

# ECOSYSTEMS

in Your

## BACKYARD



by Nyree Bevan



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY



Did you know that in your backyard there is an ecosystem? You might be wondering what that is. An ecosystem is a community of living organisms that interact in a particular place. The organisms all work together to create a circle of life. Our incredible earth is full of many ecosystems, and they are all connected. In fact, the earth is one gigantic ecosystem. Yet some are small, like your neighborhood or your own backyard. Even just a small potted plant is an ecosystem!





Let's travel around  
the world and explore  
the ecosystems of three  
different backyards.



First, we'll head  
to beautiful  
Dunsborough in

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Right next to a river, there is a little green clapboard house, and in the backyard are lots of tall trees. Up in the trees live many wild birds, such as weiros, willie wagtails, and kookaburras, creating quite a ruckus. Down in the grass, you might see kangaroos bounding away or snakes seeking some shade from the hot sun. All year long, pesky mosquitoes buzz around.



KOOKABURRA

The weiros like to eat the seeds and berries in the trees and bushes. In turn, they help to spread those seeds so more bushes and trees can grow.



WILLIE WAGTAIL



Willie wagtails eat mosquitoes, which is surely a great blessing to the other animals and people in the area! The kookaburras eat insects, fish from the river, and even small snakes.

KANGAROO





KOOKABURRAS

Snakes eat mice and other small critters, whereas kangaroos feed on the grass and bushes. They are so much fun to watch as they hop from bush to bush with almost no effort! When a kangaroo gets old and dies, the smaller lizards and some birds will feed on the carcass. Their waste helps to fertilize the soil so more plants can grow.

**Every animal works together to make the ecosystem function.**

God never creates something without a purpose, and if you sit and watch the ecosystem in your backyard, you can see His amazing hand at work!





Kookaburras catch snakes and beat them on rocks or impale them on tree branches, killing the snakes before eating them.



Making their nests in tree holes, kookaburras usually have two to four young at a time. The young often stay with their parents to help raise the next year's babies.

Kookaburras are also known as laughing kookaburras because their call sounds like a laughing monkey.



Kookaburras eat venomous snakes in New Zealand and Australia.

KING BROWN SNAKE





Willie wagtails are named because of the repeated side-to-side twitching, or wagging, of their tails.

The eggs of willie wagtails are cream colored with brown and gray specks. They are incubated by both the mom and dad.

WILLIE WAGTAILS  
CAN EAT THEIR  
OWN WEIGHT IN  
INSECTS EVERY  
DAY!





WEIROS  
ARE CALLED  
COCKATIELS IN THE  
UNITED STATES.

Weiros usually live  
an average of 15 years  
in the wild but can  
live up to 25 years or  
more!

A species of parrot, the  
weiro can be hand raised  
from an egg and often  
can learn to talk or sing  
various melodies.



# ECOSYSTEMS in Your BACKYARD

**E**cosystems are everywhere you look—out your kitchen window, underneath the ground, even on your own skin! They all work in perfect harmony, and each is an incredible example of God's creative power. In this book you'll travel to three unique ecosystems around the world and learn about the plants and animals that live and work there side by side. Some are cute and some are creepy, but they all play a vital role in keeping their ecosystems—and our earth—healthy.



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