



Glossy Black Conservancy News

No. 10 May 2011

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.

Birding Day 2010

The first ever combined SEQ and NE NSW Glossy Black Birding Day was recently held on Sunday 31 October 2010! This event follows up from the inaugural birding day held on the Gold Coast in 2009. Participation in the birding day was high, with a total of 295 volunteers covering 259 1km² grid cells. Nine local government areas in SEQ and NE NSW were covered.

A total of 106 birds were observed on the day in 31 grid cells, providing a crude estimate of 0.41 birds/km². Seventeen juvenile birds were recorded representing 16% of the total numbers observed, while there was a relatively even number of males and females in the adult cohort. Additionally, a total of 328 trees from 60 sites were found with chewed she-oak cones or 'orts' on the ground beneath them, evidence of their use as Glossy Black-Cockatoo feed trees.

The Glossy Black Birding Day information collected by the many community volunteers provides a snapshot of the distribution and abundance of the species. The ongoing long-term monitoring of the regional population in this manner, supplemented with ongoing reporting of sightings throughout the year, will enable researchers to undertake more detailed investigations of the essential habitats required by the Glossy Black-Cockatoo in the region.

Bird sighting data from the Birding Day are summarised in the table below:

Region	No. of Observers	Cells Surveyed	Birds Seen	No. of Adults			No. of Juveniles		
				M	F	U	M	F	U
Gold Coast	44	44	9	5	4	0	0	0	0
Brisbane	24	16	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Scenic Rim	26	28	32	9	9	7	1	0	6
Sunshine Coast	64	45	48	13	11	18	0	0	6
Moreton Bay	7	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Logan	36	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redland Bay	16	16	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Byron	16	15	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Tweed	62	63	11	3	3	1	2	2	0
Totals	295	259	106	33	30	26	3	2	12

M = male; F = female; U = unknown

Feed tree data are summarised in the table below:

Region	No. of Trees	No. of Orts	No. of Cones	Mean No. of Orts	Mean No. of Cones
Gold Coast	38	12991	25580	342	673
Brisbane	10	2280	7580	228	758
Scenic Rim	51	11130	7556	218	148
Sunshine Coast	116	200	400	2	3
Moreton Bay	0	0	0	-	-
Logan	15	4350	2100	290	140
Redland Bay	16	6635	16500	415	1031
Fraser Coast	4	1700	650	425	163
Byron	11	150	350	14	318
Tweed	67	9820	22320	147	333
Totals	328	49256	86186	150	263

And the winners are!

Thanks to the support of a number of sponsors (Mt. Barney Lodge, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Australia Zoo, BOCA, Birds Australia SQ, Griffith University) there were a number of lucky prize winners following the Birding Day:

Joanna Garnder and Peter Symonds (Tweed) – Mt Barney stay
 Kelley Jessen (Gold Coast) – Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary pass
 Karolyn Campbell (Redland Bay) – Australia Zoo pass
 Barb Veal-Sinclair (Sunshine Coast) – BOCA annual membership
 Ratnadeep Nagarkar (Brisbane) – Birds Australia SQ membership
 Judy Leitch (Logan) – “Cockatoo” by Matt Cameron

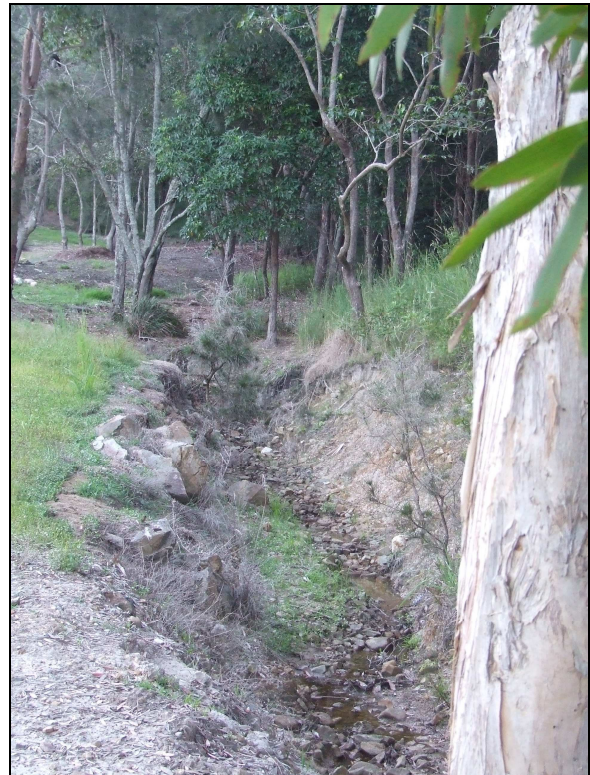
Congratulations to all prize winners!



