



Glossy Black Conservancy News

No. 3 June 2007

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 SEQ, through a partnership between government, private enterprise, researchers and the wider community.

Collaborative Casuarina Conservation Crucial!

The Glossy Black-Cockatoos' feed trees, casuarinas or she-oaks, are generally pioneer species, becoming less common as vegetation matures. This means in many areas, regrowth rather than remnant vegetation may be more important as a food source. In Queensland, the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* explicitly excludes the protection of regrowth.

This means a collaborative effort across regional landscapes is needed to achieve long-term conservation of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo.

It would seem NSW faces similar issues. *Allocasuarina torulosa* is the only food plant for Glossy Black-Cockatoos in northern NSW. A landholder has written to the Conservancy to express her concern regarding the clearing of food trees to make way for plantation timber. Apparently, the NSW Department of Natural Resources surveys the timber on each property and places an "H" on trees to be saved prior to any clearing. The "H" is placed on very old, large trees with hollows in them; whilst this is great for potential breeding hollows for GBCs (and other species), it does mean that generally no *A. torulosa* are saved as they never grow large enough or have hollows! The companies involved work within the law as it now stands, but if GBCs are to continue to be seen in this area steps need to be taken to have their food trees left untouched. The landholder also commented that they have not seen any Glossy Black-Cockatoos in their area this year and looking back over 14 years of records this is very unusual. Is this due to drought conditions or to lack of food trees in the district?

2007 Action Plan

The Conservancy's 2007 Action Plan identifies priority actions for the year ahead. Small working groups have been identified to further develop specific actions to be delivered in 2007, such as:

- Training workshops
- Website creation
- Develop information kits & fact sheets
- Organise community walks & information displays
- Produce a quarterly newsletter
- Undertake an annual review of actions
- Further develop sightings database & link to GIS

If you can help with any of these, either financially or 'in-kind', big or small, please get in touch with a Conservancy partner or email GBC@biodiversity.tv.

Our Website!

The Conservancy's website is up! It's still a work in progress, but includes information on the Conservancy, its activities and a form to report sightings. Visit <http://www.griffith.edu.au/centre/cics/GBConservancy/home.html>. Thanks to Griffith University's Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies.

Sighting Stories

Spring Gully Spectacular

Birds Queensland's weekend camp at Spring Gully, Canungra in March was not the usual civilised affair. Reminiscent of the stampede that caused unseemly abandonment of birdcall at Inskip Point when a Black-breasted Button-quail strolled close, I lost the attendees when some Glossy Black-Cockatoos arrived. Telescopes were set up, queues formed to get a good look, especially on the pair seriously checking out nest hollows a short distance away. Seven Glossies flew over on Friday evening, and six on Saturday. Both times the pair looked at potential nest sites. [M.West & M.Roper]



A prime spot to watch Glossies! Photo: D.Niland

Sightings in Brief

- Pine Mountain Rd, Numinbah, 24 Dec, 2 adults, 1 young [J.Searle]
- Beechmont Conservation Area, 18 Jan, 2 adults, 1 young in area all week [J.Searle]
- Dicky Beach, Caloundra, just north of the wreck, 24 March, approx 9:30am, 3 birds [L.Rowlands]
- Daisy Hill State Forest, mid-April, 6 birds quietly chewing on Casuarina nuts (we would not have noticed them had it not been for the sound of falling nuts). [G.Hrudicka]
- Gold Coast, 17 May, 3 birds, incl young female (yellow head)? [N.O'Neill]

- Sunrise Beach, 18 May, pair flying over the Cooyar St car park; roosted overnight at Pinaroo Park? [T.Lennon]
- Sunrise Beach, 7-21 May, number of sightings of birds flying over and of a pair feeding in *Casuarina equisetifolia* street trees, as well as *A. littoralis* in Dame Patti Park.; *C. equisetifolia* cones don't seem to be as heavily chewed as *A. littoralis* [B.Carey]
- Noosa Heads, 7-21 May, pair feeding in labelled trees on several occasions [B.Carey]
- Peregian Beach, 4 June, birds feeding in *A. littoralis* for the last few days, first reported sighting here [B.Carey]
- Gatton UQ campus, 9 June, two birds, female and male feeding in casuarinas fringing smaller lake, across the road from Lake Galletly [B.Jolly]
- Noosa Heads, 10 June, 3 pairs feeding in labelled trees [B.Carey]

Ort Report

Finding chewed cones, or orts, under casuarina trees is a pretty good clue that Glossy Black-Cockatoos may have been feeding in the tree. The colour of the chewed flesh indicates how long ago the birds were there; the whiter the cone, the more recently a bird was there.



- Noosa Heads, 10 June, fresh chewings were noted in A.W Dann park, [B.Carey]

Budding Birdos Blown Away

During the *Wildwatch Brisbane* "Birdwatching for Budding Birdos" event held 3 March in JC Trotter Park, Burbank, orts were identified underneath an *Allocasuarina* to the delight of all. The excitement grew after a conversation with a passer-by revealed the cockatoos had nested in a nearby stag in recent years! *Wildwatch Brisbane* is a Brisbane City Council initiative that has been developed to encourage and enhance the capacity of the community to get involved in collecting vital information about our local fauna, native and invasive. [A.Selles]

GBC Partner Activities

Envirofund Application

A number of Conservancy partners got together recently to submit an Envirofund application to develop a schools/community information kit and to plant feed trees in school grounds around the region. This pilot project has potential for much wider application. Thanks to all and we'll let you know when we hear back.

Brisbane City Council

Thanks to Council for funding the latest brochure reprint.

Burnett Inland North LGA Cluster

Fact sheets on "Glossy Black-Cockatoo feed trees" and "Managing Glossy Black-Cockatoos in rural areas" are being developed. We'll keep you posted on these.



A Glossy In flight & simply brilliant! Photo: N.O'Neill

BrisBOCA

Conduct surveys of parks and reserves for Glossy Black-Cockatoos and feed trees. No sightings for over 6 weeks in Logan parks and no recent sightings reported from North Maclean area, Beaudesert Shire. Orts found have all been old ones. [R.Bloss]

Gold Coast City Council

Gold Coast City Council is supporting researchers at Griffith University's CICS to determine the home range and habitat site fidelity of Glossy Black-Cockatoos on the Gold Coast using satellite tracking. For more information, visit the Conservancy's website!

Maroochy Shire Council

Glossy-Black Cockatoo outings July 7, 14 and 21, 3pm-5.45pm. These walks in Council managed bushland on the western shores of the Lake Weyba area, are designed to try to capture vital sighting information and find potential nesting hollows. Bird experts are encouraged to join in to also capture other interesting species. For more information phone Josh Birse on (07)54 75 7359 or email: birsej@maroochy.qld.gov.au

Report your Sightings!

If you have seen a Glossy Black-Cockatoo or found some orts, please complete a Sightings Report available from Conservancy partners, via GBC@biodiversity.tv or at <http://www.griffith.edu.au/centre/cics/GBConservancy/home.html>

The Glossy Black Conservancy acknowledges the support of:

