



Glossy Black Conservancy News

No. 5 January 2008

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.

For further information on any of the articles in this newsletter, copies of the 2008 Action Plan or fact sheets, please visit www.glossyblack.org.au, get in touch with your local Conservancy partner or email GBC@biodiversity.tv.

Welcome to 2008!

And to new Conservancy partners West Moreton Landcare, who instigated the Envirofund Schools Project (see article below)!

Conservancy Year in Review

On 21 November 2007, Conservancy partners met at Redlands' IndigiScapes Centre to celebrate the year's achievements and formulate the 2008 Action Plan. Priority actions for 2008 are:

- Expand membership of the Glossy Black Conservancy
- Maintain and expand the website
- Develop 'feed trees', 'rural landscapes' and 'urban backyards' fact sheets
- Develop of schools' information kit
- Provide training workshops
- Organise community walks & information displays
- Continue this newsletter
- Further develop sightings database & link to GIS
- Complete the Glossy Black-Cockatoo Management Plan
- Undertake an annual review of actions

Envirofund Schools Project

This project will develop and distribute a Glossy Black-Cockatoo education kit and plant feed trees in school grounds around SEQ. Eighty-two schools across the region were sent a letter inviting them to participate in the project and an Expression of Interest form in early December. Targeted schools are those within the boundaries of participating local governments and in proximity to Glossy Black-Cockatoo sightings. Despite the school holidays, three completed forms have already been received! The due date for responses is 15 February and a reminder will soon be sent to remaining schools. Participating local governments are: Maroochy, Caloundra, Brisbane, Redland, Logan and Ipswich.

Sighting Stories

Glossies feeding on River She-oak?

A recent sighting is of Glossy Black-Cockatoos feeding on *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (River she-oak) in Toowoomba's Waterbird Habitat. Can this be confirmed by other observers? Is this a once only occurrence or will it become a regular food source for local birds? Do Glossies feed on *C. cunninghamiana* elsewhere?

Sunrise Beach Roost Ebb & Flow

Diligent Glossy observer on the north coast, Bob Carey, has been observing the goings on at a local roost site.

In early October 2007, a pair of birds roosted at Orcades St, Sunrise Beach. During November, this increased to 10-13 birds regularly recorded roosting in Wollomia Way, Orcades St and/or Boxell Rise; this increased to 15 birds by mid-December. The birds arrive just before sunset from two directions, possibly from known local drinking sites. A feature of the roosting flock was the presence of a begging juvenile, in a trio there, seeming to indicate that one pair (of seven!) bred successfully last season. So far in 2008, only one pair has visited the roost site, stopping only briefly before flying north. Is this a response to recent wet weather or part of a seasonal pattern? Will keep watching! [B.Carey]

Sightings in Brief

- Noosa Heads, Pinaroo Park Lagoon, 10 Oct 2007, 11 birds drinking [B.Carey]
- Sunrise Beach, Oct-early Nov, initially a pair, increasing to 12 birds roosting [B.Carey]
- Sunrise Beach, 14 Nov, 4 birds flying north from roost tree [B.Carey]
- Sunshine Beach High School, 10 Nov, pair feeding on *A.littoralis* [B.Carey]



Stop! You're eating the wrong she-oak! A Glossy Black-Cockatoo feeding on River she-oak Photo: V.Newbury



On the Sunshine Coast, Glossies regularly feed on she-oaks in urban gardens. Photo: H.Aik

- Marcus Beach, 11 Nov, 2 birds flying around near southern end intersection of Mahogany and Hawthorn Sts [E.Crook]
- St Thomas Moore School, Sunrise Beach, 26 Nov, 10 birds flying in a northerly direction [B.Carey]
- McKeys Hill, Wivenhoe, 28 Nov [D.Garcia]
- Sunrise Beach, various sites, late Nov, 10-13 birds roosting [B.Carey]
- Waterbird Habitat, Toowoomba, late Nov, single male [V.Newbury]
- Spring Mountain, Ipswich, 11 Dec, 2 birds feeding [F.denOtter]
- Upper Burgess Creek, early Dec, 2 occasions, up to 12 birds (including juvenile) at drinking site [B.Carey]
- Noosa Heads, 4 Dec, birds resting in a Eucalyptus tree
- Sunrise Beach, Dame Patti Park, 5 Dec, 3 birds flying over [B.Carey]
- Sunrise Beach, 20 Dec, 2 birds feeding in front garden [H.Aik]
- Noosa National Park firetrail, north Peregrine, 10 Jan 2008, early evening, 3 pairs seen flying west over Lake Weyba, possible roost site? [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.



- Sharon Bonney Reserve, Caloundra, late December, many orts near nest box locations [S.O'Keefe]
- Noosa National Park, Spoonbill St dividing island, 10 Jan 2008, fresh chewings under trees [B.Carey]

GBC Partner Activities

Burnett Inland North LGAC

A fact sheet on 'She-oaks in a Rural Landscape' is being drafted. This will contain information on the value of she-oaks for shade, shelter, timber, bee-keeping and soil health, as well as their biodiversity, aesthetic and recreational values. [L.Dorahy]

Caloundra City Council

Glossy Black-Cockatoo nest boxes were installed last year in Sharon Bonney Reserve. Council's Natural Areas Officers are monitoring for evidence of use. [S.O'Keefe]



Glossy nest box in Sharon Bonney Reserve, Caloundra. Photo: S.O'Keefe

Logan City Council

The Development Control fact sheet for Glossy Black-Cockatoos is finalised. This provides information to developers on the effects of development on Glossy Black-Cockatoos and strategies to mitigate these.

Mary LGAC

A fact sheet on 'Glossy Black-Cockatoo feed trees' is in preparation. This contains information on distinguishing different species of she-oak and determining whether individual trees are being used. [A.Gosley]

Redland Shire Council

Hosted the Glossy Black Conservancy '2007 Year in Review'. [L.Bailey]

Report your Sightings!

If you have seen a Glossy Black-Cockatoo or found some orts, please complete a Sightings Report.

The Glossy Black Conservancy acknowledges the support of:

