

Australian Brush Turkey: Video Transcript

The Australian Brush-Turkey is often seen in rainforests but in recent times it has also become a very familiar sight in our cities and suburbs.

We often see them on our streets.

We also see them in our backyards

To stay safe Brush-Turkeys like to keep a close eye on people and their pets

They often find a quiet spot in our gardens where the male can build a huge mound of leaves in which the female can lay her eggs which incubate for up to 50 days until the young Brush-Turkeys are ready to dig their way out of the mound.

When they do, they are on their own and have to find their own food without any help from their parents.

Young Brush-Turkeys need to be especially careful as their small size makes them easy targets for predators.

Occasionally, in the early morning we might see Brush- Turkeys coming down from trees where they have roosted overnight so that predators cannot take them by surprise.

By day, Brush-Turkeys often wander in our yards to forage for a range of natural foods as well as any food scraps they can find. They are often not very popular with gardeners as Brush-Turkeys will dig up plants to get food and shift mulch from gardens to help make their nest mounds.

Despite all the challenges that Brush-Turkeys face living in our cities and suburbs, recent surveys have shown that these wild native turkeys have adapted well to being our suburban neighbours and their numbers are increasing.