



Creating Stepping Stones for Frugivores

TIN Topic 14

Ideally, in natural area restoration we have large bushland areas within which we are working to re-establish on-site habitat or wildlife corridors to even more extensive areas of native wildlife habitat. The reality is often much less than this: we are working in narrow urban riparian reserves infested with Lantana, Privet, Bitou and Camphor Laurel, or we only have our own backyard in which to work. Even so, you can still make a substantial contribution to protection of native wildlife in your area by creating a “stepping stone” oasis for fruit-eating (frugivorous) wildlife.

Over time, because of loss of native fruiting species, birds and bats have become semi-dependent on weed species; a situation which could become self-perpetuating because they then become an agent for spreading these weed species (Camphor Laurel, for example). By gradual and mosaic removal of weeds, and replacement with local native species, the balance can be tipped in favour of the local plant species, without compromising the food source for native wildlife.

Gradual removal of weed and exotic garden species and replacement with the local suggestions would provide a food source for the following local frugivores; Grey-headed Flying Fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), Brown Pigeon *Macropygia amboinensis*, Rose-crowned Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus regina*, Superb Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus superbus*, Wompoo Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*, White-headed Fruit Pigeon (*Columba norfolciensis*), Topknot Pigeon (*Lopholaimus antarcticus*), Olive-backed Oriole (*Oriolus sagittatus*), Southern Figbird (*Sphecotheres vieilloti*), Regent Bowerbird (*Sericulus chrysocephalus*) and Satin Bowerbird (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*), some of which are threatened species.

Tom Clarke of the [Hunter Bird Observers](#) stated “the Schedule 2 listed Rose-crowned Fruit-dove, Superb Fruit-dove and Wompoo Fruit-dove need very well established rainforest as their prime habitat and all are pretty much at their southern limit north of Newcastle. Any sightings south of Gloucester or Bulahdelah would definitely need confirmation before being accepted by the Rarities Committee. I don't believe that we should expect these species to turn up in suburban bush blocks after planting some fruiting natives.”

If there is some connectivity of rainforest remnant adjoining your property e.g Martinsville Valley and Brunkerville near the Watagans, it may well be worth keeping an eye out for these species.



Regent Bowerbird



Satin Bowerbird - female



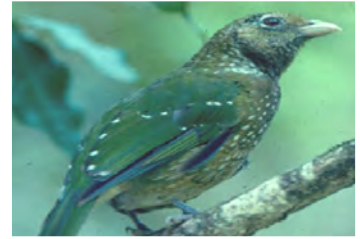
Satin Bowerbird - male



White-headed Pigeon



Common Koel



Green Catbird

These birds also require fruit as part of their diet and would enjoy any al fresco dining opportunities your garden or bit of bush may provide.

White-headed Pigeon (*Columba leucomela*), **Brown Cuckoo-dove** (*Macropygia amboinensis*)

Emerald Dove(*Chalcophaps indica*) **Wonga Pigeon**(*Leucosarcia picata*) **Topknot Pigeon**

(*Lopholaimus antarcticus*) **Australian King-Parrot** (*Alisterus scapularis*) **Eastern Rosella**

(*Platycercus eximius*) **Eastern Koel** (*Eudynamys orientalis*) **Channel-billed Cuckoo**

(*Scythrops novaehollandiae*) **Green Catbird**(*Ailuroedus crassirostris*) **Regent Bowerbird**

(*Sericulus chrysocephalus*) **Satin Bowerbird** (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*) **Lewin's Honeyeater**

(*Meliphaga lewinii*) **Little Wattlebird** (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*) **Red Wattlebird** (*Anthochaera*

carunculata) **Noisy Friarbird**(*Philemon corniculatus*) **Australasian Figbird** (*Sphecotheres vieilloti*)

Olive-backed Oriole (*Oriolus sagittatus*) **Pied Currawong**(*Strepera graculina*) **Silvereye**

(*Zosterops lateralis*).



Endiandra sieberi



Alphitonia excelsa



Notelaea spp



Elaeocarpus reticulatus



Alectryon subcinereus



Myoporum acuminatum

Fructing Weeds/ Garden Plants	Local Native Species
Camphor Laurel <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Jackwood <i>Cryptocarya glaucescens</i>
	Murrogun <i>Cryptocarya microneura</i>
	Rose Maple <i>Cryptocarya rigida</i>
	White Bollygum <i>Neolitsea dealbata</i>
	Rose Walnut <i>Endiandra discolor</i>
	Hard Corkwood <i>Endiandra sieberi</i>
	Black Plum <i>Diospyros australis</i>
	Red Ash <i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>
Broad-leafed Privet (<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>) and Small-leafed Privet (<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>) and African Olive <i>Olea europaea</i> sub sp <i>africana</i>	Native Olives <i>Notelaea longifolia</i> , <i>Notelaea ovata</i> and <i>Notelaea venosa</i>
	Blueberry Ash <i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i>
	Hard Quandong <i>Elaeocarpus obovatus</i>
	Muttonwood <i>Rapanea variabilis</i>
	Brush Muttonwood <i>Rapanea howittiana</i>
Exotic Palms	Bangalow Palm <i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i>
	Cabbage Tree Palm <i>Livistona australis</i>
Exotic Palm Lilies <i>Cordyline spp</i>	Narrow-leafed Palm Lily <i>Cordyline stricta</i>
Exotic Palm Lilies <i>Cordyline spp</i>	Narrow-leafed Palm Lily <i>Cordyline stricta</i>
Lantana <i>Lantana camara</i>	Poison Peach <i>Trema aspera</i>
Cotoneaster species, Orange Jessamine <i>Murraya paniculata</i> , Asparagus Fern species and Sacred Bamboo <i>Nandina domestica</i>	Red fruited natives such as Red Olive Berry <i>Cassine australis</i> , Wikstroemia <i>Wikstroemia indica</i> , Snake Vine <i>Stephania japonica</i> and Pearl Vine <i>Sarcopetalum harveyanum</i>
Mickey Mouse Plant <i>Ochna serrulata</i>	Hairy Clerodendrum <i>Clerodendrum tomentosum</i>
	Native Quince <i>Alectryon subcinereus</i>
	Beach Bird's-eye <i>Alectryon coriaceus</i>
Green Cestrum <i>Cestrum parqui</i>	Tree Heath <i>Trochocarpa laurina</i>
Bitou Bush/ Boneseed <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera spp</i> and Indian Hawthorn <i>Raphiolepis indica</i>	Boobialla <i>Myoporum boninense ssp australe</i> , Mangrove Boobialla <i>Myoporum acuminatum</i>
Blackberry <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Native Raspberries <i>Rubus moluccanus</i> var. <i>trilobus</i> (formerly <i>Rubus hillii</i>), <i>Rubus parvifolius</i> and <i>Rubus rosifolius</i>