

Feather Fascination!

with local Birdwatcher,
Jim Butler



MYSTERY BIRD FUN

I am very grateful to the Bellbowrie family who were being tormented by a mysterious bird call. The trouble was that they could not find the bird giving the trill of four notes. The bird called throughout the day, but each time they went to where they heard it, no bird was there; and then the call would come from somewhere else without any apparent movement of a bird. This is a situation I have experienced on many occasions.

This family had put in an enormous effort before they contacted me. Not only had they tracked the sound in the bush, they had also listened to all of the possible bird calls recorded in the Morecombe eGuide to Australian Birds. To their dismay this intensive hunt did not solve the exasperating riddle! So I was invited out to their property to see if I could identify the call. We had a cup of tea and talked but the bird would not call. We then went for a walk around the bush and the bird obliged by calling.



Fortunately, I knew the call from My Local Patch at Gap Creek Reserve. The bird calling was the Pale-headed Rosella which on this property was

repeating only a short segment of its large repertoire. The call is recorded on the Morecombe App, it is the last four notes of the recording labelled "call in flight". When I played this to the family they were delighted and relieved.

The Pale-headed Rosella is predominately a Queensland bird, it is found from just south of the QLD/NSW border to Cape York, all along the coast. It is a wonderful bird and forages throughout the whole bush strata and comes near my home at Kenmore. It calls often and beautifully. Look out for this treasure.

Welcome mystery calls!

~ Jim

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Image: Pale-headed Rosella taken at Brookfield by Ed Frazer