



BUSH HERITAGE AUSTRALIA

Baby Night Parrot spotted at Bush Heritage reserve One of the world's most elusive birds breeding at Pullen Pullen, QLD

Bush Heritage Australia is thrilled to share the news that another young Night Parrot has been sighted and photographed on their Pullen Pullen reserve in western Queensland.

The attached image was taken recently by Nicholas Leseberg, a PhD student from the University of Queensland, whose Night Parrot research is being funded by Bush Heritage donations.

"It's estimated that this Night Parrot is two or three months old; which indicates a laying date of early September," said Leseberg.

"This suggests that Night Parrots are still breeding at least seven months after the last substantial rain, and following a very dry year. This reinforces the importance of Pullen Pullen Reserve as critical Night Parrot habitat, and Bush Heritage's efforts to manage the reserve for the benefit of this rare and wondrous Australian bird."

The Chief Executive Officer of Bush Heritage, Gerard O'Neill, said this sighting is a sign of a successful conservation strategy.

"It's vindication that our science works, and that is hugely satisfying for the dedicated people we have working on the ground and doing everything they can to safeguard and protect the Night Parrot," said O'Neill.

"Sightings like this make our jobs all the more worthwhile; and show that the generous contributions of our donors are making a real impact, today and for future generations."

Pullen Pullen is named after the Maiawali word for Night Parrot, in recognition of the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land. This 56,000-hectare property, identified as one of the only known habitats of Night Parrots in the world, was purchased by Bush Heritage in April 2016.

The Pullen Pullen Founders Circle, a cohort of passionate supporters, donated a significant sum to help acquire the property. Pullen Pullen is protected by a Nature Refuge Agreement, in a partnership between Bush Heritage and the Queensland Government, who also provided financial support for this important conservation project.

Minister for Environment and Science, Leeanne Enoch said the sighting of another young Night Parrot was wonderful news.

"The Queensland Government is committed to protecting the Night Parrot and its ecosystem," Ms Enoch said.

"Last year the Government provided \$440,000 from the NatureAssist program for conservation works at Pullen Pullen. The funding will also be used to protect the Night Parrot from predation by feral animals, fencing and fire management.

"We will continue to work with Bush Heritage Australia to protect this remarkable bird."

Famous for avoiding detection, the ground-dwelling Night Parrot is nocturnal and sedentary. It is described by the Smithsonian Institution as '*one of the planet's most elusive birds*'.



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The last living specimen was collected in Western Australia in 1912, after which it vanished for more than 100 years.

After rediscovery in 2013, the Night Parrot is now one of the top 20 priority bird species in the Federal Government's Threatened Species Strategy.

Bush Heritage is indebted to Dr Steve Murphy, Australia's foremost expert on the Night Parrot, whose primary in-depth research was vital in understanding the conditions the bird would need to thrive.

ABOUT PULLEN PULLEN RESERVE

Pullen Pullen is the Maiawali word for Night Parrot. The sanctuary is on traditional Maiawali country that includes culturally significant areas including worked stone scatter. The natural landscape features long unburnt spinifex necessary for supporting the Night Parrots, sandstone, claystone and siltstone jump-ups (or mesas), and flat gibber plains of chenopod shrubs and small areas of spinifex, interspersed with occasional watercourses lined with gidgee.

Pullen Pullen Reserve is located in a bioregion that is under-represented in the National Reserve System. The region is home to other endangered and vulnerable birds such as the Plains-wanderer (critically endangered), Painted Honeyeater (vulnerable) and Grey Falcon. The area is also the habitat of vulnerable small marsupials such as the Kowari and Dusky Hopping-mouse.

ABOUT BUSH HERITAGE

We are one of Australia's largest and most effective conservation organisations.

Our love of natural places, their wonder and beauty, drives our desire to see them protected, forever.

Nature is a gift. We must look after this country, and the vibrant living things who call our rainforests, our deserts, our rivers, home.

We safeguard the parts of Australia most in need of protection by directly tackling the biggest threats to landscapes, wildlife and people.

We use best-practice science and collaborate with others – including Aboriginal people, pastoralists and partner organisations – to achieve our goals.

A conservation community of more than 30,000 people supports our work. Together, we are returning the bush to good health.



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