

Feather Fascination!

with local Birdwatcher,
Jim Butler



CHOOSING TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT

The present configuration of habitats that sustain our bird community here in the West, has been shaped by the choices made by past and present generations of land owners and decision-makers. Habitat quality determines the richness and abundance of the bird community and indeed our region's entire biodiversity. The present status of the bird community, regarded as a highly visible and valid indicator of habitat health, is telling us that the local biodiversity is under great stress from habitat clearance and fragmentation, from floods, from invasive weeds, from cats and foxes and from climate change. The Moggill Creek Catchment Group and other community groups and many individuals are

actively working to combat all of these threats.

At the 2015 Paris COP21 there was a strong global agreement to keep climate change at below 2 degrees Celsius. Climate change is potentially a serious threat to life on Earth. It clearly has important environmental and intergenerational ethical aspects captured in the concept of our stewardship of the environment. Because climate change is expected to amplify the other stressors, efforts to preserve, restore and improve habitat quality are the key to protecting birds from climate change. Protected areas will also play an essential role in the maintenance of biodiversity in general and of bird populations in particular. The connectivity of these protected areas is required because it enables birds and other wildlife, including plants, to move to new suitable habitat.

The Australian Bird Atlas kept current and relevant by the many bird-lists submitted daily by citizen observers, is a national treasure. Bird monitoring is essential to the design and implementation of corrective action to preserve biodiversity. To preserve our birds in the face of climate change we must do more revegetation and habitat remediation, much more! The threats to biodiversity will intensify, not change in nature.



Image: Spangled Drongo
by Ed Frazer at Brookfield

– Jim

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