

The Drongo

Number 146 May 2017



Annette Sibson

Moorinya

Pelagic Birds

Scrubby



FROM THE PRESIDENT

BirdLife Townsville continues to grow, now having a membership of 169. The club is also evolving which must happen if we are to survive. Many of our long-time members are now retired and doing a lot of very well deserved caravan travel. One notable change is that there will be no more campouts planned unless someone puts their hand up to organise and to be the leader. If you have a particular campout in mind and would like to take on the leader role, notify the committee at contact@birdlifetownsville.org.au. The committee will publicise your proposed trip and take care of registering it as an official BirdLife Australia outing.

We still have a very busy calendar of activities with many regular surveys and other outings for members to just go out enjoying birds. Members are welcome to take part in nearly all the surveys that are on the calendar. There is a limit to the number of vehicles for some of these surveys so it's a good idea to let us know if you wish to attend so car-pooling can be organised ahead of time. If you miss out because of the limited numbers we'll do our best to make sure you get to go next time. The committee always wants to hear from members about areas suitable for outings. This is a good way to keep things interesting and introduce members to new places.

The Education Group has had a very busy start to the year. They have attended Reef Guardian Network meetings in Townsville, Ingham and Ayr. Invitations followed to visit several schools to provide education sessions. These sessions are usually great fun as well as being good opportunities to raise awareness of birds and their habitats and the need to protect them. If you would like to get involved in the Education Group just let Norm Rains know at contact@birdlifetownsville.org.au.

Wal Threlfall will be heading down to Melbourne later in May to represent BirdLife Townsville at the BirdLife Australia Network Forum. Wal will give feedback from the forum at the June meeting.

Janet Robino

YOUR COMMITTEE

President: Janet Robino
Secretary: Wal Threlfall
Treasurer: Nina Doyle
Janet Cross
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The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Birdlife Townsville.

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GOOD FRIDAY - GOOD BIRDING

Arriving at Moorrinya National Park (80 km south of the town of Torrens Creek) on Thursday afternoon 13th April 2017, we found that we were alone, except of course for the squillions of bush flies that almost broke our sanity. Weather was clear, but exceptionally hot for this time of year.

A quick camp set-up and it was off for a walk around Shirley Shearing Shed complex and campgrounds. Then, down along the adjacent Bullock Creek, where we found five Black-tailed Native-hens feeding on the riparian seeding grasses. They would then wander into the creek's shallow pools for baths and then clean- preen all those sticky seeds. They shared the water's edge with a pair of Black-fronted Dotterels and a Restless Flycatcher. Cockatiel and Budgerigars eventually came down to drink.



Black-tailed Native-hens

Crimson Chat were feeding out on the open grassland beside camp, along with many Zebra Finch. Perched in the tops of dead trees around the campground, six Red-backed Kingfishers waited and watched for movements of their next meal. There were a few Jacky Winter sitting prominently on posts and logs and lots of White-browed Woodswallows hawking overhead.



Budgerigars Cunningham's Dam

We spent most of Good Friday traversing the tracks and dams on the eastern section of the park. At Herrod's Dam (dry) we had Emu, Common Bronzewing, three Red-chested Buttonquail, a young Crested Bellbird, Rufous Songlarks, Striated Pardalotes, and a couple of Brown Treecreepers. Next stop, Cunningham's Dam, a small amount of water was the biggest drawcard. We arrived to

find a pair of Emu bathing in the middle of the dam. They got up and moved away immediately we opened the car doors. This allowed other bird species to come in for thirst-quenchers. More Budgerigars, Red-winged Parrots, Spiny-cheeked, Singing, White-plumed and Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Zebra and Double-barred Finch, Varied Sittella, and a pair of Willie Wagtails.



Australian Owlet-nightjar

On to Bell's Outstation where all was dry. Still, we scored a few more Crimson Chat, Brown Falcon, Yellow Thornbill, Spotted Bowerbird, a pair of Pale-headed Rosellas, Apostlebirds, and Galahs. At Tom's Dam, a pair of Squatter Pigeon waddled in for a drink from the muddy moisture in the middle. There was a flock of Cockatiel snoozing atop a dead tree... until an inquisitive pass from a Whistling Kite disturbed them. Spotted Bowerbirds welcomed us to Native Dam. It was such a treat for us there with a gorgeous little Australian Owlet-nightjar showing us around some of its riparian tree-hollows.



Diamond Dove

Heading east along the Northern boundary, we stumbled across a new water-bore, tank and cattle-trough. It was just 10 metres over the fence into the adjoining property, so we stopped and watched in amazement at the magnificent numbers of honeyeaters, finches, and doves that were coming in there to drink. Water really is the key to survival. Further along that northern boundary at Mingo Dam (our favourite birding spot on the park), there was plenty of water remaining and the honeyeaters were thirsty: - Striped, Grey-headed, Grey-fronted, Spiny-cheeked, White-plumed, Brown and Singing. As we walked back to the car, an aerobatic flock of about 30 Little Crow wheeled and tumbled above us.

On the last leg back to camp we had a Peregrine Falcon pass over us near Pigeon Dam and on arrival back at the

campground a Little Eagle cruised up and down Bullock Creek, sending the roosting flock of about 40 Sulphur-crested Cockatoos skywards into an ear-piercing, screeching take-off of all directions. Luckily for us, The Little Eagle returned twice and on its last pass we snapped a couple of distant flight photos.

That evening, after a 3 hour, s-l-o-w drive spotlighting (Barn Owl, Tawny Frogmouth and lots of Easter Bunnies), we were only 15 metres from our campsite when we almost ran over this one tough little Spotted Nightjar in the middle of the track. It wouldn't budge, no matter how close we approached. So, we rewarded ourselves with some nice, close-up photos. A southern Boobook called as we turned-in for the night around mid-night.

Clearly, Moorrinya National Park needs more good rains. Many of its dams are now completely dry. Unexpectedly though, some dams had a little water remaining and it was this "wet" real estate that was in such great demand by the wildlife.



Spotted Nightjar

Where ever we went on Good Friday, wet or dry environs, day or night, Moorrinya National Park turned some great birding into many unforgettable experiences for us.

Len and Chris Ezzy

THIRSTY BIRD

We have a bird bath in the back garden that is frequented by seventy percent natives and thirty percent imported. (Don't like calling them feral, poor things.) The water is renewed daily and it seems to be perfectly acceptable to many callers.

But there is one crazy sparrow. He scales the vertical wall of the swimming pool, clutching on to the pebblecrete with his little claws, and drinks from the salty pool. The other day he found a cord hanging down into the water, so he climbed down that instead. I wonder if he is looking for salt? When we had a cat, it would only drink from the pool.

