

Greater Glider Survey, 31 Oct. – 2 Nov. 2024, Blackbraes National Park

Prepared by Ceinwen Edwards and Michael Anthony

Participants: Michael Anthony, Ceinwen Edwards, Geoff Spanner, Rosemarie Rogers (North Queensland Natural History Group)
Dr Edward Evans (Gulf Savannah NRM)
Lea Ezzy, Yvette Williams (Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service & Partnerships)

Spotlighting by 3 people was done from the tray of the slow-moving vehicle provided by Gulf Savannah NRM.

31/10/24:

Spotlighters: Lea Ezzy, Michael Anthony, Geoff Spanner

Driver: Edward Evans

Observers: Yvette Williams, Rosemarie Rogers

Recorder: Ceinwen Edwards

1/11/24:

Spotlighters: Michael Anthony, Edward Evans, Geoff Spanner

Driver: Lea Ezzy

Observer: Rosemarie Rogers

Recorders: Yvette Williams (scribe), Ceinwen Edwards (GPS waypoints)

2/11/24:

Spotlighters: Michael Anthony, Edward Evans, Geoff Spanner

Driver: Lea Ezzy

Observer: Rosemarie Rogers

Recorders: Yvette Williams (scribe), Ceinwen Edwards (GPS waypoints)

Arboreal mammal species counted were Northern Greater Glider (*Petauroides minor*), Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), Inland Sugar Glider (*Petaurus notatus*) and Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*). Nocturnal birds were also recorded.

Transect	Greater Glider	Brushtail	Sugar Glider	Squirrel
DultharaRdW1	15	3		
DultharaRdW2	7	0	1	
DultharaRdW3	13	1		
DultharaRdMid	8	2		
SBoundary1	6	0		
SBoundary2	10	1		
SpringRdNew	6	1		
GilbertRRd	14	0	1	1
DultharaRdE1	10	1		
DultharaRdE2	7	0		
TOTAL	96	9	2	1

Comparison of counts with the four previous years:

2024: 96 Greater Gliders, 9 Brushtail Possums
2023: 90 Greater Gliders, 11 Brushtail Possums
2022: 63 Greater Gliders, 2 Brushtail Possums
2021: 55 Greater Gliders, 3 Brushtail Possums
2020: 79 Greater Gliders, 5 Brushtail Possums

Despite Gilbert River Rd transect having burnt 2 weeks previously on the east side of the track, 14 Greater Gliders were detected (as opposed to 4 last year.) While only 3 Greater Gliders were seen on the east side, 11 were detected on the west side. The burn was of relatively low intensity.

Slight intermittent drizzle on the first two nights was not enough to delay spotlighting.

The third night was clear and we were able to spotlight the 5km Box Dam transect which had only been done once before on 22/11/2021. The track was hard to follow in places as it has not burnt recently and the grass was high. Greater Glider numbers were over twice the number recorded in 2021, Brushtails still sparse. Only 1 Brushtail Possum was seen on the return trip after completion of the transect.

Box Dam 5km Transect 2/11/24

Transect	Greater Glider	Brushtail
Transect 1	7	0
Transect 2	5	0
Transect 3	3	0
Transect 4	13	0
Transect 5	1	0
TOTAL	29	0

Box Dam 5km Transect 21/11/2021

Transect	Greater Glider	Brushtail
BoxDam1	5	1
BoxDam2	1	1
BoxDam3	2	0
BoxDam4	1	1
BoxDam5	1	0
TOTAL	10	3

Other Wildlife

Mammals:

Rufous Bettong (*Aepyprymnus rufescens*) – 2 seen
Eastern Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*) – 3 seen on transects
Euro /Eastern Wallaroo (*Osphranter robustus*) – 4 seen
Allied Rock-wallaby (*Petrogale assimilis*) – 1 seen in the Lava Tube
Dingo (*Canis familiaris*) – 1 half-grown pup on Dulthara Rd
Feral Cat (*Felis catus*) – same half-grown cat seen on 2 consecutive nights on Dulthara Rd; 1 on Spring Rd
Feral Pig (*Sus scrofa*) - 1 seen at Emu Swamp

Reptiles:

Common Death Adder (*Acanthophis antarcticus*) (Photo) - 1 seen on Dulthara Rd
Spotted Python (*Antaresia maculosa*) - 1 seen constricting a large rat, Lava Tube
Common Tree Snake (*Dendrelaphis punctulatus*) – 1 seen on pump house at ranger base
Lesser Black Whip Snake (*Demansia vestigiata*) - 1 seen freshly dead and trampled in swamp at ranger base (ID confirmed by Edward Evans, ventral scale count <189)
Leaden-bellied Slider (*Lerista vanderduysi*) - 1 seen on Dulthara Rd
Robust Rainbow-Skink (*Carlia schmeltzii*) - 1 seen at Lava Tube
Major Skink (*Bellatorias frerei*) - 1 seen at Lava Tube
Spotted Tree Monitor (*Varanus scalaris*) - 2 seen, Dulthara Rd (Photo)

Birds:

* *Emu Swamp*

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Grey Teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i> *	
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i> *	
Hardhead	<i>Aythya australis</i> *	
Australian Wood Duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i> *	
Cotton Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i> *	~ 20
Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i> *	~ 200, 2 cygnets
Australian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i> *	12
Australasian Darter	<i>Anhinga novaehollandiae</i> *	
Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i> *	
Little Black Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i> *	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> *	3
Australasian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i> *	
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i> *	
Black-tailed Native-hen	<i>Tribonyx ventralis</i> *	1
Black-fronted Dotterel	<i>Elseyornis melanops</i> *	1
Masked Lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i> *	
Bush Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	(inc. 2 chicks Dulthara Rd)
Brolga	<i>Antigone rubicunda</i> *	3 sighted, others heard near
ranger base		
Straw-necked Ibis	<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i> *	1
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i> *	

Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i> *	
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i> *	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i> *	
Comb-crested Jacana	<i>Irediparra gallinacea</i> *	
Australian Bustard	<i>Ardeotis australis</i> *	
Emu	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i> *	(including 1 male with 8 chicks)
Nankeen Kestrel	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>	1
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus axillaris</i>	1
Whistling Kite	<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>	1
Brown Goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>	1
Collared Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter cirrocephalus</i>	1
Eastern Barn Owl	<i>Tyto javanica</i>	1
Southern Boobook	<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>	1
Barking Owl	<i>Ninox connivens</i>	1
Tawny Frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>	6
Spotted Nightjar	<i>Eurostopodus argus</i>	1
Australian Owlet-nightjar	<i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>	1
Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	
Pale-headed Rosella	<i>Platycercus adscitus</i>	
Crested Pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>	
Peaceful Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>	
Diamond Dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	
Squatter Pigeon	<i>Geophaps scripta</i>	
Common Bronzewing	<i>Phaps elegans</i>	
Pallid Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis pallidus</i>	1
Pheasant Coucal	<i>Centropus phasianinus</i>	
Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>	
Eastern Koel	<i>Eudynamys orientalis</i> *	
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	
Blue-winged Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo leachii</i>	
Forest Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus macleayii</i>	
Brown Quail	<i>Synoicus ypsilophorus</i>	
Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	
Weebill	<i>Smicrornis brevirostris</i>	
Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>	
Tawny Grassbird	<i>Megalurus timoriensis</i>	
White-throated Gerygone	<i>Gerygone olivacea</i>	
Striated Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	
Red-backed Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus melanocephalus</i>	
White-throated Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus albogularis</i>	
Brown Honeyeater	<i>Lichmera indistincta</i>	
Banded Honeyeater	<i>Cissomela pectoralis</i>	
Rufous-throated Honeyeater	<i>Conopophila rufogularis</i> *	1
Blue-faced Honeyeater	<i>Entomyzon cyanotis</i>	
Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>	
Noisy Friarbird	<i>Philemon corniculatus</i>	
Little Friarbird	<i>Philemon citreogularis</i>	
Cicadabird	<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	1
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>	
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina papuensis</i>	

Pied Currawong	<i>Strepera graculina</i>	
Pied Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>	
Grey Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>	
Australian Magpie	<i>Cracticus tibicen</i>	
Apostlebird	<i>Struthidea cinerea</i>	
Australian Raven	<i>Corvus coronoides</i>	nest with 2 chicks
Olive-backed Oriole	<i>Oriolus sagittatus</i>	
Magpie-lark	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>	
Leaden Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra rubecula</i>	
Jacky Winter	<i>Microeca fascinans</i>	
Rufous Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>	
Grey Shrike-thrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	
Mistletoebird	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>	
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	<i>Lonchura castaneothorax</i>	
Double-barred Finch	<i>Taeniopygia bichenovii</i>	

Other activities:

We accompanied Ranger Lea Ezzy on her “health checks” of various locations, including the Lava Tube, the Crater, Log Spring, Tin Spring and Picnic Spring.

A drive along the northern boundary revealed the remains of 3 Little Red Flying-foxes (*Pteropus scapulatus*) caught on the top strand of barbed wire on a hilltop and at least 6 caught in a section of fence above a creek with water.

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to QPWS rangers Grant Anchen and Andrew Williamson for use of the facilities at the ranger base and to Dr John Winter for constructive input to the project. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of the National Park.



Bat Wing Coral Tree (*Erythrina vespertilio*) along the road into Emu Swamp. (L. Ezzy)

Inland Sugar glider (*Petaurus notatus*). (E. Evans)

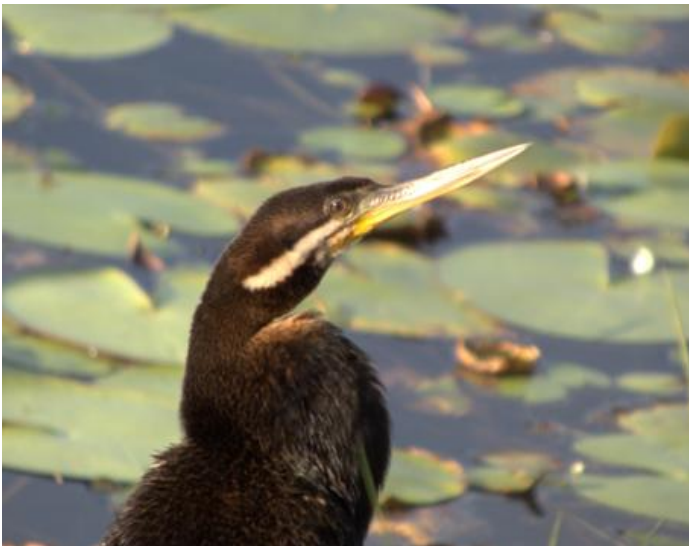




Spotted Tree Monitor (*Varanus scalaris*)
(E. Evans)



Common Death Adder (*Acanthophis antarcticus*) (E. Evans)



Australasian Darter (*Anhinga novaehollandiae*), Emu Swamp
(M. Anthony)