



Contact Call

*Birders of North Queensland
Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union:
North Queensland Group*

September 1995 ♦ Issue: Orange-footed Scrubfowl

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BNQ CALENDAR

Sept 23rd-24th Sat -Sun

Campout at Princess Hills. Contact local reps for more information closer to the time.

Oct 29th Sunday

A second visit to Redden Island (Cairns). This diverse habitat should prove an interesting area for regular monitoring. Meet at gate near toilet block on road to Barron River mouth, Machans Beach at 7am. (Contact Lindsay for confirmation of this field trip.)

GOULDIAN FINCH

SURVEY

Klaus Uhlenhut has been busy organising volunteers to do the Gouldian Finch survey. Those of you who put your name down as being interested in partaking will have had two letters by now.

Klaus has arranged with the owners of a property west of Georgetown to allow survey volunteers access. He is in the process of arranging the same with another property in the vicinity of Mount Carbine where there was a record of Gouldian Finches a few years ago. This area will be closer for Cairns volunteers and should prove interesting country for other sightings

Access to these properties will be only for members involved in the survey, so if you have a few days to spare and fancy sitting by a waterhole for a few hours, contact Klaus.

Any sightings of Gouldian Finches by members will be welcome, so keep notes of where, when, how many and adult/juvenile ratio and remember they are often in mixed flocks with other finch species.

Due to business commitments with his wildlife tours, Klaus will be away a lot, so it is best to write to him :- P O Box 133, Silkwood Qld 4856 or Fax 070 655197.

A male Chestnut Teal in breeding plumage was seen at Hasties Swamp (south of Atherton) on 26/7/95. It is unusual for this species to be seen so far north.
Keith Fisher

GULF SAVANNAH

The Gulf Savannah Tourist Organisation have recently produced a birdwatcher guide which they are promoting in both Wingspan and The Bird Observer. They are to be commended for their enterprise in publicising this wonderful "outback by the sea" as a top birdwatching area. However, those of you who have received the publication (along with maps and other tourist information) will realise this first edition needs to have its bird list of 261 species totally revised. They have produced it in a rather strange alphabetical order rather than a taxonomic one.

A letter of encouragement from BNQ will be sent along with a bird list in the correct order!

For those of you wishing to obtain a copy, please write to the G. S. T. O at 55 McLeod street, Cairns QLD 4870.

A NEW DEAL WITH SQUATTER PIGEONS

I read David James cry for help re the sub-species / hybridisation of the Squatter Pigeon *Geophaps scripta* (Contact Call June 1995) with nostalgic interest.

Back in March 1989, I was surveying an area in the Lucy Downs/Gray Creek area, towards Greenvale, N.Q. with Sgt Bob Fraser, the police officer responsible for the region. During the day we came across several small groups of Squatter Pigeons which, to my surprise, displayed exact 50/50 colouration of both forms within their orbital rings from loreal to eye-stripes! The upper 180° blue and the lower 180° red (OK, OK, it may have been vice-

