



Glossy Black Conservancy News

No. 11 April 2013

The Glossy Black Conservancy is a not for profit consortium that seeks to increase awareness and promote a collaborative conservation management approach for Glossy Black-Cockatoos across South East Queensland and the north coast of New South Wales, through a partnership between government, private enterprise, researchers and the wider community.

Glossy-Black Birding Day – 19 May

The 2013 Glossy-Black Birding Day is fast approaching! This is an annual event run by the Conservancy, held across nine local government areas in SEQ and NE NSW. To participate in the event, get in touch with the Regional Co-Ordinator for your local government area! Regional Co-Ordinators oversee the recruitment and deployment of volunteer observers within their regions.

Council Area	Coordinator	E-mail	Telephone
Brisbane City – SEQ	Robyn Jones	Robyn.Jones@brisbane.qld.gov.au	(07) 3403 6606
Byron Shire – NSW	Angus Underwood	angus.underwood@byron.nsw.gov.au	(02) 6626 7219
Gold Coast City – SEQ	Guy Castley	g.castley@griffith.edu.au	(07) 5552 8918
Logan City – SEQ	Lyndall Rosevear	LyndallRosevear@logan.qld.gov.au	(07) 3412 4860
Moreton Bay – SEQ	Andrew Evans	andrew.evans@moretonbay.qld.gov.au	(07) 5433 2256
Redland City – SEQ	Lisa Bailey	lisa.bailey@redland.qld.gov.au	(07) 3820 1105
Scenic Rim – SEQ	Tracey Larkin	tracey@mtbarneylodge.com.au	(07) 5544 3233
Sunshine Coast – SEQ	Conor Jenkins	Conor.Jenkins@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au	(07) 5499 5142
Tweed Shire - NSW	Marama Hopkins	mhopkins@tweed.nsw.gov.au	(02) 6670 2787

Participation in the Birding Day involves searching a 1km² grid cell for all or part of the day for the presence of glossies and their feed trees. If you spot a glossy on the day, we encourage you to take a GPS reading of your sighting or mark it on a map, to improve data accuracy. As birds show a preference for particular feed trees, identifying the locations of these accurately is equally important! For further details of survey protocol, get in touch with your Regional Co-Ordinator, who can advise if training workshops are being held in your area.

Participation in this event is highly valued by the Conservancy because data collected provides a snapshot of the distribution and abundance of Glossy Black-Cockatoos across the region. Participants also go into the draw to win fantastic prizes – including a two night stay for up to 6 people at Mt. Barney lodge!

Bird sighting and feed tree data from previous birding days are summarised in the table below:



Region	2010 - October			2011 - May			2012 - October		
	No. of Observers	No. of Trees	Birds Seen	No. of Observers	No. of Trees	Birds Seen	No. of Observers	No. of Trees	Birds Seen
Gold Coast	44	38	9	35	8	17	46	47	11
Brisbane	24	10	2	11	0	0	3	7	0
Scenic Rim	26	51	32	28	11	25	12	4	10
Sunshine Coast	64	116	48	41	80	44	26	88	35
Moreton Bay	7	0	0	5	0	0	2	3	0
Logan	36	15	0	8	1	1	13	0	0
Redland Bay	16	16	2	12	5	2	17	43	13
Byron	16	11	2	10	0	0	-	-	-
Tweed	62	67	11	37	79	10	27	43	7
Totals	295	259	106	187	184	99	146	231	76

A couple of years ago we had a family of four grace us with their presence from early May to late September 2010. We believe the food source in a nearby reserve was limited at the time due to a burn off in the previous spring and this is why they stayed with us longer. Fortunately for us and them there was plenty of food and water in the creek that runs between ours and adjoining properties.

Upon their arrival last year we observed a pair - they appeared June 26 just after sunrise and were seen to be checking out a nesting tree next door to us. However much to our disappointment and I am sure theirs as well, the tree was preoccupied. The pair returned for several days feeding and drinking. We would usually hear them calling or feeding before we would see them.

