



FEATHERED WORLD

CANARY AND CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



MINUTES RE GENERAL MEETING 6 NOVEMBER 2024

USING WEATHER RADAR TO TRACK MIGRATING BIRDS

RARE GOSHAWK PHOTOGRAPHED

AUSTRALIAN XMAS BIRDS

COLOUR CANARIES

REVERSE GENETICS

MUSSAU TRILLER FOUND

BUSH TURKEY DISTRIBUTION

CARE FOR SOME COMFREY



VOLUME 56 NUMBER 5
OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 2024



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- The editor welcomes contributions, but retains the right to amend articles and reports accordingly.
- The opinions expressed by the authors are their own and not necessarily those of Federation or the editor.
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Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

MEETING DATES 2025

General Meetings 4th June, 3rd September, 5th November

AGM 5th March 2025

Meeting commences at 8:00 pm

NOTE: Meetings at Anzac Room, Ashfield RSL, Liverpool Road, Ashfield
Zoom meetings will be confirmed (or advised) in advance

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NOTE: Ensure club name, delivery address & phone number of order person is included

THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING

held Wednesday 6th November 2024.

Held Zoom and in person in the ANZC Room at Ashfield RSL 370 Liverpool Road Ashfield

In the absence of the President and Vice Presidents the Secretary opened the meeting at 8:12 pm.

ATTENDANCE:

There were 7 delegates in attendance, R. Robertson, B. Wright, C. Gruntar, C. Isbister, J. Walsh, J. Forrest, G. Gingell, including a further 5 delegates were via Zoom, namely N. Love, M. Cameron, M. MacPherson, J. Tadgell, B. Whiting,

APOLOGIES were received from:

R. Barnes, B. Read, R. Law, W. Wilson, A. Christodoulou – moved G. Gingell and seconded C. Isbister apologies be accepted - Carried.

MINUTES:

The minutes for the 3rd July'24 General Meeting of Federation had been published and a paper copy distributed to delegates in attendance. It was moved J. Walsh and seconded J. Forrest that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the July General meeting – Carried

Matters arising out of the minutes: *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 and delegate
- Affiliated clubs requesting assistance with matters regarding insurance.
- Affiliated clubs, receipt of supplementary ring orders 2024 and orders for 2025.
- Affiliated clubs, payments for supplementary ring orders from various affiliates.
- Dapto Poultry Club Inc. request for affiliation and insurance submitting completed application and office bearer details together with payment.

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- Email communication from the FCA Qld & Lake Macquarie Pigeon Club Inc. re the bird flu outbreak, response from the ACA.
- Native Cockatiel Society of Australia Inc. notification of the closure of the club.
- Request for affiliation and public liability insurance in 2025 from Mount Gambier Poultry & Pigeon Club.
- NSW Dept. of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, re the Draft Dealing in Protected Birds Code of Practice. Advising they have prepared a consultation report highlighting key themes raised by submitters during public exhibition, which can be found at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-licences/wildlife-licensing-reforms>.
- AAWS. Advising that a summary of consultation to date will be released shortly, also inviting us to participate in a workshop to inform the development of the National Statement on Animal Welfare (national statement). Agriculture Ministers agreed to work towards the development of a national statement during 2024 and are committed to providing the opportunity for key stakeholders to be involved in the development process. Requesting one representative from your organisation with an animal welfare or decision-making role to contribute to the discussion, at a workshop on **Wednesday 11 September, from 9:30 to 11:30am**. Stating the national statement underpins the AAWS and will reflect the shared commitment by Federal, State and Territory Ministers to jointly lead the renewal of the AAWS. In response to feedback to date, workshops will provide you with an opportunity to help shape the national statement. An independent facilitator will run workshops and a briefing pack with further materials will be provided closer to the workshop date.

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

- Downs Bird Breeders Association Inc. Newsletter Sept & Oct'24
- PET Industry News. July/Aug/Sept/Oct'24
- Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter Aug, Sept, Oct'24

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- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales July, Aug & Sept'24
- Gloster Fancy Canary Club of NSW Inc. Aug / Sept'24
- Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. Hunter Finch Fancier July & Aug'24
- Bundaberg Canary & Caged Bird Society Inc. July-Aug.-Sept-Oct-Nov-Dec'24
- Coral Coast Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Chatterings Sept & Oct'24
- Native Cockatiel Society of Australia Inc Sept/Dec'24 NCSA News.
- The Avicultural Society of NSW Inc Sept / Oct'24
- FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW July / Aug & Sept / Oct'24
- ANPA Newsletter August 2024
- Australian Fife Fancy Canary Club of NSW Inc. Peter Hungerford Tribute & August'24 Gazette
- Hunter Valley Avicultural Society Inc. AVI NEWS July, Aug, Sept, Oct'24
- Gold Coast Aviary Birds News July / Aug & Sept / Oct'24

Out-going correspondence as follows:

- Change of Office Bearers and Privacy forms sent to various clubs.
- [Affiliated clubs'](#) assistance with insurance matters requesting information, forwarding amended certificates to those requesting.
- Various affiliates invoicing and dispatching of ring orders on receipt of payment.
- COM, EFT payment for affiliation Euros 250.00 (\$449.22) requesting them to clarify the membership year (term) for the fee, whether it be a calendar year or a financial year (1st July to 30th June). Also is the fee charged the same as the European affiliates, can consideration be given for Australia's inability to exhibit in the World Show and participate at other European events due to the Australian Governments Bio Security regulations. I attach herewith our logo, if not an acceptable format please indicate which format is required. The following is a link for the official National anthem, [Australian National Anthem - 1 Verse Instrumental by PM&C \(soundcloud.com\)](#) available

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We are hopeful of arranging for a flag to be sent with Dalibor Maslan when he is visiting family in Europe at the end of July. If this is not possible, would you please advise a postal address. Dalibor has advised that he will be in Europe in August and will be in contact with you to arrange the link for the zoom meeting. In reference to some of the attachments received, in particular the standards, do you have an English version for all species and varieties? Are the standards also available in a printed booklet?

- Dapto Poultry Club Inc. forwarding the insurance CoC's and covering letter.
- Mount Gambier Poultry Club and South Australia Zebra Finch Club, advising details of affiliation and insurance and date for 2025 ring orders first consolidation.
- Affiliated clubs, advising a consolidation for supplementary ring orders, requesting notification by the 17th July'24. Also advising for Clubs requiring the 2025 rings for distribution by the 1st January 2025 are requested to submit orders by the 30th September 2024.
- Email communication with the FCA Qld & Lake Macquarie Pigeon Club Inc. re the bird flu outbreak, follow up with ACA.
- COM, requesting approval for Australia to change the brown bird ring colour in the next cycle in 2028 to gold/orange, as granted to the ANBC by the WBO., stating the criticism and concerns voiced by breeders in Australia is that the contrast is too close in tone to black, and this causes difficulty in identifying birds in the flights / aviaries.
- Various affiliates emails, texts and phone calls following up their club requirement for public liability insurance in 2025.
- Placement of orders for 20,310 rings for 2025, first consolidation delivery in November.
- Renewal schedule for 256 affiliates requiring cover for 2025, noting special events, hosting events, location of venues and dates, together with request of interested parties.

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Matters arising out of correspondence:

Moved J. Tadgell and seconded J. Forrest that application for affiliation and insurance be accepted for Dapto Poultry Club Inc. and Mount Gambier Poultry & Pigeon Club. :- carried

It was moved by G. Gingell and seconded by C. Gruntar that the correspondence be received and the secretary's action endorsed - Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts were submitted for endorsement:

It was moved by G. Gingell and seconded by J. Walsh that the payments and the Treasurers actions be endorsed - Carried.

REPORTS:

- Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) DAFF website: www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/welfare/aaws
- NSW NPWS Species List Advisory Committee (LSAC). In the absence of the president and Brain Read, Murray McPherson gave an update. Essentially there has been no information from NPWS other than to acknowledge responses to the code of practice that we all sent. The only other development are problems with their e record system as they are trying to update it. Overall, very disappointing to date from NPWS, especially when in 2017 NPWS spent \$2.5m with an external consultant Rob Oliver, who presented an excellent report.

Moved J. Forrest and seconded by G. Gingell that the reports be accepted and thanked – Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **2025 Ring Orders** The orders for the 2nd consolidation for **2025 canary rings** [if required for distribution at the specialist Annual shows at the end of May] should be finalized by the 1st of March 2025, ETA late April. Supplementary orders will be ongoing during 2025, however delivery time frame and cost for transshipment will vary.
- **INSURANCE.** Requirement for CCBFA and clubs to maintain proof of membership, by maintain and membership register. **Insurance cover for special events.** The insurance Underwriters have advised that

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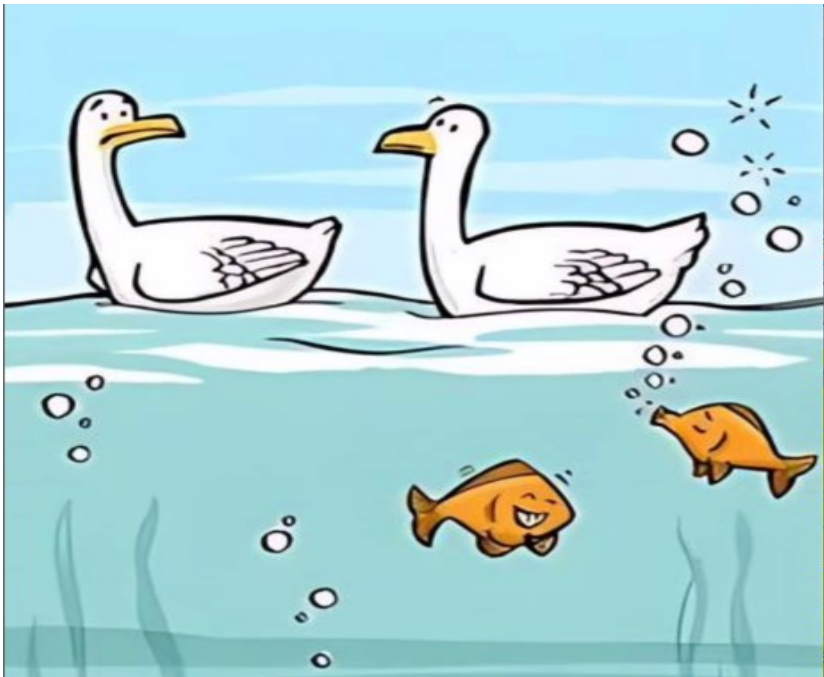
- clubs will require an additional CoC to be issued for special events (other than shows, sales and other normal club activities) noting the event name, period / date of the event, address and venue name. The club should also detail to the secretary the club's involvement at the event.
- It was moved by R. Robertson and seconded by J. Forrest, that delegates meetings in 2025 be reduced from five to four. AGM March 5th, GM 4th June, GM 3rd September, GM 5th November. The management committee to address any matters requiring attention to take to these meetings. - Carried

The Secretary thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business the meeting closed at 8:50 p.m.

Notice of the Next General Meeting & AGM

Wednesday 5th March 2025

Meeting commences at 8:00 pm



USING WEATHER RADAR TO TRACK MIGRATING BIRDS

For the first time, scientists have used data from weather radar not to track storms, but to count birds as they travel across Australian skies.

The study, led by University of Queensland PhD candidate Xu Shi, used 16 years of radar weather data from the Bureau of Meteorology to monitor bird migration patterns from Tasmania to northern Queensland.

“We were very excited to discover millions of birds migrating in Australia each year, escaping cold southern winters by moving up the east coast,” Mr Shi said. “Weather radars can tell us how many birds are flying, when and in which direction they’re moving.”

The research team found that migration of birds in Australia is very different to what is seen in Europe or North America. “The data showed lots of variation in migration direction, timing, and intensity from year to year when compared to northern hemisphere birds, which are very rigidly tied to seasons,” Mr Shi said.

“For example, the tiny Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis* migrates from Tasmania to as far as southern Queensland. But they might not all do that every year and sometimes they migrate shorter distances.”

The radars also revealed that many Australian birds migrate during the day unlike birds in the northern hemisphere, but researchers are not yet sure why this is.



Study co-author Professor Richard Fuller said the discoveries pave the way for conservation efforts to protect Australia’s birds. “Birds that migrate within Australia are often overlooked by legislation, and until now we’ve known very little about which species migrate, where they go and when they do it,” Professor Fuller said.

“By enabling researchers to further explore how climate change and environmental shifts affect bird migration, our findings can help us better protect birds in Australia and globally.”

Source: *The National Tribune*



RARE "LOST" BIRD OF PREY PHOTOGRAPHED FOR FIRST TIME EVER IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

When Fiji-based photographer Tom Vierus was busy taking pictures of the birds on Papua New Guinea's New Britain in March this year, little did he know that his memory card was storing quite the scientific find. Now, ornithologists have revealed that what Vierus had managed to capture was the first-ever photograph of the rare New Britain goshawk (*Accipiter princeps*).

Only found on the island of New Britain, little is known about the New Britain goshawk, called "keango" or "kulingapa" in local languages. According to the IUCN Red List – on which the bird is classed as a vulnerable species – it's pretty elusive, known to science only from four specimens, none of which had been photographed.

"The last documented scientific record of the species appears to be a July 1969 specimen that is kept in the American Museum of Natural History in New York, USA," explained John Mittermeier, Director of the Search for Lost Birds at American Bird Conservancy, in a statement.

"While there have been multiple sight-only records in the intervening years, the New Britain Goshawk seems to have eluded photo, sound, and specimen documentation for 55 years."

