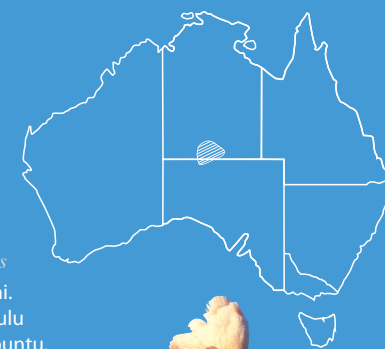


Tjita ara wathalpai

Bird stories that let you know things

This poster is written in Maṯutharra/Southern Luritja, spoken to the south of Alice Springs in Central Australia and into South Australia.



Luunpa
Red-backed Kingfisher *Todirhamphus pyrrhopygius*

Tjita luunpa paluru wangkanyi tiṯutharra, ngati thawanyi, mirriku. Nyurra payinytjaku.

People used to say these birds are digging the grave, predicting someone is going to die. If you see them, you should scare them away. *Photo: BG*



Mininy-Mininy
Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Mininy-mininy tjita nyanga paluru. Kunyu wangkanthala nyurra kulinytjaku. Paluru wathanyi wati kunyu ngalya yananyi, wati wanapi.

The Mistletoebird is a grass bird. This little bird tells you if there's a stranger hanging around, especially a kurdaicha man. *Photo: AE*



Tjintirr-Tjintirr
Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Tjita tjintirr tjintirr nyangatha paluru nyinanyi. Nyurra wanathala paluru kawanytjinganyi. An ara kuthupa nyinanyi palunya wiya ilunytjankula punkunytjaku kapi puntungka puyulpai.

The Willie Wagtail dances around and makes you feel it's a helpless little bird, enticing you to follow it. Watch out, it'll get you lost. And if you kill a Willie Wagtail a big rain will come. *Photo: BG*



Irranta, Irranti
Red-tailed Black-cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii*

Tjita nyanga paluru thana mai kalka unmirringkunthala ngalkulpai.

These birds eat seeds and ripe fruit. *Photo: MW*



Ulpatj, Patily-patilypa
Australian Ringneck *Barnardius zonarius*
Patily-patilypa ngana yultungka nyinapai. Paluru kuka palya maṯu. Pipirringku ngayulu ngalkulpai. Mai wiya nyinarra, kuwarri mai puntu.

The Ringneck parrots live in hollow trees. They are really good to eat. Back when we were kids and food used to be scarce, we would eat them. Today we have plenty to eat. *Photo: BM*



Kakalyalya
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Cacatua leadbeateri*

Kakalyalyangu paluru thana mai kalka unmirringkunthala ngalkulpai. Tjita nyanga ngalkulpai umpultjati an tjilka.

These birds eat seeds and ripe fruit. They eat wild orange and prickles. *Photo: BG*



Iluntji
Galah *Eulophus roseicapillus*

Tjita nyanga paluru thana mai kalka unmirringkunthala ngalkulpai. These birds eat seeds and ripe fruit. *Photo: SP*



Arralalpalpal
Crested Pigeon, Topknot *Ocyphaps lophotes*

Tjita arralalpalpal nyanga paluru. Mai kalka thuta ngalkulpai kapi puntu thanu.

Crested Pigeons are found where there are plenty of seeds and after rain. In drought time pigeons will help you find water. *Photo: BG*



Arrkinki, Arrkinka, Ikarrka
Western Bowerbird *Chlamydera guttata*

Tjita arrkinki mai ili watangka thanpingka ngurra thungkula nyinanyi, malpakithangu. Tjita kuthupa thutangu mai nguru wilakuyarrinkula paini. Wangka tjita kuthupa thutanya arrkalypai. Paluru mukulya, tirangkunthala, puli, colour-tharra tarra, ngurra palumpangka thunkupai.

The Bowerbird makes its home from grass around the base of the native fig, to attract a mate. When the figs are ripe, the Bowerbird guards them jealously. The Bowerbird is a mimic, it copies other birds and other sounds. It collects whatever glitters or is pretty - tin, gold, jewelry or glass. *Photo: M&CG*



Piilpiilpa, Piinpiinpa
Yellow-throated Miner, Yellow Beak *Manorina flavivula*

Tjita nyangangu pikangu wanalpai. Tjita kutjupa tjuṯanya, tjita puntu paluru ngulu wiyangu wanalpai.

Miners are protective of their territory, and will chase away any bird, no matter how big. *Photo: BG*



Ngatitjirri, Kilykilykarri
Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Ngatitjirri thuta ngalya yangkupai. Kapi puntungka atunthangka. Thana mai kalka thuta ngalkulpai, ngalkula ngalkula, piltirringkuthala, thana yangarrinkupai.

The Budgerigars come after a big rain. They eat all the seeds and when the grass gets dry they journey to where the grass is greener. *Photo: BB*



Twakitj
Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*

Twakitj thana puntura wangkanyi. Twakitj nyanga palatha mai unmirringkunthala mai ili nguru thana wangkanyi.

