



# Amazing Animals Fact sheets

## Kingfishers

Kingfishers have chunky bodies, short necks and tails and strong, long beaks. Kingfishers are carnivorous - they perch above the banks of freshwater streams to catch small fish, crustaceans, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic insects. The most famous kingfisher is the Australian Laughing Kookaburra, with its iconic laugh. Kingfishers are essentially tropical and subtropical land birds, and are closely related to the hornbill.

they will cooperatively breed. Breeding occurs between September and November. Blue-winged kookaburras nest in arboreal termite mounds or tree hollows. They show a strong preference for Poplar Gum (*Eucalyptus alba*).

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## Blue-winged Kookaburra

The blue-winged kookaburra is very similar to the well-known laughing kookaburra. Blue-winged Kookaburras have a much brighter colouration and are more top-heavy than the considerably shyer laughing kookaburra.

### Habitat

Primarily they are found in savanna woodland but also may inhabit timbered creek areas, parks and gardens. The blue-winged kookaburra is distributed through coastal north Australia from the Pilbara in the west to just south of Brisbane.

### Diet

The blue-winged kookaburra appears to hunt and eat a high proportion of snakes, possibly because these are more common in the tropics. They will also eat small reptiles, frogs, insects and other invertebrates. Most prey is taken on the ground by hunting from a perch. Prey is seized with the bill after a gliding flight. Kookaburras may often be seen beating their food against a perch area. This is to help break up the bones and tendons, as well as tendering the food for easier digestion.

### Breeding

Generally a single pair raises the young but occasionally