Annette Sutton

AUSTRALIA BREEDS BRAINY BIRDS

Ask someone to name a unique Australian animal and most likely they'll say kangaroo, platypus or koala. But we should also spare a thought for our unique birds.



King Parrot *Ray Sutton*

Our parrots are not only visually spectacular – with splashes of every colour, in every size and shape – they are also some of the smartest and longest lived birds in the world. Our songbirds – ravens, honeyeaters, magpies, bowerbirds – have some of the greatest minds of the animal kingdom. They go fishing, remember people's faces, mimic other species and even play hide-and-seek. They stay younger for longer than Northern Hemisphere species and can live twice as long.

This is no coincidence. Parrots and songbirds evolved in East Gondwana (now Australia), which was spared from that dinosaur-obliterating asteroid 66 million years ago. Ever since then, their homeland has been a warzone of natural selection: floods, droughts, insect plagues, cyclones, and cataclysmic bushfires.



Australian Magpie *Ray Sutton*

"This continent is terribly fickle," said Professor Gisela Kaplan, an expert on animal behaviour and bird cognition, "[disasters] create sudden, unexpected problems in terms of the production of insects, flowering and fruiting plants. There's just not enough food around."

When there is nothing to eat and nowhere to sleep, populations must adapt or perish. That is why our birds have some very special abilities. Many have great spatial memory — how to find a pond in the middle of the desert — we see childhoods, food preparation, and centenarians. This exquisite set of adaptations is the key to survival down under.

But genes only get animals so far, these behaviours also require lots of practice and learning.

Birds learn for life

Nest building is a superb and distinctly avian adaptation. Once thought to be almost robotic, we now know “nest building isn’t simple, it isn’t automatic, it isn’t instinct,” says Kaplan. “Weaver birds make elaborate hanging nests. Juvenile males build them but they fail. They learn by trial and error”.

Like us, birds must spend large chunks of their lives learning. In 2008, birds, like primates, were shown to have mirror neurons – segments of the brain committed to cognitively emulating others for complex behaviours.



Raven

Annette Sutton

Bird brains needed to find food

Our arid and often nutrient-poor country has forged bird brains capable of feats of intellect not seen anywhere else in the animal kingdom (ignoring us, of course).

Ravens love bread, but bread means more than food to their sophisticated minds. Ravens have been observed picking up bread, flying it to a pond and placing it in the water. The bird waits until fish begin to nibble at the bread and catches them, enjoying a big seafood dinner instead of a little bit of bread.

For ravens, bread is an abstract token, explains Professor Kaplan, “The animal is actually delaying a response, or planning ahead. They are trading it in for a better meal, and that is deferred gratification – we have that as humans. It’s now been shown that birds have the capability of planning for the future.”

Professor Kaplan also relayed another example of delayed gratification, a potentially scorchy one.

“The black kite — not only do they cooperate and play together — but they’re probably the only bird species that has learned that fire can produce food. When there’s a grass fire, they pick up a piece of ember on the unburnt side, as long as it’s still burning, fly it to a dry grass area

and start a new fire. And then they wait. They look through the charcoal for lizards and insects and clean them up.”

To overcome food shortages, our birds also work out ways to eat things most other creatures can’t.

While the cane toad has ravaged much of our native wildlife, crows and currawongs have found a solution. They flip over their poisonous meal, where there are no poison glands, and eat the toads’ bellies.

“There are [also] the shrike tits, which have learned that there are certain caterpillars which are very toxic because of the plants they feed on. The gut is so toxic that it would kill a bird. They split them open, take the digestive canal out and then eat the rest.”

Gordon Ramsay, eat your heart out (actually, I imagine that’s precisely what the birds would do).

Bird behaviour

This type of complex reasoning also helps in other parts of bird life: socialising, bonding, and deception. Ravens, for example, are very socially savvy.

Like bone-burying dogs, ravens will hoard excess food. But not only do they remember where their own caches are hidden, but also their flock mates’. Understandably, when hiding food, ravens try their best to be secretive about it.

But their intelligence goes beyond remembering where their friend’s stash is; when burying their own food, they’ll remember specifically which ravens were watching them. When a hidden cache is approached by a bird that observed it being buried, the cache will quickly be moved. However, when their cache is approached by a naïve bird, the caching bird will not bother moving it.

Kids can’t even do that.

So, next time someone asks you to name a unique Australian animal, spare a thought for our beautiful, unique and highly intelligent birds.

Want to read more about amazing Australian bird behaviour? Get a copy of Professor Gisela Kaplan’s book *Bird Minds: Cognition and Behaviour of Australian Native Birds*, now a winner of the prestigious Whitley Award for Behavioural Zoology.

Jesse Hawley 17th January 2017

Jesse Hawley works for CSIRO. A copy of her blog can be found here:

<https://blog.csiro.au/australia-breeds-brainy-birds/>

CSIRO PUBLISHING

CSIRO has quite a few bird books in publication. You can see the list at <http://www.publish.csiro.au/Animals/Birds>



THE LEADER

PALUMA

Twenty-seven Members met at the Reading Cinema car park for the outing to Paluma on Sunday 26 February, with yours truly leading.

The outing commenced, first with the necessary car pooling arrangements as the narrow and winding road up the range to Paluma can be quite hair raising for a large convoy of vehicles, which are constantly stopping. So far so good !!

Next, Warren agreed to be "Tail end Charlie", radios were distributed to those that didn't have them and I gave a brief safety induction: Follow the Leaders directions; Drive carefully and in accordance with the road rules; Follow convoy procedures and remain in sight of the vehicle in front and the one behind; Don't leave the outing unless you advise the Leader; A brief outline of the outing plan, various stopping points (particularly where we might see the Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher) and of course most importantly where we were to have morning tea (Beth and Wendy's cottage at Paluma). So far so good!!



Spectacled Monarch

Ray Sutton

Then Annette (no last name --but you know who) said she needed to fill up with fuel and would take off immediately and rejoin the convoy before we went too far. So far so good !!

Carolyn (we won't mention your last name -- but again you know who) said she needed directions to Paluma -- no worries, just stick with the convoy and you won't need them. So far so good !!

All the vehicles were parked and nicely lined up in a row -- then the Leader's first fatal mistake -- "all set let's go" -- and go they did. The 24 Hour Le Mans Race had nothing on this group.

Annette was first away (she needed fuel) and everyone took off and followed her --- Carolyn (who needed directions) missed the start and somehow followed another vehicle (not part of the convoy or outing). Warren and I were left, still standing at the start. Not good !!

