



Sounds

By Janet Soo

During the night, I sometimes hear the sound of tawny frog mouthed owls and lapwings flying overhead. Possums feature largely as makers of noise in the night – I believe terrifying to newcomers to Australia! The morning sounds usually start with the carolling of magpies, closely followed by the singing of blackbirds. Traffic hums along a main road, but the birds are well and truly heard above it.

At first light (or often before), I am outside taking my cat for his first walk of the day. Given the chance he would be a great hunter, but he's kept on a leash when not under 'supervision'. Noisy miners give the alarm as we approach a large mulberry tree. In a nearby old ivy covered gum tree some possums are

settling disputes before spending the day sleeping.

Later in the morning flocks of cheeky rainbow lorikeets scold and boss the sulphur crested cockatoos. Overhead the sound of a flock of about one hundred little corellas is deafening. I'm happy that they continue on their flight as they are extremely destructive!

King parrots call and fly close by answering my voice as I whistle to them. A pair of butcher birds quite some distance apart answer each other's calls. Late in the day, in fact sometimes it's nearly dark when I hear a favourite sound - that of the yellow tailed black cockatoos. They fly in to drink from the bird baths then lumber off into the dusk.

Reflection:

God's love is not only for us, but includes all living creatures, summed up in this children's hymn. God sees the little sparrow fall, It meets his tender view; If God so loves the little birds, I know He loves me too.

Hymn written in 1874 by Maria Straub