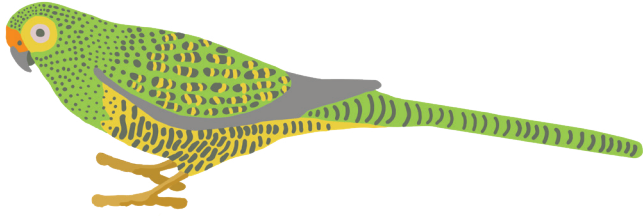


# Eastern Ground Parrot

*Pezoporus wallicus*

## ON THE MURAL



## EATS

Seeds taken from a wide variety of sedges, grasses, herbaceous plants and shrubs. They occasionally eat green shoots, leaves, buds, flowers and small fruits.

## LIVES

Prefers dense ground cover or heathland such as the Cooloolo National Park. They are a nocturnal species, difficult to see unless flushed.

## BREEDING

During the breeding season from September to December they will fly over the vegetation and call for half to three-quarters of an hour at dusk and again with the first light of dawn. The nest is hidden under tall grass which is sometimes fashioned into a tunnel.

### Conservation Status: Vulnerable

Threats include land clearing, development and changing of their habitat and in turn, by altering the frequency of fires.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Size: 30cm

Average weight: 900g

Wingspan: 110 cm

Breeding season: September to December

Clutch Size: 3-4 eggs

Incubation Period: 21-24 days



\*Photo courtesy: Gary Quirk

## FUN FACTS

The Eastern ground parrot is one of only five ground-dwelling parrots in the world, 3 of which live in Australia.

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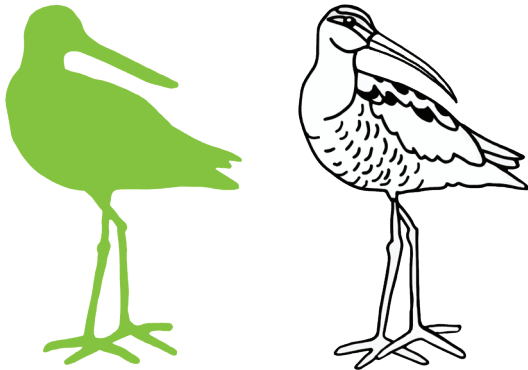


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# Far Eastern Curlew

*Numenius madagascariensis*

## ON THE MURAL



## EATS

Small crabs and molluscs. Foraging by day and night, it is slow and deliberate, stalking slowly on sandy and muddy flats, picking from the surface or probing deep with its long bill.

## LIVES

This species breeds in Russia and North-eastern China. They migrate in numbers, arriving on the Australian East Coast from September to November and leave our shores from February to March.

### Conservation Status:

#### Critically Endangered

The population decrease is caused by development of coastal areas, and human disturbance of foraging sites here in Australia, and their assembling grounds during migration.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Size: 63cm

Average weight: 900g

Wingspan: 110 cm

Breeding season: northern hemisphere's Summer

Clutch Size: 4 eggs



*\*Photo courtesy: Valda McLean - Location: Toorbul*

## FUN FACTS

- is the largest migratory shorebird in the world.
- the female's bill is usually longer than the male's and averages 185 mm in length

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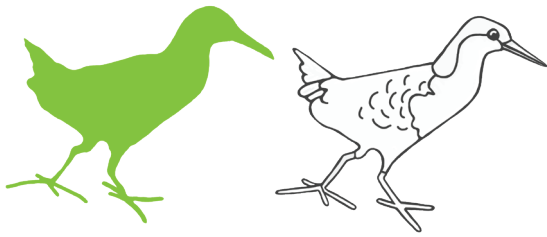




# Lewin's Rail

*Lewinia pectoralis*

## ON THE MURAL



## EATS

Lewin's rails feed mainly on invertebrates (animals with no backbone) and sometimes bird eggs and frogs.

## LIVES

It is a nomadic species that is not often seen. When it does appear from reeds at the edge of a lake or waterhole, it is very quick to return to the vegetation. Lewin's rails need dense aquatic vegetation where they can hide, but they also like thick waterside shrubs.

## BREEDING

Lewin's rails breed over the summer period, laying three to five eggs in their saucer-shaped ground nests, which they build from dry vegetation such as reeds and grasses. The nests usually sit just above the water's edge in dense reeds and grassland.

There are three Lewin's rail subspecies recognised in Australia:

- 'clelandi' was found in Western Australia - it is now extinct.
- 'brachipus' lives in Tasmania only.
- 'pectoralis' is native to Queensland.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Size: 20-27cm

Average weight: small to medium-sized

Breeding season: Summer

Clutch Size: 3-5 eggs



\*Photo courtesy: Tim Siggs

## FUN FACTS

- Calls include a loud "kek-kek-kek-kek" as well as strange grunts and growls.
- They create tunnels within the vegetation, which it uses for quick escapes.

