



Laughing Kookaburra

Dacelo novaeguineae



Gumby

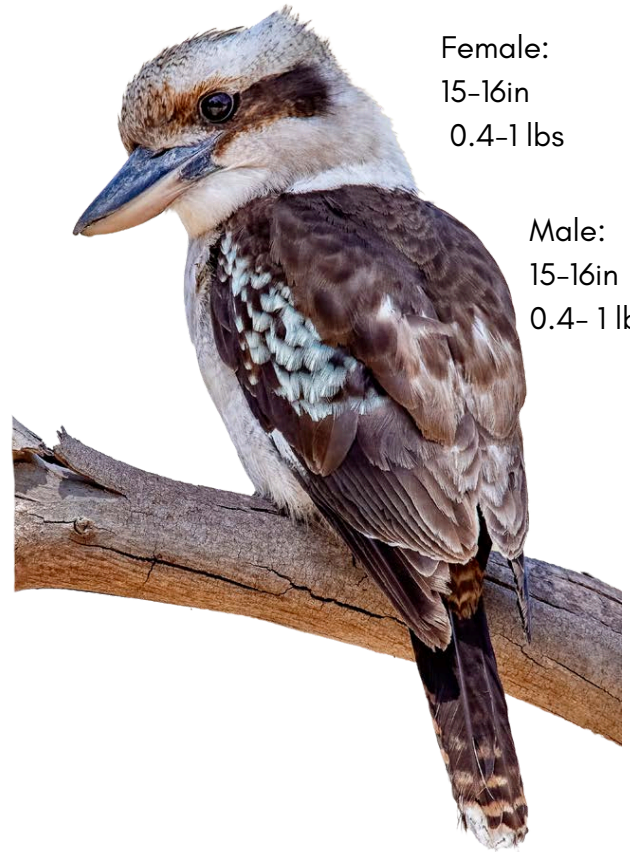
I was born July 30th, 2011.

I am currently one of the Racine Zoo's educational ambassador animals. I live behind the scenes, but you may be able to see me at educational programs at the zoo!

LAUGHING KOOKABURRA AT A GLANCE



- The laughing kookaburra is the largest species in the kingfisher family. Like others in this family, they dispatch their prey by hitting it on branches.
- Kookaburras have a large square head with brown cheek patches on its face. It is brown with a grayish white underside and has dark bands on its tail. It is a stocky bird with a long, dagger-like beak.
- In the wild, the primarily eat insects and invertebrates, but also snakes, lizards, rodents, and small birds.
- At the zoo, our kookaburra eats small animals and bugs.



Female:
15-16in
0.4-1 lbs

Male:
15-16in
0.4- 1 lbs

Avg. life expectancy in native habitats:
12-13years

Avg. life expectancy in human care:
15- 20 years

WHERE ARE KOOKABURRAS NATIVE HABITATS LOCATED?



Laughing Kookaburras have historically lived throughout the Australian continent. Today, their range has increased from Australia to New Zealand, and Tasmania. Kookaburras live in medium to dense Eucalyptus woodland areas that are typically wet and cold. They live in leafy trees sometimes near inland water.

Kookaburra Behaviors

SLEEPING

The laughing kookaburra is diurnal, meaning they are active during the day, and sleep during the night.

Each night, I will roost in the branches for about 12 hours!



CALLS

Kookaburras make six distinct calls within their family group to communicate courtship, contact, feeding, and danger.

If you hear me call, I may be feeling stressed out.



FLYING

Kookaburras are relatively slow fliers, because of this they don't move homes often, and will only leave perches to swoop up food.

My keepers train me to fly to different perches for treats!



FEEDING

Laughing kookaburras typically wait perched on a branch until they see an animal on the ground and then flies down and pounces on their prey.

I will wack my food items against a branch to stun them.

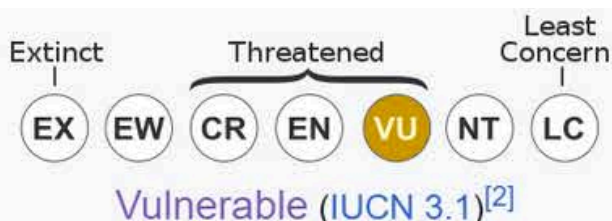


- Laughing kookaburras mate for life and tend to only have one clutch per season. These birds appear to have control over the sex of their offspring.
- After young Kookaburras reach independence, many stay with their parents to defend their territory boundaries and raise future clutches. These birds are highly territorial and will reuse the same nest hole year after year.
- Kookaburras are common in urban and suburban areas in Australia. They often swoop in and grab food out of people's hands suddenly.

Kookaburra Conservation

The laughing kookaburra is not considered a species at risk of extinction; however, they are affected by habitat loss and destruction.

Kookaburras are currently listed as **least concern**. However, they suffer habitat loss and habitat destruction.



How can we help?

Kookaburras require trees to nest, roost, perch, and hunt on. Responsible tree removal will ensure that kookaburras and our wildlife have plenty of breeding and feeding sites available. Additionally, when humans use pesticides to kill insects, they introduce deadly toxins into the ecosystem. If pesticide use is necessary, choose more natural or less harmful chemicals to help the critters that might come in contact with them unnecessarily.