Warren was okay, after all he was "Tail end Charlie" but me the Leader -- Not good !!

I finally caught the convoy at our first stop -- Little Crystal Creek car park -- All good arhhhhh no, Not good !! Carolyn was missing. A half hour of birding resulted in:

Australian Swiftlet, Dusky Honeyeater, Pale-yellow Robin, Silvereye, Spectacled Monarch and Grey Goshawk to name a few. But no Carolyn, still no good !!



Mingela dam

Malcolm Tattersall

We then proceeded to "Post 83" parked carefully and looked for the Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher, the target bird all wanted to see; no luck and still no Carolyn --- not good !!

Finally Paluma ,morning tea (thanks Beth and Wendy) and YES --- Carolyn

The group was back together and the Leader was back on top --- All good !!

The Outing continued (with plenty of laughter at my expense !!) with good sightings of: Eastern Spinebill, Crimson Rosella, Lewin's Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Brown Treecreeper, Spotted Catbird, Bridled Honeyeater, Fuscous Honeyeater, Graceful Honeyeater and plenty more.



Squatter Pigeon

Malcolm Tattersall

Lunch at Hidden Valley Cricket Ground and a final "Bird Call" and Carolyn (the lost Birder) says she saw a bird on the road up the range ... bright blue cap and wings, black mask and two long white tail feathers ... WHAT IS IT ???

The Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher we all cried --- ALL GOOD !!

Who said Leading a group of Birders was easy !!!

THE MINGELA TO CLARE LOOP

On Sunday, 30 April, 16 Members met at the Annandale central Shopping Centre and again I was Leader (but now a lot wiser). The Safety Induction was given ... Russell was "Tail end Charlie" and my first instruction was ...

"nobody leave before me, after all I'm the Leader".
All good !!

The convoy proceeded to Mingela without a hitch and the Mingela Dam produced a good mix of birds: Black-tailed Native-hen, Tree Martin, Zebra Finch, Australian Bustard, Brolga, Nankeen Kestrel, Dusky Moorhen (Ian gave Leta a great description on how to recognise this particular bird ... something to do with a white rear end), to name a few ... All good !!

Then on to Kirk River for a brief stop ... then onwards to Ravenswood and the Showgrounds for morning tea All going to plan... Yes!!

We then proceeded to the "White Blow" Conservation Park no birds, but a great photo of the intrepid Birders Still on track ... Yes!!



White Blow

Malcolm Tattersall

The Ravenswood Depot Quarry was the next stop ... Squatter Pigeon, Leaden Flycatcher, Grey-crowned Babbler, Budgerigar, Grey Teal, Spotted Bowerbird ... the Quarry had water in the pits and the birds were about ... Still on track !!

We followed the road to Clare stopping along the way ... Eight Mile Creek and Walsh's Pit ... Brown Falcon, White-necked Heron, Straw-necked Ibis, White-throated Gerygone ... Convoy still together.. Yes!!

Lunch at Clare and a light drizzle of rain did not put us off ... we only wished it was raining in Townsville.

Onwards to Horseshoe Lagoon and Morris Creek Boat Ramp, where we had a sightings of Mangrove Honeyeater and a great sighting of a Swamp Harrier.... Still on track

Finally home via the Reed Beds Road where we had sightings of Finches (Double-barred, Zebra and Chestnut-breasted Mannikin) ...All good !!

The " Leader" was now wiser, had learnt from past experience, he now had a good Outing Plan (thanks Len Ezzy) and the Members all had a great Birding experience and returned home safely.... a very successful Outing enjoyed by all YES !!!

SO PUT YOUR HAND UP AND VOLUNTEER TO BE A LEADER.... TRUST ME, IT'S NOT DIFFICULT !!!

Wal Threlfall

I realized that If I had to choose, I would rather have birds than airplanes. (Charles Lindbergh)

PELAGIC BIRDING

I consider Townsville to be the centre point of what is surely the best birdwatching region in Australia. Within a 120 km radius approximately 375 bird species have been recorded. We get nearly all the major habitats such as beaches, tidal mudflats, mangroves, "dry country", coastal wetlands, rainforest and a variety of forest types. The one missing habitat is the oceanic or pelagic habitat.



Shy Albatross (Capetown)

Oceanic birds are the so-called "tube-noses", the albatrosses, petrels, prions, shearwaters and storm petrels; also oceanic are tropicbirds, frigatebirds and some species of tern and booby. These groups are found beyond the 'shelf break' (usually at 140 metre depth contour) where the ocean then descends steeply, to several hundred metres deep. 'Back in the day' it was a real challenge to get to see any ocean birds at all, the best hope being in headlands close to deep water and storms bringing these birds close to shore. Unless one was involved in working at sea or getting on trawlers or offshore sports fishing, the oceanic species remained largely inaccessible.



Kermadec Petrel

That has all changed over the last two to three decades with rising number of ocean pelagic birding trips, and

indeed their rise in popularity. These trips, often run by ocean bird study groups, have also generated a wealth of new knowledge about both the species diversity and abundance of ocean birds around Australia with many new records and species once considered as vagrants or even only as possibly occurring now known to be routinely present.



Wilson's Storm-Petrel

Off Townsville the shelf break sits some 100 or more kilometres from port, so that is both impractical as a day trip, and expensive. Within the Great Barrier Reef we only get a chance to see offshore birds, let alone oceanic, when they stray inshore during storms, tropical lows and cyclones, as was the case for the 80 or so Great and Lesser Frigatebird seen off Kissing Point after Cyclone Debbie had departed. This leaves a big gap in terms of what we can see of regional birds, with oceanic birds comprising only 14 species, most of which are coral-cay breeding species. This is in strong contrast to ocean birds seen off southeastern Queensland, numbering some 72 oceanic species (<http://www.sossa-international.org/forum/content.php?189-Seabird-Species-List-Southport-Queensland>).



Wedge-tailed Shearwater

If oceanic birds are to be seen, the best plan is to sign up for one of the regular 'Offshore Pelagic' trips that are run in most states on a monthly basis. There are two operations in southeastern Queensland: Offshore Mooloolaba Pelagic* and Offshore Southport Pelagic*. There is an increasing popularity of pelagic trips worldwide, and increasingly one needs to book well in advance. These operations are readily found on the internet via eBird or Southern Ocean Sea Bird Study Association (SOSSA). Trips out are all day trips, weather

dependent, and no return for seasickness. One of the great things about the trips is there always one or more sea-bird experts on board who help out and share their



Grey-faced Petrel

knowledge those less expert.