Its reign as a "lost" species came to an end, however, when Vierus snapped a picture of it



"I was on a scoping trip with [World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)] in Pomio [eastern New Britain], with three members of the local community guiding us through the forest, so we could better understand the presence of species. I photographed several bird species, including the New Britain Goshawk, but wasn't aware of the significance at the time," said the photographer.

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"It was such a great surprise to hear that this photo seems to be the first-ever of this 'lost species'!

What isn't necessarily a surprise is that the species has gone so long under the radar – even the locals haven't seen a lot of it, according to the WWF's Pomio-based officer Oscar Pileng.

"[Local residents and leaders] shared that this species is definitely rare in Pomio. Some confirmed that this species is not found in coastal areas but only in the hinterlands of Pomio, and is rarely seen."

The scientific rediscovery of the bird has also come alongside renewed calls for conservation in the area it was photographed.

"[I am] very happy that an official global record now exists and I hope that this means more efforts are made to protect its habitat from the threats of large-scale agriculture, logging, mining and infrastructure development," said Pileng.

Source: <https://asiapacific.panda.org/>

DID YOU KNOW....

Glossy black-cockatoos feed almost exclusively on the cones of drooping sheoak trees and counter-intuitively, they select trees that grow on the poorest soils found on ancient sedimentary rocks.

"Sheoak trees are three times more likely to be used as feeding trees if they are growing on non-limestone sedimentary rocks," says Dr. Gay Crowley, from the University of Adelaide's School of Social Sciences.

Dr. Crowley compared 6,543 feeding records with 23,484 sheoak records from New South Wales to make this discovery. She found that soil type has a direct influence on the way glossy black-cockatoos use the environment by comparing glossy black-cockatoo feeding records with soils and rocks on Kangaroo Island.



YOU MIGHT BE CHRISTMASSED OUT, BUT THESE AUSTRALIAN BIRDS ARE FESTIVE ALL YEAR

With partridges in pear trees, robins, and of course turkeys, you might think birds of the northern hemisphere have a monopoly on Christmas. But if you look closely, many Australian native birds embody the Christmas spirit with as much gusto as their northern counterparts.

And while you might be ready to call it a day rather than face yet another turkey sandwich, these festive birds keep the Christmas spirit going all year round.

The carollers

At any local candlelit carol service, dads can be heard enthusiastically belting out Joy to the World. While it is not clear if their vocal acrobatics impress anyone, male lyrebirds rely on their complex melodious calls to attract mates. These species have an extensive repertoire, and will often mimic the sounds they hear around them. In Sir David Attenborough's classic



The Life of Birds, the superb lyrebird imitates kookaburras, whipbirds and even chainsaws, camera shutters and car alarms!

Underneath the mistletoe

The Christmas traditions around the evergreen mistletoe originate in the northern hemisphere, but did you know there are more than 90 species of mistletoe that are native to Australia?

Mistletoes are aerial parasitic plants that attach to tree branches, and their seeds are dispersed by birds.

The aptly named mistletoe bird eats the mistletoe berries and excretes the seed a short time later. With a wiggle and a twist, the mistletoe bird then wipes the seed onto the branch of a suitable host tree. A sticky substance around the seed then glues it in place.



By dispersing mistletoe seeds with such care, the mistletoe bird ensures a reliable source of its favourite food throughout the year.

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The gift-givers

At Christmas time, excellent gift-giving skills may help win over a discerning love interest. In the avian world, bowerbirds take gift selection and presentation very seriously.

Male bowerbirds construct a bower (two parallel walls of sticks) in which they display a selection of items designed to tempt females.

These gifts can include leaves, shells, feathers and flowers and bits of glass and plastic.

Satin bowerbirds collect bright blue items, whereas great bowerbirds go for the (arguably more Christmassy) green and white.



Once the female is suitably interested in a male bowerbird's collection, the males will perform a wing-flapping, head-bobbing dance with accompanying sounds. While this approach works well for the bowerbird, human results may vary.

Our native turkeys

While I am not suggesting you swap your turkey roast for a native alternative, there are several types of "bush turkeys" that have been a valued food source for Aboriginal Australians for millennia.

The Australian bustard – the heaviest flying bird in Australia, weighing up to 14.5kg – was once described by Captain James Cook as "an excellent bird, far the best ... that we have eat [sic] since we left England".

The bustard's range and population have greatly declined since Cook's time, as a result of increased hunting, the introduction of feral predators, and changes in land use that have destroyed large tracts of its habitat.



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Red and green all over

You might have decided, justifiably enough, that once a year is enough when it comes to dressing from head to toe in red and green. But some of our native birds wear their Christmas colours all year round.