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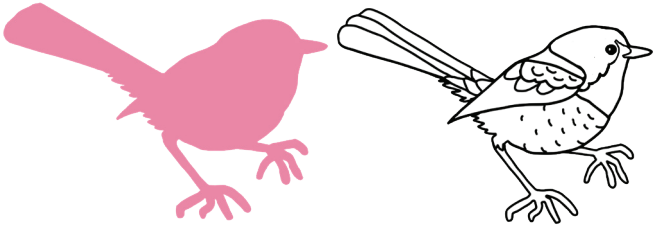
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# Variegated Fairywren

*Malurus lamberti*

## ON THE MURAL



## EATS

They eat seeds and insects including ants, grasshoppers, bugs, flies, weevils and various larvae.

## LIVES

They are highly social and can be found in pairs or small family parties in varied habitats on the Sunshine Coast, from the forests to the coastal dunes.

## BREEDING

Like other fairywrens, it is notable for its 'sexual dimorphism', which means they change colour during breeding season. The males have very colourful breeding feathers, but during autumn and winter they change and look more like the females. They retain blue tail feathers which distinguishes them from the brown females.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Size: 12–15 cm

Average weight: 6–11 g

Breeding season: most of the year

Clutch Size: 3 to 4 white

Incubation: 14–16 days

Nestling Period: 10–12 days



\*Photo courtesy: Graham McLean - Location: Coolloothin

## FUN FACT

- This species has the longest upright tail of the Australian wrens.
- During the breeding season some males can be seen presenting a flower to a female.

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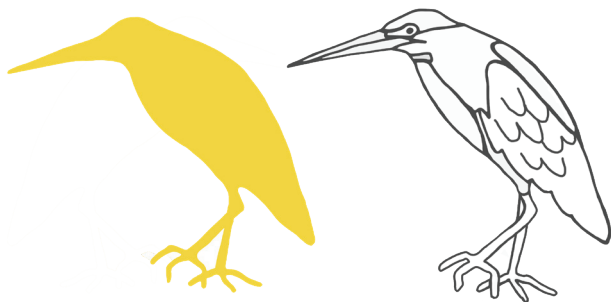




# Striated Heron

*Butorides striatus*

## ON THE MURAL



## EATS

They feed on crabs and other crustaceans, as well as molluscs and small fish, frogs and other small animals like leeches or even mice.

## LIVES

also known as the Mangrove Heron, is a secretive bird that prefers mangrove habitat. They can be found in both salt and fresh water. They are usually silent as they skulk around exposed mudflats looking for food.

## BREEDING

They make loud harsh calls when breeding and pairs build a platform type nest that is rather small nest for the size of this bird. It is built in mangroves or other dense foliage by water.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Size: up to 49cm tall

Average weight: 200–250 g

Wing span: 52–60 cm

Breeding season: twice yearly

Clutch Size: 2 to 5 pale blue eggs



\*Photo courtesy: Valda McLean - Location: Twin Waters

## FUN FACT

- This species has a characteristic hunched posture, pulling its head closely into its body, and flicks its tail downwards as it stalks prey on mudflats.
- It has the peculiarity of knowing how to use bait, (bits of food or insects) that it throws into the water to attract fish.

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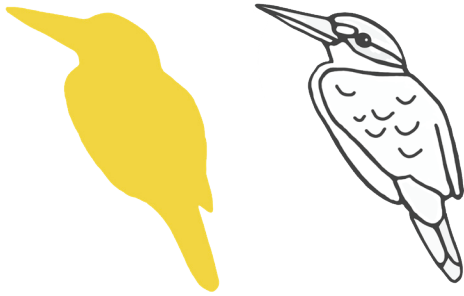


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# Sacred Kingfisher

*Todiramphus sanctus*

## ON THE MURAL



## EATS

They feed on crustaceans, small reptiles, insects, and the occasional fish. They sometimes plunge into shallow water after prey.

## LIVES

The Sacred kingfisher lives in mangroves, woodlands, forests and river valleys across Australia, New Zealand and other parts of the western Pacific.

## BREEDING

They often have two broods in the season which is usually between September and January, often with two broods of chicks. The nest is in a tree hollow or termite mound.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Size: 20–23 cm

Average weight: 28–61 g

Breeding season: August to March

Clutch Size: 3 to 6 glossy white

Incubation: 17–18 days

Nestling Period: 4 weeks



*\*Photo courtesy: Valda McLean - Location: Cottontree*

## FUN FACT

The name “sacred kingfisher” can be traced back to the year 1782 description of the species and what explorers first called the “Respected Kingsfisher” of the Friendly Isles (now Tonga).

