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Amazing Animals
Fact sheets

Native Parrots

Around 300 species of the parrot family have been recorded throughout the world, extending from the tropics to the subtropical and colder parts of the Southern Hemisphere. 56 species are found in Australia, and only five of these are found elsewhere in the world. The parrot family includes cockatoos, lorikeets, rosellas, ringnecks and budgerigars.

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo

Major Mitchell's are one of the smaller cockatoo species and can often be found in large flocks. They often gather at dawn and dusk to drink at waterholes throughout their arid range.

Habitat

Major Mitchell's live in sparely timbered grass lands, scrub lands, stands of cypress pines growing along sand ridges, casuarinas covering rocky outcrops, mallee and trees surrounding cereal fields or bordering watercourses.

Diet

Mitchell's spend most of the day feeding on the ground or among the branches of trees and shrubs. They eat seeds, nuts, fruits and roots, particularly the seeds of cypress pine Callitris and acacias.

Breeding

Couples nest in hollow limbs of trees. They line the bottom with wood dust and bark strips which are removed from the entrance to their nest hole. Both parents incubate - the male during the day and female at night. They breed from May through to December, with mating occurring earlier in the north than in the south.

Australia Zoo Major Mitchell's Cockatoo profiles

Tullock

Tullock (Roma's brother) is quite a little thinker. When he is asked to do something he will often just sit there for a moment, contemplate the task at hand and then work out the easiest way to accomplish his goal. This has meant that Tullock has ended up being a bit more of a confident flier than his brother, and he works things out a lot quicker, including the best way to get his favourite treat, a variety of nuts.

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