

JANUARY

Look out for:

- This is the month of moulting, the casting of fur, feathers, skin, leaves and bark
- Scribbly Gums *Eucalyptus haemastoma* are finished moulting and have clean snowy/creamy bark
- Dragon Flies mate
- Blue-tongue lizards are born late January
- January is the peak time for snake births, 90% will die in the first year.
- Young Australian Ravens leave their parents' territory to establish a territory of their own
- Baby Koalas are born
- Coast Banksias *Banksia integrifolia* are dripping with nectar attracting birds & insects
- Lace Monitors lay eggs in termite nests in trees.
- Large nectar eating orange and black mud wasps (*Cryptocheilus* sp.) build their nests and fill them with spiders for their larvae to eat.
- White-throated Needletails (Swifts) feed on insects and flying ants over heaths and coastal forests.
- Breeding time for many species of skinks
- Little Penguin chicks leave their breeding homes on Lion Island and take to the seas
- Prevailing north-east winds blow Blue Bottles onto beaches
- The Fringed Midge Orchid *Genoplesium fimbriatum* starts flowering in forest understorey
- January & February are the months of highest temperature (27C average) and highest humidity (70%)

Wattles: *Acacia maidenii*, *A. schinoides*, Eucalypts: Scribbly Gum *E. haemastoma*, Grey Gum *E. punctata*, and Sydney Blue Gum *E. saligna* and Geebung: *Persoonia isophylla*, *P. lanceolata* are all in flower

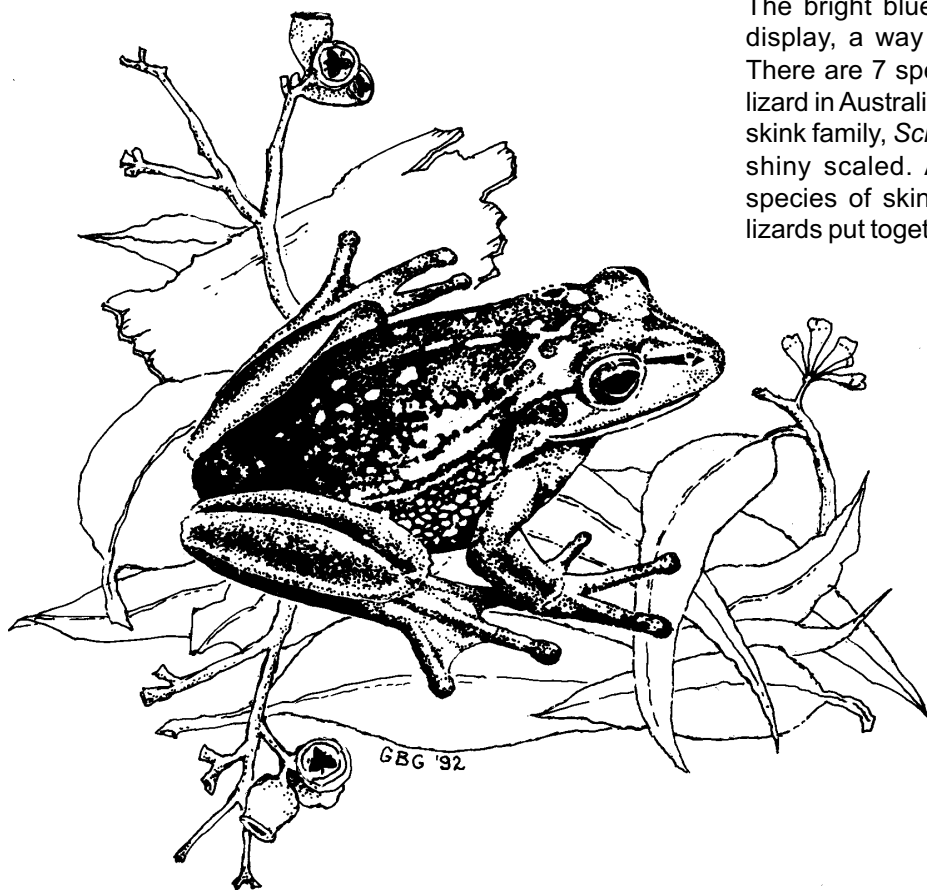


Actinotus

nature study info

Blue tongue lizards make wonderful garden companions. They eat the snails, slugs and caterpillars that attack your favourite plants. But you should keep snail and slug bait out of your garden and cats and dogs away from the lizards.

The bright blue tongue is a threat display, a way to deter predators. There are 7 species of blue-tongue lizard in Australia. They belong to the skink family, *Scincidae* which means shiny scaled. Australia has more species of skinks than of all other lizards put together.



Green & Golden Bell Frog

Weed Guide

Summer Weeds - Fruit of many weeds are maturing.

Moth Plant is a perennial climber reaching 6m. up into canopy. Fruit looks like a choko which bursts open to release feathery seeds.

JANUARY

date

observations

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FEBRUARY

Look out for:

- Ringtailed Possums have their babies in the pouches.
- Mullet start to run up the NSW coast for the next three months.
- Blackbutt *Eucalyptus pilularis* in flower attracting Rainbow, Scaly-breasted and Musk Lorikeets
- The Autumn Greenhood Orchid *Pterostylis revoluta* flowers in paperbark swamps.
- Mid February, Channel-billed Cuckoos gather their young, reared by currawongs and depart north
- Seeds of the Grey Mangrove wash upon the beaches and estuary edges.
- Feral cats have their first litter of kittens for the year
- "Spitfires" (caterpillars) mass on eucalypt tree branches
- Dollarbirds, Koel Cuckoos and Sacred Kingfishers depart for northern Australia and New Guinea.
- Little Penguins come ashore to moult on Lion Island for 2-3 weeks
- Migratory shorebirds, Godwits, Golden Plover, Curlew Sandpipers, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Red-necked Stints change colour, from dull browns and greys to reds, black and white in preparation for migration
- In late February Spangled Drongos move south to our coastal heaths & dunes, seeking out nectar & insects, particularly associating with Coast Banksia in the first few months
- In rocky heathland and woodland understorey Coral Heath *Epacris pulchella* is in full flower

