

ANGAIR NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTION RECENT ACQUISITIONS (Part 1)

Text by Kaye Traynor and photographs by Margaret MacDonald

The ANGAIR fauna collection has recently been added to with five new bird specimens. Three of them are featured below. The specimens, all found locally during 2018, were prepared by taxidermist Dean Smith, from Environmental Creations.

1. **Musk Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta concinna*

Also known by other names such as Musk Lory, Red-eared Lorikeet, Green Keet and Red-crowned Lorikeet, the Musk Lorikeet derives its name from the musky odour associated with this particular species.



Abundance of local native flowering trees and shrubs provide an irresistible attraction for lorikeets. Along with other species, including Purple-crowned and Rainbows, the Musk Lorikeets are noisy and gregarious as they clamber through the foliage in search of blossoms on which to feed.

The Musk Lorikeet on display, had flown into a window at Anglesea in March 2018 and was found by Dot Hutton.

2. **Eastern Barn Owl** *Tyto delicatula* formerly *Tyto alba*

Sometimes referred to as the Delicate Owl or White Owl. At the time when this bird was found by Neil Tucker in Guvvos car park at Point Roadknight, there was widespread concern about the unusually high number of fatalities amongst Barn Owls. Several birds had been found dead or dying throughout Victoria. There was no sign of trauma to this Barn Owl and assumptions were made that it died from starvation, possibly as a result of prolonged drought conditions or from ingesting rat poison from affected rodent prey.



3. **Nankeen Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides*

One of our more commonly seen birds of prey, it is also one of the smallest of our raptors and shows itself clearly as it hovers on flat wings watching for movement of prey on the ground.



Sometimes referred to as the Windhover or Sparrowhawk, this bird was for some time called Australian Kestrel; however, it has reverted to Nankeen, a name that derives from its chestnut colouration.

Their presence along our coastline also poses one of many threats faced by the Hooded Plovers during nesting season.

This kestrel was found by Ellinor Campbell at Aireys Inlet.



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