

Management of Native and Non Native Birds Procedure

1. Scope

Management of Native and Non-Native Birds will be carried out throughout the University of Queensland's St Lucia campus.

Promoting native vegetation will not only increase the diversity of native fauna on the campus, but has many other benefits including lower maintenance requirements and fewer chemicals needed. These benefits are achieved through birds such as magpies, butcherbirds, swallows, egrets, ibises and mammals such as bats and bandicoots consuming insects such as lawn grubs, midges and mosquitoes. The St Lucia campus can be divided into four general environmental classifications: the parklands and areas surrounding the buildings and ovals; mangroves; rainforest, and lakes. See Appendix 1 for a list of fauna on campus seen in these four areas.

The parklands and areas surrounding the buildings and ovals consist of extensive lawns with scattered tall trees, similar in many respects to an open woodland habitat. The fauna found in this area consist of a mixture of exotic animals, particular birds, and a few native species which would normally have inhabited natural open woodlands, such as the Australian magpies.

The mangrove forest is located along the banks of the Brisbane River at the southern end of the campus. A number of mangrove species such as Collared Kingfisher and Mangrove Gerygone are regularly observed.

The Alumni Gardens or rainforest – seasonal altitudinal migrating birds and other animals dispersing along the river may take advantage of the gardens for a short period of time.

The lakes are one of the most used outdoor areas on campus. Many animals including waterbirds, turtles, fish and eels are frequently seen in or around the lakes, with other species occurring at times. (Appendix 1)

2. Objectives

- To implement wildlife control practices that are ecologically sustainable, financially rewarding and technically feasible in accordance with The University of Queensland's Environmental Policy;
- To ensure compliance with environmental legislation through monitoring of The University of Queensland's wildlife as appropriate; and
- To implement wildlife management procedures, subject to available resources.

3. Management

Given the diversity of birdlife on campus this procedure will focus on the following species:

3.1 Domesticated waterbirds

- Greylag geese
- Muscovy ducks
- Mallard ducks

One of the main reasons for the total removal of domesticated waterfowl is to avoid infection of gastrointestinal parasites in native waterbirds, however, the general university community favour domesticated waterfowl around the lake area.

While it is appreciated that the general community enjoy the environment created by domesticated waterbirds, the increased numbers over recent years has lead to the dramatic increase of indiscriminate dumping of waterbirds.

Two processes that will assist the management of these waterbirds are:

- erect signs indicating that the dumping of waterbirds on the university grounds is prohibited, and
- culling should be organised as required.

3.2 Native waterbirds

The grassed area between the lakes and GP South Building is an extremely important nesting area for native birds and should be retained.

To assist native waterbirds, the following breeding boxes could be established:

- Nesting platforms
- Artificial roosting trees
- Rafts for roosting and nesting.

Wildlife signs (eg. “ducks crossing”) could be positioned around College Road to inform drivers that caution should be taken around this area for wildlife.

3.2.1 Nesting Seasons

Some birds may become aggressive during nesting seasons. Temporary signs should be positioned in appropriate areas during the nesting times if attacks are occurring to inform the university community of potential attacks. As these are native birds, they must not be interfered with. If problems persist, National Parks and Wildlife should be contacted regarding removal.

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3.3 Ground nesting birds

Bush Stone-Curlews (*Burhinus grallarius*) are a protected native bird with a tendency to nest in populated areas (eg. car parks). During the nesting season these areas are roped off where possible.

Masked Lapwings (*Varellus miles*) are a protected native bird with a tendency to nest in open-grassed areas (eg. ovals). Situations that arise such as nesting on the oval are common. Nests are removed to a nearby location but as near as possible to the original nesting site or alternatively eggs are given to Zoology for incubation. All known nesting areas are roped off.

Welcome Swallow and Fairy Martin are a protected bird with a tendency to nest on buildings. These nests are not to be removed during the breeding season.

3.4 Other Non Native Birds

From time to time pigeons may become a problem in University buildings. Various measures will be used to manage the residential pigeon population in a humane manner, eg. nesting deterrents.

4. Responsibilities

The Property and Facilities Division is responsible for the management of wildlife on campus as discussed above.

Any enquires with respect to the management of wildlife should be addressed to personnel as listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Responsibilities

Item	Department	Contact	Telephone
Native and Non-Native Birds	Property and Facilities Division	Senior Supervisor Grounds	(07) 336 <u>52747</u>
Pigeons	Property and Facilities Division	Manager Cleaning	(07) 336 <u>52177</u>

5. References

- Nature Conservation Act 1992
- Management of Fauna on the University of Queensland St Lucia campus, N.G. Taylor.

