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Indicators for Buff-breasted Button-quail *Turnix olivii* ?

Michael T. Mathieson & Geoffrey C. Smith

Abstract

Endangered Buff-breasted Button-quail *Turnix olivii* are cryptic, shy, rare and somewhat difficult to locate. Observations from a site of occurrence provide potentially useful indicators for aiding location. The species occurred in low woodland on metamorphic hills dominated by *Eucalyptus tardecidens* with scattered *E. cullenii* and *Corymbia clarksoniana*, with a mid-canopy including *Melaleuca stenostachya*, *Terminalia platyptera*, *Gardenia vilhelmii* and *Petalostigma pubescens* and with a sparse shrub layer of *Grewia retusifolia* and *Dodonaea physocarpa*. Ground cover was estimated at 50 % or less with significant bare soil exposed. The Regional Ecosystem was R.E. 9.11.25. Forty-seven species of plant in 23 families were identified within this habitat. Twenty-nine plant species, including 17 species of grass (Family Poaceae) and one sedge (Family Cyperaceae), occurred in the ground layer. Most grasses were in seed. Cicadas and grasshoppers were abundant. These insects and presence of nutritious grass seeds from the grass genera of *Eragrostis* sp., *Panicum* sp. and *Setaria* sp., could feasibly constitute food items taken by Buff-breasted Button-quail. A low number of observed circular scrapes could have either been feeding platelets made by Buff-breasted Button-quails or resting locations.

A preliminary checklist of the birds of the Meandu Creek Dam in the South Burnett region of south-eastern Queensland.

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Abstract

We present a preliminary checklist of avifauna recorded at the Meandu Creek Dam, a large body of water within the Tarong Power Station complex, Nanango. This current survey, part of a wider, ongoing, project (Tarong Energy, 2009), is designed to collate and describe an inventory of birds present on the dam, its associated reed beds and surrounding woodlands. While it is not now possible to accurately itemize a list of birds that inhabited the area around Meandu Creek Dam prior to the building of the dam, and therefore impossible to make significant pre- and post-construction comparisons, it is hoped that this survey, when completed, will at least establish a starting point for future reference. In spite of the inherent difficulties we do make tentative comparisons and are of the opinion that, certainly in terms of waterbirds, the dam has provided additional suitable habitat, encouraging species diversity and abundance.