

WEDGE-TAILED EAGLES

(Map Ref41)



UP, LS, US



The term Bird of Prey refers to any bird which feeds only on live animals. A bird in this group could be anything from a Kingfisher to a Pelican, to a Tawny Frogmouth to a Wedge-tailed Eagle. A bird of prey might only feed on insects but it fits into this group because its diet is made up entirely of other animals.

Birds of prey generally have large eyes compared to the size of their head and also the eyes are very complex in their structure to enable them to see well over long distances and to also see in more detail than humans can. For birds which hunt fish as their prey, they may have a polarising lens over their eye. This special lens reduces glare so that when they are looking down at the water as they are flying above, they are able to see through the reflective surface at fish swimming below.

Birds of prey have special adaptations to allow them to hunt effectively. Many are capable of silent flight, some have powerful talons, and others have a very wide beak to act like a net to snatch insects out of the air. Some birds of prey camouflage themselves and use surprise attacks to catch their prey. Most birds of prey also have special digestive systems to cope with bones, feathers and fur. Many of these adaptations are exclusive to Birds of Prey which make them extremely interesting birds to learn about.

A1

Now that you know what a Bird of Prey is, as you explore Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary make a list of all of the Birds of Prey you see. Use the information signs to help you make your list.

A3

Birds of Prey are often used as mascots or emblems for various groups. Think of how the United States of America uses the Bald Eagle. Why do you think this is? What do you admire most about Birds of Prey? Explain by writing a brief response or a short poem. Decide which animal would best reflect your qualities and characteristics and explain why you chose it.