There is always the anticipation on the way out that a "mega" might be seen on the day with the sighting of species new to the Australian fauna or a super-vagrant. It is true to say that various offshore trips and associated study groups have changed our knowledge and understanding of seabirds around Australia, with many species being added, and species formerly considered as vagrants, such as the Tahiti Petrel**, are now known to be common.

It is not just the birds that will be seen on these trips. Depending on location dolphins, whales, sharks and turtles may well be seen, sometimes alarmingly close in the case of whales. In southern Australian waters there is a good chance of seeing penguins, although these are rarely seen in Queensland waters (only two records in Birdata).

The stars of the show, in winter months only in Queensland, are the albatrosses. If you have never seen an albatross, let alone seen one close up, that is reason enough to get onto a pelagic trip.

From my perspective there are no fails on these trips as I go only once or twice a year. The day species count can be 20 or more species, but may be in single figures as well. One will always see what *cannot* be seen onshore, and any chance to watch even the common shearwaters and petrels in flight is wonderful and I never tire of just watching. Additionally, many species of ocean bird are ship and trawler followers, so will come in really close to the boat and can be watched without binoculars. A Wandering Albatross effortlessly gliding past your boat, a mere 20 or 30 metres away is genuinely awe inspiring.

Niel Bruce

*[see <http://sunshinecoastbirds.blogspot.com.au/2017/03/sunshine-coast-pelagic-march-2017.html>]; [<http://www.sossa-international.org/forum/content.php>]

**In Slater (1983—*A Field Guide to Australian Birds Volume 1*) Tahiti Petrel does not get a species entry and is referred to under Herald Petrel with the comment "could occur in eastern Australian seas".

MT. ISA

I spent 3 weeks in March in Mount Isa doing teacher training, and got some birding in as well.

The sun rises quite late out that far west so I was disappointed to not have time in the mornings before work, and it was usually too hot in the afternoon so I just spent a few hours on mornings on the weekends in the well known grasswren locations. I saw something that I will say was definitely, most certainly, and without any doubt, quite possibly a Kalkadoon Grasswren skipping between clumps of spinifex near the Pamela St. water tanks.



Varied Lorikeet

I dipped on the Carpentarian up at McNamara's Road but, never having been to NW Qld before, got several lifers, including Grey-headed and Banded Honeyeaters, Little Woodswallow and Varied Lorikeet; plus a few nice surprises such as Freckled Duck and Wood Sandpiper at the Sewage Works. The lori was a real treat, feeding in the gums outside my school and even posing for photos.

I look forward to returning to Isa sometime as a tourist where I can invest more time in birding and hopefully get up to Boodjamulla as well.

Graham Castles

RIGHT SPOT RIGHT TIME

I just happened to be in the right spot in my lounge, looking in the right direction out the window, at exactly the right moment when a Rose-crowned Fruit Dove flew onto the right branch, and sat there for no more than three seconds before flying off, never to be seen again.

I just walked out the back door to put stuff in the recycle bin when the Brown Honeyeaters started going crazy. There were ten of them, obviously very upset about some intruder, which turned out to be a Forest Kingfisher who took off at great speed.

Janet Robino



CHILCOTT ROCKS

On Saturday 18th March, my husband and I made the trek in our boat to Chilcott Rocks, just south of the end of Greater Palm Island, about 50 odd kilometres, or 1 and 1/2 hours from where we launch at Toomulla Beach.



Common Noddies

These photos are of the birds I found at the rock: Brown Booby, Crested Tern, Lesser Crested Tern and Common Noddy. Last time we were there I only saw one Noddy, so I was happy to see a few more this time. There appear to be some juvenile birds as well.

The rocks are very obviously a favourite spot for the birds to rest, being well covered in guano.

Annette Sibson

REEF GUARDIANS

(This is Birdlife Townsville's report to the Reef Guardian Schools Network Meetings in Townsville, the Burdekin and Ingham)

Birdlife Townsville, has done some work on aligning their talks and activities to the Curriculum. They have a 40 minute presentation called Bird Beak Adaptations which is aligned to the Year 5 Science Curriculum Adaptations unit. The presentation provides descriptions and explanations relating to modern bird beak adaptations, backed up by more than fifty topic-related colour images.

Birdlife Townsville is currently reviewing all of their material and has requested assistance from teachers in relation to topics and teaching points only, as they have the expertise and material to develop the education packages. They also offer standard information sessions that make a great introduction to learning about our natural environment and the birds living within. The sessions are also coupled with multiple copies of four bird information booklets produced by Birdlife Townsville.

To book your session email

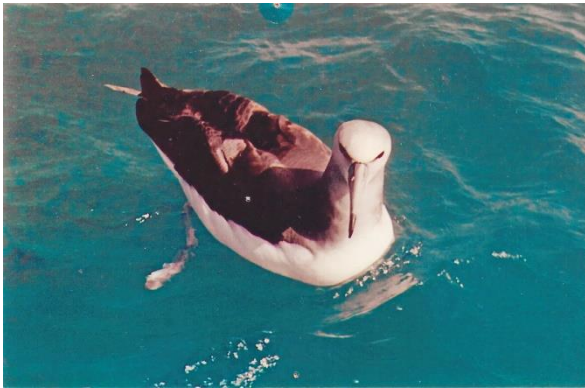
contact@birdlifetownsville.org.au



A Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Initiative

ALL AT SEA

Rosemary Payet gave me this photo of an albatross seen offshore near here.



On the back of the photograph it is identified as a Juvenile Shy Albatross *Diomedea cauta*. It seems to have been since reclassified as *Thalassarche cauta*.

The names on the back of the photograph are Col Myers (whom many members will remember) and W G Lound. There is also the notation *Keeper Reef 16/10/2000*.

If any members go out to sea and see unusual birds, could you please try to photograph them and send a short story into the Drongo.

Editor

LUCKY CHOOK



My friend Bruce is an avid birdwatcher down on the Sunny Coast, but also works as a medic in Papua New Guinea for Oil Search – an oil and gas mining company. He is currently situated near the boundary of the Southern

Highlands and Hela Provinces which is in the Central West of PNG at an elevation of ~2800 m a.s.l. Being so high up in the cloud forest he was very surprised to receive a different sort of patient during the first week of April – a Buff-Breasted Paradise Kingfisher. These kingfishers are lowland birds and this location far exceeds their noted elevational distribution. Therefore it seems likely that instead of staying in the lowland forests on the southern extent of the mountain range, she decided to risk it and fly over the mountains to reach the northern lowlands. She had swooped in on the site's turkey nest (rig water reservoir), but couldn't handle the cold. Staff found her floating, shivering and unable to climb out of the steep and slippery lining so they rescued her and took her to Bruce. Bruce warmed her up and, after resting a while, she flew off to continue her migration over the mountains,... and hopefully made it. Lucky Chook.

