



Australian Magpie-lark

Name	Scientific	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>
	Common	Australian Magpie-lark or Mudlark
Description		When you first look at magpie larks you may think they all look the same. But on closer inspection there are differences between male and female birds. The males have black faces, and the females have white faces. They can be up to 30cm in length.
Habitat		Open areas with trees and water to provide mud for nest building. They have adapted well to urban areas and are not often found in bushland.
What it feeds on		Mainly insects, but grass seeds are also eaten.
Where it feeds		On the ground.
Breeding		Breeding takes place between August–December. Both male and female birds collect mud for the nest which is bowl shaped and bound with grass and lined with hair, grass and feathers. 3-5 eggs are laid with both parents looking after the young.
Did you know?		Adult birds bond for life. They are very protective of their territory and will defend it <u>vigorously</u> . When defending it the male birds will only chase away other male magpie larks, and the females will only chase other female magpie larks away. They will often nest in an area where a magpie clan live, and take advantage of the magpies' aggressiveness to drive away eagles and hawks.