Inland Bearded Dragon

**Class:** Reptilia  **Order:** Squamata  **Family:** Agamidae  **Genus species:** Pogona vitticeps

**FIELD MARKS**
Can grow up to 2 ft. long, including tail. Weigh 10-18 oz. Many specialized scales with spiny points.

**LIFE HISTORY**
Breed at one to two years of age. During courtship, males indicate interest with rapid head-bobbing. Receptive females respond with slower head-bobbing. Females lay up to 25 eggs in shallow nests in sandy soil. Eggs hatch after approximately 70 days. Offspring weigh as little as 2.1 grams.

**DIET**
- In the wild, bearded dragons eat small vertebrates, invertebrates, and plant matter.
- In captivity, they eat crickets, mealworms, neonatal mice, fruits, and vegetables.

**THREATS TO SURVIVAL**
- Bearded dragons have become very popular in the pet trade.
- Some are hit by cars and attacked by domestic animals.

**CONSERVATION STATUS**
- Bearded dragons are relatively common. They have been protected by Australia’s restrictive export laws since the 1960’s.
- They are captively bred in Europe for export to the U.S. and other countries.
- There are many color variations in the captive population.

**RANGE & HABITAT**
- East-Central Australia
- Rocky, semi-desert areas and open woodlands

*Bearded dragons store nutrients in large abdominal fat reservoirs and estivate (lie dormant) underground for long time periods when conditions are unfavorable.*
Rainbow Lorikeet

**Class:** Aves  **Order:** Psittaciformes  **Family:** Psittacidae  **Genus species:** Trichoglossus haematodus

**FIELD MARKS**

Length of body and tail is approximately 12 in.; brilliantly colored plumage with a bright blue head, green body, and yellow, orange, and red underparts; males and females usually similar in appearance and coloration.

**LIFE HISTORY**

Pairs mate for life and breed year-round, depending on food availability. Clutch consists of 2-3 eggs. Incubation period is 25-26 days.

**DIET**

- In the wild, lorikeets feed on pollen, nectar, fruit, and seeds.
- In captivity, they eat fruit, artificial nectar, and pellets.

**THREATS TO SURVIVAL**

- Lorikeets are threatened by habitat destruction and illegal trapping.
- Susceptible to the effects of introduced avian malaria.

**CONSERVATION STATUS**

- Wild bird importation is illegal although monitoring of the pet trade is difficult.
- They are quite abundant around suburbs. In Queensland, huge flocks are fed for tourist entertainment.

**RANGE & HABITAT**

- New Guinea and coastal Australia
- Nomadic feeders, they follow the flowering of coastal trees

*Lorikeets possess up to 30 different ritualized gestures which they use to intimidate rivals. Males use the same gestures to impress females. Papillae at the tip of the tongue are covered by a sheath when eating seeds or fruit. The papillae expand like tentacles to brush pollen out of flowers.*
Sugar Glider

Class: Mammalia  Order: Diprotodontia  Family: Petauridae  Genus species: Petaurus breviceps

FIELD MARKS

Length of head and body is 6-8 in.; tail is same length; weight is 0.22-0.35 lb.; fur is blue gray to brown-gray; dark stripe begins at nose and extends down center of back; membranes for gliding extend from the fifth finger to the first toe on both sides of the body.

LIFE HISTORY

Sugar gliders breed twice yearly, producing two young per litter. Young remain in mother’s pouch for about 70 days and are then moved to nest for another 40-50 days. After 7-10 months, young leave nest permanently to join an unrelated social group. Males use forehead, chest, and anal glands to scent mark chests of females during courtship.

DIET

• In the wild, sugar gliders feed on acacia gum, sap, nectar, invertebrates.
• In captivity, they eat primate diet, primate biscuits, mealworms, crickets, fruit, and seeds.

THREATS TO SURVIVAL

• Predation is high during the first year of life, especially after the young leave their nest.
• Feral dogs and cats pose the greatest threat to their survival.

CONSERVATION STATUS

• Sugar gliders are not endangered; however, in 1969, Australia banned the export of sugar gliders for the pet trade in order to protect the country’s native fauna. All pet sugar gliders outside of Australia are captive-raised.

