



# Peter the Possum & Bird Man

POSSUMS RATS BIRDS BEES TURKEYS BATS

Fast & Effective Humane Wildlife Removal & Solutions

Newsletter - Summer 09/10

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## FUNNY ANIMAL FACTS

- A grouping of butterflies is known as a kaleidoscope of butterflies
- Platypuses can consume their own body weight in food in a 24 hour period!
- The box jellyfish is responsible for more deaths in Australia than Snakes, Sharks and Salt Water Crocodiles.
- Wombats often sleep with their four feet sticking up in the air!
- The ant always falls over on its right side when intoxicated.
- Turtles can breathe through their butts.

## 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
- Ceiling Vacuuming

## Those Annoying Noisy Birds...

Ever experienced being in a wonderfully sound sleep in the early hours of the morning, and then being woken by a wuroo-wuroo-wuroo birdcall? It goes on and on and on and is then joined by a cooee-cooee-cooee birdcall. To make it worse – this calling sound goes on all day and well into the night! Welcome to summer! A pair of Koels has just moved into your area.

Koels are a type of cuckoo that migrates to Australia from South East Asia in spring to breed and then leaves at the end of summer. They are also commonly called "storm birds" or "rain birds" as they arrive in time for the summer rains.

Even though you regularly hear their call, they are seldom seen – but the male looks similar in size and colour to a crow. The female is similar in size to a magpie and has brown and white stripes on her underbelly and a spotted back. They are quite shy and don't tend to approach humans.

Like most cuckoos, Koels don't build their own nests. They just lay their eggs in the nests of other birds and let the foster parents hatch and rear their young for them. The female lays a number of eggs but only a single egg in the nest of each foster parent – scattering her eggs across a number of nests. Favourite foster parents include Crows, Red Wattlebirds, Magpies and Fig birds.

When each single egg hatches, the hatchling usually pushes the remaining eggs or other hatchlings from the nest, leaving the foster

parents to care for this one very loud and demanding youngster. The baby cuckoo often outgrows its foster parents, creating an interesting dynamic. These juvenile birds migrate northwards, usually later than the adults and will return as a breeding bird in the following spring.

Koels eat fruit, berries and insects and have a large appetite for figs (their favourite treat). They are common in suburban areas due to the large number of ornamental plants.

If you want to work out for sure which bird is waking you – listen to these recordings of the top 40 Backyard Birds. Chances are the Koel is the culprit! <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/feature/top-40-bird-songs.cfm>



*A Female Koel, the male is black*  
(Copyright Douglas Janson, www.pbase.com)

## Asian House Geckos – Not So Cute & Cuddly

Know those cute little geckos that have been moving into Brisbane homes for some years with their distinctive "chuck, chuck, chuck" sound. They are called Asian House Geckos or barking geckos and they are becoming a real pest. These introduced species of geckos are rapidly out-breeding native geckos, and have been known to carry red gecko mites on their toes, which is suspected to cause disease in other invertebrates.

Asian House Geckos first started appearing in Brisbane in the early 1990's, and it is a very rare home now that doesn't have a gecko problem. If Asian Geckos get in your home they leave messy excrement on your walls as they pass. They also tend to set off burglar alarms, can short circuit hot water systems, computers, toasters and air-conditioners as well as cause problems in your fuse boxes.

They are very difficult to keep out of a house as they can wriggle through very small gaps. So you need to first work out where they are coming in and block off all access points. Check around window sills and doors for loose fitting sections. Don't leave windows uncovered at night as the lights attract moths (and as a result geckos). You can squirt them with water (to loosen their grip and drop them to the ground) and then just pick them up and put them outside.

The QLD Museum is conducting a survey about the spread of Asian House Geckos. It only takes a few minutes and will help the Museum track the spread of these pests. <http://www.southbank.qm.qld.gov.au/learning/nsw/geckos/>



## BATTY BOAT CRUISES ARE BACK!

**Run by Wildlife Queensland with profits going to wildlife.**

**Check out this link [www.wildlife.org.au/news/2009/batty.html](http://www.wildlife.org.au/news/2009/batty.html)**

Take one of these popular wildlife cruises on the Brisbane River. Enjoy the spectacular sunset flyout of thousands of flying-foxes. Its a great way to enjoy a family trip on the river.



*Our pigeon expert, John with his winnings*

## Third Place in National Pigeon Race

For many years one of our Servicemen, John Webb has been a pigeon fancier. Together with his partner, Chrissie, he has bred and raced pigeons for a hobby. Their expertise in pigeon breeding has recently been recognized when their thoroughbred pigeon obtained third place in the "Pigeon Punt", Australia's largest competition.

Thoroughbred racing pigeons are specially bred for their speed and homing ability and to the trained eye, look quite different to regular feral pigeons.

The knowledge John has gained over the years through breeding pigeons has enabled him to become an expert in trapping and removing feral pigeons from properties for our Company. If you have problems with pigeons at your property, please give us a call and we will arrange for our Serviceman to drop by and give you a quote for the best solution to remove them.