6. FAUNA ON CAMPUS Appendix 1

In June 1994, a student undertook a collection of data on resident fauna on campus. It is not a complete collection, however, in October 1997 the Botany Department updated the details with available data. Additional data that has been gathered since that time has also been included.

	Lakes area L2	Mangroves including the unmowed banks M3	The Alumni Gardens – rainforest A4	The woodland environment including parks, playing fields and precincts. W5
Ringtail Possum				✓
Brushtail Possum				✓
Grey-headed Fruit-bat				✓
Black Fruit-bat		✓		✓
White-striped Mastiff-bat				✓
Little Northern Mastiff-bat		✓		✓
Common Bent-wing bat				✓
Cat (1)		✓	✓	✓
Fox (1)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Australian Grebe	✓			
Australian Pelican		✓		
Australian Darter	✓			
Little Black Cormorant	✓			
Cattle Egret	✓			
Intermediate Egret	✓			
Straw-necked Ibis	✓			✓
Pacific Black Duck	✓			
Mallard (1)	✓			
Hardhead	✓			
Wood Duck	✓			✓
Muscovy Ducks (1)	✓			
Greylag Geese (1)	✓			
Dusky Moorhen	✓			
Purple Swamphen	✓			
Eurasian Coot	✓			
Bush Thick-knee				✓
Masked Lapwing	✓			✓
Caspian Tern		✓		
Gull-billed Tern		✓		
Rock Pigeon	✓			✓
Crested Pigeon				✓
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo				✓
Rainbow Lorikeet		✓		✓
Scaly-breast Lorikeet		✓		✓
Pale-headed Rosella		✓		✓
Pheasant Coucal		✓		
Laughing Kookaburra				✓
Welcome Swallow	✓	✓		✓
Fairy Martin				✓
Richards Pipit				✓
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	✓			
Grey Fantail		✓		

	Lakes area	Mangroves including the unmowed banks	The Alumni Gardens – rainforest	The woodland environment including parks, playing fields and precincts.
	L2	M3	A4	W5
Willy Wagtail		✓		
Variiegated Fairy-wren		✓		
Red-backed Fairy-wren		✓		
Mangrove Gerygone		✓		
Noisy Miner	✓	✓		✓
Scarlet Honeyeater				✓
Mistletoebird		✓		
Common Starling (1)				✓
Figbird			✓	✓
Magpie-lark	✓			✓
Grey Butcherbird				✓
Pied Butcherbird		✓		✓
Australian Magpie				✓
Torresian Crow	✓			✓
Eastern Water Dragon	✓			
Unidentified small fish	✓			
Unidentified dragonflies	✓			
Pied Cormorant	✓			
Sacred Ibis	✓	✓		
Spotted Turtle-dove	✓			✓
Galah	✓			✓
Australian Kingparrot				✓
White-throated Tree-creeper				✓
Spangled Drongo				✓
Other species:				
Wall skink				✓
Brisbane River tortoise	✓			
Bearded dragon	✓			
Ghekos				✓
Common Wood Lizards				✓
Common Green Tree Snake				✓
Cane Toads		✓		

- 1 Introduced species of fauna
- 2 The lakes area (L2)
- 3 The mangroves including the unmowed banks (M3)
- 4 The Alumni Gardens – rainforest (A4)
- 5 The woodland environment including the parks, playing fields and precincts (W5)

Other species of fauna seen by various observers in the past few years include:

Australian Brush Turkey
Australian Hobby
Australian Woodduck
Black Swan
Blue-faced Honeyeater
Brahiminy Kite
Brown Goshawk
Bush Stone-curlew
Bush-hen
Chocolate Wattle-bat
Collared Kingfisher
Collared Sparrowhawk
Comb-crested Jacana
Common Goose (1)
Common Koel
House Sparrow
Little Bitten
Little Egret
Masked Plover

Nankeen Night Heron
Nauheen Kestrel
Oriental Cuckoo
Osprey
Pacific Baza
Peregrine Falcon
Pied Currawong
Purple-crowned Pigeon
Rainbow Bee-eater
Rock Dove (1)
Rose Robin
Striated Heron
Tawny Frogmouth
Varied Sittella
Whiskered Tern
Whistling Kite
White-bellied Sea-eagle
White-faced Heron
White-throated Needletail