

This book is based on a real bird called a lyre bird. Read the passage below and then answer some simple questions about lyre birds.

A Lyrebird can be seen on the back of the Australian 10c coin. It looks like a cross between a pheasant and a peacock and is an Australian bird which lives on the ground. Living for up to 30 years they are most famous for their ability to mimic both natural and artificial sounds. You can search the internet for them mimicking hundreds of other birds, camera shutters, dogs barking, car alarms and even chain saws. Male lyre birds are famous for their beautiful big tail which they fan out when trying to court a female. They eat seeds and insects such as cockroaches, beetles, earwigs, moths, spiders and seeds that they find by scratching in leaf litter.

Constant habitat destruction saw lyre birds listed as vulnerable in 2009 but the 2019/20 bushfires across NSW and Victoria meant that this moved up to threatened as much of their wet-forest habitat was destroyed.

1. Which 2 birds does the lyre bird look like?

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2. What 2 things makes lyre birds famous?

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3. How long can a lyre bird live?

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4. What are some noises a lyre bird can make?

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5. What do lyre birds eat?

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6. Why are lyre birds endangered?

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7. On which coin can a lyre bird be found?

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8. Make a rubbing of a 10c coin lyre bird in the space below.

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