



Volume 52    Number 4    August / September 2020



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# Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

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*Feathered  
World*

The Official Magazine of The Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.  
Published bimonthly.

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- The editor welcomes contributions, but retains the right to amend articles and reports accordingly.
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# Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

## **MEETING DATES 2020**

**General Meetings:** 2nd September & 4th November

**Zoom Meeting commences at 8:00 pm**

**Anzac Room, Ashfield RSL, Liverpool Road, Ashfield**

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The Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc now have a Facebook page!!

The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/CCBFA>

*All information printed in Feathered World is believed to be correct at time of printing. If there are any corrections required, please send them through to the editor.*

*If you have any stories you feel would be of interest to the readers, please send them through to the editor.*

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ers, please

## **NOTICE TO ALL AFFILIATES**

For legal and insurance requirements, affiliates are requested to notify the Federation Secretary of changes in office bearers, public officer and delegates, also changes of the club's meeting location, email and postal address.

Notification should be on club's letterhead or if required a hard copy or electronic copy of the *Office Bearer's Information and Privacy Provision Consent Form* is available from the Secretary.

Ron Robertson, Secretary, The Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc. PO Box 230, Frenchs Forest, NSW 1640 ; Phone: 02 9452 2396 ;Email: [federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au](mailto:federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au)



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Pantone Green	3292U	6026	2020	2026
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## RESEARCHERS DISCOVER NEW SUBSPECIES OF RED-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO IN WA

Groundbreaking research has identified a new subspecies of one of Australia's most iconic birds, which experts say is unique to inland Western Australia and has been "hidden in plain sight".

The red-tailed black cockatoo is found across Australia with populations in almost all states and territories.

But a large-scale genetic study by researchers from the Australian Museum, University of Sydney, CSIRO and the University of Edinburgh has revealed WA is home to a newly recognised subspecies of the bird.

The newly identified subspecies lives in the regions spanning the Wheatbelt, east of Perth, to the Pilbara in the state's north-west. Researcher Kyle Ewart said while the population of red-tailed black cockatoos resembled those in other states, its genetic makeup was distinctly different and says conservation should be a priority following the discovery of a new subspecies cockatoo.



"It was previously thought that this West Australian population was going to be genetically exactly the same as the other inland red-tailed black cockatoos," he said. "We think they were characterised as one subspecies because they all looked the same. Evolution is not that simple — some things look different but are genetically very similar and vice versa."

We've found that the WA red-tailed black cockatoo is much more closely related to the forest red-tailed black cockatoo, based around Perth, than it is to the other inland populations."

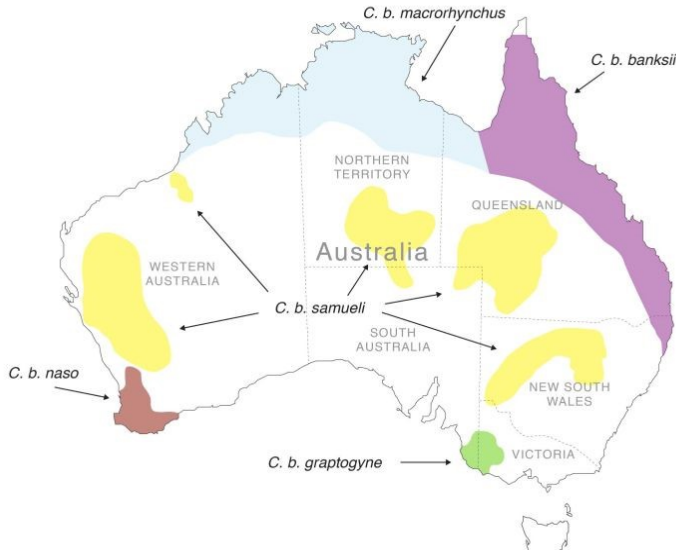
Mr Ewart said the new subspecies had been named *Calyptorhynchus banksii escondidas*, as distinct from its previous classification, *Calyptorhynchus banksii samueli*

"*Escondidas* is new — it's the subspecies' name and it basically means 'hidden' because it's been hidden in plain sight," he said. "We knew this population was there, but we didn't know it was a different subspecies."

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The yellow sections highlighted in this map show the original subspecies grouping, but new research shows the cockatoos in WA's Midwest and Pilbara are genetically different to those in the NT, Queensland and NSW. (Supplied: Kyle Ewart)

### Roadkill and taxidermy

The genetic study involved the collection of new and old samples from across the country, including fresh tissue samples from roadkill, as well as old taxidermied birds displayed in Australian museums.

The samples were then painstakingly processed and analysed to determine if the genetics matched previously recognised subspecies.

Mr Ewart said the discovery was an important step in the preservation and protection of the red-tailed black cockatoo.

"Now we have to treat this as a different subspecies so the conservation of this subspecies becomes a priority," he said. "We just don't know enough about it ... it's hard to tell if its vulnerable, threatened, endangered [or] critically endangered.

"What needs to be done now is figure out the ecology of the new subspecies — where it's eating and nesting — and how many there are because it's vital to conserve this distinct piece of genetic diversity.

"Categorising it will hopefully turn the wheel to find out more about it and its conservation status."

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Northern Agricultural Catchments Council bushcare officer Jarna Kendle, who helps organise an annual count of cockatoos, has a soft spot for the black cockatoos and describes them as "beautiful" birds with "vibrant personalities".

But their populations have plummeted.

Jarna Kendle says the discovery could generate interest in projects aimed at protecting the birds and boosting their numbers

She said the new research would help generate interest in the Great Cocky Count and other projects aimed at protecting the birds and boosting their numbers.

"Habitat loss is one of the biggest threats to black cockatoos, and urban development and land clearing contribute to that," Ms Kendle said.

