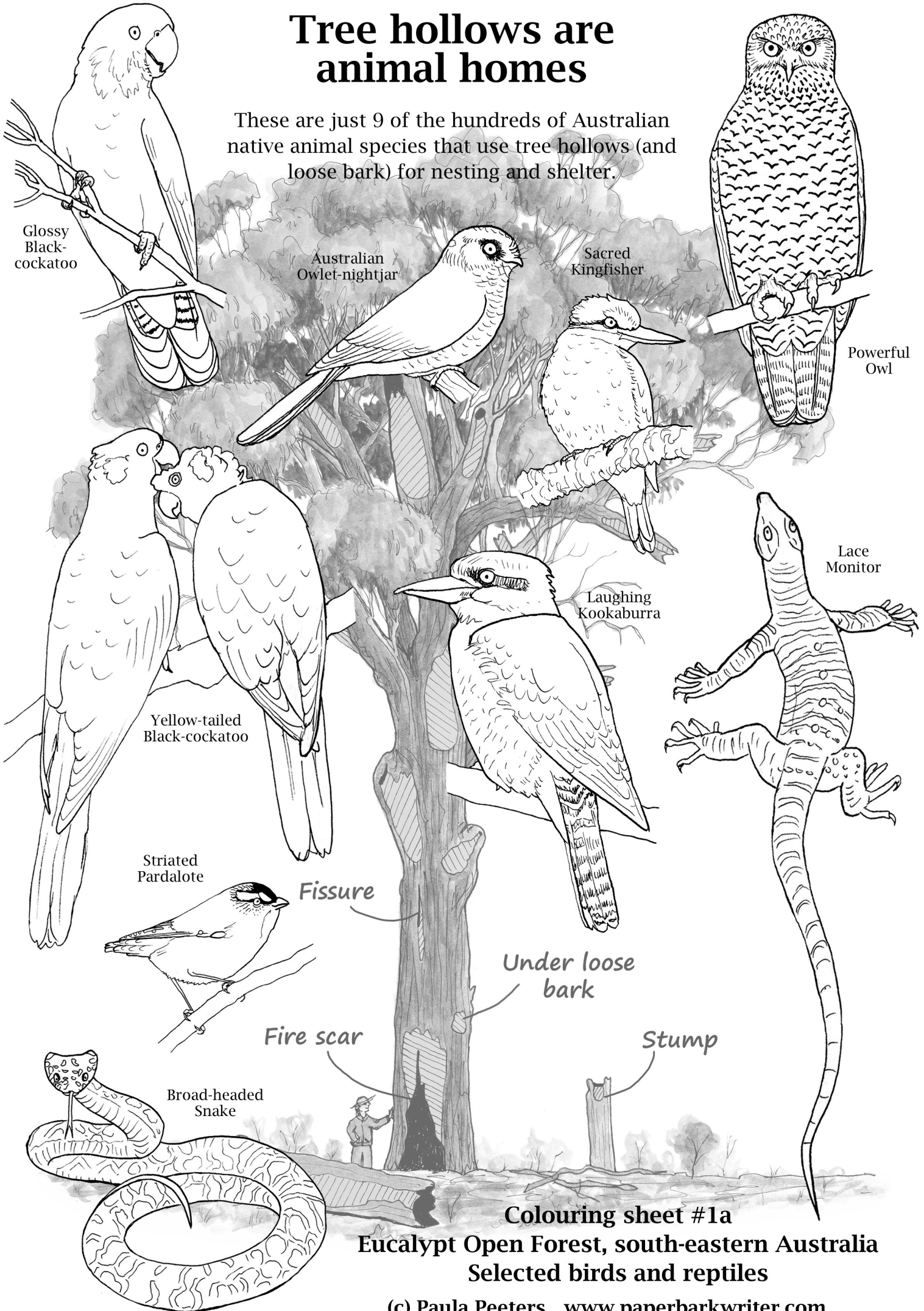


Tree hollows are animal homes

These are just 9 of the hundreds of Australian native animal species that use tree hollows (and loose bark) for nesting and shelter.



Colouring sheet #1a
Eucalypt Open Forest, south-eastern Australia
Selected birds and reptiles

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Tree hollows are animal homes

#1 Eucalypt Open Forest, south-eastern Australia

This poster shows 19 of the hundreds of Australian native animal species that use tree hollows (and loose bark) for shelter. The animal species depicted here are often associated with Eucalypt Open Forest (also known as Dry Sclerophyll Forest) in south-eastern Australia.

The tree represents the many species of *Eucalyptus* (and *Corymbia*, *Angophora* and *Lophosymbium* species) that grow in Eucalypt Open Forest in south-eastern Australia. The hatched areas indicate the internal dimensions of each animal home. A hollow that shares a number with an animal species is an example of a type of hollow used by that animal. Some animal species use a variety of hollow types, but hollow internal size and entrance width is often related to the size of the animal.^{1,2}

Eucalypts need to be at least 100-120 years old before they start to form hollows suitable for most of the animals pictured here.³ Large hollows, such as those used by the Powerful Owl, Glossy Black-cockatoo and Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo only begin to form in trees that are over 220 years old.⁴ This is why the preservation of large, old trees is essential for the conservation of many native animal species.

Approximately 11 million hectares (33% or one third) of Australia's Eucalypt Open Forests have been destroyed since European settlement. Many large old trees have also been removed from the 22 million hectares of Eucalypt Open Forest that remains. Protection of the remaining areas of Eucalypt Open Forest will allow the animals on this poster (and many other animal species that use hollows in this habitat type) to survive and thrive into the future.

Right: Distribution of Eucalypt Open Forest in south-eastern Australia: orange shows pre-clearing extent, blue shows current extent. Source is the National Vegetation Information System (version 5), pre-European and extent distribution of major vegetation groups 3 (Eucalypt Open Forests) and 4 (Eucalypt Low Open Forests).

References

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- Types and sizes of hollows for each species based on the latest scientific data.
- Includes map of pre-European and current extent of Eucalypt Open Forest in south-eastern Australia

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