The male and female eclectus parrot make a striking pair. This species is known for their pronounced differences in plumage: males are mostly bright green, whereas females are almost entirely bright red.



This has been attributed to the mating strategy of the species. Both males and females breed with multiple partners. The bright red females are conspicuous as they sit at the entrance to their nesting hollow, warding off rival females and attracting males. The bright green males, meanwhile, are camouflaged as they forage for food to deliver to multiple females at their nesting sites.

Santa's spies?

How does Santa manage to collect so much information on Australian children's behaviour without leaving the North Pole? One theory (suggested by no less a scientific authority than my five-year-old daughter) holds that he does it with the help of the migratory waterbirds that every year make an astonishing trip from Australian shores to the Arctic Circle and back.

Bar-tailed godwits arrive in Australia in August, having flown from their northern hemisphere breeding grounds. Over the Australian summer they use their long bills to scour mudflats, mangroves and beaches for food.



Most of them leave Australia in April with full bellies (and valuable intel?) and head back to their Arctic breeding grounds. The distances travelled during migration are mind-blowing: a bar-tailed godwit was tracked flying more 11,000km, non-stop, in nine days. Beat that, Santa.

Source: Misha Ketchel, www.theconversation.com

DIFFERENT COLOUR FACTORS IN CANARIES

As in any bird, the colour is controlled by genes responsible for pigmentation.

The many subtleties and combinations mean there are dozens of variations on the colour theme, and the key to understanding lies in the palette itself, and the wonderful results of pigmentation (or the lack of it). A wild Canary has three 'layers' of colour - an underlying yellow, turned partly green by the brown melanin pigment, and detailed with shades of black melanin.

There are two components which are the basis for the colour factor in Canaries. These are:-

- a. **Melanin.** The presence of melanin darkens colours, and in Canaries it is responsible for the blacks and browns. It can be present in varying degrees, and correspondingly different levels of variegation.
- a. **Lipochrome (Ino-Factor).** A lipochrome Canary lacks the black and brown 'layers', and is stripped back to its base colour.



There are three base types amongst pet Canaries – the classic yellow (**Lutino**), derived from the colour present in the wild Canary; the Red Factor (**Rubino**), whose rosy tint derives from a genetically imported red pigment, the result of South American Red Siskins being introduced into the gene pool by cross-breeding with Canaries; and **white**, in which base colour pigments are lacking (Note: most white Canaries are not albinos, which lack pigmentation in their eyes, skin, legs and beak, not just their feathers).

In addition the following are the basis of the endless variations in Canary colour and plumage..

- black melanin,
- brown melanin,
- lipochrome yellow,
- lipochrome red, and
- white



Source: https://www.omlet.com.au/guide/finches_and_canaries/canary/colours/

REVERSE GENETICS

As many who have bred or are breeding Gouldians likely knows, there are a few different computer programs available out there which forecast the genetic possibilities of offspring depending upon what two birds are paired together. The purpose being to determine what mutations the pair can possibly produce and thus influence the likelihood of producing a specific body color mutation.

Example Calculator found at https://gouldianfinch.gr/GouldianGenetics_All.asp?fbclid



What happens if you are simply not sure, however, how to achieve a specific body color mutation? I.e., You are not sure what is necessary to be present in order to produce the specific color mutation, so you are not sure which birds must be paired together to start. I frequently have individuals contact me asking what is the best way to produce “such and such” mutation, and these individuals usually have a specific goal in mind, and they want to know - what two birds should I pair together in order to get my goal bird?

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This is where reverse genetics comes in. Reverse genetics can be quite tricky if you do not understand the basic mechanisms at play with Gouldian genetics. You have to have a firm grasp on how the mutations are produced to go backwards and determine what you need to pair to them re-produce those mutations.

Points to note

- 1. Pairings will not necessarily only produce the specified mutation bird. There are many other possibilities each pairing could produce. Statistics are a funny thing, and their accuracy is usually dependent upon large numbers of results. So if you have one pair producing 4 babies each clutch, there is a possibility that the first clutch will not contain the baby you are looking for!*
- 2. You generally need to have some background knowledge of the birds you intend to pair together in order to successfully achieve the results you are looking for. Meaning, if you have no idea if your pair carries the blue mutation, you can't expect to produce genetically blue birds.*
- 3. The author belongs to the camp of people who believe blue bodied birds (blues, pastels, silvers) should not be paired together. He realizes there are many individuals who do not see a problem with this, so notes that this is his personal opinion.*

To be comprehensive, the magazine article lists all possibilities, but highlights those that he would discourage.

Source: <https://www.featheredtreasuresaviary.com/reverse-genetics.html>

DID YOU KNOW....