There is also a threat from other species including corellas, which are "thriving", she said

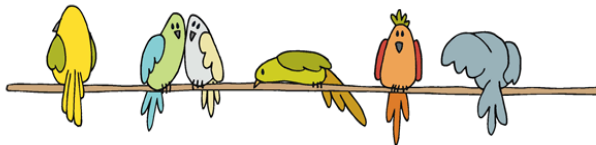
"Black cockatoos require nesting hollows and the nesting hollows are also being used by pest species such as feral bees and corellas so that limits their capacity to breed," she said.

Ms Kendle, whose work covered the Mid West and part of the Wheatbelt in Western Australia, said the black cockies were an iconic bird in the state.

"They definitely deserve our recognition and they deserve us to do everything we can to preserve them for the future," she said.

"They are vibrant personalities and when you hear them fly over you can recognise them instantly by their call."

Source: [ABC South West WA](#) By [Jessica Hayes](#) and [Cecile O'Connor](#)





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## HOW CHICKENS COULD INSPIRE NEW TREATMENTS FOR DEAFNESS

*Birds can't lose their hearing. So why do we?*

Stanford University researcher Amanda Janesick thinks the most interesting thing about birds is that they cannot go permanently deaf. For the last three years, she's tried to figure how and why—and hopes to find a way to reproduce this in people someday. “The fact that we don't have a cure for hearing loss is amazing,” says Janesick, who was born with a mild form of genetic hearing loss herself.

Scientists have long known that certain animals—birds, but also fish, reptiles and amphibians—can indefinitely regenerate hair cells in the cochlea, the cavity of the inner ear responsible for interpreting sound. Most mammalian hair cells cannot do this: Once ruined, the hair cells—which vibrate and amplify sounds into the cochlea—are gone. With fewer of them, hearing sensitivity



Given advances in microscopy and genetic analysis over the last decade, researchers now have the ability to advance the study of how hair cell regeneration actually functions.

Working with Stefan Heller at Stanford's School of Medicine, Janesick focuses her research exclusively with chickens. She uses imaging technology to “light up” multiple genes in fluorescent colors within the cochlea at a single-cell resolution, allowing her to see their location and which are activated when hair cells regenerate. “Lighting up a gene does not directly tell you anything about the cell's function, but you can make inferences,” she says.

Recently, through another technique called single-cell RNA sequencing, she was able to measure individual genes present in each hair cell of a healthy chicken cochlea. This is a big first step: to figure out how hair cells regenerate, knowing their genetic makeup helps. Janesick has discovered several new hair cell genes. For instance, compared to mammals, she has found that the chickens might be using a wholly different neurotransmitter to convert sound energy into electric energy that eventually gets transmitted to their brain.

Researchers, however, still don't know exactly how birds regenerate their

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hearing ability and also don't know why birds can do this and we cannot. Mirko Scheibinger, a colleague of Janesick's who is working on a parallel project involving the chicken's balancing organ, the utricle, believes it is related to the human ear's complexity. For starters, ours is a spiral shape whereas the bird's is banana-like; the mammalian one is a "more sophisticated" entity, says Scheibinger.

Another crucial component of Janesick's project involves studying the damaged chicken cochlea in a live chicken. To do this a chick's ear is injected with an antibiotic that kills the hair cells (it requires only a very tiny needle, and they do grow back). Two days later, they observed the cochlea with a high-powered microscope during the regeneration process. What they saw, says Janesick, seemed to be a strong immune response to the hair cell damage in the surviving, surrounding cells. Now she's trying to understand what role, if any, immune genes play in regenerating hair cells.

Whether what she and others are learning about animals' hearing regeneration ability could one day help humans, Janesick is cautiously optimistic—though it would take years. Most likely, says Janesick, such a therapy could be in the form of chemicals that are injected or diffused into our ears. Manipulation of our genes themselves through gene therapy may also be a possibility, she adds.

Others believe that it is better to focus scientific attention on different animals with the same abilities, such as mice. While most mammals are unable to regenerate hair cells, mice can for a short period of time after birth. Because the mouse genome is closer to ours, its regeneration abilities might be more easily transferable to humans; mice also hear in frequency ranges more similar to us, says Alan Cheng, a Stanford colleague of Janesick's who studies this in the rodent subjects.

But, in terms of research, he adds that "one is not better than the other. They are complementary." For instance, notes Cheng, the key to neural regeneration in retinas—repairing damaged neurons in eyes—which has allowed for the development of new gene therapies for the visually impaired, was discovered through studying chickens. Much has also been learned from chick embryology about how our limbs develop, how the cardiovascular system is patterned, and brain formation, to name a few examples. Even though we still know relatively little about the nuances of bird hearing, perhaps one day human deafness will also make the list.



## EMU POO STUDY THE KEY TO FINDING OUT HOW THEY COULD BE REINTRODUCED IN TASMANIA

*Tasmania's ecosystem could be missing out by no longer being home to wild emus, and researchers say the answers are hidden in the large birds' poo.*

Emus became extinct in Tasmania during the mid 1800s, and very little is known about how they lived. University of Tasmania researcher Matthew Fielding said emus were no longer performing an important seed dispersal role in Tasmania.

"Emus will eat practically anything, and they walk a whole bunch of kilometres," Mr Fielding said. "They will then poop out those seeds, and those poos can have up to thousands of seeds in them. They were moving these plants around in the environment."

Mr Fielding said emus could travel 50 kilometres in a day, spreading seeds far and wide.

The research will map the current distribution of plants and model what has changed since the emu became extinct.

Mr Fielding and fellow researcher Tristan Derham travelled to Wilsons Promontory in south-east Victoria conducting a big scat hunt to find answers about the emu.

Wilsons Promontory is similar to the north-east of Tasmania, except that it has a large emu population.

The pair collected emu scats to examine what was inside and tracked what the birds were eating, and it turned out they were not fussy eaters.

"There's basically everything in there," Mr Fielding said. "We can use that to infer what the Tasmanian emu was eating. We want to look at what plants are being eaten [in south-east Victoria] and then look at the distribution of those plants in Tasmania now."

Mr Derham said there were all the expected native seeds plus bracken, and surprisingly, whole she oak cones.

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Mr Derham said not a lot was known about why the emu became extinct in Tasmania, but the bird was gone about 50 years after European settlement.

The species survived in the wild until about 1865, and the last captive bird died in 1873.

"I was really surprised the first time I heard there were emus in Tasmania," he said. "I decided to look into it and think about why there are not emus in Tasmania. It seems to me there are lots of great emu habitats, but they are gone."

He said the emu became extinct before the thylacine, or Tasmanian tiger.

"It turns out they disappeared very, very quickly," Mr Derham said.

He said the bird was hunted intensely at a time when Europeans cleared land and took Indigenous people off their lands.

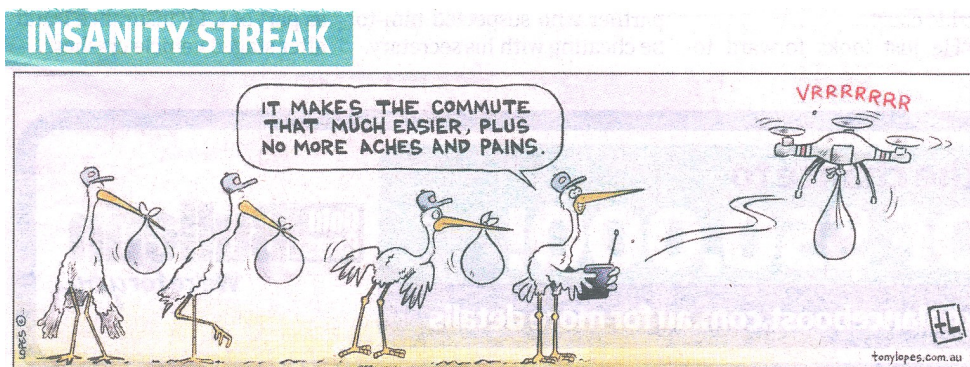
Part of his study is modelling where the emus lived, and where they could be reintroduced.

His early data shows the bird could happily live throughout the east of Tasmania where it is dryer and flatter, as well as the Midlands.

"It would be the easiest thing in the world to buy a few hundred emus from an emu farmer on the mainland and put them in an enclosure and slowly release them to the environment," he said.

"We'd have to think pretty carefully about where we'd release them."

*Source: Article by George Burgess at [www.abc.net.au](http://www.abc.net.au)*



# Guests of Honour

**Don Price & Peter Southgate**

**Where?**

Panarama House at Stanwell Tops

**When?**

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**Cost?**

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**Bookings**

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**CANCELLED**

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Federation Dinner 2020



## PETER SOUTHGATE

Peter started with birds in 1958 at Grafton when his father bought him some finches and built a small aviary. Not long after his dad built a canary house and they started showing canaries winning champion Yorkshire and a nice mirror which hung in the hall way at their first show in Lismore.

Eventually Peter and his father had several aviaries and kept a variety of parrots, finches quails and Yorkshire and border fancy canaries which were shown around Northern NSW enough ribbons to make a bedspread and travelling in FJ and FE Holdens with the back seats removed for cages loose stacked and in the boot as well. The trips were eventful by todays standards hitting Kangaroos and running off the gravel roads when we did not make the corner.

He joined Wollongong bird club in 1980 and has been a member ever since Including office holder. Starting off in the laundry with borders from his father and later George Hatcher and Lionel Covington then the shed and in 1984 in a purpose built bird house. He has shown at many shows in the Sydney and surrounding region with the highlight a Reserve Champion and best buff cock at the border show. He would still like to win Champion at Wollongong and the border show.



## DON PRICE

Interest in birds started around 1954 when a budgerigar landed in the yard and he and his father caught it. It didn't live long! Then his father built a couple of aviaries so they could keep a few birds along with four uncles who kept mostly canaries. One uncle had a champion certificate on the wall in his home.

When walking home from school he would duck into the pet shop for a sticky. One day there was a pile of show schedules on the counter and one obviously finished up at home. The show was just down the road from home. His parents knew the secretary (Fred Driscoll) so he entered a canary in the junior section which resulted in a first place card. It was easy as there was no competition! The bug set in after a second show when he entered the same bird and it was placed second in a class of two.

In 1958 the secretary talked his parents into him joining the Wollongong club and would take him to the meetings, but only on school holidays.

Since then he has shown birds and judged finches all over NSW as well as being both Show Secretary for 31 consecutive shows and Assistant secretary at the club in addition to holding office and being a member of the Finch Society, Finch Exhibitors Society and Zebra Finch Society.

## AUSTRALIA'S BIRDS: PRETTY AND SWEET OR JUST A PACK OF BASTARDS?

Since BirdLife Australia launched the Aussie Backyard Bird Count in 2014, the number of participants has risen from 9,000 to over 70,000. Unsurprisingly, the amount of birds that have been counted in the cities and towns has also risen – from 850,000 to more than 2.75 million birds last year.

Yet when it comes to the top 10 most commonly seen birds, the song remains the same, with the same species entrenched firmly at the top every year. It's the birding equivalent of tuning into Countdown in the 70s to find Abba's Fernando top of the charts for the 27th week in a row.

Birds are not only the soundtrack to our daily lives, they are an expression of the landscape – the continent's original songlines. When you change the habitat of the country, you alter the soundscape too. If we had run the Aussie Bird Count back in the 70s when Abba were inescapable in the music charts, the top 10 list would have looked quite different because the urban centres where the vast bulk of Australians live have radically changed. We have planted native trees such as flowering gums in our yards and streetscapes, attracting larger, nectar-feeding birds such as rainbow lorikeets, noisy miners and red wattlebirds. We have also seen the decline of traditional English cottage-style lawns and rose beds so favoured by sparrows, starlings and blackbirds. Yet at the same time we saw the emergence of outer suburban sprawl and inner suburban infill, where houses and apartments are built to the edge of the block with little room for the greenery that smaller birds such as wrens and thornbills depended on.



Very few native birds have been able to adapt to this alien environment, yet only two of our top 10 urban species are introduced birds, the house sparrow and the common (or Indian) myna. So what is it about the others in the top 10 that have managed to thrive in the modern urban environment when all about them have fallen? At first glance they are an eclectic bunch, comprising three parrots, two honeyeaters, the magpie, silver gull and welcome swallow. Quite a disparate bunch in terms of size,

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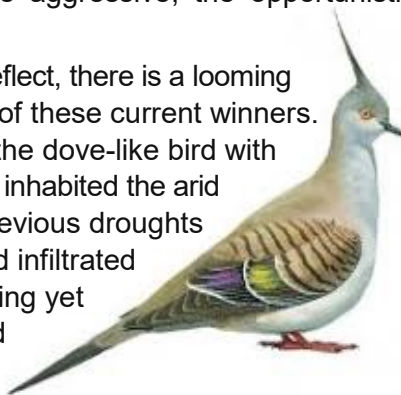
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shape and preferred food but what unites them all is that they are aggressive, adaptable or highly intelligent, or in some cases all three.

The silver gull did not evolve eating chips; there were very few verandas for swallows to nest on, yet they have adapted. The others tend to survive the mean streets by ganging up and becoming bullies. We are all familiar with stories of the notorious 'Indian' mynas killing other birds, but did you know that the similarly named, yet entirely native noisy miner is an even greater bully, driving almost all birds the same size or smaller than itself out of its territory? In some areas rainbow lorikeets seem to be out-muscling even the mynas.

There have been far more losers than winners in the bird world since we began radically altering the Australian landscape 230 years ago. Particularly hard hit have been the quiet birds, the specialists, whose livelihoods have been overtaken by the brash, the aggressive, the opportunistic. Sound familiar?

However, like in the human society they reflect, there is a looming threat on the horizon to the ascendancy of these current winners. Climate. Last year the crested pigeon – the dove-like bird with the punk black, spiky crest that historically inhabited the arid inland – almost cracked the top 10. In previous droughts they have spread towards the coasts and infiltrated our cities. Many never left. With 2019 being yet another exceptionally dry year, this could be when we begin to see a changing of the guard, as the reality of a hotter, drier climate starts to hit home.



But we will never know if we don't get the data. This year, more than ever, we need as many people as possible to join in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count so that our annual snapshot of Australian birds becomes clearer and more finely detailed than ever before.

To join the Aussie Backyard Bird Count download the [#aussiebirdcount](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aussiebirdcount) app or go to [aussiebirdcount.org.au](https://aussiebirdcount.org.au)

Source: [www.theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) Article by Sean Dooley



## WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO LOVE BIRDS FOR MORE THAN JUST THEIR BEAUTY

We all know what our favourite bird looks like – but do you know why it's evolved to look that way? Discover the amazing new project striving to build a stronger connection between people and nature – through the fascination of bird anatomy

Have you ever looked at a spoonbill and pondered the reason behind its beak's unique shape, when other waders seem to be doing just fine without one? Birds' physical features are constantly photographed, recorded and commented on across the ornithology world – but it's usually just to identify the bird or distinguish it from another, similar species.

Information on why birds actually evolved these physical traits in the first place is limited to tiny snippets scattered across the world's scientific literature.

That's a real shame – not just because birds' physical adaptations are fascinating, but also because the more we understand nature, the more we respect and connect with it. As eminent explorer and conservationist Jacques Cousteau once said: "People protect what they love, love what they understand and understand what they are taught." In today's era of catastrophic nature loss, such education is fundamental in changing public attitudes.

Consider the humble Great Tit in the United Kingdom. It's round and fluffy with cute beady eyes – but did you know that every winter it also adjusts the length of its intestine to accommodate the peanuts we humans feed it, before shrinking it back to digest insects in summer? Next time you see this common bird, you may have more respect for how it copes with the survival challenges it faces.

Knowledge like this also helps the public to understand why it's so serious when a bird species declines or goes extinct. It's not just a pretty bird disappearing thousands of miles away – it's the loss of a vital component in a complex web of interactions. Without it, the whole ecosystem may fall. If you didn't know this, you might think that losing

the Great Tit from a forest wouldn't matter – after all, there are plenty of similar-looking small songbirds that will perform the same role. But look



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Closer at their beaks, and you'll see they're all different.

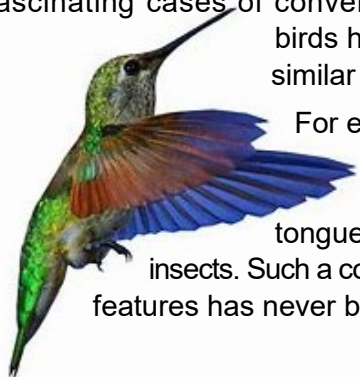
The Great Tit, with its thin, needle-like bill, eats insects – whereas a species like the Hawfinch, With its thick, strong beak, prefers to crack tough seeds. Lose the Great Tit, and you could face a swarm of insect pests. Lose the Hawfinch, and you could halt seed dispersal across the entire landscape.

Understanding birds' bodies can also explain why certain threats affect birds differently, even if they eat exactly the same food. Because of the different ways they digest food, owls can get all the nutrients they need even in polluted habitats, whereas diurnal raptors such as the Eurasian Sparrowhawk cannot. This could be one of the reasons raptor populations have plummeted in degraded forests.



By now, you're probably eager to find out more about the amazing inner lives of the birds you see. Fortunately, the Avian Ecomorphological Project can do just that. Organised by the Biosphere Science Foundation, this global initiative aims to show birds to the public as they've never seen them before, discovering and communicating the fascinating explanations behind bird's unique anatomies. Workshops and lectures across Europe have already proven hugely popular. Now, they want to spread the fascination to an even larger audience.

One of their key visions is to create an Avian Ecomorphological Atlas, which will illustrate and explain physical traits found throughout the avian kingdom. Rather than categorising birds into groups of closely-related species, like most bird books do, this visual feast will compare fascinating cases of convergent evolution, whereby very different birds have evolved similar adaptations to tackle similar problems.



For example, hummingbirds and woodpeckers both possess grooves in their skulls to accommodate their extremely long tongues, which they use to drink nectar or extract insects. Such a comprehensive round-up of birds' anatomical features has never been done before.

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Prepare to discover the answers to many mysteries of the bird world – why do owls' feathers glow pink under UV light? Why do cranes and other waterbirds have extra-long windpipes that bend around in loops? The team plans to demonstrate not only what they have discovered, but also how they discovered it – which is often just as fascinating. They will work with museums, zoos and bird rescue centres to study anatomical samples. Photos and videos that were taken to capture birds' beauty will be scrutinised for important information about their physiology or behaviour.



These discoveries will not only engage the public, but also directly support conservation action. By bringing together hard, visual evidence of physical threats like plastics or pollution, they can attract the attention of conservationists and authorities.

The project is seeking collaboration with funders and partners who can help them to disseminate their message through social media, TV and radio, building on the success of similar documentaries such as BBC's "The Life of Birds" with David Attenborough. Perhaps one day, everyone will be able to see beyond the beautiful plumage to the incredible evolutionary masterpiece that birds truly are.

## **2021 RING ORDERS & SUPPLEMENTARY 2020**

*Clubs ( Finches, Budgerigar, other species) requiring rings for distribution by the **1st January 2021** are requested to submit orders by the **30th September 2020** to be included in first 2021 consolidation.*

*The initial orders for **2021 canary rings** [if required for distribution at the specialist Annual shows at the end of May] should be **finalised by the 1st March 2021**.*

*Clubs requiring an order form which must be completed, should contact :*

**Secretary, Ron Robertson, Email: [CCBFA@aapt.net.au](mailto:CCBFA@aapt.net.au)**



## **FERAL CHICKENS RETURN TO PLAGUE NEW ZEALAND SUBURB**

'Like a Stephen King movie' their raucous clucking deprives residents of sleep. They leave the neighbourhood "wrecked". And food left out for them attracts "rats the size of cats" to an otherwise peaceful, leafy suburb.

New Zealand's national lockdown to quell the spread of Covid-19 appears to have vanquished the virus, but it has had one unintended consequence: the re-emergence of a plague – not of frogs or locusts but of feral chickens, a flock of which is once again menacing an area of west Auckland.

Residents of Titirangi, a suburb of fewer than 4,000 people and about 20-30 feral chickens, emerged from New Zealand's coronavirus lockdown to find a nightmare they thought had ended was not over. The feral chickens,



which council contractors had been working to gently capture and rehome since their numbers peaked in 2019, had multiplied during the shutdown.

"It's reignited old divisions in the village," said Greg Presland, the long-suffering chair of the Waitākere Ranges community board, which is tasked with addressing the problem. Some Titirangi residents have said on social media that the chickens bring a quaint and charming character to the village. Others say they're "like something out of a Stephen King movie".

Presland, who said "about 15" of the birds have taken up residence 50 metres from his house, said the problem began in 2008 when a resident had released two domesticated chickens in the village and they had "gone rogue."

The flock's numbers swelled in the years since, peaking at as many as 250 in 2019.

"A combination of being sleep deprived and seeing the neighbourhood wrecked made some people really hate them," said Presland, adding that the chickens had also harmed the roots of kauri trees, an endangered New Zealand native.

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But the last straw came when the suburb was “terrorised” by a pestilence of rats “the size of cats”, he said, which were attracted by food left out for the birds. Residents were finally united: the chickens had to go.

Council contractors set up large nets in different parts of the village, rounding up about 230 of the birds.

“It was an extremely difficult technique because residents wanted to get rid of them but not to harm them,” Presland said. A vet was even on standby to check the chickens and ensure they were well cared-for. Then we would send them off to this farm to live happily ever after,” he added.

After the chicken capture operation, fewer than 10 remained, with eight more rounded up before the country was locked down to curb the spread of Covid-19 in late March. That left about two especially wily birds, which proved resistant to capture, at large.

Attempts to track them down were suspended during the lockdown, and when the residents of Titirangi emerged from the shutdown, the chickens were back in force.

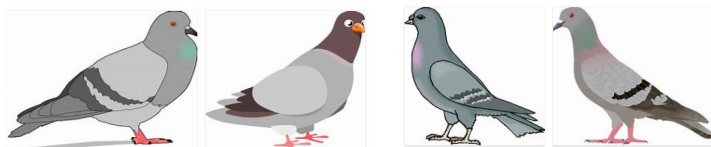
“There’s a very kind-hearted local who feeds them and has kept feeding them so the numbers have started to spike up again,” Presland said. “And we’re convinced that there’s been at least two dumping episodes, where someone’s got their chickens and just dumped them in the village.”

Efforts to capture the birds will now redouble, although some exasperated locals had suggested they instead be sent to a local frozen chicken company.

“The thought’s actually starting to appeal,” Presland said.

Eradication of the birds from Titirangi “would be ideal” he said. But as long as locals continue to feed the chickens, the menace would likely continue.