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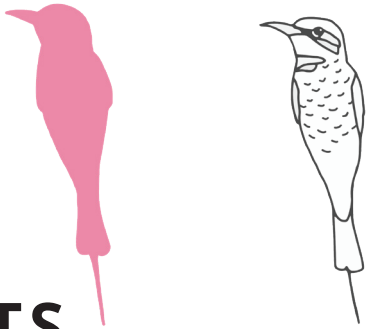
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# Rainbow Bee-Eater

*Merops ornatus*

## ON THE MURAL



## EATS

They eat insects, mainly catching bees and wasps, as well as dragonflies, beetles, butterflies and moths.

## LIVES

This single Australian species is nomadic and often seen perched on power lines. It flies out from a perch to catch flying insects and bees. It is most often found in open forests, woodlands and shrublands, and cleared areas, usually near water.

## BREEDING

They are believed to mate for life. The male will bring the female insects while she digs the burrow that will be their nest. The bee-eater digs its burrow by balancing on its wings and feet, and digs with its bill, then pushing loose soil backwards with its feet while balancing on its bill. The female Bee-eater can dig about three inches down every day. The nest tunnel is very narrow, and the birds' bodies press so tightly against the tunnel walls that when the birds enter and exit their movement acts like a piston, pumping in fresh air and pushing out stale air.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Size: 23–28 cm (includes their tail streamer)

Average weight: 20–30 g

Breeding season: November-January (QLD)

Clutch Size: 3 - 7 translucent white eggs

Incubation: 21-24 days

Nestling Period: 28 - 31 days



\*Photo courtesy: Valda McLean

## FUN FACT

- They remove the stings of wasps and bees before swallowing or feeding to their mate or young.
- Both male and female have tail streamers. The streamers of the male are very long and fine and the female's are shorter and thicker. They often break or lose them when breeding.

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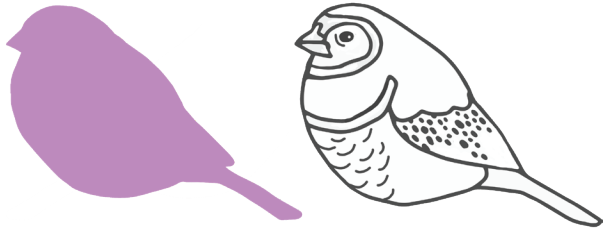




# Double-Barred Finch

*Taenoipygia bichenovii*

## ON THE MURAL



## EATS

Feeds on the ground on seeds. It will also take insects, especially when breeding. It usually feeds in groups or flocks of up to 40 birds.

## LIVES

Gather in flocks along watercourses, drier grassy woodlands, roadsides or where ever seeding grasses occur.

## BREEDING

Grass finches are highly social, and they bond as pairs and they appear to mate for life. The male's mating display may include impressing females with a long piece of grass gripped in his bill. Their bottle shaped nest of dry grass is often placed near an active wasp nest.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Size: 10 - 12cm

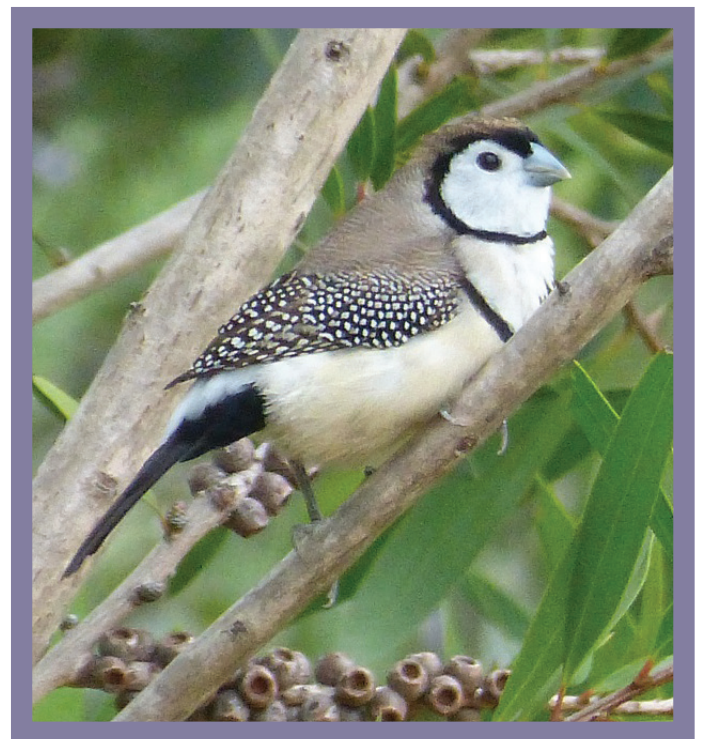
Average weight: 10g

Breeding season: After rain in north and inland.

Clutch Size: 4 to 7 eggs

Incubation: 14 days

Nestling Period: 21 days



\*Photo courtesy: Valda McLean - Location: Bli Bli

## FUN FACT

is often referred to as the Owl-faced finch as it looks similar to the face of a Barn owl.

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