Babblers talk a lot when there is plenty of food around. They are noisy and chirpy, giving the appearance of being happy little birds. The babbler tells you when fruit is ripe. *Photo: BG*



Kunkunpalala
Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis*

Katjita kunkunpalala paluru rawa wankanyi. Nyurra mara takaltjingala, wilurarra-kutu, kakararra-kutu, yaaltji-kutu. Nyurrampa waltja tjinguru pala-palula nyinanyi. Tjita paluru wangka wiyarringanyi nyurrampa waltja tjinguru nyinanyi, paluru ngalya wirrkananyi.

The story goes that if you hear the Crested Bellbird, you know that someone's coming that you haven't seen for a long time. You click your fingers in different directions, and the direction you are clicking in when the bird stops calling is the direction the family is coming from. *Photo: TT*



Ipuru
Spinifex Pigeon, Rock Pigeon *Geophaps plumifera*

Tjita ipuru nyanga paluru. Paluru nyuntunya nintini mai kalka thuta an kapi ngarrinthalu.

The Rock Pigeon shows where there is plenty of food and where there's water. *Photo: SP*



Kuuku
Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

Tjita kuuku nyanga paluru. Panya nyurrangarrri nyakula kulinytjaku. Kapi tjinguru ila ngarrinyi, tjinguru manta thupi, tjinguru thukula. Pulingka tjinguru, thukula nyinanyi.

When you see a Diamond Dove you know there is water nearby. It may be just moist ground, or a rockhole in the hills. *Photo: SP*



Kurrpara
Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Kurrparangu mungawinki warralpai thutanya unkunguru pakaltjinkupai.

The Magpie sings loudly in the morning and wakes people up. *Photo: NM*



Wilu
Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

Tjita wilu thana manta urriyapangka para mirranyi. Paluru urriypai kapi puntutharrangu miithaku ngurripai. Pipirri thuta kulira ngulurringkulpai.

You hear the Curlew around after a good rain when the country is green. That's when they're mating. They cry out at night and scare the kids. *Photo: TT*



Manpi
Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

Manpi nyanga paluru tjintu tharranthala kapiku ngalyangukpai. Nyurra nyalpi palumpa kulini parrpakanṯala.

The Bronzewing is a cunning bird. It sneaks in for water at dusk. You only know it's there by the sound of the wings as it takes off. *Photo: SP*



Nyii-Nyii
Zebra Finch, Painted Finch *Taeniopygia guttata, Emblema pictum*

Nyurra tjinguru kawankatingku, ngurra putjinka thatangka. Nyurra kapi-kulta putu kulilku, kapi ilungka. Paluru nyurranya kapi-kuta katinyi. Palatha kapi manta thupingka.

Tjikini thana kapi titu-tharrangu.

These finches show where there's water. You might be in the bush looking for water, and if you listen to them, and they talk a lot, they'll show you which direction the water is. They hang around where there is any dampness and will drink whatever moisture is there, then move to the next water place. *Photo: BG*



Kurrkurr - Wiratja
Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Tjita wiratha mungangka kukaku ngatji paluru ngurrangka fence-angka nyinapai, an ngana katu -rabbit-a, thaputa an mingkiriku. Thuta paluru mantjira ngalkulpai. Road-angka nyinapai, wiratha.

We often see the Barn Owl sitting on the fence or on a tree at night looking for food - rabbit, lizard or mice. It has plenty to eat. At night they sit on the road. *Photo: AE*



Itatura
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Itatura, kuka waninthalu, maa-mantjira katinyi. Mantangka ngarrinyi, paluru maa-mantjira katinyi. Pipirri thutangu kuka wanira thana mirranyi, "kuka kuka kuka". Paluru arurringkula kuka palunya maa-mantjira katinyi.

This Kite will swoop and grab meat in the air or pick it up off the ground. Kids enjoy throwing meat up and calling out "kuka, kuka, kuka". That bird will turn around, swoop down and grab it. *Photo: BG*



Iluntji
Brown Falcon *Falco hypoleucos & berigora*

Iluntji kuka ngalkupai. Thaputa manytjilkatipai, witjapakara paluru kuka ngalkulpai. Manytjilkatinyi paluru tjita kutjupa, wima kuya, kuya tjuṯa, rabbit, panya.

The Falcon is a meat eater. It'll grab any small animal, bird or lizard, and even a rabbit. It swoops low and collects its prey in flight, and eats it in flight too. *Photo: TC*



Walawurru
Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

Walawurru pinytjunpangka thapu tharra nyinarra pikarti nyinapai. Nyanga paluru wakalpai pipirri. Anangu tarra pathani. Anangu ninti nyinanyi pipirri thalira katipai. Walawurru pintjupa ngana parrka thuta nguru palyalpai.

The Eagle will attack people who get too close to the nest when there are eggs or chicks. Parents teach kids to be aware of these dangers. The Eagle's nest is made from sticks and twigs thrown together. *Photo: BG*



Kurrkurrk
Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

Kurrkurrk tjita mungangka wangkapai. Kukaku ngurripai mungangka, mingkiriku an thaputuku ngurripai. Wangka palumpangka pipirri thutanya ngulutjinkulpai.

The Boobook calls out at night. It comes out at night looking for food. It eats mice and lizards. The sound of the boobook scares children. *Photo: SP*

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Proceeds of this poster go towards future publications of Australian Aboriginal languages, all of which are endangered languages.

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