

# Feather Fascination!

with local Birdwatcher,  
Jim Butler



## BIRDS AND US: WONDERFUL SHARED FUTURE

Dear Reader,

Thank you so much, you have been so generous over the years. A little birdie may have told you that this is my 98th and last "Feather Fascination."



Each article explored a topic unknown to me, so I had to research it. My favourite was the "Wastage Foraging by Cockatoos" (September 2020) which astounded me and changed the way I relate to them. The entire writing journey has been fabulously inspiring and humbling. We are so ignorant about birds, but they always know what their purposes are: survival and reproduction; and in pursuing those goals they relate to us and help us in so many ways.

My warm thanks to Editor Barry Searle and Copy Editor Lynda Windsor who in 2012 allotted me 300-words to interact with you about beautiful birds. They have carefully planned my replacement in 2021. My thanks to the photographers who supplied superb photos, especially Ed Frazer who has been so important professionally and personally.

You and I have engaged many important topics, birds lead to such topics. Birds were in the forests millions of years before us. They were watching when our ancestors came down out of the trees and evolved bipedalism so we could hold binoculars! Today, they share the planet with us, rely on its resources as we do. Their impact on the planet has not changed for millions of years. While our recent impact has put all life under threat.

There is an urgent need for us to save our beautiful planet with its birds. There is a saying: To go fast, go alone; To go far, go together. We need both responses; the planet's climate is at a tipping point. We each need to quickly adopt sustainable practices; and together change society to renewables. We are in a symbiotic relationship with birds and trees on the surface of this lonely, tiny, blue planet, and together we will thrive.

Wishing you great wonders,  
Goodbye.

~ Jim

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Image: Spotted Pardalote  
asking you for help! Image:  
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