There are at least 32 primary mutations in the budgerigar, enabling hundreds of possible secondary mutations and color varieties!

All captive budgerigars are divided into two basic series of colors: white-based (includes skyblue, cobalt, mauve, gray, violet, and white) and yellow-based (includes light-green, dark-green, gray-green, olive, and yellow). Green (yellow base) is dominant and blue (white base) is recessive.



RARE TRILLER RE-DISCOVERED IN BISMARCKS

Deep in the forests of Mussau Island in the Bismarck Archipelago, located northeast of the coast of Papua New Guinea, the search was on for the elusive Mussau Triller, not seen since 1979. In June, Joshua Bergmark led a group of birders through the forests of Mussau Island, where they found 3 of the island's 4 endemic species – the Mussau Monarch, Mussau Fantail, and the Mussau Flycatcher; and that's when the focus turned to the Mussau Triller, the rarest of the remote island's endemic birds.

Like the monarch, fantail, and flycatcher, Mussau Trillers are forest birds, but they have been known to prefer taller trees in denser forest near the center of the island, which makes them inherently harder to find. Bergmark, co-founder and guide with Ornithological Expeditions, arranged for a vehicle to take the group deeper into the forest with high hopes.



Most of Australasia's trillers have gray, white, and black plumage, but Mussau Trillers have distinct light orange-colored belly and vent plumage. They eat insects and fruit, and are members of the Cuckoo shrike family of birds, found widely across the Eastern Hemisphere. After not being reported for more than 40 years, the Mussau Triller was listed as a "*lost bird*" by the Search for Lost Birds project, a collaboration between the American Bird Conservatory (ABC), Re:wild and BirdLife International to document birds that have not been reported for an extended period, raising important questions about their well-being in the wild.

After driving for an hour, the birders began to walk for a distance, checking every bird they saw along the way. At the base of a very steep hill, some people stopped and waited for a ride up the steep ascent, while others began hiking uphill. One of the birders who decided to wait noticed a couple of small birds quietly perched in a nearby tree, and wouldn't you know it, he spotted a Mussau Triller – the first one reported in 45 years! The other members of the group returned soon afterwards and together the birders took the first known photographs and sound recordings of the species while documenting 9 Mussau Trillers in 3 small flocks.

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Usually, you hear these birds before you see them, but in this case one of the birders saw it first, according to Bergmark. “They were moving around with the other birds and feeding, doing their own thing while we watched them.”

Bergmark’s company, Ornithology Expeditions, specializes in birding tours to remote regions around the world. During the same June trip, Bergmark also took his first photographs of the Manus Dwarf Kingfisher (a bird endemic to Manus Island, located west of Mussau isle) that was considered “lost” from 2002 until 2022. He also photographed the New Hanover Mannikin, an endemic species on New Hanover Island, located south of Manus Island, which was on the verge of being listed as a lost bird before it was documented.

“Every time we get out to one of these rarely visited islands or places, and just get on the ground, walk around, we see things that few other people have seen; it’s exciting,” Bergmark shared. “Yes, it’s exciting, always.”

For more information, especially related to conservation concerns for super-rare or rarely encountered birds, often in remote areas of the world, you can refer to the original article published online by *Birds of the World* at [**FOUND! Mussau Triller rediscovered in Papua New Guinea - Birds of the World**](#)



DID YOU KNOW....

In 2009, a South African company’s employee complained that data would get transferred faster by carrier pigeon than ASDL at the time. Winston the pigeon armed with a 4GB memory stick took two hours to carry the data stick 60 miles—in the same time the ASDL had sent 4 % of the data.



BRUSH TURKEY'S DRAMATIC FALL AND RAPID RISE IN CITIES

When David Poole was a kid, knocking around the bushlands of Sydney's northern suburbs in the late 1970s, there was not a brush turkey to be seen. But a few years ago he began to notice the black plumage, bald red head and yellow dangling wattle of the native bird around his streets.

"It wasn't until I was in my 50s that I noticed them encroaching into suburban areas where they are now prolific," Mr Poole said. "[They're] non-aggressive but very destructive to gardens, regularly open garbage bins and spread garbage across the road ... [and] often on the roads causing a driving hazard as they are not afraid of cars."

The Australian brush turkey's (*Alectura lathami*) colonisation of the city has seen it take over the northern suburbs of Sydney, and more recently start a push into the inner-west, south of Darling Harbour and the Parramatta River.

Remarkably, the brush turkey — also known as the scrub turkey — has gone from a creature we feared was on the brink of extinction in the 1930s to a fully fledged urban bird.

Now a new study published in the Australian peer-reviewed journal *Wildlife Research* has chronicled the fall, rise and conquering of Brisbane and Sydney by a bird we nearly ate to extinction.

An analysis of historical museum specimens, birdwatching logs, archival newspapers and more modern sources such as citizen science contributions to the Big City Bird digital app resulted in a collection of close to 100,000 records of the bird from 1839 to 2019.

Lead author Matthew Hall, who is an urban ecologist at the University of Sydney, said the brush turkey was once common throughout Queensland and New South Wales.

"They got as far south as the border with Victoria and as far west as Dubbo, maybe even further. They've actually disappeared from a lot of those places now. We think they originally disappeared by the early 20th century because of over hunting."



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Anecdotally, the bird went from being a common sight on the landscape to so few in number that, in 1952, the New South Wales government set out to survey where the brush turkey and the inland Australian bustard, also known as the plains turkey, might have survived.

Legislation changes in the 1970s mean native species, including the brush turkey, were suddenly protected. And in a rebound that bears similarities to the recovery of salt water crocodiles in northern Australia, Dr Hall said legal protection helped the turkey return from the brink.

University of Sydney urban ecologist Matthew Hall holding a tagged brush turkey. *(Supplied: Matthew Hall)*

The authors of the study admit the quality of records prior to a national bird survey in 1977 are lacking, so turkey population numbers before then were probably underestimated.

But Dr Hall said the first resighting of the bird around a capital city was in Brisbane in the mid-1970s. Brush turkeys started to radiate from around Mount Coot-Tha, a large forested area bordering Brisbane's west, into neighbouring suburbs quickly.

A 1991 study noted turkeys were present in about 39 of the River City's suburbs. That figure has since jumped to 158 suburbs.

Sydney's brush turkeys started showing up in the Central Coast in the 1980s and 1990s, Dr Hall says, "then became really common in northern Sydney in the 2000s and 2010s".

In 1999, a mere four Sydney suburbs recorded turkeys. Nearly three decades later, they are in 312 suburbs.

Why the rapid colonisation?

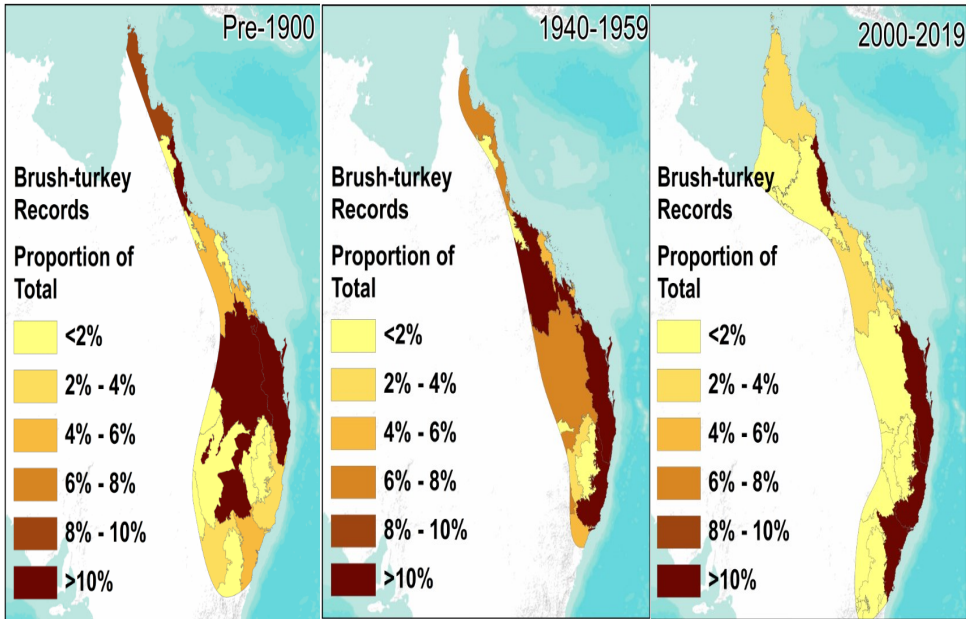
Legal protection and urban greening are two hypotheses for the turkeys' re-emergence and subsequent takeover of cities. That and the turkey's own adaptation to big-city living.

"They'll eat almost anything they come across," Dr Hall said.



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"So they've taken really well to scavenging off any food they can find in the city. They've also learned to build their nest out of somewhat sub-optimal materials."

Male turkeys build large mounds in which females lay their eggs.

During the annual breeding season, a female can lay about 20 eggs and more than one clutch can be laid in a single mound.

Despite predation by cats and foxes, enough baby turkeys survive each season to keep population numbers rising.

Dr Hall said urban turkey numbers could really explode if cat curfews were put in place.