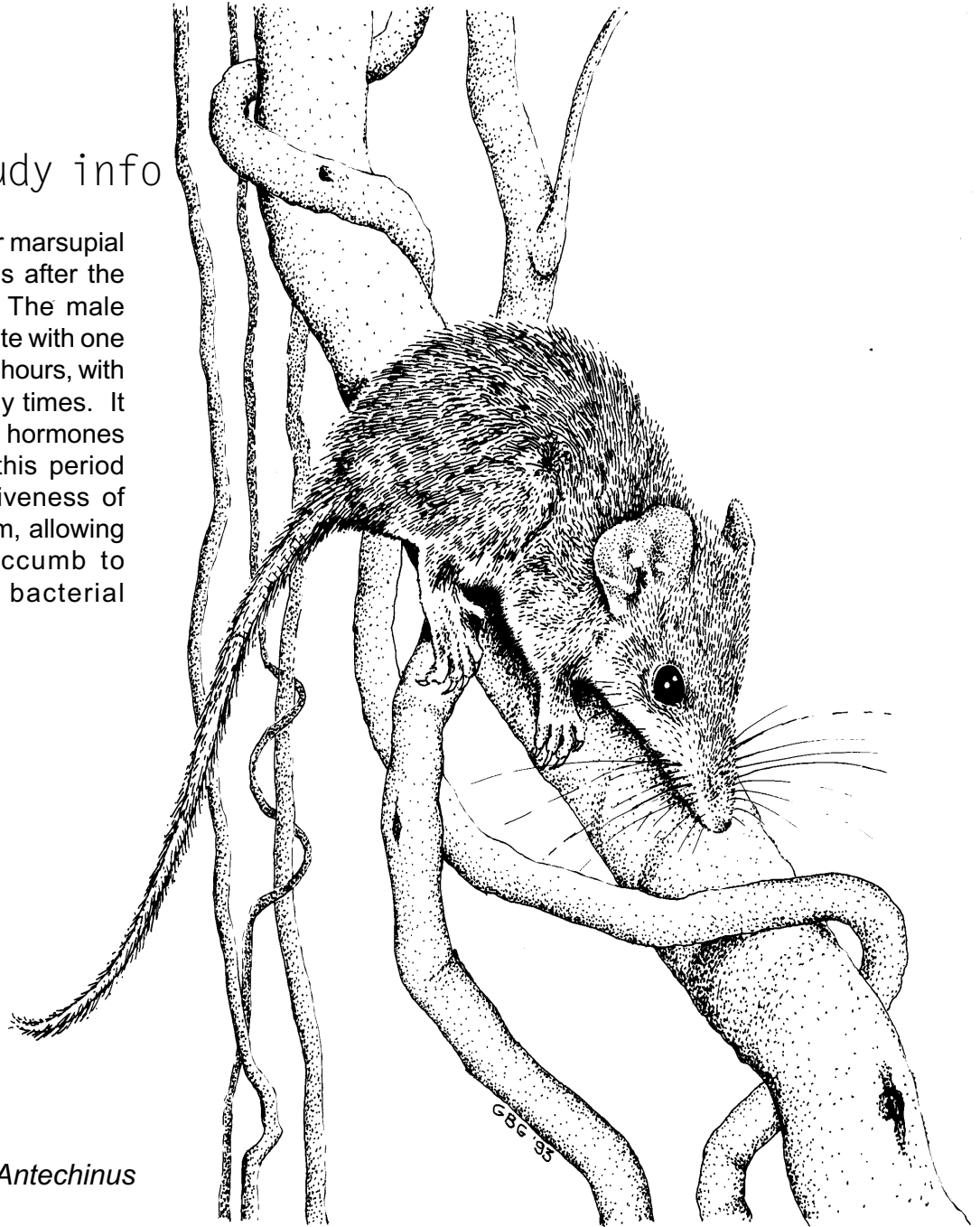


Crowea saligna

Green Dates 2nd February - World Wetlands Day
(United Nations) www.un.org

nature study info

Male antechinus or marsupial mouse usually dies after the breeding season. The male antechinus can mate with one female for up to six hours, with males mating many times. It appears the stress hormones produced during this period reduce the effectiveness of the immune system, allowing the males to succumb to parasites and bacterial infections.



Brown Antechinus

Weed Guide

Late Summer - Formosan Lily begins flowering - attractive large white flower but an invasive weed of bushland. Bulbs of weeds such as this are distributed by Nurseries and through mail catalogues.

Be careful what you buy !

Enrol now in a TAFE course to do Bush Regeneration!



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MARCH

Look out for:

- Biting march flies.
- Long-nosed Bandicoot babies are out of the pouch (which species?)
- Leaf-curling Spiders are active
- Crickets call at night
- The Parsons Band Orchid *Eriochilus autumnalis* flowers on sandstone ledges and in damp heath
- The Double-banded Plover come to our coastal reefs & beaches from New Zealand
- Brush-tailed Possums have their first of two litters of babies for the year
- Black-faced Monarchs and Leaden Flycatchers depart for North Australia and New Guinea
- Puff-ball Fungi *calvostia* spp & Fly Agaric Fungi *Amarita muscaria* appear on the ground
- Orb Weaver Spiders are active
- Late March, Rufous Fantails and White-throated Needletails, move north, the former to northern Australia and the latter to Siberia.
- Camphor Laurel fruiting attracts Topknot & White-headed Pigeons
- Sweet Wattle *Acacia suaveolens* and Geebung *Persoonia pinifolia* are in flower
- Spotted Gum *Corymbia maculata* commences flowering, but only every two-three years, and when it does it is important for honeyeaters, Swift Parrots and Lorikeets and flying foxes.



Topknot Pigeon

Green Dates 1st Sunday

Clean Up Australia Day

www.cleanup.com.au22nd March

World Water Day United Nations

www.un.org

End of March

Autumn Water Bug Survey

www.bugsurvey.nsw.gov.au

nature study info

In the month of March wader birds gather on Australian shores before flying north to breeding grounds as far away as Siberia. They'll fly between 10 - 15,000 kilometres and lose half their weight on the way. The trigger for migration is part of that in-built mechanism that tells birds what to do and when to migrate, which direction to migrate and how far to migrate. It's the changing day length that triggers the fat deposition all over the body of the bird over that two or three weeks before it starts its migration.

And that fat is really like an aircraft taking on board fuel. Before a jumbo jet leaves Melbourne for Singapore it will take on sixty tons of fuel it will weigh 330 tons when it lands in Singapore it will only weigh 270 tons.

An eastern curlew which is the largest wading bird in the world normally weighs about 750 gms. When it leaves here it can weigh a kilo and a half, almost twice the weight.



Leptospermum squarrosum

Pink Teatree

Weed Guide

Berries are ripening on Privet and Camphor trees. Birds spread them through the bush where they flourish as weeds. No permission required to get rid of these trees from your garden.



MARCH

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APRIL

Look out for:

- Early April, migratory shorebirds depart from our coastal reefs and mudflats and migrate to the Arctic Circle.
- Lilli Pilli are fruiting particularly the Magenta Lilli Pilli. Flying Foxes & birds eat the fruit.
- *Banksia ericifolia*, *B. oblongifolia* and *B. spinulosa* are all flowering in heaths and woodlands
- Swamp Mahogany *Eucalyptus robusta* commences flowering attracting birds and mammals
- Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and Tasmanian Silvereyes appear on migration from southern Australia
- Flying Foxes at night move to the Swamp Mahogany groves to feed on the nectar source.
- The Tall Greenhood Orchid *Pterostylis longifolia* and the first Autumn Greenhood *P. nutans* appear in the woodlands
- Mid April, Wedge-tailed & Short-tailed Shearwaters (muttonbirds) migrate northwards along the coastline.
- The first Autumn Greenhood Orchids *Pterostylis nutans* appear.
- White-breasted Sea-eagles & Black-shouldered Kites commence courtship and nest building
- Late April, shearwater chicks leave their burrows on Bird & Lion Islands and head to sea, eventually to the Bering Sea in the northern Pacific Ocean.
- Koalas are active at night bellowing, fighting and scent marking until September.
- Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots come to the coast to feed on Swamp Mahogany flowers
- Wattle *Acacia ulicifolia* in flower
- Tiger Quoll mating takes place, males become more active, juvenile males are thrown out of territories. This is the time when most reports of Tiger Quolls are received.



