



Bowerbird

Bowerbirds make up the bird family **Ptilonorhynchidae**, which has 20 species split into 8 genera. Bowerbirds are **polygynous**, with the female building the nest and raising the young alone; the only exception is the **Ailuroedus catbird**, which forms **monogamous** couples raising their chicks together. Female bowerbirds usually build relatively simple nests made of leaves, ferns, vine tendrils and sticks. By contrast, males build extremely complex **bowers** to attract female mates. In and around their bowers, males place a variety of **brightly colored objects** meant to catch females' attention – such objects range from shells to leaves, flowers, feathers, stones, berries, and even discarded plastic items, coins, nails or glass shards. Males spend entire hours arranging this collection and will **dance** and **sing** to the female around the bower in an attempt to lure her into it. Interestingly, both the choice of the objects on display and their arrangement reflect the biases of males of each species; several studies of different species have shown that the colors of decorations males select for their bowers match the preferences of females – indeed, a carefully planned and time-consuming **seduction strategy**...



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