



# Feeding birds

Can I feed native birds?

WIRES does not recommend that you feed any native birds for the following reasons:

- \* Most birds eat a balanced diet; 90% eat insects and nectar, seed or fruit. People feeding birds the wrong food changes the balance of their diet and can negatively impact their health.
- \* Feeding birds can increase aggression and stress as many try to feed together, this wouldn't happen naturally.
- \* Feeding can increase the quantity of non-native birds, non-native rats and cockroaches, as the more food they get the more they breed.
- \* Artificial feeding can change the balance of species in the wild as it can increase some species, which in turn, decreases others. The Rainbow lorikeet for example has taken great advantage of the artificial feeding and has all but eliminated the shy Scaly Breasted lorikeet from our urban areas.
- \* Feeding can spread disease through a concentration of food and birds in large numbers in one place.
- \* Bird seed left out in damp conditions rots, grows mould and introduces disease to the birds, and can attract rats and mice.
- \* Feeding encourages birds to become dependent on humans for their survival. They can lose the ability to find food for themselves, this is particularly so if they are juveniles who should be learning to find their natural food.
- \* It can cause sickness and deformities in young as high quantities of salt are present in bread and processed foods.
- \* Feeding can make them overweight and high quantities of fat are present in processed food and meat. Raw meat is lacking in calcium and has high levels of phosphorous which contribute to dietary imbalance and severe deficiencies.
- \* Artificial feeding is not necessary. Native birds do not need extra food as they are well adapted to their environment and will be much healthier and happier overall if left to eat only their normal diet.

This information thanks to Wires. <https://www.wires.org.au/wildlife-info/wildlife-factsheets/feeding-birds>