“I know who it is and I can’t make her stop,” he said. “I’ve tried.”



## 863 GENOMES REVEAL THE ORIGIN AND DOMESTICATION OF CHICKEN

Despite the substantial role that chickens have played in human societies across the world, both the geographic and temporal origins of their domestication remain controversial. To address this issue, a study analyzed 863 genomes from a worldwide sampling of chickens and representatives of all four species of wild jungle fowl and each of the five subspecies of red jungle fowl (RJF).

The study suggests that domestic chickens were initially derived from the RJF subspecies *Gallus gallus spadiceus* whose present-day distribution is predominantly in southwestern China, northern Thailand and Myanmar.



Following their domestication, chickens were translocated across Southeast and South Asia where they interbred locally with both RJF subspecies and other jungle fowl species. In addition, the results show that the White Leghorn chicken breed possesses a mosaic of divergent ancestries inherited from other subspecies of RJF.

Despite the strong episodic gene flow from geographically divergent lineages of jungle fowls, the analyses show that domestic chickens undergo genetic adaptations that underlie their unique behavioral, morphological and reproductive traits. The study provides novel insights into the evolutionary history of domestic chickens and a valuable resource to facilitate ongoing genetic and functional investigations of the world's most numerous domestic animal.

Source: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41422-020-0349-y>



### **DID YOU KNOW....**

*Adult magpies are not all the same. Even though it may seem you are seeing the same magpie over and over, they don't all look the same.*

*There are nine subspecies of magpies in Australia, with very different feather patterns.*

*In southern Victoria, adults have almost uniformly white backs, whereas in the north they may be a hybrid or almost completely black.*



3/7/2020

Good day affiliated clubs and friends

**RE: COVID-19 recommendations update**

It is pleasing to note that clubs nationally responded swiftly and decisively to cancel all events in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. No doubt all our actions have assisted Australia as one of the most successful nations in terms of minimising the effects of the pandemic. Nevertheless, we should not be complacent, particularly given the, let us say, more mature age demographic of our membership.

Restrictions in most states have or are in the process of being relaxed, with the exception of Victoria. The current Victorian experience reminds us how easily the situation can turn. In my personal view, care will be needed until a vaccine is widely available.

The following details, restrictions and recommendations were discussed in some detail and ratified in principle at the July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 CCBFA meeting held online via video conference. Many thanks to all in attendance – great to engage with country and interstate clubs directly. We plan continuing online access available via the Zoom platform during regular future meetings.

Details of restrictions in each state are changing regularly, often weekly and sometimes daily. The following federal government website includes links to each state.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19/limits-on-public-gatherings-for-coronavirus-covid-19>

**ALL bird events, including shows, sales and club meetings must comply with relevant current state government orders, direction and/or guidelines.**

Current or imminent restrictions applicable to indoor public gatherings and events are as follows.

1. Physical (or social) distancing of 1.5 metres is either mandatory or recommended nationally.
2. Maximum number of people permitted based on the size of the venue and attendance.
  - a. NSW, ACT, Vic, Qld 1 person per 4 square metres.
    - I. NSW no limit on attendees. A COVID-19 Safety Plan is required.
    - II. ACT maximum of 100 people.
    - III. Queensland maximum 50 people. For more than 50 people a COVID approved plan is required.
    - IV. Victoria maximum of 20 people with signage, cleaning and record keeping requirements. Complete ban in certain postcodes.
  - b. Currently 1 person per 2 square metres in WA, SA and Tas.
    - I. SA requires completion of a COVID Safe Plan and contact tracing records.
    - II. Tasmania maximum of 250 people.
    - III. WA a safety plan is required.
  - c. NT requires a COVID-19 – Event Safety Plan for public events under 500 people.
3. Requirement for a COVID Safety Plan or a broadly similar range of requirements based on the state and/or the number of people attending the event. In some cases these are informal guidelines.

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In general, CCBFA recommends cancelling events where the number of people attending is predicted to exceed the permitted capacity of the venue. If such events go ahead there must be stringent processes and procedures in place to monitor entry and exit numbers and to ensure 1.5 metre distancing at entries, within the venue and in areas surrounding the venue.

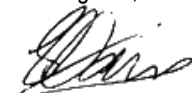
CCBFA recommends all events should have a plan to include and address the following matters.

1. A written plan documenting all the information below, together with details of the event, including contact details for the person responsible. All documentation should be retained for at least 3 months.
2. Making it a condition of entry that attendees do not have any cold-like symptoms and asking anyone exhibiting such symptoms to leave immediately.
3. In states where required, the number of people entering and exiting the venue should be monitored to ensure numbers do not exceed permitted capacity.
4. Recording attendance, including names and phone number or email address for everyone as they enter the venue. Note that some states require this attendance register to be specific to the purpose of traceability should COVID-19 be diagnosed.
5. Hand sanitiser and wipes to be available at all entrances and exits. Stewards, judges and other officials should clean their hands frequently, consider wearing gloves, refrain from touching their face and should wipe down cages after judging or each time cages are relocated.
6. Floor markings should be in place to direct people through aisles in one direction only. Arrows taped to the floor, crosses spaced 1.5 metres apart where lines form, etc.
7. Aisle spacing and traffic flow measures must ensure at least 1.5 metre spacing between people is easily maintained. Realistically people will overtake, therefore a minimum aisle width of 2 metres would be needed. For sales, sellers should preferably be behind tables or larger aisle width required.
8. Food and beverage preparation/distribution at club meetings and events. Clubs are advised to consider carefully how food and beverages are prepared and distributed at their events. Smorgasboard style platters, bowls of chips, self-serve tea/coffee stations and the like, are not permitted in preference to individual servers delivering a plate or drink to each member. The server should wear gloves and maintain strict hygiene to prevent direct contact between patrons. **Of course, at all times compliance with state requirements for food service is mandatory.**

Current advice indicates CCBFA public liability insurance will NOT cover claims due to members or the general public spreading COVID-19 to other people present at events. Nevertheless, if a club is acting within their state's relevant current state government orders, direction and/or guidelines there is a minimal liability risk to clubs.