Grevillea speciosa
Red Spider-flower

Green Dates 22th April

International Day of Biological Diversity

nature study info

Wildlife Corridors – Who needs them?

All of our animals need habitat, that is a place to live. Many areas of natural habitat have been isolated and fragmented. Animals use corridors (green freeways) to travel from one habitat fragment to another, it may be for breeding, or it may be to feed on plants flowering at certain times of the year.

Many threatened species such as the Squirrel Glider, Yellow-bellied Glider and Koala use wildlife corridors to access winter flowering eucalypts in the Swamp Mahogany forests of the Central Coast.

Corridors themselves provide habitat, you can help to create corridors in your local neighbourhood by planting local native plants in your garden to provide food and habitat for local native animals.

*Squirrel Glider*

Weed Guide

Weeds - Under the ground **tubers** are swelling. Turkey Rhubarb has tubers like lots of potatoes along the roots.....dig..dig..dig ! Plus, 1000s of papery seeds fly on the **wind**.

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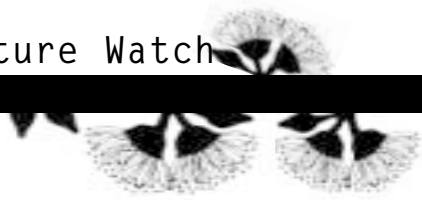
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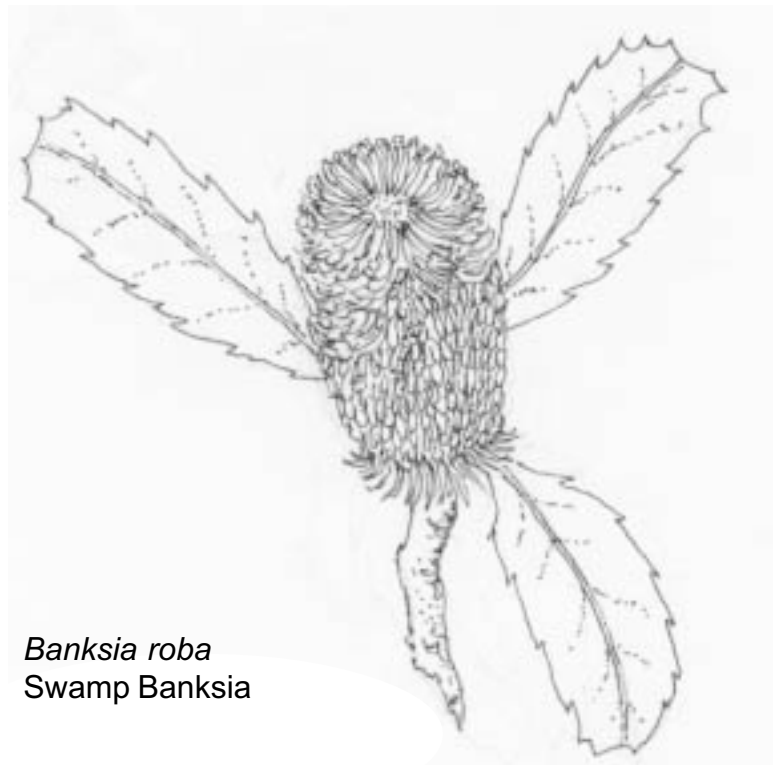
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MAY

Look out for:

- The mournful, persistent calling of Fantailed Cuckoos in the bushland
- Grass Trees *Xanthorrhoea sp* in flower attracting many Honeyeaters, Friarbirds and insects
- The Southern Cross is high in the evening sky
- Sunshine Wattle *A. terminalis* in bloom attracting bugs and butterflies
- The Trim Greenhood *P. concinna* commences flowering in dunes close to the sea
- White lerps form on bushes
- On Wybung Head *Hakea bakerana* is in flower
- Humpback Whales migrate northwards along the coast from late May to August
- Superb Lyrebird males call loudly from prepared display mounds
- Eastern Grey Kangaroos can give birth at any time, but May is a favoured month
- Many Banksia's in flower attracting birds and Ringtails & Pygmy Possums
- Forest Red Gum *Eucalyptus tereticornis* commences flowering attracting lorikeets, honeyeaters and Swift Parrots in some years.



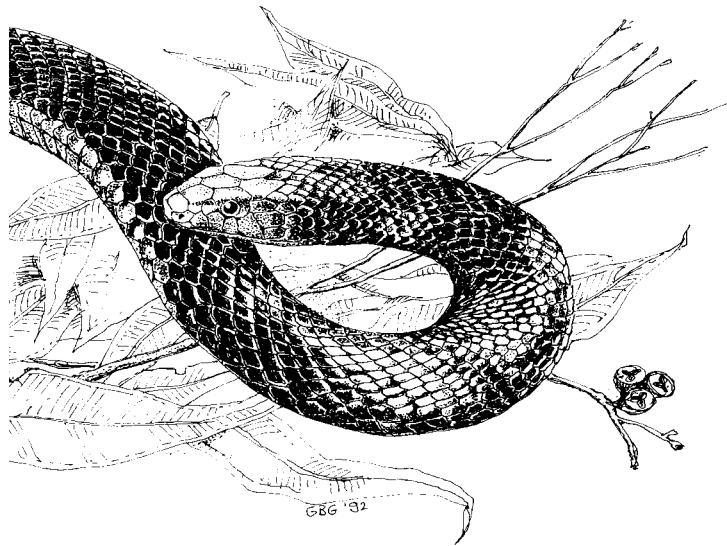
Banksia roba
Swamp Banksia

nature study info

Snakes often take up residence in timber or corrugated iron left lying around the backyard. To deter snakes from residing in your backyard clear away such debris. If you see a snake, leave it alone and wait for it to leave the area.

Around the Central Coast there are several large venomous snakes eg Red Bellied Black Snake, Brown Snake, Tiger Snake and Death Adder that get all the hype. However there are several smaller species that are more frequently encountered but that unfortunately get the 'shovel treatment' on suspicion.

The dark grey-green Swamp Snake is not a baby Tiger Snake. Look closely and you will see they have distinct white stripes, behind the eye and above the lip. If disturbed the little Golden Crowned and Dwarf Crowned Snakes will put on a brave front raising their head but it's all bluff. The larger Green Tree Snake and Diamond Python are beautiful and harmless. Red-bellied Black Snakes prey on other snakes and may be controlling the numbers of the more dangerous Brown Snake.



Red-bellied black snake

Weed Guide

Clusters of small black berries on Lantana are attractive to birds and foxes. Cut stems and 'paint' (with herbicide) and pile up the cut branches on a 'raft' to form great habitat for small birds and small marsupials.

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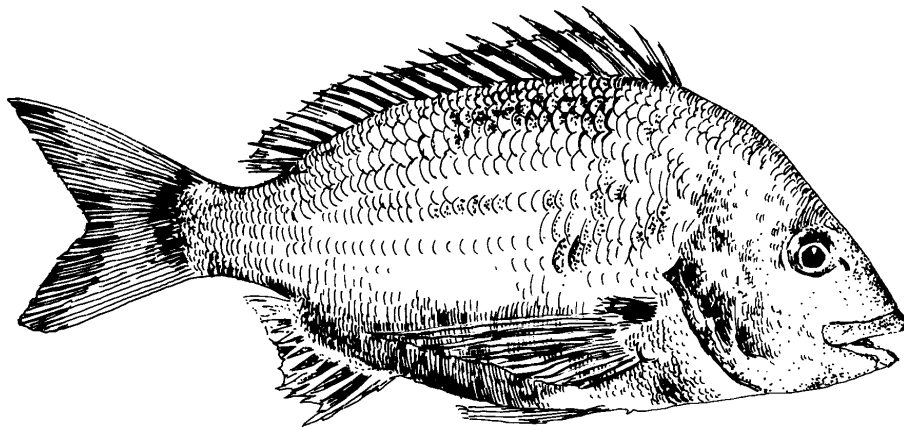
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JUNE

Look out for:

- Pixie-cap Orchid *Acianthus fornicatus* and the King Greenhood *P. baptistii* flowers appear.
- Mosquitoes die off, the few survivors forming the breeding stock for next season
- At sea Tailor are being caught locally as they travel north to Fraser Island (Qld)
- Echidnas mate and female Superb Lyrebirds lay their one egg
- Fungi are most abundant at this time of the year
- Snakes begin hibernation as the nights are getting colder
- Albatross, mostly Black-browed, Yellow-nosed & Wandering are regularly sighted offshore
- Winter solstice, 22 June, longest night shortest day
- Bream head up the creeks to lay their eggs
- June & July are the coldest months
- In the woodland on sandstone soils, *Acacia myrtifolia* flowers appear. Early flowering Sydney boronia *B. ledifolia* may be seen in heath and woodland. In marshy heathlands *Sprengelia incarnata* may be seen

JUNE



Yellow fin Bream

Green Dates

5th June

World Environment Day

nature study info

Echidnas breed in winter so, at this time of year, they're out and about on the lookout for a mate. Lovelorn male echidnas often queue up behind a female, nose to tail, forming long trains, up to ten echidnas long. These trains are the first part of the strange echidna courtship and mark the beginning of the breeding season.



Styphelia tabiflora
Red Fi ve-corners

Weed Guide

Gardeners spread weeds when they dump plants such as Asparagus fern and kikuyu over their fence and onto the edge of the bush. Asparagus fern has red berries over winter which are spread by birds.



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JULY

Look out for:

- Fuel reduction of bushland (control burning) is underway to help control summer bushfires
- Magpies start collecting nesting material,
- Spotted Pardalotes start digging nest holes in banks
- Gynea Lily in flower.
- Ratstail Orchid *Dendrobium teretefolium* begins flowering in mature Swamp Oaks
- Boobook owls call persistently at night
- Female echidnas lay their one soft egg
- Baby Ringtail Possums leave the pouch and start riding on their mothers back
- Wattles *Acacia longifolia*, *A. sophorae* will flower along with the drooping tubular flowers of *Correa reflexa*
- The heathlands are alive with colour, *Epacris longiflora*, *E. microphylla*, Golden Glory Peas *Gompholobium* spp, Pink Buttons *Kunzea capitata*, *Boronia ledifolia* and 'bacon and Eggs' *Dillwynia* spp
- Fan-tailed Cuckoos seek out the nests of Brown Thornbills and White-browed Scrub-wrens in which to lay their eggs.
- Adult male Brush Turkeys commence re-construction of the nesting mounds.



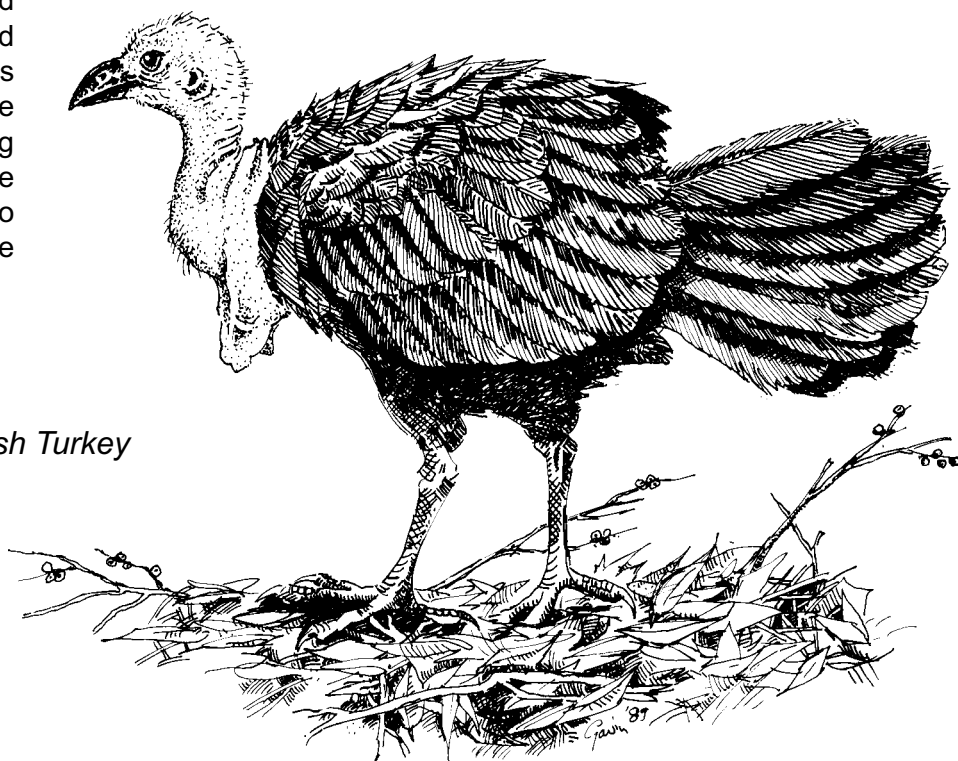
Boronia ledifolia
Sydney Boronia

Green Dates

23 rd July	Arbor Day
End of July	National School Tree Day Planet Ark www.planetark.org
End of July	National Tree Day Planet Ark www.planetark.org

nature study info

Brush Turkeys build mounds of leaf litter to lay their eggs. The temperature of the mound is between 33 degrees and 35 degrees and is regulated by the male Brush Turkey removing and adding layers of the mound as necessary to release or increase the heat.

Brush Turkey

Weed Guide

Join a voluntary Bushcare group! Now is the ideal time of year to be outside working. Roll up your sleeves and roll up a mat of Wandering Jew...cover it in plastic and wait for summer to cook it. Be vigilant and hand weed regrowth. You can win! Any little piece that gets washed into a creek or gutter will be able to shoot and grow. Spread by **garden refuse dumping** and **watercourses**.

JULY

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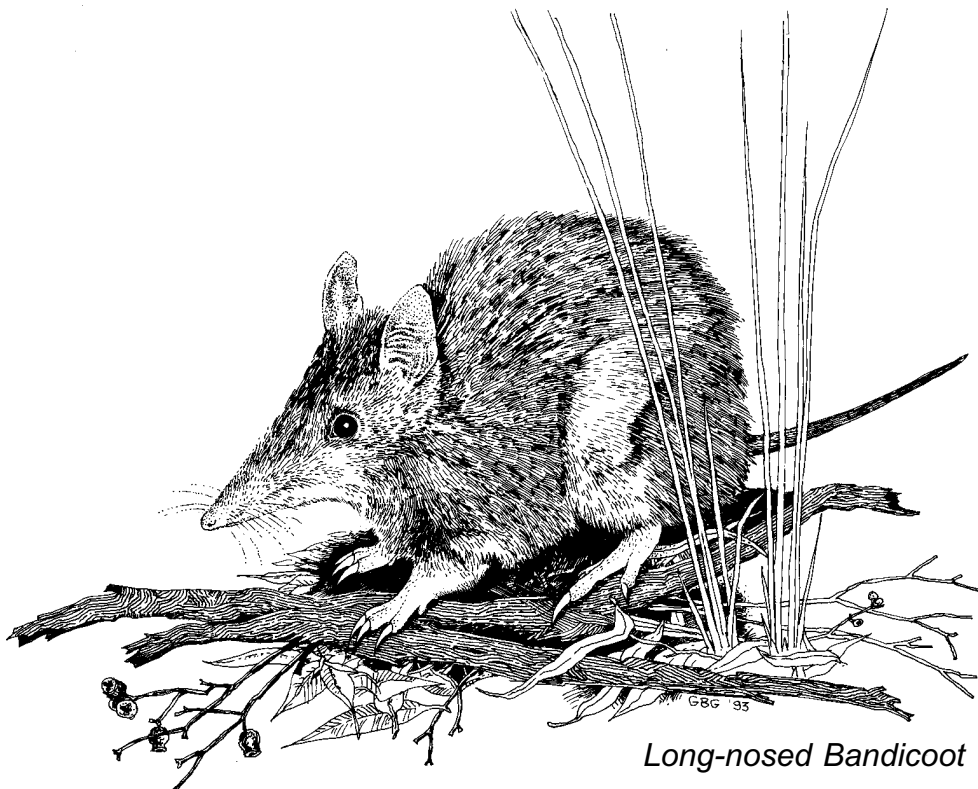
JULY

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AUGUST

Look out for:

- Both Northern Brown & Long-nosed Bandicoots commence breeding
- Magpielarks & White-winged Choughs start building their mud nests
- Male Brown Antichinus (a locally common marsupial mouse) die, leaving the females to raise the next generation
- Pallid Cuckoos arrive and commence their semi-toned ascending calls
- Mid August, Wedge-tailed Shearwaters return to NSW waters from the seas around The Phillipines
- Koala cubs leave their mothers pouches and climb onto their mothers' backs
- Golden Donkey Orchids *Diuris aurea* & Pink-finger Orchids *Caladenia carnea* flower.
- Mid August the first migratory shorebirds return particularly Sharp-tailed Sandpipers
- Double-banded Plovers assume breeding plumage and then return to New Zealand
- Late August, young Magpies hatch in the nests, and male Magpies start swooping on us!
- Little Penguin eggs hatch on Lion Island
- Gosford Wattle *Acacia prominens* commences flower attracting bees and butterflies.
- Bush Flies overwinter as larvae and pupae in crevices
- White Donkey Orchid *Diuris alba*, White Finger Orchid *Caladenia catenata* & the Spotted Sun Orchid *Thelymitra ixiodes* all commence flowering in low coastal heath
- Sawfly grubs cluster on Eucalypt leaves
- Fringed Wattle *A. fimbriata* will flower during August
- *Grevillea shiressii* is now rare on the Central Coast but may be found flowering in some gullies



Long-nosed Bandicoot

Green Dates

2nd Week of August

Landcare Week

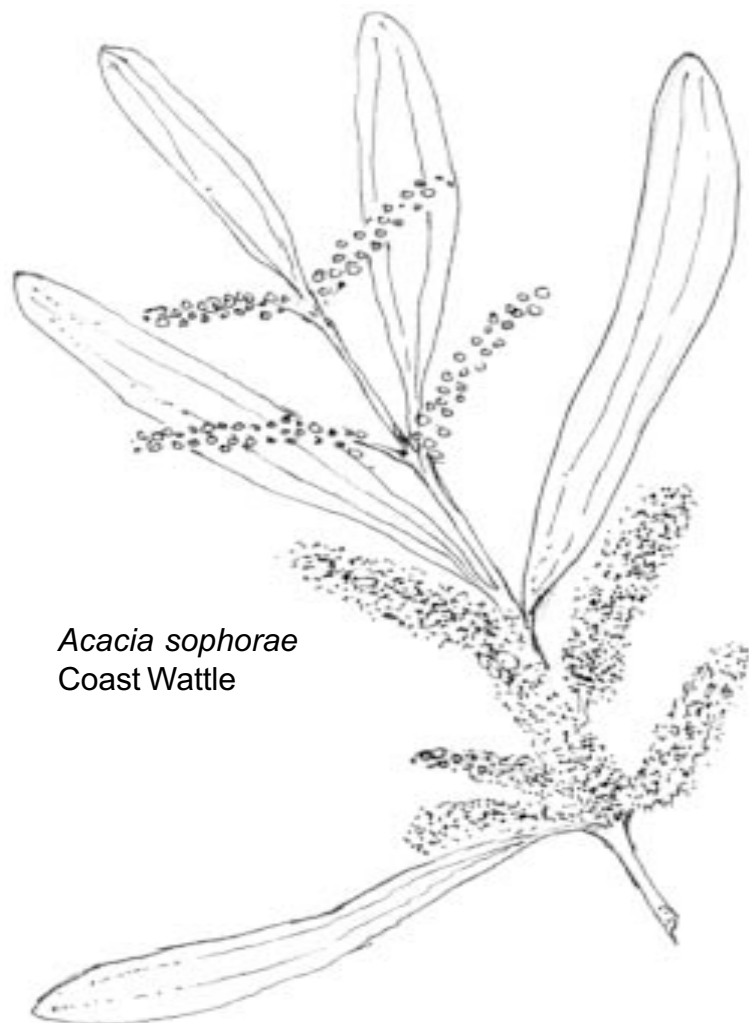
Landcare Australia

www.landcareaustralia.com.au

nature study info

Conical scrapes in the lawn or garden are evidence that Bandicoots have been visiting. These shy, rabbit sized marsupials forage at night for invertebrates and plant tubers. The major threats to Bandicoots are land clearing, foxes and wildfire.

Of the three species found on the Central Coast the most common is the Long Nosed Bandicoot. The Hawkesbury River is generally thought of as the divide between the Northern and Southern Brown Bandicoots however there is some overlap and there are records of the endangered Southern Brown north of the River. Any sightings of Brown Bandicoots should be reported to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.



Acacia sophorae
Coast Wattle

Sharing and Caring

Bitou Bush was introduced to Australia and used to stabilise the coastal dunes after sand mining. Bitou took over and smothered our native coastal scrub. It is now listed as a "key threatening process" by National Parks and Wildlife. **Foxes** eat the berries and spread the seeds. Biological controls are not as successful as we would like.

AUGUST

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AUGUST

AUGUST

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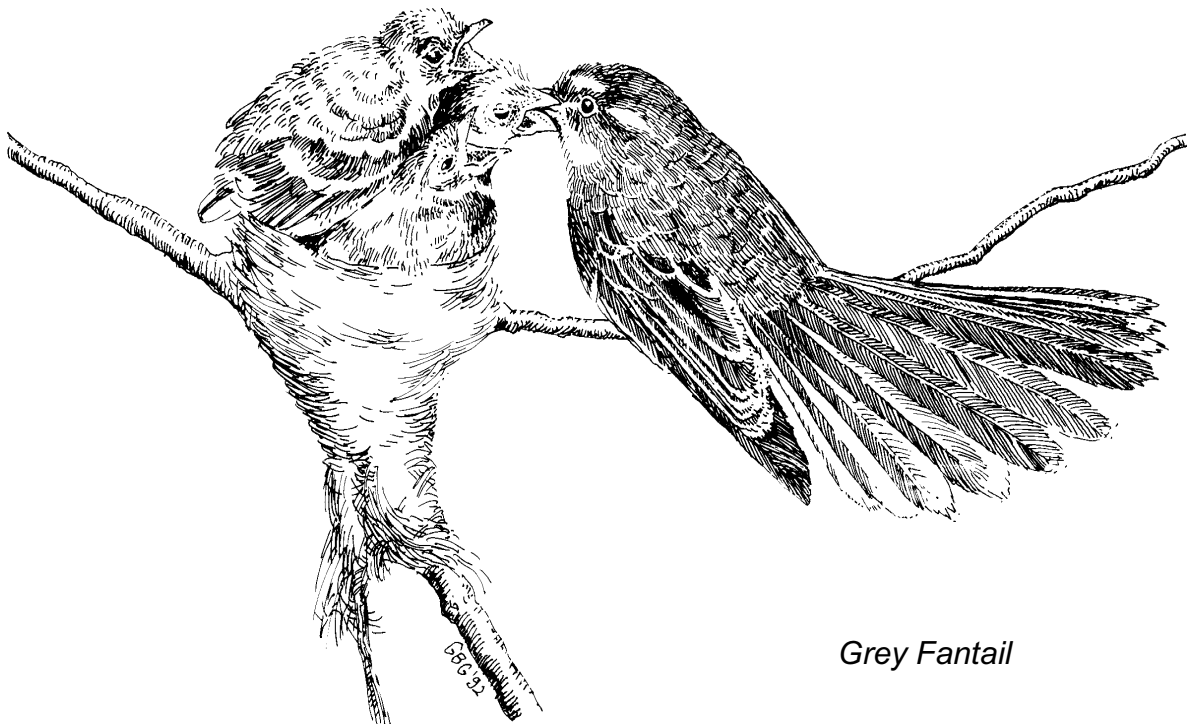
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SEPTEMBER

Look out for:

- Reptiles can be seen basking in the sun
- Hump-back Whales can be seen offshore heading south
- Micro-bats can be heard at night
- Christmas Beetles start banging against the windows at night
- Mid September Channel-billed Cuckoos return calling raucously and loudly at night.
- The best time to see terrestrial orchids as now Flying Duck Orchids *Caleana major* and Bearded Orchids *Calochilus* Spp also appear.
- Baby Magpies can be heard and seen, demanding food
- Carpet Pythons lay their eggs
- Late September Dollarbirds, Rainbow Bee-eaters, Sacred Kingfishers and Koel Cuckoos all return
- Spangled Drongos depart to northern NSW to breed
- After flowering Drumsticks (*Isopogon* spp) develop spherical woody cones
- In heath shrublands and woodland forests on sandy soils *Dampiera stricta* and *Patersonia* spp produce beautiful purple flowers
- The spectacular yellow flowers of Graceful Bush-pea *Pultenaea flexilis* appear
- Bush Stone-curlews in the Brisbane Water area commence egg laying, earliest date 9 September
- Waratahs *Telopea grandis* begin flowering



Grey Fantail

Green Dates

Biodiversity Month

1st September
7th September

Wattle Day www.wattleday.asn.au
Threatened Species Day
Threatened Species Network
www.nccnsw.org.au/member/tsn

nature study info

With its beautiful carolling and relative lack of shyness, the 'magie' is a regular companion. But this normally friendly neighbour can become a bit pesky during breeding time.

During the short nesting season (August to October) the urge for the dominant male to defend their territory becomes very strong. The natural reaction is for the birds to protect their young and eggs from any possible 'attackers' including humans. Most magpies will know most of the people that live within their relatively small territories and the small proportion that swoop (less than 10% of pairs will have a male that is a bit aggro) almost always select the same individuals each time. The main exceptions to this rule are those that swoop cyclists or posties or live near schools - probably because there are simply too many people to recognise. Usually the divebombing attacks are only intimidation but there have been rare strikes inflicting painful scalp wounds on people.



Boronia pinnata

What Can You Do?

- Magpies are fully protected throughout NSW it is an offence to kill the birds or interfere with the eggs or young. In only rare circumstances when a bird is particularly aggressive should you contact the local National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Some ways to avoid actual attack include not walking through the magpies territory particularly during breeding time, wearing a hat or carrying an umbrella or stick (do not swing it as this may provoke the bird).

Weed Guide

Blackberry is beginning to flower. Best time to poison it is from now until it sets fruit.
Privet is flowering and the strong perfume may affect asthmatics.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER

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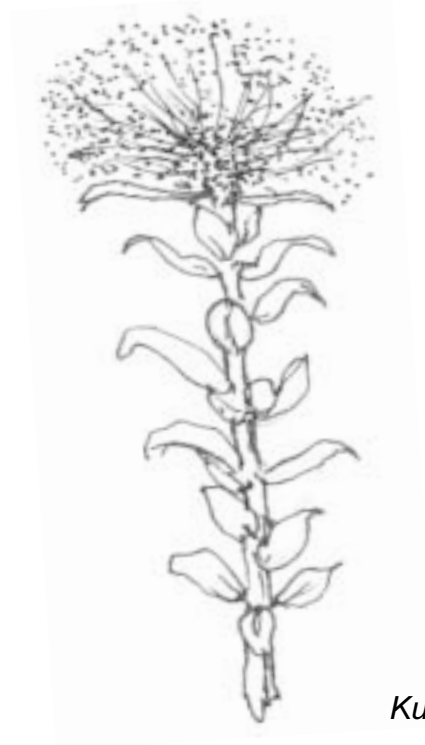
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OCTOBER

Look out for:

- Mistletoe berries are abundant and the tiny Mistletoebirds are readily seen and heard
- Laughing Kookaburras tunnel into termite nests in trees for nesting hollows
- Rufous Fantails, Leaden Flycatchers & Black-faced Monarchs return to coastal forests
- Pied Currawongs and Willie Wagtails are nesting
- Flannel Flowers dominate the coastal sandy heaths
- Exhausted Short-tailed Shearwaters are washed up on our beaches enroute to their southern breeding islands.
- Snakes and Skinks are active
- Cicadas emerge from under the ground and leave their pupal cases on tree trunks
- Peak time for viewing terrestrial orchids continues with the Slender Onion Orchid *Microtis parviflora* coming into flower on the heaths and open woodland.
- Jacarandas and Illawarra Flame Trees commence flowering
- Christmas Bush puts on creamy coloured flowers and Waratahs commence flowering
- A large breeding colony of Grey-headed Flying Foxes forms at Matcham for the birth of the young, the adults using this as a base for forays into forests and gardens.
- Bushfire Season in earnest if there has been a dry spring
- Late October, Cicadas emerge from the ground and commence calling
- Slender Onion, Turpentine Trees *Syncarpia glomulifera* begin to flower, attracting insects, lorikeets and Noisy Miners.



Kunzea capitata

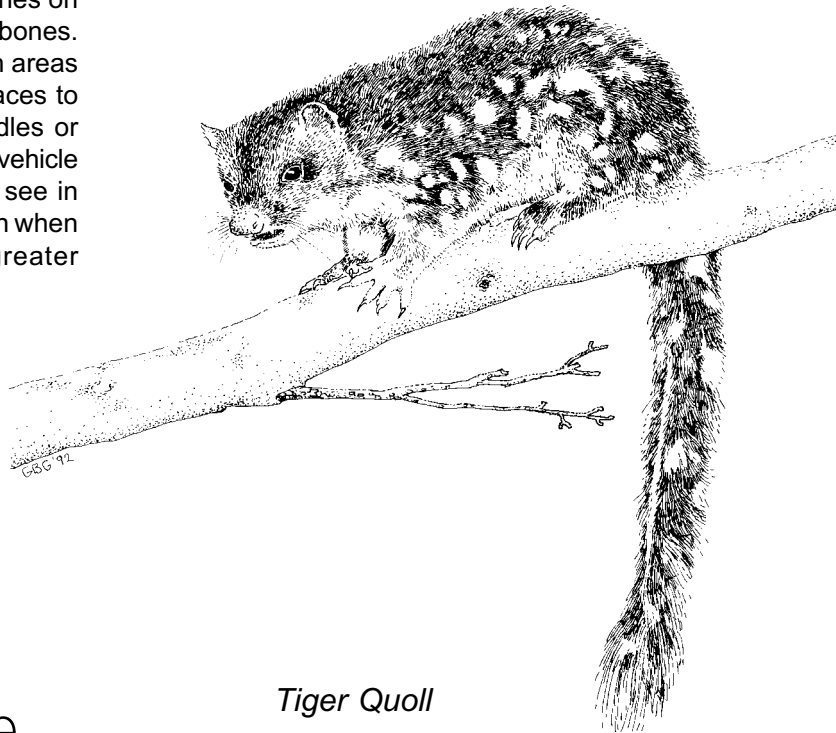
Green Dates

Late October
Water Week

Department Land and Water Conservation
www.dlwc.nsw.gov.au

nature study info

Look for scratches on trees caused by arboreal marsupials such as gliders, possums and koalas. There are many mammals that leave signs of their presence. This includes scats (i.e. droppings) tracks, scratches on trees, diggings, shelters and bones. Look for tracks or footprints in areas of soft soil or mud. Good places to look are around dams, puddles or along the sides of dirt roads or vehicle tracks. Tracks are easier to see in early morning or late afternoon when the sun is low casting a greater shadow.



Tiger Quoll

Weed Guide

Annual and perennial weeds start flowering along with many introduced exotic grasses such as Rye grass. The pollen is so small and light that when it drifts through the towns and cities susceptible people develop hay fever. Sometimes they blame Wattle because it is flowering now and is so spectacular! Wattle is not to blame because its pollen is so heavy it doesn't drift far in the wind.

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NOVEMBER

Look out for:

- Prawns wait for rain to go to sea
- Trigger Plants are now common
- Flying Ants swarm on humid evenings
- Fox Cubs are born
- Coast Wattle *Acacia longifolia* in bloom, attracting many bugs and butterflies
- Noisy Miner, Noisy Friarbird, Red Wattlebird & Little Wattlebird chicks are calling to be fed
- Shearwaters lay their eggs on Lion Island & Bird Island
- Peak time for meteor showers in Australia, the Leonids, 15-17 November
- Cabbage Tree Palm fruit ripen and attracts Flying Foxes and Topknot Pigeons.
- Spotted Gums shed their bark, leaving piles of spent bark at their bases.
- Horned Orchids *Orthoceras strictum* and the Bonnet Orchid *Cryptostylis erectus* appear
- Grasshopper plagues



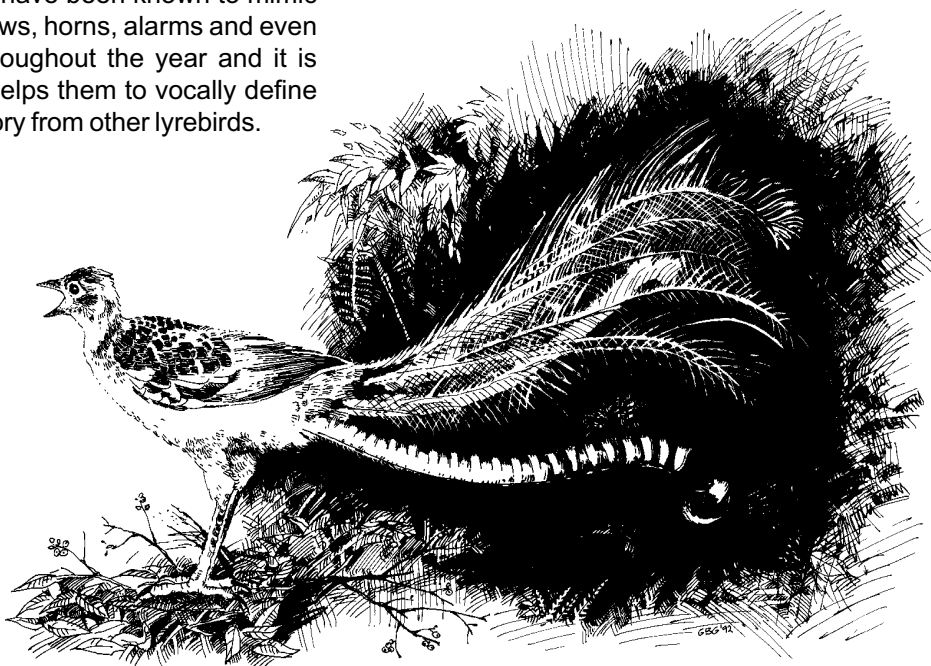
Angophora hispida
Dwarf Apple

Green Dates 1st to 9th NovemberFrog Week Frog and
Tadpole Study Group of NSW
Fatsgroupnsw@hotmail.com2nd NovemberWorld Habitat Day
United Nations 02 92625111
www.un.org

nature study info

Lyrebirds

These shy birds escape by running and dodging rapidly through the undergrowth when threatened. Feeding mainly on ground-dwelling insects, spiders, frogs, and other small invertebrates that they find by scratching among the leaf litter. Lyrebirds are capable of imitating almost any sound, usually mimicking loud clear sounds made by other birds and mammals, mixed with their own song, calls and clicks. Lyrebirds have been known to mimic the sounds of chainsaws, horns, alarms and even trains. They sing throughout the year and it is thought the mimicry helps them to vocally define and defend their territory from other Lyrebirds.



Lyrebird

Weed Guide

Now's the time to attack Camphor Laurel. While it is actively growing in Spring you can "frill" it. Don't choose a hot day because the tree may feel heat-stressed and the poison won't circulate. Cut off and 'bag' the flowers and seed heads of the annual and perennial weeds.

NOVEMBER

date

observations

location

weather

NOVEMBER

diary

NOVEMBER

date	observations	location	weather

NOVEMBER

date

observations

location

weather

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NOVEMBER

diary

NOVEMBER

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observations

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DECEMBER

Look out for:

- Oyster Spat is collected
- Mud Dauber Wasps make their nests on the sides of buildings
- Christmas Bells in flower, Christmas Bush goes red
- Christmas Hyacinth Orchids *Dipodium punctatum* appear and flower in forest and woodland
- December 22: Summer Solstice, longest day of the year
- Bushfire Season continues if dry, if wet, frog calls at night deafening
- Spotted Marsh Frogs & Bleating Tree Frogs mating
- Sydney Red Gum *Angophora costata* flowers and attracts insects like Bogong Moths
- In coastal districts and on sandstone Old Man Banksia *B. serrata* will flower from now until March
- The golden yellow flowers of *Geebung persoonia levis* appear
- Brush Turkey chicks hatch from the nest mounds, after an incubation period of c.50 days.
- Cicada calls deafening in some summers.
- Little Tern nesting activity reaches its peak at Karagi Point sandspit, The Entrance.



Blandfordia

Green Dates 1st-7th December

Coastcare Week

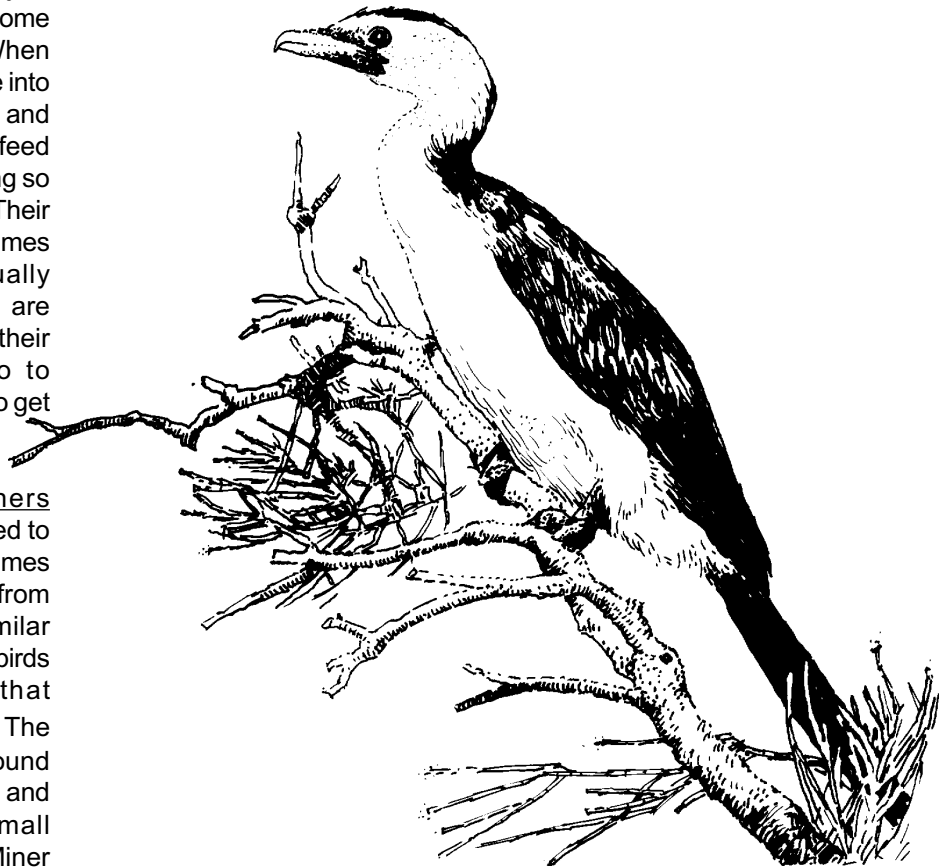
Landcare Australia

www.landcareaustralia.com.au

nature study info

The Indian Myna (a member of the Starling family) was brought to Australia to control grasshoppers and cane beetles and just like the cane toad it hasn't but has become one of our worst invasive species. When gangs of these aggressive birds move into town they take over the food supplies and nest hollows of native animals. They feed on insects but are adept at scavenging so don't leave the pet food unattended. Their roosts are noisy congregations sometimes numbering in the hundreds, usually concealed in thick foliage. Surveys are being conducted to find out about their distribution and abundance. Go to sres.anu.edu.au/associated/myna/ to get involved.

The native Noisy and Bell Miners (Bellbirds) are honeyeaters, unrelated to the introduced Indian Myna but sometimes confused with them because apart from the same sounding name and similar appearance they're also noisy, bossy birds that live in big social groups that aggressively displace other birds. The Noisy Miner thrives on the year round supply of nectar in suburban gardens and defends it by driving out any small honeyeaters and wrens. The Bell Miner feeds on the sweet secretions of tiny gum-leaf eating psyllids and protects them from insectivorous birds. As a consequence the trees become infested and suffer dieback.



Little Pied Cormorant

For Central Coast Indian Myna Action Group contact Peter Blyth on 4324 9290 or cenco@bigpond.net.au.

Weed Guide

Water Hyacinth flowers over Summer. It is a prohibited plant in all States. The dense mats of vegetation reduce Oxygen, temperature and light levels in our creeks and rivers. The habitat of invertebrates and native fish is destroyed. ***Never discard pond weeds into waterbodies***

DECEMBER

date

observations

location

weather

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diary

DECEMBER

DECEMBER

date

observations

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weather

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DECEMBER

date

observations

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diary

DECEMBER

date	observations	location	weather