RANGE & HABITAT

• New Guinea and coastal regions of Australia
• Common in open forests where they have access to acacia trees and woodland patches in agricultural areas
• Build spherical nests lined with leaves in tree hollows

Sugar gliders glide from tree to tree while foraging for food or escaping from predators. They can glide for at least 150 feet. Like other marsupials, sugar gliders sustain young in pouches.
Emu

Class: Aves  Order: Casuariiformes  Family: Dromaiidae  Genus species: Dromaius novaehollandiae

FIELD MARKS

Average height: 4.75-5.75 ft.; weight: 85-110 lbs.; females usually weigh 10 lbs. more than males; shaggy brown-grey feathers; long neck and legs; very short wings (approximately 8 in. long); vocalizations include grunts and hisses; females make booming drum-like sounds.

LIFE HISTORY

Emus pair December-January. Female lays her clutch of 9-20 eggs February-April. Male builds and sits on the nest, incubating the eggs for 56 days during which time he does not eat, drink, or defecate. Females may defend nest with loud, booming call.

DIET

• In the wild, emus eat seeds, fruit, flowers and young shoots, invertebrates, small vertebrates, and charcoal.
• In captivity, they eat ratite pellets, fruit, vegetables, mealworms, and neonatal mice. They eat large pebbles to help gizzard grind food.

THREATS TO SURVIVAL

• There are no current threats to the survival of emus.

CONSERVATION STATUS

• As of 2006, the population in Western Australia alone was estimated at 100,000-200,000—the largest population ever.
• The emu has benefited from the agricultural practice of creating water holes in inland Australia for herds of cattle and sheep.
• In order to protect cereal-growing areas from travelling emus, a 600-mile long fence has been built in southwestern Australia.

RANGE & HABITAT

• Throughout Australia, excluding deserts and rainforests
• Eucalypt forest, woodland, and desert shrubland

Emus follow precipitation patterns for access to fresh water at all times.
Kea

Class: Aves  Order: Psittaciformes  Family: Psittacidae  Genus species: Nestor notabilis

FIELD MARKS
Length of head and body is about 1.5 ft.; wingspan 2.5 ft.; coloration is olive-drab; tips of primary feathers are dark blue; the underside of the wings are red and white. Large beak used for foraging. Not sexually dimorphic.

LIFE HISTORY
Breed July through January. Nest in crevices under rocks and among roots of trees, or hollow logs. Clutch consists of 2-4 eggs. Female incubates eggs for 28-31 days.

DIET
• In the wild, keas have a varied diet of leaf buds, roots, berries, fruit, seeds, nectar, blossoms and insects.
• In captivity they eat bird kibble, fruit, and vegetables.

THREATS TO SURVIVAL
• Not currently threatened.
• Hunted by farmers who believe they attack and eat their sheep.

CONSERVATION STATUS
• As of 2006, breeding recommendations were being considered for this species.

RANGE & HABITAT
• New Zealand’s South Island
• Wooded mountainous regions 1,800-6,000 feet above sea level

Keas are one of the most intelligent birds in the world. Keas have very long and slender bills to help them probe for roots or shred trees in search of insects. They are one of the few cold-tolerant parrots.
Red-Necked Wallaby

Class: Mammalia  Order: Diprotodontia  Family: Macropodidae  Genus species: Macropus rufogriseus

FIELD MARKS

Height is 2.2-3 ft.; length of tail is 2-3 ft.; weight is 25-60 lbs.; dark brown to reddish-brown fur, gray belly; males are larger than females; hind feet have four digits, two of which are fused; long, broad tail used for balance.

LIFE HISTORY

After mating, embryo may remain dormant for up to two years, or until the mother’s pouch has been vacated by the previous joey. Immature newborn crawls up mother’s abdomen and attaches to a teat in its mother’s pouch. It remains there for about 40 weeks and then vacates the pouch.

DIET

- In the wild, wallabies eat native grasses.
- In captivity, they eat grain pellets, primate biscuits, dog kibble, oats, calf manna, cereal, bread, fruit, and vegetables.

THREATS TO SURVIVAL

- Marsupials existed in Australia for 45 million years before the advent of humans who introduced placental mammals, domestic pets, livestock, and agriculture causing the extinction of nine species of marsupials.
- The red-necked wallaby population is high because of decreased numbers of predators, changes in pasture conditions and composition, and an increase in the number of water holes with the extension of agricultural zones.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- Common throughout its range; considered a pest species in Tasmania where it is more abundant than it was before settlement 200 years ago.
- Fauna authorities perform population surveys to determine numbers of wallabies to be eliminated.

RANGE & HABITAT

- Southeastern coastal Australia and Tasmania
- Eucalypt forests, dense woodlands

Males have larger forelimbs than females. They use them for boxing or holding the shoulders of another male while they kick with their powerful hind legs.