Mt Barney Lodge



A Glossy Black-Cockatoo family at Pottsville seen on the Birding Day!
 Photo: Eli Szandala



A GBC drinking site at Pottsville – what would otherwise appear to be not much more than a drain is actually a highly significant habitat element for local birds. Photo: Scott Hetherington

Birding Day 2011 – Sunday 22 May

Following the success of previous Birding Day's, and to capture seasonal variation in habitats used by Glossy Black-Cockatoo's, this year's event will be run on **Sunday May 22!**

Once again, the event will cover multiple Local Government Areas across SEQ and NE NSW. For all the details of this event, including how to get involved, head to the Conservancy website at www.glossyblack.org.au, and get in touch with the Regional Co-ordinator for your Local Government Area!



Regional coordinators for the 2011 Birding Day are listed in the table below. If you are outside of these areas, please contact Guy Castley.

Council Area	Coordinator	E-mail	Telephone
Brisbane City – SEQ	Lee-Anne Veage/Lyn Cole	lee-anne.veage@brisbane.qld.gov.au	(07) 3403 4323
Byron Shire – NSW	Scott Hetherington	scott.hetherington@byron.nsw.gov.au	(02) 6626 7324
Gold Coast City – SEQ	Guy Castley	g.castley@griffith.edu.au	(07) 5552 8918
Logan City – SEQ	Lyndall Rosevear/Rod Bloss	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	Keith McCosh	keith.m@scenicrim.qld.gov.au	(07) 5540 5436
Sunshine Coast – SEQ	Conor Jenkins	Conor.Jenkins@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au	(07) 5499 5142
Tweed Shire - NSW	Tanya Fountain/Pamela Gray	tfountain@tweed.nsw.gov.au	(02) 6670 2787

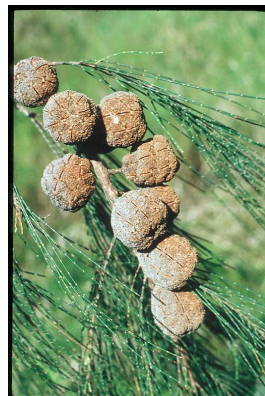
Effects of Rain on Glossy Black Feed Trees

Information courtesy of Kay Montgomery, Ecological connections Pty Ltd.

Allocasuarinas, like the rest of the trees in the family Casuarinaceae, hold their seeds in cones for a long time. It is quite common to find a tree with three different generations of cones - old grey ones, grey brown ones and small red brown ones. The very old cones don't tend to open when collected but will open and drop seed after a fire. Grey brown cones are mature and will usually pop open to release seeds within a week of being collected, provided they are kept dry without sweating. The younger cones may not have fully developed seed. They will open after being picked but the seed is often very pale brown and not viable.



A. littoralis



A. torulosa

With the current season being so wet the oil content in the maturing seed is possibly going to be higher than in the dry season. Hopefully, this is going to be providing good quality food for the Glossy Black-Cockatoo.

The wetter season is also a good opportunity for anyone planning to plant. However, the wet season also provides a great breeding opportunity for fungus. Anyone planning to propagate or collect seed will need to be very watchful of the various fungi that attack the newly emerging seedling. In the wild they grow mostly in very well drained sandy soils.

Allocasuarinas are pioneer species, so they are not particularly long lived - one of the things to consider when planting for feed trees. You will get better long term food availability if you plant in clusters and put in some new trees every few years. In the wild it is quite common to see Allocasuarinas in almost a monoculture after a fire, but 5-10 years later lots of other things have joined the mix.