Kyran Staunton

BIRD GARDENS FOR LOSERS

Lose the cat (or parts of the cat)

With nine million households in Australia and 18 million feral cats, according to booking.com, two feral cats are looking at your property right now. And not just looking, each of these 18 million feral cats kills an average five animals a night. All pets need to be de-sexed and kept from roaming. RSPCA Qld spokesperson Michael Beatty has said the reason we have such a massive feral cat and wild dog population is people are not de-sexing their pets.



Lose the weedicide

A class action lawsuit in the US against a large corporation recently made the front page of the *New York Times*. People are claiming glyphosate is responsible for non-Hodgkins disease lymphoma (NHD). An 'inert' ingredient in weedicide, polyethoxylated tallowamine, or POEA, has been found to be more deadly to human embryonic, placental and umbilical cord cells than the herbicide itself.

It's inside all of us

Last month members of the European Parliament (MEPs) volunteered to take a urine test to see if glyphosate, the cancer-linked weedkiller, is in their system. Forty-eight MEPs from 13 different European Union countries participated. As it turns out, "All participants excreted glyphosate by urine." The experiment was spearheaded by the Green Party in the European Parliament, which wants a ban on the controversial herbicide in the European Union.

On average, the MEPs had 1.7 micrograms/litre of glyphosate in their urine, 17 times higher than the European drinking water norm (0.1 microgram/litre). This means that everyone tested was way above the limit for residues of pesticides in drinking water. <https://www.sott.net/article/318275>

It's hanging around the reef

The surface runoff and deep drainage loss potential of two weedicides commonly used in the banana industry were examined at a banana plot at the South Johnstone Research Station (FNQ) over three years. Findings showed the two herbicides analysed (glyphosate and glufosinate) could be detected in surface runoff, and glyphosate was

also occasionally detected in deep drainage. Glyphosate could also be detected in both surface runoff and deep drainage following applications from 6 months earlier. <http://reefrescueresearch.com.au/news/183-pesticide-dynamics-in-the-gbr.html>

At this point the news is more human than avian. Indirectly, losing vegetation loses insects which loses birds.

Lose the insecticide

Most birds eat insects, a main source of protein. A particular ingredient of insecticide is neonicotinoid, derived from nicotine. According to the *Australasian Beekeeper*, The European Union, Canada and the US have partially or completely banned neonicotinoids. They are suspected of causing the death of bees worldwide. Declines in insectivorous birds are associated with high neonicotinoid concentrations.

Invertebrates [insects] constitute a substantial part of the diet of many bird species during the breeding season and are indispensable for raising offspring. We investigated the hypothesis that the most widely used neonicotinoid insecticide, imidacloprid, has a negative impact on insectivorous bird populations. Here we show that, in the Netherlands, local population trends were significantly more negative in areas with higher surface-water concentrations of imidacloprid. At concentrations of more than 20 nanograms per litre, bird populations tended to decline by 3.5 per cent on average annually.

<http://moraybeedinosaurs.co.uk/neonicotinoid/Declines%20in%20insectivorous%20birds%20are%20associated%20with%20high%20neonicotinoid.pdf>

We focus on two neonicotinoids, imidacloprid and clothianidin, and a third insecticide, fipronil, which also acts in the same systemic manner. Imidacloprid and fipronil were found to be toxic to many birds and most fish, respectively. All three insecticides exert sub-lethal effects, ranging from genotoxic and cytotoxic effects, and impaired immune function, to reduced growth and reproductive success, often at concentrations well below those associated with mortality. Use of imidacloprid and clothianidin as seed treatments on some crops poses risks to small birds, and ingestion of even a few treated seeds could cause mortality or reproductive impairment to sensitive bird species.

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11356-014-3180-5>

Lose the bird feeder

Unless you sterilise the feeder every day, this is one way of spreading disease among birds. It also sets up hierarchies where big birds dominate and leads to a kind of backyard hysteria. Same with the water bowl. It needs to be cleaned every day. Here in Townsville it is hardly necessary to feed birds. However, the ABC radio program below noted 80 per cent of Australian households are involved in some kind of bird feeding.

Feeding gone mad

In the UK alone, enough seed is offered to support 30 million great tits, about six times the actual population of the species.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/seeds-of-destruction/5416254>

The Birds in Backyards website recommends that you don't feed birds artificially, instead plant for birds: A garden that provides natural food for birds such as one with native grasses to provide seed, mulch to encourage insects and small-flowering locally native shrubs to feed honeyeaters is much better for our whole bird community than one that feeds only a few potentially problem birds. <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/feed-or-not-feed-0>

Lose the exotic plants

Townsville soils are sodic, that is, highly alkaline, clay, highly dispersive causing gully erosion and subject to ponding. Townsville native plants, however, thrive in this soil. Their roots create their own acidic environment and introduce organic material which triggers alkaline-tolerant enzymes and bacteria. The best way to counteract seemingly hopeless sodic soils is to plant more plants.

Declining numbers of insectivorous and seed-eating animals

Only a small range of insects and spiders found on native vegetation are found on exotic plants (eg. privet is eaten only by the larvae of a native hawk moth) and most exotic plants do not produce seeds that can be eaten by seed-eating birds. It would appear that, with native birds at least, the problem is not that no native birds use exotic plants, but rather that exotic (or alien native) plants cater for only a small number of unspecialised native birds who are often territorial and quite aggressive and once in large numbers, appear to harass and predate on the smaller birds which are already under great pressure.

<http://anpsa.org.au/APOL5/mar97-3.html>

Lose the Meat

Meat-eating birds, (Currawongs, magpies, kookaburras), of course, eat other birds. Watching a kookaburra whack another bird to death against a tree trunk is not for the faint-hearted. Attract the carnivores at your peril.

In that joke about playing country music backwards (you get your dog back, you get your boyfriend back, you get your truck back), here's how you can get something back after losing all of the above. The Birds in Backyards site admits its plant recommendations are Sydney-centric. Townsville native plants are available at Landcare Bush Garden nursery, open Fridays 9am to 2pm. Plants sell for \$2.20 each. Seeds are gleaned within a 40-50km radius of the city. Volunteers at the nursery can make recommendations for your particular garden. See a list of plants for Townsville at the end of the Drongo.

Carolyn Osterhaus



SCRUBBY RETURNS

Some years ago I wrote an article for the Drongo about a villainous Australian Brush Turkey named Scrubby.

This vile, wicked, iniquitous, brazen, outrageous, abominable, hateful, detestable, despicable, odious, fiendish and thoroughly rotten member of the avian class, without so much as a by-your-leave from me, decided to build a brooding mound just outside the fence of my home garden. He chose this site because he believed a truckload of commercial mulch destined for garden beds inside the fenced off area, was freely available for the taking. My efforts to dissuade him from tea-leaving his prospective mound material were met with stubborn resistance. He liked to give the impression that he was totally ignoring me on each occasion I arrived with rake, shovel and wheelbarrow to flatten his partially completed mound and then load up and remove my mulch for my use in my garden. He just simply walked away from the action, emitting low grunts of disapproval, always fully prepared to nimbly dash out of range of the garden hose when I resorted to the use of water to thwart his plans for my mulch. The long and the short of it is that I managed to move all of my mulch inside my side fence over a few days to put it to its intended use.

Finally Scrubby abandoned his mound site, but not before giving it his best shot to reclaim the mulch from inside the fence. He would be on the job early each day, gathering the freshly spread mulch into heaps in preparation for transport back to his side of the fence and uprooting and damaging many young plants in the process. Grrrrrr! Grrrrrr!



Regardless of his efforts, he soon discovered the height of the paling fence was sufficient to prevent him from easily tossing my mulch back over to his side. I'll give him this, Scrubby was dedicated to his task and not easily put off. When he realised the fence was in the way, he tried ramping the mulch against the palings until he judged he had sufficient height for the second part of his strategy which was to toss as much off the top of the ramped heap as he was able, from my side to his. Luckily for me he was unable to build a ramp of sufficient size and stability for this strategy to work, plus he had me to contend with, fully armed with rake and hose. After a couple of days of to-and-fro mulch-moving and cursing by both of us, he in low grunts, and myself, complete with appropriate

gesticulations and louder and warmer name calling relating to his doubtful parentage, it eventually dawned on him that he could not win and abruptly ceased his campaign. I must admit that during the "great mulch war of Alligator Creek" which was waged over a fortnight or so from time of arrival of the truck load of mulch to Scrubby's final capitulation, I developed a reluctant admiration for this crazy bird, especially his dedication to task and work ethic.



After losing the battle, Scrubby despondently hung around for a bit then disappeared for some weeks but with occasional reappearances for a handout around the late afternoon chook-feeding time. During this period an occasional very young turkey chick (tailless) would appear around the chook pens, which led me to believe he had built a mound elsewhere, and after sussing out a neighbour's place, I discovered a fairly large mound built in the shade of a patch of Cook Trees in the corner of the paddock well away from the neighbour's residence. I guess Scrubby had gained some insight into human behaviour from his experience at my place, and wisely maintained an acceptable distance from the neighbour's residence.

Over the ensuing years I often spotted Scrubby, particularly in the breeding season, moving to and from the direction of this mound in the neighbour's yard, although I never observed him actually interacting with any females at the site, nor did I witness any of his offspring actually emerge from his mound. Having said this I must also say that on many occasions I witnessed, with some mirth, old sexpot Scrubby chasing females through the neighbour's well-mown mango plot in that humorous, stilted, trotting gait that was the highlight of the final segment of each edition of TV's *Benny Hill Show* in which Benny pursued a usually scantily-clad female in a zig-zag course through a park or playground, accompanied by appropriate fast-forward "chase" music. I never witnessed a female being caught, nor the birds "at it", for want of a better expression, but they must have done so as there were often youngsters about the place during the breeding seasons.

Scrubby's irregular visits to my place over the years gradually became more frequent until in the middle of 2016 he became what one may call a permanent resident, mingling with my poultry, but only when it suited him and always ultra-cautious when nearing the

fenced garden "war zone" of years past. His nights were spent high up in a very large Albizzia tree, retiring just before dusk each evening, and is always up at sparrow's each morning to commence his day's foraging.

This wet season (2017) spurred Scrubby into building mode once more, and again to my consternation he chose my place for a new mound. I checked out his previous site next door but it appeared unviable because a mass of vigorous saplings had grown all throughout the mound which made it impossible for him to maintain it in a friable condition to receive the valuable eggs.

Anyhow, from the first substantial rainfall early this year he worked tirelessly for about a month to produce a roughly circular mound of about 3-4 metres diameter and close to a metre tall in the centre, located hard up against and partially covering an abandoned raised garden bed about 10 metres distant from the side of my house. The site is screened from view from the house by a tall vine-covered trellis, and luckily for him, his mound in an area with low impact on our day to day lifestyle so I have not interfered with his efforts at this stage. I must confess I enjoyed watching him hard at work each morning around sun-up when I walked out past his workplace to collect my Townsville Bully from the footpath. He pointedly ignored me while moving his mound material into position, but immediately downed tools if I had my camera in hand or if he thought that I was taking more than a passing interest in his activities.

As I noted earlier, Scrubby is a dedicated worker, albeit a little misguided when he first ran foul of me (no pun intended) some years ago when he tried to purloin my mulch for his own purposes. As I also noted earlier, my feelings toward him were less hateful after I became the victor of the 'great mulch war' to the extent that I developed a grudging admiration for his spirited and stubborn attempt to build his mound exactly at that time in the site he had chosen, come what may.

I am now happy to report that my level of admiration for scrubby has lifted most substantially from 'grudging' to outright and generous praise and approval. So what brought on this change of heart you ask?

To be continued.....

Norm Rains

PENTLAND PERFORMERS

I stayed overnight in Pentland at the beginning of April and found it full of birds, albeit no waterbirds (dam empty). During a short walk around the streets, I saw most of our 'everyday' species plus Red-winged Parrots, Pale-headed Rosellas, Zebra Finches, Spotted Bowerbirds and busy flocks of Galahs, Apostlebirds and Crested Pigeons.

A sudden commotion erupted when Noisy Miners and Blue-faced Honeyeaters together confronted a cat walking along the road behind its owner. The man strolled on, showing no interest. The moggie followed, head down, looking miserable. The birds kept up their swooping attack until man and cat turned down a side street.

Early next morning there was not a cat in sight and no cooperation between Noisy Miners and Blue-faces. A posse of each species landed side by side on the overhead phone lines. They had unlimited space to perch separately, but instead faced one another, screeching and flapping.



Abruptly a couple of Noisy Miners lunged at the Blue-faces. The Blue-faces backed off a little, but within moments they charged at the Noisy Miners who retreated in turn. The feud went on, to and fro, bullies against bullies, until suddenly both groups took off in opposite directions.

