



▶▶▶ Contribution of native fauna to pest control

The following table outlines a number of research facts that are directly related to the contribution of native fauna to pest control. If further information is required, refer to the cited scientific paper reference.

100 Straw-necked Ibis consume up to 25,000 insects per day (notably locusts and grasshoppers).	Davidson. R., and Davidson. S., (1992). <i>Bushland on Farms – do you have a choice?</i> AGPS, Canberra.
A Straw-necked Ibis rookery in Victoria consumed about 500 tonnes (estimate) of food per day.	Butz, M., (1985). <i>Think Tree – Grow Tree.</i> AGPS, Canberra.
Ibis provide natural insect pest control on 100,000 hectares of adjacent cropland, worth an estimated \$675,000 a year (Barmah and Gunbower forest).	Glanzign, A., (1999). <i>Native Vegetation and Farm Productivity: the biodiversity connection.</i> Australian Landcare pp52-53.
Magpies will consume up to 40 scarab larvae per day.	Heatwole, H., and Lowman, M., (1986). <i>Dieback: Death on an Australian Landscape.</i> Reed, Sydney.
Insectivorous bats can consume up to half their body weight in a single night. In the northern plains their diet consists mainly of moths, beetles and bugs, with some species also consuming spiders, mosquitoes, grasshoppers and crickets.	Lumsden, L., (1993). <i>Bats, Natures Nocturnal Insect Controllers.</i> Trees and Natural Resources 35(4): 8-11.
The diet of the Southern Freetail Bat (Mormopterus spp) comprises approximately 80% Rutherglen Bug.	Lumsden. L., (2001). 'The Ecological Role of Insectivorous Bats in Rural Landscapes' in <i>NRE Chief Scientists' Biodiversity Science Symposium</i> 15 May 2001. Department of Natural resources and Environment, East Melbourne.
Sugar Gliders consume up to 18,000 scarab beetles per hectare per season (in areas where there is enough winter food, mainly from wattles).	McMahon, S., (1997). <i>Farm Ecology (Biodiversity Conservation) in Property Management Planning. Farming for the Future</i> (Brochure). National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW.
Sugar Gliders have been estimated to eat 3.25 kilograms of insects per year.	Breckwoldt. R., (1983). <i>Wildlife in the Back Paddock.</i> Angus and Robertson, Sydney.



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