



Lyrebird

Lyrebirds are **ground-dwelling Australian birds** forming the genus **Menura**. They are best known for their remarkable ability to **mimic sounds** as well as for the striking beauty of the male bird's tail when fanned out during the **courtship display**. Lyrebirds sing all year round, but at the apogee of the breeding season (June-August) they sing with the most intensity. During this apogee they may sing for up to four hours a day thanks to their formidable **syrix**. Theirs is the most complexly-muscled among the songbirds, thus granting the lyrebird unparalleled singing abilities. Lyrebirds are skilled at imitating the individual songs of other birds and animals such as koalas and dingoes and can mimic **almost any sound**, including artificial ones as mill whistles, chainsaws, car engines or alarms, rifle-shots, camera shutters, music, mobile phone ring tones, and even **human voices**. While the mimicry of human voices is widely reported, the extent to which it happens is exaggerated and the phenomenon is quite unusual.



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