Striated Pardalote (some nests)
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill
Buff-rumped Thornbill (some nests)
Southern Whiteface (some nests)

Passeridae: Sparrows, Grass

Finches and Mannikins

House Sparrow (some nests)
Gouldian Finch

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins

Welcome Swallow (some nests)
Tree Martin (some nests)
Fairy Martin (some nests)

Sturnidae: Starlings and Mynas (introduced species)

Common Starling (some nests)
Common Myna (some nests)

The above list is in sequence of Christidis & Boles (1994).