

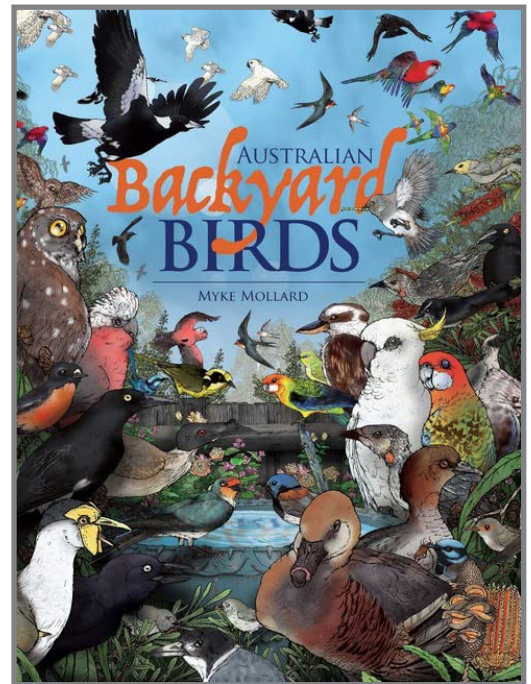
Australian Backyard Birds

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
MYKE MOLLARD

SCIS: 5455134

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Primary



SYNOPSIS

Myke Mollard's signature illustrations and engaging text bring kids up close and personal with over 150 of Australia's colourful and characterful backyard birds. These are birds most commonly seen in our gardens and surrounding bush and parks. The birds are not only beautifully drafted, but the accompanying text also vividly describes their lifestyles and habits. The wonderment of these stunning creatures, delivered in an engaging cinematic punch, will excite the imaginations of children for life, and fully engage any adult with a love of birds.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Myke Mollard is a children's educator, illustrator, author, and designer. He began his career in graphic design, branding management and producing commercials for TV.

He later found outlets for his passion for educating kids about the world around them, both in person in classroom and online settings, and via his books which he fully writes and illustrates himself. Myke wants to inspire the next generation to make better choices and to find creative solutions to safeguard our natural environment.

Other books by Myke Mollard include *A-Z of Australian Bush Creatures*, *Australia's Endangered Bush Creatures*, *Australia's Dangerous Bush Creatures*, and *Australian Dinosaurs and Mega Beasts*.

STUDY NOTES

- Discuss conventions of nonfiction (table of contents, glossary, index, page numbers, photographs/pictures, diagrams, and labels). Ask students to list the conventions used in this book and then challenge them to create an index and glossary for this book.
- Have students work in groups to use information from the book to create files of incredible facts about birds that can be found in *Australian Backyard Birds*. Some examples include:
 - Blue Fairy Wren
 - Tawny Frogmouth
 - Blue-faced Honeyeater
 - Spangled Drongo
 - Sarus Crane
 - Eastern Whipbird
 - Satin-blue Bowerbird

- Gang-gang Cockatoo
- What other birds are mentioned in the text? Have students each choose one bird each to research in depth and present their finding to the class.
- On a large map of Australia, have children pin illustrations of birds covered in this book to where they are commonly found.
- Biodiversity is the variety of all living things—plants, animals, and microorganisms—and the different genetic information they contain, and the varied ecosystems they form. All species, including humans, rely on other species to live and we need a variety of healthy ecosystems to support the life of all species. As class, debate this quote on biodiversity by Albert Einstein ‘Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.’
- What are the biggest threats to our backyard birds? Together create a list of threats.
 - What can we do to help? As a class, create a list of ways we might help.
- Bird watching is a relaxing, fulfilling activity and a great way to get kids outdoors. Share the tools provided on pp 40 and 41. Encourage students to identify local birds and to find out what they eat. Are they grain and seed browsers? Insectivorous? Nectar seekers? After fruits and berries? Or do they like worms and grubs? Do they need well established trees or like small shrubs? Could they make mud nests in the eaves of a roof?
- Why are backyards so important?
- Why should we not use rat poison and garden pesticides? Have students create informative posters using persuasive text to warn people of the adverse effects on birds of us using rat poisons and the like.
- How important are managed parks and wetlands?
- What birds are endangered now? Have students report back to the class with their findings.
- What makes birds unique in the animal kingdom?