Each night as sunset approached, they would head down to the creek for a drink. They would pause for a chat and to survey the area before making the swoop down and taking their turn to drink, then returning to the Eucalypts to preen themselves, and then finally they would fly east just before dusk. Where exactly they go to roost at night, we have no idea. We do know though, when they are here, they are safe.

Thank you Leanne for your article!

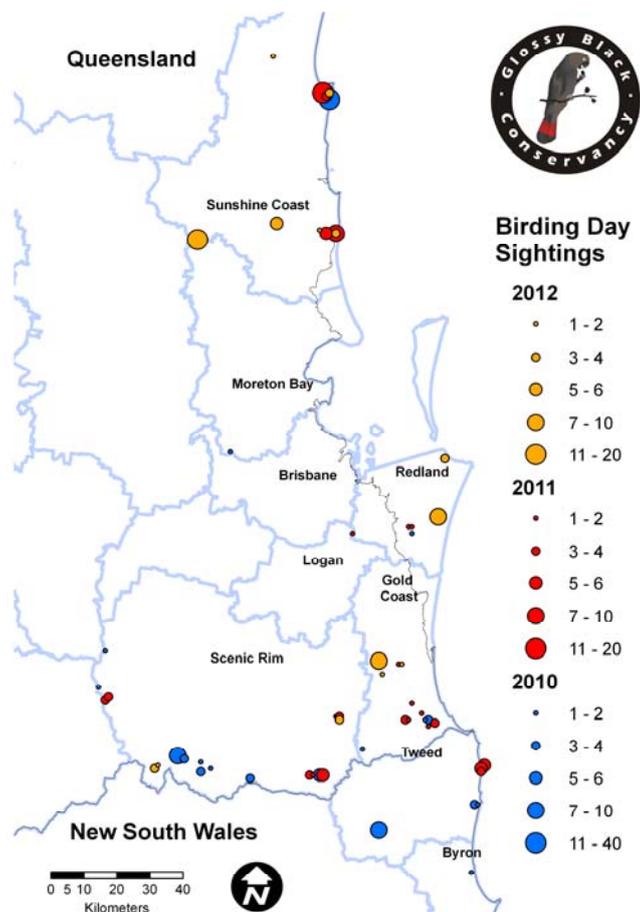
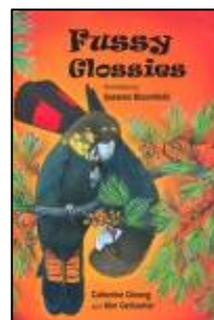
Fussy Glossies

A new children's book, "Fussy Glossies" was launched last year on June 10 at the University of the Sunshine Coast as part of World Environment Day celebrations!

Written by Catherine Cheung & Kim DeVantier and illustrated by Suzanne Bloomfield, *Fussy Glossies* tells the story of Calypto, a lone Glossy Black-Cockatoo who narrowly escapes a bushfire before meeting up with his friends. This delightful book contains a powerful conservation message and raises awareness of the plight of glossy blacks.

Fussy Glossies is published by the Noosa Integrated Catchment Association with support from the Glossy Black Conservancy.

To order a copy, contact the Noosa Integrated Catchment Association on 5449 9650 or email admin@noosariver.com.au. The book can be purchased for \$17.00.



The figure above summarises birding day observations from counts held in 2010, 2011 and 2012

Be our Facebook Friend!

The Conservancy now has a Facebook page to inform members of the public of the latest news, updates and upcoming events related to glossies. The name of the page is Glossy Black Conservancy and we would love for you to "friend" us.



The Return of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo

From Leanne (Logan resident)

We have lived in Cedar Creek for 11 years now and every year, we wait with anticipation for the return of the Glossy-Black Cockatoo's. They frequent this area usually around June/July. When we first observed these magnificent birds we realised the importance of encouraging the growth of the she-oaks (*Allocasuarina littoralis*). Each year the birds usually visit our house yard on our 10 acre property to stay all day and feed. They are so placid, they don't even flinch to the sound of a slamming door!

