

# Wedge-Tailed Eagle

The Wedge-tailed Eagle is one of the largest eagles in the world and is found throughout Australia. In the Northern Territory, they are more common in the dry centre than on the coastal plains of the Top End. The general colour of the Wedge-tailed Eagle is dark brown with some lighter patches around the back of the neck. It has a hooked beak and strong talons, clearly marking it as a bird of prey. The Wedge-tailed Eagle is recognisable for its huge broad wings (with a wingspan of up to 2.5 metres) and long wedge-shaped tail.

Wedge-tailed Eagles form long-lasting pairs which usually nest in the fork of a tree and together they defend their territory against intruders. They are very aerial birds and often soar for hours without wing-beat and little effort. They regularly reach 1800 metres or higher in their flight. Wedge-tailed Eagles have very good eyesight and can spot food from great distances.



When Wedge-tailed Eagles breed, they typically lay two eggs around June-July, and the eggs hatch after about 45 days. Both the male and female share the roles of keeping the young warm and feeding them. The young only leave the nest at the next breeding season. Under drought conditions, Wedge-tailed Eagles may not breed for many years.