



Peter the Original Possum & Bird Man

POSSUMS RATS BIRDS BEES TURKEYS BATS

Wildlife Evacuation & Proofing Newsletter

Spring 2008

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SPRING WILDLIFE FACTS:

- The only lizard that has a voice is the Gecko.
- If you keep a goldfish in a darkened room for long enough it will turn white.
- Termites are roasted and eaten like popcorn in South Africa.
- A group of crows is called a murder
- According to National Geographic, scientists have settled the old dispute over which came first -- the chicken or the egg. They say that reptiles were laying eggs thousands of years before chickens appeared, and the first chicken came from an egg laid by a bird that was not quite a chicken. That seems to answer the question. The egg came first.

SERVICES:

- Possum Removal
- Possum Proofing
- Rat Treatments
- Pigeon Trapping
- Pigeon Shooting
- Pigeon Treatments
- Bird Proofing
- Lice Treatments
- Bee Removal
- Wasp & Nest Removal
- Dead Inspections & Removal
- Brush Turkey Relocation
- Chimney Proofing

Spring is in the Air

As the weather warms up we start to see a number of native animals and pests become more active around our homes. Here's a quick run through of what to expect this Spring.

Baby Birds & Bird Lice

Problem birds such as starlings, Indian Mynahs, sparrows and pigeons quite often choose to nest in roof cavities. While they create a major problem in terms of noise when roosting, they also leave behind a nearly invisible problem, once the fledglings leave the nest – bird lice or bird mites.



Pale-headed Rosella chicks

Once a nestling leaves, often many tens of thousands of bird mites are left behind looking for a new host. The mites spread out from the empty nest to any humans living in the building, with bites causing severe irritation and intense scratching. Bird mites also give the sensation of crawling all over the skin, which causes severe distress to many people. Mite infestations can be treated but unless the nest is removed and all roof entry points are repaired, more eggs will be laid and further bird lice outbreaks will occur.

European Honey & Native Bees

Spring sends honey bee colonies off in search of new spaces for their rapidly expanding hives. Swarms of bees may descend on brick wall cavities, timber houses or hollow trees. If bees swarm in a backyard keep all children and pets indoors and away from the swarm until the bees are removed. Native bees may also form colonies in cavity brick walls, electricity meter boxes, tree trunks and water meter pits. In south-east Queensland the most common variety of native bee *Trigona carbonaria* has no sting. Native bees need careful handling to safely remove them from a property.

Australian Brush-turkey

Scrub turkeys are large birds that build huge nest mounds up to 5m across. Although they can mound and breed at any time of the year, the peak breeding season is from September to December. Eggs take about 50 days to hatch. Males are very territorial and protect their mounds, spending many hours raking together mulch, twigs and leaves to create their mound, often destroying gardens in less than a day in the process. The same nesting site is generally used year after year. Scrub turkeys are protected but can be relocated by a licensed permit holder. They need to be removed as soon as mounding is started and before eggs are laid.



Australian Brush-turkey

Possums, Mice and Rats – One Man Demolition Bands

Mice, rats or possums in your roof ... they can't do much damage right? Wrong!

Rodent's teeth never stop growing, so they have to constantly gnaw things to keep their teeth sharp and under control. Unfortunately if they are in your roof or your walls, their favourite things to gnaw on are electric wires, insulation, supporting beams and



Wires chewed by a possum

water pipes. One of the common causes of electrical damage or water leaks are rats, mice and possums gnawing through wires or pipes. Possums only

gnaw from

boredom making their sleeping place more comfortable or with a purpose – usually to make a bigger opening to get to where they want to go, which can even be through your plaster walls. Then there's the noise – possums thump, growl, hiss, cough and screech waking you up at night. Of course you also have the droppings and stains to deal with. You

certainly know if a possum has urinated in your ceiling or wall when unpleasant

stains appear. There's also the contamination problem. Rats

are known to

carry many different diseases and parasites including tapeworm, leptospirosis, murine typhus and can cause food poisoning. Their fleas, lice and ticks can also hurt your pets.

Finally you have the smell. Dead rats and possums trapped in your roof or walls create an amazing stench and may need holes cut in your walls to remove them. If you have mice, rats or possums in your roof – you need us to remove them now!



Possum urine stains on wall

WHERE WE SERVICE

Our head office is based in Newmarket, but our servicemen are located across Brisbane, so we can send a local representative to your property.

We service all of Brisbane, from the Inner City to Bayside Suburbs, North to Caboolture, West to Ipswich and South to Beenleigh.

FOR INJURED WILDLIFE CALL

**1300 ANIMAL
(1300 264 625)**



Does Feeding Birds Create Flocks of Dole Bludgers?

Many people love to feed birds in their backyards – even though there is evidence that this can create problems for our birdlife. Some birds get an unbalanced diet from feeding and they are at risk from increased spread of disease. More aggressive birds commonly turn up for a free meal and they are the least likely to need a hand by humans to survive.

If you are still passionate about feeding your birds here are some tips to do so in the safest way:

- Only use high quality food that is nutritionally balanced to the species that eats it.
- Don't feed any human foods such as bread, sausages, cheese or processed food.
- Store the bird feed in an airtight, water and pest proof container to reduce the risk of contaminants poisoning your birds.
- Use stainless steel feeding dishes and clean them regularly with soap and hot water.
- Feed on intermittent days – don't feed daily. By varying the days you feed your birds you reduce the risk of predatory birds and cats lying in wait, as well as reducing the birds reliance on your food.
- Keep feeding bowls off the ground out of reach of cats and other predators.
- Plant bird friendly trees and shrubs in your garden to provide natural food (visit www.birdsinbackyards.net for ideas).



Wild bird feeding at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat