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**BREEDING BY BLUE-BILLED DUCK (*OXYURA AUSTRALIS*) AND
FRECKLED DUCK (*STICTONETTA NAEVOSA*) IN THE GEORGINA
CHANNEL COUNTRY, APRIL 2009**

ROGER JAENSCH, GUY DUTSON & JULIAN REID

ABSTRACT

We report observations of breeding by the Blue-billed Duck (*Oxyura australis*) and Freckled Duck (*Stictonetta naevosa*) in shrub swamps of the Eyre Creek (lower Georgina River) floodplain, Channel Country bioregion, in April 2009. At least five broods of Blue-billed Duck and a brood of Freckled Duck were seen. Based on sizes of ducklings we estimate that the clutches may have been laid a few weeks after the summer flood peaks. There have been few other records of breeding by either species in this bioregion. The records reconfirm the great importance of Channel Country wetlands for biodiversity conservation and the need for maintenance of natural flooding regimes.

**SURVEYS OF THE RED GOSHAWK (*ERYTHROTRIORCHIS RADIATUS*)
AND OTHER RAPTORS ON THE WEIPA PLATEAU, CAPE YORK
PENINSULA**

CS.J.S. DEBUS & J.B. SEARLE

ABSTRACT

Surveys for diurnal and nocturnal raptors were conducted in the Weipa area, Cape York Peninsula, in July–August 2012 and July 2013. Diurnal raptors were surveyed by means of vehicle-based road or track transects (some through forest areas) and foot searches in forest (2012: 630 km and 30 hrs of driving, 10 hrs of searching on foot; 2013: 540 km and 10 hrs of road driving, 50 hrs of searching, mostly on foot, within forest). Owls were surveyed by listening, call playback and spotlighting (2012: four evenings, 13 sites; 2013: four evenings, 24 sites). In 2012, 15 diurnal raptor species and one owl species, the Southern Boobook (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*), were recorded in the survey area. The Red Goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*) and Square-tailed Kite (*Lophoictinia isura*) were also recorded by a colleague during the 2012 survey period. In 2013, 19 diurnal raptor species, including a Red Goshawk and a Square-tailed Kite, and one owl, the Southern Boobook, were recorded in the survey area. Further observations of Red Goshawks were obtained from the survey area in April and August 2013 and March 2014, and of a pair of Rufous Owls (*Ninox rufa*) in April 2014. We conclude that the area of Darwin stringybark (*Eucalyptus tetradonta*) tall open forest surveyed is an important foraging habitat for between two and five pairs of Red Goshawks, and that the Weipa Plateau contains habitats suitable for Red Goshawk breeding.

**SURVEY FOR THE RED GOSHAWK (*ERYTHROTRIORCHIS RADIATUS*)
IN SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND**

RICHARD SEATON

Intensive surveys for the Red Goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*) were undertaken in areas of suitable habitat within South East Queensland (SEQ) over 60 days between December 2013 and May 2014. Despite >470 hours of active searching, and the observation of all but one (Grey Falcon, *Falco hypoleucos*) of the 21 other raptor species known to occur in SEQ, no Red Goshawks were detected. Whether there has been a decline in the Red Goshawk population in SEQ is difficult to establish conclusively.

However, when these results are taken in light of the decline in the number of observations being reported to WildNet between 1980 and 2014, the success of surveys of a similar intensity undertaken in SEQ previously, and the reported decline and probable loss of Red Goshawks from New South Wales, a continuing retraction of the species' southerly range appears probable. Recommendations of an expert workshop convened to discuss the implications of these results and to determine what action is required for the management of this species are outlined.

**A CASE OF ALBERT'S LYREBIRD (*MENURA ALBERTI*)
ACCUSTOMISING TO PEOPLE**

No abstract.