As the flock of Blue-faces passed me, one youngster (green face) peeled off and – to my astonishment – flew straight to my shoulder. For a couple of minutes it sat quietly, peering at me. Then it fluttered to my feet and stood with gaping bill, leaving no doubt about what it wanted. Sorry, I didn't bring breakfast!

Julia Hazel

QUEST NEWBIE

I have only started 'questing' this year, so I'm a real newbie at it. It was all very exciting to start with, thinking of all (?) the birds that I see around my local area. Well I ran out of them pretty quickly. So I tried to make up my own rules - including males and females, well that's against the rules, I know that now. Damn.. Questing has decreased my bank balance, new binoculars required but increased my bird identification skills. In the past I have relied on photographs. So it's been a great learning curve. Thanks.



Annette Sibson

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

We had a few days birdwatching in the Ingham region in February this year.



As I was helping Len to reverse the caravan into our site at the Palm Tree Van Park, something bit me on the foot. I looked down and it was a young Black-faced Woodswallow, begging for food. It would not leave us alone over our three days there, landing on our hands, head, car, chair, and table; anywhere to get attention, always begging for food, chewing on our shoes, hats, and hair. We didn't feed it at all and it became an annoying little pest. In some ways though it was quite a welcoming experience? When it all got a bit too much, I would take it away to the other end of the park and it would come back almost straight away, sometimes beating me back to our campsite. Its parents would come down to try and help it learn how to fend for itself, but it would just chase them away. We nearly walked on it numerous times. It would land on my hand and so I would scratch it on its head and it would go to sleep.



On the last day of our stay, we did not see it and thought the worst - that it may have been walked on or attacked by a domestic animal: But I looked over on the fence beside the van and there it was, with its own kind, begging for food and hunting for itself. It looks like it had found its identity again.

Chris and Len Ezzy



MYSTERY

Recently while waiting for a bus in the CBD, I observed a flock of over 100 birds wheeling around and settling on a crane at the old Woolies site. No binocs, thought they might be swallows in the dusk. A few days later 22/04/2017 John Maddy and I checked up on them. We observed between 250-300 birds settling on the crane to roost. The roosting birds were packed tighter than sardines in a tin, cheek to cheek and beak to beak as it were. All we could identify with scope were woodswallows, tho' possibly some Welcome Swallows as well. We think they might be a new sub-species perhaps, and propose the name Crane Swallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* cranibus. They were presumably a migrant group from the far south, possibly fleeing the hot air emanating from Parliament House (part of climate - or political - change?).

The construction company in question, which cannot be named due to potential conflict of interest between Greenies and Developers, deserves praise for the generous provision of BnB accommodations (Bed, no Breakfast, and not to be confused with NBN!) for the poor homeless little feathered tykes. We are not sure if they are still using the facility in such large numbers, yesterday 31/4 JM & I saw only about 50 woodswallows, and a pair of Welcomes flying by, but if some honourable members wish to check, the relevant crane (not a Brolga) is at the old Woolies corner Sturt & Stokes, timing around 18:00 give or take a half-hour either way, bring a scope if you have one. Many of the roosting birds are only partly visible near the right-angle bend in the crane structure over the street. Note: you may NOT list this new sub-species on your official tick list until accepted by BARC,



possibly not for at least 50 years!

Rolf Jensen



PLANTS FOR TOWNSVILLE

Grasses for seed-eaters (Parrots, finches, pigeons)

See Nanette Hooker's full-colour book *Grasses of Townsville*, published by James Cook University, a free pdf download at <http://researchonline.jcu.edu.au/44143/>




Then see what's growing now at the nursery at

[http://www.cdtli.org.au/assets/files/2017/Bush-Garden-Nursery-stock-8-Mar-2017.xlsx---Tubestock-08032017\(1\).pdf](http://www.cdtli.org.au/assets/files/2017/Bush-Garden-Nursery-stock-8-Mar-2017.xlsx---Tubestock-08032017(1).pdf)

Grasses are listed at the end of the stocklist.

Table of Trees, Shrubs, Vines for

- Nectar-eating birds (honeyeaters, parrots, wattlebirds, lorikeets, spinebills)
- Insect-eaters (fairy wrens, robins, pardalotes, willy wagtails)

Common Name	Scientific name	Nectar	Fruit	Insects	Birds
Black Bean	Castanospermum australe 	yes	no	no	Attracts numerous nectar-feeding birds (honeyeaters) plus bats, mammals
Blue Quandong	Elaeocarpus grandis	no	yes	no	Fruit-eaters. Favourite food of fig birds, fruit pigeons
Broad-leaved Bottle tree	Brachychiton australis	yes	no	yes	Attracts butterfly larvae, butterflies
Brown Gardenia	Atractocarpus fitzalanii 	no	yes	yes	Attracts day moths. Fruit eaters, Insect eaters. A larval host plant.
Coffee Bush	Breynia oblongifolia	no	yes	yes	Attracts butterflies Australian Rustic, Grass Yellow, insect eaters
Dutchman's Pipe (native)	Aristolochia acuminata vine	no	no	yes	Attracts insects, butterflies Cairns Birdwing, Red-Bodied Swallowtail, Big Greasy
Eucalypt	Eucalyptus, Corymbia (bloodwood) spp.	yes	no	yes	Lerps attract honeyeaters, pardalotes. Flowers attracts nectar-, insect- eating birds. Butterflies, mammals.
Ferny-leaved silky oak or Golden Grevillea	Grevillea pteridifolia 	yes	no	no	Nectar-feeding birds. Tall, spindly, looks good with several planted together
Fig trees	Ficus spp.	no	yes	yes	Fruit attracts numerous bats, birds, mammals, butterflies, moths
Green-leaved Tamarind	Cupaniopsis anacardioides	no	yes	no	Fruit attracts numerous birds

