

Blue-winged Kookaburra

Dacelo leachii



Less well-known than the Laughing Kookaburra, the Blue-winged Kookaburra is found from New Guinea to large parts of Australia.

The Blue-winged Kookaburra was first collected by Sir Joseph Banks in 1770, but was initially overlooked and confused with the Laughing Kookaburra. It was finally officially described and named in 1826. They live mostly in open savannah woodland and swamps, as well as farmlands and sugar cane plantations.

They are cooperative breeders, a group being made up of a breeding pair and one or more helper birds who help raise the young. The nest is a hollow high up in a tree, often 25m or so above the ground. Kookaburra chicks are often highly aggressive in the first week of life, and the youngest chick is often killed by the older chicks during this period. Once fledged, the chicks need to be taught by the parents how to hunt for themselves.



Lifespan: 20 Years

Weight: 260 - 330 g

Size: 38 - 42 cm

Breeding Season: September - December

Incubation Period: 26 Days

Number of Chicks: 3 - 4

Diet: Insects, Reptiles, Frogs, Crayfish, Scorpions, Snakes, Small Birds, Mammals and Fish

Problems They Face: Collisions with cars, trapping for trade, natural predators

Conservation Status: Not Globally Threatened