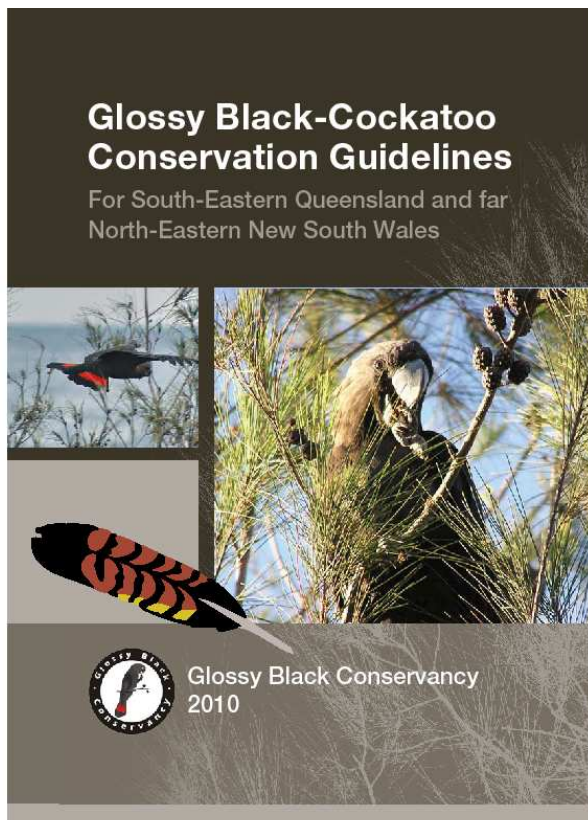
Conservation Guidelines

A major achievement for the Conservancy in 2010 was the completion of Glossy Black-Cockatoo Conservation Guidelines for South-Eastern Queensland and North-Eastern NSW (see Glossy Black Conservancy News No. 9 for a summary of Conservation Guidelines and the conservancy website to view the entire document).

At its November 2010 End of Year meeting and workshop, the Conservancy established a draft Baseline Assessment of the Conservation Guidelines Implementation. This will be used to measure implementation of other actions.

Identified high priority actions for the Conservancy to implement in 2011 include:

- Produce an accurate map of potential feeding habitat for GBC
- Locate new nest sites, monitor the use of known nest sites and maintain a confidential database and map of known nest sites
- The Conservancy is to set up a research sub-committee to identify and prioritise research needs
- Establish a standardised process for recording, managing and sharing data on: (1) incidental sightings; (2) feed trees; (3) watering sites; and (4) nest sites
- Launch the conservation guidelines with coordinated media events



Conservation Guidelines are available from the Conservancy's website, and will be officially launched later this year!

Online GBC Sightings Database

An on-line Glossy Black-Cockatoo sightings database has been developed, and can be accessed from the Conservancy website (www.glossyblack.org.au). Point locations for bird observations are captured by users submitting their sightings via a Google map interface. The interface uses this mapping function to generate spatial coordinates for each sightings report automatically. Mandatory information required to be submitted for each sighting include the date, time of sighting, number of birds seen, the activity of the birds (e.g. feeding, flying, roosting, drinking) as well as contact details for verification purposes. Additional information on the demographic structure of any birds seen can also be captured if these details are known.

Users of the on-line reporting tool are encouraged to submit as many reports as possible so that this information can be used to construct a picture of habitat use in the region. Remember that sightings are date, time and location specific so multiple sightings of birds on any particular day will require multiple entries in the on-line reporting system.

Members of the public submitting their sightings of Glossy Black-Cockatoo should also note that their sightings will need to be validated for quality control purposes before they will be visible on the publicly accessible map viewer. If possible, users are encouraged to submit photographs along with their sightings to support their reports.

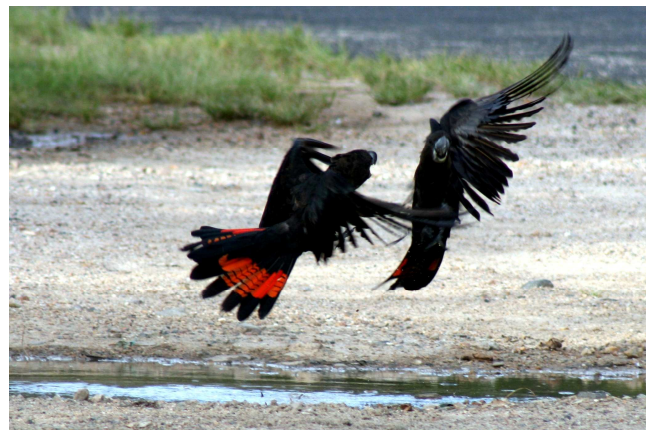
If there are any comments on the reporting system please submit these via email to gbc@biodiversity.tv so that we can make adjustments to improve the system if necessary.

Cockatoo Sightings

Large numbers of Glossy Black-Cockatoo have recently been sighted at Cudgen Creek, NSW. Flocks of up to 13 birds have been reported, with locals enjoying the birds as they come down to drink late in the afternoon.



*Two glossies drinking at Cudgen, NSW.
Photo: Rayma Sargeant*



*In flight manoeuvrers at Cudgen, NSW.
Photo: Rayma Sargeant*

Golden Ort Award 2010

Congratulations to Dr. Guy Castley, who was presented with the annual Golden Ort Award at the End of Year Conservancy meeting at Mt Barney Lodge!

Guy took out the award for his tireless work for the Conservancy, particularly for coordinating preparations for the inaugural Region-wide Birding Day.



Guy Castley (centre) celebrates his Golden Ort Award with Birding Day local coordinators at the Conservancy's End of Year Workshop at Mt. Barney Lodge on the 25-26 November 2010.