We encourage clubs to distribute this advice widely.

Kind regards,



Sam Davis

President - Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

E: [president@ccbfa.org.au](mailto:president@ccbfa.org.au)

## **THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.**

MINUTES OF THE ZOOM GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

The President opened the meeting at 8:00pm welcoming the delegates, thanking them for their attendance and asked for a minute silence in memory of Roy Dowling.

**ATTENDANCE:** There were 23 delegates in attendance including, S Davis, R Robertson, C Gruntar, B Barnes, J Forrest, C Tsintarakis, B Lloyd, I Cindric, B Goleby, N Love, T Hartung, R Darling, N Lawler, W Robinson, L Hendry, M & B Kerr, R Appelby, G Kendrick, F Attard, T Keogh, J Tadjell, J Norriss.

**APOLOGIES:** M Finnimore, J Flood, C Isbister, W Wilson, G Roberts, J Palmano, P Henry, J Cameron.

### **MINUTES:**

The minutes for the 4<sup>th</sup> March General Meeting of Federation had been distributed and read by the delegates. It was moved R Robertson and seconded B Lloyd that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the March General meeting – Carried

### **Matters arising out of the minutes:**

Mediterranean Poultry Club of Australia Inc, due to COVID-19 their show has been cancelled. The club has put on hold their membership to be included in the 2021 renewals.

*None other than matters that can be held over for Reports and General Business.*

### **In-coming correspondence as follows:**

- Affiliated clubs. Notification of office bearers duly elected at their AGM's, clubs requesting assistance with matters regarding the insurance in particular clarification of insurance cover re COVID-19., 2020 ring orders from various affiliates. Notification of delegates for the 1<sup>st</sup> July Zoom meeting.
- The Malay Game Club of Australia Inc, request for affiliation and insurance with completion of the application and Privacy forms, together with payment.
- Receipt and distribution of ring orders on receipt of payment.
- Australia Post. Apologising for their oversight, advising the cheque fee and late payment fee is waived, asking to ensure future invoices are paid via non- cheque method to avoid fees to re-appear in future.
- The Rivervale Homing Club Inc, request for affiliation and insurance with completion of the application and Privacy forms, together with payment.
- Feathered World advertiser's acceptance from VETAFARM, TummyRite, Cannon & Ball Veterinary and Aviculture Accessories.
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication, received in response to their communication with, NSW OEH / NPWS, - Wildlife Licensing submission, NSW DPI - Animal Welfare Action Plan, Keeper / Dealer Stakeholder Consultative Group meeting – ACA animal welfare alliance, W.A. DPAW Biodiversity Conservation Regulations, ACT office of Conservator of Flora and Fauna.

**Newsletters / Journals** – Received from various clubs, with notification of club events for insurance:

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**Out-going correspondence as follows:**

- Details of affiliation and insurance provided to clubs requesting information.
- Ring orders place for 31,000 rings for various clubs for the second and third shipment.
- Dispatch of ring orders on receipt of payment.
- Affiliates, advising clubs who had requested clarification of insurance cover as restrictions are lifted, that they should be guided by and adhere to their respective States COVID-19 guide-lines. President Sam Davis will be reviewing all the States guide-lines and discussing this at the Zoom meeting on the 1st July.
- Australia Post. Email and phone call requesting attention to invoice for cheque fee and late payment.
- The Malay Game Club of Australia Inc. Forwarding their copy of the CoC together with the covering letter detailing the policy requirements.
- The Rivervale Homing Club Inc. Forwarding their copy of the CoC together with the covering letter detailing the policy requirements.
- Invoices sent to the Feathered World advertisers, for period from 1<sup>st</sup> July'20 to 31th June'21.
- President / Govt Liaison Officer, Sam Davis. - ongoing communication, in response to their communication with Minister for Agriculture NSW, Minister for Energy and Environment NSW, , NSW OEH / NPWS, Wildlife Licensing submission, NSW DPI - Animal Welfare Action Plan, Keeper / Dealer Stakeholder Consultative Group meeting – ACA animal welfare alliance, W.A. DPAW Biodiversity Conservation Regulations, ACT office of Conservator of Flora and Fauna .

**MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CORRESPONDENCE:**

Moved B Barnes and seconded J Forest that application for affiliation and insurance be accepted for The Malay Game Club of Australia Inc. and the Rivervale Homing Club Inc. :- carried  
It was moved by W Robinson and seconded by C Tsintarakis that the correspondence be received and the secretary's action endorsed - Carried

**TREASURERS REPORT**

The accounts were submitted for endorsement. It was moved by N Love and seconded by T Hartung that the payments and the Treasurers actions be endorsed - Carried

**REPORTS:**

President Sam Davis presented reported on:

**• Victorian Animal Welfare legislation review**

I referred ACA President, Michael Donnelly to the head of Animal Welfare Victoria and to the leader of the Victorian Animal Welfare legislation reform process. ACA has now been officially recognised as a major stakeholder for this process which will allow CCBFA (and aviculture in general) more direct access to the review process.

ACA's inclusion at this level is significant, particularly given Victoria's unenviable status as the heart of the animal rights/liberation movement in Australia.

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- **NSW Native Animal Licensing Update.**

At last we were granted a video conference on May 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 with the head of NPWS, Atticus Fleming. A synopsis of this meeting is on the CCBFA website - . <https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ccbfa-atticus-synopsis-080520-meeting-final.pdf>

Essentially, we seek the following 3 step process.

