Feather Fascination!

with local Birdwatcher, Jim Butler

MY LOCAL PATCH (PART 3)

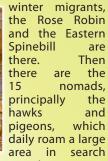
Bird fauna at a given site is within the greater Brisbane area. Of the 85, about 35 of the birds of habitat present. My local were residents in the Reserve, they patch at Gap Creek Reserve is an open Eucalyptus forest of grey gum, spotted gum, ironbark and stringybark trees. The major variation of habitats is provided by

the sculpturing of the landform into gulleys and ridges which produces differences in moisture levels, soil depths and foliage species. In some of the moister sections there are rainforest species.

These variations then determine the vertical structure of the foliage: ground, shrub, mid and canopy layers. The type of foliage at each layer then regulates what insects, fruit and seeds are available. In the grand scheme of habitats around Brisbane those available at my patch are very restricted; and clearly missing are grasslands, woodlands and open water which are home to many bird species.

Within the restricted habitats at my local patch, I found, over a five year period, 85 out of a total of about 300 bird species that are

could be found on almost every visit. Another 20 bird species were migrants; 14 of them came for the summer and 6 during winter. So as I write, two of most beautiful



of food. The remainder are very secretive and rarely seen within a two hour walk.

To increase my knowledge of birds beyond the 85 at Gap Creek I have had to move my local patch to where there are grassland and open water habitats and there I have gained a further 50 bird species.

Happy systematic birding!

Contact Jim: beautifulbirds@y7mail.com Image: Two Striated Pardalotes at a nest hole Image taken by Ed Frazer at Brookfield