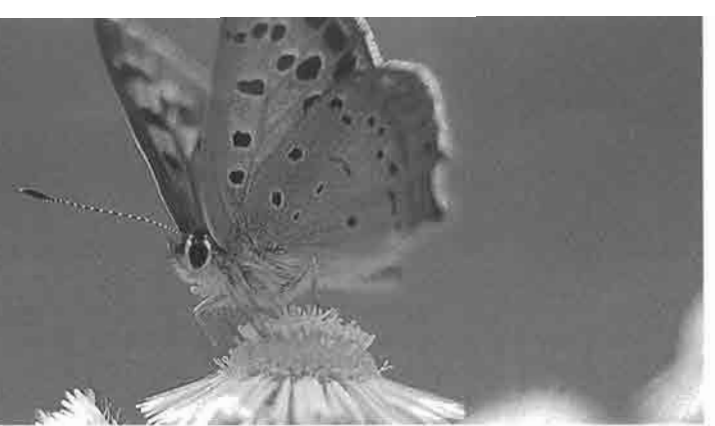


# Animal Dreaming

by Scott King



## Tuning in to Creature-Teachers

For every aspect of life, the Earth Mother has provided a specialised messenger; a 'creature-teacher' imbued with the particular wisdom to help us harness the lesson hidden within.

Animals never take more than they need, rarely kill for sport and never have 'accidents' or 'make mistakes'. The animals are always there, on a practical, tangible level, reminding us to take responsibility for ourselves by demonstrating how to live whole, impeccable, interrelated lives. All we have to do is look to them for affirmation by contemplating what was on our mind whenever we experience an animal in an exceptional setting. In doing so, the wisdom of that animal will help clarify the situation or issue at hand; the answer being immediate, concise and faultless. The animals never make mistakes and never write things off as 'accidents'. They cannot afford to, and neither can we. Life is too precious.

The animals remind us that we are never alone, that no matter where we go, we are constantly being cradled in the protective arms of the Earth Mother. If we learn to progress at a constant pace and acknowledge the animals in a sacred way, we will be assured that all our needs are met, our hard work compensated and all our dreams brought to fruition. The understanding that the animals can be spiritually called upon to assist us in almost every aspect of our lives is a realisation that opens a floodgate of knowledge and power to those who seek their counsel. Remember, though, to always give thanks and make a return offer whenever you receive. Visit a piece of Nature, whisper a prayer of gratitude and push a small offering into the soil, out of sight. Offering thanks completes the cycle and ensures the animal's assistance in the future.

The mere presence of an animal may be enough for some people – enough in the sense that the animal's appearance may clarify a situation or clearly answer a question. But wild animals are illusive, timid and shy. Coming out and saying, "Look to my Dreaming for your answer" is just as hard for them to do as it can be for us to take. This is why the fox may leave footprints; the wombat may leave droppings on a log and goanna may leave scratch marks on a tree.

In order to recognise the signs and omens that the animals are trying to show us, we must first learn how to tell who has left them by interpreting their "signatures" – their footprints, scratch marks on the ground or trees, the colour of their eyes at night, residual scent, droppings, and the sounds that they make. Searching for these signs and recording what we see in a journal or specimen box, even if we do not need answers or confirmation at the time, is an excellent way of learning to listen with our eyes in preparation for when we do require assistance from Nature.

The next step is to look at the issues manifesting in your life at that time, and relate it or them to the Dreaming of that animal by asking yourself these questions:

- 🐾 What were you focusing on at that moment?
- 🐾 What issues were foremost on your mind at this point in time?
- 🐾 What were you thinking about when you found the sign or mark?
- 🐾 What had you been focusing on for the hours leading up to the discovery of the sign or mark?
- 🐾 What about the issues foremost on your mind during the past 24 hours?
- 🐾 What life issue are you working through at the moment?

The lessons these animals are trying to teach us may not be immediately apparent, and may take some personal investigation, reading or soul searching to identify.



## FINCH

### Multiplicity

Several species of indigenous Finch are found in Australia with many others being native to other continents. Due to their wide distribution of native localities, extensive spectrum of individual colours and breeds, and their range of size, physical features and song, Finch Dreaming gives us the strength to step out of our comfort zone and to walk amongst people from all walks of life. It reconnects us to the real people while teaching us that everyone is equal.

Finch reminds us that we are all from the one source: that even though our skin and faces may differ from person to person, our hearts beat as one. People who have lost touch with the common people or who regard themselves as superior would benefit from the healing lessons of Finch Dreaming.