1. Step 1 is to immediately move all common avian species to the exempt list. That is, add them to Reg 2.22 asap - [http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol\\_reg/bcr2017400/s2.22.html](http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_reg/bcr2017400/s2.22.html)
2. Step 2 is to provide the final reform package to, and convene a meeting of, the old Native Animal Keepers Consultative Committee (NAKCC) within the next 6 weeks to set a timeline for the implementation of the reform package.
3. Step 3 is to present the Expert group's proposed species licence recommendations to the above NAKCC meeting for discussion and finalisation.

The promised follow up to this meeting has not been forthcoming despite numerous requests – phone calls and emails to Atticus.

Unfortunately, Atticus has been less than prompt with his replies since the meeting. We are currently awaiting his promised update after nearly 2 months and my weekly prompts.

We are considering progressing the matter via political contacts - quietly in the first instance and perhaps then if required via our membership lobbying their local MPs directly.

- **Qld Native Animal Licensing Update.**

The Qld package has now been approved. It is now at the industry information stage and will be fully implemented in a few weeks time.

Congratulations to all involved who worked on these reforms, in particular Danny Brown and Gary Fitt.

The two major successes...

1. As CCBFA President I met with Qld DES some years ago with Gary Fitt when we recommended and justified removing all common aviculture species from licence. Gary has been following up ever since. All approved and DONE.
2. Danny has been working to have many softbills added to the Qld licence lists for decades. I worked with DES and Danny to provide NSW lists and justify inclusion of many species. All now DONE.

It is interesting to note that some/much of the justification for the above changes was due to NSW intention to do the same. ACT has also approved similar (in principle at least). And now the NSW approval has stalled.

**NSW Animal Welfare Reform Discussion Paper.**

Our submission to this process is here - <https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ccbfa-NSW-animal-welfare-reform-submission.pdf>

Many thanks to those who assisted with comments as our submission was finalised.

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The 3 main recommendations are as follows.

1. Recommendation 1. Achievement of animal welfare outcomes should be testable over time using independent scientifically and statistically valid measures.
2. Recommendation 2. Understandable and enforceable standards (and accompanying guidelines) developed and maintained in close consultation with stakeholder experts should be the core of animal welfare regulation.
3. Recommendation 3. Education should take a leading role over compliance operations.

ACA is a major stakeholder in this NSW animal welfare reform process. Note that ACA has also been recognised as a major stakeholder for both Victoria and WA animal welfare legislation review processes that are now in progress.

Moved B Barnes and seconded by B Lloyd that the Reports be accepted, and Reporters thanked – Carried

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- **NSW Bird Sale Code Review.**

The current NSW bird sale code was presented along with a range of potential edits previously provided to all clubs. The meeting discussed a number of edits and additions which were then added to the live document.

A formatted draft will be prepared and distributed to all clubs in preparation for the September meeting where further informal discussion and edits will be considered. Clubs were asked to submit examples of interstate codes and other bird sale codes so CCBFA with the aim of achieving some consistency and also to add to the discussion.

Formal discussion of a first draft to occur at the November CCBFA meeting. Based on feedback to this draft we will consider how to move forward – perhaps further drafts will be needed prior to final implementation.

- **COVID-19 Update.**

A draft document detailing the current COVID-19 situation, including a set of recommendations was tabled, discussed and some edits made. The final document to be distributed and shared with all affiliate clubs nationally, and to be printed in the next edition of Feathered World.

The overriding requirements is that ALL bird events, including shows, sales and club meetings must comply with relevant current state government orders, direction and/or guidelines.

Discussion of food and beverage preparation/distribution at club meetings and events. Club's are advised to consider carefully how food and beverages are prepared and distributed at their events. Smorgasboard style platters, bowls of chips, self-serve tea/coffee stations and the like, are not permitted in preference to individual servers delivering a plate or drink to each member. The server should wear gloves and maintain strict hygiene to prevent direct contact between patrons. Of course, at all times compliance with state requirements for food service is mandatory.

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- **Guest of Honour Dinner.**

M Kerr advised that Panarama House at Stanwell Tops had been booked for the 29<sup>th</sup> August, Mary offered to follow up with J. Walker and J Palmano who are organising the dinner and ask them to give the Secretary the details.

- **WIRES Rehoming CEO**

President and B. Barnes gave a back-ground to the issue and are to follow up with the respective authorities.

- **Ring Orders 2021 and supplementary 2020.**

Clubs ( Finches, Budgerigar, other species) requiring rings for distribution by the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 are requested to submit orders by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to be included in first 2021 consolidation. The initial orders for **2021 canary rings** [if required for distribution at the specialist Annual shows at the end of May] should be finalised by the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Clubs requiring an order form which must be completed, should contact the Secretary, Ron Robertson.

- **Show and Sale dates for 2021**

Clubs are requested to email the secretary the dates for their 2021 shows, sales, auctions. It is understood that confirmation of the venue may be in abeyance / pending, however we request the tentative / projected dates be advised. Email [birdclubs@aapt.net.au](mailto:birdclubs@aapt.net.au)

- **Public & Products Liability Insurance for 2021**

It is important to note that all affiliates have a requirement to give advanced notice if they do not require the insurance for 2021. All affiliates are requested to advise CCBFA by the 30th September 2020 should you not require cover for the ensuing year. Failure to do so will necessitate being charged

- **Continuation of online meetings**

The meeting delegates were unanimous in their support of ongoing online meetings via the Zoom platform with many thanking CCBFA for the opportunity. President, Sam Davis agreed to make the technology available for the September Ashfield RSL meeting, and hopefully into the future. This will mean all delegates in all locations and states are able to participate in CCBFA meetings.

The President thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business the meeting closed at 10:30 p.m.

**Notice of the proposed next Zoom General Meeting**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 at 8:00 pm

Ashfield R.S.L. Liverpool Rd. Ashfield



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