He noted further research was needed to understand what environmental factors might put a cap on population numbers.

"One of their limits ... is the number of available roosting trees, but I've seen at least 70 brush turkeys all roosting in a single tree so they can get to really high densities in some suburban areas," he said.

"They've lost some of that territoriality ... so they're not driving each other out."

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Five reasons to love brush turkeys

Brush turkeys have got a bad reputation, but there are good reasons to admire – if not love – this native bird.

But whether they're in a coastal rainforest or busy food court, it seems the new generation of east coast Australians won't remember a time without turkeys.

And that's something Dr Hall hopes people remember if they ever start feeling annoyed about their neighbourhood turkeys.

"They're actually a fantastic success story of a pretty unique native species that's come back from possibly the brink of extinction and is now thriving in one of the most hostile environments we can make for them," he said.

"We're probably very lucky that bird like the brush turkey is able to survive, and in an urban environment."

Source: www.abc.net.au

There were fears around the turn of the 20th century that birds like the brush turkey were being hunted to extinction as Australia urbanised and developed. Not helped by this article from the times.

Roast Scrub Turkey

For people who live in those parts of the country where scrub turkeys abound it is well for them to know how to cook them well. The family will appreciate such a meal better than many others they have dished up to them.

First pluck and clean the turkey well, rub over with a little flour, put in a baking tin with some dripping, placing pieces of bacon over the breast, and baste continually for an hour. Serve the bird with bread sauce and bacon.



CARE FOR SOME COMFREY?

Comfrey is a shrub native to Europe, Asia and North America. It can grow up to 5 feet tall, produces clusters of purple, blue, and white flowers and has long, slender leaves and black -skinned roots.

The root and leaves of the comfrey plant have been used in traditional medicine in many parts of the world. In Japan, the plant has been harvested and used as a traditional treatment for over 2,000 years. It was originally called "knotbone" and people used it to treat muscle sprains, bruises, burns and joint inflammation.



Europeans have also used comfrey to treat inflammatory conditions, such as arthritis and gout. Some traditional healers have also used it to treat diarrhoea and other stomach ailments. It can be used equally with birds, as it is a natural antiseptic.

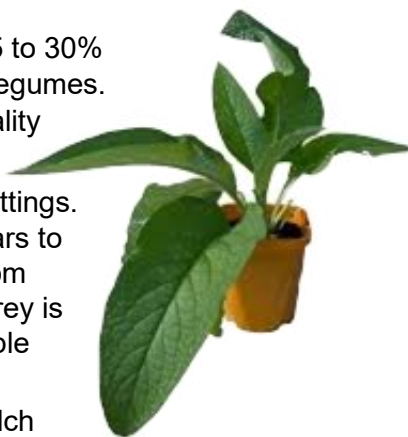
Birds love comfrey! It is protein rich with 15 to 30% dry-weight protein content, rivalling some legumes. Poultry farmers have reported that egg quality will improve, and yolks will be brighter.

Comfrey propagates easily through root cuttings. Growing it from seeds takes about four years to make a plant as good as one a year old from taking a root cutting. This is because comfrey is a tough plant, which can be cut back multiple times within a season. It responds well.

Freshly cut comfrey leaves make good mulch because they have high nitrogen content. Its high potassium content makes it especially beneficial for vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers, berries, and fruit trees.

It is suggested to feed comfrey in small amounts and not as a regular food. Comfrey may also be carcinogenic.

Source: Various..



IMPORTANT NOTICES!

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.

Notifications should be on club's letterhead or if required a hard copy or electronic copy of the *Office Bearers' 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 0402 888 291: Email: federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au

2025 RING ORDERS

The orders for the 2nd consolidation for **2025 canary rings** [if required for distribution at the specialist Annual shows at the end of May] should be finalized by the 1st March 2025, ETA late April.

Supplementary orders will be ongoing during 2025, however delivery time frame and cost for transshipment will vary.

Have you updated your club details?

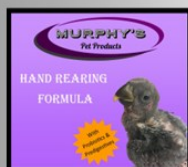
Please send in any club detail changes, including changes of position to the secretary asap. Thank you.



The Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc now have a Facebook page!!
The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/CCBFA>
Like our page to stay updated with current avicultural events.

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- ◇ Bird Hand Rearing Formula
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- ◇ Lorikeet Dry Food
- ◇ Egg & Biscuit Mix
- ◇ Aviary Perch Brackets
- ◇ Galvanised Seed/Pellet Hoppers
- ◇ Frozen Reptile Food
- ◇ Bird Nesting Materials
- ◇ Bird Seeds
- ◇ Calcium Perches
- ◇ Bird Toys
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