



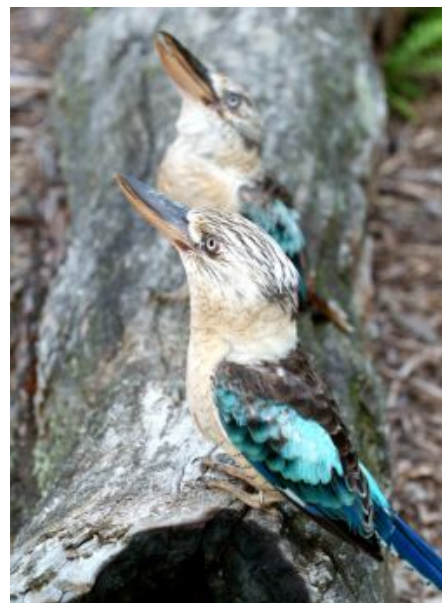
Amazing Animals Fact sheets

Kingfishers

Kingfishers have chunky bodies, short necks and tails and strong, long beaks. Kingfishers are carnivorous - they perch above the banks of freshwater streams to catch small fish, crustaceans, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic insects. The most famous kingfisher is the Australian Laughing Kookaburra, with its iconic laugh. Kingfishers are essentially tropical and subtropical land birds, and are closely related to the hornbill.

Generally a single pair raises the young but occasionally they will cooperatively breed as does the Laughing Kookaburra. They breed between September and November. Blue-winged Kookaburras nest in arboreal termite mounds or tree hollows. They show a strong preference for Poplar Gum (*Eucalyptus alba*).

Australia Zoo Blue-winged Kookaburra profiles



Blue-winged Kookaburra

The Blue-winged Kookaburra (*Dacelo leachii*) is very similar to the well-known Laughing Kookaburra, only the Blue-winged Kookaburra appears much brighter and more top-heavy, but the Laughing Kookaburra is usually considerably shyer.

Habitat

Primarily savanna woodland but also timbered creek parks and gardens. The Blue-winged Kookaburra is distributed in coastal north Australia from the Pilbara in the west to just south of Brisbane.

Diet

Very similar to the Laughing Kookaburra but the Blue-winged Kookaburra appears to take a high proportion of snakes, possibly because these are more common in the tropics. Most prey is taken on the ground by hunting from a perch. Prey is seized with the bill after a glide and beaten against the perch.

Breeding

Spike and Matilda

Spike and Matilda are real characters and they make it clear where their territory is and that they need their privacy! You can hear them at almost any time of the day letting birds and keepers alike know to keep clear. Poor old Spike seems to be run off his feet catching as many worms and insects as he can to keep his demanding girl Matilda happy. He has even been seen giving Matilda his daily feed during our Birds of Prey Live! Show to keep her happy. What a sensitive new age kookaburra he is! It really is funny to see from a bird that is usually so demanding and greedy when it comes to his food, be so giving. He has even been known to pinch a bit of owl food or even try his luck with stealing tucker off our Wedge-Tailed Eagle. Crikey! It's amazing what a girl can do for the little man... although little does Matilda know, we help Spike out with an extra piece of meat when she's not looking.

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