BIRD HOLLOWS

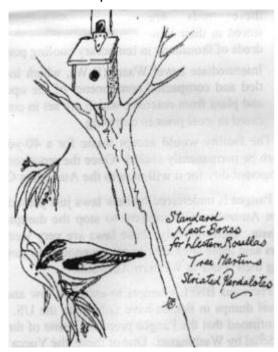
Tree hollows are essential to provide shelter and breeding sites for many native animals. Where old hollow trees no longer exist, artificial nesting boxes may induce hollow-using mammals and birds to return to an area. Since many of these are insect-eating, this encourages the return of natural pest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

Green, Crimson, Eastern, Paleheaded, 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, Redbrowed, 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)

Passeridae: Sparrows, Grass Finches and Mannikins

Southern Whiteface (some nests)

House Sparrow (some nests) Gouldian Finch

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins

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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).