Lillypilly	Syzygium spp.	no	yes	no	Attracts fruit eaters, pigeons, cuckoos, koels
Northern Swamp Box	Lophostemon grandiflorus	yes	no	yes	Attracts honeyeaters.
Paperbark	Melaleuca spp.	yes nectar-rich	no	yes	Flowers attract numerous birds (honeyeaters), insects, mammals
Pink Euodia	Melicope elleryana	yes	yes	yes	Pink flowers attract nectar, seed, insect eaters
Pittosporum	Pittosporum ferrugineum	no	yes	yes	Attracts fruit and insect eaters
She-oaks	Casuarina spp.	no	yes	no	Attractive to seed-eating birds like cockatoos
Soap Tree	Alphitonia excelsa	yes	yes	yes	Flowers attract insect eaters. Attracts butterflies Fiery Jewel, Copper Jewel; Large Greenbanded Blue, Small Greenbanded Blue, Indigo Flash, Diggles Blue, Ghost Moths, Yellow Emperor Moth
Wattles	Acacia spp. Nectar produced in tiny pockets on phyllodes (basically a leaf-like stem), not in the flowers	no	yes	yes	Flowers attract insects and insectivorous birds. Small birds attracted to nectaries. Butterfly larvae found on A. flavescens and A. holosericea, classic Townsville plants.
White cedar	Melia azadarach	no	yes	no	Fruits attract birds, bats, mammals
Wombat Berry	Eustrephus latifolius (shrub or vine)	no	yes	yes	Berries attract fruit eating birds, tuberous roots attract wombats and other native root-eating mammals

For information about the nursery see <http://cdtli.org.au/bush-garden-nursery>

Butterflies

For a list of species to grow for butterflies see Peter Valentine's page about butterflies and Townsville plants at <http://www.drytropics.org.au/ArticlesButterflies.htm>

<https://australianbutterflies.com/butterflies/>
then at bottom of page click on What plant species you need to grow to attract butterflies

Or see the brochure from the morton bay regional council at <https://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/general.aspx?id=140865>



QUEST

Name	Quest Number	Date
Niel Bruce	327	23-11-17
Chris Ezzy	323	19-11-17
Len Ezzy	322	18-11-17
Beth Snewin	251	08-09-17
Elna Kerswell	245	02-09-17
Rosemary Payet	237	25-08-17
Marleen Acton	222	10-08-17
Janet Robino	218	06-08-17
Janet Cross	209	28-07-17
Graham Castles	190	09-07-17
Annette Sibson	188	07-07-17
Wal Threlfall	177	26-06-17
Kyran Staunton	176	25-06-17
Ian Leach	163	12-06-17
Wendy Kaus	163	12-06-17
Pat Charlton	148	28-05-17
Philip Haig	144	24-05-17
Warren Charlton	141	21-05-17
Annette Sutton	138	18-05-17
Julia Haig	120	30-04-17
Carolyn Osterhaus	112	22-04-17
Norm Rains	81	22-03-17
Julia Goldsbury	79	20-03-17

CALENDAR

13th - Saturday - Monthly Meeting - Committee Meeting (Noon) and General Meeting (2.00pm) Held in the Townsville City Council Bicentennial Building (Sound Shell) meeting room, Kirwan. Guest speaker: Juan Mula Laguna - "Bird Poaching in Malta"

17th - Wednesday - Ross River Bush Garden Survey - Meet 7.00 am at end of Thompson St, Mundingburra. Leader: Malcolm Calvert.

21st - Sunday - Ross River Dam Survey - Meet 7.00 am in the Dam car park, Kelso. Leader: Cecily Messer

June

1st - Thursday - Wongaloo Conservation Park Survey - Meet 6.30 am at the Alligator Creek Roadhouse, Alligator Creek. Bring morning tea. Leader: Norm Rains

3rd Saturday and 4th - Sunday - Birdlife Townsville Challenge Bird Count - To count bird species and numbers of birds in specific areas within a 40km radius of GPO. Participants will be allocated a specific area. All counts to be forwarded within 7 days to: contact@birdlifetownsville.org.au Leader: Wal Threlfall and Ivor Preston

4th - Sunday - Town Common Conservation Park Survey - Meet 7.00 am at the Town Common main gate, Rowes Bay. Leader: Rosemary Payet

6th - Tuesday - Photography Group Meeting - Meet 7.00 pm at the TCC Bicentennial Building (Soundshell), Kirwan. Theme: "On the Beach and its Surrounds" Trees". Anything bird wise you can capture on the beach or within the sand dunes, mud flats or swamps behind the dunes. Let's say within 200 metres of the high tide mark. Contact: Mark Horvath

10th - Saturday - Monthly Meeting - Committee Meeting (Noon) and General Meeting (2.00pm) Held in the Townsville City Council Bicentennial Building (Sound Shell) meeting room, Kirwan. Guest speaker:

14th - Wednesday - Ross River Bush Garden Survey - Meet 7.00 am at end of Thompson St, Mundingburra. Leader Malcolm Calvert.

18th - Sunday - Ross River Dam Survey - Meet 7.00 am in the Dam car park, Kelso. Leader: Cecily Messer.

July

2nd - Sunday - Town Common Conservation Park Survey - Meet 7.00 am at the Town Common main gate. Leader: TBA

4th - Tuesday - Photography Group Meeting - Meet 7.00 pm at the TCC Bicentennial Building

(Soundshell), Kirwan. Theme: "Head On" Shots with the bird looking down the barrel of the lens or damn close to it. Contact: Mark Horvath

6th - Thursday - Wongaloo Conservation Park Survey - Meet 6.30 am at the Alligator Creek Roadhouse, Alligator Creek. Bring morning tea. Leader: Norm Rains

8th - Saturday - Monthly Meeting - Committee Meeting (12.00) and General Meeting (2.00pm) Held in the Townsville City Council Bicentennial Building (Sound Shell) meeting room, Kirwan. Speaker: TBA

12th - Wednesday - Ross River Bush Garden Survey - Meet 7.00 am at end of Thompson St, Mundingburra. Leader: Malcolm Calvert

16th - Sunday - Ross River Dam Survey. - Meet 7.00 in the Dam car park, Kelso Leader: Cecily Messer

August

1st - Tuesday - Photography Group Meeting - Meet 7.00 pm at the TCC Bicentennial Building (Soundshell), Kirwan. Theme : "In the Rainforest". I expect to see a lot of greenery in these shots and probably the use of flash. Shots taken within open spaces surrounded by rainforest will be acceptable, if you can convince us it was so. Contact: Mark Horvath

3rd - Thursday - Wongaloo Conservation Park Survey - Meet 6.30 am at the Alligator Creek Roadhouse, Alligator Creek. Bring morning tea. Leader: Norm Rains

6th - Sunday - Town Common Conservation Park Survey- Meet 7.00 am at the Town Common main gate. Leader : TBA

12th - Saturday - Monthly Meeting - Committee Meeting (12.00) and General Meeting (2.00pm) Held in the Townsville City Council Bicentennial Building (Sound Shell), Kirwan. Guest speaker: Greg Calvert

MORE FROM MOORINYA

Len and Chris Ezzy



Spotted Bowerbird



Striated Pardalote



Double-barred Finch



Juvenile Crested



Common Bronzewing



Striped honeyeater