Glossy Blacks at Mt Barney Lodge

One of the Conservancy's Partners, Mt Barney Lodge, is featured on the wildiaries website.

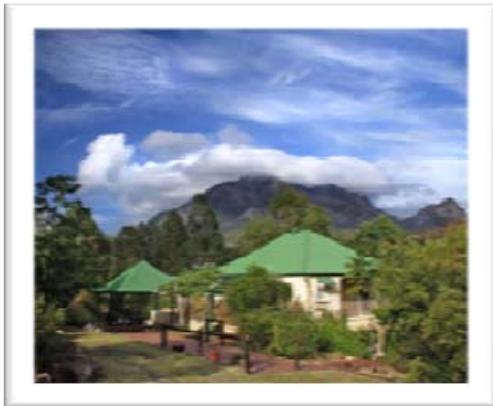
Several glossies can be seen in a video feeding on cones from a favourite old she-oak tree. This unassuming tree is a source of life for the fussy glossies and has survived bushfires and repeated attempts to cut it down.

The video can be viewed at the following link:
<http://national-landscapes.wildiaries.com/trips/11054-The-Glossy-Cockies-of-Mt-Barney>



A glossy black returns to a favourite haunt at Mt. Barney

As with previous events, participants in the birding day this year have a chance to win a midweek stay at this amazing location!



Accommodation at Mt. Barney lodge

Research sub-committee

The Conservancy has recently established a research sub-committee to identify and prioritise Glossy Black-Cockatoo research needs.

Currently, a high priority for the research sub-committee is to produce essential habitat mapping for glossy blacks across SEQ. Draft mapping has been produced by SEQ Catchments and is being reviewed by an expert panel.

The draft essential habitat map is based on regional ecosystem mapping and high precision observation records of both birds and their feed trees. Ultimately, it is hoped that the final product will be included under the Queensland Government Vegetation Management Act.

Draft essential habitat mapping will also be "ground-truthed" through a collaborative Industrial Placement program between Biodiversity Assessment and Management and the University of Queensland.

Other high priority research areas identified include:

- Fire and the impact on she-oaks
- Photo-recognition pilot project (see next section)
- Dispersal of birds between populations

Recent Sightings

A pair of male and female glossies was recently sighted at a property at Clagiraba in the Gold Coast Hinterland (photos supplied by Ute Sohnrey).





Female Glossy Black-Cockatoo in forefront feeding at Clagiraba (note barring in tail feathers!)

Another pair of glossies was recently sighted at Russell Island in southern Moreton Bay (photos by Tony Powell).



Glossy Black-Cockatoos will occasionally use small puddles as drinking sources.

Large numbers of glossies have also recently returned to the Tweed area where dedicated observer Rayma Sargeant observed a group of 11 on 22 March. At least three females in this group were recognised from previous monitoring efforts and photographic databases the Rayma has been keeping over the past couple of years. This group regularly feed on the Horsetail She-oak (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) along the shoreline and make use of a regular drinking spot near Sutherland Point before heading off to roost in the eucalypt woodland further inland.



Female Glossy Black-Cockatoos have variable feather patterns on their faces, making it possible to recognise different individuals. This is a photo of 'Eve' taken on 3/3/2011.



A second photo of Eve, taken one year later on 5/2/2012. The spot in front of her left eye, the larger patch behind the eye as well as the two larger patches around the neck are quite distinctive. Also, the marking on the upper beak (seen more clearly in the above photo) is also consistent with this being the same individual!

Report your sightings

The Conservancy maintains an online database of GBC sightings. The database is managed by researchers at Griffith University in collaboration with Conservancy members.

Please remember to submit all of your sightings, at http://www.glossyblack.org.au/Submit_sightings.html. Please enter all details requested on the form; without all details we cannot process or use your sighting information.