



The Lonely Jacaranda  
& friends

*Daisy*



Four inquisitive baby swallows peaking from their nest!  
(visit [www.mdahlem.net](http://www.mdahlem.net) for more bird facts and pictures)

## Friends of the Lonely Jacaranda

These are some of the friends that helped Jaca when she was sad and lonely.  
Get to know them by matching the picture of each bird on the poster to its fact box placed in the same position here and trying some of the activities below.

### Teacher's Notes

Jaca was a lonely Jacaranda tree brought from South America to Australia as a seed. She was all alone and made fun of because she was different. Download the 'Teachers Notes' from my website to explore these themes further through discussion points and activities.

Name:- Barn or Welcome Swallow  
Food:- catches insects while flying in the air, usually above and around waterways  
Nest:- little nests of mud lined with soft grass & feathers under rock faces, bridges, roofs etc.  
Sound:- machine gun like twittering 'tchek-tchek-tseip-tseeip'  
Fun Facts:- Swallows love to fly, are known to stay in the air continuously for long periods, even feeding their young in the air. Barn Swallows migrate over 10,000 km each year.

Name:- Brahminy Kite  
Food:- scavenges dead fish and crabs  
Nest:- branches & sticks lined with leaves in trees & mangroves  
Sound:- long, quavering 'beee-yaah'  
Fun Fact:- found along the coast, estuaries and large inland waterways, known to steal food from other unsuspecting birds.

Name:- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo  
Food:- seeds, fruits, flowers, crops!  
Nest:- large, nearly vertical hollow limb or trunk of tree, ideally near water  
Sound:- ear-piercing, screeching 'airrik, aarrk, aieirrk'  
Fun Fact:- smart, long-lived birds, place a 'look-out' to raise the alarm when flocks feed on the ground.

Name:- Grey Butcherbird  
Food:- small birds, lizards, insects  
Nest:- shallow bowl of twigs lined with soft leaves & bark in branches high above the ground  
Sound:- full of song most often early in the morning, 'quorrok-a-quokoo', 'quorrok-a-quokoo.'  
Fun Fact:- they got their name from how they 'butcher' their food and hoard it in crevices.

Name:- Flame Robin  
Food:- spiders, beetles, other insects  
Nest:- a small grass and bark cup, bound with spiders web and decorated with lichen!  
Sound:- clear, sharp piping 'chirripa tirrip'  
Fun Fact:- they travel into the high mountains to breed in the warm summer months then back down over winter..



Name:- Laughing Kookaburra  
Food:- lizards, insects, snakes, sausages, almost anything  
Nest:- unlined nest in tree hollows  
Sound:- Raucous 'kok, kok, kak, kak, kaa, kook, kaa'  
Fun Fact:- very smart birds, clever at stealing food from campsites and BBQ areas.

Name:- Crested Pigeon  
Food:- forage for seeds and grains  
Nest:- platform of twigs in trees and shrubs  
Sound:- loud 'coo-who', 'coo', 'coo-who'  
Fun Fact:- their wings make a beating, whistling sound when they take off to distract prey and warn other birds.

### Suggested Activities

- Play a fun family quiz by asking each other random questions using the facts below, whoever gets the most answers correct wins!
- Can you identify the birds in your back yard by their look or call? Do a backyard bird count - visit [www.birdsinbackyards.net/surveys](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/surveys) to see how.
- Learn the traditional Aboriginal name for similar birds where you live.
- Be inspired to learn about other birds with the wonderful book *100 Australian Birds* by Georgia Angus (where many of these facts come from).

Name:- Zebra Finch  
Food:- seeds on the ground, sometimes insects  
Nest:- bulky untidy dome with hooded entrance in dense thorny shrub, tree or cavity  
Sound:- nasally, sharp 'tet-tet-tet' or twangy 'tiarr'  
Fun Fact:- a very social bird always found in large flocks, sometimes in their 1000's around water in dry areas.